

ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

AUGUST 2018



On Sunday, July 22, SpaceX, a commercial leader in aerospace, successfully launched the Telstar 19 VANTAGE satellite from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. Prior to the launch, Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing, nearby at Patrick Air Force Base, took off in an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter to secure the Eastern Range ensuring there was no one in harm's way while the rocket lifted off. As the rocket was launching at 1:50 a.m., an additional Pave Hawk with the 920th's fleet, is shown parked on the PAFB tarmac. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Henry)

News & Features



TEACHING CHILDREN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Reserve Citizen Airmen partnered with the American Red Cross to increase awareness and teach safety to children, July 14. The event involved a presentation with a preparedness activity book, house fire safety and a pillowcase activity designed to give children a personalized compartment for their emergency kit.



AIRMAN POSTHUMOUSLY RECEIVES MEDAL OF HONOR

The White House announced July 27 that Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Aug. 22, for his extraordinary heroism during the Battle of Takur Ghar, Afghanistan, March 2002.



ART RECRUITING MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In a move to help bolster the ongoing maintenance shortage, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service and the Directorate of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, known as A4, began a new Air Reserve Technician recruiting program in October 2017.

Notes of Interest

NEW COMMUNICATIONS COMMANDER

In a change of command ceremony held on Saturday of the July Unit Training Assembly, Lt. Col. Asan Q. Bui took command of the 920th Rescue Wing's Communications Flight.

NEW MISSION SUPPORT GROUP COMMANDER

The new 920th Mission Support Group commander, Lt. Col. Adolph Rodriguez, took hold of the group's flag during an assumption of command ceremony, July 14.

2ND QUARTER AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following quarterly award winners:

- Airman - A1C Devon Shafer, 920 MXS
- Non-Commissioned Officer - Master Sgt. Gregory Smiley, 920 AMXS
- Company Grade Officer - Capt. Jonathan Dobbs, 920 Wing Staff
- Field Grade Officer - Maj. Sabrina Ura, 920 Wing Staff

CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED

The Family Child Care (FCC) Program is looking for individuals who wish to be child-care professionals and to supplement their income. The FCC staff will train and help you provide responsible, safe, in-home care for children ages 2 weeks to 12 years in your home. For more information, contact the FCC Coordinator at 321-494-8381 or stop by the FCC office located in the Child Development Center on base.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPACE COAST HONOR FLIGHT

Space Coast Honor Flight's (SCHF) mission is to take World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans to visit their War Memorials in Washington D.C. Volunteers play vital roles in areas such as: logistics, welcoming our Veterans, administrative coordination, fundraising, correspondence, public relations, food preparation, and other areas that help us support our Veterans and each trips. For more information, please email volunteer@spacecoasthonorflight.org or leave a message at 1 (888) 750-2522.

MAC MEETING AUGUST 15

Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing Commander, will be hosting the next Military Counsel meeting Wednesday, Aug 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm inside Hangar 750 on the southwest corner at Patrick Air Force Base. All are welcome to attend.

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2018 Royal International Air Tattoo Recognizes Air Force Reserve **Pave Hawk** as Best in Show



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

(courtesy photo)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE, England -- The 2018 Royal International Air Tattoo, the world's largest air show, according to its web site, selected the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 943rd Rescue Group, Tucson, Ariz., as the winner of best static display out of hundreds of aircraft.

The international 100-year celebration boasted 302 aircraft from 43 air arms representing 30 nations, which drew a crowd of more than 185,000 from July 13 – 15.

All of the U.S. Air Force's combat-search-and-rescue (CSAR) squadrons based in the United Kingdom relocated in May 2018, along with their fleet of Pave Hawks, to Aviano Air Base, Italy, prompting show organizers to reach over to the highly acclaimed desert-based Reserve unit at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, according to 943rd RQG commander, Col. John D. Beatty.

On the first day of the RIAT, judges inspected a mile-and-a-half conglomeration of aircraft on display looking at the overall presentation with an eye for the unique, said Beatty.

"We took the aircraft we used to pickup Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell – the lone survivor (in 2005)." The aircraft's display placard detailed the harrowing story of how Beatty's team picked up Luttrell from Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains after a series of events during a counter-insurgent mission that led to the demise of all involved but Luttrell. The SEAL penned his ordeal in a best-selling novel, later made into a blockbuster movie.

The top twenty teams were automatically invited to send two representatives to a black tie affair the following day.

"We were the best static displayed at the 2018 RIAT for the 100th anniversary. It's a huge deal," Beatty said. "It was a tremendous honor and a privilege to be there, and certainly to represent not only the 920th Rescue Wing (parent unit) and the 943rd RQG, but also the mission that we do."

Air Force Reserve pilots Maj. Dave Gonzales (co-pilot on the mission to pick up Marcus Luttrell) and Capt. Mike Parker were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the aircraft's crew chief and the combined efforts of the 943rd Maintenance Squadron and 305th Rescue Squadron.

The entire team worked diligently to fold the aircraft's rotors for transport in a C-17 Globe master across the Atlantic, then unfold and prepare the aircraft for the winning static display, according to Beatty.

Also in attendance was Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force Chief of Staff, who congratulated the team for all their efforts, said Beatty, who explained the Air Force's second in command has a particular passion for our mission of saving lives because he was rescued after being shot down by a surface-to-air missile in his F-16 Fighter Jet over Serbia in 1999.

"It was a great event and I couldn't be more proud of the men and women in the 943rd Rescue Group who pulled it off," Beatty said.



General David L. Goldfein, right, the Air Force Chief of Staff, and Air Force Reservists Maj. Dave Gonzales and Capt. Mike Parker, right to left, pose for a photo with the 2018 Best Static Display award during the Gala held in Gloucestershire, England, July 14. (courtesy photo)



(courtesy photo)

Air Force Reserve Pararescuemen, Oregon Army National Guard partner to rescue suicidal man

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

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. -- A team of five Reserve Citizen pararescue Airmen partnered with the Oregon Army National Guard on a successful rescue of a climber who called for help atop Mount Hood in the midst of a suicide attempt July 13.

Because of the 11,000-foot altitude, the rescue was performed by an ANG Chinook helicopter crew landing its two rear wheels on the mountain while a plank was used for the rescuers and climber to walk into the aircraft, according to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

"It's surreal," Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kruse, 304th Rescue Squadron pararescueman said of the summit rescue. "You just have to trust that the pilot knows what he's doing and that everyone is on the same page."

Kruse went on to explain that one of the most perilous issues about this particular rescue was keeping an eye on the helicopter blades. Further complicating the rescue was the rising temperatures of the summit. According to mountain-forecast.com, there was a high of 52-degrees predicted that day.

High temperatures are generally foreboding for Mount Hood climbers as rockfall tends to increase as snow and ice melt.

"During this time of day at this time of year - the mountain is just falling apart," Capt. Phil Cole, 304th Rescue Squadron, said. "You've got falling ice, falling rock to watch out for. To use an analogy it becomes like a bowling alley."

The whole operation, from the time the group took off from Welches until they returned, took 32 minutes and 4 seconds.

The climber was identified as a man in his 20s and was taken to a Portland-area hospital.



YEAR OF THE TANKER

The 39th Rescue Squadron displayed their iron and rescue prowess at two prominent air shows in July, The Royal International Air Tattoo at Royal Air Force Fairford, United Kingdom, celebrating its 100th Centennial and the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2018 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, celebrating the "Year of the Tanker".

