THE RESCUEGRAM

The Official Information Publication of the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard **February 2009**

Lives Saved

598

These Things We Do...
That Others May Live

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LRS 'Port Dogs' form wing's first Aerial Port

By Capt. Alyson M. Teeter
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

The 129th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Aerial Port Flight stood up here Nov. 1, 2008, effectively transforming the way the wing deploys Airmen at home and abroad.

129th Aerial Port personnel, also known as "Port Dogs," are specialized Airmen trained to manage in-transit passenger and cargo movements for state directed missions and AEF deployments, redeployments, and exercises. In the past LRS tasked personnel from various squadrons and diverse career fields to help process equipment through the Cargo Deployment Function.

The National Guard Bureau redistributed Aerial Port resources from Air Mobility Command so that flights could be formed at all units, according to Capt. Al Yeh, Logistics Readiness Squadron Operations Officer. Like the 129th, Air Guard units now have a streamlined, specialized, and global deployment capability.

The LRS Traffic Management Flight spearheaded the conversion. To quickly get the flight up and running, LRS personnel recruited aerial porters from active duty, reserve and guard units, in addition to bringing in several future recruits scheduled for basic training and technical school.

"We now have seasoned professionals that have loaded planes from all over the world," said

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Kauffman

Senior Airman Razvan Sonea operates a forklift while Staff Sgt. Felipe Mancera demonstrates safety procedures.

Senior Master Sgt. Darryl Dyson, 129th Aerial Port Flight Superintendent. "These Port Dogs are professional and well-motivated, and have stepped up to the plate every time to support our search and rescue mission."

Aerial porters play multiple roles during a deployment. Port Dogs form into pre-deployment Tiger Teams to help assist units during pallet build-up. After the cargo is palletized, they perform joint inspections with each unit to ensure safe and secure air worthiness.

"Once our flight is fully formed and trained, teams can also deploy with the unit into theater to form a Redeployment Action Team," Sergeant Dyson added.

Deploying trained aerial porters is an added benefit because the unit coordinates with joint and civilian agencies during deployments and exercises, Captain Yeh said. "The aerial porters can speak the same language with the joint personnel and can more easily integrate and work together than

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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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Commander's Commentary

Wing receives positive ratings in Unit Climate Assessment

by Col. Amos Bagdasarian
129th Rescue Wing Commander

Everyone should have received an e-mail notification in November about the 129th Rescue Wing Climate Assessment. This shouldn't be confused with the Air Force Climate Assessment, which was a separate survey given during the same time period.

Overall, 54% of the wing participated in the survey. I'm sure you have all heard the phrase, "Your feedback is important." Pretend you're a customer and the 129th Rescue Wing is the company. Our climate assessment functions in the same fashion as a customer survey…it's the unit's tool for measuring the pulse of the wing. Thank you to those of you who participated in the assessment and provided constructive feedback.

I'm proud to announce that our overall rating was positive and beat U.S. Air Force ratings in five of the six categories surveyed, which were cohesion and pride, supervisory support, perceived discrimination, overt discriminatory behaviors, and command EO/EEO Policy. The Air Force category ratings function as a baseline comparison for our ratings.

We were close behind the Air Force average in the motivation and morale category and received an average rating. Questions dealt with job stress, recognition and rewards, positive leadership, and fair discipline.

There are many ways to improve motivation and morale, so take the time to look at your own organization and figure out what you can do to improve people's mindsets. It's very important that people are recognized for their good work. Remember, a simple "Thank you" goes a long way.

After looking at our climate survey, it's clear our wing is going in the right direction – but there is room to improve. This ideal opportunity to make positive change in the unit will set us up for future success.

Even though this survey is only administered once every two years, I ask everyone to keep their fingers on the pulse of the wing. If you recognize a problem area, no matter your rank or position, do something about it. Your feedback is important!

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in the past."

Besides processing cargo, the APF has two other key jobs: managing the passenger terminal and Air Terminal Ops Center. The passenger terminal function supports the military support flight with processing Airmen through the Personnel Deployment Function.

The ATOC consists of several unique functional areas working together to timely coordinate each step of moving people and cargo into and out of the base. There are multiple elements to the center's mission, ranging from loading, unloading and manifesting cargo and equipment, to ensuring that each person and item is tracked during the travel process.

Even though the Port Dogs are experts in deploying cargo and personnel, deployments remain a team effort within the wing.

"Units are still responsible for ensuring that both passengers and cargo are ready to deploy," Captain Yeh said. "Unit Deployment Managers and Cargo Increment Monitors are still critical to the deployment process."

The flight is still looking for 10 more Port Dogs for the 25-person flight. To learn more, contact Captain Yeh or Sergeant Dyson.

129th Rescue Wing launches YouTube channel

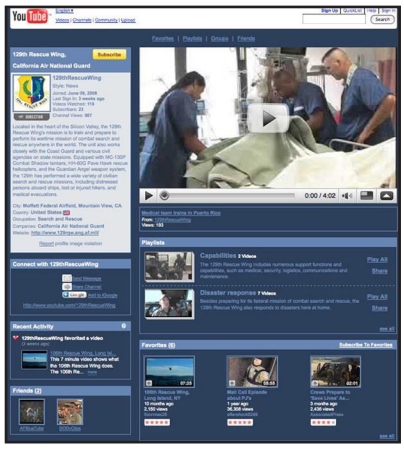
By Capt. Alyson M. Teeter
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Striving to spread the wing's rescue story to an audience on a global scale, the 129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs Office recently launched a 129th YouTube channel.

YouTube.com is a popular video sharing Web site where users can upload, view and share video clips for free. Videos are tagged with key words that make the videos searchable on YouTube and the Internet.

"There is a massive audience that doesn't watch television news or read the newspaper because they seek out information online where they want it, when they want it," said Capt. Alyson M. Teeter, 129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs Officer. "We're missing the boat and neglecting these audiences if we don't have a presence on new media sites like YouTube."

The Public Affairs Office started using the service in 2008 to upload footage from the wing's participation in Operation Lightening Strike and rescue work during Hurricane Ike. The hurricane videos alone garnered more than 16,000 views and overwhelmingly positive comments from around the world. One user commented on a rescue hoist video, "Bravo! from Switzerland (Geneva)."



Mission capability videos, such as a video montage profiling the 129th Security Forces Squadron, are also posted on the channel. Unit personnel are encouraged to assist the public affairs office with formulating and storyboarding YouTube videos.

"In the past, 129th personnel never had a way to view the video captured during historical or newsworthy wing events," said Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino, 129th Base Multimedia Manager. "YouTube gives our Airmen an opportunity to see broadcasts of themselves and the unit mission. They can also share this footage with friends and family."

While not accessible from military computers, YouTube can be viewed from home at www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing. Videos are also uploaded to the unit's public Web site at www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/news.

Sexual assault and mission readiness

By Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force and
General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF Chief of Staff

Although we are making strides, sexual assault continues to afflict our Airmen and impacts our ability to effectively accomplish our assigned missions. Sexual assaults are unacceptable and completely contrary to the Air Force mission because they cripple our readiness capabilities, destroy unit morale, and directly affect our ability to assure the parents of this great nation to entrust us with the care of their sons and daughters.

In 2005, the Air Force launched the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program to effectively combat this global crime and protect our Airmen. By now, it should be well established that there is no place in our Air Force for this behavior. Respect for one another is fundamental to building and maintaining our team.

We cannot lose sight of our ultimate goal, which is to eliminate this crime. We have a solid program in place that needs the attention and support of all commanders. We expect commanders at every level to take this problem seriously and to understand the impact of failing to act can have on our Airmen and to the mission. Success requires our continual and consistent attention.

Approaches to combating sexual assault anchor deeply in our Core Values and wingman actions. Preventing sexual assault against our Airmen requires extreme proactive measures and the efforts of all. We are proud of our Airmen who continue the Air Force legacy of delivering the world's finest air, space, and cyberspace capabilities. We must take care of all our Airmen and their families, and sexual assault prevention is vital to that responsibility.

PJs deploy to Africa

Airmen from the 131st Rescue Squadron departed from here to Djibouti for a three month deployment December 28.

The 20 Airmen, which included pararescuemen, combat rescue officers, parachute riggers, and support personnel, deployed to provide combat search and rescue support for Operation Enduring Freedom's Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa works to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect coalition interests in east Africa and Yemen through humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and civic action programs to include medical and veterinary care, school and medical clinic construction and water development projects, according to the CJTF-HOA website.

Portrait of a Professional -- Staff Sgt. Rick Popplewell, 129 MDG

How has serving in the ANG changed your outlook?
Working with the 129th has shown me many opportunities for advancement. Also, it has motivated me to go back to school and focus on my medical career.

What is the most important lesson you have learned from the military?
Tolerance. I am a perfectionist by nature and have learned to lay low and let others participate.

If you could deploy anywhere in the world where would it be?
Germany, because my mom lives there. I was born in Heidelberg.

Where did you grow up?
San Francisco.

What is your civilian job?
Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) at the Monterey Community Hospital and Santa Cruz Convalescent Center.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
I am a published political cartoonist in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

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

HRA: Continuing the flywheel momentum

By Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Underwood
129th Rescue Wing Human Resources Advisor

Now that we've established the foundation and kick-started the year with a push on the "flywheel" with TRUST, let's continue the momentum with RESPECT this month.

America's promise is a moral imperative that every life is precious and every spirit deserves dignity and respect. In the military, we salute our superior officers as a sign of respect, and out of respect, they salute us back. Not rendering a salute to a superior officer or a superior officer not rendering a salute in return is considered offensive and very disrespectful.

Ghandi, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Ceaser Chavez taught us to respect one another as fellow human beings. We must continue their legacy by reinforcing the respect that we have for each other and reestablishing the respect we have lost as a result of ignorance.

The Air National Guard Office of Cultural Leadership and Development offers the following challenges to help keep the flywheel spinning:

- We must all be committed to an environment of mutual respect that allows every member of our wing team to achieve his or her greatest potential.
- We must know that respect is the mutual and unbreakable bond that is the premise of public trust for our wing, the Air National Guard, and our country.
- We must respect others and look out for our wingmen. A failure for one is a failure for all!

Consider the following when asking, "What did I do today to push the Flywheel?"

- Do you foster mutual respect in promoting a culture of confidence, dependability and reliability?
- Do you treat Airmen with dignity and respect for their talents and the value they provide to our wing and to our Air National Guard?
- Does your authentic leadership and mutual respect firmly develop strong bonds with Airmen?

General McKinley: Time for our people to stand out

by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. -- The National Guard is relevant and will continue to be relevant under the new administration, said the Guard's senior officer this week.

During a visit to Florida, Gen. Craig McKinley, newly promoted chief of the National Guard Bureau, spoke to a reporter from the Florida Times-Union about the future relevance of the National Guard and whether ongoing overseas missions have strained the Guard's capabilities.

McKinley, the first four-star general to hold the National Guard's top position, credited the nearly 468,000 members of the National Guard with keeping the force relevant, especially over the past eight years of increased operations.

"You have to give credit to the men and women of the National Guard at a significant point in our history where the National Guard has been used so effectively and efficiently by our services," McKinley said.

"We're a nation at war. Our National Guard - both Army and Air - are heavily involved in our overseas operations, but because of Sept. 11, 2001, defense of our homeland became very important for us. That is our main reason for being; we protect our homeland, we protect our communities, we work for our governors and our nation needs us."

The general said that although the Guard has done an exceptional number of diverse missions over the past eight years - including overseas deployments and disaster relief at home - he doesn't feel the organization is overextended.

"My experience tells me Soldiers and Airmen like to be busy, they like to use the skills and the hardware that we've been given by the taxpayer and we like to be fully utilized," he explained. "Do I see a situation developing where we are overusing the Guard? I don't."

Gen. McKinley again credited the Guardsmen with making the National Guard a "highly efficient, community-based defense force."

"It's always been that way, but when you have the conditions that this world-situation presents us with, it's a time for our people to really stand out and do what they've been taught to do, what they are equipped to do, what they're motivated to do," he said. "As chief of the National Guard Bureau, I will say that the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard exemplify what true patriots are."

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 AHA.

National Prayer Luncheon scheduled for February

The 129th Rescue Wing is hosting a National Prayer Luncheon here Feb. 8, 2009. The event is scheduled from 11 am to noon in Building 650.

The National Prayer Breakfast was established in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to recognize the moral and religious values our nation is founded upon.

The National Prayer Lunch, according to Ch. (Maj. Gen. Ret.) Baldwin, is important because "it helps us recognize that we, need help dealing with trials and tribulations... We need, like every generation before us, the help of God."

This Interfaith event will also foster a greater sense of community among our diverse wing unit members. For more information, contact 129th RQW Chaplain Assistant, Staff Sgt. Rachel Cruz at x9140.

2009 UTAs

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

News & Notes

Welcome new 129th members!
Master Sgt. Tedford Niday
Tech. Sgt. Raman Bhanot
Staff. Sgt. John Dagi
Staff. Sgt. Cari Ellis
Staff. Sgt. Brian Levin
Staff. Sgt. Rory McMilton
Staff. Sgt. Ian Overbey
Staff. Sgt. Michael Wang
Senior Airman Cristine Billings
Senior Airman Kyle Chan
Senior Airman Jesus Feliciano
Senior Airman Sabrinna Steward

The following member was recently promoted to their current rank. Congratulations!
Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Alsobrook
Master Sgt. Jimmy Petrolia
Tech. Sgt. Darren Pon
Tech. Sgt. Sean Kirsch
Tech. Sgt. Seth Zweben
Staff Sgt. Rafael Perez

The following members have retired, separated, or transferred to another unit. We wish them well and thank them for their service.
Lt. Col. Antonio Bondoc
Maj. Matthew Thomas
Senior Master Sgt. Forest Fernandez
Tech. Sgt. Deborah Waskewicz
Staff Sgt. Sharon Hack
Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughan
Staff Sgt. Matthew Phelps
Staff Sgt. Sun Tai
Staff Sgt. Allen Volz

Total Force shared 1-800 number for personnel support

In an effort to better serve all Airmen, a Total Force shared 1-800 number, 1-800-525-0102, a familiar one to Air Reserve Component Airmen since December 1979, will now be the Total Force Service Center shared phone number for all centralized personnel actions for Regular Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve military and civilian Airmen beginning February 2009.

Religious Services Schedule

Services take place every Sunday morning of UTA drill weekend in Building 650.
Schedule of services
Catholic: 10:15-10:45
Non-denominational: 11:00-11:30

Extension of ABU Cold Weather Outergarment Policy

In January 2008, AF/A1P granted commanders the ability to authorize wear of the BDU Gore-Tex and/or field jackets with ABUs when other approved cold weather options are unavailable or unsuitable for duty. The initial authorization was set to expire June 1, 2008, but has been extended to May 1, 2009.

2009 ANG Western Golf Invitational hosted by the 161st ARW Wigwam Golf Resort, Litchfield, AZ (near Luke AFB)

The 161st Air Refueling Wing, AZ ANG and the Copperhead Golf Club would like to welcome you to this year's 44th 2009 ANG Western Golf Invitational at the beautiful Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa.

As this year's official hosts, we will make sure this year's competition is one of the finest and ensure your experience here in Arizona is fun and memorable. Please direct questions to the committee members or volunteers.

Reserve your rooms as soon as possible by calling (623) 935-3811.

Moffett Field Museum free for military and dependents

If you'd ever like to learn more about the history of Moffett Field, pay a visit to the Moffett Field Museum. The museum has a Lighter-Than-Air display that includes photographs, models and memorabilia of balloons, blimps and dirigibles. Aircraft models, artifacts, photos and newspaper clippings are also on display.

The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is located in Building 126 next to Hangar One. Admission is free for military and accompanied dependents. For more information, go to www.moffettfieldmuseum.org or call 650-964-4024.

Home Community Care Program

The Home Community Care Program is a free UTA child care service open to military members who participate in a UTA weekend. The program is open to children two weeks to 12 years old. Because the child care provider is full during the week, no care can be provided for RUTAs and AT.

Reservations will be confirmed only when the Home Community Care Parent Statement and state registration forms are completed in their entirety and received by the Services Flight. The forms must be submitted during the UTA prior to be eligible for the next UTA.

For more information and access to the required forms, please go to the Services CoP on the Air Force Portal at https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=AN-OT-02-14

Suicide Prevention: Speak up so others don't act out

Suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility. Intervention is critical, because it can help change the perception of a person contemplating suicide who thinks of taking his life as a long-term solution to what may be only a short-term problem.

Signs or symptoms of someone contemplating suicide can include withdrawal from society, giving away personal belongings or actions as obvious as saying final goodbyes. If someone indicates he or she is contemplating suicide, help ensure that person receives counseling. And once someone is identified and receiving treatment, it is important to keep track of how they are getting along.

The good news about suicide prevention is that it works. For more information about suicide prevention, visit:
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/
Army Behavioral Health: http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/sprevention/index.html
Suicide Prevention Resource Center: http://www.sprc.org/

For the latest 129th RQW news, go to:
www.129rqw.ang.af.mil

DANTES/CLEP opportunities

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education support (DANTES) provides a variety of examination programs through which an individual may:

- Earn a high school credential
- Satisfy undergraduate and graduate level college admission requirements
- Earn college credit
- Gain professional certification

Most tests are offered at DANTES Test Centers on a funded basis for eligible Airmen.

The DANTES testing facility for the 129th members is located at the Travis AFB education center, Base Library 530 Hickam Ave., Travis AFB, CA
DANTES testing days at Travis: Tue., Wed., Thur.
Time: 0800 & 1000 ***(by appt only)***
DSN: 837-3444/1733
Comm: 707-424-3444/1733

Junior Enlisted Council Update

February's JEC meeting will be held Feb. 8 at 11:30 a.m. in Building 650's Training Room.

Nominations for the 2009 JEC Executive Board are due by COB Feb. 7. Members will be elected at the Feb. 8 JEC meeting.

Annual Civilian Employment Information access on vPC-GR

Updated CEI provides Defense officials visibility of who can be called up for active military duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country. Airmen now can access the OSD Guard-Reserve Portal to update their Civilian Employment Information when they log into the vPC-GR Dashboard. Beginning 60 days before their birthday, a pop-up reminder will appear when Ready Reserve Airmen log on to the vPC-GR Dashboard. The reminder will appear until the update has been completed or until their birthdate.

All ANG and Reserve Airmen, with the exception of Active Guard Reserve members and retirees, are required to complete this annual requirement. See the OSD Guard-Reserve Portal: https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal is also located on the vPC-GR page to help Airmen update their CEI.

Earn up to $2,000 for each new recruit.
http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/

Enhancements improve evaluation forms

New technological enhancements have been made to four Air Force evaluation forms:

- Air Force Form 910 Enlisted Performance Report (airman basic to technical sergeant)
- Air Force Form 911 Enlisted Performance Report (master sergeant to chief master sergeant)
- Air Force Form 931 Performance Feedback Worksheet (airman basic to technical sergeant)
- Air Force Form 707 Officer Performance Report (lieutenant to colonel).

Improvements include upgrading the forms' digital certificate preferences, standardizing font sizes for the various signature blocks, clarifying the text in some of the boxes and streamlining sign-in privileges.

Start using the revised forms (dated June 18) immediately. Reports currently in coordination do not need to be redone.

The new evaluation forms are located at the Air Force e-Publishing Web site at:
http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/

Guard families eligible for child care subsidy

By Army Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va., - For National Guard members who are about to deploy there is a lot think about before heading overseas.

Changes have to be made to school and work schedules; arrangements have to be made for routine household chores; but for many, child care is one thing that weighs heaviest on their minds.

For Guard family members, there is help.

The National Guard's Child Care Subsidy Program works to assist spouses and family members with the costs of child care during deployment.

The program, which has been around for about five years, grew out of a program initially designed for deploying active-duty personnel, said Mike Conner, chief of program services for the National Guard Bureau's Family Program office.

"There was an increased need for child care on the (military) installation," said Conner. "When the deployments occurred, the daycare centers on the installations were already at the peak. This made it even higher and the stress just increased."

As a result, changes were made to allow those on active duty to receive a subsidy to use off-post child care, said Conner. Guard and Reserve members were later made eligible while they were in Title 10 status.

"If you are deployed in Title 10 status and your spouse is either working or in school full time you are eligible for a child care subsidy," said Conner.

Recently, those on Title 32 Active Guard/Reserve orders were also added to the eligibility list.

Though Guardmembers of all ranks may take part in the program, the amount of the subsidy is based on a variety of factors, rank not being one of them.

"(There are) a number of things taken into consideration," said Dr. Kathryn Goedde, the program manager. "They look at total family income, they look at the number of children, they look at the type of child care needed. For instance, full-time care for an infant is going to be way more expensive than after-school care for an elementary-aged child."

Though no matter what, the minimum amount paid out is $100 per child per month, said Goedde.

"So even if you can't provide all your information, they're going to issue $100 per month per child," said Goedde. "Once you provide all your information then that may go up."

To date, more than 1,100 Guardmembers have taken advantage of the program, said Conner.

For more information, go to the program's web site at www.guardfamily.org or call 1-888-642-2799.

Save the Date

2009 California Military Ball

Date: *Saturday, 18 April 2009*
Location: *Marriott San Francisco Airport*
Burlingame, California

Additional information and invitation to follow.

129th RQW/PA
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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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