



ANGEL'S WINGS

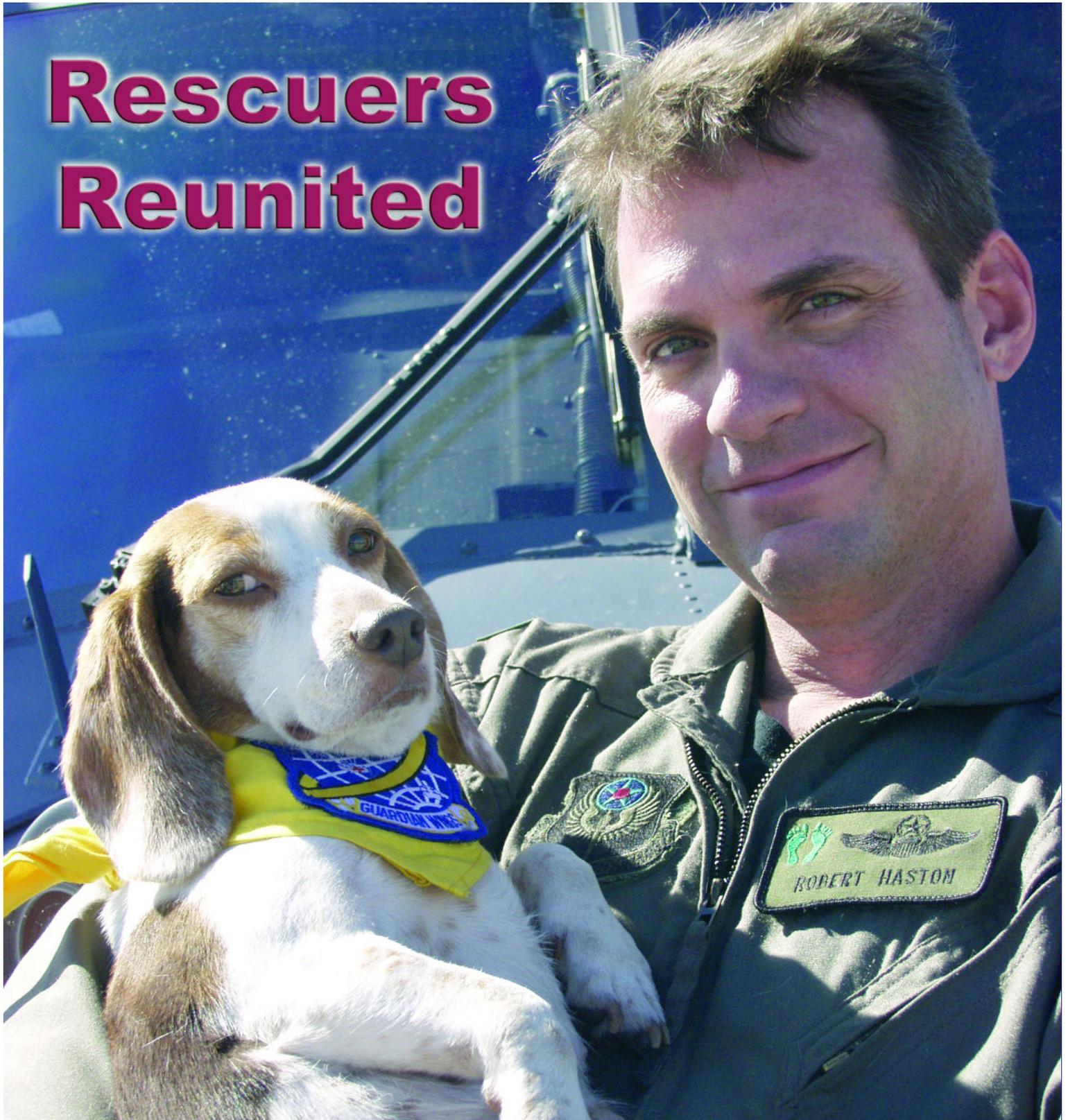


Volume 4, No. 1

920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla.

January 2006

Rescuers Reunited



Angel's Wings

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If you'd like to contribute to our magazine, please contact:
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On the Cover:

Maj. Robert Haston, 301st Rescue Squadron helicopter pilot, holds fellow rescue crewmember Katrina after reuniting during the December 2005 UTA. Katrina's incredible journey is detailed on page eight.

Photo by Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly

From the editor's desk

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

The following are the results of an informal poll given to 920th Rescue Wing members during the December UTA.

When asked, members offered their top 10 New Year's resolutions. Our findings are presented in order of least to most popular.

Top 10 Resolutions

10. Learn "real" words to National Anthem
9. Get promoted
8. Grow a moustache
7. Buy baby powder
6. Eat at Bizzaro's only twice a week
5. "Be a sweetie, wipe the seat-y"
4. Learn to use The Force
3. Stop referring to co-workers as "Maverick", "Goose" and "Iceman"
2. For the last time, RMO, RMO, RMO!
1. Be proactive in making Angel's Wings the best wing magazine in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command!

Ok, so maybe I was kidding about the first nine, but number

one is on my list, and with your help, the possibility can become a reality.

Communication is an integral part of any organization. Our unit publication serves dual purposes in that it is the commander's communication tool, but it also tells the rescue mission story...YOUR story.

The Public Affairs office is looking for those stories.

Interesting civilian occupations, hobbies, community contributions, achievements...they are all noteworthy and deserve attention.

Not only do we want your stories, we are looking for your suggestions; items you would like to see in the unit magazine.

Over the next few months, we will be incorporating some new changes into Angel's Wings. Your contributions and feedback are welcome and encouraged.

Lastly, when you stop by the office to offer your ideas, please welcome the new Chief of Public Affairs, First Lt. Cathleen Snow.

Until then, enjoy the new year and remember, RMO!

"That Others May Live"... to tell the story!

From the back page

Did you guess?

The 920th Rescue Wing Commander Col. Timothy Tarchick and his daughter Hannah performed together in the holiday production of the American Nutcracker at the Gleason Center for Performing Arts in Melbourne.

The colonel made a special appearance as Mother Ginger complete with stage makeup, bouffant wig and a two-story skirt from which issued oodles of children.

Col. Tarchick will leave the 920th RQW to assume command of the 934 Airlift Wing at Minneapolis-St.Paul International Airport in Minn.

The move will be effective on or about March 31, 2006. Col. Tarchick's replacement will be announced at a later date.

Wing members driven to help communities in need

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

Master Sgt. Angela Wood's, a medical administrative assistant with the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, experience with collecting food started with her parents work with the Volusia County Domestic Abuse Council.

Several years ago, her mother asked her to "just put out a box in your office and see what you can get."

Woods has done this in years past and approached the ASTS commander's staff about a squadron-wide drive.

She said she realized this year many people have given to the Gulf Coast hurricane relief efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi, so she decided to look closer to home.

"I found that many people in South Florida really need food," Woods said.

Sergeant Woods said she would not have gotten the results without the help of full-time ASTS staff members Chief Master Sgt. Dorlen Martin, Cassie Lawson and Rich Pollack.

The four of them contacted the Treasure Coast Food Bank about possible donations to areas in St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River counties. They donated a portion of the collection to Brevard County's Sharing Center.

"This is a good way to give back to the Brevard County area that does so much for the base," she added.

Several other noncommissioned officers in the wing such as Master Sgt. Jonathan Green from the 920th Mission Support

Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Karl Owens from the 920th Maintenance Squadron electro-environmental shop helped the food collection from the rest of the wing.

"The men and women in the MSS have always responded positively to assisting others in need. We're getting it done!" Sergeant Green said.

Fellow MSS member, Master Sgt. Dee Melvin, serves as an example of that response. Sergeant Melvin organized a wing toy drive that benefited disadvantaged children in Biloxi, Miss., a community still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

"We collected toys in conjunction with the city of Casselberry police department, who then transported them to Biloxi" said

Sergeant Melvin.

"With the help of everyone who participated, we were able to make a significant contribution," she added.

Selflessness is a characteristic common to those who support the rescue mission.

Like Sergeant Woods, Sergeants Green's desire to help others started at home.

"My fondest memory of childhood was when I was about six or seven years old, and she asked me if she could give some of my Christmas toys to some other children. My response was a resounding NO!" he said. "Then she explained to my sister and I how blessed we were, and how God had actually given us a little more so that we could share with others."



Photo by Senior Airman Heather L. Kelly

Master Sgt. Dee Melvin, coordinated a wing toy drive to benefit the children of Biloxi, Miss. 920th Rescue Wing members also reached out to surrounding communities with a food drive.

New CC assumes command of 10th AF

By Tech. Sgt. Shane Smith
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Collins assumed command of the 10th Air Force during a change-of-command ceremony at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 20.

General Collins replaced Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin who served as Commander of the 10th Air Force from January 2005 to December 2005. General Poulin will replace Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi as Vice Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. General Tanzi will retire.

Before assuming command of the 10th Air Force, General Collins was the mobilization assistant to the commander of the Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas, from December 2004 to December 2005.

From January 2003 to November 2004, he was the mobilization assistant to the commander of the 7th Air Force, Osan Air Base, Korea. Before that assignment, from September 2002 to January 2003, he was the mobilization assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff of Air and Space Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon.

General Collins graduated from the U.S. Air Force

Academy in 1969 with a bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering.

He entered the Air Force Reserve unit program in 1981 after 10 years of active duty in a variety of flying assignments.

In the unit program, he has seen duty as an instructor pilot, flight examiner, flight commander, weapons officer, operations officer, squadron commander, operations group commander and vice commander of the 924th Fighter Wing.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours of flight time in the F-4 Phantom and the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

As 10th Air Force commander, General Collins oversees the operation of all AFRC fighter, bomber, rescue, airborne warning and control, special operations, flying training, combat air operations battle staff, and space units.

When mobilized, these units are gained by Air Combat Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Force Education and Training Command, Pacific Air Forces, Air Force Space Command, and Air Force Material Command.

Col. Jimmie Mills, 10th Air Force director of staff, will run the day-to-day operation of the numbered air force when General Collins is not on duty.

New rules to reinforce Reserve re-employment protections

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is lauding the Labor Department announcement issuing rules clarifying re-employment rights for citizen-soldiers.

They said the Dec. 16 announcement is a major step forward for guardsmen, reservists and their civilian employers.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao announced final rules interpreting the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act that helps ensure job security for reserve-component members returning to civilian life from military duty. The rules will be published today in the Federal Register.

Speaking at the National Press Club here, Ms. Chao said this is the first time since the law's passage in 1994 that regulations have been developed to enforce it.

The rules are particularly critical now, she said, when the United States has the largest group of mobilized guardsmen and reservists since World War II.

Since 9-11, almost 530,000 reserve-component people have been mobilized, many for more than a year of duty.

The new rules, drafted in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format, explain how the USERRA law protects against discrimination and retaliation because of military service and prevents servicemembers from job setbacks from performing their military obligations.

The law also ensures that guardsmen and reservists have ample time to report back to their civilian jobs after completing their military duty.

"Our citizen-soldiers put themselves in harm's way to defend our freedoms, and now it's our

turn to be there for them," Ms. Chao said. "These regulations will ensure that the seniority, promotion, health care, pensions and other benefits of our citizen-soldiers are protected when they return home to the jobs they left to serve our country."

Putting teeth behind the USERRA law benefits citizen soldiers as well as their employers, said Maj. Rob Palmer, a public affairs officer with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"Anything that makes it easier for Guard and Reserve members to work with their employers and understand their rights and responsibilities under the law is a benefit to everyone," he said.

With more than 50 percent of the military's manpower in the reserve components, employer support is critical to U. S. national security, Major Palmer said.

What a Great Year -- Thank You All!

“Above and Beyond” is the perfect motto to describe the activities of the units in the 10th Air Force this past year. Whether fighting the Global War on Terrorism with our participation in deployments to Guam and Iraq or humanitarian assistance for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Ops Tempo is exponentially increasing. It’s important to remember that every event represents a significant point in our history.

The common denominator of each event is people - the men and women that make up the units within 10th Air Force - working together to accomplish great things. People who are extremely patriotic and dedicated to the Air Force core values: Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. These key values remind us of what it takes to get the mission done; and that is what we are all about - training, preparing and maintaining the highest combat capability to augment active forces in support of our national objectives.

With this in mind, we are grateful for our members

and the support of our families, retirees, employers and our full-time staff. As a seamless team, we are able to overcome any challenge.

Looking ahead to the coming year, it seems that more challenges are on the horizon with the recommendations from BRAC 2005 and our continued support for democracy and freedom in Iraq.

I have full confidence that the dedication, skill and sacrifice of all our members will continue to ensure our success in the future.

I have great pride and admiration for all the people that work within 10th Air Force, and I thank you for the service you provide to our great Nation.

I wish you all a happy and safe Holiday season and an equally successful and challenging New Year ahead.



Air Force releases new mission statement

The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis: The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the

United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by

the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes

network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent." Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has



F-22A Raptor goes operational

The Air Force's most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials here announced Thursday.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor's proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, "If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us."

"F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," General Keys said. "The Raptor's cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service's industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability here.

"The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Bloker

Crew chief Staff Sgt. Adam Murtishaw guides an F-22A Raptor into its parking space after a Dec. 14 mission.

precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today," General Keys said. "Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge."

Designed to ensure America's air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their

weapons and technologies.

"As I told (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force. Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air," General Keys said.

The first combat-ready Raptors are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing here. The squadron's current combat deployment capability with the F-22A is a 12-ship package designed to execute air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

Remembering the Challenger

The following is an account of the Challenger tragedy given by 920th Rescue Wing member Senior Master Sgt. Craig Kennedy.

A pararescueman assigned to the then 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing, Sergeant Kennedy was on duty January 28, 1986, performing the range clearing mission when he witnessed catastrophe.

“We were watching it, and at first you could see something ...you're in denial the whole time, but you could see something was definitely wrong initially and you'd say, 'Well, that could be just the solid rocket booster separation,' but then you saw those smoke trails. Everybody's standing out there—except the pilot who was in the helicopter because it was running—they just had their jaws wide open. Finally the pilot, who was in communication with Cape leader, started banging on the side of the helicopter to get our attention because it was just so loud out there. He said, 'Come on, let's go.' As we were getting in the helicopter I remember asking him, 'Do we have survivors?' He answered, 'We have a crash location.'”

"It was a weird feeling. I'd say shock, grief, and adrenaline. I've never really experienced it before. Shock because what had hap-

“As we were getting in the helicopter I remember asking him, 'Do we have survivors?' He answered, 'We have a crash location.'”

***Senior Master Sgt.
Craig Kennedy
920th Rescue Wing***

pened shouldn't have happened. This was kind of a bulletproof process we had come to really hang our hats on. And something



NASA file photo

The NASA family lost seven of its own on the morning of January 28, 1986, when a booster engine failed, causing the Shuttle Challenger to break apart just 73 seconds after launch. The crew of STS-51-L: Front row from left, Mike Smith, Dick Scobee, Ron McNair. Back row from left, Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Greg Jarvis, Judith Resnik.

like that happening was unthinkable. Then grief, because you knew what had happened, and more than likely there were seven people who were dead out there. And then adrenaline, because you knew if one of them was alive, you were going to have to go in and get them. As we were flying out, it seemed like we were moving in slow motion.”

"As I was putting on my wet suit in the back of the helicopter, I looked out the window and that's when I saw the first piece hit the water. It was about the size of a Volkswagen and it cleared the helicopter by about 50 feet, making a splash in the water. While I was watching that, everybody else up front started noticing all the other stuff that was coming down. We had seen the impact point about eight miles out, and we were going to make a couple of low passes to see if there were any survivors or any bodies.

We decided quickly that if there were, then we, the pararescuemen, would have gone in the water and the helicopter would have gone north of Daytona. We would have taken our chances in the water. But as it was, we didn't see anything, so we made a couple of passes and then headed north while we waited for the debris to fall.”

"When we got back after about half an hour, the water was just amazing because of all the hypergolic fuel; it looked like a giant witch's cauldron boiling. The water was boiling, then smoke was coming out of the bubbles. You knew that if anybody was in there, then they probably weren't going to make it, and you knew that if you were going to go in there, then you probably weren't going to make it either...The helplessness of it all was what drove the way everybody felt. It was so catastrophic.”

Katrina: A hero's 'tail'

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

Courage comes in many shapes and many sizes. During the first days of Hurricane Katrina search and rescue missions, many acts of courage were witnessed. This one came covered in fur.

The story of Katrina the rescue beagle begins Sept. 1 at the I-10 overpass in New Orleans.

After setting down to take on multiple loads of stranded hurricane victims, 301st Rescue Squadron helicopter pilots Capt. Mike Brasher and Maj. Robert Haston began to notice that each time they landed, a beagle would run toward the helicopter and take a place next to Senior



Maj. Robert Haston (left), Capt. Mike Brasher (center) and Senior Master Sgt. Pete Callina (right) pose with the brave beagle that aided their rescue efforts in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina operations. Renamed "Katrina", the canine was reunited with the crew after Captain Brasher conducted his own search and rescue mission.



Surrounded by flood waters, Senior Master Sgt. Pete Callina rescues the stranded beagle from the I-10 overpass. Katrina assisted Sergeant Callina by shepherding hurricane victims into the waiting helicopters.

Master Sgt. Pete Callina, one of the pararescuemen on board.

"Each time, it was like she was helping us corral people into the helicopter. She was totally unafraid," said Sergeant Callina.

"While we were on our last run, it was obvious that she was an evacuee herself and didn't belong to anyone on the overpass," said Captain Brasher. "So we decided to take her with us," he said.

After entrusting the animal (then called "Barney") to an emergency medical technician at a collection point, the crew hoped that the dog

would get to an animal shelter.

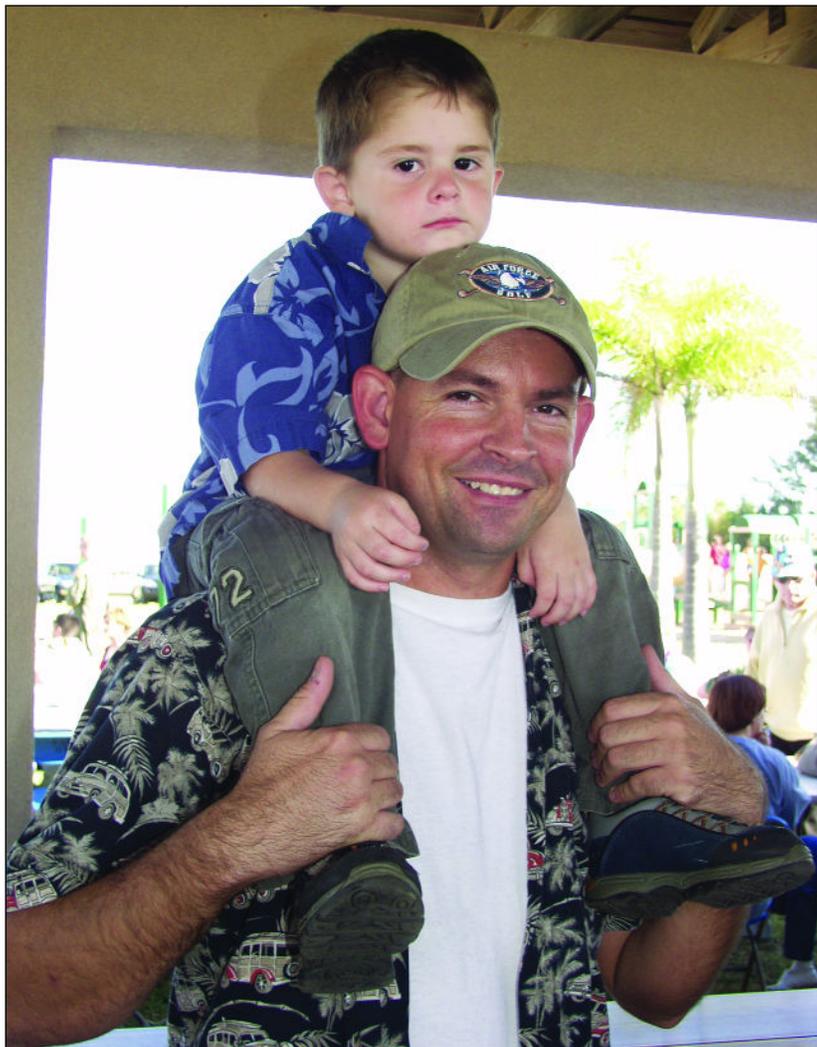
"After we got home, the impossible task of finding her began," said Captain Brasher, who enlisted his wife Melanie in the cause.

"After searching through thousands of beagle pictures online, we were able to locate her though petfinder.com," said Captain Brasher. "She was with the Arizona Humane Society," he said.

The Brasher's arranged to have the dog flown to Orlando, Fla., and to her new home and place as the 301st RQS mascot. The brave beagle has since appropriately been re-named "Katrina."

Families rally for holiday party

The 920th Rescue Wing annual holiday picnic saw a gathering of friends and families over food and festivities. Sponsored by the Top Three, the party was true to the Florida holiday season, with hawaiian shirts and island wear as the uniform of the day.



Set to the music of steel drums, events included a prize raffle and a visit from Santa. The party saw a record turnout from unit members and families alike.

“Every year the holiday party gets better and better,” said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Lacey, one of the event organizers. “We look forward to topping this one next year,” he added.

Thank you to the members of the Top Three for organizing a fantastic wing holiday celebration!



Around The Pattern



Collin White (right), son of Lt. Col. Steve White, tries an aircrew helmet on for size during the 920th Rescue Wing's Spouses Day.

Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow



Photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Padgett

Master Sgt. Chad Hughes (right), a 308th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, is presented with the Bronze Star Medal at a Commander's Call during the December UTA. Congratulations Sergeant Hughes!



Photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Padgett

Master Sgt. Janice Tarleton presents an arrangement to her husband for supporting her during her military career. Sergeant Tarleton retired during the December UTA.

BRIEFS

ARPC automates 20-year and mortgage letters

The Air Reserve Personnel Center set another transformation milestone with the self-service automation of the reissue of 20-year and mortgage letters.

The letters are now available via the Virtual Personnel Center Guard/Reserve portal.

The original 20-year notification letter is issued approximately 120 days after the end of the retention/retirement year at the 20-year mark for Guard and Reserve Airmen. Once the data system reflects 20 years of satisfactory service, it issues the notification letter.

The new automated process enables retirees to replace misplaced 20-year letters automatically by visiting the Web site at <http://arpc.afro.af.mil/support.asp>.

"This is a huge step to give Airmen what they want from the 'big system,'" said Dave Aldrich, the center's director of personnel services. "We self-service at the gas station, our banks, the post office. I believe Airmen expect they should do the same in getting their personnel support."

The personnel center has also automated the mortgage letter, which assists reservists with information regarding their retired pay benefits for mortgage applications.

Reservists in the process of purchasing a new home may go online to <http://arpc.afro.af.mil/support.asp>, sign in and print out a verification of the amount of gross retired pay they will received.

TSP changes for 2006

Effective in 2006, civilian and military employees are no longer subject to a percentage limit on the amount they may contribute to a regular Thrift Savings Plan account.

They may contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

Open seasons were eliminated July 1, 2005, so employees may start, change, stop or resume their TSP contributions at any time (except those in the 6-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal).

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement. Eligible employees can take out loans, make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts, and keep their account even if they leave military or federal civilian service.

Reservist can establish online virtual accounts at vMPF

Air Force reservists can now go online to create an account on the Reserve Personnel Center's Virtual Personnel Center-Guard Reserve portal.

The portal on the personnel center's Web site allows reservists to access virtual personnel services and enhances the traditional "vMPF" tools with which many Airmen are already familiar.

Service is available around the clock year round and lets Airmen conduct a variety of personnel transactions from anywhere in the world with an Internet connections.

The process is relatively simple and can help speed up many personnel actions. To create an account, go to <https://arpc.afro.af.mil/support/newaccount.asp>.

Fill out the electronic form, including the member's Social Security number and date of birth. Members will also have to include a valid e-mail address and phone number. The e-mail address will be used for service delivery and password management. People with no e-mail address can establish one at: www.gimail.af.mil/login.asp.

Graduate TA Increases

Effective immediately, the graduate degree tuition assistance (TA) fiscal year cap for Air Force Reserve personnel will increase from \$3,500 to \$4,500. This increase will streamline the TA process with the active duty Air Force and bring AFRC in compliance with the education system of record.

Free Turbo Tax

Turbo Tax 2005 will soon be available to service-members for the upcoming tax season.

Military OneSource will provide access to this service at no cost to military members.

The new version will be available in late December or early January.

Once a specific date is set, it will be posted on the OneSource website.

Go to www.militaryonesource.com for information on other military offers.

Uplifting Performance



Courtesy photos

Can you guess the identity of this 920th Rescue Wing member? To see the correct answer, check out page 2!



Spouses Day

Staff Sgt. Brandon McElroy (right), a loadmaster with the 39th Rescue Squadron, gives spouses of 920th Rescue Wing members a passenger safety brief while onboard an HC-130 Hercules aircraft. Spouses Day gives military husbands and wives a first hand look at the mission they help support.