THE RESCUEGRAM

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

Lives Saved
599
These Things We Do...
That Others May Live

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(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Twenty-three Airmen reunite with families, friends and co-workers at the 129th Rescue Wing, April 6, after a three month deployment to Djibouti.

Airmen return home from deployment

Members were in the Horn of Africa for three months

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing returned here April 6 after a three month deployment to Djibouti.

The 23 Airmen, which included PJs, combat rescue officers, parachute riggers, and support personnel, provided CSAR support to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

The personnel of CJTF-HOA conducts operations to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect coalition interests.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Capt. Robert Effler reunites with his family outside Building 669 here April 6. Captain Effler is a combat rescue officer with the 131st Rescue Squadron.

THE RESCUEGRAM
is published by the Public Affairs Office, 129th Rescue Wing. This official newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 129th Rescue Wing. Its contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or the California Air National Guard.

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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129th Airman a 'role model' to all women

by Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. (3/20/09) - Department of Defense leaders last night described a California Air National Guard medical officer as a "role model" in the place where the nation honors its best and brightest women in military service. Air Force Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan from the California Air National Guard and 129th Rescue Wing Medical Group, was awarded a DoD Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Role Model Award for her accomplishments in those disciplines.

The event was held here at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Pangelinan is among more than 150,000 other women serving in the National Guard and Reserve. But officials here said they believe she is someone all women can look up to.

The event also honored nine other servicemembers, who have worked toward the development of women and minorities in foreign languages and the STEM fields.

It coincides with the nation's programs, ceremonies and activities that observe women's history this month.

Officials said Pangelinan distinguished herself as a medical advisor to the California Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.

In 2002, Pangelinan joined the California Air National Guard after serving as an Air Force medical administrator in the active duty and Reserve. She is an Operation Desert Storm veteran, who deployed to the Pentagon following the aftermath 9/11 to help manage medical resources in its response.

The lieutenant colonel said the award reflects the benefits she gets from preparing the nation's Soldiers and Airmen for a variety of state and federal missions.

"All the things that I do for the military and the National Guard are really a privilege for me," she said.

More recently, Pangelinan served as the medical operations officer during last summer's wildfires in her state. She reported injuries, tracked medical supplies and supported military responders as part of a multistate, multi-agency disaster response mission.

The Guard's efforts had thousands of Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen and their equipment fighting the wildfires in central and northern California.

As a STEM awardee, she said such large efforts require a balanced knowledge of technology, engineering and math to comprehend the challenges and plan a response.

"It's not so much what you know, but it's more your ability to apply what you know in such situations," she said. "I do that using science and math to access the environment."

Phoro courtesy of the National Guard Bureau

Lt. Col. Susan Pangelinan, 129th Medical Group, receives the DoD STEM Award during a March ceremony at the Women Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va.

Pangelinan was born at an Air Force base, grew up in a military family, and said she learned firsthand the efforts of women in the military like those trailblazers honored at the women's memorial.

"It's an amazing honor to be recognized here," she said.

Officials here said Pangelinan also encourages junior officers and enlisted members to pursue advanced degrees and professional military education and serves as the sounding board for women who face challenges in their military careers.

"Today, it's a matter of showing women those opportunities in the military where skill is more essential now than anything else," she said.

PJs use specialized skills to assist car accident victim

by Capt. Alyson M. Teeter, 129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Air National Guard members from the 129th Rescue Wing here displayed their lifesaving skills as they aided a car crash victim March 9 near Suisun, Calif.

Two combat rescue officers and four 131st Rescue Squadron pararescuemen were traveling north on Highway 80 to survey a potential new parachute drop zone near Gold Run, Calif., said Capt. Damon Foss, a 131st RQS combat rescue officer.

The first vehicle with three Airmen was on I-80 close to Suisun, 50 miles northeast of San Francisco, when they noticed a car flipped over on the southbound side of the freeway. The driver was still in the wrecked vehicle and was hanging upside down. The three trained emergency trauma specialists -- Senior Master Sgt. Larry Hiyakumoto, Tech. Sgts. Sean Kirsch and Darren Pon -- quickly sprung into action.

"We pulled over to the center median and went over to assess the situation," said Sergeant Kirsch, a 131st RQS pararescueman. "The woman was trapped in the vehicle and her head was wounded. I grabbed the med ruck and oxygen kit, and gave them to Sergeant Pon."

Sergeant Pon immediately started treating the head wound to stop the bleeding. The woman was suspended upside down and the weight of her body was on her seatbelt.

"We stabilized her neck and made sure there were no other injuries," Sergeant Kirsch said.

The car was also in a precarious position. The woman was trapped and if the car moved she could sustain additional injuries. While Sergeant Pon worked with the patient and Sergeant Kirsch assessed her condition, Sergeant Hiyakumoto shored up the vehicle to help stabilize it.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Tech. Sgt. Sean Kirsch and Senior Master Sgt. Larry Hiyakumoto, pararescuemen from the 131st Rescue Squadron prepare a set of all terrain motorcycles for routine inspection March 10. Sergeants Kirsch and Hiyakumoto used their specialized life saving skills to assist an accident victim near Suisun, Calif., March 9.

Minutes after the first group of PJs stopped to provide aid, the second vehicle in the caravan came upon the scene. Captain Foss, 2nd Lt. Kyle Wells and Senior Master Sgt. Eric Degner joined the team effort to save the accident victim.

"We functioned as we would during a rescue mission. It was a team collaboration."

"Captain Foss delegated responsibilities and prioritized what needed to be accomplished. Sergeant Degner and Lieutenant Wells were vital in helping Sergeant Hiyakumoto shore the vehicle," Sergeant Kirsch said. "We functioned as we would during a rescue mission. It was a team collaboration."

Pararescuemen endure some of the toughest training offered in the U.S. military and must maintain an emergency medical technician-paramedic qualification throughout their careers. This training includes confined space and extrication training, which was helpful in this situation.

"Her body was upside down suspended against her seatbelt, and was pinned by metal. She was trapped in her seat," Captain Foss said. "We didn't want to rush to do anything further because the fire department would have the equipment to get her out. She was conscious and we tried to keep her calm and stabilized."

Once the Suisun Fire Department arrived, the pararescuemen informed them of the patient's status and provided support to the first responders.

"We worked well together as a team," Captain Foss said. "The firefighters knew we were pararescuemen and understood our capabilities. They were thankful we had been there to help the driver."

After an hour of assisting at the accident scene, the pararescue team continued on the road to accomplish the day's original mission.

"Rescue is our job and what we're trained to do. We were happy to provide our support and expertise," Sergeant Kirsch said.

Portrait of a Professional -- Staff Sgt. Boris Opachich, 129 MXS

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

What is your favorite memory in the AF? My favorite memory in the Air Force is when I got to go on a trip to Florida with Ops last summer.
What motivated you to enlist in the AF? My parents "lots of motivation."
How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life? I tend to strive more to succede rather then sit on the couch like the rest of my civilian friends.
What's the most important lesson you've learned in the military? Live in fame or go down in flame.
If you could deploy anywhere in the world, where would you go? I would definitely deploy to Italy
If you could choose any AF job, which would it be? Why? I would be an HH-60 pilot or a PJ so that I can be a Jolly Green Giant.
Where did you grow up? Ukraine, Richmond, Oakland, San Leandro
What is your job in the civilian world? I am an Electronic Countermeasures Avionics Technician here at the 129th.
What would people be surprised to know about you? That I am married, and have six fingers on my right foot (just kidding).
What are your hobbies? Basketball, football, running, benching, and my job.

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

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 only 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.

FALL FEST
OCT '09
129th RESCUE WING

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday October 3, 2009

Food
Contests
Entertainment
Children's Games & Activities
Softball Tournament
Car Show
Raffle
Fun
and more...

Don't Forget to Bring Your Family

More Information to Come

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program reaches milestone

by Samantha L. Quigley, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (3/30/2009) -- The advisory board of a new program mandated by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act held its inaugural meeting here March 30.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program fulfills the requirement of establishing a national combat veteran reintegration program. The program's goal is to prepare servicemembers and their families for mobilization, sustain families during mobilization and reintegrate soldiers with their families, communities and employers upon redeployment.

"[Post-traumatic stress disorder], the specter of suicides and all sorts of things have told us that it's critical to make sure that our troops and their families are readjusting properly," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "We recognized that when ... active Guard and Reserve [servicemembers] go off to conflict and come back, and then demobilize or go back to their home base, it's really necessary that they get back together with their families and have a chance at a 30-, and a 60-, and a 90-day point to talk about their experiences, to see if everything's going OK."

(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir)

Carolann Wunderlin (center), 129th Rescue Wing Family Program Coordinator, poses with family readiness volunteers during an April 4 Deployment Cycle Information Fair at Moffett Federal Airfield. The fair was sponsored by the South Bay Yellow Ribbon Formation Committee.

The undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness serves as the program's executive agent and established the office for reintegration program within the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

To provide servicemembers and their families with a wide range of options as close to home as possible, Defense Department officials are working to unify efforts among the services, the reserve components, other federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

The advisory board includes representatives of small-business associations, veterans associations, the services and the Guard and Reserve, Mr. Hall said.

"I think we have the right people highlighting and working the problem," he said. "It was an important first meeting, and we look forward to the future."

Reintegration program capabilities have been under way since last year, with services provided through the Joint Family Support Assistance Program and currently being tested in 15 states. Defense Department officials plan to expand the program beyond the pilot phase to all U.S. states and territories.

California National Guard Teen Adventure Camp dates announced

This year the Seventh Annual California National Guard Teen Adventure Camp will be held at Camp San Luis Obispo June 20 to 26.

The cost of the week camp is $100, which covers the necessities of running the camp, mainly to include meals.

Please be advised that this is an Adventure Camp where activities are physical and we encourage full participation. If your teen is unwilling to participate in scheduled activities, please contact Operation Ready Families for other options for your teen.

Based upon the tentative training schedule, there will be an off camp event: a beach and kayaking trip. Since the Teens will be eating dinner in the dining facility, they will only need "limited spending money."

It is very important to start hydrating your teen now by drinking plenty of water as well as eating three meals a day. Boots are a necessity and are mandatory for safety reasons.

Camp slots will be on a first come first served basis as space is limited. For a copy of the application and/or more information about the Teen Adventure Camp, contact Army Staff Sgt. Connie Mesta at 562-795-1484 or connie.mesta@us.army.mil.

News & Notes

FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

WWW.129RQW.ANG.AF.MIL

Welcome new 129th members!
Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Wood
Staff Sgt. Christopher Gonzales
Staff Sgt. Andrew Honarvar
Staff Sgt. Joshua Manhart
Staff Sgt. Eduardo Perez
Staff Sgt. Trevor Stinson
Senior Airman Heidi Morrison
Senior Airman Steven Pollastrino
Airman 1st Class Parker Imrie
Airman 1st Class Nicholas Martin
Airman 1st Class Jodin Owens
Airman 1st Class Joel Starkey

The following member were recently promoted to their current rank. Congratulations!
Senior Master Sgt. Atul Patel
Master Sgt. Maria Rizzo
Tech. Sgt. Cleve Burt
Tech. Sgt. Scott Evens
Tech. Sgt. Samuel Piecre
Staff Sgt. Mary Lou Agustin
Staff Sgt. Jesse Celestino
Staff Sgt. Boris Opachich

The following members have retired, separated, or transferred to another unit. We wish them well and thank them for their service.
Master Sgt. Timothy Wright
Tech. Sgt. Oswald Riley
Tech. Sgt. Harjindar Toor
Staff Sgt. Rachel Cruz
Staff Sgt. Lisa Salonga
Senior Airman Erin Gramke
Senior Airman Joy Ottrix
Airman 1st Class Leonard Hines

NCO Academy Graduates (in residence)
Tech. Sgt. Maria Tubergen
Tech. Sgt. Nelson Pena
Tech. Sgt. Mark Champ

Airman Leadership School Graduates (in residence)
Staff Sgt. Boris Opachich
Senior Airman Nicole Mancillas

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

2009 Moffett Field Commissary Sidewalk and Case Lot Sales
May 1-3 - Case Lot
June 5-7 - Sidewalk & Seafood
July 17-19 - Sidewalk
Aug. 14-16 - Sidewalk
Sept. 4-6 - Case Lot
Oct. 2-4 - Sidewalk & Seafood
Nov. 6-8 - Sidewalk & Seafood
Dec. 4-6 - Sidewalk

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.

Prototype physical fitness uniforms undergo wear tests
A prototype physical training uniform for the Air Force is undergoing wear testing. The prototypes differ from the current PT uniform in features including no hood or vents, better reflectivity, decreased noise and lighter weight. The uniform consists of a jacket and slacks, T-shirt, and tapered shorts with pockets and comfortable liner.
The PT uniform currently in use was adopted in 2004. Feedback on the uniform's heat, weight, and discomfort when compared to exercise clothing available commercially led to creating the new uniform.

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 129th Services CoP on the Air Force Portal or by calling the Services Flight at 650-603-9291.

Safety on the Road
Supervisors do yourself and your personnel a favor by taking time to ensure your folks are properly trained and certified before allowing them to drive GOVs of any type on base and on the flightline.
For example, do your drivers have a current AF Form 2293 (Military Drivers License) and are the vehicles being driven listed on the reverse of the MDL? Do flightline drivers have the MDL and the Certificate of Competency (AF Form 483) and is it updated to reflect annual refresher training?

News & Notes cont.

Maintenance officer opportunity

The 129th Maintenance Squadron is seeking qualified applicants to fill a traditional Guardsman vacancy as the maintenance officer for the squadron. The position is open to any California Air National Guard enlisted personnel eligible for commissioning that have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college.

The application deadline is May 1. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. DeCosta at 3-9087or Lt. Col. Emery at 3-9550.

2009 UTAs

2-3 May
6-7 June
11-12 July
1-2 August
12-13 Sept.
3-4 October
7-8 November
5-6 December

Update Annual Civilian Employment Information

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

Process for validating reserve early-retired pay explained

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials here are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retired pay before Citizen Airmen, both guardsmen and reservists, turn 60 years old. Since Jan. 28, 2008, Guard and Reserve Airmen can reduce the age they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year, but they cannot receive retired pay before age 50. For more information, call 800-525-0102,

MEO commissioning opportunity

The 129th Military Equal Opportunity office is seeking qualified applicants to fill a traditional Guardsman vacancy as an MEO officer. The position is open to any 129th enlisted Airman eligible for commissioning that has a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and four years time in service.

For more information, contact Maj. Wong at 3-9196 or Col. Albright at 3-9141.

New CA ANG Command Chief

In March Maj. Gen. Dennis Lucas announced the selection of Chief Master Sgt. Michael Koslow to be the new California Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant, effective April 1. Chief Koslow formerly was the State HRA.

Chief Michael Koslow, California Air National Guard Command Chief.

Airman's Roll Call: Motorcycle Spring Spike Focus

Spring is nearly upon us. The birds are returning north, flowers are beginning to blossom, and motorcyclists are pulling their motorcycles out of the garage after a long winter's nap.

The Air Force Safety Center conducted a study of motorcycle mishaps from FY06-08 and determined motorcycle fatal mishaps doubled in the spring over the winter season numbers. With this in mind, the Air Force Safety Center is conducting a "Spring Spike Focus" for all motorcyclists and their leadership. March 1st begins the "Spring Spike Focus" on motorcycle mishaps.

Past fatal spring motorcycle mishaps indicate:

- The average fatal motorcycle mishap involved a male Airman between the ranks of A1C to SSgt with an average age of 28
- Mishaps primarily occurred during the day, while operating a sport bike and speeding
- Another significant factor was limited experience due to no training or license, or training and licensing for less than a year

Riders can protect themselves by:

- Preparing yourself for getting back on the motorcycle; know that your skills aren't what they were when you put the bike in storage
- Preparing your bike; preflight your equipment like you do on duty
- Preparing your personal safety equipment; make sure you are protected against the unexpected
- Realizing that car drivers are not used to seeing you—they will see you late or not at all

Commanders, supervisors, and wingmen can help prepare riders by:

- Asking riders if they have pre-checked themselves and their bike
- Talking to them about the hazards of the road
- Helping inexperienced riders prepare for the season

We can reduce motorcycle mishaps through concerted efforts of motorcyclists, unit motorcycle monitors, supervisors, first sergeants, and commanders. Enjoy the ride, but make sure you and your bike are up for the new riding season.

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Sagar Pathak)

129th women featured in Santa Clara County female veteran's display

The Santa Clara County Office of Women's policy sponsored an exhibit of Santa Clara County female veterans in the breezeway of the county building in San Jose. The exhibit was in commemoration of Women's History Month in March. Four women from the 129th Rescue Wing were profiled in the exhibit, which included biographies, photos, and unit information.

129th RQW/PA
MOFFETT FAF, CA 94035

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

"These Things We Do…That Others May Live"
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