

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

OCTOBER 2019

## Legends & Heroes

### TSgt Perrine Remembered



U.S. Air Force photo

In celebration of the HC-130 P/N King and the heroes who fly, the wing is preparing for a three day event next month to celebrate the sacrifices made by the unsung heroes past and present. More information will be provided during Sunday's Commanders Call starting at 1230L. Please be in place by 1215L.

With heavy hearts we announce the loss of a valued member of the rescue family, Technical Sgt. Cary Perrine, on September 27, 2019. Sergeant Perrine enlisted on February 18, 1982 and dedicated 31-and-a-half years of service to the Armed Forces, serving in both the Army and Air force Reserve. For his continued commitment over the years, Perrine was recognized with an array of awards and decorations, to include an Air Force Commendation Medal. We were blessed to have him on our team and honored to serve with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with TSgt. Perrine's family.



Respectfully,  
KURT A. MATTHEWS, Colonel, USAF

"In the time that I have known TSgt. Perrine, he has been the ultimate professional and consummate Airman. The importance of what Sergeant Perrine did on a daily basis, is many times undervalued. As an Engine tracker for both H-60 (Pave Hawk helicopters) and HC-130 (Combat King) air frames, he was responsible for engine safety and the safety of the flight crew. This responsibility required meticulous attention and TSgt. Perrine was painstakingly thorough with this responsibility. He went above and beyond to ensure aircraft engines were secure to fly. Additionally, I have great personal gratitude for TSgt. Perrine. He would keep myself and my unit on track and AFI compliant when it came to government purchasing. He ensured all were good stewards of the taxpayers' money. TSgt. Perrine was vital to our mission success and will be greatly missed!" said Col Leo J. Kamphaus, Jr., Maintenance Group Commander.

TSgt. Perrine's memorial service will be held at Coastal Community Church, 5795 Falcon Blvd. Port St. John FL at 1400 Oct. 6, 2019.

## News & Features Inside




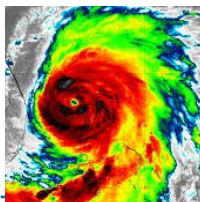
### DEPLOYING DESPITE CHALLENGES

More than 100 Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing recently deployed in support of operations in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. See story on pages 2 - 3.




### EARN FOUR-YEAR DEGREE AS EASY AS ABC

Master Sgt. Floyd Gordon wants reservists to know about Air University's ABC Program, which helps Airmen earn undergraduate degrees. 



### HOPE FOR THE BEST PLAN FOR THE WORST

Although Hurricane Dorian nearly hit the Florida Coast, the men and women of the 920th Rescue Wing took necessary precautions. See Story page 8.

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE 



# Florida Reserve Citizen Airmen take on dual deployments despite challenges

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Florida - More than 100 Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing recently deployed in support of operations in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.

“This was a bottom-up and top-down effort,” said Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander.

“From the bottom up we had our squadrons identifying what they needed to be successful in training their Citizen Airmen. From the top down we had senior leadership coming together to gather resources to ensure our Citizen Airmen were trained and ready.”

Matthews stated that there are always challenges getting a large group of our Reserve Airmen the resources they need to get out the door, but everyone came together to make it happen. “It’s a team effort and part of that team includes our host base, the 45th Space Wing, other units, as well as the civilian employers and families of reservists who carry the weight of the void left by their deploying Airman.”

The 920th RQW, is a tenant unit and close mission partner of the 45th SW.

“We still have a mission to do and our command recognized that,” said Matthews. “This was an Air Force Reserve success story because the help came from other units. Thanks to them, resources were reallocated to units like ours that were gearing up for overseas deployments allowing us to properly train and equip our personnel, which is of the utmost importance.”

According to Matthews, the challenge of deploying two squadrons simultaneously to two separate locations exceeded the capacity of the 920th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“We needed to assemble a team of full time reservists and active duty personnel from around the country to help get the job done,” he added.

“This was a huge joint effort,” said Maj. Rachael Lagerquist, 920th Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander. “We maximized the specialties and personnel available to us; then we brought in augmentees to help get us spun up and out the door.”

One of the volunteers from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, said being here is a good change of pace and he shared his views on working alongside 920th Airmen.

“It sounded like they could use a hand and we’re happy to

help,” said Chief Landon Bonds, operations superintendent, 73rd Aerial Port Squadron. “Collaborating is always beneficial because if you never leave your home station and see different viewpoints, then you won’t improve.”

Master Sgt. Ross Duarte, Aerial Delivery Superintendent, 920th LRS, was part of the team that prepped and loaded cargo for these deployments.

“Our job is to load aircraft but everything is systematic,” said Duarte. “Everything you load onto the aircraft has to be weighed and accounted for. If it’s a vehicle, we know the exact center of balance, where in theory you should be able to pick it up with your thumb and it should just teeter. Not too heavy in the front, not too heavy in the back.”

Members from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, March Air Reserve Base, California, and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas assisted over two weeks moving an estimated 80,000 pounds of equipment, gear, and personnel aboard a C-5 Galaxy aircraft and a contracted civilian aircraft.

The 920th RQW is the Air Force Reserve’s only combat-search-and-rescue unit and has saved nearly 4,000 lives and counting since 1956.

The Air Force Reserve is a critical component of the Total Force and a vital part of our national defense. Our 70,000 Citizen Airmen are operationally integrated with their Active Component counterparts. We fly as one, train as one, and fight as one.



More than 100 Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing board an aircraft in route to various deployed locations in support of operations in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, September 28, 2019, at Patrick Air Force Base Florida. (Courtesy photo)



# Super Six Visit Veterans at Tucson's VA Hospital

Story and photos by MSgt. Meredith Mingledorff



DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. -- Members of the 943rd Rescue Group's junior enlisted private organization, the Super Six, organized a visit with veterans being treated at Tucson's Veteran's Administration Hospital August 1.

The morale event organized by Tech Sgt. Bryan Lewis, the club's president, received volunteers from across the group, not just Super Six members. Senior non-commissioned officers and officers took the Super Six's lead and visited their predecessors in the hospital over the weekend brightening the day of everyone involved.

"The veterans love seeing people in uniform," said Master Sgt. Luke Johnson, coordinator, 943rd Airman and Family Readiness Center. "I work at the VA in my civilian job, and I see a marked change in the way the patients carry themselves when uniformed members come to visit."

Johnson remarked that patients sat a little straighter in their wheelchairs when the 943rd RQG Airmen arrived to serve lunch over the weekend, and they beamed with joy as they shook hands and shared stories with the Reservists.

"I think this is such a great opportunity" said Tech Sgt. Josh Nason, 943rd Operational Support Flight. "All the veterans are smiling. Having them share their stories with us, puts a face and a name to our history. They are our living history,

and we get a chance to literally sit here with them and thank them for their service, hearing from them what they've done and experienced. I'm grateful we had the chance to come out here and do this."

Lewis said more than 25 Airmen signed up to serve lunch and visit during the event. Most carried lunch trays in the main dining room and listened to the war stories of veterans as they dined. Due to the large turn-out, several more Airmen choose to don protective clothing and enter hospital rooms where some veterans were isolated, or unable to leave.

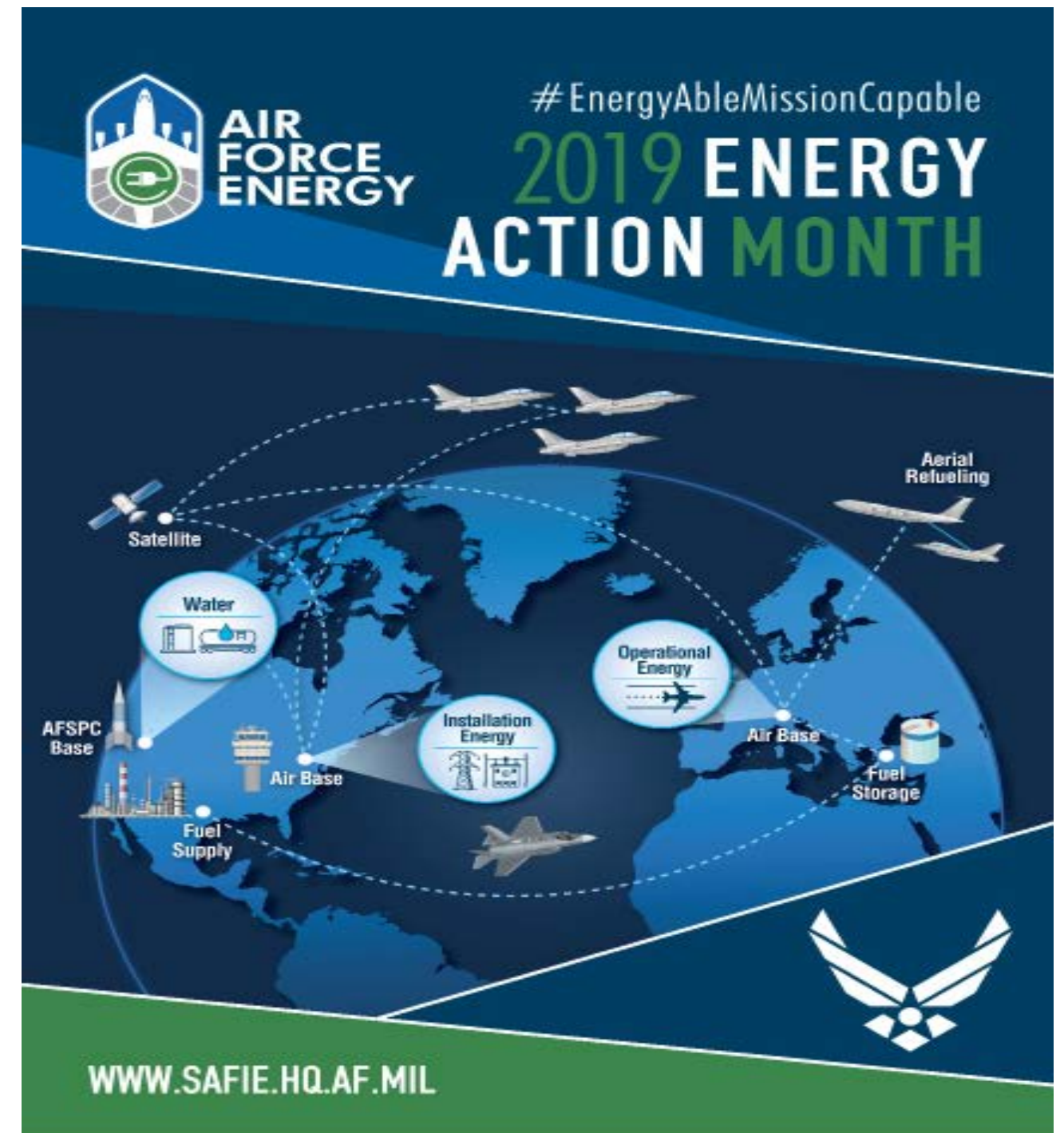
"I couldn't be more proud of our Airmen," said Lt. Col. Sherrod Dorroh, commander, 943rd Mission Support Flight. "The Super Six has really been doing some outstanding things as evidenced by the success of this event, and really, several events over the year. They are just outstanding!"

The Super Six is a free, non-profit, professional private organization made up of members of the six junior enlisted paygrades. Their mission is to transform and motivate 943rd junior enlisted with committed Reserve Citizen Airmen. Their vision is to champion the best Air Force junior enlisted program and provide pathways for success to develop the leaders of tomorrow.

## October is Energy Action Month

Every October, we recognize Energy Action Month to highlight the critical role energy plays in Air Force operations, and to encourage smart energy use and management for our installations, ground vehicles, and aircraft. This year, our new theme of "Energy Able – Mission Capable" will showcase how efficient energy use increases mission capability and readiness for our global mission. Whether we're championing projects that optimize aviation fuel use, or encouraging Airmen to make smart energy decisions at individual installations, our goal is to foster a culture that prioritizes energy optimization and water management. All aspects of the Air Force mission depends on a reliable supply of energy, and using that energy smarter means flying our aircraft farther, transporting more cargo and accomplishing our mission in a more efficient and effective way.

Everyone in the Air Force, from Airmen to civilians to contractors, play a key role in achieving our energy goals by making energy a consideration in all that we do. So we challenge Airmen to protect the power we have by looking for ways to save energy, water, and other resources. Every effort counts – click link for more info: <https://www.safie.hq.af.mil/EnergyAction-Month/Airmen/>



Global Missions Require Ready and Resilient Energy

# Amazing Men & Women of Rescue

## AFRC selects 5 Profiles in Leadership from 920th



Five members of the 920th Rescue Wing, have been selected for the 5th Edition of Profiles in Leadership for the Air Force Reserve Command. Please congratulate these rescue warriors on their job well done:

Key Spouse Lisa Fernandez (308th Rescue Squadron)  
Lt. Col. Asan Bui (920th Communications Flight)  
Maj. Chris Ferrara (39th Rescue Squadron)  
Tech. Sgt. Nick Torres (308th Rescue Squadron)  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Greene (920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron)

Their profiles will be displayed at the Pentagon, highlighting their accomplishments, contributions and sacrifices to the rescue mission.

## Maintenance squadron welcomes new commander

Major Stephen Miller assumed command of the 720th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron on August 3 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. His unit maintains the 920th Rescue Wing's HC-130N King aircraft, which are specially designed for combat-search-and-rescue missions. Miller and his maintainers are preparing to take on a new fleet of aircraft that will phase out the wing's existing model. He said this transition will be a top priority for him and his team. Air Force rescue is the only DoD entity specifically organized, trained, and equipped to conduct personnel recovery operations in hostile or denied areas as a primary mission. The 920th RQW also provides safety and security surveillance of the Eastern Range during rocket launches from the Space Coast.



## Major Niul S. Manske Assumes Command of the 304th Rescue Squadron



Major Niul S. Manske assumed command of the 304th Rescue Squadron at Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, during a ceremony there August 3.

Manske comes to the 304th Rescue Squadron from Alaska, where he was a combat rescue officer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard. Prior to joining the U.S. Air Force, Manske was a U.S. Army officer competing in the Army's World Class Athlete Program.

Athletes were chosen for the program from Active, Reserve, and National Guard components of the service, and selected for their ability to perform at the highest level of their sports, honing their skills with elite civilian and military coaches at America's best facilities while maintaining Army requirements, attending military schools, and staying competitive with their uniformed counterparts.

Manske says his training as an elite athlete provided an excellent foundation for his service as a combat rescue officer. The 304th Rescue Squadron is an Air Force Reserve Command combat-search-and-rescue unit, training its personnel to perform day and night combat rescue missions. The 304th RQS is part of the 943rd Rescue Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona and the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick AFB, Florida.

The 304th trains, equips, and deploys Combat Rescue Officers, Pararescue Jumpers, and support personnel worldwide in the interest of U.S. national security.

## Rescue warriors ready for Dorian



Although Hurricane Dorian nearly hit the Florida Coast, the men and women of the 920th Rescue Wing took the necessary precautions to ensure the safety and security of all its members and its combat rescue aircraft.

As people scrambled to put up shutters, fill up gas tanks and stock up on supplies, to alleviate hurricane preparations, 920th Rescue Wing Commander, Col. Kurt Matthews, canceled the September unit training assembly.

When HURCON III conditions were posted at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, the installation commander ordered an evacuation of the base. Before the evacuation order was given the aircrews flew HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters to the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando while maintenance Airmen secured them to prepare for the worst.

“Before the evacuation, one of the helicopters required major maintenance and thanks to a team of dedicated Reserve Citizen maintainers, who worked all day and night, they were able to change an engine so it could fly out in time,” said Senior Master Sgt. Greg Rodriguez,

920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron reserve helicopter maintenance superintendent. “Thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Tim Hendrickson and his team, the entire HH-60 evacuation was a success.”

Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Buck, 920th Maintenance Group superintendent, led a team to assist families of deployed Airmen to prepare their homes by putting up hurricane shutters and clearing yards.

“We put a list together prior to our drill training weekend to ensure we could communicate to any family in need while their loved ones were deployed,” Buck said. “Wing member volunteers who reside throughout the eastern Florida coast put the plan in motion and helped to check off the list of what needed to be done.”

Senior Master Sgt. Gary Watkins, 720th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said the wing evacuated two HC-130 N Combat King aircraft, however one remained in a hanger because it needed repairs.

Watkins, added, “Due to deployments

and aircraft conversions, there were limited personnel and aircraft that were affected.”

After the all-clear was given, the men and women from the unit returned to base, thankful, but ready for any future storms to come.

The 920th RQW’s sister rescue unit out of Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, staged four HH-60s at Patrick Air Force Base for rescue operations in the Bahamas.

“Although the path of Dorian’s eye was unpredictable and the hurricane movement was slow, everyone was ready and played a vital role,” Rodriguez said.

Jaqueline Zavala, a 920th RQW key spouse, led a group of past and present members from the wing to collect food and supplies for those affected by the storm in the Bahamas.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the people in the Bahamas,” Zavala added. “We hope these supplies help to make a difference.”

## Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Events

Orlando, FL -- Dec 20 - 22

*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).

# 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.

# Legends & Heroes:

## Letter to wing Airmen from HC-130 P/N Projo



Rescue Warriors,

The 920th Rescue Wing will host an HC-130P/N aircraft retirement event November 1-3, 2019. This ceremony 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-and-greet social, family day BBQ with aerial demonstration and static display, formal dinner, competitive golf game and other family-oriented activities.

Please help us in paying tribute to the “unsung” heroes of the combat-rescue mission by giving them the proper retirement sendoff they deserve. This event will also allow all attending members of the fixed-wing rescue community an opportunity to re-connect past relationships with members they have served alongside and the aircraft they supported.

The link below provides an overview and itinerary of the event as well as the ability to register for each individual event as desired. Some of the events are pay events and have limited seating however the BBQ is free and provided by the Rescue Special Functions Committee. Registration for the BBQ is not required.

Hope to see you all there.

<https://hc-130.eventbrite.com>

Mike Decker, SMSgt, USAF  
920 OG/OGV, HC-130 Flight Engineer

## Wing Leadership Sets New Wing Priorities

**Increase Combat Readiness**

**Modernize Operational Force Structure**

**Empower Squadron Leadership**

**Identify, Acquire, and Manage Key Resources**