



ANGEL'S WINGS

920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base Florida

VOLUME 5, NO. 3



MARCH 2007



Nursing the Wounds

What's inside?

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ON THE WEB AT WWW.920RQW.AFRC.AF.MIL

ASTS vital to critical care in the AOR

By Col. Lewis Neace
920th ASTS Commander

I have finally decided that it is time to tell all of you about the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and what we are currently doing.

We have been the “quiet” members of this wing, doing our jobs and staying out of the limelight. However this does not convey the true picture of our squadron. Currently we have members deployed to our Area Of Responsibility, and multiple other locations around the world.

Almost every day, Air Force Reserve Command requests members of the 920th ASTS to deploy on short notice. We have sent people across the world within three days of notification.

As a commander, it is extremely gratifying to work with professionals who will drop everything to rush off to a medical contingency at a moment’s notice.

Currently the ASTS has a large contingent working at the Contin-

gency Aeromedical Staging Facility in Balad, Iraq. I have been in almost daily contact with them, and I continue to be amazed at the work load they take on. An average day will see them working 18 hours. When there is a major incident in the AOR, their workday will far exceed that. I have not heard one complaint in spite of this. Their achievements are featured in this month’s Angel’s Wings and heralded throughout the command.

The CASF is responsible for caring for the ill and wounded and preparing them for aeromedical transport from the AOR to Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Ramstein, Germany.

The injuries will vary from relatively minor to the most critically injured pa-

tients who have come directly from the surgical suite.

Every step of the way, the CASF personnel are monitoring and caring for these patients, staging the aircraft and coordinating with the airevac crews who will fly them.

The timing of patient movements is absolutely critical, since the most grievously wounded cannot tolerate any delays in transport. The 920th ASTS personnel have not had one delay since they arrived.

It gives me tremendous pride to work with such dedicated professionals. When I spoke of this deployment previously, I noted that we were sending the varsity. Clearly I was wrong. We sent the Olympic Team.

“...When I spoke of this deployment previously, I noted that we were sending the varsity. Clearly I was wrong. We sent the Olympic Team.”

Col. Lewis Neace
920th ASTS Commander



Col. Steven Kirkpatrick
Wing Commander

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On the Cover:



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Balad Hospital, Iraq - Maj. Laurie Turner, deployed 920th Rescue Wing Aeromedical Staging Squadron member, takes a blood pressure reading from Pfc. David Kendrick from the 2ID, 361 Calvary. See full story Pgs. 6-7.



UTA Schedule

Nest UTA: April

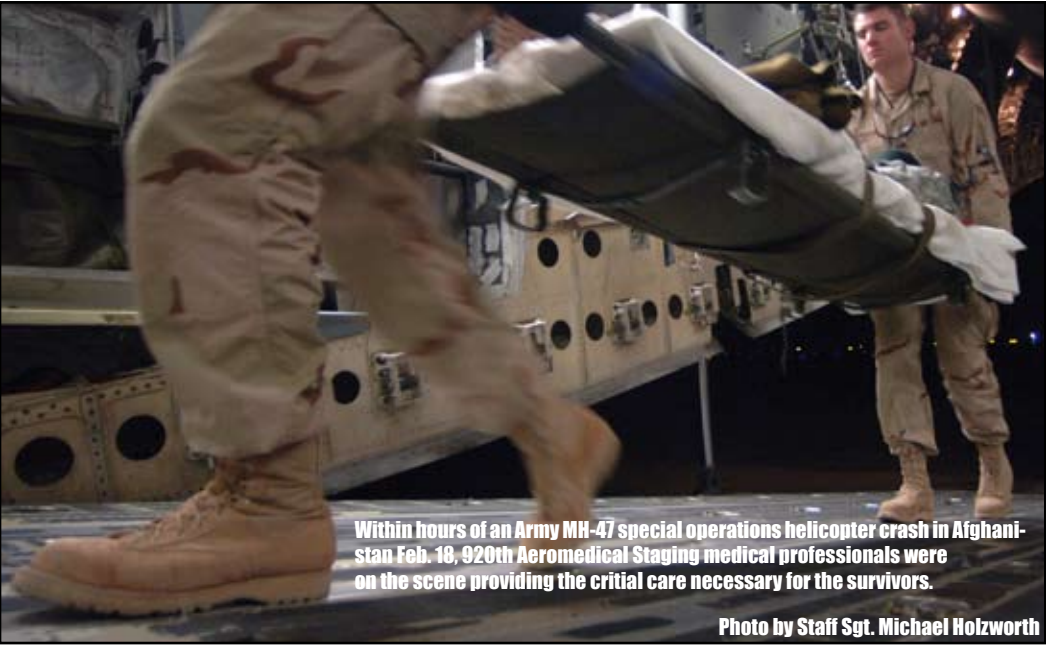
May 5-6

June 2-3

July 7-8

Reservists making a difference

920th ASTS professionals in critical demand



Within hours of an Army MH-47 special operations helicopter crashing in Afghanistan February 18, two medical professionals from the 920th Rescue Wing Aeromedical Staging Squadron, were instrumental in saving the lives of the 11 of the 14 survivors from the crash.

Captains Karen Mackenzie, a trauma surgeon and Kevin Wilkens, a critical care nurse, are both members of a Critical Care Air Transport Team or CCATT that saved the survivors. To read more about them and other news of the 920th Rescue Wing, go to www.920rqw.afrc.af.mil.

Honoring the Fallen



Tech. Sgt. Scott Duffman

THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

Airmen at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., honored a pararescueman assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron who was among those killed in an MH-47 special operations helicopter crash Feb. 18 in Afghanistan.

Tech. Sgt. Scott E. Duffman, 32, of Albuquerque, N.M., and seven others were killed and 14 others were injured from the crash.

There were 22 coalition members on board the MH-47 who were supporting Freedom.

Operation Enduring “Scott Duffman pararescueman, and father. He loved and loved his Lt. Col. Robert STS commander. tragedy, but we are the fact that he died he loved -- going into may live.”



The helicopter pilot reported a sudden loss of power and control just prior to the crash, according to a coalition press release.

The 24th STS falls under the 720th Special Tactics Group, an Air Force Special Operations Command unit at Hurlburt Field.

A private memorial service was held March 1 at Pope AFB. Members of the 920th Rescue Wing were also on hand to honor the fallen hero, who made the ultimate sacrifice so that others may live.

Bosses' Day is set for June 2

Register now!

Rescue Wing members are encouraged to invite their civilian bosses to the 2007 Bosses' Day. This is a great opportunity to strengthen your civilian employer's commitment to your Reserve duty or to help them understand what you do when you're on duty here. The event includes a flight and some face-to-face time with the Wing Commander, Col. Steve Kirkpatrick.

Annual Bosses' Day nomination form

June 2, 2007

(Please print or type information legibly)

Reservist's Information

Reservist's Name/Rank: _____ Home Phone: _____

Reservist's Email Address: _____

Squadron: _____ Civilian Work Phone: _____

Employer's Information

Employer's Name: _____ Bus Phone: _____

Title: _____ Company Name: _____

Complete Business Mailing Address w/ Zip Code: _____

Employer's complete email address: _____

Guidelines:

1. You may nominate a civilian employer.
2. Return your nomination to the Public Affairs Office as soon as possible, but **no later than May 6.**
3. Fill out and mail this page to 920 RQW/PA, 740 O'Malley Rd., Suite 101, Patrick AFB, FL 32925.

Bosses will receive a letter of invitation, including the day's itinerary. More details will follow. For more information please contact Public Affairs at (321-494-0535). Or submit information electronically to Cathleen.snow@rescue920.patrick.af.mil.

MXG announces Save of the Month awardees

By 2nd Lt. Jaime Pinto
Rescue Wing Public Affairs

The 920th Maintenance Group continues to recognize outstanding individuals with the Save of the Month Awards.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant's Joshua Cigainero and Gena Chacon, the most recent Save of the Month Award winners.

Sergeant Cigainero, an aerospace propulsion journeyman, received the Save of the Month award for his dedication and volunteerism. With less than one day's notice, Sergeant Cigainero, also known as "Big Country," volunteered for temporary duty to Portland to work an immediate repair on a HC-130 P/N propeller.

While enroute to Portland for the closing ceremony, the aircraft had developed a hole in the propeller blade de-icing system. With no maintenance personnel remaining at Portland, the aircraft and crew were stuck. Sergeant Cigainero quickly volunteered to help the stranded aircraft and crew. He was able to complete the repair to the propeller and get the aircraft operational in one day, saving the unit \$120,000.00.

"To actually fly out to the crew and aircraft, make the repair and get them back in the air again is a great feeling," said Sergeant Cigainero.

Due to Sergeant Cigainero's maintenance expertise and expeditious work, the HC-130 P/N was able to make its next scheduled flight to Colorado. For his dedication and volunteer spirit, Sergeant Cigainero is one of the Save of the Month recipients.

Sergeant Chacon, a command support staff personnelist, also received the Save of the Month Award. Sergeant Chacon earned her Save of the Month award for innovation and attention to detail.

Sergeant Chacon developed an Enlisted Performance Report and Officer Performance Report tracking system for the 920th Maintenance Group. In



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

Staff Sgt. Joshua Cigainero, aerospace propulsion journeyman, 920th Maintenance Squadron, was awarded the Save of the Month Award for repairing an aircraft crew stranded in Portland, Ore. Staff Sgt. Gena Chacon, personnel craftsman with the 920th MXS also received the award.

order to develop this new system, Sergeant Chacon compiled information from the in-house EPR/OPR system and corrected outdated and erroneous information. This tedious feat produced a new tracking system that allows commanders and flight chiefs to track and monitor all EPR/OPR requirements.

Sergeant Chacon's tracking system greatly increases the ability of the support staff to monitor the units' evaluation processes and is an invaluable tool to leadership. For her innovation and attention to detail, Sergeant Chacon is one of the Save of the Month recipients. Congratulations to the award winners!

Rescue Heritage

301st Air Rescue Squadron in 1960

Wing Military Ball set for June 2

In celebration of the Wing's Heritage all Rescue Wing members and their guests are invited to attend the Wing's second annual Military Ball set for June 2.

When: June 2 at 6 p.m.

Where: Indian River Colony Club, Viera

Tickets: Prices vary. See the Wing Executive Officer, X3498 or Secretary, X2218, for more information or to purchase tickets.

Uniform: Officers - Mess Dress; Enlisted - Semi-formal or Mess Dress; Civilians - Formal

SERVING SERVICEMEMBERS:

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR



Photos by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Master Sgt. James Brown, NCO in charge of the Life Skills section of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, helps carry a patient aboard a waiting Air Force Reserve C-17 from March Air Reserve Base, Calif. for a medical evacuation flight to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

By Master Sgt. Bryan Ripple
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Air Force Reservists from the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS) at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., have found themselves integral to the success rate of the Air Force Theater Hospital (AFTH) here.

Nine Airmen from the 920th ASTS, part of the Reserve's 920th Rescue Wing, are deployed here as part of AEF 5-6 working for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group in various capacities to support the medical mission to save lives.

In fact, they are some of the 86 guardsmen and reservists who currently make up 22 percent of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group and are representing nearly 20 different Guard and Reserve units around the United States.

"This percentage is much higher than we've ever had here at

Balad," said Lt. Col. Frank Palmisano, director of operations for the 332 EMDG. "Our Reserve Component members bring years of valuable experience to the hospital," he said.

Maj. Dianna Schulkers is the nurse manager of the Emergency Department. She is also an emergency department nurse at Cape Canaveral Hospital in Florida.

"Here we deal with a lot of trauma patients with war wounds such as IED blasts, gunshot wounds, and burns," said Maj. Schulkers.

Chances of survival for seriously wounded patients arriving at the Emergency Department here are very good--in fact, patients have a 98 percent survival rate.

The AFTH is a military level III trauma center, equivalent to a Level I trauma center in the United States.

In the United States, a Level I trauma center provides the highest level of surgical care to trauma patients. Staff members here at the

AFTH treat an average of 700 patients per month including about 120 U.S. patients, 30 Iraqi soldiers and civilians, and 25 coalition and third country nationals (TCNs) per week.

"I was chosen to deploy here for AEF 1-2 from July-September, 2006, and I worked in the ICU then," said Maj. Schulkers. "This is such an honorable duty; and when I found out they needed help here, I knew I would come back without a question. We do our part best by saving the lives of U.S. servicemembers and Iraqi citizens."

Medical treatment isn't the only facet that makes the Air Force Theater Hospital successful--a good nutritional program helps injured patients get better faster as well.

Tech. Sgt. Anand Ramkissoon is a police service aide for the Broward County Sheriff's office in Florida.

He's deployed here as a nutritional medicine technician and



*WORLD*CLASS*CARE*

FEATURE



Maj. Dianna Schulkers, nurse manager of the emergency department at the Air Force Theater Hospital (AFTH), is used to caring for trauma patients with war wounds such as IED blasts, gunshot wounds and burns.



Tech. Sgt. Anand Ramkissoon adjusts a modern burner unit in preparation to serve dinner at the hospital. Sergeant Ramkissoon is one of the Airmen in charge of ensuring the patients and staff of the hospital have a good nutritional menu to choose from each meal.



Wounded servicemembers receive world class care from 920th Rescue Wing members serving at the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF).



Capt. Laura Reitz, takes care of wounded patients at the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF).

has the responsibility to ensure patients and staff members have good meals available.

Part of his job includes picking up the food for each meal served at the hospital from one of the dining facilities here.

“Our primary mission is to feed the patients,” said Sergeant Ramkissoon. “We can alter the menu for the patients if their medical situation dictates a certain dietary restriction, and we are sensitive to the cultural aspects of the Iraqi people and what we serve them.”

Sergeant Ramkissoon has been in the military for 18 years now and wanted to deploy here to validate the training he’s had over the years.

“The idea of actually living out what we’ve trained for and getting a better understanding of nutritional medicine in a deployed hospital environment is something that’s pretty impossible to experience in a training environment,” said Sergeant Ramkissoon. “Now I see how it works and all the theory behind it comes into play.”

Over at the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) here, many people work hard to provide nursing support en-route for safe transfer out of Balad Air Base via airlift.

Maj. Laurie Turner, is deployed here as director of operations and executive officer for the CASF. She took a voluntary layoff from her ci-

vilian occupation two years ago as a project manager for Convergys Corporation in Lake Mary, Fla., so she could pursue more Air Force deployments.

She’s also one of the hard-working people who transfer injured soldiers to Germany or back to their duty assignments.

Her father was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy and served in World War II and three tours in Vietnam, and that according to Maj. Turner, is one of the big reasons she volunteered for this deployment.

“I always told him I would achieve his rank, now I’m telling

(See Balad, Page 10)

Tornadoes test Reservist's readiness

By Master Sgt. Chance C. Babin
Rescue Wing Public Affairs

As Master Sgt. Gerald "Jerry" L. Smith woke to a ringing phone the morning of Feb. 2, in a hotel just outside Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., he thought it was time to get up and report to duty at the 39th Rescue Squadron.

He soon realized that this early wake-up call, around 3:40 am, hours before he was scheduled to wake up, was the last thing he wanted to hear as the Emergency Management director for Lake County, Fla.

He learned that a powerful tornado had struck the people of his county while most were sleeping in the dead of night. He jumped out of bed, packed hurriedly and got to his car for a two-hour jaunt back to Lake County. This was the start of one of the longest days of his life.

"When I got that call I felt sick to my stomach," Sergeant Smith said. "You try to build teams and thought processes, but you hope it never is called to use."

Sergeant Smith was about to put all of his years of training to work in the aftermath of the second deadliest tornado in Florida history.

While the mission for most people at the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB deals with rescue during emergency situations, for Sergeant Smith, the first sergeant at the 39th RQS, his civilian job runs the whole gambit of situations involving emergencies from disaster preparedness all the way through recovery.

"I had to drive about two hours," although he admits that with the adrenaline rush he made slightly better timing that morning. "The whole drive back I was calling people and doing phone interviews. It's still pitch black outside,

so you can't get a good idea of how bad it was."

When he got to the emergency operations center, there was still chaos, but his years of training both in the military and in the civilian sector kicked in and things began to flow.

"My job is to get the group of people together that will support first responders to help the victims," Sergeant Smith said.

The mission of the EOC is to coordinate all local emergency response, disaster relief and recovery actions, as well as collaborate with state, federal and volunteer agencies.

"When the EOC is fully staffed there are roughly 100 people at any given time working on various disasters response and relief efforts," Sergeant Smith said. "To relate it to Air Force terms the civilian EOC is a combination of the base command post, unit control centers, a survival recovery center

and wing battle staff.

The interesting challenge is unlike the wing commander where all the assets directly report to him. "None of the departments and agencies I work with have any direct reporting process to me," he said. "So it is a matter of facilitating functions to match needs."

Of the many things Sergeant Smith had to make sure were getting done was setting up shelters for those displaced, getting the power companies to help restore power, working with law enforcement to make sure there was no civil unrest or looting, getting urban search and rescue teams in that specialize in searching through debris.

He also worked on clearing the streets, working with school board on school closings, getting animal services involved, providing food and water, providing media

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Courtesy photo
Master Sgt. Gerald "Jerry" Smith (left), 39th Rescue Squadron First Sergeant, along side Florida's Governor Charlie Crist, briefs emergency management personnel after a deadly tornado called him into action as the Emergency Management director for Lake County, Fla.





Airmen deploy to Horn of Africa



Africa Air - A contingent of Rescue Airmen from the 39th Rescue Squadron here Feb. 23 deployed to support Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa providing combat search and rescue to the region. Maintenance personnel will be providing maintenance support to the extended long-range HC-130 P/N refueling aircraft during the deployment.



Photos by Master Sgt. Chance Bahin

Hearts apart – A 920th Airman spends his last few minutes on the 920th flightline saying goodbye to his family prior to embarking on a Rescue Wing HC-130P/N which was soon on its way to Africa.

By 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow
 Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Approximately 13 Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing deployed to Africa February 23 in support of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa.

CJTF - HOA works to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect Coalition interests in east Africa and Yemen through humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, consequence management, civic action programs to include medical and veterinary care,

school and medical clinic construction and water development projects.

During the 60 day deployment to the region, the 920th Airmen from the 39th Rescue Squadron will be providing Combat Search and Rescue to the region.

Additionally 920th Maintenance Squadron personnel will be providing maintenance support to the combat search and rescue aircraft.

The HC-130 P/N aircraft is an extended-range combat search and rescue version of the C-130 Hercules transport. Its mission is to

extend the range of combat search and rescue helicopters by providing air refueling.

The 920th Rescue Wing is the most called upon unit in the Air Force Reserve and is the only reserve rescue wing in the U.S.

Servicemembers throughout the Wing continue to deploy in support of major areas of operation in the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere. The wing's primary mission is combat rescue, but also supports NASA and the 45th Space Wing in launches and responds to humanitarian calls for help.

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him I'll pass him--eventually," Maj. Turner said with a grin. "One of the highlights of my Air Force career was having my father pin Major on me in a formal ceremony at Patrick," she said.

Her job includes coordinating CASF staff members with missions, disseminating information for nursing support, and keeping track of the logistical part of the CASF operations.

"It's been a most humbling experience," she said. "We prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Likewise, some people say the work they do here supporting the mission of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group is the most gratifying they've ever done.

Capt. Laura Reitz is an open heart recovery nurse at the Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Fla., and is another 920 ASTS member deployed here working at the CASF.

A fifth-generation military member, Capt. Reitz has served in the Air Force for 15 years and says this is the most important job she's ever participated in aside from raising her kids.

"To me, I'm in awe of these young people. Many of them are seriously injured but still maintain their military bearing and composure. I think anybody who

deploys here will leave with a whole new perspective on life," she said.

Many times patients or even staff members may need to just talk with someone after experiencing or witnessing the difficult picture of war they see here.

Master Sgt. James Brown is deployed here from the 920 ASTS as non commissioned officer in charge of the Life Skills section. Back home, he's the postmaster of the Titusville, Fla., post office.

Here, Sergeant Brown talks to people and helps them deal with their psychological needs.

"Some military members try to suppress their feelings after witnessing the horrors of war, but sometimes you can't hold back anymore," he said. "We're here to talk if someone wants to. This puts a perspective on what's important in life."

Coordinating all the efforts of the 332 EMDG requires the support of those working at the Medical Control Center, or MCC.

Capt. Scott Morse works for the Department of Homeland Security on the civilian side and is deployed here as the chief of the MCC. He said being here to help the guys fighting outside the wire is what it's all about for him.

"Hopefully when our rotation is over, I'll have done a good job supporting our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen, and left a tough place a little bit better,"

From Readiness, Page 8

releases, getting ready for a press conference, working with the medical examiner and putting plans together.

He credits the Air Force Reserve and the Air Force core values in numerous ways for helping him get through that day and the many trying days that followed.

"The significance of what the Reserve did for me was leadership training," he said. "It seemed like at times I was the guy everyone was coming to for the answers."

As a former chief, Sergeant Smith is no stranger to leadership roles. In order to take the 39th RQS first sergeant position, Sergeant Smith took a two stripe reduction in accordance with Air Force regulation, going from a chief master sergeant to a master sergeant.

Sergeant Smith said he used his non-commissioned officer and first sergeant training on how to deal with human nature and team

building throughout the disaster.

"What I learned about human nature came in very handy," he said. "How to lead people and that not everyone responds the same. You must respond to individual needs.

"I understand the concept of organization and how to build a team and how to get the right people to the table."

It was also his military background that helped prepare him for the nature of a disaster and reminded him, in some ways, how similar the two are.

"The fatalities and absolute suddenness of the event was just like an attack," he said. "People were just trying to live their lives and were killed. The response was very similar, take care of life and limbs and take care of shelter."

In the end, there were 21 deaths in Lake County. More than 600 structures were damaged, including 185 totally destroyed, accounting for \$26.3 million

in property loss. The twister or twisters hit both the eastern and western side of the county. The tornado rated an EF 3 (Enhanced Fujita Scale), one of the stronger more intense tornados with winds at 165 MPH.

"During the event, I used the Air Force First Sergeant Creed as my personal mantra 'My job is people-Every one is my business,'" said Sergeant Smith.

It's this first sergeant mentality that makes Sergeant Smith feel like his county is like a really big squadron, and he's there to take care of them all. The fact that he lost 21 people that day really weighed heavy on his heart.

"I cried basically. I sat and talked to my pastor and mental health," Sergeant Smith said. "It's still hard to talk about. My job is to prevent that from happening. I take it personally. I think that comes from my first sergeant's creed. I take it seriously, taking care of my people."

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

Airman Shines - Staff Sgt. Crystal Carter, 308th Rescue Squadron Life Support Technician, was named Airman of the Year at the 10th Numbered Air Force Level. Sergeant Carter will attend a banquet for winning the honor.



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

Bronze "Super" Star - Technical Sgt. Paul Schultz, 308th Rescue Squadron Pararescumen, is awarded the Bronze Star at the February Unit Training Assembly by Wing Commander Steve Kirkpatrick for his heroic efforts in saving the lives of fellow passengers after a helicopter crash in Central Afghanistan.



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

Mandatory fun - Senior Master Sgt. Craig Kennedy, 920th Rescue Wing, and his wife Joanne dawned their best attire for the Air Warfare Symposium Gala held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel Feb. 9.



Courtesy Photo

Combat Trailblazer - Master Sgt. Carlos Gonzalez-Ortega, 301st Rescue Squadron Combat Flight Engineer, sports the Air Force logo as well as POW/MIA logo on the front of his dirt bike during a cross-country dirt bike race.

Astronaut recovery

Mode 7 NASA Emergency Exercise

Members of the 920th Rescue Wing and the 45th Space Wing teamed with NASA last month to exercise their skills in the event of a space shuttle orbiter crash.

In the Mode 7 scenario exercised Feb. 13, an orbiter veered off the Shuttle Landing Strip and crashed in a remote area of Kennedy Space Center.



Photos by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

Fetal position – NASA Firefighters evacuate NASA Life Support personnel standing in as an astronaut from a mock orbiter during the Mode 7 exercise.



Shot of Adrenaline - Air Force Reserve pararescuemen from the 920th Rescue Wing provide simulated treatment to suited astronauts injured in a NASA orbiter crash during a Mode 7 Exercise at Cape Canaveral February 13th.



Away from the danger zone – 920th Rescue Wing pararescuemen stabilize and extricate the astronauts to safety.