

ANGEL'S WINGS^{ONLINE}

920TH RESCUE WING

AUGUST 2017



ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT

Master Sgt. Louis Hause, left, and Staff Sgt. Lucas Vannorsdall, right, 308th Rescue Squadron pararescuemen, tend to victims of an active shooter exercise July 25, 2017 in Hangar 750. The pararescuemen were the first medics to arrive on scene, followed by the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters. The first responders worked side-by-side to attend to victims and load them into ambulances for transport to the hospital. The exercise was a joint endeavor between the host 45th Space Wing and 920th Rescue Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice)

news&features



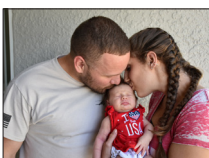
OSS WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

The 920th Operations Support Squadron welcomed its new commander, Lt. Col. Scott Nichols, during a change of command ceremony July 9 at Patrick Air Force Base.



WING THRIVES IN AFRC INSPECTION

The unofficial results of the 920th Rescue Wing's Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone event are in -- it is highly effective at executing its mission and effective in all other aspects.



FATHER REDEPLOYS IN TIME FOR BIRTH OF BABY

An aircraft armament systems technician redeployed from Afghanistan just in time to support his wife in the early delivery of their first child, Raelynn Noelle, June 15 in Orlando, Florida.

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notes of interest

COMMAND CHIEF RETIRES

Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Bianchi retires after more than 30 years of military service in a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Base Theater. The dress for the ceremony is uniform of the day. Wing members are invited to attend a reception after the ceremony at the Patrick Air Force Base Marina.

WEBMAIL ACCESS

For individuals who have migrated to Office 365 and want to access their government e-mail from a personal computer or a government computer not using the virtual private network, should visit <https://cp.mail.us.af.mil/owa/>. When the login screen appears, type in your government e-mail address and leave the password field empty.

ENLISTED PME UNDERGOES REDESIGN

Air Force officials announced major changes to the enlisted professional military education program to include time in service no longer dictating an Airman's EPME enrollment. Airmen will only be required to complete distance learning courses as a prerequisite to their resident attendance. The Air Force will also transition to 100 percent EPME, allowing Reserve Airmen an opportunity to attend Airman Leadership School, the NCO Academy and the Senior NCO Academy prior to promotion.

SOLAR ECLIPSE TO TAKE PLACE

A solar eclipse will be visible in the afternoon sky Aug. 21 across the United States. While the path of totality stretches from Oregon to South Carolina, the view from Patrick Air Force Base should allow just over 85 percent coverage of the sun at 2:53 p.m., with the eclipse starting roughly 90 minutes before that. At no time, should people view the eclipse directly as this can damage your eyes. Regular sunglasses or tinted filters are not strong enough to shield direct sun rays, even during an eclipse. Special "eclipse glasses" must be worn to view the solar eclipse directly; otherwise, indirect viewing is the only safe option.

Rescue Airmen save two German citizens stranded at sea on long-range rescue mission

By 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

In a concerted effort throughout July 7, 2017 and into the early hours of July 8, approximately 80 Citizen Airmen and four aircraft from the 920th Rescue Wing successfully rescued two German citizens whose vessel caught fire approximately 500 nautical miles off the east coast of Florida.

At the request of the U.S. Coast Guard's Seventh District in Miami, the 920th RQW was alerted by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, to assist in the long-range search and rescue.

"The rescue was a culmination of skill and teamwork that involved many throughout the 920th RQW, the Coast Guard, the AFRCC and the 45th Space Wing, which provided critical support to allow our aircraft to launch and recover," said Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th RQW commander. "The specific capability with our Guardian Angel Airmen, combined with our air refueling and extended-range airlift makes us uniquely able to accomplish this mission. I'm very humbled and glad to be a part of this noble mission."

Aircraft maintainers launched an HC-130P/N "King" fixed-wing combat rescue aircraft piloted by eight Airmen at approximately 2:30 p.m. transporting six GA Airmen.

It was discovered during the planning stages that only one of the German victims spoke English, but was badly burned; therefore, Master Sgt. Isabelle Klier-Graham, 920th RQW Equal Opportunity advisor, was tasked to join the team due to her ability to speak fluent German.

The team arrived on scene two hours later and orbited overhead while King Ops (39th Rescue Squadron) at Patrick communicated with the ship, the Nord Nightingale.

Left: Rescuers take two stranded German citizens to the Nord Nightingale, a commercial tanker at the scene, before hoisting them onto an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter bound for an Orlando hospital July 7, 2017. (Courtesy photo)

Pararescuemen with the 308th Rescue Squadron board the Nord Nightingale, a commercial tanker at the scene, July 7, 2017 and prepare to hoist their inflatable rescue boat, known as a Random Alternate Method Zodiac, onto the ship. (Courtesy photo)

Pararescuemen with the 308th Rescue Squadron ready themselves for an open water rescue of two German citizens whose vessel caught fire July 7, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)



Maj. Cody Atchison, middle, 308th Rescue Squadron combat rescue officer, and fellow 308th RQS pararescuemen prepare to parachute from an HC-130 into open water July 7, 2017 as part of a long-range rescue mission of two German citizens stranded at sea. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)

"We had the life boat in the water and the freighter was about 2 miles away," said Capt. Dan Morgese, aircraft commander. Finally, five pararescuemen plunged into the ocean.

"Anytime you are putting someone out over the Atlantic, it's concerning," said Morgese. "We train for this; it worked out just fine. If there was a day to do it, it was today; the weather was perfect."

The Nightingale motored a small boat toward the victims, which allowed the pararescuers to hoist the victims on board while several of the other GAs zoomed over to pick up the parabundles of medical equipment that splashed down just after them.

Around the same time, the HC-130 arrived on scene, two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters departed Patrick with full tanks of gas to retrieve everyone and transport the victims to the Orlando Regional Medical Center.

A Pave Hawk can fly approximately 500 miles on one tank of gas, the approximate distance to

the scene. To top off their gas tanks, the helos met up with the HC-130 on its return to Patrick for aerial refueling. About an hour later, an additional HC-130 took off from Patrick to serve as fuel reserve for the helicopter's return trip.

"Kudos to maintenance for getting us airborne," said Morgese. "They are 93 models; our maintainers work hard."

The pararescuemen treated and stabilized the patients, then transloaded them to the Nightingale to be picked up by the inbound helicopter. At approximately 8:20 p.m., the two Pave Hawk crews hoisted and recovered all seven from the ship and journeyed back to Central Florida where they landed on an Orlando High School football field at 1:30 a.m. and handed off the patients to the Orlando Fire Department to get the patients to the hospital.

"When you actually get to do something you train for; it's really satisfying," said Morgese. "Excellent communication and planning among all involved, led to mission success."



An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter receives an air-to-air refueling from an HC-130P/N King during a long-range open water rescue mission, July 7, 2017. The tankers performed eight air refueling operations between the two HH-60s involved in the rescue, refueling both helicopters with a total amount of 16,600 pounds of gas. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)



Maj. Chris Ferrara, 39th Airlift Squadron HC-130P/N King co-pilot, assists in the long-range search and rescue of two German citizens whose vessel caught fire approximately 500 nautical miles off the east coast of Florida July 7, 2017. During the mission, the four aircraft involved covered approximately 1,100 miles in flight distance to and from the objective area. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)



Pararescuemen with the 308th Rescue Squadron ready themselves for an open water rescue of two German citizens whose vessel caught fire July 7, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)



OREGON RESCUE

Pararescumen from the 304th Rescue Squadron saved a stranded hiker May 31, 2017 on Mount Rainer, Oregon.

According to the report, a party of three hikers nearly reached the mountain's summit via the "Fuhrer Finger" climbing route (named for Hans and Heine Fuhrer, who pioneered the route in 1920) on May 30, 2017, when a member of the party became ill and told his fellow climbers he could not go on. The party began to traverse a standard route down, when the ill climber made a decision to unrope and head directly down the mountain. The other climbers tried to convince their partner to stay with them, but he refused. The pair called 911 to help their friend. Around 11 p.m., guides at Camp Muir observed the ill hiker signaling with his headlamp from the near-vertical face of Gibraltar Rock, at an elevation of about 12,400 feet, and communicated this to park rangers. Rangers attempted to correspond with the hiker by text message advising him where he needed to go to find safety. At 5:20 a.m. the next morning, the hiker responded to the texts with a request for rescue, explaining that he was "freezing" and had no overnight gear.

Initial attempts to reach the hiker's location, by three members of the Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. guide service, were thwarted by poor weather and treacherous conditions, prompting the request to the 304th RQS. The Rescue Airmen located the hiker and hoisted him to safety under difficult conditions and flew him off the mountain around 5:30 p.m. to Madigan Hospital. He was severely hypothermic, but suffered no other injuries.



SPRICHEST DU DEUTSCH?

Col. Michael LoForti, 920th Operations Group commander, presents Master Sgt. Isabelle Klier-Graham, 920th Rescue Wing Equal Opportunity advisor, with his commander's coin July 9, 2017 to thank her for her assistance in the long-range rescue of two German citizens whose vessel caught fire approximately 500 nautical miles east of the Florida coastline in the Bermuda Triangle. Klier-Graham, a Bayreuth, Germany, native, worked as a German translator on the mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Brandon Kalloo-Sanes)

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The 920th Rescue Wing maintains a commander's action line. The wing commander encourages its use. Concerns should be addressed at the lowest possible level in the chain of command and elevated as necessary.

Though not required, Action Line users should leave point-of contact information when submitting an Action Line. This will allow those who are addressing the concern to clarify the information and respond, if necessary.

E-mail 920RQWPA@us.af.mil with the subject line: Commander's Action Line.

timemanagement

PATRICK AFB

GATE HOURS

EAST GATE (BY 920TH
RQW HEADQUARTERS)
6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

SOUTH GATE

24-HOUR ACCESSIBLE

DINING FACILITY

BR. 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
LN. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
DN. 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

FITNESS CENTER

FRI 5:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
SAT 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
SUN 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

BARBER SHOP

FRI 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
SAT 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SUN 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

CLASS VI / SHOPETTE

FRI 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
SAT 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
SUN 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

UTA SCHEDULE

AUG. 5-6	NOV. 4-5
SEPT. 9-10	DEC. 2-3
OCT. 14-15	JAN. 6-7

** BILLETING RESERVATIONS MUST
BE MADE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY
TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EACH DRILL
WEEKEND*