

# ANGEL'S WINGS<sup>ONLINE</sup>

920TH RESCUE WING

JULY 2017



## EPIC AGREEMENT

Brig. Gen. Wayne Monteith, 45th Space Wing commander, and Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander, tandem sky dive June 8, 2017 over Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, to demonstrate their wings' commitment to mutual-support and shared resources in an unforgettable way after signing a new host-tenant support agreement. (U.S. Air Force photo / Matthew Jurgens)

## news&features



### RESCUE TEAM SUPPORTS ROCKET LAUNCH

Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crews supported a range clearing mission ahead of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launch July 5 along the Space Coast.



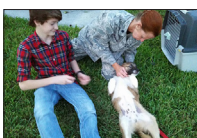
### OPERATIONS GROUP WELCOMES NEW LEADER

Col. Michael LoForti assumed command of the 920th Operations Group June 3, 2017 during a ceremony at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute auditorium.



### GUARDIAN ANGELS AID IN MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Guardian Angels from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon, joined a U.S. Army Reserve CH-47 Chinook helicopter unit, Joint Base Lewis McCord, to rescue a stranded climber June 1.



### NURSE ADOPTS REFUGEE AFGHAN PUPPY

A 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron nurse adopts a puppy from Afghanistan through rescue organization, No Buddy Left Behind, after its mother was shot and killed.

## notes of interest

### MISHAP REPORTING PROCEDURES

Citizen Airmen in military status on and off duty and Department of Defense civilians on duty are required to report mishaps leading to damage or injury to their supervisor immediately. The injured personnel's supervisor will complete an AF Form 978, Supervisor's Mishap Report, and return it to the Safety Office within five work days following the mishap or notification of the mishap, whichever is earlier. For more information, contact the safety office at DSN 854-3215.

### INSPECTION COMPLAINTS

Along with the Air Force Reserve Command Inspection Team, Maj. Dustin Pawlak, Inspector General Complaints Resolution Process Investigator, will be here this weekend. Airmen should contact him with any concerns. He will be located in the Education and Training Compound, classroom B-7. He has open office hours Friday to Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments are also available. Call DSN 497-1395 or contact him via e-mail at [dustin.pawlak@us.af.mil](mailto:dustin.pawlak@us.af.mil) to schedule a time. Complaints may also be submitted to [afrc.igq@us.af.mil](mailto:afrc.igq@us.af.mil) or by hot line at (800) 233-1784.

### ZIKA VIRUS FACTS

As the mosquito season ramps up, the 45th Space Wing Public Health Flight and Pest Management Section are working to ensure the most up-to-date training and preventative measures are implemented. To date, there have been no cases of local transmission of the Zika Virus in Brevard County; however, use an EPA-approved insect repellent when outside, wear long sleeves and pants to limit exposed skin, and avoid areas where there are large numbers of mosquitoes or identified local transmission.

### NOMINATING SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYERS

Individuals interested in recognizing their supervisor or employer for his/her support of their military service can do so through the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization. Click on the link above to find out more about the Patriot Award and steps on how to nominate them.

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920TH RQW  
ONLINE





## COL. KURT MATTHEWS 920TH RESCUE WING COMMANDER



Team Rescue,

I hope you all had a wonderful and safe Independence Day holiday and are refreshed and ready for another great UTA! You all deserved a break after the hard work the entire wing has put into pre-deployments, deployments, and redeployments. Not to mention the continuous process and program improvements we've focused on over the past seven months. We've learned a lot along the way, and I am extremely proud of all of you and your efforts. Your work, professionalism and rescue spirit have been noted up the AFRC chain of command and also by the Commander of Air Combat Command himself, Gen. Holmes! Well done.

I also want to remind you of the great opportunity you will have over this July UTA. At Patrick AFB, we will be welcoming the AFRC Inspector General team as they review our programs and interview our people as part of our Air Force Inspection System (AFIS) CAPSTONE event. Don't be shocked to see inspectors observing our UTA routines and meetings... in fact, that's what they want to see. For those of us at Davis Monthan, Portland, and Langley, you can expect a "virtual look", and I am very impressed with the progress and achievements I've witnessed and heard from your leaders. A special "thank you" to all of our Geographically Separated team mates!

Finally, I expect you all to conduct your business as usual in your every-day professional manner (just be yourselves). But I would also encourage you to invest the time in engaging with the Inspection team. The members of the team are subject matter experts and have (for the most part) conducted many of these types of inspections. They are not only here to inspect but also to help... and you may foster some great connections and relationships that could help you make your areas of responsibility or programs even better! Please take advantage of the interview time with the IG team, be honest, and give them a chance to see you for what you truly are: the absolute best rescue team in the Air Force!

Rescue Regards,

KURT A. MATTHEWS, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The 920th Rescue Wing maintains a commander's action line. The wing commander encourages its use. Concerns should be addressed at the lowest possible level in the chain of command and elevated as necessary.

Though not required, Action Line users should leave point-of contact information when submitting an Action Line. This will allow those who are addressing the concern to clarify the information and respond, if necessary.

E-mail [920RQWPA@us.af.mil](mailto:920RQWPA@us.af.mil) with the subject line: Commander's Action Line.

# Deployed maintainers earn MAJCOM award

By Master Sgt. Phyllis Keith  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs  
guest journalist

Fifty maintainers from the 920th Maintenance Group earned the 2016 Maintenance Effectiveness Award at the major command-level.

The award is the highest level of squadron recognition in the Air Force maintenance career field.

Air Combat Command awarded the 2016 MEA to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, a unit to which members of the 920th MXG were deployed from September 2016 to February 2017.

Maj. David Klein, a maintenance operations officer with the 920th Maintenance Group, said the maintainers supported the only armed personnel recovery platform in Afghanistan pulling alert duty 24/7 in support of combat operations. They deployed with three HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopters along with pilots and special missions aviators from the 920th Rescue Wing.

The reservists accomplished 2,158 maintenance actions; 230 combat sorties; 3,000 hours of uninterrupted alert for personnel recovery; and 308 combat flight hours during their time at Bagram, said Senior Master Sgt. Donald Corkum, aircraft maintenance unit superintendent with the 720th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. These statistics include the month of January 2017.

Senior Master Sgt. David Carden, supervisor for the HH-60 Pave Hawk Inspection Dock, 920th Maintenance



Fifty maintainers from the 920th Maintenance Group have won the 2016 Maintenance Effectiveness Award at the major command level. The award is the highest level of squadron recognition in the Air Force maintenance career field. Air Combat Command awarded the 2016 MEA to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, a unit to which members of the 920th MXG were deployed from September 2016 to February 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo / Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa)

Squadron, said the key to their success was their enthusiasm to contribute. He said the leadership at Bagram praised them for integrating well with their active duty counterparts and for having a positive attitude.

"Basically, active duty passed the baton to us and we didn't skip a beat," said Carden.

At the 455th EAMXS, Klein served as the officer-in-charge of the helicopter maintenance unit; Corkum as helicopter maintenance superintendent; and Carden, along with Senior Master Sgt. Gary Watkins, as production superintendent.

"The big thing is we're all citizen Airmen," Corkum said. "I don't do this every day. The majority of us don't, or we're in a different capacity."

The 920th Rescue Wing is currently covering a 12-month rotation to Bagram Airfield to provide combat search-and-rescue to military and civilian forces in Afghanistan. The second wave of Citizen Airmen from the 920th MXG returned to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, in June and was replaced by maintainers from the wing's geographically separated unit, the 943rd Maintenance Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona.

## timemanagement

### PATRICK AFB GATE HOURS

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

SOUTH GATE  
24-HOUR ACCESSIBLE

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### UTA SCHEDULE

AUG. 5-6	NOV. 4-5
SEPT. 9-10	DEC. 2-3
OCT. 14-15	JAN. 6-7

*\* BILLETING RESERVATIONS MUST  
BE MADE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY  
TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EACH DRILL  
WEEKEND*



# There's no place like home

## Rescue warriors return from Afghanistan, Horn of Africa

**Story and photos by Senior Airman Brandon Kalloo Sanes**  
*920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs*

Approximately 160 Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing returned home to the U.S. from Afghanistan and Africa where they provided personnel recovery support over the last four months.

With American flags and colorful signs in hand, a crowd cheered as the returning Airmen arrived June 9 and 13. The troops quickly reunited with their families, friends and pets. There were similar scenes for each wave of heroes as they completed their long journeys home.

Families shared their plans to celebrate the homecoming, to include fishing trips, scuba diving and cookouts.

"We're going to have a big pig roast for all of the deployers that came home," said military spouse June Goddard.

The Airmen who deployed are combat rescue aviators; aircraft maintainers; and support personnel. The unit uses Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and HC-130P/N King aircraft to perform lifesaving missions. Rescue units pick up isolated and injured personnel and return them to safety.

According to unit leadership, the deployment was a success.

"Everybody stayed focused and ready the entire time," said Lt. Col. Michael Walsh, 301st RQS commander.

Airmen from 920th RQW have rescued more than 3,000 individuals in the wing's 50-year history. In peacetime and war, they live by the motto, "These things we do that others may live."



Tech. Sgt. Tavarus Ellis, 39th Rescue Squadron, reunites with his girlfriend June 8 at Patrick Air Force Base after a four-month deployment to the Horn of Africa.



Tech. Sgt. Pablo Pozoochoa, 720th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, embraces his family June 8 at Patrick Air Force Base after returning home from a four-month deployment to the Horn of Africa.



Above: Maj. Jason Tomas, 301st Rescue Squadron, hugs his girlfriend June 13 at the 301st Rescue Squadron as other redeployers embrace their loved ones around him. Tomas was one of approximately 30 920th Rescue Wing Citizen Airmen to return home that afternoon from a four-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Left: Senior Airman Alexandra DuBois, 301st Rescue Squadron, is enthusiastically welcomed home by her dog June 13 at Patrick Air Force Base after a four-month deployment to Afghanistan.



Senior Master Sgt. John Loudon, 301st Rescue Squadron, poses with his family after reuniting with them June 13 at Patrick Air Force Base.





# Rescue warriors head downrange

By Master Sgt. Phyllis Keith  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs  
guest journalist

This summer, Guardian Angel Airmen and support personnel from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon, embarked on the largest deployment in the history of the squadron. Their extended deployment to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve is unprecedented for three reasons.

First, the 304th RQS is an Air Force Reserve unit that is geographically separated from its parent units at the 943rd Rescue Group, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, and the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Florida.

Maj. Casey Dierickx, 304th RQS chief of logistics, said it took a total team effort to get them out the door. The 142nd Fighter Wing, an Air National Guard unit also located at the airport in Portland, helped the reservists load cargo, while the 943rd Rescue Group gave the deployers financial assistance and conducted the out-processing line.

“Every single support element to get us out of here is critical: supply; ground radio; vehicle maintenance, dive shop; medical shop; combat arms, training



Members of the 304th Rescue Squadron board a C-17 Globemaster III in preparation for the unit's largest deployment in its 60-year history May 27 in Portland, Oregon. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Schaeffer Bonner)

shop; the unit deployment manager and admin,” Dierickx said.

Second, this is not only the largest deployment in the history of the unit, but it is the largest Air Force Reserve Command deployment to date, he said.

Guardian Angel Airmen normally deploy in small groups of 15-20 or individually, said Senior Master Sgt. Josiah Blanton, 304th RQS operations superintendent.

“Our pararescue jumpers, combat rescue officers and survival, evasion, resistance, and escape specialists may work autonomously or be integrated with joint or coalition forces, including Special Operations Forces, vertical lift, airdrop, command and control, resupply, close air support, and ground mobility assets,” he said. “On this mission; however, they will be working side-by-side with their fellow

unit members from the 304th RQS.”

Thirdly, this year is the unit's 60th anniversary; the 304th RQS was activated Nov. 16, 1957.

“We're a proud and accomplished unit,” said Lt. Col. Jesse Peterson, 304th RQS commander. “Like other Air Force rescue squadrons, we've executed more than 150 combat search and rescue missions since Sept. 11, 2001, on deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa.”

In addition to combat rescue, these Pacific Northwest Citizen Airmen also assist when natural disasters strike and when emergency rescue assistance is needed in any type of terrain. In June, Citizen Airmen from the 304th RQS helped rescue a stranded climber near the summit of Mount Rainier. During the 1980s, the unit conducted more than 100 rescue missions following the eruption of Mount St. Helens in May 1980.

“These battlefield Airmen are the most highly trained recovery specialists in the world,” Peterson said. “It's an honor to be a part of this talented and selfless organization.”



Left: Members of the 304th Rescue Squadron drive all-terrain vehicles onto a C-5 Galaxy May 27 in preparation for the unit's largest deployment in its 60-year history at Portland, Oregon. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Schaeffer Bonner)