

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

JULY 2019

## 100+ DEPLOY Notes of Interest



(U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Cathleen Snow)

### New Mobile App Enables, Engages, Empowers Airmen

The Air Force now has an enterprise-wide mobile app designed to provide Airmen with streamlined access to information they need for their lives and careers.

Air Force Connect was one of six ideas to compete as a finalist in the 2018 Spark Tank competition, which provided the authority and funding to launch the app Air Force-wide. The app is designed to offer Air Force organizations at all levels a way to deliver timely and relevant information to Airmen, their families and members of the local community. The app is now available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Airmen can access local content by adding their unit as a "Favorites" within the Air Force Connect app. To access the "Favorites" portal, Airmen tap the icon at the bottom right-hand corner of the app, where they'll be presented with a list of all available units. Once added, users can swipe left and right from the home screen to access their saved local content. Currently, there are about 100 units in the "Favorites" portal; more are being added each week. If a desired unit is not available, contact the local public affairs office. [Read full story online.](#)

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida and the 943rd Rescue Group, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, deploy overseas for Personnel Recovery Operations. See pgs. 2 - 3.

## News & Features Inside



### PARARESCUEMAN EARNS TWO BRONZE STARS

"We all hit the deck," Torres recalled. "I remember seeing the bulbs on the poppies getting hit as we moved through fields of them..."

See story on pages 4 - 5.



### LANGLEY GSU COMMANDER GETS PROMOTED

The commander of the 920th Aerospace Medical Squadron recently pinned on. She leads 50 Reserve Citizen Airmen to support 800. See story page 9.



### SAVE THE DATE--COMBAT KINGS SET TO RETIRE!

It's official! The 920th is getting an upgraded version of the HC-130 aircraft, but not before we celebrate our loyal fleet of Combat-Rescue Kings. See story page 11.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE



# Arizona & Florida Reserve Citizen Airmen Deploy to Africa for **Rescue Ops**

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Florida - Approximately 100 Citizen Airmen from eight units across the 920th Rescue Wing, including one of its geographically separated units, the 306th Rescue Squadron, out of Tucson, Arizona, recently deployed in support of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa to carry out personnel recovery missions throughout the region.

“The 920th Rescue Wing is the highest tasked and deployed wing in the Air Force Reserve Command,” said Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander. “The preparation that goes into getting our Citizen Airmen out the door is unique. We ensure they are at or are exceeding the readiness standards of their active duty counterparts, while they balance civil responsibilities leading up to the deployment.”

“The deployers spent a good part of the year training and preparing for this deployment,” said Maj. Rachael Lagerquist, 920th Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander.

“It takes at least a year to prepare ensuring they are trained and have all of the equipment needed to succeed downrange.”

The training encompassed a wide variety of skills, such as low-level mountainous, brown-out helicopter landings, open-ocean rescue and deck landings, as well as terminal area weapons employment--individual members trained in specific small arms, survival and cultural areas for the specific operations with partner nations in Africa.

Master Sgt. Nathan Edwards, Logistics Specialist, 920th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Aerial Delivery Section, was part of a 18-person team that prepped and loaded the cargo for this deployment. With three HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters weighing more than 18,000 pounds each, it was no simple task, according to Edwards. He estimated that they loaded 215, 000 pounds of equipment on the first two C-5 Galaxy aircraft used to transport deployers and gear to the final destination.

When it comes to uploading cargo onto aircraft, you are dealing with aircraft issues, according Edwards. The C-5s are notorious for having issues. “The mission could have been accomplished a lot sooner, but there was a big puddle of fuel out there. We had to wait 24 hours for curing and a pressure test with two helos loaded inside.”

The team had cargo staged for multiple aircraft runs for maximum efficiency. “We weigh everything. Do center balance on all of the cargo so we can save time when the aircraft arrive. “It’s definitely A joint effort on behalf of 45th and 920th working cohesively. It was a team effort with maintenance too. With all of us working together, it’s going to get done ten times faster,” said Edwards.

**Right:** Team Rescue packs up more than 200,000 pounds of equipment for a 100-person deployment to the Horn of Africa. One HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter alone weighs in excess of 18,000 pounds.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Maj. Cathleen Snow)

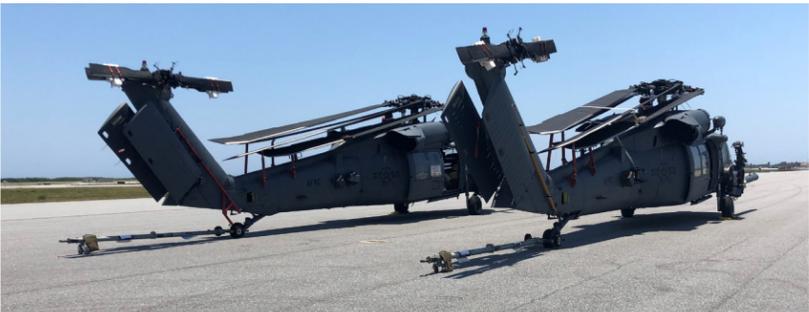


**Above:** Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 943rd Rescue Group, Tucson, Arizona spend the last seconds with their loved ones before heading overseas. (U.S. Air Force photos by Andre Trinidad.)



Members of the 306th Rescue Squadron board a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., June 1, 2019. The 306th Rescue Squadron was Africa bound for their ongoing deployment. Their mission is to rescue isolated personnel or equipment...anytime, anywhere. (U.S. Air Force photo by Andre Trinidad.)

## Maintenance & Logistics Move Mountains



# General Presents Two Bronze Stars To Reserve Pararescueman

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jared Trimarchi



Left to right: Gen. (1) John W. "Jay" Raymond, presents two bronze star medals to Tech. Sgt. Nick Torres in a ceremony at Patrick Air Force Base. (2) Torres has a lighthearted moment with his toddler after being celebrated for saving lives in the heat of battle (3) Torres' family showcases their pride for him. (4) Friends, family and colleagues celebrate with Torres and his family.

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.-- The Air Force Space Command and Joint Force Space Component Commander Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, presented two bronze star medals, including one with valor, to a Reserve Citizen Airman from the 308th Rescue Squadron on June 14, 2019.

Tech. Sgt. Nick Torres, a 308th RQS Pararescueman, was bestowed with the awards for his actions during two combat deployments to Afghanistan.

"One of the Air Force's core values is service before self, and I can't think of another career field where that core value is front and center as it is with (PJ's)," said Raymond. "You go into harm's way so that you can protect, take care of and heal those on their worst day, and you volunteered to do that."

The citation with valor states that on March 30, 2018, Torres distinguished himself by providing medical intervention to three coalition partners while his team was under attack in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

The first person wounded was located two miles away from Torres, but as soon as he reached the wounded soldier, he began to stabilize the patient and requested a medical evacuation. Torres stopped the arterial bleed and admin-

istered blood and medication to the patient. Through his advanced life-saving techniques, he was able to successfully evacuate the wounded to a higher level of care.

Soon after, his team was ambushed and started taking on small arms fire and a second coalition partner was wounded.

"We all hit the deck," Torres recalled. "I remember seeing the bulbs on the poppies getting hit as we moved through fields of them, which were in full bloom and around three feet high. Then I heard we had another casualty."

While providing effective fire, Torres was able to reach the wounded and provide life-saving medical care.

According to Torres, the injured soldier had multiple gunshot wounds to include one to the chest. The bullet perforated his lung and shattered his humerus. He required a needle decompression to stop a developing tension pneumothorax.

Again, news of another casualty broke out and Torres and two Army Rangers disregarded their own safety to reach the third wounded. Since Torres works with coalition partners from Afghanistan as a medical advisor when he is not wearing his uniform, he knew his training was going to be put to good use. Once more Torres saved the man by placing his leg in a

tourniquet and administering blood to stop the devastation of the patient's gunshot wounds.

"On the battlefield cultural barriers melt away," Torres said. "Relationships work on trust and he knew I was going to provide him with the highest level of care."

Thanks to the effective medical support provided by Torres, the team was able to complete their mission, which led to the capture of nine detainees, 39 enemy killed in action and the eradication of three Improvised Explosive Devices.

"This whole experience has been very humbling," Torres said. "These types of things don't happen in a vacuum. I am thankful for the training I have had from my unit, supervisors and my peers. It's such a huge group effort to make this happen and I am grateful that I was able to make a difference."

His other Bronze Star Medal was presented for his actions during his deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Nov. 2015 through Feb. 2016.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Michael Ziegler, 308th RQS Chief Enlisted Manager, having a teammate like Torres is a highly sought after asset. "Nick is one of the sharpest

and most proficient medical operators in our career field," Ziegler said. "As a part-timer in our unit, and a military contractor who frequently travels to Afghanistan, his exposure in combat medicine is unmatched. He is also one of the most humble guys here and we are fortunate to have him as one of our Citizen Airmen."

The 308th RQS is part of the 920th Rescue Wing, which specializes in combat search and rescue around the world and is the most combat deployed wing in the Air Force Reserve. According to the 308th RQS commander, Lt. Col. Timothy Hanks, our Traditional Reservists spend approximately 120 days away from their civilian employers for the opportunity to train and serve on a 60-day deployment. This is a great example of how our community employers support our national efforts.

"Over the last four years, the 308th continues to maintain a constant state of readiness to support combat operations and humanitarian relief, anytime, anywhere," Hanks said. "Torres' actions in combat is a perfect example of how the 920th RQW seamlessly provides combat ready forces to the combatant commander while supporting our civilian commitments."

During the medal presentation, Gen. Raymond commented on how proud he was of Torres' actions. "When you go out the door you do spectacular work ... thank you for the privilege of being here, being able to pin these medals on you and more importantly thank you for your selfless service," Raymond added.

Although Torres spends many months overseas, when he's at home in Charlottesville, Virginia, he spends his days raising four children. His favorite activities with them include fishing, hiking and kayaking. He credits his bravery to his family and his faith and says his peers would have provided the same level of care.

# Amazing Men & Women of Medical



## Original 12 pursues Nursing Dream

Master Sgt. Amica Perez, 920th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, wears dual hats as a full time Reservist. Perez serves as the superintendent of the 920th AMDS and as the unit's clinic coordinator. She has been a member of the squadron since 2008 at its inception. As one of the original 12 members, she watched the unit develop over the years into a geographically separated unit beneath the 920th Rescue Wing, at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, of approximately 50 Airmen.

She said she's proud of the diverse team, which supports eight other geographically separated units and added that she is grateful to be part of the growing process, which has helped her grow as well. Her passion for serving and her supportive family are pushing Perez through her last few months of nursing school allowing her to strive for her dreams.

## Cameroon Native Pursues Commission

Staff Sgt. Asanah Teneng, Ophthalmology Technician, 920th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, has been with the unit since 2015. Originally from Bamenda, Cameroon, he attends classes at the College of William & Mary in Virginia. After earning a degree in mathematics, he hopes to earn his commission as an active duty operations research analyst officer.

Teneng assists with flight physicals and manages career performance reports. He is bilingual in his native tongue bringing the Cameroon language, Pinyin to Team Rescue.

## Reserve Citizen Airman Scores 9 medals



Left: Rolling into the Gold Wheelchair Basketball match against the Navy, June 28, at the Tampa Convention Center, Staff Sgt. Kevin Greene, 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, with Team Air Force defeated the three-time defending Champions, Team Army. According to Greene, nine games in two days takes a toll on the body that's why you prepare the mind as well.

Below: After winning his 9th gold medal defeating Team Army in the gold match, Staff Sgt Kevin Greene, 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, celebrated with his team, his family and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General David L. Goldfein. Team Air Force's win against the Army was a gruelling match of wheelchair basketball, 66 - 60, June 28. The COS joined Team Air Force in their huddle during the final quarter, just before the big win.



Staff Sgt. Kevin Greene, who suffered a devastating injury four years ago, is celebrating winning 9 medals - 6 gold, 2 silver and a bronze, during the weeklong Wounded Warrior Games in Tampa, Florida.

Greene is a Healthcare Management Technician with the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron where he's been training for the Warrior Games.

Greene lost part of his leg when a car struck his motorcycle four years ago. Despite struggles, he has come a long way and was returned to duty April 2017.

"There was a time when I couldn't run, a time when I couldn't walk," Greene said.

"I had to break those barriers of depression and sadness, and being overwhelmed with being weak and fatigued because I lost so much weight. That whole 2015 year was a process," Greene recalls.

"I believe my purpose is to in-

spire."

Greene was ready to have some fun and show off his skills at the Games.

On the track, the 28-year-old Melbourne resident put on "Big Bertha," his Össur Flex-Foot Cheatah prosthetic running blade, and swept his division with gold medals in the 100 meter dash (12.91 seconds), 200 meters (27.60 seconds), 400 meters (1:05.91) and 800 meters (2:47.92).

Greene helped Air Force finish 10-0 in wheelchair basketball, defeating Navy 66-60 in the gold medal game at the Tampa Convention Center. He also took home medals in indoor rowing (gold), sitting volleyball (silver) and recumbent cycling (silver and bronze).

"I didn't feel alone anymore, you know what I mean? As an amputee here on our base, I'm the only one in our age group and bracket. It was huge. It was a great experience. It was eye-opening," Greene said of his Warrior Games debut.

Photos by SrA Brandon Kalloo Sanes  
Above: Master Sgt. Amica Perez  
Below & Right: Staff Sgt. Asanah Teneng



# July History Minute

Fourteen years ago this month, four Navy SEALs dropped from a helicopter into the mountains of Afghanistan near the Pakistan border. Their mission — dubbed Operation Red Wings — was to capture or kill a notorious militia fighter believed to be hiding in the region.

But the team came under attack shortly afterward, and three of the men were killed. Another 16, including eight more Navy SEALs, died during a rescue operation when their helicopter was shot down.

By the end, only one man, SEAL Marcus Luttrell, was left alive. He was the lone survivor and he was rescued by Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing.

The movie “Lone Survivor,” tells the story of that operation. Former wing commander, Col. Jeffrey Macrander along with current and former wing members were part of one of the largest searches, some say, since Vietnam.

They flew a two-ship and Macrander circled a northern Afghanistan village in his HH-60 Pave Hawk as the second helicopter landed for the pickup.

Recounting an almost impossible fight of the four Navy SEALs against some 150 al-Qaida and Taliban mountain fighters. In the end only one of the four-man SEAL team —Luttrell — survived. Macrander and others in his unit were on the next-to-last day of their deployment to Afghanistan when the call for the rescue came. Luttrell said in an earlier interview with FLORIDA TODAY that he owed a lot to the men who rescued him. “They saved my life,” he said. “I will forever be in their debt.”

Lt. Michael Murphy, Petty Officers Matthew Axelson and Danny Diets were killed. The current wing commander, Col. Kurt Matthews, was part of the crew that went back for the fallen after the previous team redeployed.



U.S. Air Force photo Tech. Sgt. Jared Trimarchi



## German SAR Chairman Visits 920th

The executive director of the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service visited the men and women of the 920th Rescue Wing, June 12, 2019, at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

Udo Fox, who was also a part of recognizing the wing’s efforts for the rescue of two German men stranded approximately 500 nautical miles off the coast of Florida July 7, 2017, came to thank Reserve Citizen Airmen stationed here.

Fox said the professionalism of the 920th Rescue Wing’s Airmen is supreme.

On Jan. 26, 2018 some the Airmen responsible for the rescue visited Germany to receive the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service’s Medal of Honor on Ribbon for Rescue Missions at Sea in Gold. It was Fox’s time to return the visit.

“I am impressed, I expected to be, but listening to you talk about the mission of saving lives, it is obvious you are dedicated to helping others,” Fox added. “You don’t do it for the money, you save lives because you enjoy what you do.”



U.S. Air Force Photo by SrA Brandon Kalloo Sanes



## Lady Bird Langley GSU Commander Pins on Full Bird on Full Bird

Lt. Col. Diane Miller, left, 192d Air National Guard and Steve Caudle, right, Air Force Master Sgt. Ret., pinned on Col. Robyn Caudle’s new rank of Colonel during a promotion ceremony at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, June 1 on the drill training weekend.

Caudle is the commander of the 920th Aerospace Medical Squadron, which is a geographically separated unit of the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. She leads approximately 50 Reserve Citizen Airmen. She took command of the Squadron on April 8, 2018. Her team supports approximately 800 reservists at Langley AFB.

## POST-9/11 GI BILL CHANGE UPDATE



BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- NOTE: PLEASE DISREGARD MESSAGE IF YOU HAVE EXECUTED A TRANSFER OF POST-9/11 GI BILL EDUCATION BENEFITS AND FULFILLED THE REQUIRED SERVICE COMMITMENT. Follow this link to review your current GI Bill transfer record: [DMDC](#)

Effective January 12, 2020, the Department of Defense will issue a change per Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1341.13, Post-9/11 GI Bill, updating policy on the Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) by Service members to eligible dependents. Changes are intended to more closely align transferability with its purpose and to underscore that while the Post-9/11 GI Bill is a transition/adjustment benefit offered as a reward

to Service members during a time of conflict. Changes in effect beginning July 2018 Service members must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of their election to transfer benefits, and NOT be precluded from serving for four more years prior to approval of their election by either standard policy (Department or Uniformed Service) or statute. If there are reasons that preclude a Service member from committing to four years of service, they are not eligible to apply for transfer of his or her benefits (i.e. mandatory retirement date, high-year tenure, retention control point, and those who are not medically qualified).

Service members with a previously approved transfer request are separated under “force shaping” authorities and policies prior to completing their required four years of service resulting from the transfer of education benefits, retain their eligibility to transfer benefits. Effective immediately, the scope of “force shaping” was expanded to expressly include officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion. See full story online.



# Upcoming **Yellow Ribbon** Events

St. Louis, Mo -- July 19 - 21

Chicago, IL -- July 26 - 28

Orlando, FL -- Sept 27 - 29

*Yellow Ribbon Rep:*  
TSgt. Catherine Herr

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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).

## **SAVE THE DATE** **HC-130 Combat King Set to Retire**



The 920th Rescue Wing will host an HC-130 Combat-Rescue Aircraft Retirement Event November 1 - 3, 2019. The event will provide an opportunity for past and present Air Force members associated with the HC-130 fixed-wing rescue mission to take part in a meet-n-greet social, aircraft static display, beachfront barbecue with an observation of training, and a formal dinner, along with other family-oriented activities.

Please join us in paying tribute to the “unsung” heroes of the combat rescue mission and give them a proper retirement / sendoff, as well as reconnect / network with members of the fixed-wing rescue community. Follow our event on Facebook for updates/notifications.



**Wing Leadership Sets New Wing Priorities**  
**Increase Combat Readiness**  
**Modernize Operational Force Structure**  
**Empower Squadron Leadership**  
**Identify, Acquire, and Manage Key Resources**

# Share Your Adventure: Help the Reserve team grow through testimony



Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is going all in with a new peer referral campaign called Share Your Adventure.

This program is the lead source generator for AFRC RS with one of four people referred by current Reservists joining the Air Force Reserve and is replacing the command's Get1Now campaign.

As manning levels continue to increase for AFRC and other branches of service and the nation's economy continues to be strong, Share Your Adventure is a vital program to help recruiters gather quality leads and assure AFRC has the manning it needs to excel in its mission to fly, fight and win.

"Share Your Adventure gives Reservists the opportunity to share their story and Air Force Reserve experiences with family, friends and coworkers," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Johnson, chief total force and strategic marketing. "People are compelled by individual testimonies. When they hear a peer sharing amazing stories and benefits about the Air Force Reserve, they can imagine themselves having those same opportunities. Share Your Adventure allows Reservists to help friends, family and coworkers achieve success."

The peer referral program process starts with an actively participating Reservist or Reserve civilian employee sharing his or her experiences with a friend, family member or co-worker. If the person is interested, the Reservist then inputs the referral's information into the Share Your Adventure program via website or mobile phone app. Reservists can create an account at any time on the website or app.

"The referral will be contacted by a qualification center E-advisor who will then go over the qualifications and pre-qualify the referral," Johnson said. "If qualified, the E-advisor will give the referral the contact information for a recruiter who covers his or her zone. Referrals will also be given the option to be transferred to the recruiter at that time."

Once the referral meets with the recruiter and is qualified,

the Reservist who submitted the lead is sent a message that the lead is qualified and the Reservist is prompted to pick an award from the awards section.

"The thought process behind the name change from Get1Now to Share Your Adventure is that Get1Now sounded like we wanted Reservists to go out and find people," Johnson said. "What we really want is for Reservists to share their stories, become that testimony and assist others who can benefit from the opportunities the Air Force Reserve has to offer."

One advantage of using the Share Your Adventure app is that Reservists don't need to have recruiter contact information on hand.

"This app gives them a tool to use when someone they share their experience with wants to go further with the process and talk to a recruiter," Johnson said. "Reservists now have a way at all times to get a referral started with their Air Force Reserve experience."

Share Your Adventure will have a new look and awards.

"We have added wireless ear buds, a virtual reality headset for smart phones, a smoothie blender, a tool kit, an Echo Dot and a personal safe," he said. "We will have marketing specialists visiting units during unit training assembly weekends to engage with Reservists on the program as well as to encourage them to download the app and register."

Johnson encouraged Reservists who submit a qualifying lead to claim their Share Your Adventure prize, saying that only about 33 percent of Reservists who have submitted a qualifying lead this year have selected an award.

For information on how to sign up for [Share Your Adventure](#), go to the website and click on "register your account here." You can also download the app from the Apple Store, or Google Play Store, by searching for "Share Your Adventure Peer Referral Program" and register there.