

# THE RESCUEGRAM



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

December 2009

Lives Saved  
786

These Things We Do...  
That Others May Live



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## Rescuegram 2.0: Newsletter transforms into "Rescue E-Gram"

by Capt. Alyson Teeter  
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

In a move to streamline news production and save money, the wing's primary communication tool, the Rescuegram, will transition from a print publication to an e-mail newsletter starting January 2010.

**This month's Rescuegram edition is the last print issue.**

Traditional news media, such as print newspapers, have been hit hard by Internet technologies. Americans born after 1987 use the Internet as their primary source of information, and many Americans are obtaining news and information where they want it, when they want it, for free.

This way of consuming news and information has had an effect on the military too.

The new Air Force public affairs regulation will prohibit wings from funding base newspapers. The Air Force has also slashed public affairs manning since 2006. Shifting the focus away from layout and design to news gathering for the Web allows public affairs professionals to work more efficiently and keep internal and

external audiences better informed.

The e-mail newsletter, a.k.a. *Rescue E-Gram*, will be sent to .mil and commercial email addresses. The text-based e-mail will include links to stories and photos on the wing Web site at [www.129rqw.ang.af.mil](http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil).

Families should also go to [www.129rqw.ang.af.mil](http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil) for information – Family Programs maintains a page under the "Resources" tab. The Family Readiness Post It flyer will be posted on the page as well.

Most wing members will be automatically subscribed to the *Rescue E-Gram*, but not families. **Family members are highly encouraged to subscribe to the newsletter by sending an email to 129RQW.PA@ang.af.mil.**

If you have questions or feedback regarding the *Rescue E-Gram*, contact the 129th Rescue Wing public affairs office at 129RQW.PA@ang.af.mil or 603-9152.

**The print Rescuegram will be discontinued in January. Anyone can subscribe to the electronic newsletter by sending an email to 129RQW.PA@ang.af.mil.**



### 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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## What you should know about LOD

More often than not, ground injuries/mishaps/illnesses while on military status/duty result in an Line of Duty Determination form being submitted. The LOD ensures you are protected if you are injured or even become ill while on a military status.

LOD's are not automatic and are definitely not an entitlement to benefits if negligence is a factor. Willful and negligent action can lead to having an LOD declined, resulting in loss of pay, non-payment of medical bills, & possible administrative action. Let's look at a couple hypothetical scenarios.

### Scenario 1:

While on UTA status an airman has a pre-existing injury and does not inform supervisory personnel of the injury. While playing sports the airman aggravates the injury, is taken to the hospital for treatment and is no longer able to perform duty for the UTA and will probably be off work for several weeks. Should the LOD be approved?

**Result:** The LOD is declined due to negligence on the part of the airman to notify proper supervision to the injury so work modification can be

initiated or a profile established, or even be seen by medical for advice. The airman is released from drill, will not be put on orders, and has to pay for any future bills out of pocket and use personnel time for time away from the airman's civilian job.

### Scenario 2:

While at technical school an airman receives an injury but does not inform anyone. Upon returning to home station and resuming civilian employment the injury flares up and causes time away from work and additional medical treatment.

**Result:** The LOD is declined since the airman did not notify anyone at technical school or anyone at home station upon their return. It cannot be 100% determined if the injury occurred at school or at their civilian employment. The airman is now responsible for all care and time away from work.

Remember that each LOD is reviewed individually and each case has its own set of unique circumstances. The scenarios listed here are hypothetical and are used to assist you in understanding the LOD process. Direct questions to your supervisor and up the chain of command as necessary.

## Wing Holiday Party Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009

6 - 10:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn  
30 Ranch Drive  
Milpitas, CA 95035

### For Adults:

- No-host, cash bar with non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks
- 8-9 pm: White Elephant Gift Exchange (Bring gift, \$10 limit)

### For Children:

- Kids room, visit from Santa, gifts, snacks and drinks

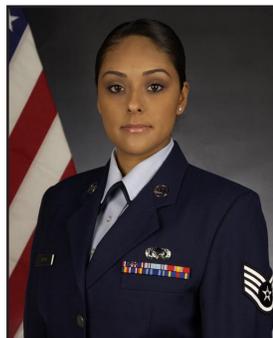
Sponsored by the Wing Diversity Committee



# 129th OAY, Officer and AFA Award Winners

## Outstanding Airmen of the Year

*Airman*



Staff Sgt. Leslie Zapata  
129 OSF

*NCO*



Tech. Sgt. Seth Zweben  
131 RQS

*Senior NCO*



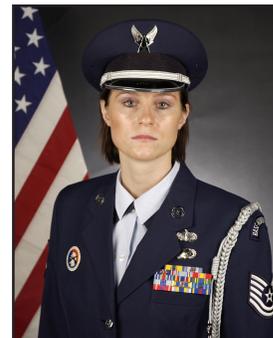
Senior Master Sgt. Jason Red  
128 RQS

*1st Sergeant*



Master Sgt. Byron Yerz  
561 AF Band

*Honor Guard*



Tech. Sgt. Rachel Velazco  
129 FSF

## Air Force Association Outstanding Airmen of the Year

*Airman*



Senior Airman Andrew Gibson  
128 RQS

*NCO*



Staff Sgt. Michelle Masso  
131 RQS

*Senior NCO*



Senior Master Sgt. Eric Burke  
131 RQS

*1st Sergeant*



Master Sgt. Byron Yerzy  
561 AF Band

*Aviator*



Capt. Mary Jennings  
129 RQS

*Maintainer*



Tech. Sgt. Jessica Jackson  
129 MXG

*Mission Support*



Senior Master Sgt. Alice Rose Duerr  
129 LRS

*Medical*



Senior Master Sgt. David Burkhalter  
129 MDG

*Company Grade*



Capt. Michael A. Vandermeiden  
129 MOF

*Field Grade*



Maj. Dave Bozzo  
129 OSF

## 129th Officers of the Year

*Company Grade*



Capt. David Weidman  
129 RQS

*Field Grade*



Maj. Mathew Wenthe  
129 RQS



To register, visit - <https://www.ca.ang.af.mil/OAY2010/index.htm>



## 130th RQS members showcase digital ops at joint exercise

**by Capt. Alyson Teeter  
129th RQW Public Affairs**

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. -- California Air National Guardsmen based here successfully demonstrated coalition personnel recovery operations using net enabled data link capabilities for the first time ever during the U.S. Joint Forces Command exercise, Bold Quest 2009, Oct. 27 to Nov. 5.

The 129th Rescue Wing sent 23 Guardsmen and an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft equipped with a prototype situation awareness system to BQ09 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. The exercise featured a series of demonstrations to assess technical and procedural solutions to improve the combat effectiveness of coalition forces, according to the JFCOM Web site.

In the past, rescuers were constrained to voice only communications in their life saving mission. Air Guard rescue forces responding to Hurricane Ike last year identified the data link capability as being the highest priority improvement for homeland emergency response operations on a large scale.

"Voice communications have always been an Achilles heel in the coordination of time-sensitive rescue operations," said Lt. Col. Steve Butow, deputy director of the 129th Operations Group and deployed commander during BQ09. "The voice communications frequencies rapidly become saturated during disasters because of the volume of information being passed."

The 129th RQW's operational experience provided momentum for generating a data link solution that underwent an operational utility evaluation in April at the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Test Center, or AATC, in Tucson, Ariz.

"The Air Guard has taken a lead role in the test and evaluation of situational awareness capabilities, enabling

personnel recovery for the warfighter and for homeland emergency response operations," Colonel Butow said.

Testing the Air Guard's situational awareness capabilities in digitally aided personnel recovery, or DaPR, BQ09 was an opportunity to integrate data link-enabled air and ground forces from joint and coalition components in a simulated battlespace, Colonel Butow said. The architecture, forces and concept of operations were representative of Afghanistan, and scenarios involved austere, woodland and urban environments.



The 129th RQW rescue MC-130P crews flew eight missions as Airborne Mission Commander, or AMC, supporting more than 20 personnel recovery events. AMC duties were performed by Combat Rescue Officers who coordinated recovery efforts with Joint Terminal Area Controllers on the ground.

"The crews were developing new tactics, techniques and procedures pretty much every time they flew," said Maj. Jose Agredano, 129th Operations Group chief of tactics and deployed director of operations during BQ09. "The system is new to rescue so we were literally discovering different ways to utilize SADL every event."

The personnel recovery events involved the employment of a variety of aircraft and forces, including U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles, Air National Guard F-16C Fight Falcons, Canadian

Air Force F-18CF Hornets, and Quick Reaction Forces from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

According to Colonel Butow, the DaPR events produced the following achievements:

- Data link minimized voice communications, allowing more effective coordination of recovery tasks.

- The rescue MC-130P maintained superior situational awareness in the terminal area and coordinated critical support requirement with the Air Support Operations Center.

- The rescue MC-130P streamed secure video to the JTAC during

recoveries, increasing the ground force commander's situational awareness and relieving intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets that would normally perform this function.

- Precise position information and identification was digitally distributed over land and air data link networks enabling the rescue MC-130P to coordinate recovery as the AMC.

- A personnel recovery coordination cell located within the ASOC provided real-time intelligence and command and control information to the AMC.
- NASA COSPAS Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking was utilized to collect beacon activations and provide GEO coordinate information to the BQ09 C2 network.

Because of these accomplishments, all members of the personnel recovery task force shared a common operating picture enabling unity of effort, Colonel Butow said. "The Bold Quest experience has proven invaluable in assessing current capabilities and defining requirements for the rescue H/MC-130 role in digitally aided personnel recovery."

"The spin-off benefit is that we have gained a new capability for wide area catastrophic events such as hurricanes or earthquakes," he added.



## Portrait of a Professional -- SSgt Emanuel Matsamura, 129th OSF



### **What is your favorite memory in the AF?**

I really enjoyed Basic Training. I think it was a good transition from being a civilian to being part of something that is beyond myself. Filling various leadership positions such as Dorm Chief allowed me to build on leadership skills early in my career.

### **What motivated you to enlist in the AF?**

I wanted to challenge myself, get out of Los Angeles and move on to something bigger and better in my life. I used to work with kids at a youth center; I had young kids looking up to me at a young age. I had to set a good example which prepped me into transitioning over to the military.

### **How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?**

Since joining the military I've visited and lived in many states in the U.S. and countries around the world. This has allowed me to see how other people in this world live and view life.

### **What's the most important lesson you've learned in the military?**

I always appreciated everything I had growing up, but now that I've had the opportunity to see how people around the world live, I take fewer things for granted.

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

I would like to be a Joint Terminal Attack Controller. Those are the airmen that forward deploy directing close air support to the guys on the ground and other offensive air operations. I initially wanted to join the Army as an Infantryman like my older brother. So providing support to

the guys on the ground like my brother would be rewarding.

### **What are your hobbies?**

Spending time with my family, playing hockey, basketball and baseball, working out, and messing around a little bit with the guitar and piano.

### **What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I play golf and have a 15 handicap.

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

*(Photo by Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez)*

## 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 Guard benefit are you most excited about?**



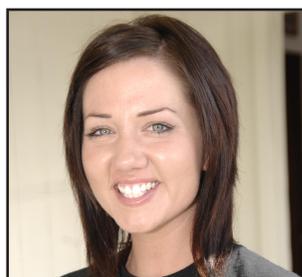
#### **A1C Jimmy Bruce Panyanouvong:**

The Guard benefit I like is the bonus incentive when I finish Basic Military Training. I would use it to pay off my student loans.



#### **A1C Lynn G. Visitacion:**

The Guard benefit I am most excited about is the medical/dental/vision. I will use it as soon as I receive it.



#### **A1C Heather M. Frost**

One of the perks of joining the ANG is their generosity to pay for schooling.



#### **A1C Joel B. Starkey:**

Space-A flight. Just for fun, my wife and I flew to Las Vegas. It was a lot of fun for very little money.



# News & Notes

## Welcome new 129th members!

Lt. Col. Kimberly Lalley  
 Tech. Sgt. Johnny Duran  
 Staff Sgt. Jimmy Fulleros  
 Staff Sgt. Ashley Garcia  
 Staff Sgt. Abdul Yaseen Khan  
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Machado  
 Staff Sgt. Pravesh Singh  
 Staff Sgt. Brian Taylor  
 Senior Airman Mark Poitier  
 Airman 1st Class Jeffery Johnson  
 Airman 1st Class William Lucca  
 Airman 1st Class Hristo Marokov  
 Airman 1st Class Rocco O'Farrell  
 Airman 1st Class Vincent Santiago  
 Airman 1st Class Michael Sausedo  
 Airman 1st Class Matthew Sutterfield  
 Airman 1st Class Allan Tan  
 Airman 1st Class Dan Truong  
 Airman Basic Kevin Leon  
 Airman Basic Tuong Tran

## The following members were recently promoted to their current rank. Congratulations!

Master Sgt. Jessica Jackson  
 Master Sgt. Daniel Starner  
 Master Sgt. Mark Vindiola  
 Tech. Sgt. Radoslaw Ciesielski  
 Tech. Sgt. Khamson Manisisaket  
 Senior Airman Samuel Robinson

## Congratulations, PME graduates! ALS Graduates (In Residence)

Staff Sgt. Michele Masso  
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Zhang  
 Senior Airman Isaac Corniel  
 Senior Airman Anhtuan Nguyen

## NCO Academy (In Residence)

Tech. Sgt. Megan Metzger

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

Maj. Joshua Kucker  
 Chief Master Sgt. David Cantrell  
 Master Sgt. Tedford Niday  
 Tech. Sgt. Catherine Degagne  
 Senior Airman Lawrence Anderson  
 Senior Airman Ruben Wegner  
 Airman 1st Class Gregory Arrigotti

FOR THE LATEST NEWS: .....



**REMINDER!**  
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## Give to the CFC before Dec. 10

The Nor Cal Combined Federal Campaign is the annual fundraising drive on behalf of more than 2,400 local, national and international charities for the Military and Federal Employees within the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and the Greater Sacramento Area. You or someone you know has most likely benefited from the generosity of others through their giving to numerous charities of the CFC. As a result of this dedication, the CFC has grown to become the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign.

This year's CFC theme is "I Can, Now More Than Ever." We understand the challenges with giving during these troubled economic times. These economic hardships also impact these charities and their ability to serve our community. They need our help now more than ever.

Together, "iCan, uCan, weCan" lend a hand to our fellow man.  
 129th MXG Key Worker: Senior Master Sgt. Norman Jacobs  
 129th MSG Key Worker: Master Sgt. Roscoe Presley  
 129th OG Key Worker: Staff Sgt. Leslie Zapata

## Air Force officials release fleece wear policy

The 98th Air Force Virtual Uniform Board released a policy message here Oct. 9 for wearing the new Air Force sage green fleece as an outer garment for the airman battle uniform.

According to the message, the sage green fleece may only be worn over the ABU top. It is not authorized to be worn solely over a T-shirt, thermal underwear or similar undergarments, when worn as an outer garment.

The authorized wear of the sage green fleece requires the following:

- a Velcro ABU print last name tape with dark blue block lettering, centered between the zipper and sleeve seam on the wearer's right chest.
- a Velcro ABU print U.S. Air Force tape with dark blue block lettering, adjacent to the name tape and centered between the zipper and sleeve seam on the wearers left chest.
- a Velcro subdued cloth rank with a solid sage green background, flushed and centered above the last name tape on the wearer's right chest.
- the fleece must remain zipped no lower than halfway between the name tape and the collar.
- the collar must be folded over and resting on the shoulder, chest and back when zipper isn't completely zipped.
- the bottom length of the



## News & Notes cont.

fleece must be as close to length of ABU top as possible. -- the sleeves must be worn down at all times.

The new fleece will be first available for deployed Airmen.

### **State implements new way to apply for federal technician positions**

Beginning Sept. 15, California National Guard federal technician vacancy announcements will no longer appear on the USA Jobs Web site. Instead, CNG technician vacancies will be available on the HRO Fulltime Job Announcements Web site located at <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cahr/Pages/jobmain.aspx>.

Users may apply to positions via email by attaching a resume or Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF 612), plus supporting documents. Send all applications to [ngcahrjobstech@ca.ngb.army.mil](mailto:ngcahrjobstech@ca.ngb.army.mil).

### **The 129th is on the Web!**

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing](http://www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/129RQW](http://www.twitter.com/129RQW)

Delicious: [www.delicious.com/129RQWPA](http://www.delicious.com/129RQWPA)

### **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.

### **Carry on military tradition by joining the unit honor guard**

If you're a detail-oriented individual interested in the honor guard, fill out an application form, have your supervisor and commander sign it, and forward it to Tech. Sgt. Rachel Velasco. She added that there is no minimum rank for honor guard, but you should complete your 5-level CDCs first.

If approved for the program,

you'll go to Travis Air Force Base for a 5-day training program, where you'll receive your honor guard uniform.

There are significant benefits for honor guard members: special recognition, additional pay, travel opportunities and awards. Sergeant Velasco said that the best reasons for being in the honor guard are personal pride and a desire to preserve the military traditions of honor and respect.

### **County parks offer perk to Guard**

In 2007 the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a program spearheaded by the Santa Clara County National Guard Veterans Affairs Commission 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.

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](http://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 [129RQW.PA@ang.af.mil](mailto:129RQW.PA@ang.af.mil).

### **Motorcycle safety course offered in December**

A 129th Rescue Wing sponsored Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course is scheduled at Moffett Field Dec. 9-10. The course is available at no charge to 129th members, GSU personnel and active duty members. Contact Senior Master Sgt. Al Lyvere at 650-603-9524 or [alan.lyvere@ang.af.mil](mailto:alan.lyvere@ang.af.mil) to reserve your space. Class size is limited to six students, first come first served.

### **Religious Services Schedule**

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

## Remember your role as wing protector

**by Master Sgt. Tony M. Farrington, 129th Rescue Wing Antiterrorism Officer**

Antiterrorism goals are simple: Keep every member safe and keep every resource secure. You can make a difference in meeting this mission by gaining a better understanding of Force Protection efforts and taking responsibility for wing security by incorporating AT techniques you've learned in Level 1 training.

Force Protection is a constant process involving many facets including intelligence collection and analysis, program planning, security assessments, mitigation, etc. It is complex and never ending and I need you to realize

you play a part in the most crucial element: reporting and intelligence. So, when you spot something suspicious and report it to Security Forces you have done your part. The smallest piece of intelligence can make a huge impact. Remember, it is of utmost importance that we remain observant and aware of our surroundings at all times and to not become complaisant or passive in our day to day lives at work or elsewhere.

The best source of intelligence is an informed and trained Airman. So, please accept this challenge: keep your eyes open and report anything out of the ordinary to Security Forces at 603-9111 or local law enforcement when off base.



*(Photo by Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez)*

### **Ukrainian officers visit the 129th**

Ukrainian Air Force officers pose with 129th Rescue Wing members during their tour of the 129th at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., Nov. 5. The Ukrainians visited California as part of the State Partnership Program.

129th RQW/PA  
MOFFETT FAF, CA 94035

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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