

ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

MAY 2018



FLY ME TO THE MOON

Using a 100-400mm lens, Michael Seeley, a Melbourne, Florida, resident and photographer, was taking photos of the moon from his backyard early April 2018 when he looked north and saw a 920th Rescue Wing HC-130N King "a good 90 seconds away." He said he thought about running into the house to grab a different camera lens for a closer shot, but was afraid he would miss it. He was not sure it would cross the moon, so he stood there watching with his 3-year-old daughter whose middle name is Luna. When he got the shot, they were so excited they high-fived. "I couldn't believe it," said Seeley. "I love that they had the ramp down. It was just amazing to see."

notes of interest

FORCE SUPPORT RELOCATION

The 920th Force Support Squadron is officially open for business in its new location, co-located with the 920th Rescue Wing Headquarters, Building 425 on Jupiter Street near the Patrick Air Force Base East Gate.

RESCUE WARRIOR 5K

The Rescue Special Functions Committee hosts its 4th Annual Rescue Warrior 5K May 19 at 7:15 a.m. at the Avenue Viera, 2261 Town Center Avenue, Viera, Florida. The cost is \$35 per person, with military and group discounts available. Participants can register online or the day of the race starting at 6 a.m. Click on the above link to register early. Volunteers are also needed for the event. If interested in volunteering, call 321-345-6334.

3K PTSD AWARENESS WALK/RUN

Mi22ion, a non-profit organization working to combat veteran suicide, hosts a 3K Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Walk/Run June 30 at 4 p.m. starting at the Patrick Air Force Base Beach House, 259 Highway A1A. Click on the above link to register.

YELLOW RIBBON EVENTS

The Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program hosts a special event for deploying or recently deployed Airmen and their families July 20-22 in Baltimore, Maryland. 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.

CHANGES TO COURSES 14 AND 15

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen now have the option to complete their enlisted professional military education, Courses 14 and 15, either through distance learning or in-residence attendance. Guard and Reserve Airmen currently enrolled in Courses 14 or 15 are encouraged to complete the course unless they are scheduled to attend in-residence and prefer to go that route.

news & features



RESCUE TEAM SUPPORTS ROCKET LAUNCH

The 920th Rescue Wing supported another successful Falcon 9 rocket launch April 18, 2018 from Space Launch Complex 40, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.



AIR FORCE RESERVE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander, hosted the Air Force Reserve 70th Birthday celebration April 12, 2018 at the Pentagon.



RESCUE AIRMEN BOUND FOR RED FLAG RESCUE

Reserve Citizen Airmen throughout the 920th Rescue Wing operations and maintenance communities gear up for Red Flag Rescue May 7-18 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

FOLLOW THE
920TH RQW
ONLINE



Rescue operations take shape for commercial astronauts

Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 301st and 304th Rescue Squadrons worked alongside the 45th Operations Group, Detachment 3, and other organizations in an astronaut rescue training exercise April 2-19 off of Florida's eastern coast.

"Our Guardian Angel community is excited to be working alongside NASA again," said Lt. Col. Jesse Peterson, 304th RQS commander, whose squadron is a geographically separated unit of the 920th Rescue Wing located in Portland, Oregon. "Long range capsule recovery is a unique challenge that requires outside the box thinking and constant collaboration across multiple agencies. It's right up our alley and we'll do all that we can to be fully prepared prior that first launch."

As leader of NASA's Commercial Crew Program Landing and Recovery Team, Ted Mosteller directs a multi-agency operation to rescue astronauts in emergency landing scenarios. "It's like insurance," he said. "You have insurance on your car or house, but you hope you never have to use it."

Rescue and recovery involves meticulous planning and close coordination between NASA, the Department of Defense, and company recovery teams for Starliner and Crew Dragon. These are the spacecraft of commercial partners Boeing and SpaceX that will fly astronauts to and from the International Space Station from U.S. soil. In the event of a variety of contingency landings, an elite team is prepared to rescue the crew anywhere in the world.

In preparation for both launch and landing, U.S. Air Force "Guardian Angel" Pararescue forces will be pre-positioned in key locations, alert and ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Should a spacecraft splash down within 200 nautical miles of the launch site, an HC-130 aircraft along with two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters will deploy from the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. These aircraft will carry a team of up to nine Guardian Angels — also known as pararescue specialists — along with rescue equipment and medical supplies.

The pararescue specialists would jump from the aircraft with inflatable boats, an inflatable ring -- called a



Pararescuemen from the 304th Rescue Squadron, located in Portland, Oregon, prepare equipment during an astronaut rescue training exercise in April 2018 off Florida's eastern coast. Should a spacecraft splash down within 200 nautical miles of the launch site, an HC-130 aircraft along with two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters will deploy from the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. (Photo courtesy of NASA)

stabilization collar -- to steady the capsule in the water, and other equipment. After performing an initial hazard assessment, the team would install the collar and enter the spacecraft to tend to the crew's immediate medical needs before safely moving them onto a specially designed 20-person life raft. From there, the crew would be airlifted out for further medical attention.

For contingency landings outside of the 200 nautical mile-radius, a C-17 aircraft would deploy from either Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina or Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, depending on the splashdown location, with the same type of team and equipment to execute rescue operations.

"The C-17s are faster and have a longer range, so we use them for rescue capabilities worldwide," Mosteller explained. In order to support global rescue, the life raft is equipped with enough food, water and medical supplies to sustain both rescuers and crew for up to three days. In this situation, DOD would complete the rescue by enlisting help from the U.S. Coast Guard, a DOD ship, or a nearby commercial ship of opportunity to transport the crew to safety.

As the name Guardian Angels suggests, these rescuers are trained to protect. "Most people don't even know who we are, but we specialize in problem solving in very dynamic environments," said Brandon Daugherty, space medical contingency specialist with the 45th Operations Group's Detachment 3 and 308th Rescue Squadron pararescueman. "There are only about 500 pararescue specialists worldwide. We are fully qualified paramedics, and able to perform field surgery, if necessary."

While NASA's strategy for CCP is to have the commercial partners to provide end-to-end crew transportation services, it was determined to be more effective and efficient to rely on the DOD for contingency rescue because of their unique capabilities.

Pararescue specialists have evolved their military capabilities to help the commercial partners and NASA. "We're the only force equipped to do global, worldwide rescue and recovery in any climate. Whether it's the top of a mountain or the bottom of the ocean, we can get there," said Daugherty.

leadershipspotlight

WING WELCOMES NEW SQUADRON COMMANDERS

Right: Lt. Col. Robyn Caudle accepts the 920th Aerospace Medicine Squadron guidon from Col. Ian Chase, 920th Rescue Wing vice commander, during the 920th AMDS assumption of command ceremony April 8, 2018 at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. The 920th AMDS is a geographically separate unit that is part of to the 920th Rescue Wing. The unit supports approximately 800 Reserve Citizen Airmen at Langley AFB. (Courtesy photo)

Bottom left: Maj. Catherine Correa accepts the 920th Maintenance Squadron guidon from Col. Leo J. Kamphaus, Jr., 920th Maintenance Group commander, during the 920th MXS assumption of command ceremony April 7, 2018 during the 920th Rescue Wing's Unit Training Assembly weekend at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Trimarchi)

Bottom right: Maj. Chad Fuentes, accepts the 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidon from Col. Leo J. Kamphaus, Jr., 920th Maintenance Group commander, during the 920th AMXS assumption of command ceremony April 7, 2018 during the 920th Rescue Wing's Unit Training Assembly weekend at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Trimarchi)



Lt. Col. Robyn Caudle, 920th Aerospace Medicine Squadron



Maj. Catherine Correa, 920th Maintenance Squadron



Maj. Chad Fuentes, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SPACE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Mosteller's team executed the first joint rescue training development exercise in August 2017, which involved more than 200 individuals from NASA, the U.S. Armed Forces and SpaceX crew recovery teams. This event marked the first open ocean astronaut rescue training development exercise with a commercial spacecraft off the eastern coast of Florida. NASA and the DOD conducted similar exercises for the Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs.

The exercise involved multiple marine and air platforms including a U.S. Coast Guard ship, a C-17 aircraft and crew, several support boats and a SpaceX Crew Dragon mock-up as well as ground support equipment shared with NASA's Orion Program. The team used the test to develop specific rescue procedures and plans, including how to mitigate potential hazards while entering the spacecraft and safely

remove the crew. Since then, rescue and recovery teams for both SpaceX and Boeing have continued to work with NASA and DOD to refine their processes, and have kept pace with the training schedule.

NASA intends to perform a similar open ocean activity with Boeing using the company's water recovery trainer this fall. Even though Boeing's Starliner was designed for land-based returns, and although landing in the water is unlikely, it's critical for teams to practice a variety of landing scenarios. In May, Boeing and pararescue specialists will be practicing water landing scenarios, including crew extraction and equipment interfaces, using a mock-up of the Starliner at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"Pararescue has been a part of the space mission from the beginning. It's extremely patriotic, so I'm honored to be part of this mission," said Daugherty.

(Article courtesy of NASA Public Affairs)



Maj. Cody Atchison, middle, 308th Rescue Squadron combat rescue officer, and fellow pararescuemen prepare for a long-range, open-water rescue of two German sailors stranded at sea approximately 500 miles off the east coast of Florida July 7, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark

Wing earns Rescue Mission of the Year award

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

Thirty-three 920th Rescue Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen are being honored May 5, 2018 with the 2017 Jolly Green Association Rescue Mission of the Year award for their actions July 7, 2017 in saving two German sailors stranded in the Atlantic Ocean approximately 500 miles off the coast of Florida.

The unique and intricate mission, which involved more than 30 hours of collective flying between the unit's HH-60 Pave Hawks and HC-130N Kings, eight air refuelings transferring 16,600 pounds of fuel, a precisely executed open-ocean rescue insertion, and a highly technical nighttime shipboard patient exfil resulting in two lives saved, led to it being deemed the most significant rescue mission of the year.

"Please extend my congratulations to the crews of Air Force Rescue

05/06/235/237 and the associated Guardian Angel teams," wrote Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, deputy chief of staff for operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, in a congratulatory letter. "My heartfelt thanks goes out to the warriors who live by the motto, 'These things we do, that others may live.' I am especially proud of the teamwork displayed by multiple aircrews and Guardian Angel teams in performing the most outstanding U.S. Air Force rescue mission in 2017."

The specific capability of the 920th Rescue Wing'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. It is the U.S. Air Force Reserve's sole combat-search-and-rescue wing.

This is why the U.S. Coast Guard's Seventh District in Miami immediately directed the call for help to Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th RQW commander,

via the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, July 7, 2017.

"This was an extremely complex and unusual mission," said Matthews. "The lengths our Reserve Citizen Airmen went through to save these men is incredible and I am extremely proud of them."

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 HH-60 Pave Hawk 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 were headed to the scene, while the maintenance crews worked on the second HC-130.



Master Sgt. Bob Kurzen, 39th Rescue Squadron HC-130N King loadmaster, prepares to drop the Guardian Angel team and a rigged Zodiac inflatable boat out of the back of the HC-130 during a long-range, open-water rescue of two German sailors stranded at sea approximately 500 miles off the east

Around this same time, the Guardian Angel team parachuted into the ocean out of 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.

The survivors reunited with some of their rescuers Jan. 26, 2018, when the Airmen traveled to Hamburg, Germany, to receive the German Medal of Honor on Ribbon for Rescue Missions at Sea in Gold on behalf of the wing. It was the first time in 20 years that the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service had bestowed the honor upon an organization.

The son, who had sustained second and third-degree burns to much of his lower body thanked his rescuers publicly at the ceremony.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to my Guardian Angels for rescuing me," said Karl Meer Jr. "With my injuries and without water, I don't

think I would have lived another day."

Chief Master Sgt. Randolph Wells, 301st Rescue Squadron chief enlisted manager, who assembled the wing's nomination for the Jolly Green award, was one of the aviators assisting in the rescue that day on an HH-60 Pave Hawk and who traveled to Germany to receive the Medal of Honor and meet the Meers.

"I was lucky to be crew rested that day and glad to participate along with 32 other professionals who took to the air in a very memorable rescue that bridged German-American relations and solidified our noble mission," he said. "This award recognizes the hard work, dedication and compassion all rescue professionals have for their craft."

The Reserve Citizen Airmen who flew on the July 7, 2017 mission include:

- Lt. Col. Steven Lawhun, 39th Rescue Squadron**
- Lt. Col. John Lowe, 39th RQS**
- Lt. Col. Wilfred Rodriguez, 39th RQS**
- Lt. Col. Roderick Stout, 301st RQS**
- Lt. Col. Michael Stuker, 301st RQS**
- Maj. Cody Atchison, 308th RQS**
- Maj. Paul Carpenter, 301st RQS**
- Maj. Christopher Ferrara, 39th RQS**
- Maj. Jayson Goetz, 301st RQS**

- Maj. Richard Moore, 39th RQS**
- Maj. Richard Verica, 39th RQS**
- Capt. Kenneth Creager, 39th RQS**
- Capt. Daniel Morgese, 39th RQS**
- Chief Master Sgt. Shane Smith, 920th Operations Group**
- Chief Master Sgt. Randolph Wells, 301st RQS**
- Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Lais, 308th RQS**
- Senior Master Sgt. Frank Mora Matos, 301st RQS**
- Master Sgt. Mark Borosch, Air Force Reserve Command**
- Master Sgt. Louis Hause, 308th RQS**
- Master Sgt. Isabelle Kliergraham, 920th Rescue Wing**
- Master Sgt. Jason Kornhauser, 301st RQS**
- Master Sgt. Robert Kurzen, 39th RQS**
- Master Sgt. Paul Mollura, 39th RQS**
- Master Sgt. Kenneth Pizer, 39th RQS**
- Master Sgt. William Posch, 308th RQS**
- Master Sgt. Mark Victor, 39th RQS**
- Master Sgt. Darrell Williams, 308th RQS**
- Tech. Sgt. Richard Boyd, 308th RQS**
- Tech. Sgt. Patrick Englishby, 39th RQS**
- Tech. Sgt. Eric Fowler, 301st RQS**
- Tech. Sgt. James Reynolds, 39th RQS**
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Moore, 308th RQS**
- Staff Sgt. Lee Von Hack-Prestinary, 308th RQS**

The Jolly Green Association is a non-profit U.S. Air Force veterans' organization established in 1969. It consists of Air Force veterans, retirees and active duty members from throughout the U.S. Air Force combat search and rescue and special operations forces communities. Members must currently be flying or have flown as a crewmember (officer or enlisted) in a Jolly Green unit or a helicopter unit with a primary or secondary mission of rescue according to its website.



An HH-60G Pave Hawk refuels from an HC-130P/N King en route to rescue two German citizens in distress at sea July 7, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark Borosch)