

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

JANUARY 2019



Senior Airman Elke Schmidt, Airman First Class Garrett Watkins, Staff Sgt. Carla Candanedo and Capt. Amy Eaton, 920th Aeromedical Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va., participated in Operation Warm Heart in December. Our unit members collected an estimated \$800 worth of warming items and personal hygiene supplies which were donated to our local Veterans Administration Medical Center for distribution. (courtesy photo)

## News & Features



### CRITICALLY ILL TEEN RECEIVES EARLY CHRISTMAS WISH

Jack was diagnosed with congenital heart disease and submitted his wish through Make-a-Wish Georgia that helped coordinate a five day training event alongside pararescuemen at Patrick AFB, Fla.



### POLICY CHANGES POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFERS

The Department of Defense postponed their previous effective date of July 12, 2018 to July 12, 2019. To ensure issues were addressed fairly, the effective date was pushed back a year.



### AIR FORCE RESERVE RETURNS AS TITLE SPONSOR OF THE 2018 CELEBRATION BOWL

After a year break, the Air Force Reserve returned as the title sponsor of the fourth annual Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl, the championship game for Historically Black College and University football.

## Notes of Interest

### 920TH COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT DOUG ISAACKS RETIREMENT, FEB 9

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing Commander, invites you to a ceremony in honor of CMSgt. Douglas C. Isaacks, 920th Rescue Wing Command Chief on the occasion of his retirement on Sat., February 9 at 3:00 p.m. in the Base Theater.

### CIVILIAN COMMANDERS CALL - JAN 30

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing Commander, has rescheduled the Civilian Commander's Call to January 30, time TBD.

### UCMJ CHANGES

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the Military Justice Act of 2016 will instate the most reform to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Manual for Courts-Martial in decades, modernizing dated aspects of the military justice system while also providing transparency.

### 920 RQW COMMANDER'S LETTER OF INTENT

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing Commander, has provided his letter of intent and can be found on the Public Affairs Sharepoint or by following the embedded link above.

### 920 RQW CC CPI COMMITMENT LETTER

Creating a Culture of Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) information can be found on the Public Affairs Sharepoint or by following the embedded link above.

### AFRC VISION, MISSION, PRIORITIES MEMORANDUM

See page 9.

### 45 OG DET 3, 920TH RQW PREPARES FOR HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT RETURN

The U.S. is gearing up to bring human spaceflight back to American soil. Human spaceflight could return to the U.S. as early as 2019 and a unit within the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., will play a direct role in the recovery and rescue of landing astronauts.

### OTS RESTRUCTURES PROGRAM TO INCREASE QUALITY, QUANTITY OF OFFICERS

The Total Force Officer Training and Commissioned Officer Training courses will be phased out over the course of 2019, according to Col. Pete Bailey, OTS commandant. They will be replaced by a combined eight-week course, which will offer an off-ramp for a limited number of non-line specialties.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE 



# A Message From the Commander

Happy New Year! I hope you are all well and had a wonderful and restful holiday season. 2019 is shaping up to be another busy year for the 920th Rescue Wing, so while I welcome you all back for our first UTA of the year, I am also asking you all to stay focused on your roles and to be safe. This summer we will enter into our next deployment phase and as we lead up to that milestone, I've asked all commanders and their leadership teams to focus on readiness and revitalization. The entire wing will utilize Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) to reduce tasks we don't need to do, while improving ancillary and administrative methods. The wing will be adding in more full-time positions this year and converting many from Air Reserve Technician (ART) to Air Guard Reserve (AGR) and laying in additional traditional reserve positions. These changes, along with attempting to get more funding to capitalize on reservist availability, will help us meet our ops tempo, readiness, and compliance requirements. We are also looking at growth in the Human Space Flight rescue mission area, as NASA and commercial partners launch astronauts into space from Cape Canaveral. You will see more facility improvement and new construction starting across all of our geographic locations in 2019, as we begin to see years of effort come to fruition. In addition to our many exercises, our Guardian Angel squadrons will be converting into special operations squadrons, manned and equipped to support both special forces and combat rescue mission sets. For those of you at Patrick AFB, you'll see the first HC-130J aircraft inbound to the 39th Rescue Squadron as they prepare to convert to their new MDS. Finally, the Air Force wouldn't be the Air Force without a healthy inspection system in place and we will all do our parts to ensure compliance with regulations and by-law programs as we face our next Unit Evaluation Inspection in February of 2020.

So, to help ensure unity of effort from the wing to the squadrons, I engaged your senior leaders to work with my command team and your CCO (Maj Browning) to develop and work our 920 RQW Strategic Plan for 2019. Welcome back, and have a great year!

Rescue Regards,

KURT A. MATTHEWS, Colonel, USAF  
Commander, 920th Rescue Wing



Strategic Alignment planning.  
(courtesy photos)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

11 Jan 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR 920 RQW ALL

FROM: 920 RQW/CC

SUBJECT: 920th Rescue Wing Strategic Plan

1. **Combat Rescue Team**, the dedication, professionalism, and courage you exhibit on a daily basis in the 920th Rescue Wing is truly inspiring. Lt Gen Scobee, Commander AFRC, continues to challenge and empower everyone to make bold decisions at the lowest levels. This document provides the direction and acts as the 920th Rescue Wing's playbook to align National and Air Force strategic guidance to our mission and vision. It communicates my intent and should guide your decision making processes.

2. **OUR MISSION**. Rescue and recover personnel anytime, anywhere, with combat-ready Citizen Airmen. Our mission sets our priorities. It is simple, measurable, and easily identifiable as the core of what we do and why we exist in the 920th Rescue Wing. Everything we do must reinforce our mission.

3. **OUR VISION**. Forging the world's greatest rescue force fueled by honor, service, and sacrifice. Our vision clarifies both our purpose and direction in the 920th Rescue Wing. We are the only rescue wing in the Air Force Reserve. This incredible responsibility makes building the future of combat rescue everyone's responsibility. Let this vision guide you as you make daily decisions.

4. **OUR MINDSET**. To develop and maintain a culture of readiness and be mission-focused-servant-leaders. I am inspired with how you already embrace this "growth" mindset. This is the mindset used to tackle problems by our best and brightest Airmen and organizations across the 920th Rescue Wing. It is a mindset that reminds us that we all support the squadrons who execute the missions of the wing.

5. **LINES OF EFFORT**. I recently gathered all the wing's senior leadership for a Strategic Alignment retreat for the purpose of refocusing on our priorities leading into 2019. We developed a framework that will prioritize our efforts and ensure we provide the highest quality rescue force.

- a. LOE 1: Increase Combat Readiness.
- b. LOE 2: Modernize Operational Force Structure.
- c. LOE 3: Empower Squadron Leadership.
- d. LOE 4: Identify, Acquire, and Manage Key Resources.

6. **IMPLEMENTATION**. "Don't wait for me!" Those are the words of Secretary of the Air Force, the honorable Heather Wilson, when I spoke to her last month about revitalizing the squadrons. As the wing and group staffs prioritize their objectives and efforts to serve the squadrons, squadron leadership teams will work internally to optimize readiness and processes to take care of our mission and our people.

KURT A. MATHEWS, Col, USAF  
Commander, 920th Rescue Wing

## Guardian Angel Airmen Train in Arizona



MARNA, Arizona -- Pararescue Airmen from the 304th Rescue Squadron in Portland, Oregon conducted Fixed-Wing Insertion Training from Dec. 3 to Dec. 7, 2018 providing proficiency training to 30 Guardian Angel Airmen on three parachute systems, replacing the outdated T-10 parachute with the new MC-6 parachute and conducted High Altitude High Opening (HAHO) training. After the week of fixed wing training, five Airmen stayed in Arizona to conduct Dive Supervisor Training in Theodore Roosevelt Lake. This dive training is a requirement for 7-level upgrade training within the pararescue career field.



(courtesy photos)

## 920th Airman Recognized for Community Service



(courtesy photo)

Staff Sgt. Shenitra Story, 920th Force Support Squadron, was selected as the winner of the 2018 Community Service Award during the Military Affairs Council's (MAC) Community Services Awards.

The Community Service Awards recognize local military personnel who volunteer their time to support numerous local non-profit organizations across the Space Coast.

Sergeant Story volunteered for eight events and contributed nearly thirty-hours to their causes. Some of the charitable causes Story contributed to included Adopt-A-Highway, a toy run benefitting local children in need, the painting and beautification of a bedridden veteran's home, packing over 1,200 food items for the Children's Hunger Project, and more.

According to their website, the MAC Community Service Awards boast 100 guests inclusive of the active duty, National Guard and Reserve nominees and their guests, as well as their unit supervisor, local MAC Members, non-profit organizations and event sponsors.

## Maintenance and Pararescue Job Opportunities

The 943rd Rescue Group in Tucson Arizona has open positions for Air Force Reservists in the Maintenance and Pararescue career fields. Many of these open positions can lead to full-time work in the great state of Arizona. If you know anyone that is leaving active duty or has had a break in service and would like to don the uniform again, contact MSgt. Rob Capogrosso at [robert.capogrosso@us.af.mil](mailto:robert.capogrosso@us.af.mil) or (520) 298-2322.



Master Sgt. Robert Capogrosso, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiter, reenlisted Jonathan Jimenez into the Air Force Reserve as a traditional reservist. Captain Jimenez is a full-time civilian working at the 355th Civil Engineering Squadron as a lead firefighter. (courtesy photo)

# Honor, Emotion and Brotherhood



Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan, 920th Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- The day began early, just an hour after midnight, but a sense of camaraderie already filled the Wickham Senior Center. Most everyone gathered were complete strangers, only having met once before, but already a brotherly bond could be seen forming as everyone joked with one another and exchanged pleasantries.

While Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF) volunteers served coffee and refreshments, a couple dozen currently serving military personnel were scattered around exchanging stories with their predecessor's in-arms. Each of the 25 veterans attending the day trip was easily spotted, proudly wearing their own, highly personalized, veteran ball cap. Most of which are adorned with various pins, ribbons, patches and service name or war in which they fought prominent at the front.

These Veterans would soon embark on an all-expense paid, emotion-provoking journey to the memorials in Washington D.C. Each of whom would be given the opportunity to pay their respects to fallen brothers and sisters, reminisce of younger years and exchange stories of their time in the military from long ago.

As I looked around, my eyes landed on a man with one of the most contagious smiles in the room. A silver-haired, slightly aged replica of the 920th Rescue Wing commander, Col. Kurt Matthews.

Precisely at that moment, Col. Matthews, incognito in his civilian attire, was returning to the table with coffee in hand for the veteran. He motioned me over and introduced me to him, his father, George Matthews, whose face and demeanor were absolutely jubilant. Instantly, I felt welcomed and as if I had known George for years. Each veteran is assigned a guardian escort to assist them and ensure their needs and safety are met at all times. Col. Matthews volunteered to be his father's guardian escort on this Honor Flight.

I was eager to talk to George and listen to his experiences from Vietnam, a war I admittedly know little about. I wanted to know how he inspired his son to follow in his footsteps by joining the Air Force but that would wait until after our return from the day in D.C.

After the early morning introductions and ceremonies, we left the senior center. Greeting the veterans as they departed the building was the Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard, ceremonial swords drawn for each veteran as they made their way to the bus, a symbol of the highest respect and honor.

When it was George's turn to come through the gauntlet, his eyes were full of excitement. I felt an overwhelming sense of pride and happiness for him and I couldn't help but smile.

After a police and Patriot Riders motorcycle escort to the Orlando airport and an expedited airport security check, we were soon on our way. The day was planned from start to finish with scheduled stops at the Air Force, WWII, Vietnam, Korea, Iwo Jima and Women's memorials. Additionally, the group would be taken to visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watch a Changing of the Guard ceremony inside Arlington National Cemetery.



When I finally had time to chat with him, George explained that he had been to D.C. shortly after the Vietnam memorial wall was built in the 80's, but he hadn't seen the other memorials.

"When I was here, I only went to "The Wall" to honor my brother and brothers-in-arms," he said.

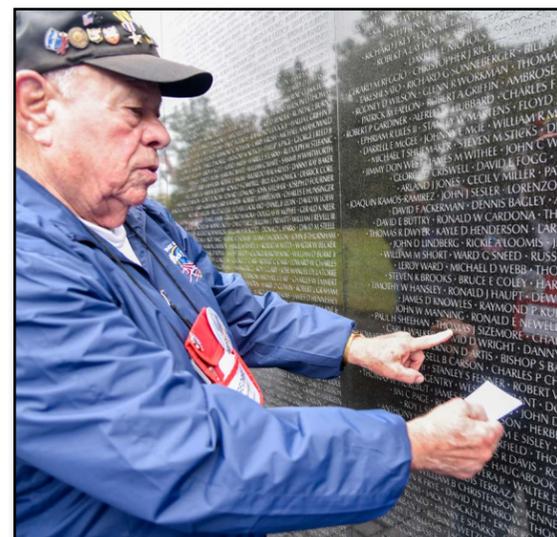
George's Air Force career began in 1955 as an aviation cadet and received his wings and commission in 1956. Unfortunately, a few years later tragedy struck the Matthews family. His younger brother, Marine Corps Private First Class Aitken "Kenny" Matthews, was killed in combat in Vietnam on Feb. 14, 1966.

"When I was notified that he had been killed, my thoughts were with my mom and dad," he said. "I ended up in contact with the Marines, thinking that if I could be the one to bring him home maybe that would help ease the pain my mother and father felt."

As it would turn out, George would end up being given his wish as the escort officer to bring his brother home from California and preside over the military interment service.

"The Marines who folded the flag passed it to me as the escort officer," he explained. "That was the toughest part of the ceremony, presenting the flag to my mother."

Only three months after laying his brother to rest, George received orders to Vietnam where he would be piloting fighter-bomber missions in the A-26 Invader. His mission: to stop war supplies being transported along the Ho Chi Minh trail. He flew at night because trucks transporting supplies could not operate during daylight hours as they were easily detected by fighter-bomber assaults.



"Throughout my time there, we lost 10 great guys," George said. "We'd be flying, destroying the truck convoys but also trying to avoid being shot down ourselves. So many good friends were killed in action."

George's Vietnam deployment lasted nearly a year, spanning from Dec. 1966 through Oct. 1967.

(Cont. pg. 6 >>)

On the one-year anniversary of the death of his brother, George revealed that he scheduled himself to fly two missions as a way to honor his late brother. Regulations prohibited no more than one mission per night, per aircrew.

“Being able to fly twice that day gave me a chance to honor him,” George said. “My thoughts were of him throughout the entire mission.”

When the Honor Flight group made its way to the Vietnam Memorial Wall, George pulled out a small piece of laminated paper, a list of his friend’s names and locations where they’re etched into “The Wall.”

Methodically, George begins to search for his brothers’ names. It’s apparent when his eyes land upon one of the names as he reaches towards the wall, his fingers run along each letter of the name. He says something aloud, but to himself. I take a step closer and hear that he’s saying hello and thanking each man by name for their sacrifice. Somberly, he remarks how he wishes he could see them again before rendering a sharp salute to each panel with the name of a fallen brother on it.

“This has meant everything to me,” he said to me as we make our way to the bus. “What helped me get through the emotions of today is something General George Patton said; ‘It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should Thank God that such men lived.’”

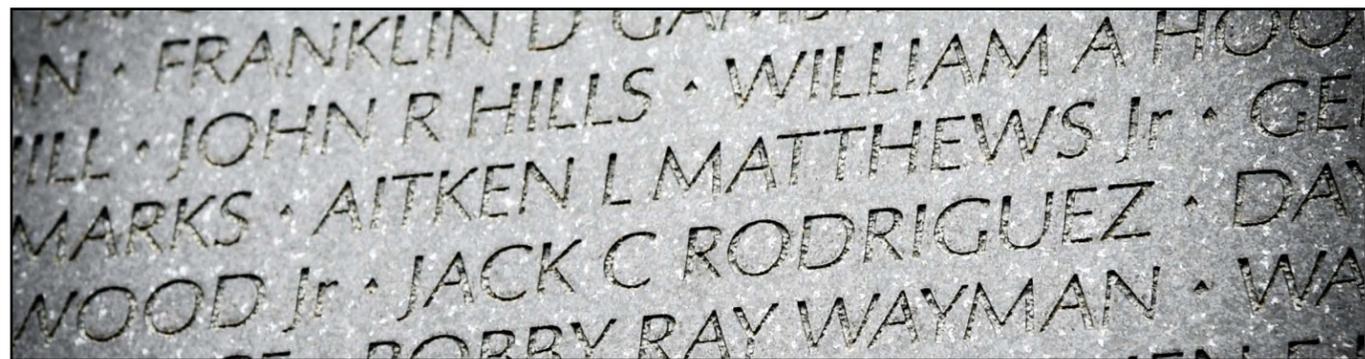
When I finally asked his son and guardian-for-the-day if his father’s service had inspired him, Col. Matthews had a quick reply.

“Yes, I wanted to follow in his footsteps as an Air Force pilot and carry on a family tradition of service,” he said. “Plus, flying seemed like a lot of fun, so I couldn’t imagine doing anything else!”

Since the inception of SCHF in 2010, the nonprofit has flown 1,350 WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans on 53 flights to visit their memorials on the all-expense-paid day trip to D.C. Each SCHF trip includes 25 Veterans, 25 Guardian Escorts, and six staff members. SCHF is supported by donations from individuals, businesses, and fundraisers with 97+% of every dollar received by SCHF going directly to the program. The SCHF board and support staff is 100% comprised of volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time to ensuring every trip is a success. This trip was no different.

Merriam-Webster defines honor as something regarded as a rare opportunity, bringing pride and pleasure; a privilege. The experience of those in attendance would tell you it was their honor to be there. I can tell you, it was most assuredly my honor to be amongst this group of extraordinary men.

If you or someone you know is a WWII, Korean War, Vietnam or veteran of any recent conflict more information can be found at [www.spacecoasthonorflight.org](http://www.spacecoasthonorflight.org), requested by phone: 1-888-750-2522, or email: [info@spacecoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@spacecoasthonorflight.org).



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

5 November 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL RESERVE CITIZEN AIRMEN

FROM: AFRC/CC & AFRC/CCC

SUBJECT: Vision, Mission, and Priorities

Today, we find ourselves at an inflection point -China and Russia are challenging our military advantage. Strategic competition from these revisionist powers is now our primary national security challenge. How we address this challenge will determine our Nation’s strategic positioning for the next generation.

Future conflicts will transcend domains and regions, with increasing speed, reach, and complexity, but the Air Force Reserve’s (AFR’s) purpose remains constant. We exist to provide strategic depth and operational capability for the Joint Force, and our vision and mission reflect this:

**Vision:** Reserve Citizen Airmen -an agile, combat-ready force answering our Nation’s call. Always there!

**Mission:** Provide combat-ready forces to fly, fight, and win.

To meet our vision and mission requires a more lethal, resilient, and dynamic AFR. We must be able to compete, deter, and win conflicts in contested environments. As an organization built around war-fighting, we must create an environment that empowers our Reserve Citizen Airmen, capitalizing upon our unique strengths and collective wisdom to re-imagine how we organize, train, and equip. Aligned with the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and Air Force directives, the Command Chief and I are establishing the following strategic priorities:

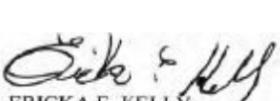
**Prioritize strategic depth and accelerate readiness:** We will ensure we have the strategic depth required for future conflicts by shifting focus away from areas that are not aligned with preparedness for war. We will relentlessly accelerate readiness and work to expeditiously establish new training, assessment, and resourcing models to achieve readiness for future multi-domain operations.

**Develop resilient leaders:** We will identify, develop, and retain leaders who combine emotional intellect with the innate characteristics required to win in future operating environments. These leaders must be able to operate independently, build trust in their units, and create an environment that enables Airmen to take smart risks and generate combat power.

**Reform the organization:** We will reform and modernize the AFR force structure to achieve NDS objectives and leverage Reservists’ experience from industry to infuse best practices, especially in areas like talent management, financial operations, medical readiness, space, and cyberspace.

Achieving these priorities requires bold leadership. We expect leaders at every level to focus on these priorities, enhance trust, and create the culture required to build a more lethal and ready force. Our Airmen are an amazing force with a heritage of greatness, which we should continue to build upon. We must promote an environment where Airmen can challenge assumptions, break through dogmatic thinking, and be innovative. Our commitment to you is unwavering -be bold! Take smart risks, be fiscally responsible, and move us forward. We will give the Numbered Air Forces and Wings clear direction on what they should focus on now and what they will prepare for in the future. As the Command Chief and I get out to see you, we look forward to hearing from Reservists at all levels on specific ways their teams are implementing AFR’s strategic priorities.

We have the utmost confidence you will rise to the occasion and seize the- reflects ... always there!

  
ERICKA E. KELLY  
Chief Master Sergeant, USAF  
Command Chief

  
RICHARD W. SCOBEE  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander

920<sup>th</sup> FSS Airman & Family Readiness Center

Patrick AFB, FL

**I**nformed  
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920<sup>th</sup> Reservists and Family Members – We want to keep you informed of Patrick AFB current events & Reserve specific  
Sign up for our E-Mail program to get up-to-date information

**For more information:**

Visit the 920<sup>th</sup> Airman & Family Readiness Center

Bldg 425, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, west end

Call us at 321-494-5980

E-mail: [Kelly.Linfert@us.af.mil](mailto:Kelly.Linfert@us.af.mil)

## Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Dates

Orlando, FL	January 11 - 13
Denver, CO	January 18 - 20
Orlando, FL	February 15 - 17
Costa Mesa, CA	March 22 - 24
Orlando, FL	March 29 - 31



Helping maintain resiliency during all stages of deployment is paramount to the morale and welfare of our Airmen and families. The Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon Program is a series of events designed to provide members and families with essential resources prior to departure (pre-deployment), a level of stability and support while deployed (during deployment), and successful re-integration techniques after the deployment cycle ends (post deployment).