

ANGEL'S WINGS^{ONLINE}

920TH RESCUE WING

FEBRUARY 2018



OFF WE GO

A group of Airmen from the 920th Security Forces Squadron go through a deployment line days before heading overseas to an undisclosed location in Southeast Asia Jan. 6, 2018, at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Deployment lines give Airmen an opportunity to ensure all their necessary documents, readiness items and overall well being are good before deploying. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Triamrchi)

notes of interest

FREE INCOME TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

The Patrick Air Force Base Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides free income tax return preparation now through April 17 for all active duty, Reserve, retired military and federal civilian employees stationed at Patrick AFB who earn \$80,000 or less per year, combined gross household income. This service is provided by volunteer tax counselors who have been trained and certified by the IRS. Assistance is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Shark Center in South Patrick Housing. To schedule an appointment and for a list of required documents, call 321-494-4718.

YELLOW RIBBON EVENT IN APRIL

The Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program hosts a special event for deploying or recently deployed Airmen and their families April 20-22 in Chicago, Illinois. The event provides access to information on healthcare, education, employment, and financial and legal benefits. Click on the above link to register for the event. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Laura Morales at 520-228-3354.

FINANCIAL BOOT CAMP COURSE

The Force Support Squadron offers a Get out of Debt Financial Boot Camp beginning Feb. 6 via e-mail. The facilitator will send out an activity each Tuesday and Thursday for a month. All activities will be done independently by participants and everything will remain anonymous. For more information or to sign up, call Kelly Linfert at 321-494-5980.

TRICARE PHARMACY CHANGES

Co-payments for prescription drugs at TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery and retail pharmacies increased as of Feb. 1, 2018. These changes were required by law and affect TRICARE beneficiaries who are not active duty service members. Prescriptions filled at military pharmacies remain available at no cost. Those eligible can save the most money by filling their prescriptions at military pharmacies.

news & features



RESCUE TEAM SUPPORTS ROCKET LAUNCH

Citizen Airmen of the 920th Rescue Wing assist in the successful launch of an Atlas V rocket Jan. 19 from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.



SENIOR LEADER RETREAT ENDS IN SUCCESS

Several dozen commanders and top enlisted members of the 920th Rescue Wing gathered for the unit's annual Senior Leader Retreat held along the Florida Gulf Coast Jan. 16-19.



VICE COMMANDER SHARES

With 7 deployments, 14 assignments and 4,200 flight hours under his belt since the 1990s, Col. Ian V. Chase, takes on another challenge as the 920th Rescue Wing's newest vice commander.

FOLLOW THE
920TH RQW
ONLINE





AVIATOR NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Senior Airman Davy Brinkmann (center), 301st Rescue Squadron special missions aviation specialist, was selected as the 2017 Space Coast Fire Chief's Association's Firefighter of the Year. Brinkmann, a traditional reservist at the 301st RQS, serves as a firefighter and paramedic with the Rockledge Fire Station in Brevard County, Florida. Brinkmann has been with the fire department for 10 years. "He embodies the meaning of public service by not only serving the city, but also serving his country," according to SC Fire Chief's Association. (Courtesy photo)



LEADER OF THE PACK

Maj. Robert Dossman, left, 943rd Maintenance Squadron commander, and Amy Nelson, right, wife of Chief Master Sgt. Craig Nelson, middle, 943rd Maintenance Squadron maintenance superintendent, tack on his chief master sergeant rank during his promotion ceremony Jan. 7, 2018 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. (Courtesy photo)

WING ANNOUNCES ANNUAL, FOURTH QUARTER AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2017 Annual and 4th Quarter award winners are:

Annual winners:

Airman

Senior Airman Carlos Ramirez-Miro, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

NCO

Tech. Sgt. Jared Aldrich, 920th Maintenance Squadron

Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Michael Decker, 920th Operations Group

First Sergeant

Master Sgt. Michael Blaker, 943rd Rescue Group

Company Grade Officer

Second Lt. Harry Goldsboro, 920th Operations Support Squadron

Fourth quarter winners:

Airman

Senior Airman Ermanette Diaz, 920th Mission Support Group

NCO

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Lopez, 943rd Maintenance Squadron

Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Michelle Paredes, 943rd Maintenance Squadron

Company Grade Officer

Second Lt. Harry Goldsboro, 920th Operations Support Squadron



SURVIVING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Pararescuemen and combat rescue officers with the 304th Rescue Squadron conduct high angle and swift water training Jan. 9 at Siouxon Creek within Gifford Pinchot National Forrest, Washington. The training was part of a command directed compliance assessment by 10th Air Force. (Courtesy photo)



PILOT'S BEST FRIEND

Maj. Mary Minshew, HH-60G Pave Hawk pilot, and a team of Reserve Citizen Airmen aircrew from the 301st Rescue Squadron, train with Beta the Belgium Malinois, a 45th Space Wing Security Forces working dog Jan. 23 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. (Courtesy photo)

timemanagement

PATRICK AFB
GATE HOURS

EAST GATE (BY
920TH RQW HQ)
6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

SOUTH GATE
24-HOUR
ACCESSIBLE

UTA SCHEDULE

MAR 3-4
JUL 14-15

APR 7-8
AUG 4-5

MAY 5-6
SEPT 8-9

BARBER SHOP

FRI 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
SAT 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SUN 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

DINING FACILITY

BR. 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
LN. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
DN. 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

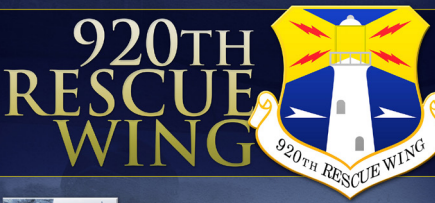
FITNESS CENTER

FRI 5:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
SAT 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
SUN 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

CLASS VI / SHOPETTE

FRI 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
SAT 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
SUN 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

* BILLETING RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EACH DRILL WEEKEND. CALL LODGING AT 321-494-0288.



MISSION
RESCUE AND RECOVER
PERSONNEL, ANYTIME,
ANYWHERE,
WITH COMBAT-READY
CITIZEN AIRMEN

VISION
FORGING THE WORLD'S
GREATEST RESCUE FORCE,
FUELED BY HONOR,
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

PRIORITIES
EXECUTING THE MISSION
LEADING PEOPLE
IMPROVING THE UNIT
MANAGING RESOURCES

THESE THINGS WE DO. THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE



Above: Pararescuemen with the 308th Rescue Squadron board the Nord Nightingale, a commercial tanker at the scene, July 7, 2017 and prepare to hoist their inflatable rescue boat, known as a Random Alternate Method Zodiac, onto the ship. Below: Pararescuemen tend to the survivors and prepare to move them from their raft onto a rescue boat. (Courtesy photos)

Rescue team earns German Medal of Honor

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

For the first time in 20 years, the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service awarded the Medal of Honor on Ribbon for Rescue Missions at Sea in Gold in a special ceremony to the 920th Rescue Wing Jan. 26, 2018 at the German Maritime Museum.

The wing, based out of Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, was honored for its rescue of two German citizens whose vessel caught fire approximately 500 nautical miles off the east coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida, July 7, 2017.

"The Medal in Gold has been awarded only five times since 1955," said Gerhard Harder, chairman of the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service. "This award reflects all the courage, commitment, compassion, dedication, and professionalism that is necessary to make a sea rescue that is 800 kilometers from the coast possible. I feel greatly honored to award the Medal of Honor on Ribbon for Rescue Missions at Sea in Gold to the 920th Rescue Wing."

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th RQW commander, and a contingent of six Reserve Citizen Airmen traveled to Germany to accept the award on behalf of the 80 unit members who took part.

"It is an honor to be here today and represent the amazing men and women of the 920th Rescue Wing," said Matthews. "The lengths our Reserve Citizen Airmen went through to save these men is incredible and I am extremely proud of them."

"The specific capability of the 920th RQW's Guardian Angel Airmen, combined with its air refueling and extended-range airpower make it uniquely able to accomplish the mission where few others in the world can."

Matthews noted the unit was not facing the most ideal circumstances when they received the call for help that morning. The two HC-130s required to transport the Guardian Angel team and refuel the helicopters were broken and the helicopter crews were on crew rest.

However, the team pulled together and within two hours the maintenance crews fixed and launched the first HC-130 carrying the Guardian Angel team and their equipment. Two hours later, the helicopters headed to the scene, while the maintenance crews fixed the last HC-130.

Around this same time, the Guardian Angel team parachuted into the open water out of



Gerhard Harder, second from left, chairman of the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service, presents the German Medal of Honor on Ribbon for Rescue Missions at Sea in Gold to Senior Master Sgt. George Taylor, third from left, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron lead production superintendent, during a presentation ceremony Jan. 26, 2018 at the German Maritime Museum, Hamburg, Germany. Taylor and six other Reserve Citizen Airmen traveled to Germany to accept the award on behalf of the 920th Rescue Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice)

the back of the HC-130, followed by their zodiac inflatable boat and medical equipment. After reaching the survivors, they provided urgent medical care and transported them to a nearby freighter whose crew volunteered to help. Under the cover of darkness, the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter teams arrived and their crews hoisted the men into the aircraft bound for the Orlando Regional Medical Center. The survivors spent roughly two weeks in the hospital before returning to Germany.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to my Guardian Angels for rescuing me," said Karl Meer Jr., the son who was severely injured in the accident. "With my injuries and without water, I don't think I would have lived another day. I immediately felt so safe, because they knew exactly what they were doing and stayed calm."

The father and son were able to personally thank some of their rescuers while undergoing care at the Orlando hospital and some additional 920th RQW team members at the ceremony. It was a reunion that touched more than just the rescuers and rescuees.

"This is an awe-inspiring German-American story

that unfolded where we didn't expect it," said Consul General Richard T. Yoneoka, the U.S. Ambassador's representative to the German states of Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Bremen, Schleswig-Holstein, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. "It showcases efficient transatlantic communication channels, the technical material capabilities of the U.S. Air Force and the determination of highly-skilled and superbly-trained individuals to get the job done at great personal risk."

"To me, today's event is much more than a festive awards ceremony that honors brave men and women who stood ready when called upon to engage in a rescue mission at sea," he continued. "To me, above all, this extraordinary rescue story is about a human act of kindness, maybe the most noble, saving another's life, two lives in fact. True to the motto of the 920th Rescue Wing, 'These things, we do, that others may live,' this rescue story is the most meaningful story about German-American relations that I can imagine."

As the U.S. Air Force Reserve's sole combat-search-and-rescue wing, the 920th Rescue Wing's mission is to rescue and recover personnel anytime, anywhere, with combat-ready Citizen Airmen.

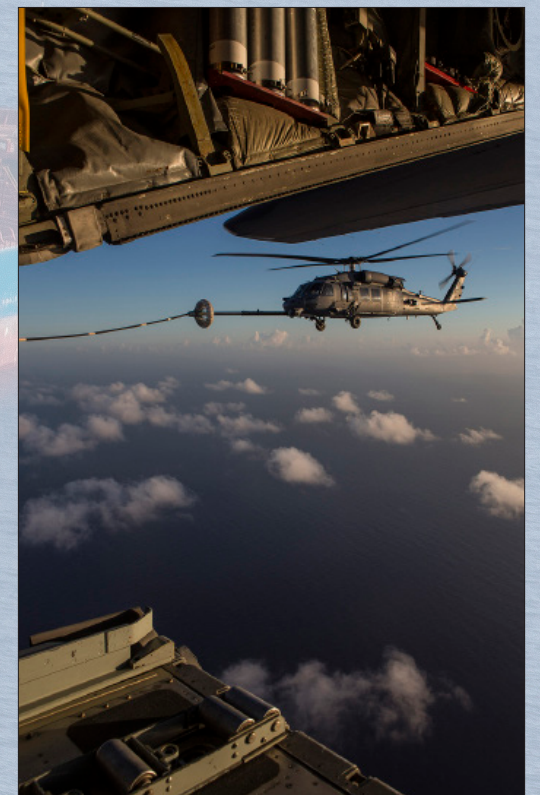
"I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to my Guardian Angels for rescuing me. With my injuries and without water, I don't think I would have lived another day. I immediately felt so safe, because they knew exactly what they were doing and stayed calm."

Karl Heinz-Meer

*German sailor rescued by
920th Rescue Wing*



Karl Heinz-Meer Sr., right, and Karl Heinz-Meer Jr., second from right, pose with Master. Sgt. Klier-Graham, middle, and Senior Airman Brandon Kalloo-Sanes, 920th Rescue Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen, and hospital staff at the Orlando hospital in which the son underwent treatment after the rescue. (U.S. Air Force photo)



An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter receives an air-to-air refueling from an HC-130P/N King during a long-range open water rescue mission, July 7, 2017. The tankers performed eight air refueling operations between the two HH-60s involved in the rescue, refueling both helicopters with a total amount of 16,600 pounds of gas. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)