

## *Research of First Helicopter Female Rescue Swimmer Aircrewman*

This is a research project that I started, so that I could see how well documented the RESCUE SWIMMER AIRCREWMAN Designation has been tracked over the last 50 some odd years.

I received many inputs and a lot of different names, but the one that came out the most was a young female named Jill Jones, that completed training in the 70's and was sent to HC-3. I personally was at SAR SWIM SCHOOL when a young lady went through, but I cannot remember her name. From all the inputs it looks like Jill Jones was the first to graduate. Now how do we prove that. It can't be proven because no documents or NEC record with regards to completion of the school can be found.

The Navy and the Coast Guard have documented the first as listed below.

I am attaching the one file (pdf) on Kelly Mogk. The link for Catherine Elliot (Rizzo) is listed below.

### First Navy Female Rescue Swimmer

**Catherine Elliott (Rizzo)** HMC (AC) USN Ret. was the very first woman to graduate from Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron in Jacksonville, Fl. and become a Rescue Swimmer on 16 pDec 1983. Catherine worked very hard to complete this grueling school and flew Search and Rescue missions up until her retirement in 1995. She received many awards for rescues and even completed one ground rescue while 3 months pregnant!

Here is the site I found this. <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/firsts2.html>

### First Coast Guard Female Rescue Swimmer

**Kelly Mogk**, the first woman to graduate, in 1985, from the tough rescue swimmer school -- which averages a 40 percent attrition rate, failure higher even than for the notoriously challenging Navy SEAL program. She is now Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Larson and a rescue helicopter pilot in Port Angeles.

In closing I would like to thank all of you for your inputs and really fine story about these woman and as a really OLD RESCUE SWIMMER, I am proud to say that we did it with what we had, and the up and coming RESCUE SWIMMER'S are the best trained and equipped.

Just remember the old motto: **"SO OTHER'S MAY LIVE"**

Phil Poisson

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