

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

JANUARY 2020

## FINAL HC-130P/N RETIRED TO AMARG



A maintenance Airman marshals a HC-130 P/N aircraft as it begins to taxi on Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Dec. 16, 2019. The 39th Rescue Squadron delivered their final HC-130 P/N Combat King aircraft to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. This fleet of aircraft will be replaced by the newly improved HC/MC-130J models in the Spring of 2020. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kelly)

## Notes of Interest

### Education Grant Program opens for upcoming academic year

The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry "Hap" Arnold Education Grant application window is now open for the 2020-2021 academic year. Eligible recipients have until April 30, 2020, to submit applications.

Since the program's inception in 1988, 111,654 students have received more than \$172 million in education assistance through grants ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 based on need. Eligible recipients include dependent children of Air Force members currently on active duty (including Title 10 reservists and Title 32 guard), in retired status or deceased. Spouses of active duty service members and surviving spouses of active or retired service members are also eligible.

All applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2020-2021 academic year and are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade-point average. For more information, click here.

### CHANGES TO TSP COMING

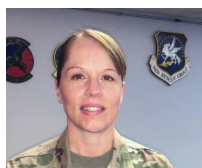
Annual TSP contribution limits will increase to \$19,500 starting in January 2020. The annual "Catch-Up" contribution limit, which allows people over the age of 50 to invest a little more and catch up with those who started investing earlier in life, is rising to \$6,500 as well. The 2019 limits for TSP contribution and "Catch-Up" contributions, set by the Internal Revenue Service, were \$19,000 and \$6,000 respectively in 2019, so both have gone up by \$500. Contributors are reminded to carefully calculate their contribution over the course of the calendar year. In the event contributions are maxed out prior to the end of the calendar year, agency matching contributions for remaining pay periods will be affected.

### FREE YOGA CLASSES AVAILABLE

Innovation Yoga offers a free weekly yoga class to currently serving military members, veterans and families on Saturdays at 1100. Their address is 714 South Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach, Fla.

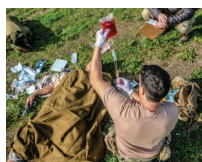
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## News & Features



### 943RD RESERVIST NAMED OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY NCO OF THE YEAR

Senior Master Sgt. Jessi, 943rd Rescue Group, was recognized for her outstanding achievements in support of the command's safety program as an NCO in the occupational safety discipline.



### AIR FORCE RESERVIST ASSISTS IN LIFE-SAVING CARE ABOARD COMMERCIAL FLIGHT

On Dec. 2, an Air Force Reserve technical sergeant was in the right place at the right time when a fellow passenger on a civilian flight suffered an in-flight emergency. See story on page 5.



### WITH THE STROKE OF A PEN, U.S. SPACE FORCE BECOMES A REALITY

President Trump signed into law Dec. 20 the sprawling, \$738 billion defense bill, making history by creating the Space Force as a stand-alone, sixth branch of the U.S. military and guaranteeing for the first time 12 weeks of paid parental leave for federal workers.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE



# The End of an Era - 39th Rescue Squadron Retires HC-130 P/N Fleet

By Senior Airman Brandon, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Push button start, seat warmers and autonomous driving features are becoming more and more common in vehicles. Depending on your brand of choice, these features might even be considered standard. Give it time and these features will eventually be overshadowed by even newer technology as the automotive industry continuously evolves.

But no matter how flashy these new models are when they roll off the production line, most people never forget their first car. Maybe your first ride had some rust and needed some extra attention now and again. No bells and whistles, but it got you from point A to point B and it was yours to care for.

Similarly, Reservists with the 920th Rescue Wing will never forget the HC-130 P/N Combat King, a combat-search-and-rescue capable aircraft with decades of lifesaving history behind it.



The 920th RQW in particular has maintained and operated a few birds dating back to the 1960s and has still managed to save more than 3,000 lives over the years.

During the month of December, the unit bid farewell to the remaining HC-130P/N aircraft by flying them to their final resting spot at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona.

“I still have my first car,” said Lt. Col. Nicholas “Nick”, 39th Rescue Squadron navigator. “Even though it’s an inanimate object, it’s still something that has meaning to me because of the memories. Many careers have started and ended with this aircraft.”

Nick spent more than 20 years flying on the legacy aircraft as a navigator and has been with the rescue wing since the early 2000’s. He said watching the plane he spent so much time on being replaced is bittersweet.

“It’s bitter in the sense that this is it for the plane,” said Nick. “It’s sweet in the sense that we get to go on to the next phase with the J model, which will be more efficient.”

The HC-130J is a result of the HC/MC-130 recapitalization program and replaces Air Combat Command’s aging HC-130P/N fleet as the dedicated fixed-wing personnel recovery platform in the Air Force inventory.

It’s a four-engine turboprop tactical transport aircraft with hose and drogue aerial refueling, airdrop, and command-and-control capabilities. Modifications include the ability to receive fuel inflight, a nose-mounted electro-optical/infrared sensor and a combat systems operator flight deck station.



The HC/MC-130J brings additional countermeasure dispensers, high-altitude ramp and door hydraulics, crash-worthy loadmaster scanner-position-seats and more. Because the J model brings so many changes, nearly every member in the 39th Rescue Squadron will undergo either a transition education course or initial qualification course before they’ll be fully qualified to fly it.

Two aircrew positions are being eliminated as a result of the enhancements, flight engineers and radio operators. Airmen currently filling these roles will have to cross-train into new career fields or retire depending on their tenure.

Senior Master Sgt. Mike, 39th RQS Flight Engineer, is one of the Reservists adapting to this transition. Over the course of 25 years with the 920th RQW, Mike has successfully logged almost 5,000 hours of flight time and has multiple deployments to his name. Over the next several months he will prepare for his new role as the unit’s Wing Occupational Health and Safety Manager.

“I think change is good,” said Mike. “I’d be silly to say I didn’t see this coming with all the advancements in technology. Luckily for me, I’ve been fortunate to have such a long-winded career doing this.”

The 920th will receive a replacement fleet of the new HC-130J model starting in the Spring of 2020.



# Profiles in Leadership Highlights Mrs. Lisa Fernandez, 308th RQS

Story by Tech. Sgt. Kelly  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Florida -- Key Spouse Lisa Fernandez has made significant contributions to the 308th Rescue Squadron, the 920th Rescue Wing and the Air Force Reserve Command.

She explained that one of the most important things she does in her role is keep in constant contact with spouses and loved ones, especially during 2018's combat deployment which saw nearly every member from the 308th RQS deployed across three separate geographic locations.

"Families are the foundation to the success of the unit and our unit operates in a high tempo environment. We not only need our families to know they are supported, but it also eases the mind of the unit member to know there is someone available for their loved one to call in a time of need." In addition to phone calls, she coordinated multiple events every month to bring everyone together, keep morale high and forge a foundation of trust. Additionally, Fernandez helped organize a five-day, all-expense paid vacation for several returning unit members and their loved ones to help them re-adjust to life back home.

Further, she helped organize a fundraising effort which paid for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling sessions for five veterans in need. Her concern for the well-being of troops and their families also extended to those who were impacted by the destruction of Hurricane Michael which devastated Tyndall Air Force Base in October 2018.

Her initiative to lead a donation drive provided more than 1,000 families in need more than four tons of supplies in less than one week.



## "Fini" Flight

920th Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane tosses sea dye onto Col. Mike following Col. Mike's final flight in the HC-130P/N on Dec. 10, 2019. Being drenched in sea dye is a tradition that typically marks the end of one's flying career. Col. Mike has logged over 2,700 flight hours during his career. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kelly)

# 304th Pararescueman assists in Life-Saving Care Aboard Commercial Flight

Story by Andre, 943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

On Dec. 2, 2019, Tech. Sgt. Donny, a Pararescue specialist, with 304th Rescue Squadron in Portland, was traveling from Portland to Phoenix when he was called into action. Crewmembers aboard his flight asked passengers if anyone had medical training to assist a young woman who had fallen ill.

When Sgt. Donny arrived the female patient was laid down on the seat with both nurses providing supportive care, performing physical assessments, and keeping the patient awake.

"At that point, I made the assessment that they needed me to take command and control of the situation," said Donny.

Donny is an Air Force Pararescue specialist, also known as PJ's. These medically trained airmen are elite combat forces specifically organized, trained, equipped, and postured to conduct full spectrum personnel recovery all over the world.

These highly trained experts take part in every aspect of the personnel recovery mission, and in addition to being nationally certified paramedics are also skilled parachutists, scuba divers, and rock climbers.

Furthermore, Donny also spent time in the U.S. Navy, which combined with his Pararescue experience prepared him to respond quickly, and comfortably take control of the situation to ensure appropriate patient treatment and care.

Donny directed the make-shift medical team to administer oxygen and IV fluids before moving the patient to the floor of the aircraft. At this time, he took an assessment of the medical kit provided by airline staff and directed one passenger to secure an IV bag above the patient, and another passenger to raise the patient's feet.

"In the flight kit there was a blood pressure cuff and other electronic items to assess the patient," Donny said. "Her blood pressure was dropping to a dangerous level."

Because of Donny's training, he was comfortable administering an IV during the flight, and noticed that the patient's blood pressure somewhat stabilized with the intravenous therapy.

"We were still concerned that we might have to perform CPR if her blood pressure continued to drop," said Donny. Donny knew that airlines have a medical professional they can communicate with telemedicine, in the event of a medical emergency.

Donny said, "I asked a flight attendant to contact medical control on the ground and I gave them a timeline of my assessment."

The flight attendant asked Donny if the patient was able to continue on the more than an hour-long flight to Phoenix, in her condition.

"I don't know if she has that much time," said Donny. "Because at that point her blood pressure was still a concern."

The flight was diverted to Reno and the patient was taken off the flight. Donny was credited with saving the woman's life. Donny said it was a team effort with airline staff, nearby passengers, and the two civilian nurses who first arrived to assist the female patient.

This real-life scenario is something that Donny had experience during his medical training with the military.

"I mean the scenario is almost right out of the book," Donny said. "Confined space, limited resources, and a moving vehicle." Technical Sgt. Donny credits the military with taking an average person and giving him the skills needed to perform life-saving actions. "I followed what military protocol taught me to do," he said.

"These things we do, that others may live."



Stock photo

# Pararescue Chief Master Sgt. Retires After 26 Years of Service

By Andre, 943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB, Ariz. – Chief Master Sgt. Christopher retired from the Air Force Reserve after 26 years of outstanding service to this nation, Nov. 7, 2019 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

As part of the 306th Rescue Squadron, Chief Christopher was a Special Warfare Operator Pararescueman (PJ) and the Chief Enlisted Manager.

The ceremony was officiated by Combat Rescue Officer (CRO) Lt. Col. Anthony, Director of Personnel Recovery, European Command. Lt. Col. Anthony was the previous commander of the 306th Rescue Squadron.

Chief Christopher is from Northern California and entered his military service in 1993 through Air Force Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas. In December of 1995 he graduated from the USAF Pararescue Apprentice Course, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

“I had a lot of awesome and unique experiences but I’ll remember the people that I worked with the most,” said Tellsworth.

Chief Christopher has held a variety of tactical, operational and strategic positions throughout the Air Force in the Continental U.S. and overseas.

He is a veteran that has participated in numerous joint special operations missions and tactical deployments to include Operations: Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Enduring Freedom-Horn of Africa, Iraqi Freedom, JTF Katrina, JTF Rita, Jukebox Lotus, and several JTF NASA Space Shuttle/Human Space Flight launch and recovery missions.

“There’s absolutely no way I could have done it without my family and support,” said Chief Christopher.



# Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Events

Costa Mesa, CA -- Jan 24 - 26

Denver, CO -- Feb 21 - 23

Orlando, FL -- Mar 20 - 22

*Yellow Ribbon Rep:*  
TSgt. Catherine

Phone: 316-204-0406

DSN: 854-6030



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).

# Transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill to Spouse and Dependents UPDATE

**Congress has removed the 16 years' time in service transfer of benefits cap deadline that was set to be implemented on 12 January. Please see the National Defense Authorization Act section S78, Page 499 for Fiscal Year 2020 for specifics.**



Family members must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits at the time of transfer to receive transferred benefits.

The option to transfer is open to any member of the armed forces active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and meets the following criteria:

- Has at least six years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval and agrees to serve four additional years in the armed forces from the date of election.
- Has at least 10 years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval, is precluded by either standard policy (by Service Branch or DoD) or statute from committing to four additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.
- Transfer requests are submitted and approved while the member is in the armed forces.

Please contact the 920th Education and Training office at 321-494-8515 with any questions.

To begin the transfer by going to [www.va.gov/education](http://www.va.gov/education).

## Factors to Consider when Transferring Benefits

### *Marriage and Divorce*

- A child's subsequent marriage will not affect his or her eligibility to receive the educational benefit; however, after an individual has designated a child as a transferee under this section, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.
- A subsequent divorce will not affect the transferees eligibility to receive educational benefits; however, after an individual has designated a spouse as a transferee under this section, the eligible individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

### *Reallocation of Benefits*

If a Veteran or Servicemember wants to reallocate transferred benefits they can do so using the TEB Portlet in MilConnect at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

### *Reallocation of Benefits if a Family Member Dies*

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Assistance Act of 2017, allows for designation and transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible dependents of the Veteran/servicemember upon the death of the Veteran/servicemember or of a dependent who had unused transferred benefits.

### *Nature of Transfer*

Family member use of transferred educational benefits is subject to the following rules:

#### *Spouses*

- May start to use the benefit immediately
- May use the benefit while the member remains in the Armed Forces or after separation from active duty
- Are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance while the member is serving on active duty
- If servicemember's last discharge was before January 1, 2013, can use the benefit for up to 15 years after the last separation from active duty. If the servicemember's last discharge is after January 1, 2013, there is no time limit to use benefits

#### *Children*

May start to use the benefit only after the individual making the transfer has completed at least 10 years of service in the armed forces.

- May use the benefit while the eligible individual remains in the armed forces or after separation from active duty.
- May not use the benefit until he or she has attained a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate), or he or she has reached age 18.
- Is entitled to the monthly housing allowance stipend even though the eligible individual is on active duty.
- Is not subject to the 15-year delimiting date, but may not use the benefit after reaching 26 years of age.

For more information, contact Air Force Personnel Center at 720-847-3597.