

THE RESCUEGRAM



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

October 2008

Lives Saved
598

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



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129th Airmen rescue 34 Hurricane Ike victims

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

Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing returned here Sept. 17 and 18 after performing Hurricane Ike rescue operations out of Kelly Field in San Antonio.

Overall, 129th RQW members saved 34 people and 11 dogs in response to Hurricane Ike, which brings the total number of people saved by the 129th to 598.

The 129th forces were part of Joint Task Force 129, a self-contained search and rescue unit. The JTF was comprised of more than 100 personnel, four HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, and two MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers. Air National Guardsmen from the Alaska and New York Air National Guard were also part of the rescue task force.

JTF 129 swiftly deployed to Ellington Field from here Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 to perform Hurricane Gustav rescue operations. The rescue teams remained in place after Hurricane Gustav passed through the area because addi-



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt Brock Woodward

Joint Task Force 129 pararescuemen rescue a hurricane victim Sept. 13 in Galveston, Texas.

tional storms were forecast to hit the Gulf Coast. The JTF moved to Kelly Field Sept. 11 to sustain operations and avoid the path of Hurricane Ike.

"This professional and highly-skilled team of citizen Airmen demonstrated our unit's life-saving capability to respond anytime, anywhere," said Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th Rescue Wing commander. "This is exactly why we're consistently called upon to perform rescue operations in natural disasters, such as fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes."

Hurricane Ike rescue photos and articles are available at www.129rqw.ang.af.mil and video clips at www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing.

Additional hurricane rescue articles will be published in the November Rescuegram.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Wally Bacio

Joint Task Force 129 crew, Jolly 92, lands in a tight space between houses to rescue an adult male in Galveston, Texas, Sept. 12.

THE RESCUEGRAM

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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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Operation Purple Summer Camps help military kids cope and have fun

by Jim Arjani, 129th Rescue Wing Behavioral Health Specialist

This July I had the privilege to be part of the staff serving military kids from all over the state at Operation Purple Camp – a free summer camp for children whose parents are in any branch of the military (hence, “Purple”).

The five-day overnight camps sponsored by the National Military Family Association are held in locations across the country. TriWest Health Care Alliance partners with the National Military Family Association and provides a behavioral health consultant, such as myself, to each camp as a resource for camp staff and children.

The camp I attended was located on beautiful Lake Sequoia in Miramonte, Calif., just a few miles from the entrance to Sequoia National Monument on Highway 180. At this camp ages ranged from 6 to 16 years old. While campers were primarily from California, some of them came from other states as well. After children were divided by gender and age, they met their enthusiastic camp staff counselors from the Central Valley YMCA.

The main focus of the camps is for kids to have fun. Throughout the day campers participated in a variety of activities including swimming, kayaking, fishing, archery, arts and crafts, and rock wall climbing. Such activities help kids learn to cope with challenging situations while enjoying themselves.

The military theme was present throughout the week. There were organized activities such as the “Wall of Honor” where each participant talked about their military parent and shared a photograph. Later the photos were placed on a large poster board and displayed throughout the week. There was a “Military Day” where the kids got to try on an Airman’s uniform and equipment, sit in a Marine’s HUMMVEE, jump into an Army transport vehicle, as well as meet the respective military servicemembers.

Perhaps the most important

benefit of the camp was to support and build upon the resilience of these young people. It was a great opportunity for kids to meet and talk to peers who are going through similar issues related to the deployment of a family member. Helping kids feel that they are not alone and don’t have to keep everything inside is very reassuring and comforting.

For more information about Operation Purple Camp you can contact the National Military Family Association at 800-260-0218 or visit their website www.nmfa.org.

Just as a reminder, as the 129th embedded counselor, I am available if you or your family members have any behavioral health concerns at 650-450-0102 or jimarjani@yahoo.com. These services are free and confidential.

HH-60G pilot openings

The 129th RQS is looking for qualified candidates to fill traditional positions operating the HH-60G.

Here are some of the requirements:

- Age 28 1/2 or younger
- Bachelor’s degree
- Pass a USAF Flying Class 1 Physical and vision requirements
- Pass a Secret clearance investigation
- Pass the AFOQT and meet minimum scores in core areas
- No past UCMJ action, DWI/DUI, or drug usage
- Live within 150 miles of Moffett Field or commit to relocate
- No GTC revocations or overdue balances

For more information contact Capt. David Weidman at x 9340 or david.weidman@camoff.ang.af.mil



Student Flight prepares pre-basic training troops for military

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

The dew-blanketed grass and cool breeze provided little relief to the small Student Flight group as they work out the tiring flutter kicks under Tech. Sgt. Rachel Taylor's watchful gaze.

"Thirty seconds! Halfway there," Sergeant Taylor shouted to the group of young men performing physical training on the softball field at Moffett Federal Airfield Sept. 6.

Following jumping jacks, stretching, sit-ups and push-ups, Sergeant Taylor assembled the group of sweaty, but motivated trainees to begin running laps in pairs around the field.

Student Flight, a program for all non-prior service, is designed to help new, non-prior service enlistees become better prepared for basic training, making the transition from civilians into military troops easier, said Sergeant Taylor, the Student Flight NCO for the 129th Rescue Wing.

Sergeant Taylor and Capt. Tanya Lee, the Student Flight Officer, supervise the pre-basic training enlistees throughout drill weekends with physical fitness, drill and ceremony exercises, class lessons about military history, customs and courtesies, and rank structure.

"They're little sponges and they soak up everything we teach them," Sergeant Taylor said. "They'll be a huge asset to their shops."

Uniformly dressed in black t-shirts, the Student Flight trainees



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

Student Flight helped set up and clean up during the Family Day picnic Aug. 2. They also assist the unit with ceremonies during drill.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughan

Tech. Sgt. Rachel Taylor, Student Flight NCO, keeps track of much longer the group has to sustain their sit-up routine. Student Flight performs exercises they will experience in basic training.

already participated in many wing events, including change of command ceremonies, and the wing's Family Day. In addition to classes and physical training, wing activities help the new people stay motivated about the military while waiting up to a year or more on securing basic training and school dates, Sergeant Taylor said.

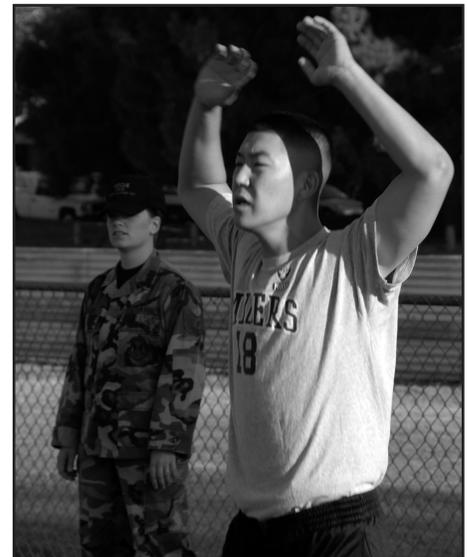
"Student Flight always feels as if they're already part of wing command. Everyone's giving them positive feedback," she added.

Especially the Security Forces, Sergeant Taylor noted.

"The cops love seeing their Airmen out here," she said. Four out of six of the newly-enlisted will be joining the 129th Security Forces Squadron.

Airman 1st Class Jason Pak, the Student Flight's 20-year-old student leader, plans on attending basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, this November. The Fremont-based native has a brother in the Army Reserves and has always wanted to be in law enforcement. Airman Pak is slated to join the 129th SFS following graduation from SF school.

"I think it's great. Sgt. Taylor and Capt. Lee are preparing us mentally and physically before



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughan

Airman 1st Class Jason Pak leads Student Flight in their morning physical fitness. Airman Pak plans on joining the 129th Security Forces Squadron, along with the majority of the Student Flight trainees.

basic training. It's an intense workout," he said.

Student Flight is new program for the wing and stems from the previous past knowledge experience of its NCOs.

The program is still in its infancy stage, said Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Blanchard, the Mission

See TROOPS, Page 4

Portrait of a Professional -- Staff Sgt. David Ortiz, 129 MXG



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

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

What motivated you to enlist in the military?

I had a friend who was enlisting in the Air Force and we were going to join through the buddy program. Then he bailed out!

If you could deploy anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I'd like to go to Cuba to help out during the hurricane aftermath, or a third-world country. Those people actually need help, and would appreciate what we do.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

When I was on active duty, I was a Premier Stealth Fighter crew chief.

What are your hobbies?

I volunteer as a high school wrestling coach for Washington High School in San Francisco. I used to wrestle for two years in high school, and now I get to give back a little.

What is your favorite memory in the military?

Taking off in a C-17 from Afghanistan following a four month deployment in Sept. 2007. The plane was at full power and loaded up with us and the helicopters.

What do you like about the 129th Rescue Wing?

As a maintainer in this unit, you're actually helping out and part of the rescue mission. You're not just a stagehand.

TROOPS continued from Page 3

Support Flight superintendent, who began a similar new enlistee program in 2005 while she was stationed at the 190th Air Refueling Wing in Kansas.

"There wasn't anything here at the 129th," said Chief Blanchard. "I saw how the unit had benefitted in Kansas, and we wanted to have that in place here."

When Chief Blanchard made the move to the 129th Rescue Wing in 2007, she began collaborating with Sergeant Taylor, who had also managed a Student Flight program at her New York unit.

Chief Blanchard noted the program has the ability to produce leaders in basic training and technical school honor graduates. "This program is for all of our unit members who are going to be viable assets to the wing."

The program hopes to inform and train the troops coming into the wing, in turn improving their individual shops.

Student Flight is looking for knowledgeable volunteers from the wing to assist in grooming these

future Airmen, and make the program even better with new ideas and extra hands.

"Student Flight is looking for individuals who are tech school qualified, motivated, and are interested in facilitating work and classes along with Captain Lee and Sergeant Taylor," Chief Blanchard said.

Volunteers can expect a fulfilling

experience. The Student Flight supervisors are proud of the chance to mold new troops and give them a boost before basic training and tech school.

Sergeant Taylor added, "Sending troops to basic training with knowledge, and seeing them come back as Airmen, it's the most rewarding thing I've ever done in my career."

Aircrew and recruiters, along with an MC-130P static display, represented the 129th Rescue Wing at the Travis Air Expo Aug. 30-31.

The wing uses opportunities like the Travis Air Expo as a recruiting drive for the unit, including the aircraft maintenance section where there are numerous job openings.

"A lot of senior people are retiring," said Senior Airman Darren Gray, an avionics mechanic on the HH-60G

Shadow Tanker offers shade at Travis Air Expo



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

and MC-130P. "We need young people to come in and fill their shoes."

The wing is scheduled to attend future events, such as the Salinas Air Show and Fleet Week in San Francisco Oct. 11-12.

“Thank you” from the California Air Guard Commander

By Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, California Air National Guard Commander



Please accept my sincere gratitude for your outstanding service to our great state and nation.

We have moved into new and demanding missions like Predator, Intel, Space, and soon Cyber, as we continue our rescue, air defense and airlift missions.

These critical federal missions represent only half of our responsibility as Air National Guard members. Our state mission to protect the people and resources is equally critical.

Our fire season started early with nearly 2,100 fires (that’s not a typo) at one time. These disastrous fires overwhelmed the state firefighting resources, and the Governor, our Commander in

Chief while not on federal duty, requested the CNG to help in a non-traditional way.

For the first time in my career, soldiers and airmen are being trained for ground crew duties assisting Cal Fire.

The Army Guard has trained 2,100 soldiers, and we will train the last of our 300 airmen.

The 129th was asked to do water drops with their HH-60 helicopters- another first for us. In an in creditable short period of time-crews were trained- aircraft moded- and they were dropping on fires. This is simply amazing.

Once again, our men and women raised there hand to do the job asked of us by the Governor. And, once again we delivered.

Fortunately, most fires are contained, but we are only half way through the fire season (remember, last year we had “Fall” Blaze).

Hopefully we won’t be called upon to fight more fires, but the

chances are high that we will. The present wildfire emergency is contained, but we still need to complete our training requirements requested by the Governor.

Hopefully, the new MAFFS will be ready for use by the 146th in their C-130Js- a mission they have been doing every year for over 30 years (that’s not a typo either).

Every wing and every unit commanded by the 162 have participated in our current emergency here at home and now in the Gulf coast, once again.

We are asking a lot of our folks, our families and employers. All I can say is “Thank You” for doing the impossible, once again.

Our state and nation is a safer place because of you.

Maj. Gen Lucas
Commander, CA ANG

Fly, Fight and Win!

By Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff

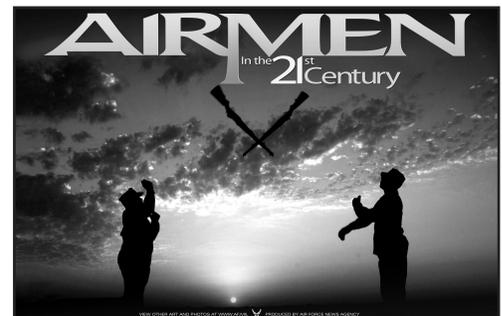
Since the Nation’s birth, it has been the constitutional duty of our military to ensure national survival, defend lives and property, and promote vital interests at home and abroad. The enduring responsibility of the United States Air Force is to provide strategic deterrence for the Nation and fly, fight and win as an integral part of the Joint Team. Together with our brothers and sisters in arms, we underwrite the national strategy of defending the Homeland and assuring allies, while dissuading, deterring and defeating enemies.

Military superiority and freedom of action cannot be taken for granted. To promote and defend America’s interests, the Air Force must provide Joint Combatant Commanders tailored, innovative capabilities to secure freedom to attack and from attack in and through the atmosphere, space and the electromagnetic spectrum. Such cross-domain synergies allow Joint freedom of maneuver in all war-fighting domains: sea,

air, space and cyberspace.

With the Nation facing persistent conflict for the foreseeable future, we will fully and without reservation support our Joint and Coalition partners in Iraq and Afghanistan other global challenges. We understand that failure is not an option. As adversaries seek new wars to undermine our strength and exploit perceived vulnerabilities, we must also prepare for an uncertain future. To this end, we will find ways to reset and modernize our Air Force that balance asymmetric, conventional and emerging threats posed by any adversary.

Airmen are our core strength. We will recruit, train and retain the highest quality force able and ready to cope with 21st century challenges. We will care for Airmen and their families by providing them both the quality of service they deserve and developing the ethos, skills and leadership capacities they need to excel. We



will continue to honor the fallen and we will always stand by our wounded warriors and their families, respecting their sacrifices in everything we do. In all, Airmen share a common perspective with the Joint Team: “Send me.” We are ready, willing and eager to provide the Joint Force Commander whatever they require.

Every Airman, every specialty matters-none more important than another.

Rising to these challenges is not a choice, it’s an urgent need. The Air Force must always be to: see anything; range it; observe or hold it at risk; protect, supply, rescue, support, or destroy it; assess the effects; and exercise global command and control of all these activities-across the domains of air, space and cyberspace. This is our obligation to the Joint Team. This is our obligation to America.

News & Notes

Alumni Heritage Association Scholarships available

The 129th Alumni & Heritage Association (AHA) 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.

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

Completed applications must be submitted to the 129th Alumni & Heritage Association Scholarship Chair, Lt. Col. Cynthia Kepple, at cindy_kepple@yahoo.com or by mail to her home at 2221 Walnut Grove Ave., San Jose, CA 95128-1241. Applications can also be submitted to CMSgt Kristina Keck in the Headquarters Building.

The deadline for submitting scholarship applications is the

close of business Nov. 8 (Sunday of UTA).

For more information about the scholarships, please e-mail Lt Col Kepple or call her at (408) 221-0060.

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 military personnel.

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 appointment only)

DSN: 837-3444/1733
Comm: 707-424-3444/1733

Meet your new HRA

Senior Master Sgt. Chris Underwood, 129th MXG First Sergeant, was selected as the wing's Human Resources Advisor Sept. 9.



The HRA promotes opportunities for all Air Guard members to maximize their potential for success without regard to cultural differences. The advisor liaisons with the MPF, MEO, CCM, First Sergeants, Recruiters, ROM and Chaplain with developing strategies and goals to address human resource development.

Sergeant Underwood enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1990 as a Parachute and Fabrication Specialist. He has been a supporter of "Reach for Tomorrow" program as a motivational speaker to inner-city youth and is currently assigned to the Santa Clara County Alternative Placement Academy and Bridge School in San Jose where he works with Juvenile Probations Officers, teachers and counselors.

AFA to honor Airmen

The Tennessee Ernie Ford Chapter 361 of the Air Force Association invites you to their Annual Awards Banquet Friday Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Clara. The banquet will honor Gen. C. Robert "Bob" Kehler, Commander, Air Force Space Command. Additional awards will also be given out. The dress is Mess Dress, Semi-Formal, or suit/evening dress for civilians.

BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ Rank _____
Address _____ Telephone _____
Email _____ Affiliation _____

Dinner Selection	New York Steak _____ Salmon _____	Total Dinners _____
Enlisted & Spouse	Number of tickets _____ x \$40.00	\$ _____
Officers/AFA & Spouse	Number of tickets _____ x \$65.00	\$ _____
Non-affiliated Guests	Number of tickets _____ x \$70.00	\$ _____

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 2008

RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 14 OCT 08 WILL COST \$5 (EACH) ADDITIONAL

Contact (408) 888-5244 lilramos@pacbell.net;



News & Notes cont.

Welcome new 129th members!

Maj. Steven Harper
Capt. Robert Effler
Senior Master Sgt. Vernon Palomares
Tech. Sgt. Cleve Burt
Tech. Sgt. Alan Munro
Tech. Sgt. Gary Robbins
Tech. Sgt. Paul Williams
Staff Sgt. Adam Crockett
Staff Sgt. Evan Poole
Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez
Staff Sgt. Melony Tan
Senior Airman Robert Burnes
Senior Airman Nicole Mancillas

The following member was recently promoted to their current rank. Congratulations!

Lt. Col. Antonio Rodriguez

The following members have retired, separated, or transferred to another unit. We wish them well and thank them for their service.

Chief Master Sgt. Billford Barrow
Master Sgt. Joeferm Devicais
Master Sgt. Grant Flanders
Master Sgt. Malvin Giddings
Tech Sgt. Michael Curtin
Tech Sgt. Neal Ericksen
Tech Sgt. Rebecca Jacoby
Tech Sgt. Cassandra Simon
Staff Sgt. Frederico Bala
Staff Sgt. Thomas Hannigan
Senior Airman Jina Higareda

Discounted 49ers tickets available to military members

The San Francisco 49ers would like to offer you a limited time, special \$17 priced game ticket as a way of saying "Thank You" for the job you do in making this great country of ours a better place.

This price is made possible only through your relationship with the team and because of the role you play in supporting our community.

There are only a certain number of tickets that we can offer at this price, so you are limited to purchasing four tickets per game. Because the number of total tickets available is limited, please do not share this offer with others outside of your organization.

Please click on the link below and enter the password "America" to receive the reduced price for your 49ers tickets: <http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/pyix5>

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>

FOR THE LATEST
129TH RQW
NEWS, GO TO:
www.129rqw.ang.af.mil

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/library/event_kit/index.asp#gen_info_factsheets.

TDY per-mile rate increases

In response to the mid-year rise in gasoline prices, General Service Administration officials raised the temporary-duty mileage rate from \$0.505 per mile to \$0.585.

The increase applies to all uniformed personnel and civilian employees traveling on official business by privately owned automobile or motorcycle, effective Aug. 1.

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.

The use of the revised forms, dated June 18, will start 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/>.

October UTA Menus

Saturday: Vietnamese

Sunday: American Traditional

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Recruiting Assistance Program



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

4-5 October
1-2 November
6-7 December

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

2009

3-4 January
7-8 February
7-8 March
4-5 April

129th RQW/PA
MOFFETT FAF, CA 94035

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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