



ANGEL'S WINGS



Volume 3, No. 9

920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla.

October 2005



Rescue reflections: Our finest hour

By Col. Tim Tarchick
920th Rescue Wing
Commander

On August 30, the 920th Rescue Wing left Patrick Air Force Base headed to Jackson, Miss., to assist in the Hurricane Katrina rescue operations.

Three HH-60G helicopters, which were the first Air Force rescue assets on scene, and 3 crews arrived in Jackson around 9:15 p.m. that evening. The helos refueled and departed at 11:30 p.m. to rescue people until 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday. The crews saved 3 people that night.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 920th sent four more helicopters and six more crews to assist.

Two of those helicopters and crews came from the 943rd Rescue Group at Davis Monthan AFB. The 304th Rescue Squadron from Portland, Ore., sent pararescuemen and Combat Rescue Officers.

An HC-130 with crews, maintenance, support troops and equipment departed for the area Wednesday morning.

All total, by the end of the week, there were 23 HH-60Gs from Air Force Reserve Command, the Air National Guard and active duty.

It was truly a Total Force package of assets and personnel.

Besides the HH-60Gs at Jackson, the 39th Rescue Squadron provided daily HC-130 tanker support over New Orleans for airborne refueling for all HH-60s.

The total amount of rescues performed by the Joint Task Force Katrina was over 4200 people. This unit had over 900 (400 rescued during Hurricane Floyd in 1999) saves since the 301st became a unit in 1956.

In just 12 days, the 920th RQW alone increased that number by

1043 saves!

There have been so many acts of heroism and bravery that you could write a book or do a movie on any of them.

The aircrews we have in the 920th are America's finest. In the months and years to follow, you will most likely hear many of their stories as the media begins to capture these stories on film to record history.

This has been a life impacting and life changing experience for all of us that have been directly involved in extracting the people from New Orleans and the surrounding areas.

It has made all of us very grateful to have electricity, a home, clean sheets, food on our table, and especially to know where our children are at all times.

I will never forget the sight of a mother getting off the helicopter with her 2-month-old baby strapped to her chest, holding hands with her two young children as they walked to the collection point. I helped them carry what they had left...3 little suitcases.

It was 8:00 p.m. and sunset was just around the corner. I felt so helpless but yet we were helping them.

I fought off the thoughts that by midnight, I would be in my air conditioned room, taking a hot shower and eating a hot meal while these 1000 or more people were going to remain there at night, with no place to sleep, no food, lights, or medicine and no way out until the CH-47s arrived in the morning, some 12 hours later.

I thought of my own wife and children back home in Florida. I thought how strangely unfair and unworthy it was to think of them while I was in the middle of hell at Lakefront Airport in the heart of New Orleans.

I have truly experienced again the true heart and soul of our

members that have volunteered to assist in the rescue operation, whether deployed to the region or those that remained at home station to support the rescue effort in Mississippi and New Orleans.

I will always look back with bitter sweet memories of those 2 weeks and like a proud papa, I am so proud of the members of the 920 RQW.

You all are the greatest people I have ever worked with.

These Things We Do That Others May Live!

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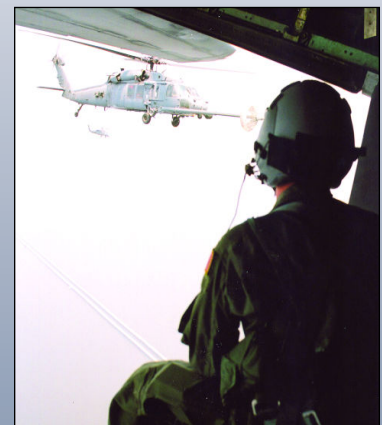


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Grande

A loadmaster with the 39th Rescue Squadron watches an aerial refueling over Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana. Members of the 920th Rescue Wing deployed to the devastated area to provide rescue support after Hurricane Katrina.

A city underwater gets help from above

By Lt. Col. Bob Thompson
AFRC Public Affairs

With their homes and city underwater, many citizens of New Orleans have been looking to the skies for help from helicopter rescue crews of the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and active duty.

Hoisted aloft from rooftops and carried aboard from broken bridge spans and other locations isolated by flooding waters, more than 2,000 people have been saved by pararescue teams in the past five days since Hurricane Katrina hit the city.

"We got the call on (Aug. 30) and flew straight into Jackson from the east coast of Florida and immediately started flying rescue missions," said Col. Timothy Tarchick, 920th Rescue Wing commander from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. "We arrived at our staging area in Jackson at about midnight and then flew straight into the city to look for survivors."

With a combined force of 26 helicopters and about 400 people, the team comprises reservists and active duty Airmen from Valdosta, Ga.; Cocoa Beach, Fla.; Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Las Vegas; Tucson, Ariz.; Portland, Ore.; and New York City.

Flying 8- to 10-hour missions, the rescue teams must first fly about an hour and a half to get to the flooded city from Jackson. The rescue teams locate and retrieve the residents, drop them off at a collection point, and then circle around again looking for more. To double their range, the helicopters often refuel in air to spend as much time in the city as possible.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the affected families in New Orleans," said Lt. Gen. Michael W. Wooley, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Fla., during a visit with the pararescue teams Sept.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

A pararescueman with the 304th RQS scans the flooded streets of New Orleans looking for survivors.

3. "The motto of air rescue is 'That others may live' and that is exactly what we're focusing on. The things we train to do in wartime are an easy transition for us to be saving lives here today."

Trained to rescue downed pilots and military troops in combat behind enemy lines, the Air Force's rescue teams are a very small community of highly elite professionals.

"Most of our people are veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq," said Col. Joe Callahan, 347th Rescue Wing commander, Moody AFB, Ga.

"They are hard-driving volunteers working around the clock and doing everything they can to save the people that no one else can reach."

Trained to provide immediate medical treatment, the pararescue jumpers first seek out storm victims with critical medical conditions. These people are flown to temporary medical facilities set up in the local area and then on to the hospital in Baton Rouge, La., or other critical care facilities.

The important thing is that

we're helping the people who are in the most need first," said Master Sgt. Randy Wells, an aircrew member with the 920th Rescue Wing.

"Because of the heat, we're seeing the very old and very young in the most danger out there. When we can, we try to load a lot of children on our flights."

Most of the hurricane survivors are flown to collection points on safe ground, like Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans. They receive medical attention, food and water, and await transportation out of the city.

"I don't know how those guys do it," said Adele Betucci, a New Orleans resident who was rescued off the roof of her flooded home Sept. 2. "These guys on the helicopters, they saved us."

"I want to thank everyone for doing a fabulous job," said Karen Greene who was evacuated to Louis Armstrong Airport with a suspected fractured right hip. "Thank you so much."

Maintainers keep rescue helicopters flying

**By Master Sgt. Bill Huntington
442nd Fighter Wing Public
Affairs**

As Air Force rescue helicopter aircrews plucked survivors from flooded New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, they drew upon adrenaline to keep going during the 10- to 12-hour missions.

However, to keep their HH-60G Pave Hawk aircraft flying, they relied on a concerted effort by Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard and active-duty maintainers. The maintainers worked 24 hours a day to sustain the monumental rescue effort that began as soon as the Airmen arrived.

Reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., arrived here Aug. 30, less than 36 hours after the storm passed. They immediately began flying into the devastated city and saving people.

"We got here and there was not another soul around," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Curl of the wing's 308th Rescue Squadron. "At first we thought we were in the wrong place, but we just dropped our bags and sent the helicopters on to New Orleans."

Other units began operations as soon as they arrived, and the ramp soon became a beehive of activity with the maintainers launching and recovering aircraft.

"We started working just as soon as we got here," said Staff Sgt. Richard Lee of the Reserve's 943rd Maintenance Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. "We worked day and night keeping these aircraft flying."

"It was pretty grueling for awhile," Chief Curl said. "We were going around the clock for the first couple of days."

Aircrews and maintainers from rescue units throughout the



Photo by Master Sgt Jack Braden

Senior Airman Ronald Arroyo, 920th RQW crew chief, attaches a 600-pound weight to the rescue cable of an HH-60 Pave Hawk for an operational test prior to its departure on a search and rescue mission.

United States soon melded into one unit.

"I got notified (Aug. 30) about 10 a.m." said Capt. Craig Giles of the 347th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Moody AFB, Ga.

"They said it looks like we're going off station to do some helicopter operations in support of the hurricane (relief). By 10 p.m. we were on a C-130 (Hercules) coming out here."

Eleven maintainers and three aircrews brought three helicopters with them. Two more helicopters arrived later. The Airmen had been told that it would likely be just a three-day trip. At the time, the magnitude of the storm's damage was not completely understood, and the scope of what was to come was only slowly being revealed.

"It was probably a full day (after arriving) when we realized how many more units they were sending in here -- how many more helicopters and how big it was going to get," Captain Giles said. "We realized this wasn't just a three- or four-day trip."

Most of the public utilities were still unavailable here when the Airmen arrived. The city is more than 180 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and the hurricane did a lot of damage to the area.

"We got here and there was no water, no electricity and no phones," Chief Curl said. "When we got a chance to rest, we slept in the dining hall."

Most of the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing here had been activated. As a result, the incoming Airmen faced limited resources similar to those encountered at an austere location.

"It was pretty much we have a ramp and we have hangar space," Captain Giles said. "We had to make do with that."

"It was very much like a contingency," he said. "While that's what we've been trained to do, I never thought I'd (have to) do it in

Mississippi."

The guardsmen pitched in to make life better for the incoming wave of rescuers and continued to provide "above and beyond" service throughout the deployment. No longer being used to house the visiting Airmen, the dining facility began serving hot meals, and a tent-housed laundry facility was put in service.

"The support here was just great; they gave us everything we needed, plus some," Captain Giles said. "I never heard word 'no' from any of them for whatever I needed."

The maintenance arm of the deployed rescue units came together under the direction of Lt. Col. Kurt Wilson, 347th Maintenance Group commander from Moody AFB. He was tasked by the Air Force Special Operations Command to take the lead in maintenance operations.

"We basically had five (separate maintenance) systems," Colonel Wilson said. "The first thing I recognized that needed to be done was to bring everyone together as a unit."

"We've got Guard, Reserve and

active duty all working together just as one ... swapping (aircraft) parts, helping each other out," said Airman 1st Class Ed Bellus of the 347th AMXS at Moody. "It just flows like one team."

Tech. Sgt. Julian Alajos of the 920th MXS and his fellow maintainers from Patrick AFB supported the crew chiefs from the New York ANG's 106th RQS until that unit's maintenance team arrived.

"We're working as quickly as we can to fix everything as it comes in to us," Sergeant Alajos said.

"Everybody's like that. We're getting everything done a lot faster than normal (to keep the aircraft flying)."

"I've kept the mindset that someone's life is depending on (our efforts)," Airman Bellus said. "If I can get this aircraft up quicker, they'll be able to save more people."

The effort has paid off. By flying around the clock, the total-force team saved more than 4,000 lives in the first eight days. On a single mission, typically lasting 10 to 12 hours, one crew was able to save 187 people.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Grande

Air Force Reserve, active duty and Guard helicopters remain rescue ready thanks to aircraft maintainers.

Pararescuemen hoist survivors to safety

**By Lt. Col. Bob Thompson
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs**

Though it is a city without electricity, rescue crews see plenty of lights as they fly over New Orleans each night searching for survivors in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Sporadic fires burn wildly, but through their night-vision devices, combat search and rescue crews from the Air Force Reserve focus their attention on the flickering flashlights that dot the blackened landscape "like a night sky full of stars."

"When you look down on the city at night you see hundreds, hundreds of thousands of flashlights," said Master Sgt. Greg Bisogno, a pararescueman with Air Force Reserve Command's 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. "Because of our combat capability, we can see them and get to them in the blacked-out city."

Working around the clock, reservists and active-duty crews fly 8- to 12-hour missions in HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters staged out of Jackson, Miss. As the relief effort continues, the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and active-duty teams have saved thousands of survivors from rooftops and other isolated locations.

"On our second night, we found about 200 people trapped on a bridge," said Sergeant Bisogno. "We'd land and load 10 to 12 people, as many as we could hold, drop them off and then return for more."

Most of the hurricane survivors are flown to collection points on safe ground. In Jefferson Parrish, the helicopter teams drop off the rescued on some high ground in a highway cloverleaf. There, the people receive medical attention, food and water, and transportation out



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

A Hurricane Katrina victim is hoisted into a rescue helicopter by a pararescueman.

of the city.

"It's unimaginable unless you're here to see it," said the pararescueman. "No amount of words can describe how overwhelming the devastation is."

In the daylight, survivors hoisted aboard get their first look around their city from the helicopter.

"They would see how bad the devastation was and how it goes on for miles and miles." Sergeant Bisogno said. "They would start crying. Crying because of their city, their homes, family, friends were lost. Crying because of what they went through. Crying to be glad they were alive."

Picking up civilians requires the pararescuemen to take more time, be more reassuring than is normal when recovering downed pilots. Military pilots and aircrew are trained to ride a hoist. Pararescuemen give them the horse collar and they can put it on. They know about helicopter rotor wash, said the sergeant who

is a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"With these folks, we talk to them and hook them up," he said.

"They're scared and can't hear so we put their hands where we want them to hang on."

To get to the people in their flooded houses is not easy. Sergeant Bisogno has chopped his way through several roofs. The pararescue jumpers have tools as primitive as axes and as sophisticated as battery-powered saws and circular saws. Because the bottom floors are full of water, and most homes don't have outside stairwells, the PJs go through the roofs to get inside and get the people out.

"The people we picked up off the roofs had been up there for 2-4, even 5 days, surrounded by water," said the sergeant. "They had it rough and were very grateful. They'd say, 'God bless you' and want to touch you and shake your hand."

No life left behind -- rescuers save pets, too

Story and Photo By
Senior Master Sgt. Elaine Mayo
AFRC Recruiting Service Public Affairs

When Senior Master Sgt. James Sanchez goes on a rescue mission here, he makes sure the basic tools of the trade are in order -- a secure hoist, communication equipment, ear protection, water, dog biscuits and a can of cat treats.

To him, no one gets left behind.

"It's hard to turn away an animal that is going to die ... if you don't get them out," said Sergeant Sanchez, a pararescueman with Air Force Reserve Command's 306th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

"If they come to me, I take them. If they run away, I can't chase them," Sergeant Sanchez said. But the pararescueman said it seems like the animals know the PJs are there to rescue lives and want to be taken.

"It's amazing how many dogs run up to you wanting to be rescued," the reservist said. "We had dogs chasing the helo. One dog swam through the water and jumped on a PJ."

Sept. 10 was no different. With a 7 a.m. takeoff time, one HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with Sergeant Sanchez on board headed for New Orleans with a list of names and addresses of Crescent City residents still unaccounted for.

As the pilot positioned the helicopter over a house, Sergeant Sanchez was grabbing a helmet bag, loading it with bottles of water and a bag of dog biscuits. A can of cat treats was already in his pocket.

With his helmet bag slung over his shoulder, Sergeant Sanchez and Tech. Sgt. Paul Schultz, another PJ from the 306th, clung onto the hoist in tandem and descended to the rooftop. The first floor of the house was still flooded.

Sergeant Sanchez disappeared into an opening in the roof looking for survivors. He found no people on the second floor, but did find a cat.

"It was real friendly," Sergeant Sanchez said. "He came right up to me meowing and started rubbing up against me, kneading his paws on my leg."

The sergeant could tell the cat wanted to be rescued.

"He didn't fight me as I put him into the helmet bag," Sergeant Sanchez said. He later named the cat PJ. The pararescueman has 22 cat rescues to his credit.

"The guys are starting to tease me and call me 'cat man,'" Sergeant Sanchez said.

But that's OK with him. He has a pet of his own, and has been thinking about getting a cat for his daughter.



Senior Master Sgt. James Sanchez, a 306th RQS pararescueman, carries a cat he rescued from the second floor of a flooded house in New Orleans.

"I have a dog so I put myself in their (evacuees) position. If my house flooded, I would have my family leave and I'd stay behind with my dog if I couldn't take him," Sergeant Sanchez said.

During evacuations, the pararescueman said he has seen dogs locked in bathrooms with no food or water.

"I open the windows and doors so they can get out when the water goes down ... I give them water and food," he said.

Since he began rescue operations Aug. 30, Sergeant Sanchez has rescued 11 dogs and about 60 people. The first night out he rescued 47 people.

"I've gotten more saves here than in my 22 years being a PJ," Sergeant Sanchez said.

The helicopter crew flew PJ the cat to a nearby forward refueling point near Metairie, La.

Tech. Sgt. Vicky Major, an Air National Guard Airman with the 159th Fighter Wing in Belle Chase, La., was there to offer a helping hand.

Sergeant Major held PJ while Sergeant Sanchez fed it. The cat devoured a number of treats and drank nearly one-half cup of water without stopping.

Once assured PJ was safe, the Air Force reservists went on their way to locate another address.

"There's no greater feeling than to save a life," Sergeant Sanchez said.

Rescue crews add new tools to search

By Lt. Col. Bob Thompson
AFRC Public Affairs

After saving more than 4,200 people, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and active-duty Airmen are finding innovative ways to check for survivors and people who need help.

Using the Internet, Web sites, e-mails, personal interviews and calls from families and friends, the helicopter-borne rescuers are working every lead they get to save more lives.

"After September 8th, we just weren't finding anybody," said Maj. John Lowe, a pilot with Air Force Reserve Command's 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. "We kept trolling the roofs and balconies but all we would run into were people who didn't want to go."

Lowered by a hoist rig on the right side of an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, the pararescuemen would not force people to leave, but while on the ground would ask the New Orleans hold-outs if they knew of anyone in need of help. Armed with these leads, the rescue teams would seek out the addresses as best they could in the debris and wreckage.

"We got tasked to find three judges (who) no one had heard from," said the major. "All we had were their street addresses."

In a town that endured winds in excess of 160 mph and was under 12 feet of water, street signs were in short supply. Major Lowe called his wife and asked her to use the Internet to get the coordinates, latitudes and longitudes, of the street addresses so he could enter them into his Global Positioning System. It worked. Although the judges had already been picked up, they found the locations and a new rescue tool was developed.

"By converting street addresses into GPS coordinates, we rescued a mute and deaf mentally handi-



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elaine Mayo

Lt. Col. Rob Ament, a 301st Rescue Squadron pilot, checks the gauges of his HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter as he prepares to search for Hurricane Katrina survivors. Rescue teams used the Internet, e-mails and satellite technology to check for survivors and people who still needed help.

capped man who was all alone in a locked house with a candle," Major Lowe said. "Through e-mail leads and the GPS-address conversion, we found the home of a 250-pound elderly woman who couldn't get out of bed. We dropped in our pararescuemen, and they worked with the Army folks to get her out by boat."

As the team had more success, they followed more leads, finding street addresses, sometimes finding people, sometimes verifying that no one was home.

"We've followed leads from phone calls, e-mails and Web sites," said Lt. Col. Rob Ament, 920th RQW director of operations. "Right now there are 40 to 50 heli-

copters hovering over New Orleans. This is the most massive undertaking I've ever seen in 30 years of rescue work."

When there is a call for help at this stage of the rescue operation, several helicopters converge on the scene, Colonel Ament said. As the electric power crews go in and the cleanup workers remove debris, he said the airborne rescue workers will be ready for anyone who gets hurt on the job.

"When you get survivors onboard and they are alive and are going to be OK, it's a great, great feeling," Major Lowe said. "It's an awesome mission. I don't think there's anything else in the world I'd rather do."



Photo by Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly

Fresh from Hurricane Katrina operations, crews load HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters onto a C-5 aircraft. The helicopters and crews were airlifted to Texas to provide rescue support and relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

Rescue crews make five saves in Texas, Louisiana

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor
Air Force Print News

Air Force search-and-rescue crews made five saves and assisted in six others Sept. 24 during post-storm operations over areas of Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita.

The saves were made by Airmen flying HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and HC-130 Hercules refueling aircraft. The aircrews and pararescuemen are from the 347th Rescue Wing at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., and the Air Force Reserve's 920th RQW from Patrick AFB, Fla. They are supplemented by crews from Davis-Monthan

AFB, Ariz., and Nellis AFB, Nev. The combined active duty and Reserve search-and-rescue team is deployed here as part of a larger overall federal effort to help affected areas recover from Hurricane Rita.

According to Col. Mark Noyes, commander of the deployed search-and-rescue unit here, multiple teams rescued three critical-care patients from a convalescent home surrounded by flood waters in Fred, Texas. The victims were taken to a hospital in Houston for further care, Colonel Noyes said.

The team made two other saves in Vermillion Parish, Louisiana. The colonel said those people were also pulled from an area isolated

by flood water and moved to a safer location.

Colonel Noyes said he was proud of the work done by his total force team.

"This cooperative effort between active duty and Reserve Airmen ensured those victims who felt the wrath of Hurricane Rita were returned to get medical attention they need and returned to their loved ones," Colonel Noyes said.

While work continues from Randolph, the Air Force team here is now focusing its efforts strictly in Louisiana. Other federal agencies, as well as the Texas Air and Army National Guard, will provide assistance as needed in the Lone Star state, Colonel Noyes said.

Rescuers give, receive kindness for saving lives

When an Air Force reservist came here with his search-and-rescue unit, he helped spark generosity from 750 miles away for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Staff Sgt. Tony Pieske, an aerial gunner on an HH-60 helicopter, and other reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., arrived at the Jackson International Airport Aug. 30. They were the first Air Force helicopter unit to begin rescue operations, starting less than 36 hours after Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf Coast and New Orleans area. By mid-September, they had rescued more than 1,000 people.

Members of the Pinelake Baptist Church in nearby Brandon, Miss., were already helping hundreds of storm victims but they wanted to do more.

When church volunteers learned about the reservists staying at a local hotel, they stepped forward and offered to do their laundry, knowing the reservists were working long hours with little free time.

"We drop our laundry at the front desk by 9 a.m. and pick it up the next day," said Sergeant Pieske.

"The (volunteers) even include a few snacks like chips and energy bars with it."

Sergeant Pieske told his mother about his work and

the generosity of the church volunteers. While attending an international annual meeting, Mrs. Claudia Pieske, president of St. Vincent DePaul and Catholic Charities in Chicago, talked to a few of its members about her son's deployment and the generosity of Pinelake's volunteers.

A hat was passed and thousands of dollars were collected and sent to the church.

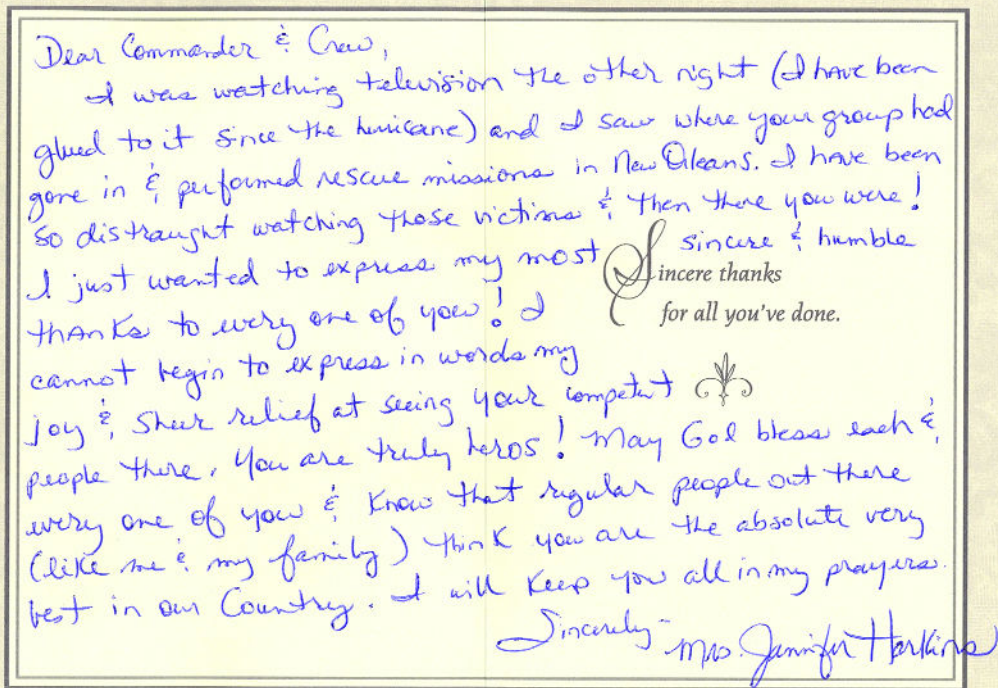
"It's incredible," said Becky Pearce, coordinator of disaster relief at Pinelake.

"Thousands of people have come forward to volunteer. We get around 100 calls a day from people wanting to give."

Pinelake recently set up a point of distribution in Bay St. Louis, Miss., where food, clothing and other items are made available to the hard-hit residents of Hancock County in Mississippi.

To show appreciation for the volunteers' generosity, Col. Tim Tarchick, 920th RQW commander, visited the Pinelake Baptist Church and gave members of the church a certificate of appreciation and an American flag that was flown over the Gulf Coast and New Orleans area on Sept. 6.

"Thank you from all of us," said Colonel Tarchick. "You have helped us focus on the mission."



Dear Commander & Crew,
I was watching television the other night (I have been glued to it since the hurricane) and I saw where your group had gone in & performed rescue missions in New Orleans. I have been so distraught watching those victims & then there you were! I just wanted to express my most sincere & humble thanks to every one of you! I cannot begin to express in words my joy & sheer relief at seeing your competent people there. You are truly heroes! May God bless each & every one of you & know that regular people out there (like me & my family) think you are the absolute very best in our Country. I will keep you all in my prayers.
Sincerely - Mrs. Jennifer Hartline

Thank You

Thank you's have poured in from families, friends and the local community for the 920th Rescue Wing's rescue efforts after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

920th Rescue Wing Employer Awareness Day Saturday, November 5, 2005

Is it difficult to explain your Air Force Reserve career to your civilian employer? Would you like a chance to say "thank you" with more than just words for their understanding and support of your Air Force Reserve career?

The 920th Rescue Wing is hosting its annual Employer Awareness Day during the November 2005 UTA weekend. Employer's Day is the perfect opportunity for your employer to see first hand just how important your contributions are to the success of the 920th RQW and to the defense of the United States. Reservists who have been deployed or activated are highly encouraged to nominate their civilian employers for this event.

In a day they will be sure to remember, your employer will have the opportunity to fly aboard an HC-130 Hercules aircraft or an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, view displays and demonstrations and participate in a tour of 920th RQW facilities. In addition, your employer will be presented with a certificate of appreciation from the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at a luncheon held in their honor.

Please completely fill out the nomination form below and return it to the 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs office at the address listed on the reverse side of this flyer. **Nominations must be received by the 920th RQW Public Affairs office no later than October 1, 2005.**

EMPLOYER AWARENESS DAY 2005 NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE (EMPLOYER) _____

NAME/JOB TITLE _____

NAME OF BUSINESS _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

RESERVIST _____

NAME/RANK/UNIT _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____



U.S. Air Force photo

HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter aircrews prepare to fly search-and-rescue missions to find stranded victims of Hurricane Katrina's devastating aftermath. 920th Rescue Wing aircrews were responsible for saving 1,043 lives in the area.

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