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EDITOR'S NOTE

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ANGEL'S WINGS

VOL. 7 NO. 1 • 920TH RESCUE WING • PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLA • AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND • 2009

OFFICE SPACE

Wing reservist Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman doesn't have a corner office at his civilian job, but he still raves about the view

ANGEL'S WINGS

VOL.7 NO.1 JAN / FEB 2009

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cover photo / CAPT. CATHLEEN SNOW



THE INSIDE SCOOP

news & features



OFFICE SPACE pp.8-13

When Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman reports to the 920th for Reserve weekends, he brings a set of skills with him from his civilian job that are simply out of this world.



A LITTLE NIGHT MAGIC PG.5

Reservists from the 920th were featured as part of the Orlando Magic's annual Seats for Soldiers night, which turns the spotlight from the players to those serving their country.



THE LAST FULL MEASURE pg.14

The wing pays tribute to Staff Sgt. Doug Eccleston, a pararescueman who died in the line of duty by naming a new building in his memory during a ceremony at the Base Theater.

pointsofinterest

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SAREX AT KEY WEST **pp. 6-7**

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HAILS & FAREWELLS **pg. 15**

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timemanagement

UTA SCHEDULE

Feb. 7-8

Mar. 7-8

April 4-5

May 2-3

June 6-7

July 11-12

Aug. 1-2

Sept. 12-13

DINING FACILITY

BR. 6 - 8 A.M. (M-F)

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. JOEL KINNUNEN

Commander, 308th Rescue Squadron

Trading miracles for teamwork

Recently, a commercial airliner crashed into New York's Hudson River. There were 150 passengers and 5 crewmembers on board, yet there was not a single fatality or serious injury. Some called it a miracle.

Although incredible, I wouldn't call it a miracle. In my opinion, calling it a miracle takes credit away from the skill and heroics of the crew. Instead, I would attribute this amazing result to leadership, teamwork, and training. Maybe a little luck, too. But without the first three, even luck would have fallen short on this day.

Incidents like these, unfortunate as they are, always provide useful information to aircrews on how to make flying safer. But I think there are a few things we can all learn from this incident whether we are aircrew members or not, in regards to the benefits of realistic, situational training, acting quickly when given orders and remaining calm and confident during a crisis.

Let's start with the captain. One minute after take-off, he reported a double bird strike. Six minutes later, the aircraft was floating in the Hudson. In spite of what must have been an incredibly stressful situation, the captain remained confident and competent. He communicated the necessary plan to the crew and passengers without overdoing it or micromanaging, and he had to trust his team to get the necessary tasks accomplished. That's really all he had time to do.

The crew did what was asked of them. The copilot tried to get the engines restarted. It was futile, but he tried and didn't question the command. The flight attendants prepared the passengers for the crash-landing and evacuated the plane safely and efficiently. Some

reports say they didn't even know they were landing in water. But they knew enough to get the job done. They simply rolled with the punches and reacted to the situation exactly as their training dictated.

Those crewmembers no doubt rehearsed ditching and crash-landing scenarios again and again during mandatory training. Then, before every flight, the crew train the passengers what to do in emergency situations. I'm sure there were times in training when that crew thought they were wasting their time. They probably practiced those tasks so many times they could do them in their sleep.

This reminds me of a story of a World War II machine-gunner who was trained to tap the shoulder of the soldier next to him whenever he needed the soldier to relieve him. The gunner ended up getting shot in the head, killing him instantly. But the repetitious maneuver of tapping his buddy was so ingrained in him that, after he was shot, he reached out and tapped his buddy's shoulder one last time before his body hit the ground.

Training works. It's a time-tested method of ensuring the procedures will be correctly executed when the stress is high, and it can greatly increase your chances of surviving in extreme situations. Lives were saved due to that crew. Every team member had a role to play, and every one of them executed just as they were trained to.

If you ask me, I'd rather have a crew with the right leadership, teamwork and training instead of counting on a miracle in a situation like this.

Though I wouldn't mind a bit of luck as well.



In observance of National African American History Month, celebrated each year during the month of February, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) is proud to announce original **ARTWORK DEPICTING OUR NATION'S FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD** from the DEOMI Web site.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History annually develops a national observance theme for African American History Month. The theme for 2009 is

“Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas.” National African American History Month honors the many contributions and accomplishments of African Americans.

When President Barack Obama took the oath as the 44th President of the United States Jan. 20, he concluded one of the most inspiring and symbolically rich journeys in American history, the end of which presents daunting challenges and unique opportunities.

The Military Saves program is a DoD Financial Readiness Campaign adopted by the Air Force to promote **PERSONAL FINANCIAL READINESS AMONG ALL AIRMEN AND FAMILY MEMBERS.**

Military Saves Week will be Feb. 22 - Mar. 1. The message for the event will be, “Build wealth, not debt.”

This year, the program will expand to include the Military Youth Saves program at all Air Force locations. The Air Force has enjoyed long-standing partnerships with the 4-H and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

For more information, contact the Patrick Air Force Base Airmen & Family Readiness Center at (321) 494-5675.

ON THE RECORD

“Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold.”

- Leo Tolstoy

The old BDU uniform is rapidly being phased out of service. Officially, the BDU will no longer be available for wear after 2011, but the uniform is becoming more difficult to purchase via military clothing sales.

As a personal favor, the 920th Public Affairs Office would like to request that anyone with **SURPLUS BDU STRIPES AND PATCHES** they no longer need to please donate them to our office.

We have constantly stream of school kids we host for tours of our wing, and these old patches make GREAT handout items.

Our office is located on the first floor at Bldg. 425 in Suite 1-201. Or to have us come pick them up at your location, please call (321) 494-0535/6.

A reminder, the date for the **WASHINGTON NATIONALS MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME** has been set for Mar. 16. The game is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

Details on how to obtain tickets will be provided when it becomes available.

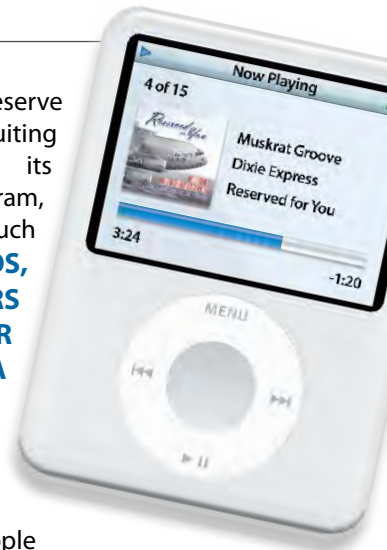
The Air Force Reserve Command's Recruiting Service has upgraded its “Get One Now” program, including new awards such as **SATELLITE RADIOS, LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND iPods JUST FOR RECOMMENDING A FEW GOOD PEOPLE TO THEIR RESERVE RECRUITERS.**

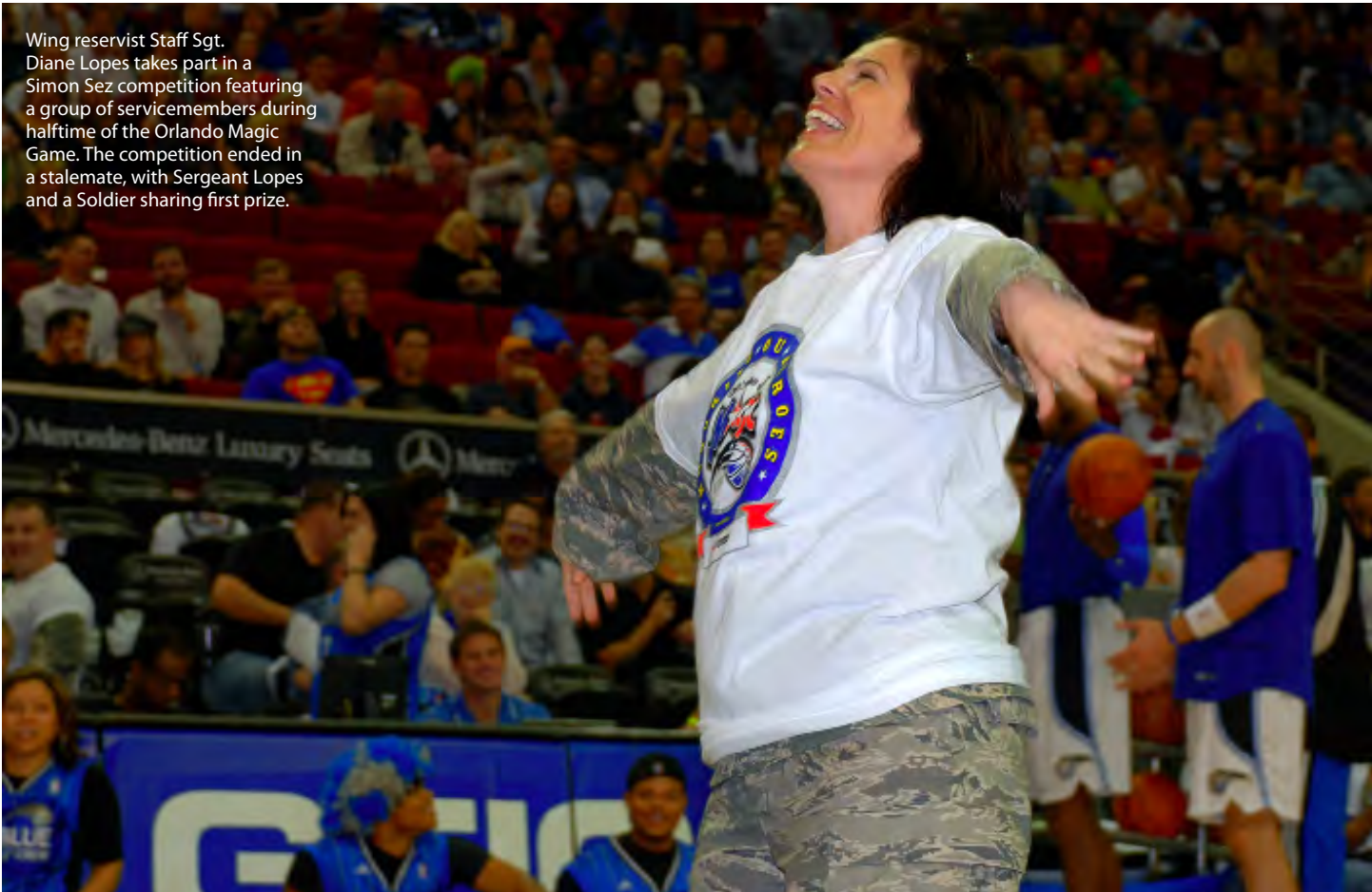
Servicemembers may recommend people with whom they wish to serve, which is designed to create continuity and consistency.

If a referral turns into accessions, the servicemember becomes eligible for an award and will receive a postcard letting them know.

Each servicemember eligible for an award will be able to select from choices by logging into their account on the Get One Now Web site. One they select the award they wish to receive, the shipment should arrive within approximately ten business days.

For more information, log on to the Get One Now site at: www.get1now.us





Wing reservist Staff Sgt. Diane Lopes takes part in a Simon Sez competition featuring a group of servicemembers during halftime of the Orlando Magic Game. The competition ended in a stalemate, with Sergeant Lopes and a Soldier sharing first prize.

photo/Master Sgt. Bryan Ripple

Nothing up their sleeves

Reservists honored by local basketball team

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

A raucous, sellout crowd was on hand Jan. 9 to root for their hometown heroes on the court. More importantly, Orlando Magic players had a chance to pay tribute to their heroes in the stands—the thousands of military men, women and families who were in attendance for the first Seats for Soldiers Night of the 2008-09 season.

The 920th Rescue Wing was well represented, with roughly 30 reservists—some of whom had just returned from Afghanistan—in the crowd.

One of the heroes at the game was Staff Sgt. Diane Lopes, who works for the 920th Security Forces Squadron here. She was badly injured in a mortar attack at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq while deployed there in 2007.

“I had such a great time last night at the game,” she said. “The Magic really went all out to pay tribute to the men and women of the military. The players were very nice to meet and really supportive of all of us.”

For the third year in franchise history, the Magic and Harris Corporation teamed up to put on this special night that offers complimentary and discounted tickets to military personnel and their families.

It’s such a special night that many season-ticket holders in Orlando donated their tickets to the game knowing it would result in free tickets for military families.

“This night is a night where we can say thank you to all those that help protect this country,” said Joe Andrade, senior director of ticket sales. “We were really, really excited about the energy that was in the building.”

On a night built around them, service-

members and their families had a chance to see two of the elite and most-exciting teams in the NBA take each other on.

In addition to seeing a great game, which Orlando won 121-87, military men and women heard taped messages throughout the game thanking them for their service.

During halftime, the team honored Sergeant Lopes by reading a citation describing the incident that earned her the Purple Heart Medal, and then she was presented a basketball autographed by the team.

“It was a very special moment for me and the outpouring of cheers from the fans was overwhelming,” she said.

It was a night for these proud Americans to enjoy watching some of the greatest basketball players in the world, while receiving the thanks they deserve from people they admire.





NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST, Fla. -- From Jan. 14 - 20, pararescuemen and HC-130P/N Hercules aircrew members from the 920th Rescue Wing hosted the first search and rescue exercise of the year, also known as Key West SAREX 2009. Members of the Royal Canadian Air Force's 435 Squadron, Winnipeg also took part in the event, which featured open-water search and rescues, accuracy parachute jumps, scuba diving and medical evaluations. (photos/Master Sgt. Rob Grande)



Office Space

You don't have to be a rocket scientist
to serve as a radio operator
in the U.S. Air Force Reserve

{but it doesn't hurt}

.....

BY CAPT. CATHLEEN SNOW



W

hen Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman, 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., returned from the war he no longer had a taste for cigars.

"I chew on them every now and then with my brothers," he said.

But he left his affinity for tobacco at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, where he served during the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom - his first of three tours from March 19, 2003 until June 2, 2003, when the ground fighting was at its height.

Sergeant Zimmerman flies as a radio operator on a crew of an HC-130P/N Hercules aircraft that flew many life-saving rescue missions during its 90-day deployment there. The 920th Rescue Reservists rescued at least 17 people during combat. Sergeant Zimmerman was one of the first in the 920th awarded the combat action medal for his contributions: his work during a flight that became the target of an enemy attack and his work building a ground communication system.

This medal will join the top rank of his highly-decorated uniform, with dozens of other medals -including the bronze star for meritorious achievement during combat, which he received in 2005.

However, serving his country is only his part-time job. When he's not flying with the 920th, he's serving mankind in a different way. He regularly contributes to space exploration as the mid-body electrical lead on NASA's Space Shuttle Atlantis, one of three orbiters he helps prepare for their journeys into space.

But before stepping inside the capsule to go to work, he steps into a sterile suit. The kind a surgeon wears, yet it's one piece and covers his whole body including his blonde head of hair exposing only his face - a face framed with rectangular wire-rimmed glasses and steel-blue eyes. The suits protect the capsule by keeping minute particles of hair and skin from contaminating the next ship's next mission.

Sergeant Zimmerman explained that Atlantis' upcoming spring launch will be a historic fifth and final mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope.

Throughout his 23-career with United Space Alliance (USA), NASA's lead contractor, he has worked on all five orbiters—including Challenger and Columbia, both of which were tragically destroyed with their crews during routine missions. He has also supported a long list of notable space missions, to include Atlantis's Maiden Voyage. He is a modern-day pioneer.

Despite his impressive credentials, he humbly downplays his role as he guides a small group on a tour of the orbiter processing facility. With a gentle smile, he answers the firing line of questions thrown at him, and he treats the group to some behind-



photo/Master Sgt. Shane Smith

the-scenes shuttle stories, like the time an Atlantis launch was delayed due to a broken toilet, or how Atlantis got the nickname “penguin,” when it went several years without a flight.

To get into the orbiter, he crawls through a low opening, emerging on the other side to what looked like the inside of the human body—massive rolls of exposed wires and cables stretched out like tendons and muscles.

Sergeant Zimmerman described the inner workings of Atlantis and introduced fellow technicians as the group squeezed through the cramped quarters.

Although intense about his work he

takes a softer approach when it comes to the people he manages. “It’s not just punching a clock. It’s making it fun,” said Sergeant Zimmerman whose pen for signing in and out of the controlled area screams Naaachoooooooooooooooooooooooooooo! A line uttered by actor Jack Black in the comedy movie “Nacho Libre.” “My daughter bought this for me,” he said chuckling softly to himself. Ironically the movie’s tagline – he’s nacho average hero – is befitting to Sergeant’s heroics combined with his unusual work with NASA.

“He does a fantastic job,” said Bobby Pracek, the orbiter processing facility manager. “With his military background

you can see a difference. He’s very disciplined.”

“Kevin goes out of his way to help others. He is a problem solver. He provides great assistance to a lot of people. The issue may not even be shuttle-related. He gives it all he’s got; puts forth every effort.

“(We’d do) anything for Kev,” he said.

A MASSIVE EFFORT

Getting a shuttle ready for a launch is a massive group effort that requires thousands of moving parts to work perfectly.

“We cannot allow anything to impact

the crew or the orbiter processing," explained the Mr. Pracek. "Six to seven lives rely on us to put a good vehicle on the floor."

The same holds true for a rescue mission. When Sergeant Zimmerman is flying in his role as radio operator with the 920th, his job is to handle all communications aboard the aircraft, which is a lot during a war environment, according to Sergeant Zimmerman.

Usually, multiple aircraft are involved, and vital information is coming from multiple sources, plus communications between the crew and maybe even an enemy threat. The radio operator has to take it all in and make sense of it to allow the crew to make real-time, informed decisions. To provide the crew with this critical information, Sergeant Zimmerman monitors no less than nine aircraft radios while a rescue is underway.

"Two UHF, two VHF, FM1, LARS, SATCOM, plus the secure-voice-encrypting device and the guy on ground who has an emergency radio (who's calling for help). They all have the potential to fill your head with something," he said. "You learn to balance them, because when the plane is yanking and banking, you do whatever you can to help the guys flying it."

DROPPED OFF ON THE MOON

Leading up to the war, Sergeant Zimmerman and his fellow Airmen were sent to Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, 75 miles south of Iraq, where they waited and did their best to be as useful as they could. They shuttled supplies and carried mail. If the helicopter crews did a rescue, the C-130 crews supported them by transloading people onto their aircraft; if someone got sick and needed to get to a hospital in Kuwait City, they took them.

"Everyone was very proactive."

Puffing on cigars was a memorable

pastime that brought him and his fellow Airmen together at the day's end. A laptop computer with a music CD served as their makeshift campfire which they sat around and talked about things like what you got for Christmas when you were a kid and your favorite toys. The only topic of discussion forbidden at the campfire was work.

"You just didn't want to talk about it," he said.

Then his unit moved forward to Tallil Air Base, Iraq where they could be closer to the fight. The C-130 personnel moved in, and the HH-60G Pave Hawk personnel moved out and went to Iraq to be ready. Their new positions would greatly improve their response times.

"It was kind of like being dropped on the moon," said Sergeant Zimmerman. "The buildings were burnt out or destroyed. Everything was in short supply. You built things to live."

They used a makeshift toilet disposing of its contents by pouring in fuel and burning it nightly. He said the maintenance personnel were instrumental in making things better. They had an overwhelming ability to create things. One example was their "war shower." They filled a fuel bladder with water and created a solar-heating device to warm the water. In this way, they were able to get clean.

Yet communications was Sergeant Zimmerman's niche, and with no radio communications system in place, he went to work building one.

"He's a natural radio operator due to his work with NASA," said Chief Master Sgt. Donnie Rouse, 39th Rescue Squadron loadmaster. "The man is a master at what he does."

Sergeant Zimmerman began cobbling together a mixture of recycled equipment, some things they'd brought with them and other stuff he'd borrowed. By the time he finished, he'd built a radio system that

could fire a signal all the way from Tallil to the helicopter guys in Baghdad.

"He's the hardest working man I've ever seen," said Chief Rouse. "He's flawless. Very rarely do you go out with someone who's spot-on every time. He's a joy to fly with."

"He was climbing on top of the hangars to install antennas and get the 'comm' going," said Lt. Col. Jeff Hannold, 39th Rescue Squadron Commander. "And he did that before the communications specialist got there."

Over a two-year period, Sergeant Zimmerman deployed three times, twice for Operation Southern Watch and once for Operation Enduring Freedom, and later went on to deploy to Africa, calling it "a positive experience at a bad time."

THE EVENT

"We were getting shot at and would have to maneuver. I could hear the loadmaster yell out, 'Jink! Break!' - to get us to move away from the situation. Small-arms and rocket-propelled grenades were being used against us. If you weren't scared, you weren't normal," said Sergeant Zimmerman who describes the action that earned him his most recent medal.

To avoid the enemy, they practiced landing at night with night-vision goggles in total-blackout conditions. Transloads were done while the engines were running to make for quicker turnaround times. Sergeant Zimmerman said he couldn't count how many missions he flew aboard, "but that night the crew worked together to get our tails out of there," he said. "I was definitely in the zone that night. I'm on the radio, whatever radio I can get my voice across. Relaying my voice of the engagement so appropriate actions can be taken. As much detail as I can so whoever comes to work the issue after us..."

WITH NO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, SERGEANT ZIMMERMAN DECIDED TO **BUILD ONE FROM SCRATCH** USING WHATEVER EQUIPMENT HE COULD SCROUNGE...

...BY THE TIME HE WAS FINISHED, THEY COULD TALK TO THE GUYS IN BAGHDAD **75 MILES** AWAY.



Making waves // Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Zimmerman, a radio operator onboard an HC-130P/N Hercules, crouches beside his handy work at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. With his crew unable to communicate with fellow rescue personnel, the reservist, whose civilian job is a payload bay electrical technician on Space Shuttle Atlantis, built a communication system from the spare parts and random equipment they had available. The result of his labor was a system powerful enough to send a signal all the way to Baghdad roughly 75 miles away. (courtesy photo)

Sergeant Zimmerman will never forget those times, but his best memories are of the people. "The camaraderie was really great. I feel like I was unbelievably lucky," he said.

THE FLOW

And so the countdown begins—from now, to March 5 when Space Shuttle Atlantis rolls out of the orbiter processing facility to the vehicle assembly building, to its scheduled launch on May 12. The mission will be the 30th flight of Space Shuttle Atlantis and the last planned manned mission to the Hubble (with another shuttle ready to launch in case a rescue mission is needed).

"Every mission for us in the mid-body changes each flow," said Sergeant Zimmerman. "There are redundant tasks that are completed every processing schedule.

But there are always challenges—things that may not fit just the way you had anticipated and require a team effort to resolve from both engineering staff and technical level experience from years of hands-on processing."

The upcoming mission, Space Transport System 125B, will be an 11-day flight featuring five spacewalks to extend Hubble's life into the next decade by refurbishing and upgrading the telescope with state-of-the-art science instruments and swapping old, failed hardware, according to NASA's Web site.

Sergeant Zimmerman has worked on the ship his whole career and plans to stay until the end of the shuttle program, which is scheduled to wind down in 2010. As for his military career, he'll continue to serve until he reaches retirement age, which he says will happen on Halloween day 2013.

THE COUNTDOWN

"On launch day, when your weeks of work lift off, your payload deploys, your systems work on orbit without incident, the crew comes home safely, and then the orbiter rolls into the high bay again - you are ready to start all over.

"For all of us out here, we feel pretty darn good," said Sergeant Zimmerman.

He also said he couldn't have done any of it without the "great, great" support of his three daughters and wife Cheryl. They are: Amber, 26; Ashley, 24; Alicia, 20.

True to form, the humble man who works on the world's most-legendary space vehicle describes his role in the program graciously, as being merely pedestrian.

"I feel lucky to be able to say I had a small part in all of this with a big team of good people."

The Last Full Measure



Eight years after Staff Sgt. Doug Eccleston lost his life during a rescue mission, his friends, loved ones and co-workers help to ensure his legacy will endure

The 920th Rescue Wing paid tribute to a pararescueman who died in the line of duty by naming a new building here in his memory during a ceremony at the Base Theater today.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Eccleston was killed Dec. 7, 2001, during a rescue mission off Bermuda when his inflatable raft capsized while leaving the 600-foot supertanker Alam Belia, where he and a 920th pararescue team treated a critically-ill crewman. He was the first 920th member to die during a rescue.

The wing's new parachute-rigging facility, completed in



Among the attendees at the dedication ceremony were general officers, wing leadership and close friends and family of Staff Sgt. Doug Eccleston. (from left to right starting third from the left) Brig. Gen. Edward L. Bolton, Jr., 45th Space Wing Commander; Maj. Gen. Henry C. Morrow, Commander, 1st Air Force (AFNORTH), and Commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, Tyndall AFB, Fla; Mrs. Jody Murray and pararescueman Tech Sgt. Dan Murray, 308th Rescue Squadron; Mrs. Stacie Eccleston, Staff Sgt. Eccleston's widow; pararescueman Chief Master Sgt. Doug Kestranek, 308th RQS, Col. Steven W. Kirkpatrick, 920th Rescue Wing Commander; Col. Philip J. Manning, 920th Vice Commander; and Col. Jeffrey Macrander, 920th Operations Group Commander.

2007, was officially re-designated as the Eccleston Pararescue Facility during the ceremony.

Sergeant Eccleston and eight others left Patrick AFB Dec. 7 on an HC-130P/N Hercules aircraft headed for the Alam Belia approximately 200 miles southeast of Bermuda. The wing had been asked to send a team of pararescuemen to provide medical attention for a Philippine sailor on the tanker.

After parachuting from the HC-130 into the Atlantic, Sergeant Eccleston and two other PJs inflated a zodiac boat, sped to the tanker and climbed a ladder to board the vessel while a crane on the tanker hoisted their zodiac onto the deck.

Pararescue training includes 22 weeks learning how to manage trauma patients prior to evacuation and provide emergency medical treatment, and the three PJs were able to stabilize the Philippine crewman and accompany him to Bermuda onboard the Alam Belia.

Once the patient was transferred to shore on a smaller vessel, Eccleston and the two other PJs, Tech. Sgt. Mitch Vance and Tech. Sgt. Mike Ziegler, prepared the Zodiac for the trip ashore.

Sergeants Eccleston and Vance were onboard the craft as it was lowered to the ocean. But the Zodiac flipped—throwing both men into the water.

Sergeant Vance was recovered almost immediately and sustained no serious injuries, but it took rescuers three hours to find Sergeant Eccleston's body.

Before going on the mission that would take his life, Eccleston called his wife, Stacie, to tell her how excited he was that he was about to experience his first rescue jump.

"I'll cherish that phone call forever," she said. "He called me on the phone and told me, 'There's a guy dying out there. I'm going to save him Stacie. I love you. I love you. I love you. I'll see you soon.' That was the last I heard from him."

Sergeant Ziegler and Eccleston had been friends since the two entered the Air Force together 15 years before. The two friends spoke briefly on the deck of the Alam Belia shortly before the fatal accident.

"We just stood there on the tanker, and I said, 'Damn dude, who would've ever thought we'd be here together saving lives,'" said Sergeant Ziegler. "We slapped knuckles and both said, 'I love you bro.' Then, as quick as you can count to five, it was all over."

More than 400 family members and friends gathered on a local beach for a memorial service a week after Doug's death. The service culminated with six of Doug's fellow Airmen and surfing buddies paddling their surfboards to a buoy some 200 yards away, casting a wreath in their friend's honor and surfing back to shore.

A week later, Florida Congressman Dave Weldon (now retired) commemorated the fallen PJ in a speech before the state House of Representatives. The congressman called Eccleston "heroic," and recited the awards Doug had received during his career.

"We will all miss him," said Congressman Weldon. "Doug Eccleston is a true hero."

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal

DAVID HOWARD, CMSgt.
STACIE MOORE, MSgt.
ROLANDO PEREZ-RAMIREZ,
MSgt.

QUARTERLY AWARDS (July – Sept 2008)

Airman of the Quarter
PATRICIA SALAS, SrA

NCO of the Quarter
DANIEL WAGSTER, TSgt.

Senior NCO of the Quarter
KENNETH SIMMONS, SMSgt.

CGO of the Quarter
AARON MILNER, Capt.

QUARTERLY AWARDS (Oct. – Dec. 2008)

Airman of the Quarter
ROBERT TERRELL, SrA

NCO of the Quarter
NORBERTO NIEVES-
CASTELLANOS, SSgt.

Senior NCO of the Quarter
SIDNEY PENNER, SMSgt.

CGO of the Quarter
AARON MILNER, Capt.

2008 ANNUAL AWARDS

Airman of the Year
CHRISTINE VARELA, SrA

NCO of the Year
JONATHAN FAIR, TSgt.

Senior NCO of the Year
SIDNEY PENNER, SMSgt.

First Sergeant of the Year
JOHN STONEHOUSE, MSgt.

NEWCOMERS

DANIEL BOGER, SrA
ZANELLA CUNNINGHAM, SSgt.
JOSE FALERO, SrA
HENRIETTA HURD, A1C
ANDREW LOMBARDI, AB
CHRISTOPHER LONG-
ALLEYNE, SrA
BRIAN MARDY, SrA
EMANUEL MORALES-COLON,
SSGT.
ADAM PEYROUSE, SrA
LUIS RODRIGUEZ, A1C
RYAN RUDDY, SrA

CODY SANBURY, SSgt.
DAVID SUTER, SSgt.
DANIEL THILLET, A1C
RICHARD TWITTY, TSgt.
HOLLY VEIT, A1C

FAREWELLS

CECILE BEAUMONT, TSgt.
LAKISHA MILLER, TSgt.
MARCUS NEAL, TSgt.
NATHANAEL NORMAN, SrA
SARA OSORIO, SSgt.
ANDREA PARSONS, SSgt.
JAMIE PINTO, 1st Lt.
JASON PORTER, Maj.
YOLANDA RIVERA, SrA
HOWARD SHELTON, SSgt.
BRUCE WEBB, TSgt.
ROBERT WOODWARD, SrA



photos/Tech. Sgt. Paul Flipse

Where the heart is // A group of approximately 50 wing reservists returned home Jan. 7 after a 4-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The group, which included helicopter pilots, crewmembers and maintenance specialists, deployed in August on the second leg of a 14-month Joint Expeditionary Tasking (JET) mission to support the U.S. Army medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) operation in Afghanistan.



Chute straight

It was that time of year again as the 920th Rescue Wing hosted the 2009 Key West SAREX (search and rescue exercise). Members of the Royal Canadian Air Force's 435 Squadron, Winnipeg also took part in the event, which featured open-water search and rescues, accuracy parachute jumps, scuba diving and medical evaluations. (photo/Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wagster)



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