

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING, PATRICK AFB, FLA.

APRIL 2017



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

## FAREWELL KING 52

Senior Airman Liam Miner, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, stands by to marshal King 52, the first HC-130 configured for Air Force rescue, down the Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, taxiway for the last time March 6, 2017. King 52 retired at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, after more than 50 years of service.

## news of interest

### WING COMMANDER'S CALL

The 920th Rescue Wing commander, Col. Kurt Matthews, will host his first commander's call April 2 at 2:30 p.m. at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). All Airmen are required to attend. For more information, call Public Affairs at (321) 494-0536.

### QUARTERLY AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

The 920th Rescue Wing Quarterly Award packages are due by close of business Saturday, April 1 to Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Bianchi, 920th RQW command chief. The winners will be announced at the 920th RQW commander's call April 2. Contact Master Sgt. Robert Carciari at (321) 494-9051 for more information.

### MELBOURNE AIR AND SPACE SHOW

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the 2017 Melbourne Air and Space Show April 1-2 at the Melbourne International Airport. Visitors can also get an up-close look at one of the 920th Rescue Wing's HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, which will be on display. Gates open at 9 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. General admission is \$18 for adults and \$10 for children.

### BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Airmen eligible for the new Blended Retirement System can now take the required Opt-In training via the Advanced Distributed Learning System. The Opt-In course is designed to provide information for eligible Airmen to make an educated decision about their retirement system. Only reservists who have accrued fewer than 4,320 retirement points, will have the option of electing BRS or remaining in the legacy retirement system.

### SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

Help Public Affairs tell your story. From fun missions, team building, and morale events to special recognitions, share your rescue experiences through iRescue. Keeping military standards, safety and operational security in mind, text photos with a brief description and the names and units of those in the photo to Public Affairs at (321) 615-0329.

## news & features



### SPECIAL DELIVERY

Rescue warriors supported the successful launch of the WGS-9 spacecraft aboard a ULA Delta IV rocket March 18 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.



### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Airmen from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Portland, Ore., combined forces with two dozen other searchers and the Air National Guard to help find a missing skier March 9-10.



### MEETING OF THE MINDS

Leadership and key personnel from the 920th Rescue Wing gathered to discuss the wing's mission, vision, priorities and more during a strategic alignment event March 7-8.



### MEDBEACH MILESTONE

More than 250 military medics from 12 units across the country converged at the 920th Rescue Wing for a joint medical exercise Feb. 27 through March 5 to hone their capabilities for real-world wartime emergencies.

CHECK US  
OUT ON ...



## COL. KURT MATTHEWS 920TH RESCUE WING COMMANDER



920th Rescue Warriors,

Well, there has been a lot going on within the wing since I took command in December! You have all stayed busy with deployments, training and inspection preparations. Around our wing in Portland, Langley, Davis-Monthan and Patrick, you are motivated and engaged in your duties. I want to start by sincerely thanking you and telling you how impressed I am with all of your organizations, leaders and the individuals I have met when I am out and about the wing.

In January, the Air Force Chief of Staff General Goldfein called all of his wing commanders together in Washington, D.C. to discuss the state of the Air Force and his vision, goals and priorities. While there that week, I had the honor of hearing him speak on a range of topics. Most notably is his tenacious dedication to revitalizing our squadrons. He plans to put support back into squadron organizational structures and is examining every opportunity to reduce additional duties and put time back into our units to be used for AFSC-specific training. He is also “readiness” minded, with a shift from the previous decade’s theme in the Air Force of capacity and compliance to combat capability. Among other things, he believes in the joint nature of future warfare and will focus professional education and sponsored exercises toward a Joint-Task-Force level of expertise. Though he has many “big focus rocks” for the future of our Air Force, I’d say his main effort will be to increase manpower end-strength and renew our aging fleet of aircraft. I believe we are at the beginning of another era of growth in our Air Force.

In February, 10th Air Force Commander Major General Scobee called all of his wing commanders and their command chiefs together at Homestead Air Reserve Base. The week was spent reviewing our top issues and meeting with all of the AFRC staff leaders (A1, SG, A4, FM, etc.) covering a myriad of policy and topics of concern across our command. Chief Bianchi and I worked hard to advocate for our Airmen’s concerns (new EPR system, too much administrative burden, incentives) and for adequate resources to meet our future facilities, aircraft and support requirements. It was announced while we were there that Major General Scobee was selected to become the next AFRC vice commander and would be changing command at 10th Air Force this May. Major General Ronald “Lite” Miller will take command and become our next 10th Air Force Commander.

Then in March, your senior leaders from across the wing (group commanders and superintendents, along with our medical leadership) met at Davis-Monthan AFB for a strategic alignment event. The purpose was to first impart my leadership intent, expectations and philosophy with my executive leadership team. Second, we revisited our wing’s mission and vision, discussing my priorities and our unified goals to achieve a roadmap for the wing over the next three years. Our efforts resulted in a refined message.

**920th Rescue Wing Mission Statement:** RESCUE AND RECOVER PERSONNEL, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, WITH COMBAT-READY CITIZEN AIRMEN.

**920TH Rescue Wing Vision Statement:** FORGING THE WORLD’S GREATEST RESCUE FORCE, FUELED BY HONOR, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE.

The week culminated with an in depth look at our top issues and discussions about how we improve how we care for our people and their development, and our way of doing business (both mission and process).

While your senior leaders have been busy, so have you! We have deployed and redeployed simultaneously to two AORs in January and March and have four more squadrons in pre-deployment spin-up. Our teams downrange are setting the standard for excellence, and I am proud to relay to you that I have received personal notes from their deployed leaders remarking on the incredible jobs they are doing. Meanwhile, the wing revisits our policies and processes in preparation for the upcoming CAPSTONE inspection this July. Of particular note, Team Patrick just ran an emergency preparedness exercise which was observed by HQ AFRC as part of a Staff Assistance Visit. While it was intended to prepare us for the CAPSTONE event, you did so well that the headquarters inspections team was overwhelmed by your performance. The result: they gave us full credit for our upcoming inspection, relieving us of the requirement to reproduce that effort. Well done! And kudos to the IGI team, WIT members, and to all who participated. Speaking of exercises, perhaps one of the most impressive realistic training exercises I have witnessed was just planned, hosted and executed here at Patrick by our Aeromedical Staging Squadron. They put together another annual MEDBEACH exercise, bringing in units from active duty, the Air National Guard and AFRC to conduct critical care air transport team training on both fixed-wing (C-17) and rotary (UH-60Q) aircraft. MED-BEACH was observed by two general officers and is the benchmark for Air Force CCATT training -- Simply phenomenal!

Finally, I’d like to announce that your Command Chief, Chief Bianchi, will be retiring in August after more than 30 years of service. He will be missed by our wing, the mission area and by senior leadership across AFRC (who refer to him as “Chief Rescue”). Be sure to thank him when you have the chance; these next few months will likely fly by just as quickly as these last have. You will see him being shadowed by our newly selected 920th Rescue Wing Command Chief: Chief Douglass Isaacks. Congratulations Chief Isaacks!

I wish you all a successful April UTA and look forward to seeing you!

v/r.

KURT A. MATTHEWS, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW COLONEL MATTHEWS’ FIRST VIDEO ADDRESS OF THE WING.](#)

### timemanagement

<b>PATRICK AFB GATE HOURS</b> EAST GATE (BY 920TH RQW HEADQUARTERS) 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	<b>DINING FACILITY</b> BR. 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. LN. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. DN. 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	<b>BARBER SHOP</b> FRI 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. SAT 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. SUN 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.	<b>FY 2017 UTA SCHEDULE</b> MAY 6-7      AUG. 5-6 JUNE 3-4      SEPT. 9-10 JULY 8-9
<b>SOUTH GATE</b> 24-HOUR ACCESSIBLE	<b>FITNESS CENTER</b> FRI 5:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. SAT 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. SUN 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	<b>CLASS VI / SHOPETTE</b> FRI 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. SAT 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. SUN 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<b>* BILLETING RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EACH DRILL WEEKEND</b>

# 920TH RESCUE WING

## COMMANDER'S LETTER OF INTENT

Since September 11, 2001, this proud wing has been repeatedly called upon to deploy in support of United States' national security objectives. Our mission is to organize, train, and equip combat mission ready Air Force Reservists, and provide them to Combatant Commanders to conduct Combat Rescue and Personnel Recovery. Your mission statement:

### RESCUE AND RECOVER PERSONNEL, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE WITH COMBAT READY CITIZEN AIRMEN.

In today's world climate, I don't expect the conflict our nation is engaged in (call it what you will – state of war) to resolve anytime soon. We will continue to be asked to answer the call to serve. Therefore, my guidance is that we will perform our duties in such a way that we will always deploy and redeploy with no unnecessary loss of our own personnel or equipment. To that end, my vision for our wing is to build upon its proud history of success:

### FORGING THE WORLD'S GREATEST RESCUE FORCE, FUELED BY HONOR, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE.

Using the words of then, Major General Mattis, I am expecting that you will "... carry out your mission and keep your honor clean." Beyond each of our own individual methods to hone our skills and character, my team approach for how we will achieve our goals is simple: We will be *Mission-Focused-Servant-Leaders*. Our squadrons execute our various missions to meet our overall rescue mission. Be it maintenance, Guardian Angel, medical, logistics readiness, personnel support, Security Forces, or flying HC-130s and HH-60s, it is the squadron that flies, fights, and wins. Therefore, I will wield all wing- and group-level resources to serve our squadrons. I expect each and every Airman, civilian, and contractor within our wing to become focused on serving the squadrons, enabling 100% mission success!

The key to mission success for the squadrons is to develop and maintain a *Culture of Readiness*. Whether it be a short-notice tasking to launch on a civilian rescue mission, or a *no-notice* Capstone Inspection, we will be ready. To be at that level of readiness requires a strong relationship between individual squadron members, their first-line supervisor, and their commander's team. This culture also requires that squadrons work together, identifying common goals and mutual support. I will work with wing senior leaders to empower squadron commanders, senior NCOs, and supervisors with clear guidance and knowledge to affect cohesiveness, interoperability, and accountability. Within our wing I will continue to encourage an environment where our Airmen can thrive, are motivated, and enjoy serving!

You are a part of the most noble mission in the Air Force! You are a part of the most successful rescue organization in the world! I am proud to serve as your wing commander and work alongside you to achieve our goals. Always remember: "these things we do, that others may live."



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

## COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

NOTE: This product has embedded hyperlinks and is best viewed online.

20-24 March 2017

### Priority Topic of the Week: Online Conduct

- Participation in websites and/or any activities that victimize or otherwise disparage others is completely unacceptable and in direct conflict with Air Force core values.
- The effect of behaviors that target our sisters and brothers in arms is catastrophic and breaks down the fabric of who we are as Wingmen.
- These behaviors, and the attitudes that inform them, are incompatible with military service. Leaders and Airmen are expected to create and maintain a healthy environment free of discriminatory, inappropriate practices, both on and off duty.
- The Air Force Office of Special Investigations is investigating information and photographs from websites hosting inappropriate photos of service members without prior consent. As part of the ongoing criminal investigation, Airmen identified will be contacted directly by AFOSI to determine whether they are victims.
- Any Airman with reason to believe he or she may have been affected is encouraged to proactively seek local assistance from AFOSI, commanders, first sergeants, chaplains, SARC, SVC, and inspectors general.
- Click [here](#) for CSAF and CMSAF video regarding online conduct

### AFI 1-1: Air Force Standards

- 2.2.8. Airmen do not tolerate bullying, hazing, or any instance where an Airman inflicts any form of physical or psychological abuse that degrades, insults, dehumanizes, or injures another Airman (unless it is part of an approved formal training program). It is the obligation of each Airman in the chain of command to prevent such conduct.
- 2.15. You are personally responsible for what you say and post on social networking services and any other medium. Regardless of the method of communication used, Air Force standards must be observed at all times, both on and off duty.
- Reference: [AFI 1-1](#)

### Profession of Arms: "The Little Blue Book"

- "America's Air Force: a Profession of Arms", commonly known as "[The Little Blue Book](#)," is a reminder of the oaths we take in support and defense of our Constitution.
- Helpful passages:
  - ◊ "Respect is the lifeblood of our profession. Without it, we simply cannot stand strong in the defense of our nation."
  - ◊ "We are all accountable for meeting ethical and performance standards in our actions and similarly accountable for our failure to take action, when appropriate."
- Click [here](#) for Profession of Arms Center of Excellence video on mutual respect

### Social Media Do's and Don'ts

- Remind Airmen to:
  - ◊ treat people with respect
  - ◊ think before posting information online and/or sending to friends
  - ◊ be cautious of unintended consequences of information sharing and privacy settings (i.e. material being sent to other people)
  - ◊ avoid actions that could bring discredit upon themselves, their unit, or the Air Force, including posting defamatory, threatening or other offensive information
  - ◊ say something if they see potential violations

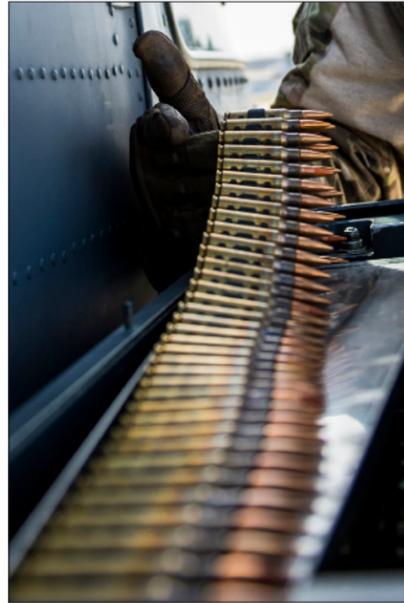
Commander's Call Topic Archive: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/CommandersCallTopics.aspx>

Commander's Call Topics is published weekly by SAF/PA to ensure leaders at all levels remain current on issues concerning Airmen and families. Requests for information to be included in future editions should be sent to SAF/PAX via [email](#).

Submissions should include:

- 1) 1-2 sentence synopsis of the issue
- 2) Hyperlink to further details
- 3) POC name and contact information.

\*Only submissions pertaining to the majority of Airmen or specifically to command leadership teams will be considered. Local or limited-interest items will not be included.



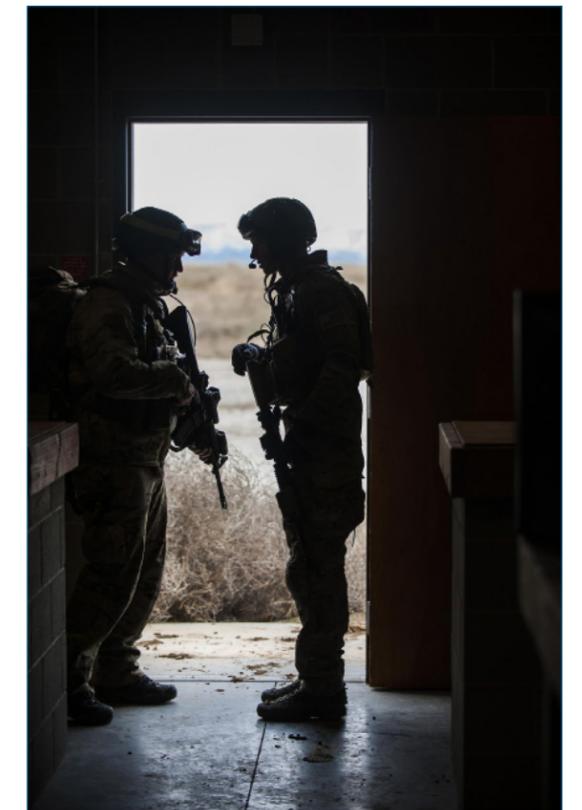
Above: A flight engineer checks 7.62 mm rounds for an M134 minigun attached to an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter March 3 at Gowen Field, Idaho. Below: Master Sgt. Trevor Stevens, a 943rd Rescue Group evaluator flight engineer, inspects an M134 minigun attached to an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter March 3 during pre-deployment training for the 305th Rescue Squadron.



Tech. Sgt. Ben Domain, a 308th Rescue Squadron Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape specialist, checks wind speed on a landing zone for pararescuemen parachuting out of an HC-130J Combat King II, March 2.



Left: An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter practices search and rescue operations March 3 at the Orchard Combat Training Center in Idaho. Below: Pararescuemen discuss a gameplan before heading out to engage a target March 2 during a deployment training exercise.



## RESCUE WARRIORS PREPARE TO DEPLOY

**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jared Trimarchi**  
*920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs*

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho -- More than 120 Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing supported the 305th Rescue Squadron's upcoming deployment to Southwest Asia by participating in a two-week pre-deployment training that ran Feb. 27 to March 10.

The 305th RQS, located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., conducted training at the Idaho Air National Guard's Orchard Combat Training Center, a 143,000-acre live-fire range located south of Boise, Idaho, equipped with 'pop-up' and moving targets made for tanks and helicopters.

The training's objective was to hone the skills of the aircrew who fly HH-60G Pave Hawks, by practicing rescue missions from the planning stage to the execution.

"This is our dress rehearsal before deployment," said Lt. Col. Chris Escajeda, 305th RQS training mission lead. "It's our last chance to get together, travel to an unaccustomed location, rehearse missions we will do on deployment and work-out the kinks or identify shortfalls ahead of time."

When deployed, the HH-60G is part of the U.S. Air Force's rescue triad which includes the HC-130J Combat King II and a Guardian Angel team made up of pararescuemen, combat rescue officers and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape specialists.

Guardian Angel teams from the 308th Rescue Squadron, Airmen from the 943rd Rescue Group and an HC-130J from the 79th Rescue Squadron helped the 305th RQS complete the training, which incorporated most scenarios the aircrew may encounter while deployed to include insertions, extractions, aerial refueling, nighttime operations, medical evacuations and live fire from the helicopter's weapons, an M134 mini gun and a .50 caliber machine gun.

The targets range from the size of a human to a tank and are controlled in the range's command tower by the push of a button, said Escajeda.

"Boise was an easy choice to come to because the facilities here are world-class," said Escajeda. "They have everything we need to include a very robust electronic warfare range and a premier live-fire range with reactive threats."

The training was also beneficial to the PJs from the 308th

RQS, since some of the Pave Hawks at Patrick AFB have been grounded.

Senior Airman Rory Whipple, 308th RQS pararescueman, said the training was invaluable to honing his rescue capabilities aboard an HH-60G.

"Not only is the 305th Rescue Squadron getting the necessary training they need to deploy, they're also helping us out in completing upgrade training to ensure we are efficient in our duties," Whipple said. "They can't do their job without us, and we can't do our job without them."

The pararescuemen and the aircrews flew more than four hours every day going from one personnel recovery mission to the next. Escajeda said the training went great and the Airmen learned things on the road that they wouldn't have identified training at home.

"From a tactical perspective, it's fantastic training; it gets us out of our comfort zone to practice the skills we will be using on our deployment," Escajeda said. "Everyone I have spoken to loved and enjoyed coming here."

The pararescuemen who participated in the training, also accomplished cold-weather training in Hailey, Idaho.



A pararescueman with the 308th Rescue Squadron controls his parachute before landing on the ground March 2 at the Orchard Combat Training Center in Idaho.