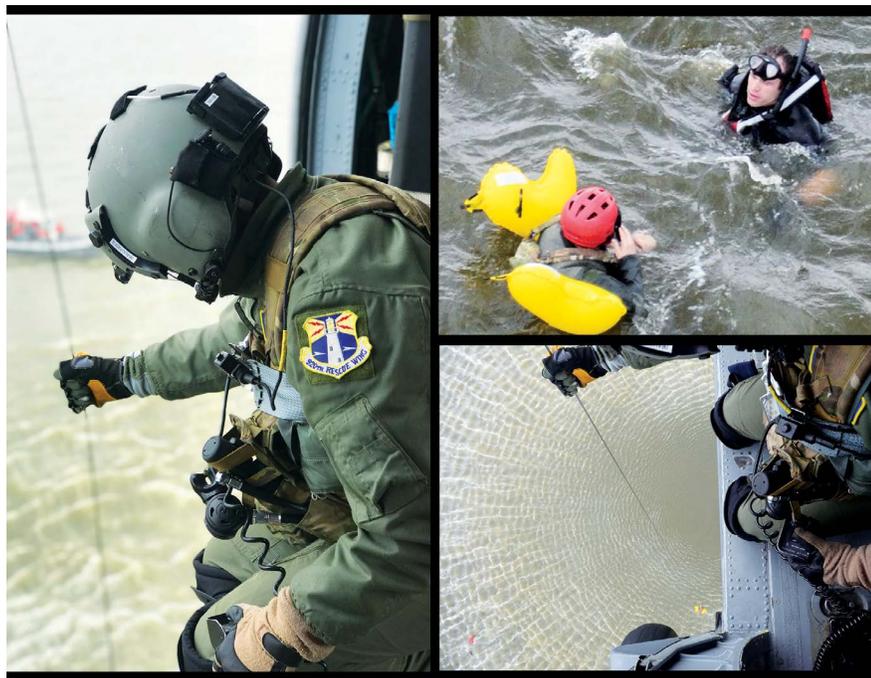


ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

MARCH 2019



Notes of Interest

FAMILY DAY, MAY 4

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander, invites you and your family to Patrick Air Force Base's War Fit Field Sat., May 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Family Day events which will include food, live music, static displays, prize giveaways and more.

CHIEF MASTER SGT DORLEN "LORI" MARTIN RETIREMENT, MARCH 3

You are invited to a ceremony in honor of CMSgt. Dorlen Martin, 920th Rescue Wing, on the occasion of her retirement on Sun., March 3 at 3:00 p.m. at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

MASTER SGT NATHAN AHOLA RETIREMENT, MARCH 3

You are invited to a ceremony in honor of Master Sgt. Nathan Ahola, 920th Maintenance Squadron, on the occasion of his retirement on Sun., March 3 at 3:00 p.m. in the Base Theater.

UPCOMING AIR SHOWS WITH 920TH ASSETS

Space Coast War Bird Air Show - March 15 - 17 at the Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville, Fla.

Melbourne Air & Space Show - March 30 and 31 at the Melbourne-Orlando Airport in Melbourne, Fla.

National Salute to America's Heroes Air & Sea Show - May 25 & 26 over South Beach Miami.

SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER LEADERSHIP COURSE, MAY 2, 3

Education and Training will be hosting the next Senior NCOLDC course during the May Unit Training Assembly. For additional information, please visit the 920th Force Support Squadron SharePoint or call Education and Training at 321-494-8515.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE, MARCH 19 & 20

There will be a TSP representative from Washington DC on base to teach TSP seminars at the Base Theater. You do not need to sign up for these classes, just show up.

TSP for early to mid-career employees:
March 19 at 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

TSP Pre-Separation Workshop: To Retirement and Beyond
March 20 at 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Master Sgt. Greg Goetz, 301st Rescue Squadron special mission aviator hoist airmen from the Banana River into an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during water rescue training, Feb. 9, 2019 near Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Aircrew are required to take part in this training every three years to remain proficient. (U.S. Air Force graphic by Senior Airman Cali Elliott)

News & Features



U.S. AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE FORMALIZES POLICY ON RETENTION OF NON-DEPLOYABLE AIRMEN

Airmen who have been non-deployable for more than 12 consecutive months will be notified by their chain of command and evaluated for retention either through referral to the Disability Evaluation System or consideration for administrative separation.



FIRST AIR FORCE TOTAL FORCE RECRUITING SCHOOL GRADUATION AN INTEGRATION MILESTONE

As the Air Force moves forward on making recruiting a Total Force concept, it reached a landmark Feb. 22, 2019 with the first Total Force graduating class at the recruiting schoolhouse in San Antonio, Texas.



U.S. AIR FORCE

CMSAF TALKS PROMOTION CHANGES

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth Wright discusses the upcoming changes to senior noncommissioned officer promotions.

FOLLOW THE
920TH RQW
ONLINE



Dear 920th Rescue Wing,

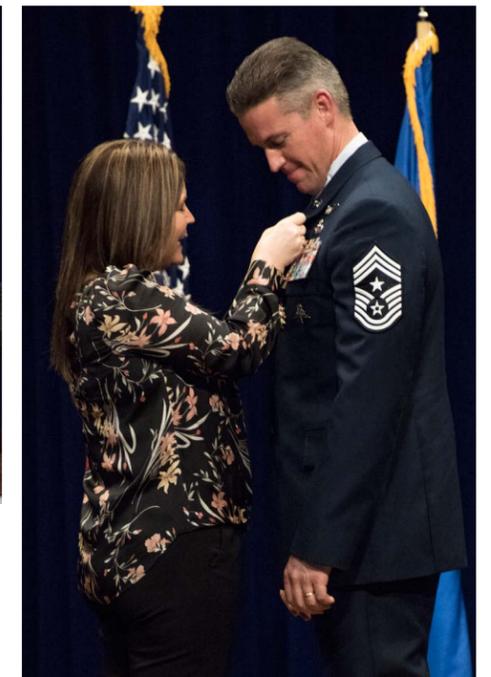
Welcome to the March UTA! I hope this newsletter reaches you and you are doing well. I want to start by expressing my sincere pride and admiration for all you do for our Air Force, our wing, and our rescue mission every day! Thank you, I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your commander. I am also extremely grateful to have such incredible leadership throughout the entire wing at Davis Monthan, Portland, Langley, and Patrick! Officer and enlisted leaders that we have are the best I've ever had the honor to serve with, and I appreciate you all. Keep doing what you're doing, and don't wait for me... I'll catch up to your lead eventually!

That said, my role is to support our squadron leadership teams by providing the resources you need to organize, train, and equip to be ready to accomplish your missions. Right now we are going through a tough time with lack of training funds. These Reserve Appropriated funds (RPA funds) are a small part of the overall HQ AFRC portfolio but are absolutely vital to AFRC wings in order to ensure readiness and compliance requirements are achieved. It's my job to get us the budgets we need and distribute them to the squadrons. I want to assure you that myself, my boss Maj Gen Miller (10th AF Commander), and Maj Gen Lewis (AFRC Deputy Commander) are working to get us the resources you all need to be ready. While this year we are gaining AGR positions in some areas and bonuses in others, it will be another 1 or 2 years before they are all filled and our RPA demand will normalize. Meanwhile, many units are trying to accomplish their missions with part-timers and overages filling in for our vacant full-time positions. Our RPA funding is critical, and I will do everything in my power to secure it for our squadrons before the start of the 3rd quarter. Your order from me: keep the faith. I realize the most important assets are time and availability of our reservists. We need to secure availability and then optimize the training and utilization of that time when TRs are on RPA orders. I do not want to break faith with our reservists because we are unable to fund what we've asked them to commit to with their availability, and I realize that has already started due to lack of proper budget distribution. The wing is completely obligated and executed and I am diligently working to get more funds. More to follow, I'll get word out through your leadership teams and update you on status of funds as it comes in.

Now for the good... and bitter sweet news. Last UTA I had the honor to say goodbye to a phenomenal Command Chief, CMSgt Douglas Isaacks. I presided over his retirement ceremony, which was awesome. The attendance blew me away! Current members from every GSU and alumni from his decorated past came to Patrick to say "thank you" for his service and wish him and his family all the best for the next chapter in their lives. It was bitter sweet in that we lost a great teammate, but we are so proud and happy for Chief Isaacks at the same time. But, we have now gained a new acting Command Chief: CMSgt Shane Smith will be taking the reigns as the 920th Rescue Wing Command Chief until the formal selection is confirmed and announced. CONGRATULATIONS CMSgt Smith!

Again, I am always in awe of your ability to accomplish our missions and in the pride you all take in what you do as Citizen-Airmen! That is why we were selected as the best wing in AFRC last year and we continue to prove that we are every day. Have a great, safe, and productive March UTA!

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



**Farewell and God
Speed, Chief Isaacks!**



Tuskegee Airman Properly Laid to Rest

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Jared Trimarchi, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- In an unmarked grave 20 miles north of Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, lay the remains of a Tuskegee Airman. Despite his legacy, he was buried in 2009 without proper military honors.

Thanks to the help of local veteran groups, family and members of the Patrick AFB Honor Guard, Flight Officer Edwin Cowan was given full military honors for his service, Feb. 7, 2019, at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, Fla.

Cowan served as a Tuskegee Airman during World War II. More than 200 people gathered to witness Cowan and his wife's reburial.

Senior Airman Dylan Aubrey, a relocation and retention technician from the 45th Force Support Squadron was one of the ceremonial guardsmen who participated in the reburial.

"It was a humbling experience," Aubrey said. "As ceremonial guardsmen, we are honored in the closing of a servicemember's military chapter for families and loved ones."

Nearly 100 veteran motorcycle riders showed their support for Cowan and a few fellow Tuskegee Airmen were present.

Cowan's remains were carried in a horse-drawn caisson while ceremonial guardsmen marched behind. The playing of taps was performed by one of Cowan's great-grandsons, after the guardsmen folded the American flag and performed a rifle volley.

Technical Sgt. Grace Lugo, a ceremonial guardsman who is also assigned to the 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said being selected to represent a Tuskegee Airman's sacrifice is an honor.

"Ensuring our fallen are properly laid to rest with military honors is our mission," Lugo added. "I'm grateful to have been a part of the reburial."

The Patrick AFB Honor Guard team is made up of both active duty and reserve Airmen who provide military funeral honors throughout 11 counties in Florida, to servicemembers who were in the Air Force, Army Air Force and Army Air Corps.

The reburial ceremony ended with a flyover performed by two Air Force T-38 Talons.



Non-Commissioned Officers Course Success



The 920 Rescue Wing Non-Commissioned Officers Leadership Course, held Feb. 11 - 15 at the Education Center on Patrick Air Force Base, boasted 25 students across 12 units and from four different bases. Master Sgt. Heidi White, 920 RQW Education and Training Chief, said that these hardworking Airmen put in long days and that the feedback for the course was overwhelmingly positive. Further, she explained that their class leader, TSgt Gary Smith, 920th Maintenance Group, went above and beyond to support his class and help with the acquisition of refreshments to fuel his classmates.

"Excellent choice for an upcoming Air Force leader who rose to the occasion and then some," White said. "Thank you to all of the students for restoring the classroom to its original state and respecting our host facilities."

This course is designed to deliver mid-level enlisted personnel (E-5 and E-6) with the leadership and management training needed to perform their roles effectively as tactical leaders. Specifically, the course focuses on NCO core competencies such as; employing military capabilities, individual readiness, managing organizations and resources, strategic thinking, leading people, effective communications, and embodying airman culture. Students also receive assistance with improving their bullet writing skills for EPRs, ACA, and awards & decorations.

White went on to say that the knowledgeable, high-energy, motivating, "re-bluing" expert instructors, Senior Master Sgt. Brandon De Los Reyes, 67th Aerial Port Squadron, and Master Sgt. Bonnitha Sweet, U.S. Air Force Academy, made a fantastic impression on junior NCO's and were a pleasure to assist.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Buck, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, presented the introduction portion of the course, Chief Master Sgt. Shane Smith, 920th Operations Group, presented the Leadership Scenario's portion and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Lais, 308th Rescue Squadron, presented the NCOLDC Graduation.

The 45th Space Wing Education Center lent their facilities and provided computer assistance to the class White said.

"I can't possibly express how appreciative we are for their continuous support," White said. "Brett Holder, Johnnie Stevens, Lewis Latson and Mark Watford have been invaluable to the success of many of the 920 RQW's Education and Training programs and we greatly appreciate their assistance once again. It was a pleasure to host the class, and unexpectedly narrate the graduation - the first NCOLDC hosted at Patrick in several years," she said.

**5TH ANNUAL
ARMED FORCES DAY
RESCUE 5K 2019**

THE AVENUE VIERA
2261 TOWN CENTER AVE
VIERA, FL

BREAKFAST / AWARDS CEREMONY POST RACE FOR OVERALL MALE & FEMALE/ AGE GROUP TOP 3!
LIVE MUSIC, COMUNITY FAIR & SILENT AUCTION TO FOLLOW!
\$30 PER PERSON UNTIL MAY 17th
\$35 PER PERSON DAY OF RACE

SATURDAY, MAY 18th 7:30AM

REGISTER ONLINE:
Bit.ly/RaceSignUp

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL:
RUNARMEDFORCESDAY5K@GMAIL.COM

No federal endorsement intended.

AFE SNCO RETIRES AFTER TWO DECADES OF SERVICE

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA -- On January 12th, Master Sgt. Patrick Roberts retired after 21.5 years of military service. Roberts served as Non-Commission Officer in Charge of the Aircrew Flight Equipment Section, 306th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

MSgt. Roberts entered the Air Force in June 1997. He graduated from Aircrew Life Support course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in September 1997. He served on active duty for fourteen years, both stateside and overseas, before transitioning to the Air Force Reserve where he has served his last eight years.

The ceremony was presided by Lt. Col. Anthony Alexander, Deputy Commander, 943rd Rescue Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. (Photo and story by Andre Trinidad, 943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs)



Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Dates

Costa Mesa, CA
March 22 - 24

Orlando, FL
March 29 - 31

Costa Mesa, CA
April 12 - 14



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).