



ANGEL'S WINGS



Volume 3, No. 8

920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla.

September 2005

Ready to Rescue

*920th crews
called to aid
Katrina victims*



Angel's Wings

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This authorized Air Force Reserve newspaper is published for the members of the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla. Contents of Angel's Wings are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 920th Rescue Wing, 740 O'Malley Road Bldg. 559, Patrick AFB, FL 32925. (321) 494-0535. The deadline for submission is the Friday after the UTA for the next month's issue. All photos are the property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

If you'd like to contribute to our magazine, please contact: Public_Affairs@rescue920.patrick.af.mil



Photo by Capt. Wade Arnold

920th Rescue Wing crews and support personnel load equipment and supplies into an HC-130 Hercules aircraft in preparation to deploy in response to Hurricane Katrina.

Remembrance and Response

Col. Joseph Trippy
920th Rescue Wing
Vice Commander

At this time every year since 2001, all Americans have distinctive memories about what happened on one particular morning in September. I remember that date, known by many simply as 9/11.

It was a nice day like any other—summer leaves were changing, the temperature was not so hot anymore and the kids were back in school. People were in a rush to get to work, and the busy lives we all lead were going forward.

Then, all of our lives, even the direction of the entire country, changed forever when we were attacked by terrorists.

I won't go through every event. You've heard them recited before, and although I think we need to remember what happened, it is even more important for us to look forward.

September also happens to be POW/MIA month. Chosen years ago, this was the time for us to stop and think about those in the military who gave up everything they had. They gave for you and me in many wars and conflicts, yet never came home from distant, foreign lands.

We have a lot to remember. There will be ceremonies all over the country about people we have lost and events that changed us forever. Flags will fly in the breeze, 'Taps' will play on distant trumpets and aircraft will pass over solemn crowds.

So, around this time of year, it was almost no surprise to me when another call came in. Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and we were called to respond to yet another disaster.

The response among all of you in the 920th was remarkable. Volunteers are still giving long

hours and long days followed by more long hours and long days. Our helicopters and aircraft have been constantly on the move, and our families wait as patiently as they can.

As we have all seen through the vivid pictures, video and stories of the devastation of Katrina, we can all take pride in the fact that the 920th has had an integral part in the rescue effort.

The 920th Rescue Wing has recorded 1007 saves. There were times when we had our folks flying 24 hours a day with tangible results of saving lives.

Over 1000 disaster victims are alive today because of the great men and women of the 920th!

We have over 100 personnel operating out of Jackson International Airport, Miss., and although the demand has decreased significantly, we anticipate continued operations at least through the foreseeable future, and perhaps beyond.

At least another 25 to 30 of our members have supported operations from right here at Patrick, providing necessary supplies, personnel movements and logistic support.

Many, many others have risen to the occasion to help our neighbors along the Gulf Coast. My personal motivation throughout this effort has been that life comes full circle for all of us.

By virtue of living in this area we like to call paradise, some day the shoe could be on the other foot.

If we are ever in need, I have no doubt that someone will show up and be there for us!

You can be proud to tell your neighbors, friends and relatives that you are a part of the 920th Rescue Wing. Keep up the great work!

These Things We Do That Others May Live!

Annual Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

The 2005 to 2006 Combined Federal Campaign begins Sept. 1 and runs six consecutive weeks through Dec. 15 for bases within the continental United States. The overseas CFC campaign begins Oct. 1 and runs six consecutive weeks through Dec. 15.

Exact dates and campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the local federal coordinating committee and are available through the installation CFC project officer.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fundraising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and servicemembers to contribute

to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

Last year, federal employees and servicemembers donated a record-setting \$257 million to the campaign.

Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the campaign charities this year, CFC officials said.

Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card.



For more information, people can contact their local campaign project officers or visit the CFC Web site at www.opm.gov/cfc.

Air Force Reserve takes on recruiting challenges

Recruiting quality service members is a top priority for the Air Force Reserve. Competition for these members among other services, as well as within the civilian community, has reached an all-time high.

For the last five consecutive years, Air Force Reserve Command exceeded its recruiting goal. The command achieved this remarkable feat through the outstanding efforts of our recruiters and with the superb assistance of our reservists who help tell our story of public service to the American people.

AFRC came very close to reaching its fiscal 2004 congressional end-strength mark. It fell short by .6 percent, reaching 99.3 percent or merely 578 assigned short of congressionally funded requirements.

Recruiting continues to face significant challenges. The pool of active-duty separatees continues to shrink due to force reductions over the last decade.

Competition for these members has become even keener. The active force is intensifying its

retention efforts, and the Air National Guard is competing for these people as well.

Additionally, the current high operations and personnel tempos, coupled with a perceived likelihood of activation and deployment, are being routinely cited as significant reasons why separating members are declining to choose continuing military service in the Reserve.

These issues further contribute to the civilian sector's ability to attract these members away from military service.

One consequence of the reduced success in attracting separating members from the active force is the need to make up this difference through attracting non-prior service members.

Historically, our recruiters access close to 25 percent of eligible separating active-duty Air Force members, which accounts for a significant portion of annual accessions.

Finally, with overall end strength of the Air Force Reserve dipping below 100 percent, some career-fields are undermanned.

To avoid possible readiness concerns, recruiters will continue to meet the challenge of guiding applicants to critical job specialties.

We began the "Split Training Option" in October 2003 for recruits who have not served in a military component. This program provides a flexible tool for recruiters to use in scheduling basic military training classes and technical school classes at non-consecutive times.

The Reserve is taking advantage of an active-duty Force Shaping initiative begun last year.

The Air Force is offering active-duty members the opportunity to use the Palace Chase program to change components until the end of this September. We are using this opportunity to access prior-service members with critical career skills.

Last year 1,200 active-duty members used Palace Chase to join the air reserve components, with more than half selecting the Air Force Reserve. This number may grow this fiscal year.

(AFRC News Service)

Historic Cape Canaveral tower toppled

What took years to build required only seconds to knock down Aug. 6 when 171 pounds of strategically placed explosives toppled a historic 179-foot mobile service tower here.

The 1,300-ton structure was used to launch 51 Atlas/Agena space vehicles in the 1960s and 1970s. The most famous of those launches were five Lunar Orbiter missions for NASA in 1966 and 1967. Those missions photographed about 99 percent of the moon's surface and helped pave the way for men landing on the moon in 1969.

The last launch from the complex was in April 1978 and then the pad was abandoned. Mother Nature then whittled away at the complex and the old tower, leaving a badly corroded structure in its wake.

Pieces of the rusty tower, along with toxic paint chips, fell to the ground over the years -- creating safety and environmental hazards. "The demolition of this tower demonstrates our commitment to safety and a healthy environment," said Teresa Fiorillo, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron project officer. "Yet, it's kind of sad to see this historic structure go."

"This is where we developed the



U.S. Air Force photo

A 1,300-ton structure is demolished Aug. 6. The 179-foot mobile service tower was used to launch 51 Atlas/Agena space launch vehicles in the 1960s and 1970s.

Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile," said Col. Mark Owen, 45th Space Wing commander.

"This is where we sent the launches that NASA used to help map the moon. It is key to our history. So it is kind of like seeing an old soldier go. It is sad."

Dick Ruffe, a retired Atlas sys-

tems engineer who helped build the complex and was involved with many of the flights, was on hand to witness the demolition.

"We accomplished a lot at (the complex)," he said. "Hard to imagine it, but it's all gone in a puff of smoke. It came down a lot faster than it went up."

New SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage will increase to \$400,000 on Sept. 1, Department of Defense officials said.

Servicemembers eligible for SGLI will automatically be insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

The monthly premium remains \$3.25 per \$50,000 of coverage, so the monthly premium for full coverage will be \$26.00 beginning in September.

A person who wishes to retain the \$400,000 of coverage with beneficiary designations as before Sept. 1 does not need to take any action. The \$400,000 of coverage will apply along with the new premiums and beneficiary designations will remain the same.

Even people who had previously declined SGLI

coverage or elected less than the maximum coverage, will automatically be covered for \$400,000.

If they wish to again decline or reduce the coverage, they must complete a new SGLV 8286 form indicating the amount of coverage desired including no coverage if applicable.

If a servicemember properly completes and submits the form before Sept. 30, he or she will not be liable for the September premium associated with the reduced or declined portion of coverage.

The new SGLV 8286 form is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at www.insurance.va.gov. Entries can be made on the page and then downloaded.

(Courtesy of AFPN)

920th Rescue Wing Employer Awareness Day Saturday, November 5, 2005

Is it difficult to explain your Air Force Reserve career to your civilian employer? Would you like a chance to say "thank you" with more than just words for their understanding and support of your Air Force Reserve career?

The 920th Rescue Wing is hosting its annual Employer Awareness Day during the November 2005 UTA weekend. Employer's Day is the perfect opportunity for your employer to see first hand just how important your contributions are to the success of the 920th RQW and to the defense of the United States. Reservists who have been deployed or activated are highly encouraged to nominate their civilian employers for this event.

In a day they will be sure to remember, your employer will have the opportunity to fly aboard an HC-130 Hercules aircraft or an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, view displays and demonstrations and participate in a tour of 920th RQW facilities. In addition, your employer will be presented with a certificate of appreciation from the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at a luncheon held in their honor.

Please completely fill out the nomination form below and return it to the 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs office at the address listed on the reverse side of this flyer. **Nominations must be received by the 920th RQW Public Affairs office no later than October 1, 2005.**

EMPLOYER AWARENESS DAY 2005 NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE (EMPLOYER)

NAME/JOB TITLE

NAME OF BUSINESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

BUSINESS PHONE

RESERVIST

NAME/RANK/UNIT

HOME ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

EMPLOYER AWARENESS DAY GUIDELINES

1. Although you may nominate more than one employer, it is possible that not all employers will receive an invitation. If nominations exceed the total allowable, reservists who nominate multiple employers will be contacted to decide which nomination would be their primary choice. Nominate only one person per nomination form.

2. We would like to accommodate as many employers as possible, but space is limited! Please submit your nomination form as soon as possible. **The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2005.**

3. Mail your nomination form to the 920th RQW Public Affairs office at the address listed below, or fax both sides of the form to (321) 494-0535.

**920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs Office
740 O'Malley Rd. Bldg. 559
Patrick AFB, FL 32925**

Use the space below to describe how your civilian employer makes your service with the 920th Rescue Wing and the Air Force Reserve easier. Please print neatly. Now is the perfect time to thank your employer for his or her support of your Air Force Reserve career. Please contact the Public Affairs office at (321) 494-0536 or (321) 494-0535 for questions or concerns.

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Hurricane Katrina relief effort total force response

Airmen from across the Air Force are continuing to search for, rescue, evacuate, treat, feed and comfort Hurricane Katrina's millions of victims.

Most of the Airmen helping with relief operations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are deploying with units as part of a total force response. And for all those on the ground, there are thousands more volunteering to help.

Helicopters from the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., flew to Jackson, Miss., on Aug. 30 to pick up and transport Federal Emergency Management Agency assessment teams to areas affected by the hurricane.

Fifteen HH-60G Pave Hawks and crews from the 347th RQW at Moody AFB, Ga., and the 16th Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Fla., have also been positioned in Jackson.

In the first 24 hours of operations, rescue crews from the 347th RQW rescued 211 people, including children and some pregnant women.

"As always, the rescue wing is ready meet the demand," said Col. Joe Callahan, 347th RQW commander. "We are going to be part of the total team effort needed to help the area begin to get on its way to recovery in the aftermath of this tragic and horrible disaster."

In addition, about 100 Airmen and four Pave Hawks from the 55th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., will depart Sept. 2 for Jackson where they will stage while conducting search and rescue missions.

Two Air Force Reserve Command C-5 Galaxy aircrews

from the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., flew a cross-country mission Aug. 30 to March ARB, Calif., to pick up rescue teams and supplies to help the victims of the hurricane. A third C-5 assigned to the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Group also joined the airlift effort.

Another C-5 from the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis AFB, Calif., and a C-17 from the 305th AMW at McGuire AFB, N.J., transported tanker airlift control elements and contingency support groups to Gulfport and New Orleans respectively.

A C-130 Hercules from the 403rd Wing at Keesler AFB, Miss., flying out of Asheville, N.C., returned home to deliver supplies to the base hospital.

The 908th AW at Maxwell AFB, Ala., geared up two C-130s, aircrews and aeromedical evacuation people to help move people.

The 5th Combat Communications Group at Robins AFB, Ga., left for Keesler AFB and New Orleans on Sept. 1. The group members provided Keesler and a makeshift hospital in New Orleans with much-needed communications networks. A priority of the relief mission is to provide public telephone capabilities to the base and medical facility, said Col. John Lent, 5th CCG commander. The 5th will set up voice data communications, e-mail and air traffic control communications. The group is also packing additional loads of communications equipment for quick response to any additional needs for the relief effort.

Two aeromedical evacuation crews from the 932nd Airlift Wing at Scott AFB, Ill., flew out Sept. 1.

They will enter a medical staging area and put their skills to work helping move patients where needed. The aeromedical crews took supplies with them including litters, heart monitors, ventilators, power converters, portable oxygen, assorted medicines and bandages.

A C-9A aircraft is also being flown by the Air Force Reserve wing to shuttle two active-duty medical teams to New Orleans.

"This is a difficult time for those directly affected by the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. Our medical crews will join with other agencies on the ground to give what medical aid they can, and make a positive difference in the lives of our fellow Americans," said Col. Maryanne Miller, 932nd AW Operations Group commander.

The Alabama National Guard sent 1,400 and Army and Air National Guardsmen to Mississippi on Sept. 1. The troops will provide security to Mississippi officials and will help the state re-establish communication networks.

About 400 Texas Army and Air National Guardsmen will also soon be leaving for Louisiana to provide medical and communications support.

About 200 Airmen from Keesler AFB evacuated to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, on Sept. 1 via a C-17 Globemaster III.

"Sheppard is prepared to receive, feed and house up to 1100 Airmen, with the capability to accommodate even more," said Brig. Gen. James Whitmore, 82nd Training Wing commander.

Humanitarian efforts are continuing. Countless Airmen nationwide are standing by to provide any support they can.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Troops return home from abroad

By Master Sgt. Ray Padgett
920th Rescue Wing Public
Affairs

A C-17 Globemaster quietly set down on the Patrick Air Force Base runway in the dark of night, September 4 returning approximately 42 members of the 920th Rescue Wing from a rotation in Afghanistan.

While in their area of responsibility, the 59th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron flew 90 combat sorties with a total of 19 combat saves.

According to Lt. Col. Chris Hannon, the 59 ERQS deployed commander, many of the high risk missions were given to the Air Force rescue crews because of their unique ability to operate in total blackout conditions on moonless nights.

"To deploy and bring back 130 combat hours of accident-free flying really shows the professionalism and effectiveness of the entire team," Colonel Hannon said.

"Because of altitude and temperature we were really at the edge of our performance envelope. We were always making critical decisions and mitigating risk by constant changes in configurations," Colonel Hannon added.

Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Kestranek, a pararescueman deployed with the 59 ERQS, recounted how rewarding it was to rescue someone, in addition to performing ceremonies



Photo by Master Sgt. Ray Padgett

Members of the 920th Rescue Wing return home to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., after finishing a rotation in Afghanistan.

to bring servicemember's remains home to their families.

"Participating in the ramp ceremonies really brings it home. Sometimes people forget that

there are still soldiers out in combat putting their lives at risks for the freedoms we all enjoy. I was proud to be a part of the operation," he said.

Staff Sgt. David Foster, a medical technician with the unit, stated that unit members were

also involved in approximately 137 surgeries and lent a humanitarian hand to the local population by making many trips to local villages to treat

women and children.

While deployed, Sergeant Foster said he earned the airborne combat patch and the combat medical patch.

Ten-year-old Ashley Jones and twelve-year-old Danielle Jones peered out into the darkness hoping to catch a glimpse of their father, Tech. Sgt. J.D. Jones, disembarking the plane before heading off to inprocess.

The girls had sent their father on deployments in the past, but this was the first time he had deployed since getting married to now wife Dottie, who said she woke up at 2:15 a.m. to make it out to the base.

"No one in the house had a problem getting out of bed, this morning. Even without an alarm," she said.

Unit members continue to support their Aerospace Expeditionary Force requirements while performing humanitarian search and rescue operations.



920th crews aid Katrina victims

By Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Answering a desperate call for help, the Air Force Reserve's premier rescue wing responded to one of the most dangerous storms in U.S. history.

Members of the 920th Rescue Wing deployed to Jackson, Miss., Aug. 30 to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency's efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The crews will be based at the Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing and will work in conjunction with the Coast Guard and other disaster response teams in the region.

"We've deployed three HH-60G helicopter teams and two additional crews to do what we do best, and that's saving lives," said Col. Tim Tarchick, Commander of the unit.

While the mission calls for wing members to provide FEMA support through Sept. 2, the crews will stay however long they are needed to get the job done, Colonel Tarchick said.

Much like the rest of the area, the facilities housing the operation are without power and possess limited communications. The initial phase of the mission involves setting up a command and control center and evaluating the situation. Crews will work around the clock in 12-hour shifts to ensure they are ready at a moment's notice.

Unlike combat search and rescue, humanitarian rescue missions pose unique challenges.

"We may not have people shooting at us, but the danger still exists," said Maj. Brent Baysinger, a helicopter pilot with the unit.

"Under normal circumstances, we can identify flying hazards on a map. But in a situation like this where the landscape has been completely ravaged, the risks involved are greater," he said.

Although all crewmembers are trained and equipped to handle those risks, the job of jumping into perilous situations and hoisting victims to safety falls to the wing's pararescuemen.

In addition to being highly skilled divers, precision parachutists and fully combat qualified, Air Force pararescuemen are all certified paramedics. Training that plays an invaluable part in rescue operations.

In September 1999, that training was put to the test when Hurricane Floyd battered the North Carolina coast causing 57 deaths and an estimated \$4.5 billion dollars in damage.

Unit members were attributed with saving 200 lives in the days that followed the storm.

Currently, the wing is credited with over 700 total

saves, including 26 in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. If you look to the unit's motto however, the motivation behind the mission is less about the numbers and more about the impact.

"These things we do that others may live' isn't just a motto to us, it is the reason we get out of bed in the morning," Colonel Tarchick said.

"When you save one person's life, you may be really saving three: a father, a son and a husband," he remarked. "With this current mission, that's what we're hoping to do."

Based at Patrick Air Force Base, the 920th RQW's primary mission is combat search and rescue, but its other duties include performing humanitarian search and rescue and supporting space launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

At present, over 90 wing members are deployed in support of the nation's war on terror.



Photo by Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly

Senior Master Sgt. Donald Rouse, a loadmaster with the 39th Rescue Squadron, secures cargo in the rear of an HC-130 aircraft bound for Jackson, Miss. Personnel and supplies were provided in support of Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts.

Around the pattern

920th Rescue Wing summer-hire Andrew Gall (right) gives an “ice-breaker” speech at his first Toastmasters meeting.

The Patrick Air Force Base chapter of the group, the “Beachside Broadcasters”, is chaired by 920th member Senior Master Sgt. Debra Levy (below).

Read more about the Beachside Broadcasters in next month’s Angel’s Wings.



Photo by Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly





Air Force seeks stories from '9/11 Generation'

The face of the world changed when terrorists intentionally crashed commercial aircraft into the Twin Towers in New York and into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. A global audience watched the attacks live on television, and the repeated images haunted many for weeks, months or even years.

These attacks inspired different reactions. Some feared living in major cities, others became avid news junkies, and many chose to join the fight for freedom. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 135,000 have joined the Air Force.

Air Force officials want to share their stories.

In an effort launched Aug. 17, Airmen who are part of this "9/11 Generation" can tell their stories through Air Force Link, the Air Force's official Web site.

"Before 9/11, many Airmen never really thought that they might go to war," said Col. Janice Gunnoe, Air Force News Agency commander. "Since the attacks, our new Airmen understand that their country is at war, and they chose to join the fight anyway.

"This is a drastic change in their motives, and these letters are a way for them to tell their stories," she said.

Airmen can submit stories to www.af.mil/letters/index.asp?type=4. To record an audio story, call (877) 237-2346 toll free, DSN 945-5918 or commercial (210) 925-5918 and select Option 2.

BRIEFS

Billeting Assignments

Please contact your unit orderly room for information concerning billeting assignments for the September UTA.

Military Pay Hours

The 920th RQW Military Pay office is located on the second floor of building 559 on O'Malley Road.

Please visit on Saturday of the UTA during normal duty hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chaplain Assistance

The 920th RQW Chaplains are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you need an ear to listen, contact Chaplain John Weller at 1-800-636-0262 and Chaplain Calvin Gittner at (321) 259-1330.

Hurricane season continues

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Contact the 920th RQW Safety Office at (321) 494-3215 for information on preparedness and evacuation procedures.

New AF Chief of Staff

Gen. T. Michael Moseley was sworn in as the Air Force's 18th chief of staff in a ceremony Sept. 2 that also featured the retirement of Gen. John P. Jumper after 39 years of service.



Photo by Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly

As a rain storm looms in the horizon, three HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters lift off from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., bound for Jackson, Miss. The crews are supporting search and rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

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