

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

MARCH 2018



## GUARDIAN ANGELS TO THE RESCUE

Guardian Angel Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon, brave the icy terrain of Oregon's tallest mountain, Mount Hood, Feb. 13, 2018 to help several distressed climbers located near its summit. See page 2 for details. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Christopher Bernard)

## news&features



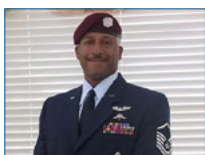
### RESCUE TEAM SUPPORTS ROCKET LAUNCH

Citizen Airmen of the 920th Rescue Wing assist in the successful launch of SpaceX's Falcon Heavy Feb. 7, 2018 from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.



### A-10, HH-60 AIRCREWS HONE CSAR CAPABILITIES

Airmen from the 107th Fighter Squadron joined 920th Rescue Wing Airmen during a two-week Operation Space Coast exercise out of Patrick Air Force Base Jan. 22 to Feb. 2, 2018.



### AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

Meet Lt. Col. (Dr.) Arnold T. Stocker, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Stocker has more than 40 years of service in the U.S. military and was the first African American pararescueman to join the 920th Rescue Wing in 1995, serving in that capacity until 2003.

## notes of interest

### NEW COMMANDER'S SUGGESTION BOX

Members of the 920th Rescue Wing can now ask questions, provide ideas, or make suggestions to the commander via a virtual Commander's Suggestion Box located on 920th Rescue Wing Sharepoint. Look for the icon at the bottom of the webpage. Click on the above link to access the new information tool.

### 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.

### SGLI BENEFICIARY UPDATES

Many members had their beneficiary information dropped when the Service Members' Group Life Insurance transferred to the SGLI Online Enrollment System. Click on the above link to milConnect to ensure your beneficiary information is correct and up-to-date. Save and print any changes you make in the system.

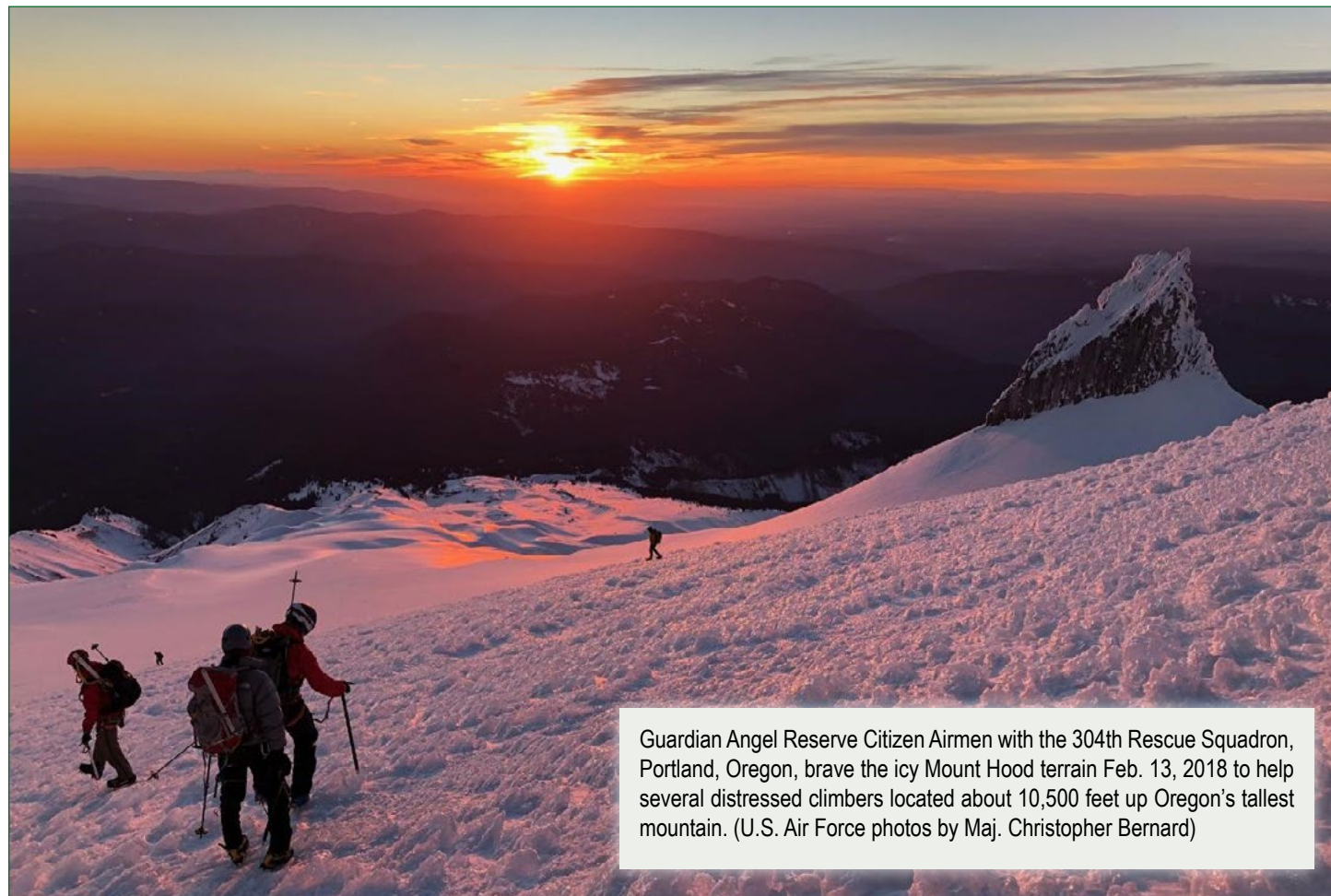
### AIR FORCE PROTECTS PII

Air Force officials announced emails containing personally identifiable information, and similar numeric constructs, will be blocked from transmission unless the email is encrypted. Members unable to send or receive encrypted emails will be directed to utilize the AMRDEC SAFE application. There are no user accounts for AMRDEC SAFE and authentication is handled via email and password. Everyone has access to AMRDEC SAFE through the following website: <https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/Guide.aspx>.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE







Guardian Angel Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon, brave the icy Mount Hood terrain Feb. 13, 2018 to help several distressed climbers located about 10,500 feet up Oregon's tallest mountain. (U.S. Air Force photos by Maj. Christopher Bernard)

## Guardian Angel team rescues climbers on Mount Hood



Guardian Angel Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon, tend to a distressed climber Feb. 13, 2018 located about 10,500 feet up Oregon's tallest mountain.

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

Air Force Reserve Guardian Angel Airmen with the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Oregon, joined forces with the Clackamas County Sheriff's office and other volunteer search-and-rescue groups to rescue several distressed climbers located about 10,500 feet up Mount Hood Feb. 13, 2018.

The hikers had been climbing near the peak of Oregon's tallest mountain when they faced falling rocks and ice, resulting in one member falling approximately 1,000 feet. Upon the call for help, the Reserve Citizen Airmen sprang into action, readying a 15-person team and supplies.

Within a few hours they were on the scene laying rope lines that would allow the climbers to safely descend the mountain. Due to the 304th's assistance, three of the four hikers who called for help made it down safely, as

well as some additional hikers found along the way who were also battling the unstable terrain. Unfortunately, the fallen climber did not survive, despite the effort of fellow hikers and rescue crews to save his life.

"I was impressed by the professionalism of our team during this unfortunate incident," said Lt. Col. Jesse Peterson, 304th RQS commander. "They were quick to assemble appropriate rescue equipment and to come up with a mission plan prior to heading up to the incident site."

Once on scene, part of the team linked up with the decision makers at the command and control center, while the others donned their gear for the trek up the mountain.

"Had they wasted any time whatsoever, they would've missed out on the opportunity to assist those who were stuck in unfavorable conditions near

SEE RESCUE ON PAGE 4

# Rescue community honors fallen comrade

Friends and family of retired Col. Christopher "Sunshine" Hannon gathered at the South Patrick Air Force Base Chapel and Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Feb. 23, 2018 to honor his memory and lay him to rest.

The former Reserve Citizen Airmen rescue pilot was fatally struck by a car while riding his bicycle in Vero Beach earlier this month, less than two years after his retirement from a 32-year Air Force career.

"The loss of Colonel Chris Hannon came as a shock to us all," said Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander. "It's still hard for me to believe. He was an incredible husband, father, pilot, and leader."

"He had a passion for life, and always had fun," he continued. "He was taken way too soon. He was my boss, my mentor, and my friend... I miss him. Our hearts go out to his wife Teresa, and daughters Chelsea and Caitlyn. Chris 'Sunshine' Hannon was a legend in the rescue community and we are rallying around them during this tragic time."

While Hannon spent close to the last seven years of his Air Force career at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, he spent more than a decade and a half with the 920th Rescue Wing between 1994 and 2011. Hannon last served at the wing as the 920th Operations Group commander from December 2009 to September 2011.

Chief Master Sgt. Randy Wells, 301st Rescue Squadron chief enlisted manager, said he first met Hannon when he was a major serving as the squadron's director of operations in 2000. Hannon hired Wells as an air reserve technician



**Col. Christopher "Sunshine" Hannon**  
October 1960 - February 2018

in the unit that year.

"He had such a good disposition," said Wells. "He always saw the brighter side of things in life, hence his call sign, 'Sunshine.' It's an honor to have served alongside him."

Hannon was a command pilot with more than 6,000 flying hours in various aircraft to include the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and HC-130 King. He flew missions in support of special operations forces and combat search and rescue personnel during Operations North and Sothern Watch, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Wells recalled several deployments spent alongside Hannon to include an especially memorable one to Afghani-

stan in 2005 in which the rescue team recovered the final member of the original Operation Red Wings mission, Petty Officer Matthew G. Axelson, who was killed in action June 28, 2005.

"It was under his watchful eye that we were able to accomplish that mission," Wells said. Hannon was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions downrange that summer.

Lt. Col. Robert Haston, 301st Rescue Squadron safety and special projects officer, shares Wells' warm memories of a caring wingman and friend who he first came to know in 1995.

"His call sign, Sunshine, was as accurate a moniker as anyone ever had," he said. "He was always fun to work and fly with, regardless of how bad the conditions were. Situations other leaders would turn into high drama, he made feel like working on a sitcom like MASH. He was a great guy, a greater pilot and the greatest boss - at least the best I ever had."

As a testament to just how loved Hannon is in the rescue community, thousands of people from across the globe reached out to the 920th Rescue Wing via social media with comments of disbelief, sadness and fond memories.

"We all miss him deeply and can't believe the tragic accident that took his life," said Wells, "but Sunshine would be the first to tell you not to mourn him. He knew that nothing in life is guaranteed and to enjoy every day. He'd only ask to raise a glass in his honor for the dedicated life he so nobly served 'that others may live.'"

Click here to see video from the service.

### 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**  
MAR 3-4      APR 7-8  
MAY 5-6      JUN 2-3  
JUL 14-15     AUG 4-5

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





## PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAMPION

Col. Kurt Matthews, third from right, 920th Rescue Wing commander, poses with his public affairs staff at the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs Symposium Feb. 14, 2018 after earning the AFRC Public Affairs Champion Award. The first-time award is presented to the senior leader who best supports the overall public affairs program including community relations, media engagement and internal information; and who fosters a culture of engagement in his or her unit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stephen Schester)

## FAMILY PROMOTION

Reserve Citizen Airmen Lt. Cols. Marcus and Donna Smith pin on the rank of lieutenant colonel together Feb. 24, 2018 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Marcus, who served as the 920th Mission Support Group deputy commander, and his wife, are transferring to Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. (U.S. Air Force photo by Darrell Hankins)



## RESCUE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the summit of Mount Hood,” Peterson said.

After the mission, the team documented lessons learned regarding equipment and tactics, technics and procedures, and then shared their findings with the rest of the rescue unit.

“This is an important part of each mission,” said Peterson. “This way we are better prepared next time a similar call for help occurs.”

On average, the 304th RQS assists with three to four civil search and rescue missions a year. The last time they were called into action on a local SAR mission was in October 2017 when they helped search for a missing hiker in the Mount Hood National Forest. The Guardian Angels dedicated more than 300 hours, covering approximately 60 miles of terrain in support of the search. The hiker was found five days after he was reported missing and was safely transported home.

Peterson said that while the unit primarily focuses on combat search and rescue in their training, many of the scenarios they set up utilize ropes and take place in remote, mountainous environments, which helps in their civilian search and rescue capability as well.

“We train in the vicinity of Mount Hood and Mount St. Helens quite often, so this keeps us familiar with the terrain and prepared for whatever may pop up in the Pacific Northwest.”

The 304th RQS celebrated its 60th birthday in November 2017.

**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