

ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

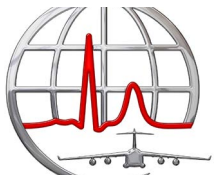
920TH RESCUE WING

DECEMBER 2018



A 39th Rescue Squadron HC-130 King refuels a 129th Rescue Wing HH-60 helicopter over Houston, Texas during Hurricane Harvey response efforts last summer. (Courtesy photo)

News & Features



SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE INCREASING LETHALITY AT WINGS

The Surgeon General's Office of the Air Force Reserve Command here is revitalizing the medical waiver adjudication process from the top down.



POLICY CHANGES POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFERS

Additional changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefits policy were announced Nov. 14, 2018. The Department of Defense postponed their previous effective date of July 12, 2018, to July 12, 2019.



TYNDALL REBUILDS AFTER HURRICANE MICHAEL

The secretary of the Air Force announced Nov. 2 that a number of important missions will resume at Tyndall AFB in the next few months and others will shift to other locations for the time being. All but approximately 500 Airmen will return to the Florida panhandle.

Notes of Interest

AIR FORCE EXTENDS HIGH YEAR OF TENURE FOR E-4s THROUGH E-6s

The Air Force is extending the high year of tenure for senior airmen through technical sergeants beginning Feb. 1, 2019. The memo, signed Oct. 18, 2018, extends the high year of tenure from eight to 10 years for senior airmen, from 15 to 20 years for staff sergeants and from 20 to 22 years for technical sergeants.

OVER 70 CITIZEN AIRMEN EARN CCAF DEGREES

A total of 71 Air Force Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing received their Associate of Applied Science degrees from the Community College of the Air Force. Due to mission requirements and being geographically separated from the base, only 14 members were able to attend the Seventh Annual Community College of the Air Force Graduation Ceremony at the Base Theater, Nov. 4, 2018 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

CIVILIAN COMMANDERS CALL - JAN 16

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander, cancelled the December 5 Civilian Commander's Call. It has been rescheduled to 16 January, time TBD.

FREE YOGA CLASSES AVAILABLE

Innovation Yoga offers a free weekly yoga class to currently serving military members, veterans and families on Saturdays at 1100. Their address is 714 South Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach, Fla.

SURGEON GENERAL DEMOLISHES BACKLOG

The priority system was defined by the AFRC commander and aligns with the National Defense Strategy. Priority one and two cases are cleared through SG in less than 14 days with priority three cases taking no longer than 90. Additionally, cases are no longer first-in, first-out, but tackled by the case inception date. The main benefit of the process overhaul is to the Airmen. No longer will they be placed on no-pay, no-points status for years at a time while they wait for case adjudication.

BRS REMINDER: RESERVISTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO BOTH MILITARY TSP AND CIVILIAN 401K

Reserve Citizen Airmen can contribute to both a military Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) and a civilian 401k investment plan under the Blended Retirement System.

FOLLOW THE
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Rescue Airmen support Alaskan 24/7 mission



ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- Pararescuemen with the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Ore., assess a glacier in Alaska as part of a familiarization exercise Nov. 20, 2018. All pararescuemen, who aren't stationed in Alaska, are required to participate in a week-long environmental familiarization training before working alert there. Two 304th Rescue Squadron PJ's were sent to Alaska on Nov. 26 to support the 212th Rescue Squadron and their 24/7 civilian alert requirement. On Nov. 27, these Reserve Citizen Airmen responded to a plane crash outside of Anchorage, Alaska, where they were able to use the skills they had just re-freshed during this training and save the lives of all four individuals who were onboard. (courtesy photos)



920th Airman selected for AFRC's 2018 Profiles in Leadership

By Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Staff Sgt. Davy Brinkmann, 301st Rescue Squadron Special Missions Aviator, has been selected as one of only sixteen Reserve Citizen Airmen to be honored at the Pentagon through the Air Force Reserve's competitive "Profiles in Leadership" display. The display celebrates and honors Reserve Airmen and civilians for their contributions in serving the nation.

As a firefighter paramedic and special missions aviator, Brinkmann embodies the mission of combat rescue – "These Things We Do That Others May Live." As a Reserve Citizen Airman, Brinkmann serves his country with the 301st Rescue Squadron, while also serving his community with the Rockledge, Florida, fire station. "If I didn't have the support of my wife, Kenya, I wouldn't be able to do both of these demanding jobs, which require abundant hours of training."



In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, his training and team would be tested with the rescue of 235 citizens. Hovering 180 feet above the flood-ravaged streets of Houston, Texas, combating low visibility, rain, wind and threading through power lines, Brinkmann and his team worked long hours hoisting people and pets to safety aboard the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter. One save that stood out was a family of four whose home was filled with waist-deep water. "The grandfather, a double amputee on dialysis, was in a powered wheelchair in the living room with his adult daughter, her husband and infant," he recalled.

The team brought the husband to the Pave Hawk first so that he could assist with the remaining family members. "As we hoisted the mother and baby, a gust of wind forced the helicopter and hoist to briefly sway; hooking them under the roof," he said. Brinkmann reacted instantly, rapidly lowering the hoist and avoiding the worst. The team safely loaded the mother and child before sending the basket down once more to bring the grandfather to safety. "It's humbling to have the honor to be there for somebody at their greatest time of need and is the reason I do what I do."

The Air Force Reserve plans to replace the portraits every year with leaders who contribute to the Air Force Reserve legacy. The display is intended as a lasting testament to the proud tradition of excellence and service by America's Reserve Citizen Airmen and is the fourth iteration. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan)



Honoring Our Nations Heroes

By Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Each day, the number of our living WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans dwindles; many of whom may have never been able to make a trip to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials honoring their service in the United States military. That's why it is the mission of the Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF) to ensure our Nation's Veterans are given the opportunity to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C.

Bill Welser, a retired Air Force Lieutenant General and command pilot with over 3,500 hours in aircraft like the C-5 Galaxy, C-141 Starlifter, KC-10 Extender, T-1 Jayhawk and more than 20 other aircraft, has been the president of the SCHF program for eight years. In just under a decade, Welser successfully led 52 honor flights, ultimately serving 1,325 of our Nation's Veterans.

He explained he originally got involved as a way to honor people like his father and father-in-law, both WWII Veterans.

"As a retiree, I was looking for a way to honor our Veterans," Welser said. "I went as a Guardian on the second SCHF trip in June 2011 and volunteered to get more involved because it's such a great program."

Welser and a dedicated team of volunteers have spent thousands of hours ensuring each trip is a success. 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.

"When I returned home from Thailand as part of the Vietnam War, people were throwing rocks at the USAF bus we were in," Welser said. "We had to change out of our uniforms at Travis AFB before going to the San Francisco airport. There were people outside protesting, holding signs calling us awful names. That was our Welcome Home." He explained that was the standard for many returning Vietnam Veterans.

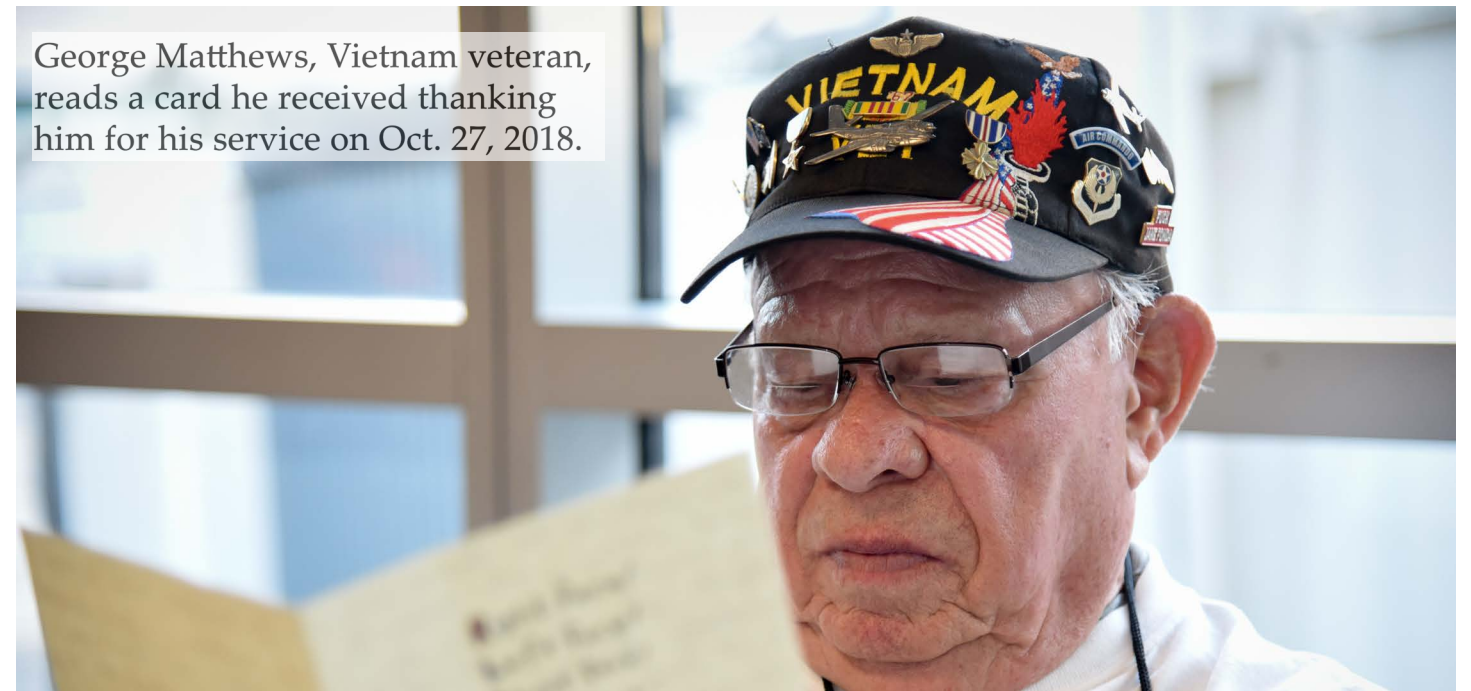


For World War II, 16.1 million American Veterans served and the homecoming celebration was very short with most simply coming back going to work, having families, and helping to rebuild America. For the Korean War, many returned from the "unknown war" and simply came home with hardly any recognition at all. The Korean War ended in a stalemate, with no clear victor.

"You'll meet Veterans on every Honor Flight trip that were never adequately recognized for their service and sacrifices when they returned home," he said. "And then came Honor Flight, where the American public's spontaneous recognition of our Veterans is remarkable, heartwarming, and emotional."

Each SCHF trip includes 25 Veterans, 25 Guardian Escorts, and six staff members. SCHF is supported by donations from individuals, businesses, and fundraisers. The SCHF Board and support staff is 100% comprised of volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time to ensuring every trip is a success. Proudly 97+% of every dollar received by SCHF goes directly to the program.

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 or requested by phone: 1-888-750-2522, or email: info@spacecoasthonorflight.org. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan)



AIR FORCE HIGH YEAR OF TENURE

HIGH YEAR OF TENURE IS EXTENDED FOR



SENIOR AIRMAN
FROM 8 TO 10 YEARS



STAFF SERGEANTS
FROM 15 TO 20 YEARS



TECHNICAL SERGEANTS
FROM 20 TO 22 YEARS

BENEFITS

Increasing the High Year of Tenure limits allows the Air Force to retain technically adept and talented Airmen to train while meeting mission requirements.

TERMS

HYT extension does not change an Airman's expiration term of service, therefore Airmen wishing to extend their enlistment will need to contact their local MPF to request an extension or reenlistment.

POLICY

The HYT for SrA through TSgt with a current HYT of Feb. 1, 2019, or later will change to the new HYT limits. Airmen may submit requests to extend HYT beginning Oct. 24.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

Those who are currently approved for separation or retirement under the previous HYT limits may submit a request to extend their HYT to the updated limits through their respective commanders, if no government funds have been expended on their separation or retirement transition.

920th FSS Airman & Family Readiness Center

Patrick AFB, FL

Informed
Reserve
Families



920th 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 920th Airman & Family Readiness Center

Bldg 425, 2nd floor, west end

Call us at 321-494-5980

E-mail: Kelly.Linfert@us.af.mil

Upcoming **Yellow Ribbon** Dates

Orlando, FL	December 14 - 16
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).

Marijuana in all forms still illegal for military members

Marijuana remains illegal for use by Airmen, regardless of the form in which it's presented. This includes all cannabidiol (CBD), cannabinol derivatives and THC-infused products. CBD products are increasingly sold as dietary supplements, marketed as a "vape oil," and are being added to various commercially available food and drink items, including beer and candy. Despite what you may read on a label, or be told by a retailer, any product that contains CBD oil remains a controlled substance under federal law, and potentially has detectable amounts of THC. Recently, the FDA approved a prescription drug called Epidolex, which is a cannabis-based epilepsy treatment similar to CBD. Epidolex is still a controlled substance under federal law, requiring that it be dispensed only to those requiring it for medical purposes, and only with a prescription.



Regardless of a state's law legalizing recreational use of marijuana, and regardless of whether a product claims to be THC-free, military members are forbidden from knowingly purchasing, possessing, and consuming products that contain marijuana in any form.

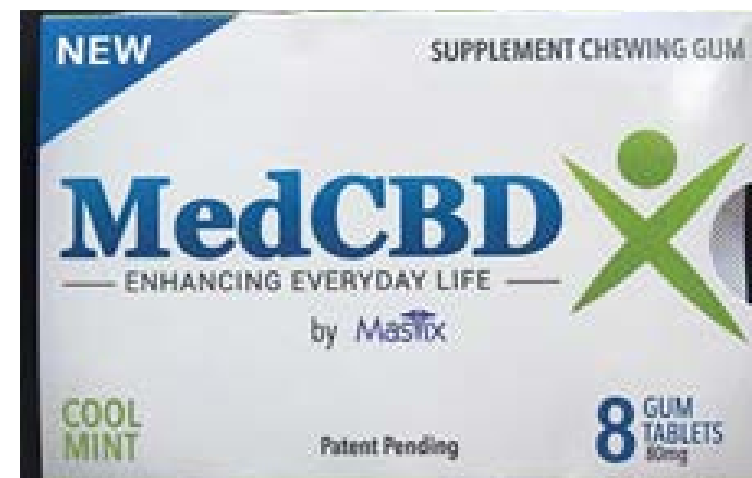
For more information:

<https://www.opss.org/faqs/cannabidiol-are-products-cbd-legal>

https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm421168.htm#enforcement_action

<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/healthyliving/tfl/Pages/VapeOils.aspx>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeadams/2018/09/28/no-the-dea-did-not-reschedule-the-cbd-compound/#7ded24f91bef>





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.

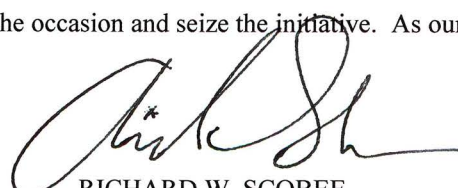
Reform the organization: We will reform and modernize the AFR force structure to achieve NDS objectives and leverage Reservists' experience from industry to infuse best practices, especially in areas like talent management, financial operations, medical readiness, space, and cyberspace.

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 initiative. As our heritage reflects... always there!


ERICKA E. KELLY
Chief Master Sergeant USAF
Command Chief


RICHARD W. SCOBEE
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander