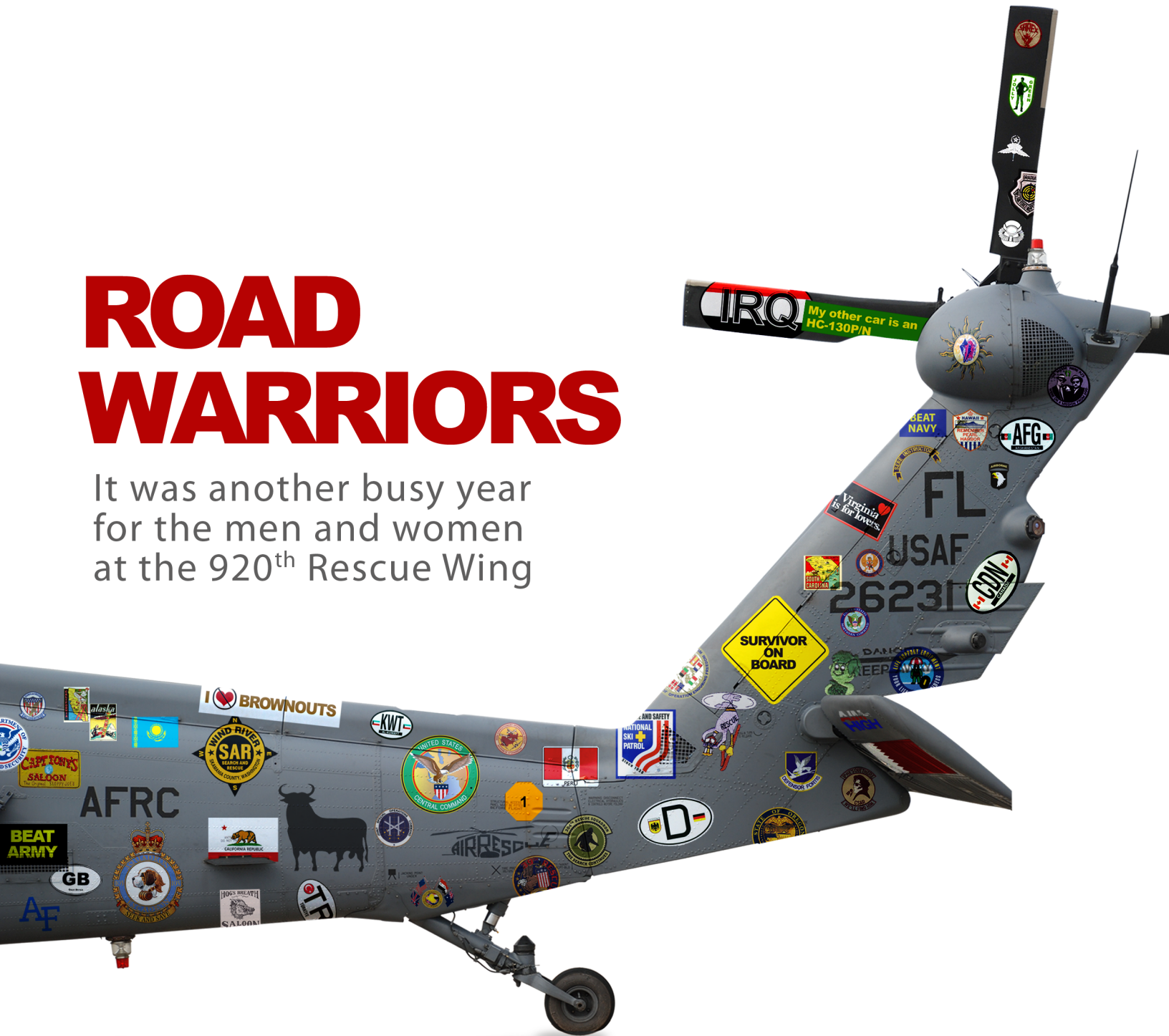


# ANGEL'S WINGS

VOL. 6 NO. 6 • 920<sup>TH</sup> RESCUE WING • PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLA. • AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND • NOV / DEC 2008

## ROAD WARRIORS

It was another busy year for the men and women at the 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing



# ANGEL'S WINGS

VOL.6 NO.6 NOV / DEC 2008

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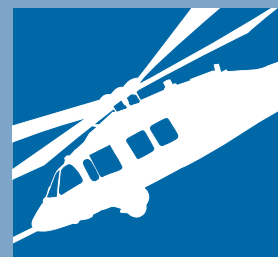
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cover graphic / TECH. SGT. PAUL FLIPSE



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### news & features



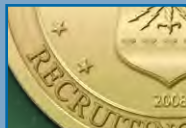
#### ANGELS OVER AFGHANISTAN pp.14-15

Since deploying to Kandahar in March, 920th Rescue Wing aircrew members and pararescuemen have saved nearly 500 lives and recorded more than 500 assists.



#### GERMANE TO SAVING LIVES pp.8-12

The last thing servicemembers want is to be wounded in action. But if they are, 920th Aeromedical Staging Airmen deployed to Germany and Iraq are providing some of the best care anywhere.



#### ALL THAT GLITTERS pp.18

One wing safety chief and a whole office of wing recruiters were singled out by Air Force Reserve Command as being the best in their fields for 2008.

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#### UTA SCHEDULE

Dec. 6-7  
Jan. 10-11  
Feb. 7-8  
Mar. 7-8  
April 4-5  
May 2-3  
June 6-7  
July 11-12

#### DINING FACILITY

Br. 6 - 8 a.m. (weekdays)  
Br. 5:30 - 9:15 a.m. (UTAs)  
Ln. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Dn. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

#### FITNESS CENTER

Mon/Fri 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sat/Sun 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

#### BARBER SHOP

Mon/Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sun 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### CLASS VI / SHOPETTE / GAS STATION

Mon/Sat 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sun 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.



**LT. COL. BRETT NEWMAN**

Commander, 920th Maintenance Squadron

## These (amazing) things you do...

**A**MAZING. THAT'S THE WORD THAT comes to mind when I think of the things I've witnessed since I arrived at the 920th Rescue Wing in April.

The pace hasn't slowed one iota regardless of how many people we have deployed around the globe. During this holiday season, I am thankful for the truly amazing things the 920th Rescue Wing does.

When I arrived as the new maintenance squadron commander, we had personnel deployed with our sister unit—the 943rd Rescue Group—from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. From there, we rolled into supporting a space shuttle launch—an amazing mission to be a part of. My family had just arrived, and they too were amazed at the things “rescue” does.

Family Day in June proved impressive as well—just ask my kids. After watching wing parascuemen and helicopter crews demonstrate a water rescue, my kids let me know, in their own special way, my new job was OK with them. “Wow Dad,” they said. “This is way cooler than what you used to do!” Out of the mouths of babes...

Shortly after my kids gave their stamp of approval, Tropical Storm Fay welcomed us to the neighborhood. While Fay was dumping nearly 30 inches of rain (or, that stuff I like to call “pre-melted snow”), we were trying to get our own

people and HH-60G helicopters out the door for a Mideast mobilization—from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

In spite of the obstacles, the wing came together and made it happen! Then came Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The 920th responded to the call for help—our commander took the lead, then sent for maintainers, operators and support personnel to Texas with our airframes in the wake of Ike to save lives.

Amazing.

Through all these things, we also participated in two air shows, two international exercises with our allies to the north, hosted the 10th Air Force commander twice and supported another shuttle mission. In November alone we had no weekends off.

Let me say this again—**amazing**.

As busy as it has been, the cycle will start again soon. The 920th will come together to send more of our own out the door yet again.

This has most likely been the busiest seven months of my Air Force career. From deployments to hurricanes to buckets of pre-melted snow. From space shuttles to air shows. This is truly an amazing unit doing truly amazing things—for all that you do, I am thankful.

Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

# NEWS BRIEFS

Air Force officials released Amendment 7 to the Request for Proposals for the **NEW COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER**—known as CSAR-X— Dec. 5. The amendment contains minor changes that are intended to further clarify how Air Force officials will make their source selection decision.

Beyond the clarifications, Amendment 7 updates the schedule and funding profiles to properly align with the new schedule. The contract award date will be extended to accommodate this amendment, but an exact date has not been established.

The Air Force plans to buy 141 CSAR-X aircraft to replace the current aging fleet of HH-60G helicopters. The 920th Rescue Wing currently has nine HH-60G helicopters assigned.

**A NEW, NO-COST, CONFIDENTIAL, CIVILIAN RESOURCE IS AVAILABLE FOR RESERVISTS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS** to use when encountering challenges of military life.

Some people may feel uneasy or embarrassed about seeing a counselor for personal problems. However, nearly everyone is faced at some time with challenges that are difficult to resolve independently. Seeking assistance for personal issues related is just as important as receiving help for medical problems.

Seeking assistance with a problem or issue can be a prudent and wise step, and a sign of personal strength.

All services are provided in strict confidence. The personal information shared with consultants is confidential and not shared without legal consent of the participating Reservist.

Counselors are available to assist with a wide variety of situations, including:

**Clarify Problems** – assess and evaluate complex situations and challenges related to military life, deployment-related stress and reintegration into civilian life.

**Develop an Action Plan** – identify steps to resolve the situation in order of individual priorities

**Handle a Crisis** – help sort through options.

**Prioritize and resolve problems** – many concerns can be resolved quickly, in just a few sessions. Counselors can help individuals reach short-term goals.

For more information, or to access these services, please call (800) 977-7595.

Wing members may be eligible for **FREE YMCA MEMBERSHIPS FOR DEPLOYED GUARD AND RESERVE FAMILIES**. The Department of Defense announced Oct. 1 that families of deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve, active duty service members on independent duty and their families, and active duty service members and their families assigned to selected bases would be eligible for free family memberships at participating YMCAs in their local community.

The new program, which is effective immediately, was unveiled in a signing ceremony presided by Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu. Also signing the document was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall and the Executive Director of the Armed Services YMCA, retired Navy Rear Adm. Frank Gallo.

The free YMCA memberships for Guard and Reserve families will be available while the service member is deployed for a minimum of six months. The deploying service member will also be eligible for three months pre- and post-deployment membership to help promote family participation.

Additionally, 32 hours a month of free respite child care will be available for families of deployed National Guard and Reserve and geographically dispersed active duty service members in 10 states with YMCA child care programs preapproved by DoD.

Signing up for the program requires a YMCA/DoD eligibility form, a copy of deployment orders and military ID. The YMCA/DoD eligibility form is available at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

## ON THE RECORD

To every man, there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy, if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work that would be his finest hour.

- *Winston Churchill*

**EDUCATION ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN OF FALLEN AIR FORCE PARARESCUEMEN** through the That Others May Live Foundation.

The organization works only with Air Force dependents. America Supports You is a Defense Department program connecting citizens and companies with servicemembers and their families serving at home and abroad.

For more information, please visit the foundation Web site at: [www.thatothersmaylive.org](http://www.thatothersmaylive.org).



# Showing Off

PHOTO & STORY BY MASTER SGT. BRYAN RIPPLE  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Framed by the backdrop of famous launch facilities, Air Force Reserve Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing demonstrated a daring water rescue of a downed astronaut from a simulated Space Shuttle bailout with pararescuemen hoisted from helicopters at the second annual Space & Air Show at Kennedy Space Center November 8-9, 2008.

On the heels of the successful U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds performance of 2007, the 2008 show also included an appearance by the Navy Blue Angles demonstration team and the Air

Force Reserve Biplane Show. Also performing were the U.S. Navy Super Hornet Demo Team, a U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet, the F-16 Viper East Demonstration and a A-10 Warthog.

The Air Force Reserve Biplane Show featured Ed Hamill telling his story, *Living the Dream*, in a performance taking viewers back in time through the last century of aerobatics.

During the 920th Rescue Wing's demonstration, the HC-130 Hercules crew opened the cargo door at the rear of the aircraft and simulated re-fueling two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters simultaneously while flying over the World Space Expo, Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center.

The 920th provides astronaut recovery during all NASA Space Shuttle launches, range-clearing support during all NASA rocket launches, and has supported the space program for decades, including the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions.

## Into the great white north

BY STAFF SGT. HEATHER KELLY  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs



Each year, the Canadian search and rescue community conducts an international exercise to develop rescue cooperation and cross-train in procedures and techniques in the event of a large-scale search and rescue operation. This year, members of the 920th Rescue

Wing represented the United States in the event.

Held in September, the annual, week-long search and rescue exercise (SAREX) took place in Thunder Bay, Canada and involved eight segments in the air, land and sea.

"There were hundreds of people involved in this exercise," said Lt. Col Dan Byers, an HC-130P/N navigator and the exercise coordinator. "Every search and rescue squadron in Canada participated."

Although the 920th has integrated with their Canadian counterparts before, this SAREX posed its own unique challenges for participants.

"Integrating us into a massive Canadian exercise was a challenge," Colonel Byers said. "We were doing things we've never done before. The crews adapted

remarkably well."

Approximately 300 Canadian search-and-rescue personnel were on hand for the exercise. The 920th sent a full team of pararescuemen, aircrews, maintenance and support crews. A U.S. Coast Guard unit from Detroit, Mich., rounded out U.S. participation in the event.

Crews were challenged with para-accuracy jumps, search and rescue, helicopter and fixed-wing aerial maneuvers throughout the exercise. Despite high winds and rapid weather changes, 920th crews placed high in a number of events, said Colonel Byers.

"We've built a solid relationship with our Canadian search-and-rescue counterparts over the years," said Colonel Byers. "The feedback we've received has been extremely positive."

# Grand Stand

After being wounded in Iraq, Senior Airman Diane Lopes was wheeled into Walter Reed Army Medical Center facing a real possibility she may never walk again. Now, a month after leaving Walter Reed and her wheelchair behind, Airman Lopes takes another step up.

**STAFF SGT. HEATHER KELLY**  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

**A**fter receiving a warm welcome back to the 920th Rescue Wing last month, Senior Airman Diane Lopes recently marked another career milestone: pinning on the rank of staff sergeant.

"It feels good to be here, it's been great to be back with friends and familiar people," said Sergeant Lopes, wounded during a rocket attack at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. She was awarded the Purple Heart while recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center last year.

"What happened to me was an occupational hazard—it wasn't heroic," she said. "It's a danger we all have to face in that environment."

Wing commander Col. Steven Kirkpatrick was there. He read the promotion citation during the ceremony. Although Sergeant Lopes' is quick to dismiss any notion of heroism, Colonel Kirkpatrick said her story is one of inspiration.

"Diane's courage has been an inspiration to us all," he said. "She embodies the characteristics of a true Airman. We were all very proud of her."

Sergeant Lopes is currently on active-duty orders, receiving follow-up medical treatment at the local Veterans Affairs clinic. She also participates in physical therapy three times a week.

"I've made more improvement since I've been home," said Sergeant Lopes. "It gets easier each time. It's hard to believe—a year ago I wasn't even walking, I was in a wheelchair. Being home makes me think about how far I've come."

While excited to return home, Sergeant Lopes said she was initially apprehensive about leaving the safety of her fellow patients at Walter Reed.

"I've kept in touch and speak regularly with the folks I met," Sergeant Lopes said. "As I got better, I became aware of other people's situations. There are stages to recovery ... everyone helps each other."

During her recovery, Sergeant Lopes applied for and received a scholarship from Colorado Technical University. She's studying for a criminal-justice degree, taking classes online.

"It helped to use my noggin' again," she said. "It has improved my memory and concentration," she said.

Undeterred by the rocket attack that nearly killed her and the painstaking rehabilitation that followed, Sergeant Lopes plans to reenlist in January.

The soft-spoken newly-pinned sergeant credited the kindness of fellow servicemembers as one of her reasons for staying with the 920th.

"I appreciate all the support I've been given," she said. "It's great to know so many people care."

"When they say we're a military 'family', we really are."



Airman Lopes during her stay at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital



photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Allen

# CARING FOR THOSE WHO BEAR THE FIGHT





332  
CASE



BALAD



BY AIRMAN ALEXANDRIA MOSNESS  
FROM RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, GERMANY



courtesy photo/Air Force

When reservists deploy, their lives change dramatically. They take extended leave from their civilian jobs and are separated from their loved ones for as long as a year. Even under optimal conditions, it is a stressful event that affects all involved.

It used to be reservists could expect to be mobilized once—maybe twice during their Reserve careers. Not now. With the Global War on Terror in full swing, the

military relies on a combination of forced mobilizations—when a reservist is given official orders to deploy—and volunteerism. But, with the demands deployments bring, it's often hard to find volunteers to go back more than once.

Which makes it all the more remarkable that, for reservists with the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS) at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., raising a hand to volunteer for a deployment has become second nature.

Dozens of 920th ASTS members are deployed—many voluntarily—to various worldwide locations, providing medical care for Americans coming straight from the battlefield, in-transit care during medical evacuation flights to hospital facilities here in Germany, and, in extreme cases, a 920th reservist will stay by a patient's side all the way back to a state-side hospital.

In all, wing Airmen perform **60 percent** of the medical mission in the Air Force's support of the War on Terror.

"It's been an honor to serve our injured servicemembers," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Davison, 920th medical technician.

Sergeant Davison is one of a group of about 20 rescue-wing Airmen serving here at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF), a stopover for wounded servicemembers on their way from the front lines to the home front.

Patients arrive here in every condition imaginable, from ambulatory ("walking wounded") to extreme.

"They see it all," said 920th Rescue Wing Commander Col. Steve Kirkpatrick, who recently visited 920th troops here with wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Delebreaux.

"They're treating people with lost limbs, burned beyond recognition—and not only do they have to do it well, they have to do it with compassion," the colonel said.

For Sergeant Davison, the seriousness of the mission here has put things in perspective.

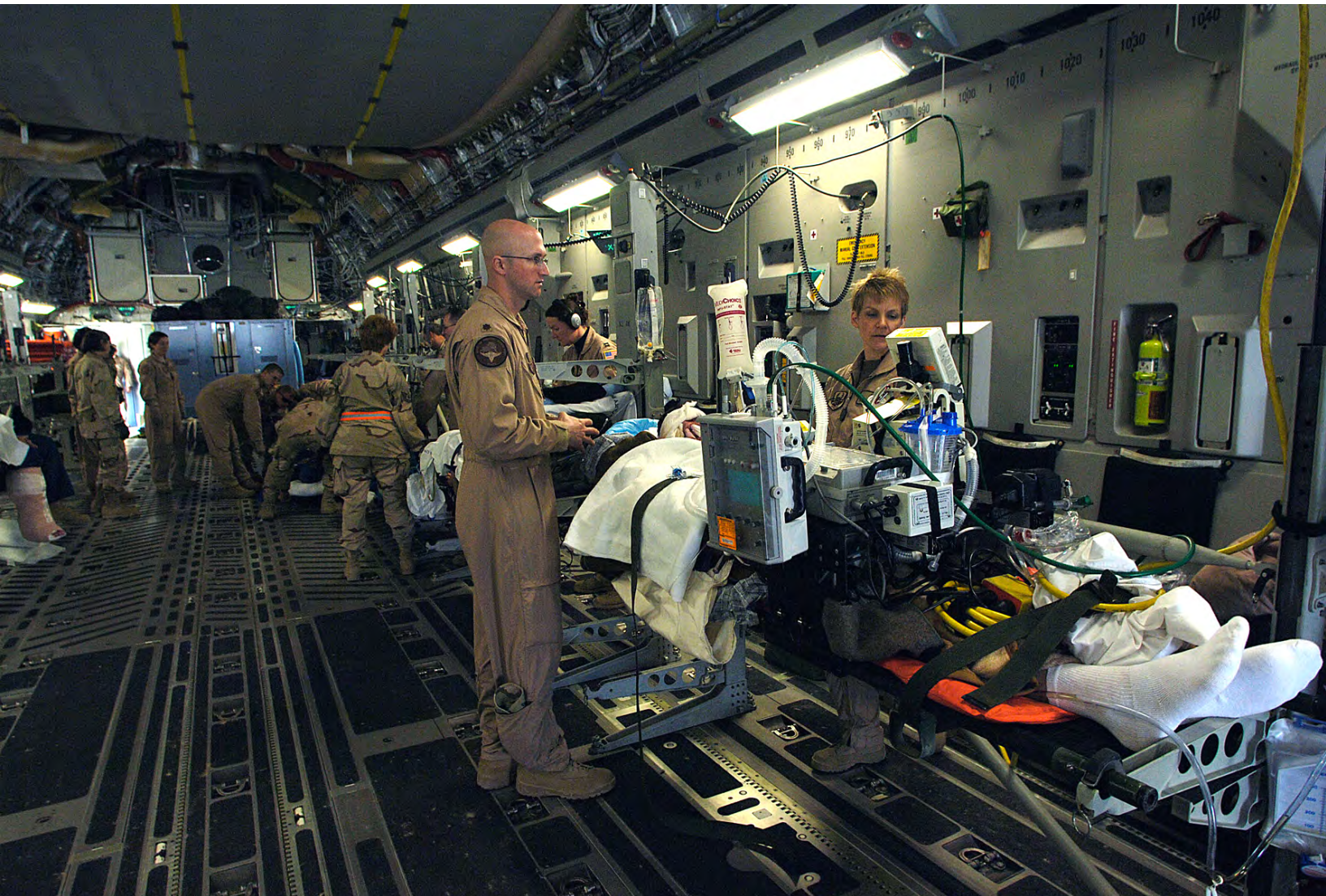
"This deployment—along with my other two—has taught me not to sweat the small stuff," he said.

But if the nature of this mission keeps reservists from sweating about trivial matters, it compensates by making them sweat from the ultra-high workload.

Since arriving here in early September, Reserve Airmen have moved more than 1,800 patients on more than 160 aeromedical evacuation missions, according to Maj. Laurie Turner, CASF director of operations.

Although Major Turner admitted the work can be stressful, she also pointed out that the main by-product of working at the staging facility is the profound feelings of accomplishment for providing such an important service to our troops.

"It has been extremely rewarding," Major Turner



photo/Master Sgt. Bryan Ripple

**Life flight** // Reserve Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing, serving under the banner of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group while deployed, care for patients aboard a waiting Air Force Reserve C-17 Globemaster III for a medical evacuation flight to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for further treatment; (top-facing page) ASTS commander Col. Lewis Neace recently visited his troops at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Here, he helps Maj. Laurie Turner, director of operations at the CASF, offload patients arriving from a forward-deployed location.

said. "You know you're giving back to your fellow comrades. We are there if they get injured."

It may be the richness of this reward that inspires these reservists to return—in spite of any personal inconvenience deployments bring.

"Most of us would like to stay for another rotation," said Major Turner, currently serving her second tour at the CASF.

In fact, nearly half the reservists working here have already requested to remain overseas for another deployment. This includes a group of whom more than 50 percent have deployed multiple times—a staggering 15 percent on their third or fourth trip overseas.

"I would come back in a heartbeat," said Sergeant Davison,

scheduled to return for his fourth deployment to the CASF in January. "It's been a great experience and truly a blessing."

"We're just one big, happy family," said Major Turner. "We really would do anything for each other and the mission."

"It's an atmosphere that offers a life-changing experience for many who are deployed here," said Major Turner. "All the things you take for granted back home, you realize others don't have that luxury."

Both Colonel Kirkpatrick and Chief Delebreaux responded with emotion after getting a firsthand look at the work being done by wing reservists.

"They're using their skills and teamwork to save the lives of fellow Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors," the colonel said. "I'm proud

### Leave the driving to us

A medical bus lines up on the flightline at Ramstein Air Base, Germany to receive wounded servicemembers from an aeromedical evacuation flight. Medical technicians from the 920th Rescue Wing are deployed here to the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF), a stopover for wounded servicemembers on their way from the front lines to the home front.



courtesy photo/Air Force

our people are providing such outstanding care to our nation's wounded warriors."

"This trip was very humbling and eye-opening," said Chief Delebrea. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to spend the time with our medical personnel. It's now one of the highlights of my career."

The chief was also struck by how the quickly 920th medical personnel built rapport with injured servicemembers. Once, he was with a group of wing Airmen at the CASF while they helped patients board transportation that would take them home. All the patients had climbed on board a bus except one—a young man trying intently to fish something from his backpack.

"He pulled out a big group of pictures and started going

through them," said Chief Delebrea. "Finally, he found the one he wanted. Then he wrote something on the back and handed it to one of our ASTS people."

Intrigued, the chief approached the man and asked why he'd given the photo to the medical tech. The troop confided it was because of the special care he'd gotten at the CASF and the impact the people made on him.

"He said it was the best he was treated from the time he'd been wounded," said Chief Delebrea. "So, I asked him how long he'd been there. I figured he must've been there for a while to feel so strongly about our people."

The young man's reply...

"One day."

# Is 40 really the new 30?

BY MASTER SGT. RAYMOND F. PADGETT  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

One of the perks thrown about by military recruiters is the ability to retire after 20 years of service. One officer with the 920th Rescue Wing has more than twice that experience and is still serving today.

Lt. Col. Rex Meyer, deputy officer in charge of the base command post, started his Air Force adventure by enlisting March 18, 1968. "Hey Jude," by the Beatles and "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay," by Otis Redding were among the top 10 songs. "Laugh In," was the number one television show and just 36 months prior, the United States had begun sending troops to a far off place called Vietnam.

Airman Meyer, a maintenance squadron crew chief, was deployed to Uban Air Base Thailand where they launched F-4D phantom fighter aircraft nicknamed the 'Night Owls.'

"Our aircraft flew most of the night missions to support the operations over Vietnam. The bottoms of the planes were painted black and they flew with no lights on," he said.

After returning stateside, Colonel Meyer filled other enlisted billets such as flight line expediter, night shift maintenance superintendent and Air Force advisor to the Michigan Air National Guard. With 15 years of enlisted service under his belt, he was commissioned in 1983 under the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program as a maintenance officer.

Sometimes timing is everything, and in 1986 a fellow squadron member had put in for the Aircraft Mishap Investigation course at Norton Air Force Base, Calif. and the Reserve Command was allocated a slot for the class. The other officer could not attend.

"I had no interest in attending the class," he said. "But I was a team player, so when the commander asked I volunteered. Now it's my life's dream, and I have investigated more than 50 aircraft accidents. In a perfect world it is what I would do for a living," he said.

Colonel Meyer was the senior Depart-



ment of Defense accident investigator on site of the 1996 crash of Valuejet Flight 592, where he spent 42 straight days in the Florida Everglades trying to help determine the cause of the accident that claimed 110 lives.

Colonel Meyer's maintenance career in the Air Force Reserve placed him as maintenance control officer, maintenance squadron commander and as the deputy chief of maintenance. He also has served as chief of combat plans, wing executive officer and now resides as the deputy officer-in-charge of the combined Patrick Air Force Base command post.

When asked about changes he has seen in his 40 years of service, Colonel Meyer reported that today's young troops are more educated, more intelligent and more vocal than when he enlisted.

"If a noncommissioned officer said to do something, it was like God said to do it—no questions," he said. "Today when an Airman is given a task, they analyze the process involved and determine the best way to get it done resulting in a leaner, smarter Air Force."

Colonel Meyer has served under eight different presidents and said he has noticed the change in the mood of the country as a whole towards the military.

"I was never spit on or anything, but when I returned from Southeast Asia I knew a negative view toward military members existed. You were not directly confronted, but you were shunned by

the civilian population. Now, when I go downtown in my uniform, people come up to me and thank me for my service," Colonel Meyer said.

The other major change he has seen is the integration among the active duty Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

"In 1975, we all wore the same uniform, but there was no interface or interaction between the units. We have moved light years ahead in the 'one team - one fight' concept and many times you can't tell if the person working next to you is active, Guard or Reserve," the colonel said.

Along the way, Colonel Meyer has also earned his airframe and powerplant license, his private pilot's license and is an instructor's rescue diver for the Professional Association of Diving. He is very active with the Civil Air Patrol and has been on their headquarters staff since 2005.

He retired in 2005 from the civil service after more than 36 years but continues to serve with the 920th Rescue Wing at least for the time being. "I've spent the last seven months working on the consolidation of the active duty and reserve command post here at Patrick and want to leave the job totally complete and seamless," he said. That may put him in his 41st year of military service ... but who's counting?



# DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY

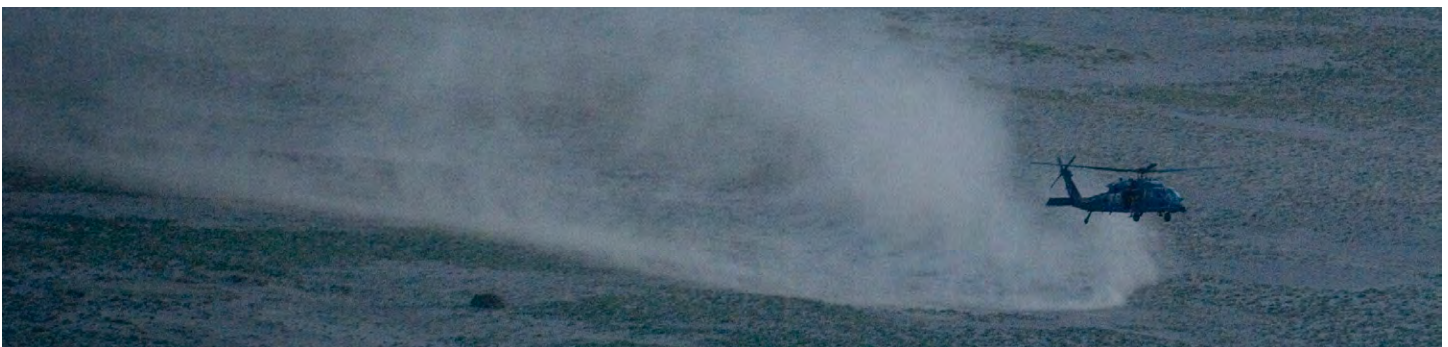
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**IN THE THIN, DRY AIR OF AFGHANISTAN,  
920<sup>TH</sup> RESCUE WING TROOPS SPEND THEIR TIME  
TRYING TO PUT THE GRIM REAPER OUT OF BUSINESS**



### Just deserts

Staff Sgt. James Benson and Lt. Col. Paul Nevius return from a flight (opposite page) to test mission readiness of an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan; (counter-clockwise from top) A HH-60 Pave Hawk prepares to land during a combat search and rescue mission; 1st Lt. Brough McDonald pre-flights an HH-60G Pave Hawk before his aircrew begins its shift on alert; a Pave Hawk lands after a flight to test mission readiness; Tech. Sgt. Gary Reinhardt reads from a check list as Tech. Sgt. Mark Christie installs a mini-gun on an HH-60 Pave Hawk prior to a flight at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan Aug. 15.



# 451

Total number of saves made by 920th crews—situations where, without immediate medical evacuation, a person would lose their life, a limb or eyesight (LLE).

# 520

Total number of assists made by 920th crews—evacuations where LLE were not in immediate danger.

# 363

Total number of escorts—an accompanying flight into hostile or denied territory to recover personnel.

# 100

Fully-mission-capable rate achieved by 920th maintainers in Afghanistan. The number reflects aircraft ready to fly at any given time.



# The flight from time to eternity

Wing members help pay tribute, realize the dream of a young patriot who left too soon

**BY STAFF SGT. HEATHER KELLY**  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

**O**n November 15, an HC-130 aircrew with the 920th Rescue Wing performed a special flyover during a Veterans Day ceremony in Celebration, Fla. The memorial unveiled there honored veterans around the world ... and one local Eagle Scout.

In 2006, Simon Sharp, Celebration resident and Boy Scout Troop 125 member, envisioned a veteran's memorial in Founders' Park for his Eagle Scout project. The 14-year-old set out to raise money for the project, managing to raise over \$14,000 selling American flag pins before illness intervened. Simon had been diagnosed with leukemia.

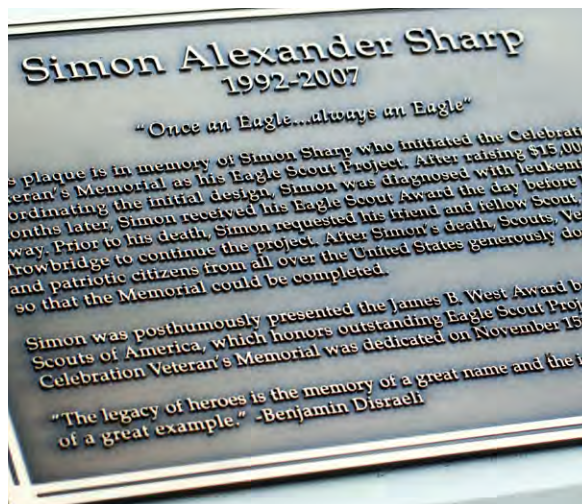
When he realized he would be unable to finish the project, he relied on his fel-

low scout and friend Bradley Trowbridge to take over. After battling the disease for over a year, Simon died at the age of 15.

More than \$80,000 in donations and assets later, the memorial was completed and unveiled one year after Simon's death.

"Simon has done a great thing. We honor him and our veterans today," said Joel Kostuch, Simon's Scoutmaster, addressing the community that had





gathered to pay tribute at the new veteran's memorial. Motioning to the Airmen flying above and standing behind him, "We enjoy our liberty because of these heroes. They are true freedom fighters," he said.

"Simon's vision was to honor veterans with this memorial. What he didn't know was that his own story would inspire others," said Simon's dad, Peter Sharp during the ceremony.

Closing his comments, Peter Sharp thanked Bradley, the scout who saw Simon's vision through to completion.

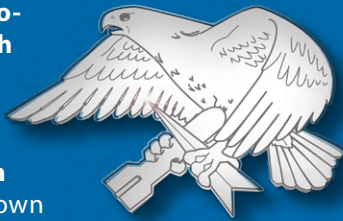
"This dream wouldn't have been realized without the support of the scouts and the community of Celebration," he said. His voice cracked and he drew a breath, pausing to collect himself before offering a whispered, "thank you" to the community that rallied to support Simon in his final scout project.

**In Memoriam**

*Clockwise from left:* A 920th Rescue Wing HC-130P/N Hercules glides above the ceremony honoring Simon Sharp, a 15-year-old boy who began building a veteran's memorial for his Eagle Scout project but died of leukemia before the project was completed; members of Simon's scout troop console each other during the proceedings; a member of the Civil Air Patrol, on hand for the official presentation of colors; at the site of the veteran's memorial he spearheaded, a tribute to Simon. (photos/Staff Sgt. Heather Kelly except where noted)

920<sup>TH</sup> MAINTENANCE GROUP  
**SAVE OF THE MONTH**

**Master Sgt. Jeffrey Rago-  
nese, Tech. Sgt. Deborah  
Spencer, Staff Sgt.  
Richard Ferguson,  
Staff Sgt. Matthew  
Letts and Senior Airman  
Aileen Jimenez**, also known



as the NDI Team, distinguished themselves in the outstanding performance of maintenance support service while assigned to the 920th Maintenance Squadron by exceeding the expectations in accomplishing TCTO 1C-130-1943 Nondestructive Inspection of AC 69-5824 Center Wing Rainbow Fittings.

On Saturday of the October drill weekend, after section personnel had completed essential training requirements assigned during the first shift, the entire NDI section subsequently volunteered to work a double shift to provide Quality Assurance and Structural Engineering a critical risk assessment analysis necessary to return the aircraft back to our flight operation's customer.

This effort avoided extending the grounding condition of the weapons systems asset. Moreover, the extra efforts provided by the NDI section also facilitated productive use of maintenance personnel resources scheduled and assigned for Sunday.

The NDI Section also achieved superior technical excellence by engineering a unique supplemental X-ray Inspection to help quantify the severity of the Right Wing CWS 220, Node 17 defective area caused by inter-granular stress-corrosion cracking.

The result of this action anticipated by the NDI section greatly reduced the interim lead time wait period which aided in accelerating an airworthiness disposition and return the weapons system asset to active service.

Without the support, dedication, and the willingness of each and every member of the NDI section to volunteer to add additional capacity in this fashion, this enhanced achievement in aircraft maintenance support could not have been accomplished.

The NDI section has truly demonstrated an epic spirit for team camaraderie, and their ability to integrate with other maintenance support functions assist them in performing above and beyond normal expectations.

Based on their actions as well as their dedication to duty, the above mentioned are hereby awarded the Save of the Month for October 2008.

## Wing safety chief, recruiting team named best in Reserve command

One local safety chief and ten recruiters from the 920th Rescue Wing here were recently honored for outstanding service by officials from Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC).

Master Sgt. Steve Richmond, an air reserve technician, was selected as best in the command for his performance as manager of the rescue wing's weapons safety program.

Senior Master Sgt. Gary Johnson, who oversees 41 satellite recruiting offices across Florida, received the award for top senior recruiter from AFRC Recruiting Service leadership at an October recruiting conference in Orlando.

In addition, Sergeant Johnson's office here at Patrick Air Force Base was chosen out of AFRC's 41 Reserve recruiting offices for the recruiting excellence award.

The complete list of winners by category is:

**Outstanding Safety Civilian** - Steve Richmond

**Top Senior Recruiter** - Senior Master Sgt. Gary Johnson



Master Sgt. Steve Richmond

**Century Club** - Master Sgt. Kevin French

**Rising Star Award** - Tech. Sgt. Erica Schultz

**Superior Achievement Award** Master Sgt. Brenda Kartheiser and Master Sgt. Michael Coscarella

**110% Award** - Master Sgt. Burnett Patterson, Master Sgt. James Dock, Master Sgt. Francis Kearney, Master Sgt. Charles Law and Master Sgt. Karen Parker

**Recruiting Excellence Award** The 920th Rescue Wing Patrick Air Force Base Recruiting Office



Senior Master Sgt. Gary Johnson

In addition, Sergeant Johnson made a special mention of Tammy Miles, administrative specialist for the recruiting office.

## PROMOTIONS

### Colonel

FREDERICK FUNK  
CHRISTOPHER HANNON

### Lieutenant Colonel

TIMOTHY DAVIS  
KENNETH DEMPSEY  
ROBERT HASTON  
BRUCE SCHUMAN

### Major

ROBERT SEITZ

### Captain

CHRISTOPHER KEEN  
STEVEN E. SKIPPER JR

### 1st Lieutenant

CODY ATCHISON  
MERCEDES MCDONALD

### Chief Master Sergeant

PETER J. CALLINA JR  
TIMOTHY BIANCHI  
TRACY WINTON

### Senior Master Sergeant

DENNIS GRANT

### Master Sergeant

JULIAN ALEJOS  
MATTHEW AGUIRRE  
BRIAN BOYCE  
CORTNEY BUTLER-SPANGLER  
JEFFREY CAMPBELL  
MILTON LEZCANO  
RENEE MURPHY  
DAWN RUDNICKI  
JESUS SIRA  
SHANE SMITH  
HEIDI WHITE  
STEPHEN WHITTINGTON  
MARK WILLIAMS

### Technical Sergeant

TIMOTHY BORGMANN  
ALBERT CRESPO  
RICARDO DE LA CRUZ JR  
JOSEPH DUREN  
ADRIAN DURHAM  
KENNETH ELLIOTT  
JONATHAN FAIR  
PATRICK GARDNER  
WILLIAM HILEY  
DOMINIQUE HOGAN  
JOEL LINDSEY  
ANTHONY MAYO

SARAH MCKEE  
LAKISHA MILLER  
KEVIN NEEDHAM  
SCOTT ROBERTS  
CHRISTOPHER TICE

### Staff Sergeant

SOLISARIANA AGOSTO  
TRACY BLOM  
LARISSA BRAVO  
JONATHAN CABAN-  
GONZALEZ  
ERIN CAMPBELL  
JAMES CLARY  
FRITZ COY  
BREE ELLISON  
CHARLES EMERSON  
KENNETH A. GODDARD JR  
ANGELLA GROSSO  
DANIEL HALDI  
KIMBERLY HALL  
DAVID HAMPTON  
KASEY HOUFF  
RAUL JIMENEZ  
ISABELLE KLIERGRAHM  
MICHELLE LAWRENCE  
KARI OLECHOWICZ  
ANDREA PARSONS  
MELISSA SANTIAGO  
STEVEN SASSER  
DAVID SHAW  
DANIEL SHIRAH  
KAMERON TRAVIS  
JOSE A. ZAVALA JR

### Senior Airman

ADAM BOUTELLE  
DEMETRIOS BURNETT  
TAVARUS ELLIS  
GERALD FAVIS  
TABATHA HAYTAIAN  
CRISTIAN HIDROBO  
BRITTANY LEVINSON  
KYLE NESSET  
CHRISTOPHER PRINCE  
DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

### Airman 1st Class

LATISHA CODALLO  
JONATHAN DICKINSON  
NICOLE FERNANDEZ  
DAVID GEROW  
JORDAN HUFF  
JAHNELL PEAY  
HELMUT RONER

### Airman

ALISA DIXON  
LATOYA THOMAS

## AWARDS

### AF Combat Action Medal

ANTONIO CUNHA, Lt. Col.

### Meritorious Service Medal

JOEL KINNUNEN, Lt. Col.  
BRETT NEWMAN, Lt. Col.  
RUTH REECE, Lt. Col.  
JAMIE ABUAN, Maj.  
KENNETH DEMPSEY, Maj.  
JON CONNERTON, Capt.  
JAMES GRANT, Capt.  
MARGARET BURGESS, CMSgt.  
MARK SPILLERS, MSgt.

### QUARTERLY AWARDS (Apr – Jun 2008)

### Airman of the Quarter

KAMERON TRAVIS, SrA

### NCO of the Quarter

COURTNEY BUTLER-  
SPANGLER, TSgt.

### Senior NCO of the Quarter

CHRISTINA GARLAND, MSgt.

### AFRC RECRUITING AWARDS

### AFRC Top Senior Recruiter

GARY JOHNSON, SMSgt.

### Century Club

KEVIN FRENCH, MSgt.

### Rising Star Award

ERICA SHULTZ, TSgt.

### Superior Achievement

BRENDA KARTHEISER, MSgt.  
MICHAEL COSCARELLA, MSgt.

### 110% Award

BURNETT PATTERSON, MSgt.  
JAMES DOCK, MSgt.  
FRANCIS KEARNEY, MSgt.  
CHARLES LAW, MSgt.  
KAREN PARKER, MSgt.

### "We Could Never Have Done This Without You" Award

TAMMY MILES

## NEWCOMERS

KECHIA NEWTON, Airman  
ALFONSO BETLONG TSG  
MAHENDRA DATARAM, SrA

JOSHUA GRAHAM SRA  
INLOW GREGORY SMS  
HALENA LATHE, SrA  
LONG MOLLY, Capt.  
DEREK MAJEWSKI, SrA  
LANAE MAJEWSKI, SrA  
ANDREA MORRISON, Capt.  
SCOTT RODRIGUEZ, SrA  
JUSTIN SMITH, SSgt.  
CODY SOULSBY AB  
DANIEL WEBB, SSgt.

## FAREWELLS

JEFFREY ABRAHAM, Maj.  
RONOLIA ANDREWS, SrA  
VERONICA AZERA, TSgt.  
WILLIAM A. BEYERS II, Col.  
DIANA BROWNING, MSgt.  
BEMELIS BRUNDIDGE, TSgt.  
THOMAS BUTLER, Maj.  
JON CONNERTON, Capt.  
AMY DANIEL, TSgt.  
DAVID DISKEVICH, SrA  
CINDY DORESTANT, SrA  
RENZO FERREYRA, SrA  
LAURA FRY, SrA  
FREDERICK FUNK, Col.  
DONNA GAGE, Maj.  
JEFFREY GARBER, TSgt.  
JENNIFER GONZALEZ A1C  
GINA HANCOCK, SrA  
CHRISTOPHER HANNON, Col.  
JAMES JOHNSON, MSgt.  
EDDIE, JONES, SSgt.  
STEVEN KERLIN, SSgt.  
JOSEPH KOCH, SSgt.  
CONNIE KUCHAREK, Capt.  
CINDY LENG, A1C  
MILTON LEZCANO, TSgt.  
RICHARD LIVERNOIS, SSgt.  
PAUL MENZ, SSgt.  
ADAM OLLIGES, SrA  
RICHARD PADFIELD, SSgt.  
DAVID PERROTTE, MSgt.  
CHRISTOPHER PRINCE, SrA  
JOY PYLES, TSgt.  
RICHARD QUILES, SrA  
ROBERT QUINN, SSgt.  
MATTHEW RIVERA, SSgt.  
SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ, SrA  
JOHN SELLARS, A1C  
STEPHEN SHIN, SrA  
BATHSHEBA THOMAS, SrA  
SANTOS TIRADO, SrA  
ELIZABETH WALKER, MSgt.  
LANCE WILSON, SSgt.  
DEREK WRIGHT, SrA



### Won't get fueled again

Air Force Reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing teamed up for a simulated aerial-refueling in front of more than 20,000 spectators at NASA's Second Annual Air & Space Show, held at Kennedy Space Center Nov. 7-9. The refueling followed a demonstration of one of the wing's primary missions: astronaut recovery. The performance featured wing pararescuemen leaping from an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter into the water to rescue a "downed" astronaut. The wing's Pave Hawk helicopters and HC-130P/N long-range tankers give Airmen the ability to search larger areas and longer amounts of time than traditional rescue aircraft that must land to be refueled. (photo/Master Sgt. Raymond Padgett)

