

ANGEL'S WINGS^{ONLINE}

920TH RESCUE WING

DECEMBER 2017



FOUR-STAR REENLISTMENT

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, left, administers the oath of enlistment to Senior Airman Kevin Greene, 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron healthcare management technician, Nov. 14, 2017 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Greene accompanied the 920th Rescue Wing commander and command chief to Capital Hill Nov. 14-15 as they met with senior leaders and federal and state legislatures to discuss Air Force Reserve and combat search and rescue matters. (Courtesy photo)

notes of interest

WING CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY

The 920th Rescue Wing Family Day event runs from 1-4 p.m. Dec. 2 in Hangar 750. This year's event includes spouse HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter incentive flights, a variety of children's activities, aircraft static displays, a fast-rope Santa helicopter demonstration and a meet-and-greet gift exchange with Santa. Families with children interested in participating in the Santa gift exchange are asked to bring a wrapped present valued around \$5 with each child's name clearly printed on the outside. Additional presents are appreciated. Please identify on the package if it is for a boy or girl.

Spouses pre-approved for incentive flights should arrive at Hangar 750 at 11 a.m. for their passenger briefing and flight assignment. As a reminder, tank tops, dresses, hats and open-toe shoes are not permitted on the aircraft. Photos and videos are authorized, but cameras must be tethered.

NEW UNIFORM OF THE DAY AUTHORIZED

The following uniforms are now authorized as the uniform of the day for 920th Rescue Wing Citizen Airmen as daily functional clothing during in-garrison, home station activities to include wing-sponsored events and off-station training or exercises: the Airman Combat Uniform (previously referred to as multi-cam or OCP), the Flame Resistant Airman Combat Uniform, or the Airman Aircrew Combat Uniform (previously referred to as Army Aircrew Combat Uniform). Additionally, the Airman Battle Uniform is authorized for Airmen not issued an ACU.

NOMINATING SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYERS

Reservists may nominate their employers for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award now through Dec. 31. The Freedom Award is the highest honor the Department of Defense gives to employers for supporting National Guard and Reserve employees. The employers chosen exemplify what it means to go above and beyond federal requirements in support of military employees. Click on the above link and select "Nominate Employer" to get started.

news&features



AIRCREW UNDERGO SERE TRAINING

Survival, evasion, resistance and escape instructors and aircrew flight equipment specialists conducted a two-day SERE training session for 18 aircrew members Nov. 5-6.



CITIZEN AIRMEN SUPPORT NAVY SEAL MUSTER

The 301st Rescue Squadron flew two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters in support of the Navy SEAL Museum's 32nd Annual Muster and Music Festival in Fort Pierce, Florida, Nov. 4.



GUARDIAN ANGELS WELCOME NEW COMMANDER

The 308th Rescue Squadron Guardian Angel Citizen Airmen welcomed their new commander, Lt. Col. Timothy Hanks, during a change of command ceremony Nov. 4.

FOLLOW THE
920TH RQW
ONLINE



COL. KURT MATTHEWS 920TH RESCUE WING COMMANDER



920th Rescue Wing,

Welcome to your December UTA and the holiday season! I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with time spent enjoying friends and family, or simply taking advantage of the down-time. I took the time to reflect on how grateful I am to serve in such an incredible wing! You have all been doing an awesome job in all your various jobs and differing statuses, yet all dedicated to serving the Air Force as Citizen-Airmen! Your accomplishments continue to be stunning: deployments, rescues, exercises, training, inspections... your deeds truly reflect the values that we hold in the highest regard: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. The proof is in what we see you do every day, which could not be achieved if we didn't collectively and individually embrace these core Air Force values.

Thank you. Thank you for all you do and all that you know you have to do. We all volunteer to serve, and we are all fortunate to serve such a noble mission as combat rescue and all this wing encompasses. Regardless of our AFSC or PD, we are all united as one team in the 920th Rescue Wing! I will continue to dedicate myself and all wing leaders to the needs of our squadrons and our people, focusing efforts on resourcing our wing for success in the future. There will always be obstacles to overcome, and much is always asked of us. Yet, you always rise to meet and exceed every challenge. That is the trademark of who you are as a rescue team. Although geographically separated, we should all strive to work more cohesively and cooperatively as we move forward. Reaching out to your counterparts within the wing to share knowledge, techniques, and form effective working relationships. Keep utilizing your initiative and leadership to bring issues, innovation, and requirements to light. And just keep doing what you're doing, because it's awesome!

I want to thank all of our members who have deployed and served overseas this year. I want to thank those from our wing who are serving overseas today. And I want to thank those who are preparing to deploy soon. We are all grateful for your service and the sacrifice you and your families and in many cases, your employers make so that you successfully accomplish our mission.

Please enjoy the December UTA, and be sure to mix in some fellowship and fun along with your training requirements. Please take the time to relax and recharge as best you can, and I wish you all a happy holiday season!

Rescue Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt A. Matthews". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

KURT A. MATTHEWS, Colonel, USAF
Commander



Members of the Arizona Patriot Guard Riders welcome home Citizen Airmen with the 943rd Rescue Group Nov. 14 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. (U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Luke Johnson)

WELCOME HOME

Citizen Airmen return to loved ones in Arizona



Families welcome home Citizen Airmen with the 943rd Rescue Group Nov. 14 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

By Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

After a nearly six-month deployment, 74 Citizen Airmen with the 943rd Rescue Group received a patriotic and emotional welcome from family, friends and co-workers Nov. 14 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

Members of the Arizona Patriot Guard Riders lined the runway holding U.S. Flags while loved ones embraced one another. The Airmen, who were deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel, had their deployment extended almost two months.

"It was very heart-warming to see families reunited after a long and tedious deployment," said Col. John Beatty, 943rd Rescue Group commander. "Even more so since it occurred so close to Thanksgiving where we make a point to pause and give thanks for the people and things we often take for granted in our busy lives. These family members never anticipated when they said

goodbye to their loved ones, it would be almost six months before they'd see them again. We're glad to have them home."

While downrange, the reservists provided personnel recovery and combat search and rescue support to the combined forces air component commander through a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week alert response.

"Due to the dedicated and professional CSAR posture our crews provided, U.S. and coalition fighter and bomber aircrews were assured that we had their backs should something unplanned or catastrophic occur as they prosecuted their missions in hostile territory," Beatty said. "The CSAR response was a total team effort between the highly-skilled aircrews and pararescue-men who fly the missions, the outstanding maintainers who provide mission-ready aircraft in spite of the challenges posed by a tired and aging fleet, and the dedicated and professional support personnel who ensured our crews had what they needed when they needed it."

Rescue team saves cruise passenger

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Within two hours of the call, Citizen Airmen with 920th Rescue Wing took to the skies bound for a cruise ship roughly 500 miles off the Florida coastline carrying an elderly passenger suffering an acute condition and in need of medical evacuation Nov. 7.

The long-range mission, requiring two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters, Guardian Angel pararescue teams, and two HC-130N King fixed-wing combat aerial refueler, lasted roughly eight hours and ended with the patient and his spouse being safely transported to Holmes Regional Medical Center, Melbourne, Florida.

The initial call went out to the Coast Guard District 5, Portsmouth, Virginia, who then reached out to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, late that morning.

"The RCC had already reached a conclusion before calling the 920th RQW that no other assets could reach the cruise ship in time due to the distance," said Col. Michael LoForti, 920th Operations Group commander. "It wasn't a matter if we would help, but could we assist in the rescue effort."

A meeting was called with the squadron commanders and maintenance to deter-



Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crews with the 301st Rescue Squadron, transporting four Guardian Angel Airmen, depart from Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, for the long-range rescue of a cruise ship passenger who required medical evacuation approximately 500 nautical miles off the coast of Florida Nov. 7.

mine if the manpower and assets were available to accept the mission.

"It took less than a minute to make the call," LoForti said. "We generated the aircrew, aircraft, pararescue teams, and a mission plan, and were able to launch in a matter of hours."

The plan entailed traveling hundreds of miles to the ship bound for Baltimore, Maryland; lowering two pararescuemen onto the ship; hoisting the patient and his spouse onto the helicopter; and transporting them the hospital.

"It was great seeing everyone come together from maintenance to the aircrew and Guardian Angel rescue teams to make this thing happen," said 1st Lt. Courtney McCallan, 301st Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter pilot. "I'm glad we could help."

McCallan piloted the lead aircraft during the mission, watching overhead in an offset position as the second helicopter team conducted the rescue. It was shortly after sunset when the spe-

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Guardian Angels with the 308th Rescue Squadron talk strategy before heading out on a long-range rescue of a cruise ship passenger who required medical evacuation approximately 500 nautical miles off the coast of Florida Nov. 7 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

"It was truly an amazing sight to see two helicopters arrive to our ship in the dark and perform such an amazing operation. It is heartwarming to know that should the need arise that we have such brave men and women that are there to answer the call. The crews may not have heard it, but a hearty round of applause from all the passengers went up as the helicopters departed. Truly a job well done."

Jim Wells

Grandeur of the Seas passenger



OFF WE GO

Citizen Airmen with the 943rd Mission Support Flight participate in a formation run Nov. 5 of the unit training assembly drill weekend at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. The 44 Citizen Airmen assigned to the 943rd MSF provide logistics; supply; combat arms training and maintenance; communication; and personnel and family readiness support to the more than 600 men and women within the 943rd Rescue Group. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Luke Johnson)

rescuebirthday

304th Rescue Warriors,

Sixty years ago, on Nov. 16, 1957, the 304th Air Rescue Squadron was activated. Soon afterward, the first pararescuemen were assigned and the new organization hit the ground running. Although we've had our share of setbacks over the years we are increasingly enthusiastic about our future, as we unpack from our most recent deployment and develop relationships with Mount Rainier Park Rangers, Army Reserve CH-47s and Oregon/Washington State search-and-rescue coordinators. It's no surprise that our team is out training today, performing jump operations on Doolittle DZ in vicinity of Pendleton, Oregon, despite challenging weather conditions. That drive to improve ourselves daily is what makes our Guardian Angel community the nation's force of choice to execute the most perilous, demanding and extreme rescue missions anytime, anywhere across the globe.

Your passion for saving lives and aiding the injured shows each day when you arrive to work, and for that I thank you.

Here's to the next 60 years!

V/R.
JESSE L. PETERSON, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 304th Rescue Squadron



TAKING THE REIGNS

Col. John Buterbaugh, right, 943rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, takes the unit guidon from Col. John Beatty 943rd Rescue Group commander, during the squadron's assumption of command ceremony Nov. 5 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Luke Johnson)



HONORING A RESCUE HERO

Hundreds gather to honor Col. Richard A. Kibbey, fallen HH3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter pilot, Nov. 20 in Hangar 750 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The Honorable Congressman Bill Posey, U.S. Representative for Florida's 8th congressional district, presented the dog tags of the U.S. Air Force Vietnam War rescue hero to his family in a ceremony hosted by the 920th Rescue Wing. The ceremony included presentation by the Team Patrick Honor Guard, a reading of the official Congressional Declaration, a presentation of Colonel Kibbey's military citations to the Kibbey family, a U.S. flag folding ceremony by 301st Rescue Squadron Airmen; and a formation by Team Patrick mission partners. Colonel Kibbey was one of four aircrew members aboard HH-3E, call sign Jolly Green 05, on a mission to rescue a downed pilot who bailed out over enemy lines on Feb. 6, 1967, in the vicinity of the Mu Ghia Pass on the Laos/North Vietnam border, according to official reports. Col. Kibbey's crew succeeded in picking up the downed pilot, but was hit repeatedly by 37mm AAA fire. The crew flew the burning HH-3E for about a mile before colliding head-on with a limestone cliff. Only one survivor out of the four men aboard the aircraft, pararescueman Dwayne Hackney, was found after the incident. The other men were classified as missing in action for some years, and later deemed as deceased by an Air Force review board. Col. Kibbey's dog tags were recently discovered near the accident site by a local farmer and given to authorities, eventually making their way to the U.S. Air Force Mortuary Affairs unit. (Photo by Phil Sunkel)

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cial missions aviation specialist aboard the second hovering Pave Hawk lowered two pararescuemen about 35-feet down onto the ship's top deck, which sat about 100 feet above the water. After making contact with the patient's doctor on the ship, the rescue specialists loaded the man into a Stokes basket, a litter made of metal, and hoisted him into the aircraft.

"Even with obstacles like limited visibility with our night vision goggles and having to hover over a moving vessel, they executed the mission flawlessly," said McCallan.

Shortly after heading back to Florida, the 39th Rescue Squadron's HC-130N crew lowered the fuel lines for one last air-to-air refueling before the crews dropped off their passengers and headed back to Patrick AFB. The HC-130N crew conducted a total of three air-to-air refuelings during the mission, supplying approximately 15,400 pounds of gas to the helicopters.

"We train for these types of missions, but when you actually get to put those skills to work and save someone's life, it's a pretty fulfilling thing," said Lt. Col. Bob Seitz, 39th RQS director of operations.

Both the HC-130N and HH-60 crews



Citizen Airmen Reservists with the 920th Rescue Wing load rescue equipment into an HC-130N King in preparation for the long-range rescue of a cruise ship passenger Nov. 7. The mission required three helicopter air-to-air refueling rendezvous between the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and HC-130N aircraft to successfully complete.

emphasized the key role maintenance played in the success of the mission, being able to generate all the aircraft necessary so quickly.

"When we hear real-world search and rescue then everything kicks into high gear, and everyone pulls together to make it happen," said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Grant, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Helicopter Maintenance Unit superintendent. "We have extremely talented and dedicated individuals in our maintenance complex all with the same

goal, and that is to provide the safest, most reliable aircraft for our operators we can. The advantage the Citizen Airmen bring is the experience on the various aircraft. We have individuals that have over 20 years on the airframes."

LoForti said he is proud of the hard work put forth by the wing's Citizen Airmen.

"The men and women of the 920th RQW continue to amaze me in their ability to execute challenging short-notice missions" said LoForti. "I'm proud to be a small part of such a motivated wing."