

37th Helicopter Squadron launches into action

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8/7/2007 - **F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo.** -- The 37th Helicopter Squadron contributes to the Warren community by conducting training, providing 90th Space Wing support and performing search and rescue missions.

The 37th HS crews perform daily training to hone skills of the helicopter pilots. The training has several purposes. Keeping the helicopters fully functional and the operators trained allow for the successful response to any real-world missions.

The 37th HS crews also provide aerial support for any military convoys, security for the missile fields and transportation for distinguished visitors.

"We launch training flights every day," said Capt. Bryan Tuinman, 37th HS. "That accounts for about 40 percent of our flying. The rest of it goes to special programs that we have in place."

The 37th HS offers a specialized program that rewards Airmen nominated by their respective group with incentive flights onboard the helicopters.

"We are proud of what we do and we like to show what we're capable of doing to the base and its populace," Captain Tuinman said.

The crews of the 37th HS also perform search and rescue missions.

While training and demonstrating their capabilities to Warren members is beneficial to the morale and readiness of Air Force troops, the 37th HS search and rescue teams are directly involved with the saving of civilian and military lives.

"We know how important our job is here," said Capt. Kevin Weaver, 37th HS pilot. "We already know that when we go out, someone's life is in danger. We train hard, so that when we do fly out, we rescue lives."

The 37th HS search and rescue teams operate the UH-1N Helicopters. When called by local civilian law enforcement, they assist with SAR operations and airlift medical evacuations in Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska.

The standard SAR aircrew is a pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and **flight doctor**. They work together to ensure the safety of the aircraft and the safety of those rescued.

The helicopters are equipped with hoists, GPS, landing lights, search lights and night vision capabilities.

When the situation arises, the SAR team can perform searches at night. Using the advanced night vision capabilities, operations can proceed with as little as 15 percent visibility, Captain Weaver said.

"I always hope that when people go camping, they won't get lost," he said. "But if they do, we're here and ready for them."

Whether it's transporting Airmen to and from the missile field during inclement weather or airlifting repair parts to maintenance engineers, the 37th HS performs their job efficiently and effectively.

"We have quality Airmen here," Captain Tuinman said. "We support the local community and Warren as best we can and always try our best."