THE RESCUEGRAM

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

Lives Saved

786

These Things We Do... That Others May Live

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Rescuers home from Afghanistan

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

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. -- Relieved families, friends and co-workers, patriots on motorcycles, local firefighters and media surrounded the group of rescuers as the arrived here from a four-month deployment Sept. 9.

It was a welcome sight as the 129th Rescue Wing Airmen returned home from an intense combat deployment to Afghanistan where they rescued 187 injured people, including coalition forces, local nationals and sister service members.

In May nearly 70 members of the 129th RQW began their incredible journey of saving lives in southern Afghanistan. HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crew members, maintainers and support personnel from the 129th provided 24-hour rescue alert at Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion in the Helmand province.

Half of the 129th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron was comprised of Airmen from the 129th RQW based here, but also included personnel from active duty and reserve units from around the world, including rescue squadrons from Moody Air Force Base, Ga., Kadena Air Base, Japan, and Nellis AFB, Nev.

During the deployment the 129th ERQS was in charge of battlefield combat medical evacuation, or medevac, of all joint, coalition, and Afghan National forces operating within Regional Command South, Afghanistan, according to Lt. Col. Rhys Hunt, commander of the 129th ERQS and the 129th Rescue Squadron's director of operations. The 129th ERQS also routinely provided time critical lifesaving medical attention to Afghan citizens who were either wounded by enemy fighters or simply injured in everyday incidents.

This rescue task – personnel recovery – differed from traditional past missions. Instead of being on alert to save downed U.S. Air Force pilots, the 129th ERQS was responsible for saving whoever needed immediate medical attention.

The 129th was split between two locations – Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion.

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(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Members from the 129th Rescue Wing are greeted upon their return here after a four-month deployment to Afghanistan, Sept. 9, 2009.

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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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Wing updates on-base motorcycle requirements

by Senior Master Sgt. Alan Lyvere, 129th Rescue Wing Safety Office

To comply with the California Adjutant General's policy on motorcycle safety, changes will be made to the 129th Rescue Wing's motorcycle policy effective the October UTA.

These requirements are mandatory for all California Military Department service members in any duty status, including AGR, ADSW, Title 32, SAD, ESAD, IDT, ADT, Federal Technician, FTM, FTNG, CSMR on SAD.

- Headlights will be on at all times.
- Helmet that meets or exceeds DOT standards fastened under the chin.
- ANSI rated goggles, wrap around glasses, or full-face shield (properly attached to helmet).
- Wearing of long sleeved shirt/jacket, long trousers, and full fingered gloves.
- Wear of sturdy over the ankle footwear is required, low quarter sneakers, and similar footwear is not allowed.
- Riders will wear brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during the night. Outer upper garment shall be visible and not covered. Backpacks are authorized if it has brightly colored or reflective properties.

All members must complete an MSF course as soon as time and class space permits to continue to be allowed to drive on base.

When the Macon Gate is manned by 129th Security Forces Squadron personnel, noncompliance will result in SFS personnel stopping members at the Macon Gate entrance and having the member park their motorcycle in the gravel parking area by the Ellis Gate. Drivers not in compliance cannot proceed any further than the Macon Gate.

If during the week members are caught driving on base in violation of the new rules, unit members will be issued a warning for the first offense with further administrative action taken for each subsequent violation.

Motorcycle Requirements

- **Headlights on at all times.**
- **Helmet that meets/exceeds DOT standards fastened under the chin.**
- **ANSI rated goggles, wrap around glasses, or full-face shield (properly attached to helmet).**
- **Long sleeved shirt/ jacket, long trousers, and full fingered gloves.**
- **Sturdy over the ankle footwear.**
- **Brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during the night.**
- **Backpacks are authorized if bright or reflective.**

AFGHANISTAN

From page 1

Stationed closer to the combat zones, the unit improved its response time to meet the Secretary of Defense's mandate to recover critically injured patients from anywhere on the battlefield in less than one hour, which is known as "the golden hour."

The 129th shared medevac alert at Kandahar Airfield with the 82nd Combat Aviation Regiment based out of Fort Bragg, N.C. "We got everything from high-priority combat casualties, such as IED blasts, troops-in-contact, and gunshot wounds, to routine transfers between medical facilities," Colonel Hunt said.

At Camp Bastion, the unit was paired with the British Joint Helicopter Force-Afghanistan and its CH-47 Chinook airborne surgical team.

"The guys out there were doing four to eight missions per day at Camp Bastion, and to say the conditions are austere is an understatement," Colonel Hunt said. "Temps routinely hit 115 degrees with less than one mile visibility due to the dust."

"We were closely tied to the fight there and worked particularly well extracting wounded UK soldiers from the high-threat Green Zone," he added.

Speedy and efficient maintenance on the Pave Hawks at both locations was also critical to saving lives, according to Capt. Michael Vandermeyden, maintenance supervisor for the 129th ERQS and commander of the 129th Maintenance Operations Flight. He managed the HH-60G maintenance at both Kandahar and Camp Bastion.

"The key to our success was teamwork because we were on alert around the clock and had to launch aircraft within 30 minutes," Captain Vandermeyden said. "Ops would communicate a potential mission to maintenance, which would kick the alert crews out to the aircraft to start the launch process. This allowed ops to run and jump into the aircraft, and go."

"We set the standard for launching aircraft early," he said. "A quicker launch saved people's lives."

Senior Master Sgt. Jason Red, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter flight engineer from the 129th Rescue Squadron, is greeted by his mom after returning home from a two-month deployment to Afghanistan, Sept. 9.

The maintainers faced many hurdles in keeping the aircraft flying. "Browning out" was a common occurrence that happens when the helicopter lands and sand and dirt envelope the aircraft. The engines would suck in the dirt and consequently trigger engine problems.

"At one point in July our maintenance team changed four engines in a week – three in 36 hours," Colonel Hunt said. "I was impressed with their level of motivation in such arduous conditions."

Although the members of the 129th ERQS faced risks and challenges on a daily basis, the team united to perform their honorable mission successfully and come home safe without any casualties.

"We have enough stories of heinous brownouts, IED strikes, bullet holes, and Soldiers that lived to fight another day, to last a lifetime," Colonel Hunt said. "I don't mean to overstate this, but this deployment has been unlike any that I have experienced in my 15 years as a rescue pilot."

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Tech. Sgt. Franklin Clay, a medical technician from the 129th Medical Group, draws blood from Staff Sgt. Ernesto Godinez, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crew chief, during redeployment inproccessing Sept. 9.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness volunteers wave the American flag here in support of Airmen returning after a four-month deployment to Afghanistan, Sept. 9.

Air Force Association
An Independent Non-Profit Aerospace Organization
Tennessee Ernie Ford Chapter 361

28th ANNUAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AWARDS BANQUET

Gen Craig R. McKinley
National Guard Bureau

The TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD CHAPTER of the Air Force Association invites you to our Annual Awards Banquet on FRIDAY, 23 October 2009, at the Biltmore Hotel, 2151 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara. General McKinley, the first 4 star general in the national guard history, will be recognized for outstanding leadership over 35 years of serving the United States Air Force and Air National Guard. We have asked him to cover the new role of the Guard in space. Awards for Exemplary Service will be presented by Gen McKinley to personnel of Onizuka Air Station; 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett FAF; Defense Logistics Agency; NASA; AFROTC, San Jose State University; JR/AFROTC, Oak Grove High School and Civil Air Patrol Squadrons.

Reception 1730 - Dinner 1830

Dress: Military: Mess
Dress/Semi-Formal Civilian: Suit/Evening Dress

THE MENU

Salad of Wild & Baby Greens with Cherry Tomatoes and Grain Mustard Vinaigrette

New York Steak Charbroiled Pacific
With Brandied Peppercorn Sauce
Roasted Herb Potatoes

Salmon Filet
With Fresh Tomato & Caper Relish
Wild Rice

Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Rolls
Biltmore Cheesecake, Starbucks Coffee, Herb Tea

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BANQUET RESERVATION FORM
Name: _____
Rank: _____ Address: _____
_____ Email: _____
_____ Telephone: _____ Affliliation: _____ Dinner Selection
New York Steak _____ Salmon _____ Total Dinners: _____
Enlisted & Spouse Number of tickets _____ x $50.00 $_____
Officers/AFA & Spouse Number of tickets _____ x $75.00 $_____
Non-affiliated Guests Number of tickets _____ x $80.00 $_____
Corporate Tables Number of tables _____ x $640 $ _____
Enclosed is my check to AFA Chapter 361, in the amount of: $_____
Mail reservation form to:
AFA CHAPTER 361, John Olson, 4780 Archbow Ct, San Jose, CA 95136-2500

PLEASE RESPOND NOT LATER THAN 14 October 2009
RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 14 OCT 09 WILL COST $5 (EACH) ADDITIONAL
Contacts - olsonjn@yahoo.com (primary) or lilramos@pacbell.net (backup)

Portrait of a Professional -- Staff Sgt. Joshua Webster, 131st RQS

(Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir)

What motivated you to enlist in the AF?

I was an Army Ranger deployed in 2003 to Afghanistan where I was stationed at Bagram Air Base. Being a Ranger we got to hang out with the pararescue team, specifically two 129th PJs. I talked to one of the PJs about his job, the mission and what life was like. I was then ready to switch jobs and join the Guard.

How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?

Not until you've actually worked toward something as valuable and important as civil service and something that you consider greater than yourself, like a rescue mission, do you tend to appreciate what you get after the fact. After getting out of the Army, switching jobs and getting in to the Guard, I've had the opportunity to enjoy everything that I've worked for.

If you could choose any AF job, which would it be?

I switched branches, went through a completely separate, mind and body crushingly hard indoctrination to be here. I almost lost rank, almost had to re-do basic training and have been the same rank for the past eight years because of this job, but I wouldn't have it any other way. I love my job.

What is your job in the civilian world?

Before joining the Army I was a lifeguard, fitness instructor and personal trainer. Since joining 129th, I attended UCLA as a history major and graduated this summer.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I want to write a book. Right now I'm just regurgitating stories from all the times that I can remember being in the military, I'd like it to end up a book, but it needs form and a clear argument. The stories mostly regard my faith while in the military, focusing on my Ranger unit consisting of an atheist, a Mormon, a Christian, and a Buddhist and our religious discussions.

What are your hobbies?

I play the guitar and I enjoy singing as well, usually on camping trips. I'm currently teaching myself to play the piano; I'm also pretty good with any instrument with strings.

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

Ask a trainee...

Look, you're only new once. This column is in place to get to know those newest Guardsmen to join the 129th family. The responses are genuine, and have only been edited for space and to correct errors.

What are your military goals?

A1C Jimmy Bruce Panyanouvong (C-130 crew chief)

"My military goal is to work for 20 years. I like the 129th RQW. Everyone is (part of a) family-oriented unit. It's been great to get help from the unit."

A1C William Helton (HH-60 crew chief)

"I just want to be a part of a group of people that functions as a working force and has the same cause: to serve and protect all of the people of our world."

A1C Elizabeth Cunningham (CF)

"Eventually I would like to use the training I get to get a good job and finish school. After that, I would like to be a JAG or civilian-side lawyer."

A1C Avery Gustamante (Security Forces)

"My number one goal in the military is to serve my country. Whether that would be to assist in natural disasters, fires, volunteer work, or deployment, I'm willing to take on the task. After BMT and tech school, I'm hoping to volunteer for deployment as soon as possible."

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE.

News & Notes

Welcome new 129th members!
Tech. Sgt. Latona Lee
Staff Sgt. Davis Brown
Staff Sgt. Joshua Haney
Staff Sgt. David Hellard
Staff Sgt. Teresa Martinez
Staff Sgt. Richard Panzarino
Staff Sgt. Paul Stout
Staff Sgt. Cameron Ulner
Senior Airman Jorge Aguiar
Senior Airman Monte Asche
Senior Airman Joseph Pouzanoff
Senior Airman David Trujillo
Senior Airman Straudjah Turner
Airman 1st Class Jason Deming
Airman 1st Class Daniel Fisher
Airman 1st Class Tyra Harris
Airman 1st Class Tetsuaki Haruta
Airman 1st Class Vince Hill
Airman 1st Class Krystle Petersen

The following members were recently promoted to their current rank. Congratulations!
Tech. Sgt. Andrew Ciampa
Tech. Sgt. Hector Dominguez
Staff Sgt. Michelle Grundy
Staff Sgt. Jeannie Rose

The following members have retired, separated, or transferred to another unit. We wish them well and thank them for their service.
Capt. Robert Cooks
Capt. John Francis
1st Lt. Tejon Woods
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Lilly
Master Sgt. Derek McGoy
Master Sgt. Mark Moraes
Tech. Sgt. Geoffrey Caravallo
Tech. Sgt. Adam Crockett
Tech. Sgt. Jon Rawinsky
Staff Sgt. Burl Kennedy
Staff Sgt. Jose Solorio
Senior Airman Krystal Rannals
Airman 1st Class Manuel Lock

Call for 129th AHA scholarship applications

The 129th Alumni & Heritage Association provides educational scholarships to unit members each year. Applicants need to be currently enrolled in an educational program.

A current transcript, a statement of work in progress from the educational facility or other evidence of program participation is required for all applicants.

Wing Members applying for a scholarship are required to submit a letter of recommendation from their squadron commander with the application. This letter should describe the endorsement reason and brief description of the individual's future potential.

The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is the close of business on Sunday of the December UTA.

Applications can be obtained online at http://www.129aha.org/ScholarAppl.htm.

Completed applications be submitted to the 129th AHA Scholarship Chair, Lt. Col. Cynthia Kepple at cindy_kepple@yahoo.com or by mail at 2221 Walnut Grove Ave., San Jose, CA 95128-1241. Applications can also be submitted to Chief Master Sgt. Kristina Keck in Building 680. For more information, please e-mail Lt. Col. Kepple or call 408-221-0060.

2009-2010 Drill Schedule

2009	
October 3-4	April 10-11
November 7-8	May 1-2
December 5-6	June 5-6
	July 10-11
	August 7-8
2010	September 11-12
January 9-10	October 2-3
February 6-7	November 6-7
March 6-7	December 4-5

Event Calendar

Oct. 3: Family Picnic

Dec. 6: Wing awards ceremony in service dress

Jan. 16: OAY Banquet

Extension of ABU Cold Weather Outergarment Policy

BDU cold weather outer garments are authorized with the ABU. The "mix and match" policy was originally authorized until May 2009 but has been extended to May 1, 2010.

The 129th is on the Web!
YouTube: www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing
Twitter: www.twitter.com/129RQW
Delicious: www.delicious.com/129RQWPA

Cal Guardsmen receive priority placement at CSU schools

Are you applying to a California State University for Academic Year 2010?

If you're an Airman who wants to be a Cal-State student, you can apply to have priority placement in academic year 2010. If selected, you will be guaranteed admission to a CSU campus.

The California National Guard quota is limited, but covers the majority of the 23 CSU campuses. Interested parties will need to apply by Nov. 13, 2009.

For more information, go to www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123126960.

VA returning vets Web site

The Veterans Affairs Department has launched a new Web site to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, veteran-centric site at http:// www.oefoif.va.gov. It focuses on the needs and questions of returning veterans, featuring information on benefits and veterans' stories.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

WWW.129RQW.ANG.AF.MIL

KTVU wants to know your stories

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

In April KTVU Fox 2 and KICU TV 36 began airing a television news vignette series called "Operation Salute." It was designed to showcase Bay Area-based military personnel and their families on local television.

"Our intention is to appreciate, salute, and honor local military personnel who are positively contributing to our local community," said Rosy Chu, KTVU Community Affairs director and Bay Area People host.

According to Ms. Chu, the KTVU stories focus on individuals who combine their civilian lives and/or military careers to bring service to the greater community.

"So many of us are not aware of the many contributions military personnel bring to our every day lives and of how they contribute to our quality of life," she added.

Since the project's inception, three wing personnel have been featured on Operation Salute – Lt. Col. Steve Butow, 129th Operations Group deputy commander, Senior Master Sgt. Chris Underwood, 129th Human Resources Advisor, and Staff Sgt. Monique Rivera, unit trainer for the 129th Security Forces Squadron. You can view their segments, along with others, at http://www.ktvu.com/operationsalute/index.html.

If selected to participate, a KTVU television crew will interview the military member, film them doing their job, and if applicable film them in their civilian life. The 129th public affairs office also assists in coordinating the filming.

If you would like to nominate someone from 129th Rescue Wing, please contact the 129th Rescue Wing public affairs office at 603-9152 or public.affairs@camoff.ang.af.mil.

County Park 'Perks'

In 2007 the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a program that grants Annual Vehicle Entry Passes to California National Guard members in pay grades E-4 or below for parks operated by Santa Clara County. Servicemembers must reside in Santa Clara County.

There is a one-time administrative fee of $4. Each family may receive one pass per year. Download the application at www.sccgov.org/SCC/docs%2FParks%20and%20Recreation%2C%20Department%20of%20%28DEP%29%2Fattachments%2FAnnual_Pass_for_Military_Form_8.pdf.

Because verification of eligibility status must be made, passes can only be obtained through the Parks Department Administration Office at 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos 95032.

"Perks" is a section created for wing members to share benefits that came to them because they were in the Guard. To submit your "Perk," send an email to public.affairs@camoff.ang.af.mil.

Menu:
Bar-B-Que Chicken & Ribs with Caesar salad, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, assorted rolls and cookies/brownies. Hotdogs & Hamburgers for kids.

Note: This is Saturday's UTA meal.

Cost:
- Traditional & Technicians (no cost)
- Officer & AGR ($4.25)
- Non-military Adult ($10.00)
- Kids 12 and under ($5.00)
***** Pay your unit picnic POC!***

(Courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Elliott Paige)

Family Program Office and Diversity Committee host first wing mixer

In commemoration of the Year of the Military Family, 129th members attended the wing's inaugural mixer and movie night at the Domain Hotel in Sunnyvale Sept. 12. This quarterly event is sponsored by the wing's Family Program Office and the Diversity Committee.

129th RQW/PA
MOFFETT FAF, CA 94035

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

"These Things We Do…That Others May Live"
Download the newsletter at www.129rqw.ang.af.mil