

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

JUNE 2019

## MED BEACH



The 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron hosted an exercise recently that included hands-on training ranging from treating wounds, such as major bleeding from gunshots or stabbings, to proper lifting techniques while getting a patient in and out of an ambulatory vehicle. The last two days was a test of all skills and experiences plus the transport of role players in a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and an Army HH-60M MEDEVAC Black Hawk helicopter. Rest of story on pages 4-5. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Trimarchi)

## Notes of Interest

### MAJOR SELECTS

Congratulations to all selected for promotion:

- Capt Jennifer Barkenhagen, 920 OSS
- Capt Travis Bice, 920 ASTS
- Capt Phillip Cole, 304 RQS
- Capt Ryan Denner, 39 RQS
- Capt Jonathan Dobbs, 920 RQW
- Capt Amy Eaton, 920 AMDS
- Capt John Fowler, 920 ASTS
- Capt Paul Fry, 304 RQS
- Capt Melissa Kalas, 39 RQS
- Capt Marc McLawhorn, 943 AMDS
- Capt Octavia, Mercado, 920 ASTS
- Capt Kubwimana Mhayamaguru, 943 AMDS
- Capt Stephen Miller, 720 AMXS



### PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

The United States Senate designated June 27 as National PTSD Awareness Day and The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder has designated June as PTSD Awareness Month. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition which may occur after someone experiences a traumatic event, such as combat, sexual or physical assault, or a natural or man-made disaster. It not only impacts the person who suffers from it, but those around them so it is important we educate all military members and family members about it. The Air Force's highest priority is taking care of our Airmen-- they deserve to be in the best physical, psychological and emotional health to meet challenges at home station and when deployed. Currently there are 7,005 service members enrolled in AFW2, 2,891 of those diagnosed with PTSD.



### FAMILY DAY

While its clear to those serving in the 920th Rescue Wing that "everyday is family day", Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families gathered at Patrick Air Force Base for the 920th Rescue Wing's biannual Family Day, May 4, 2019. See pages 2-3



### SECURITY FORCES FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

In a densely wooded area in northwest Florida, a group of security forces defenders move as small teams through the trees constantly communicating and pushing forward toward their objective. See page 5.



### MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day 920th Airmen and the local community marked the ultimate sacrifice made by gold-star families of the fallen, by presenting them with "Honor and Remember" flags during a solemn ceremony. See page 9.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE



# Family Fun 2019



Story by Senior Airman Brandon Kalloo Sanes



# Day



PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. –

Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families gathered at Patrick Air Force Base for the 920th Rescue Wing's biannual Family Day, May 4, 2019.

This year's event included bounce houses, face painting and games. Families indulged in charcoal grilled favorites like burgers and hot dogs, and enjoyed a live band performance.



"We can't thank our military families enough for being here," said Col. Ian Chase, 920th Rescue Wing vice commander. "Your sacrifices and commitment to our service members do not go unnoticed."

Participants had the opportunity to dunk Col. Chase, as well as other commanding officers in a tank filled with icy cold water and sea dye used to mark survivors in the ocean.

Another favorite was the military working dog demonstration. Master Sgt. Christine Edwards, 920th Rescue Wing historian, explained that she and her family always wanted to learn about these amazing animals and finally had the chance.

"My family really had fun with all the different activities," said Edwards. "I think it's important for them to understand what we're doing and why we're doing it because they are an essential part of our support system."

The 920th Rescue Wing is an Air Force Reserve unit tasked with conducting life-saving combat-search-and-rescue missions anywhere in the world.



# MEDBEACH 2019; RESERVE CITIZEN AIR

Story and photos by 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs



When disaster strikes, mass casualties are a chaotic scene; where stabilizing wounds, categorizing patients based on critical injuries and ensuring transport to the next level of care become increasingly vital as every second ticks. A scene which Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 920th Rescue Wing train for regularly.

As an integral component of the wing's mission to support combat search and-rescue around the globe, the Airmen of the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron put on and host a large-scale medical exercise, MEDBEACH from April 29 – May 5.

While their drill weekends once a month are spent arranging the health and medical readiness of each and every 920th RQW Airman, with the ongoing threats against Airmen at home and abroad, the advancing of medical technology and research, and the reservist's busy schedule, certifying Airmen are medically cleared and fit to fight doesn't permit much time for their own much-needed training --the type needed to keep calm during chaos.

According to Lt. Col. John Davis, Med Beach coordinator from the 920th ASTS, Med Beach was designed to offer realistic training meant to simulate the type of scenarios Airmen could encounter during deployments around the world.

More than 200 Airmen and Soldiers from 15 units across the United States supported the joint medical response exercise at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., to accomplish annual medical requirements in record's pace.

"Med Beach is a way to bring our mission to life," Davis said. "Our mission is to stage patients for flight and manage their movement. This exercise is the closest we can come to real world."

# AIRMEN LEAD JOINT MEDICAL EXERCISE



The first week of the exercise involved hands-on training ranging from treating wounds such as major bleeding from gunshots or stabbings, to proper lifting techniques while getting a patient in and out of an ambulatory vehicle. The last two-days was a test of all skills and experiences plus the transport of role players in a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and an Army HH-60M MEDEVAC Black Hawk helicopter.

“As a reservist we don’t get a lot of opportunities like this,” said Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Omoniyi, a 920th ASTS medical technician. Omoniyi works as a patient case manager for a drug and alcohol facility and as a reservist he is one of the non-commissioned officers at the immunization lab. Although he enjoys his usual tasks of taking care of Airmen in the clinic, he had a greater sense of the mission as he raced the clock to get patients transported on time during the training.

“It was a great exercise which expanded my knowledge and gave me a better view of what responsibilities are expected of me when I leave the training environment,” Omoniyi added. “It was fast paced.”

According to Maj. Stephen Grant, from the 920th ASTS, the training would have cost the Air Force Reserve nearly 2 million dollars if it were conducted individually by a civilian medical education system.

“That number is derived from the number of participants and the associated cost of continuing education credit hours they are receiving for their medical, nursing or EMT license,” Grant said. “The amount of money saved is substantial.”

# June History Minute

On June 28, 1981, the 301<sup>st</sup> Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron flew a humanitarian mission to MEDEVAC a premature infant in need of emergency medical care to a hospital in Georgia at the direction of the White House. The unit was ready to provide support before even receiving clearance to perform the mission. A 301<sup>st</sup> ARRS HC-130 crew flew Stephanie Marie McElrath to Augusta, Georgia from Homestead AFB.

Stephanie was born on June 27 at Miami's Memorial Hospital and needed medical care that was not available at any hospitals in the state. A bed was found for her at a hospital in Georgia. Her doctor asked the 301<sup>st</sup> ARRS to provide air ambulance service as it was a life or death situation. The request was originally denied, as civilian air ambulance service was available. The parent's could not afford the air ambulance service so her doctor and hospital administration elevated the request all the way to the president. Within two hours, the order was given.

At this time, we believe that our unit has saved approximately 21 infants, 16 with respiratory distress, and 11 of them were premature.

The 301<sup>st</sup> ARRS later received letters of appreciation from President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr, Chief of Air Force Reserve Lew Allen, Jr., Chief of the Air Force Reserve Maj Gen Richard Bodycombe, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Reserve Affairs Edward J. Philbin, and Fourth Air Force Commander Brigadier General Sloan R. Gill.

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## MSgt. (Mr.) Castillo Retires After 21 Years of Service



PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Florida. -- MSgt. Nelson Castillo, Maintenance Supply Liaison, 920th Logistics Readiness Squadron, retires after 21 years of service. During his ceremony, he presents his wife, MSgt. (Mrs.) Marian Castillo (center) with a Spouse Appreciation Certificate. Col. Charlene Nelson, 920th Director of Staff, officiated the ceremony during the May drill weekend. (U.S. Air Force photo Tech Sgt. Kelly Goonan)



# Defenders Get Down & Dirty

DUKE FIELD, Fla. -- In a densely wooded area in northwest Florida, a group of security forces defenders move as small teams through the trees constantly communicating and pushing forward toward their objective. Alert and lethal, an outside observer would have no idea that each team was comprised of Citizen Airmen from units across the total force spectrum.

This was the picture painted when members of the 919th Special Operations Wing conducted a joint field exercise April 22 - May 6, 2019, to improve their readiness for modern counterinsurgency operations. The exercise, hosted by the 919th Special Operations Security Forces Squadron, united squadrons and personnel from seven different wings across the entire total force spectrum. Participants included defenders from the 919th SOSFS, 920th Security Forces Squadron, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., 153rd SFS, Cheyenne Air National Guard Base, Wyo., and 841st Missile Security Forces Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

The scenario challenged participants to recognize, plan, and implement various security and force protection operations based on the events occurring around them. "Our goal was really to get our guys thinking more," said Senior Master Sgt. Casey Karins, 919th SOSFS operations superintendent. "We wanted to show them how intelligence analysis affects them at all levels. It helps them understand how they fit in, and that they are the foundation of our operations."

Intelligence injects took the form of real-world scenarios, including cell phone exploitation, interviews with persons of interest, and vehicle searches. This added level of realism allowed the defenders to think through each scenario, rather than simply executing skills by rote memorization. The two-week exercise, which took nearly a full year to plan, was the result of leveraging personal relationships built and maintained by 919th SOW Citizen Air Commandos. People, equipment, and expertise were all allocated to the exercise largely based on the personal networks of the Airmen involved.

 [Read the rest online!](#)



Chaplin Maj. Andre Mooney, 943 Rescue Group, welcomes back the 720<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron at a celebratory Barbecue held at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. During the 720<sup>th</sup>'s deployment they supported two expeditionary Security Forces Squadrons in Southeast Asia. This deployment marks the first time the 720<sup>th</sup> SFS has deployed as a group under a UTC. (Photo by Andre Trinidad, 943<sup>rd</sup> RQG/PA)

# Upcoming **Yellow Ribbon** Events

**Orlando, Fla -- June 21 - 23**

**St. Louis, Mo -- July 19 - 21**

**Chicago, IL -- July 26 - 28**

*Yellow Ribbon Rep:*

TSgt. Catherine Herr

Cell: 316-204-0406

DSN: 854-6030

Catherine.Herr@us.af.mil



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).

# Hundreds gather to honor fallen 920th Rescue Wing Airmen



Photo by Maj. Cathleen Snow

By 920th RescueWing Public Affairs

BREVARD VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CENTER, MERRITT ISLAND, Fla. -- On March 15, 2018, an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crashed outside the city of Quaim near the Iraq-Syria border during a mission, killing three 920th Rescue Wing Airmen.

On Memorial Day, Airmen and the local community marked their sacrifice by presenting family of the fallen "Honor and Remember" flags, during a solemn ceremony.

"For the veterans today, you remember your friends. For the Gold-Star families, it means even more, sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers," Col. Kurt Matthews told a crowd of hundreds at the Brevard Memorial Center.

"Family members are called upon more than anyone else to support our service members – and to bear the greatest burden of sacrifice," Matthews said.

The 920<sup>th</sup> RQW Gold-Star families highlighted the recent Memorial Day morning ceremony at the Merritt Island Veteran's Complex. The Brevard County Sheriff's Office honor guard rifle squad offered a 21-gun salute in their honor, and attendees stood in silence while taps was played.

Seven U.S. Airmen lost their lives in the helicopter crash, including Master Sgt. Bill "Pikey" Posch, 36;

Staff Sgt. Carl Enis, 31; both were pararescueman assigned to the 308<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron. Also killed was Capt. Mark Weber, 29, who was augmenting the 308<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron prior to and throughout the combat deployment. He was assigned to the 38<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. On the first anniversary of the crash the 308<sup>th</sup> dedicated three facilities to the late Airmen.

While the teammates of the fallen were still deployed during last year's memorial day, this was their first year celebrating Memorial Day in garrison.

**Master Sgt. Bill "Pikey" Posch:** Dedicating the gym to Bill was an obvious choice. Bill's obsession with human performance and physical fitness was well-known, as was his focus on athletics. The athletic center will provide a place to bring the team together to grow bigger, stronger and faster, which is what Bill aspired to everyday.

**Staff Sgt. Carl Enis:** Having a boat ramp dedicated to Carl was also very fitting, since most people that knew Carl knew about his love for the outdoors, specifically hunting and fishing. The boat ramp is a gateway to the water, where Carl was in his natural element.

**Capt. Mark Weber:** Mark was an inspirational leader who had strong integrity and core values. It was an easy decision to dedicate the road that connects our facilities together to Mark because it serves as a constant reminder as the way we all strive to be. The road we are dedicating will be called Weber Way to continue to remind and inspire us.