

# THE RESCUEGRAM



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

January 2009

Lives Saved  
**598**

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



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## Drive to drill, save some lives ... another day at the office

**By Staff Sgt. Eric Hamilton  
Special to the 129th Rescue Wing**

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif.-- Early Sunday morning on Dec. 7, Lt. Col. Jack O'Neill, commander of the 130th Rescue Squadron of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing, was driving in his car from San Ramon, Calif., for the second day of the weekend drill at Moffett Federal Airfield.

At 5 a.m., he was just waking up, driving to what he thought would be another routine day at drill on Interstate 680 southbound, near Mission Boulevard in Milpitas. Suddenly, his attention was caught by his rear view mirror, where he watched as a large bread van had wandered off the right shoulder and head-on impacted the leading edge of an overpass guardrail.

"The van became airborne with an immediate 30-foot fireball explosion," Colonel O'Neill said. "I was taken aback by the size of the explosion. The van landed on the driver's side with the undercarriage on fire. I pulled over to the shoulder, called 911 and then began backing up to render assistance. I thought to myself ... Self-Aid Buddy Care training don't fail me now!"

A nearby semi-truck driver, "Matt," also saw the single-vehicle accident and had pulled over and



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir  
*Lt. Col. Jack O'Neill, commander of the 130th Rescue Squadron witnessed a fiery crash during his drive to the second day of the weekend drill at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., Dec. 7. Colonel O'Neill and a truck driver pulled four survivors from the scene.*

was rendering assistance, Colonel O'Neill said. "Matt had yelled to the occupants to cover their faces, and had broken the windshield with his fire extinguisher. I became his wingman and assisted with opening the windshield to get the people out of the cab. We pulled one man and three women from the vehicle. We got them a safe distance and covered them with blankets that were pulled from the wreckage. Luckily, all of the individuals seemed to be okay."

**See CRASH, Page 3**

## **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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## **What did you do today to push the Flywheel?**

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

As your Human Resources Advisor, I will help create an environment in our wing that harnesses the talents, strengths and knowledge of our Airmen. I will also assist in the transformation of a culture that encourages empowerment of our Airmen and one that allows them the opportunities to display their GREATNESS. With these efforts we can be most effective in achieving our missions as we enhance our retention, productivity and mission readiness.

The never-ending journey from good to GREAT is clear. Each month, the Office of Cultural Leadership and Development has defined themes that focus your attention to pushing the Flywheel in our Wing!

We will kick-start the year in January with a spin on the Flywheel with TRUST.

- Trust is “Who you are, what your values are, what you stand for.... Those are

your anchor, your north star. You won’t find them in a book You’ll find them in your Soul” Anne Mulcahy, Chairman and CEO, Xerox

- Trust flows from being trustworthy! It is born from honoring commitments, speaking your truth, standing for what is right and listening to the voice of one’s conscience

- Be trustworthy. In order to lead, your must be trusted, to be trusted, you must be trustworthy. Your integrity can never be taken away

Flywheel Challenge: Ask yourself: “What did I do today to push on the flywheel?”

- Are you consistently accountable for; not only for your actions, but the actions of your subordinates?

- Integrity is the trusting, unbreakable bond that unifies leaders and Airmen. How do you create a culture of conscience?

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## **Rescuegram newsletter available online**

**129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs**

Do you wish you had a paperless version of the wing’s Rescuegram newsletter? Well, the 129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs office has good news for you! The 129th RQW’s Rescuegram newsletter is now available online.

Every monthly issue of the Rescuegram is linked from the News page of the wing’s Web site at [www.129rqw.af.mil/news/](http://www.129rqw.af.mil/news/).

The Family Readiness Post It flyer is also available online via the Family Readiness page of the wing’s Web site.

Questions? Concerns? Feedback? The 129th RQW/PA office wants to hear it! Feel free to give us a call at x9152 or 650-793-1749.

## CRASH, continued from Page 1

Although Matt expended his fire extinguisher fighting the blaze, he was unable to put out the fire. The fire department, police and ambulance soon arrived and took control of the situation, carrying two of the victims away on backboards.

The rescuers were lucky, too: Both had bleeding cuts on their hands from shards of glass from the windshield, and Matt had some eye discomfort, but neither had major injuries, Colonel O'Neill said. "Matt did say he wished he'd put on gloves first."

Displaying the courtesy and hu-

mility Air Guardsmen prize, Colonel O'Neill thanked Matt for his quick thinking and heroic life-saving efforts. There was no way those accident victims could have gotten

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***"You never know when you might be needed to be a first-responder or wingman."***

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out of that van without assistance. "It was very satisfying to be Matt's wingman and help get four people out of a terrible situation," Colonel

O'Neill said.

"I never thought I would say this, but I'm thankful for the SABC training we received in preparation for the ORI. It gave me the confidence to be proactive and get involved. Luckily today, I did not have to use any of that knowledge," Colonel O'Neill said.

"I think I will break out my AF-MAN 10-100 for a little refresher training. I am also going to buy a few more fire extinguishers for my home and car, and keep a pair of gloves in the trunk. You never know when you might be needed to be a first-responder or wingman."

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# Nominations open for outstanding employers of Guardsmen, Reservists

*By Samantha L. Quigley, American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has opened nominations for its 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

National Guardsmen, reservists and their families have until Jan. 19 to nominate employers they believe have gone above and beyond requirements in their support of military employees.

"In the past, recipients of the Freedom Award have provided full salary, continuation of benefits, or care packages -- even family support -- to employees fulfilling their military obligation," said Beth Sherman, an ESGR spokeswoman.

Sherman noted that while some past Freedom Award winners have been large corporations, even small companies have proven to be especially supportive of their reserve-component employees.

"This year for example, we had Robinson Transport, ... a small, family-owned business out of Utah," she said. "They had, out of their 150 employees, five deployed."

The company purchased each of the deployed employees a laptop computer for use while they were gone and contributed \$5,000 so they could upgrade their Internet connections at home. They even provided \$1,000 a month to supplement their deployed employees' household incomes for the duration of their deployments.

"They also provided full life, health, and dental insurance benefits and kept

everything going for them to be able to go out and do their job without having to worry about their family or their bills back home," Sherman said. "That's kind of above and beyond ... what is required by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act."

Robinson Transport was one of 2,199 employers nominated for the 2008 awards. That number represents a 97 percent increase over the number of nominations in 2007, Sherman said. Since nominations for the 2009 awards opened Nov. 3, 628 nominations have come in, putting ESGR on track to surpass last year's record number.

Recipients of the 2009 award will be announced in the spring and honored during the 14th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony Sept. 17 in Washington.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was established in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional employer support.

ESGR, a Defense Department agency, was established in 1972 with a mission of gaining and maintaining support for Guardsmen and reservists by recognizing outstanding support, increasing

awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through media.

More information about the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, as well as nomination forms, can be found at: [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).



# California Air Guard both learn and guide at premier CSAR exercise

**By Staff Sgt. Eric Hamilton**  
**Special to the 129th Rescue Wing**

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif.-- "Angel Thunder," the largest and most complex Department of Defense personnel recovery exercise, featured members of the 129th Rescue Wing for the first time this year, from 1-12 Dec., said Maj. David R. Bozzo, the 129th Operations Support Flight Intelligence Officer.

"Our involvement in Angel Thunder was driven by finding an exercise that could satisfy AEF spinup for deploying aircrews, Operations and Maintenance support personnel." Major Bozzo said. "It was our "train like you fight" preparation exercise. In the past we attended Red Flag at Nellis AFB but timing this year afforded us an opportunity to participate in Angel Thunder."

"Angel Thunder is a CSAR specific exercise that integrated active duty and Air National Guard rescue forces, along with other government agencies, in dedicated personnel recovery missions," said Col. Mark Sheehy, 129th Operations Group Commander. "The aircrew had the opportunity to perform missions in a desert environment much like our AEF operating locations. The exercise integrated A-10 and AH-64 aircraft to provide rescue escort of our training missions."

While all of the Wing's participants were volunteers, the emphasis was on training the warfighter, Major Bozzo said.

"It was invaluable training that ensures our aircrews are well-prepared for the upcoming AEF rotation this spring," Colonel Sheehy said.

In its third year, the exercise tested not only the pararescue crews, but a new operational architecture. Known as the "Rescue Operations Center," this



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Noah R. Johnson  
*Two Air Force pararescuemen depart from a HH-60G Pave Hawk to aid casualties during a personnel recovery training exercise Dec. 7 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.. More than 800 ground recovery personnel took part in Angel Thunder 2008, a combat search and rescue exercise.*

new approach to communicating is being validated by the exercise. In theory, a Rescue Operations Center (or ROC) integrates all of the various elements of information and provides an accurate, relevant summary for the rescue crews to work from.

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***"It was invaluable training that ensures our aircrews are well-prepared for the upcoming AEF rotation this spring"***

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If information is missing or inaccurate, pilots and PJs have a harder job and tougher decisions to make.

Over the first week, the missions went from a "traditional CSAR recovery mission," of a single individual, to more complex rescues involving two, then ten people and a variety of complications, Major Bozzo said. "The next week, it elevates a bit and becomes a bit more intense,"

with the goal being to try out the ROC under pressure, to see how it functions when overwhelmed.

But where the California Air National Guard shined was when some of its senior pilots were asked to not only participate in the exercise, but to guide it, as

well. In addition to staffing the ROC, Lt. Col. Taft Aujero, the 129th OSF commander, Maj. Jose Agredano, the 129th OSF Chief of Tactics, and Maj. Matt Wenthe, the 129th RQS Squadron Tactics officer, were all asked to assist in the White Cell, which provided the inputs for the exercise.

"The unit's experience level was evident as three of our seasoned pilots were asked to contribute to the exercise by supporting the White Cell and the Rescue Operations Center in a leadership/ advisory role," Major Bozzo said. "Their experience as senior pilots and Weapons Instructor School graduates help facilitate the execution and smooth flow of Angel Thunder."

## Portrait of a Professional -- Staff Sgt. Darren Kruse, 561 BA



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kim E. Ramirez

### **Why did you decide to enlist in the military?**

I played in a High School band and was told about the guard band by a friend of the family. I've been in the Band for 17 years.

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

My biggest achievement was putting together our 14-day tour this summer. 2,000 people attended our performance at the Mormon Tabernacle Hall, and we also played for thousands at various 4th of July venues. It's been quite a thrill to see those people enjoy our music. Playing music in the military is just a really great opportunity to play music in all kinds of venues... in the Rock band, Jazz band, Concert band. I'm also the Drum major for the Parade band. Marching down the street is what we do and I enjoy those events.

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

Giving back to the veterans and the community.

### **What is your job in the civilian world?**

I am a UPS driver during the week so I really get to enjoy my talents of playing the horn here at the Guard.

### **What do you enjoy most about playing in the band?**

One of the best parts about playing for the guard is my family and friends come out and see me and get to see me operate in this environment. This is great for my wife and kids to see Daddy at work. Hi Debbie and Tyler and Travis!



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

## **Jr. Enlisted Council hosts children's party**

The Junior Enlisted Council hosted the 129th Rescue Wing Children's Holiday Party Saturday, Dec. 6. In addition to a visit from Santa, crafts, presents and treats were enjoyed by all. Above, a little girl enjoys a gift and some kind words from Santa, as does Senior Airman Darren Gray (right)



## News & Notes

### Welcome new 129th members!

Tech. Sgt. Maria Rizzo  
Tech. Sgt. Steven Sirois  
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Starner  
Staff Sgt. Gregorio Enriquez  
Staff Sgt. Khamson Manisisaket  
Staff Sgt. Felipe Mancera  
Staff Sgt. Enrique Troncoso  
Senior Airman Nicholas Reyes  
Airman 1st Class Jessica Green  
Airman 1st Class William Helton

### Community College of the Air Force Graduates

Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Blanchard  
Master Sgt. Jennifer Bush  
Master Sgt. Derek Frazier  
Master Sgt. Shirley Keay  
Master Sgt. Michael Malloy  
Master Sgt. Rosemarie Stokes  
Tech. Sgt. Geoffrey Caravallo  
Tech. Sgt. Duncan Collier  
Tech. Sgt. Leah Zimmer  
Staff Sgt. Andrew Duren  
Staff Sgt. Walter Engle  
Staff Sgt. Theresa Hechler  
Staff Sgt. Inda Araceli  
Staff Sgt. Michael Mearlon  
Senior Airman Cesar Contreras  
Senior Airman Kevin Roman

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

Capt. Matthew Redmond  
Tech. Sgt. Laurence Ester  
Tech. Sgt. Amelia Karcher  
Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughan  
Staff Sgt. Jill Jamgochian  
Staff Sgt. Nino Lazaro  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Parr  
Staff Sgt. Aaron Vlasek  
Senior Airman Kelly Sleeper

### The following members graduated from the Sattelite NCO Academy, congratulations

Tech. Sgt. Mark Andrews  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Barros  
Tech. Sgt. David Gaudreau  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Guillory  
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Houghton  
Tech. Sgt. Jessica Jackson  
Tech. Sgt. Cindy Kenny  
Tech. Sgt. Sean McCambridge  
Tech. Sgt. Robert Nichols  
Tech. Sgt. Jose Sarmiento

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

Master Sgt. Thau Long  
Master Sgt. Alan Munro

### Education Level Records Review via Virtual MPF

The Air National Guard is requesting that all members conduct a records review of their educational records via virtual MPF to ensure their educational level is accurate. To ensure we meet this requirement all enlisted members should forward copies of their Associate, Bachelors and or Master degree completion certificates to Base Training for entrance into Milpds and Officers to Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). This is a vital piece of information that can enhance Airman's career with opportunities for promotion, award recognition, and force development.

Members should forward their educational documents to Base Training during the December and January UTA. Direct any questions to MSgt Stokes, 129th RQW Base Training Manager, x9187.

### Register now for the 2009 OAY Banquet

Chief Master Sergeant Deborah K. Lott, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the California Air National Guard cordially invites you to the 2009 Outstanding Airmen and First Sergeant of the Year Banquet, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, in Riverside, Calif.

The Banquet will be held at the Riverside Convention Center. The military dress is Mess Dress or Semi-Formal. Pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres begins at 5 p.m. and the introductions and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

RSVP by Jan. 2, 2009 by going to:

<https://www.dmy.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AN-OT-01-80>

### Below are the planned 2009 Case Lot, Seafood and Sidewalk sales at Moffett Field Commissary

Jan. 16-18 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
Feb. 6-8 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
March 6-8 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
April 3-5 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
May 1-3 - Case Lot & Seafood  
June 5-7 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
July 17-19 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
Aug. 14-16 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
Sept. 4-6 - Case Lot & Seafood  
Oct. 2-4 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
Nov. 6-8 - Sidewalk & Seafood  
Dec. 4-6 - Sidewalk & Seafood

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

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

As this year's official hosts, we are very excited to make sure this year's competition is one of the finest and ensuring your experience here in Arizona is fun, relaxing, and memorable. Please direct any questions of the committee members or staff volunteers.

It is imperative that you reserve your rooms ASAP! (623) 935-3811  
Singles/doubles : \$119  
Suites: \$159-209

### Rescuegram newsletter going to the wrong address?

The Rescuegram mailing is based upon addresses stored in vMPF. Please log on to vMPF to change your address and ensure that your newsletter is mailed to the correct address.

FOR THE LATEST  
129<sup>TH</sup> RQW  
NEWS, GO TO:  
[www.129rqw.ang.af.mil](http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil)

## News & Notes cont.

### Religious Services Schedule

Services take place every Sunday of UTA drill weekend in Building 650.

Schedule of services

Catholic: 10:15-10:45 am

Non-denominational: 11:00-11:30 am.

### Save the date! National Prayer Luncheon announced

The 129th Rescue Wing is hosting a National Prayer Luncheon here Feb. 8, 2009. The event is scheduled from 11 am to 12 pm in building 650.

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

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



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

*Maj. Connie Wong, 129th Rescue Wing MEO, assists her daughter with crafts at the Children's Holiday Party on Dec. 6, 2008. In addition to a visit from Santa, crafts, presents and treats were enjoyed by all.*

## Airfield competency and safety go hand-in-hand

**By Chief Master Sgt. Betty Maldonado  
129th Operations Support Flight**

Do you know what it takes to be authorized to drive on the airfield? Contrary to popular belief, the driver needs more than just their civilian driver's license and golf course pass. On a daily basis it's very possible a driver may be asked to produce credentials that show authorization and competency to drive on the airfield by airfield management, safety, or security forces.

Airfield competency and safety go hand-in-hand. Knowing all the rules, signs, and signals that go along with moving safely on the airfield is crucial to being safe. Here are a few rules of the airfield as well as what the driver must possess in order to drive on the airfield: drivers must have a valid civilian driver's license in order to get a military driver's license (AF Form 2293), required to drive a military vehicle.

For the driver to be authorized to drive that vehicle on the airfield, the driver must complete the airfield driver's training course given by the unit's Airfield Driving Program Manager.

Upon completion of the training, the driver will receive an AF IMT 483, Competency Card.

In a nutshell, the driver must have the AF Form 2293 and current AF IMT 483, Competency Card, in their possession before the wheels of the vehicle roll onto the airfield and aircraft parking ramp.

While working on the airfield, ear protection must be worn around noise hazards.

Drivers must be cognizant of the speed limits on the airfield as well as the rules for parking on the airfield during day and night hours.

There is absolutely no smoking on the airfield and all trash must be removed to prevent a FOD hazard.

The wing commander is authorized to designate a smoking area at a safe distance for personnel who smoke. Violations of this policy could result in the removal of the smoking area.

That's all it takes for all of us to be able to do our jobs and be safe. Contact your AFDP manager in your unit to schedule your training.



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.

## 2009 UTAs

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

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...