THE RESCUEGRAM

The Official Information Publication of the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard **July 2008**

Lives Saved

559

These Things We Do... That Others May Live...

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Chief Keck takes the reins for the 129th Rescue Wing

Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir

The new Command Chief of the 129th Rescue Wing, Chief Master Sgt. Kristina Keck, salutes Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th RQW Commander, while the outgoing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Liliana Ramos, looks on during the Change of Authority ceremony June 8.

By Staff Sgt. Jill Jamgochian
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

The 129th Rescue Wing gained a new command chief when Col. Amos Bagdasarian, the 129th Wing Commander, bequethed the guidon to Chief Master Sgt. Kristina Keck in a Change of Authority Ceremony attended by the wing, family and friends Sunday, June 8.

Chief Master Sgt. Keck said she was "excited, honored and humbled to be the new chief for the 129th Rescue Wing," and her number one priority is to create the right environment to provide the enlisted troops the ability to achieve their goals. The new chief replaced Chief Master Sgt. Liliana Ramos, who served 33 years in the Air Force, as the top enlisted individual in the wing.

As the 10th Command Chief at the 129th, Chief Master Sgt. Keck, previously the wing's Human Resource Advisor, brings 21 years of Air Force experience, mulitple deployments in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and a passion for enlisted members and their training.

Bill Keck, husband to the newly-appointed Chief, said, "I've never been so proud of my wife, ever. She's at the pinnacle of her career."

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The mission of the 129th Rescue Wing is to provide highly trained and well-equipped rescue resources, able to respond to and sustain the state mission of furnishing trained personnel for state emergencies, such as natural disasters, and to assist civil authorities in the enforcement of the law.

When called to active duty with the Air Force, we provide manpower, material and equipment resources to conduct and complete combat and search rescue operations world-wide. We provide manpower, material and equipment to conduct and complete peacetime search operations.

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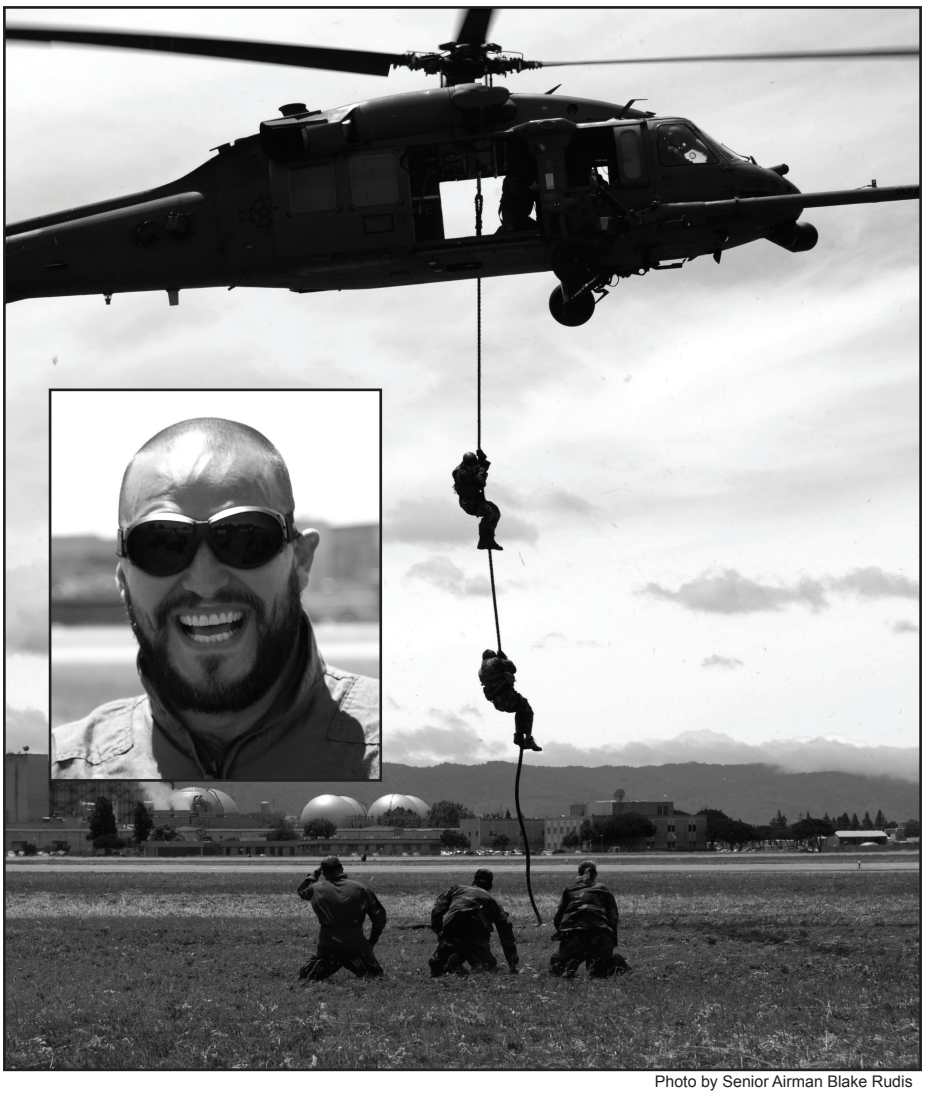


Photo by Senior Airman Blake Rudis

"No Name," the co-host for Alice 97.3 FM's morning show and pictured in the above inset, visited the 129th Rescue Squadron June 3. No name, left, with 2nd Lieutenant Tristan Grell, center, and Capt. Alyson Teeter, right, kneel below an HH-60G to feel the effect of rotor wash.

Alice 97.3's "No Name" romps with the PJs

By Capt. Alyson Teeter
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

"No Name," the co-host for Alice 97.3 FM's morning show, visited the 129th Rescue Squadron June 3 to get a first-hand look at how pararescuemen train and work.

With the assistance and guidance from 129th PJs, No Name received an equipment and capabilities briefing, participated in a room clearing exercise, rapelled down a hangar wall and stood under a hovering HH-60G Pave Hawk to feel the effects of rotor wash.

No Name spoke of his exciting visit with the 129th Rescue Wing pararescuemen on his June 4 morning show and thanked the personnel for their service.

Home Community Care

No cost child care is now available during UTA weekends. To see if you are eligible, please contact the Services Flight at x9291.

New San Jose heliport used to transfer SAR #559 patient

By Capt. Alyson Teeter
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing performed a medical evacuation June 18 for a crewmember experiencing a medical emergency aboard the cargo vessel APC Peru.

Responding to a call from the Coast Guard District 11 Alameda, two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and two MC-130P Combat Shadow aerial refueling tankers met the vessel approximately 500 miles off the coast of California.

During the rescue operation, specially trained pararescuemen rappelled from the helicopter down to the cargo ship and provided emergency medical treatment to stabilize the patient. The crew then hoisted the patient up to the helicopter and transported him to a local area hospital.

This rescue brings the total number of people saved by the 129th RQW to 559.

"It takes a total team effort to pull off a rescue such as the one performed Wednesday," said Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th RQW Commander. "Our Airmen coordinated with various agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Regional Medical Center of San Jose, to provide life-saving assistance to the patient. This interagency cooperation is critical for strengthening ties and preparing us to respond to local disasters and state emergencies."

Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughan

The HH-60 Pave Hawk lands at the new heliport at the San Jose Medical Center on June 9. The pad has been constructed to withstand the weight of the HH-60G.

The rescue helicopter landed at the Regional Medical Center of San Jose's new heliport at approximately 9:30 p.m. and transferred the patient to awaiting hospital personnel. The heliport, which just debuted earlier this month, is the first in the area to be certified for use by the 129th Rescue Wing's HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter.

Heliport certified by 129th

While patients, nurses, doctors and construction workers stared in awe, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 129th Rescue Wing landed at the Regional Medical Center of San Jose June 9.

This Pave Hawk wasn't landing at the hospital for a rescue mission. It was the unit's maiden landing on a heliport that is the first in the Bay Area to be certified for use by the 129th RQW.

The Regional Medical Center recently completed construction of the large metallic elevated structure. The hospital partnered with the 129th RQW, nonprofit air ambulance CALSTAR and the U.S. Coast Guard to open up the heliport for business.

Community members and hospital staff were invited to take part in the opening festivities and become acquainted with the various rescue aircraft. Aircrew members and pararescuemen answered questions and talked about their search and rescue duties.

In the past, patients rescued by the 129th RQW were transported via ambulance from Moffett Federal Airfield to area hospitals. Landings also occurred on a Stanford University campus soccer field, where ambulances would then transport patients to the Stanford University Medical Center.

Regional's heliport will increase the unit's ability to obtain expeditious care for rescued persons, said Capt. David Weidman, 129th Rescue Squadron HH-60 pilot.

The Regional Medical Center's heliport not only gives the wing an additional conduit for saving lives during typical search and rescue missions, but also for rescues in response to disasters. As an Air National Guard unit, many of the 129th's past missions involved supporting the Governor's office during state emergencies, which included earthquakes, chemical spills, fires and floods.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brock Woodward

A pararescueman from the 131st Rescue Squadron hoists the patient from the APC Peru cargo container ship in to the hovering HH-60G Pave Hawk June 18. The 129th was credited with its 559th save.

Families welcome Security Forces home from Saudi Arabia

By 129th Public Affairs, Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Hartman

Airmen from the 129th Security Forces Squadron returned to Moffett Federal Airfield from a six-month deployment in Saudi Arabia May 29.

Family and friends awaited with open arms, refreshments and respect as approximately 20 troops arrived via bus, along with a Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle escort.

The Airman were part of an Expeditionary Combat Support deployment that provided security support to Operation Enduring Freedom's 64th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Eskan Village in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

There were two waves of arrivals; the second group arrived June 6.

Staff Sgt. Michael Tjaarda is very glad to see his wife after a six month deployment to Saudi Arabia.

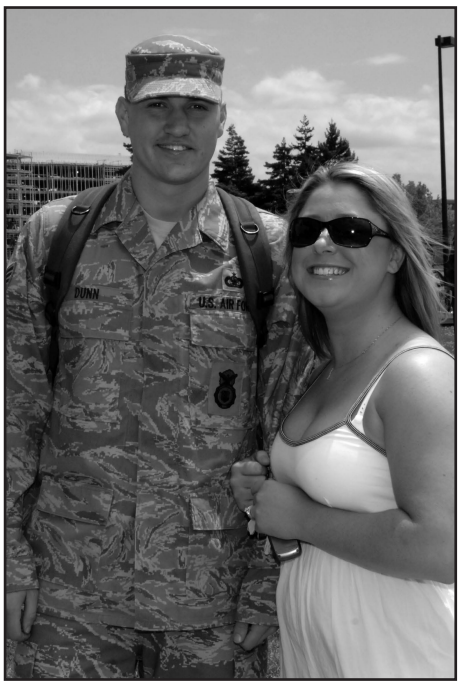
Senior Airman Ricky Karricas and his girlfriend are very glad to be together again.

Senior Master Sgt. Todd Hern is overjoyed to see his two young sons.

Staff Sgt. Mark Figueroa and family.

Staff Sgt. Pete Flores gets a well-deserved hug upon his return.

In what has become a Moffett tradition, the Patriot Guard Riders escort the returning Airmen to their families.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Dunn smiles with his wife after returning from deployment.

Staff Sgt. J.C. Dela Cruz is welcomed home from deployment by his family.

Portrait of a Professional -- Senior Airman Hong Zhou, 129th LRS

What is your favorite memory in the military?
I remember once when I deployed to Iraq, we got to go see the Great Ziggurat at Ur that was located outside the gate but within the perimeter of the Ali Air Base. It was Abraham's birth place who was born about 4,000 years ago. Not a lot of people would be given such an opportunity to see such a historical and beautiful place like I was, and I felt lucky and enjoyed it.

What motivated you to enlist in the military?
I was worried about not being able to get a good job after high school, but after talking to the recruiter at the job fair held at school, I realized I was qualified enough to join, and the benefits were awesome, such as education, healthcare, and job preference.

What's the most important lesson you've learned in the military?
With my five years of military service I learned that people come and go all the time in your life. It is important to adjust your attitude and emotion toward such situations and be more appreciative when they are surrounding you.

If you could deploy anywhere in the world, where would you go?
I once had a chance to go deploy to Spain but it was taken by another airman because he had never deployed before. I would love to deploy over there if I could have another chance when time is allowed.

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in a small but over-populated town in Guang Dong, China. I migrated to the States when I was 18 years-old, and joined the Air Force two years later.

What is your job in the civilian world?
I am currently a full-time junior college student at City College of San Francisco, majoring in accounting.

Portrait of a Professional is a monthly profile of an outstanding Staff Sgt. and below. Nominations will be routed through the squadron and group commanders.

Wing maintenance, logistics to merge with operations

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- On May 12, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley signed the Global Wing Structure Program Action Directive 08-01. PAD 08-01 directs the realignment of fighter, rescue and bomber aircraft maintenance units under flying squadrons.

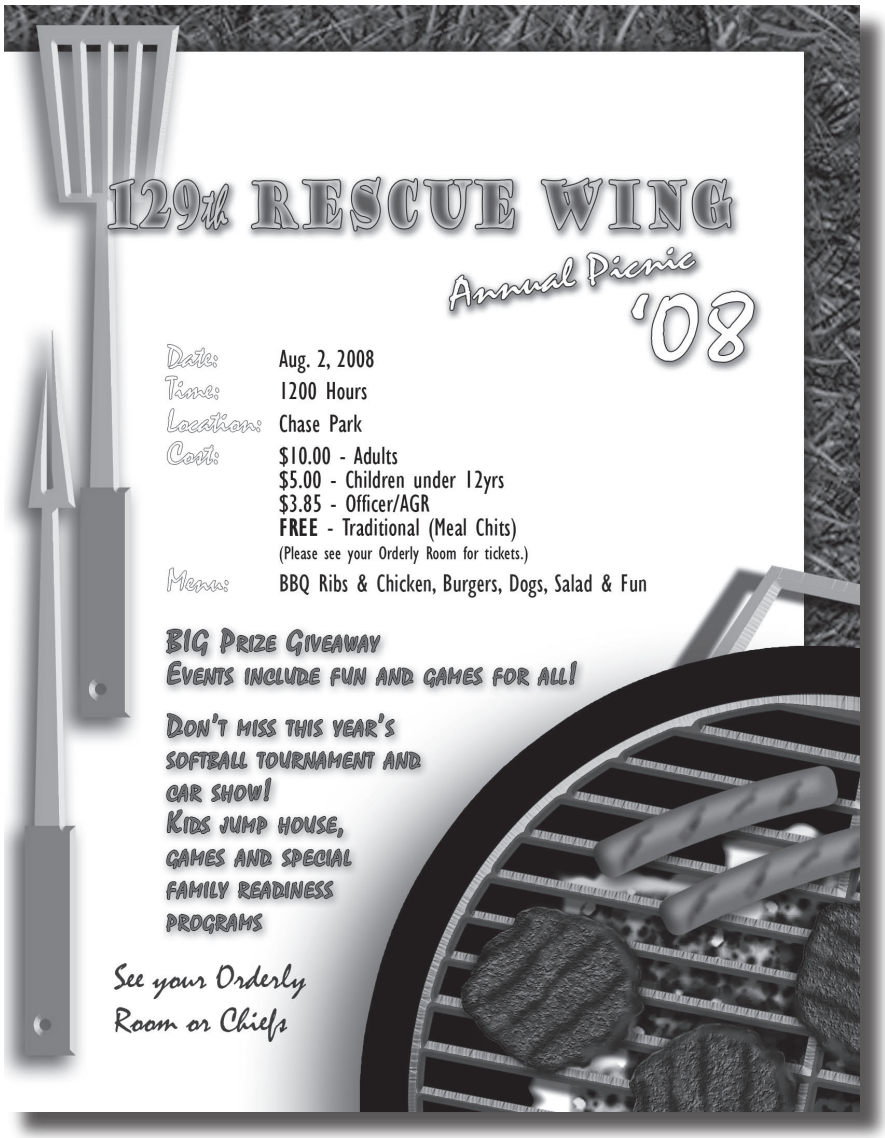
The Air Force will implement these changes between July 1 and Nov. 30. Major command officials will determine on what specific dates each participating wing will implement these changes.

Aligning aircraft maintenance units responsible for sortie generation together with the flying squadrons they support provides combatant commanders with the most complete and capable fighting squadrons possible, officials said. It also allows the operations group commander to focus on the generation and employment of airpower. In short, it generates the mission generation command chain.

A new materiel group at wing-level will create a new structure that is aligned to better support the logistics enterprise, flying wings and combatant commanders. The logistics readiness squadron, aerial support squadron and the remaining maintenance squadrons form the materiel group and will consolidate traditional logistics functions under a single logistics leader in the wing. The global wing structure also positions the logistics community for future transformation initiatives.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

Staff Sgt. Jacob Wheeler, 129th MXG, installs a seat on a HH-60G Pave Hawk.



101 Critical Days of Summer

Airman's Roll Call

The summer season is upon us, and brings with it sunny days, family vacations and barbecues with friends. Unfortunately, though, the season also brings increased risks and opportunities for reckless behavior from which none of us are immune. By focusing on safety, mishaps and fatalities can be avoided. Airmen should be aware of the risks and consequences associated with dangerous behavior as we enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Airmen are encouraged to evaluate their behavior and be good Wingmen to one another. Understanding high-risk behavior and taking steps to reduce the chances of mishaps, injuries and fatalities saves lives. Sadly, we lost 19 Airmen last summer, two more than the previous year. The majority of those losses were from vehicle mishaps—eight were in four-wheel vehicles and seven were in motorcycle mishaps. Incidentally, the factors involved in these mishaps included speeding, alcohol and not using seat belts—all risks that are easily correctable.

Now that warmer weather is here, keep the following points in mind while planning your activities:

- Risk management is a tool to assist us in fighting these summer hazards. It can be done on the fly, anywhere, anytime, by anyone. Simply ask yourself: What am I doing? What can go wrong? Could I hurt myself or others? What actions can I take to reduce or eliminate danger?

- Be a good Wingman. This involves watching each others' backs to prevent injury or loss of life. A good Wingman will recognize risky behavior and have the courage to speak up.

- Make safety a habit. Wear seatbelts in cars and required protective equipment on motorcycles. Remain alert while at the wheel and plan rest breaks at frequent intervals. Don't speed – it is better to arrive late than not arrive at all. Don't drink and drive. Anticipate the unexpected and be ready to react.

Enjoy your summer season; use the tools available to ensure you and your Wingman survive it.

photo by Senior Airman Joshua Kauffman

Senior Airman Sonny Duarte, an electro environmental specialist, barrels through the finish line during the 129th Maintenance Sqaudron's PT test, June 7.

News & Notes

Check out the new 129th site
http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/

New 129th Members - Welcome!
Master Sgt. Leonard Lee
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mcclain
Tech. Sgt. Raymond Torres
Senior Airman Kristan DelaCruz
Senior Airman Fernando Renteria
Senior Airman Daniel Roberts
Senior Airman Adam Vanhaaster
Airman 1st class Kenneth Roan

Promotions
Master Sgt. Richard K. Fey
Master Sgt. Paul Gracia
Tech. Sgt. Ian Freeman
Airman 1st Class Andrew Jablonski

CCAF Graduates
Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Blanchard
Master Sgt. Shirley Keay
Master Sgt. Derek Frazier
Master Sgt. Jennifer L. Bush
Staff Sgt. Walter B. Engle
Senior Airman Kevin A. Roman

Separations & Retirements
Capt. Jesse Ahearn
Chief Master Sgt. Liliana Ramos
Senior Master Sgt. Julia Jaroshenko
Master Sgt. Allen Corniel
Master Sgt. Albert Costa
Master Sgt. Armando Martinez
Master Sgt. John Valdez
Master Sgt. Francis Woolson
Tech. Sgt. Bruce Bennett
Tech. Sgt. Alfredo Salinas
Tech. Sgt. John Walker
Staff Sgt. Renato D. Duerme
Staff Sgt. David Jalufka
Staff Sgt. Richard Velasquez
Senior Airman Richard Dunn
Senior Airman Derick Wong
Airman 1st Class Adrian Deon

First Annual European American Heritage Celebration

Join us for our first European American Heritage Celebration! Sunday, July 13 from 1100 to 1200. It will be a potluck so please let your POC know what you are bringing. Your POC's will also be accepting monetary donations to help cover costs. There will be a Tug-O-War Tournament, so sign up with your POC to represent your Group! Members are also encouraged to wear any ethnic clothing during the celebration only.

POCs
Wing Staff: Maj. Connie Wong x8875
MSG: Maj. Roxanne Stern x9179
MDG: Capt. Brett Bruderer x9055
OG: SSgt. Jeannie Wong x8861
MXG (Weekday): Tech. Sgt. Fernando Wilkins x9107 / Master Sgt. Mark Moraes x9407
MXG (Drill): Master Sgt. Rick Fey x9040

561st Band looking for talented musicians.

The band has openings for the following instruments; Flute, Clarinet, Bass, French Horn, Saxophone, Percussion, Trumpet, Guitar. If you play or know someone who does contact the band during the UTA.

GTC usage and travel advance policy

Public law requires all DoD personnel to use the Government Travel Card (GTC) for all expenses arising from official govemment travel unless othenvise exempted (i.e., new recruits, invitational travel, etc.).

Effective immediately, the GTC will be used for all authorized travel expenses during temporary duty, deployment, and permanent change of station travel. This also includes cash advances via the GTC in lieu of travel advances processed through the base level financial services office. Centrally Billed Accounts will only be used for those individuals who are exempt from having a GTC.

43rd ANG Western States Invitational Golf Tournament

The 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands is hosting the 43rd Air National Guard Western States Invitational Golf Tournament at the Renaissance Hotel in Agoura Hills, Calif. August 19-21. Entry fee per person is $ 160.00 which covers cost of tournament play and awards banquet.

Hotel reservations may be made at the Renaissance Hotel, Agoura Hills, by calling 818-707-1220. First 125 rooms are $99 per night (normally $239). Rates after are $169.

Please provide a cashiers check or money order NO LATER THAN July 13 to 129th RQW's tournament point of contact, Chief Master Sgt. Stuart Loux, 129th Operations Group, x9461.

Anheuser-Busch offers free theme park admission

Through its "Here's to the Heroes" program, the brewing company is offering free tickets to its theme parks for Active-duty servicemembers, activated or drilling Reservists, and National Guardsmen and up to three family members. Each pass is valid for a one-day admission per person per year to five of Anheuser-Busch's seven theme park brands. Register at http://www.herosalute.com/, print and sign the form and bring it to the theme park. Every person over age 10 participating in this program must present valid active-duty military or service identification.

Fitness 'In Training' program helps runners achieve goals

Air Force fitness has a new program that may improve Airmen's running goals. The "In Training" program, accessible from the Air Force Fitness Web site, www.usafsports.com, has guides for runners of all fitness levels.

Traditional Opportunity - HRA

The Wing is currently seeking applicants for the 129th Rescue Wing Human Resources Advisor.

The application will consist of a Records Review RIP, a ready to submit School Application with primary and alternate HRA course dates, a current Fitness Score, and a cover letter addressed to the Wing Commander highlighting the essence of what the individual brings to the HRA position. The closing date is August 22.

If you have any questions, please call Chief Master Sgt. Kristina Keck at x9202.

Earn up to $2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training. For eligibility information please visit http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/.

129th Alumni and Heritage Association

Do you belong to the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association? You don't need to be an alumni to be a member, currently we have about 300 members, total! Our goal is to continue the ongoing heritage of the 129th through current and past members. We support the wing during deployments and homecoming and have an annual scholarship for wing personnel or their families attending college. Please see your Chief for details. Continue your legacy….please support the AHA.

2008 - 2009 UTAs

2008	7-8 March
12-13 July	4-5 April
2-3 August	2-3 May
6-7 September	6-7 June
4-5 October	11-12 July
1-2 November	1-2 August
6-7 December	12-13 September
2009	3-4 October
3-4 January	7-8 November
7-8 February	5-6 December

** Dates in June Rescuegram were incorrect, these are the correct UTA dates.*

129th RQW/PA
MOFFETT FAF, CA 94035

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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