



# 129th Rescue Wing's December Rescue e-Gram

946 Lives Saved

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

## November 2010: Portrait of a Professional



Portrait of a Professional is a monthly profile of an outstanding Staff Sergeant or below. Senior Airman Jacob Ellwood, a 129th Rescue Squadron flight engineer, is featured in this month's Portrait of a Professional.

### **What is your favorite memory in the Air Force?**

My First Rescue was pretty awesome. It was in April of 2010 on Easter Sunday. We flew 600 miles off the shore of San Diego. Your first rescue mission is defiantly a big deal, and it was great being able to finally put my training into action.

### **What motivated you to enlist in the Air Force?**

I have always had a love for flying and when I was introduced to the rescue aspect of flying something about it really clicked with me, and I have always wanted to serve my country in some way or another.

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

I have gained a better sense of reality for what the military goes through on a day to day basis to serve our country. I have a better appreciation for the men and woman before me who have served selflessly, and those who lost their lives.

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

Better work ethics, I have learned to put my differences aside to complete a successful mission, and I have learned to work well with other, because being a part of the Rescue Squadron entails everyone work as a team.

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

I love my job, but if the opportunity came up I would like to be a pilot in the Rescue Command, because I love flying and I love the rescue mission.

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

I would go anywhere. I would just love the opportunity to travel and see the world.

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

I pretty much like to do anything outdoors; camping, off-roading, hunting, and fishing.

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

That I started flying planes before I even knew how to drive.

# *Safety Files*

## **Holiday Safety**

from Master Sgt. Vincent Brouillard  
129th Rescue Wing Safety Manager

Can you believe that Christmas is here again? With that magical day around the corner, I'm sure everyone is putting up trees, stringing lights and decorating their homes. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you enjoy a safe holiday season with your family:

### **Preventing Christmas Tree Fires**

- **Christmas Tree Fire Hazards** - Movie segments demonstrating how fast a live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.
- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday** - Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- **Caring for Your Tree** - Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- **Disposing of Your Tree** - Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

### **Holiday Lights**

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights** - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets** - Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. **DO NOT LEAVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON UNATTENDED!!**

### **Holiday Decorations**

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations** - All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace** - It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.
- **Artificial Christmas Trees** - If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

*If you have comments and/or suggestions you would like to make about the 129 RQW Safety Files please contact MSgt Vincent Brouillard at [vincent.brouillard@ang.af.mil](mailto:vincent.brouillard@ang.af.mil).*

# *Family Readiness Corner*

## **Operation Ready Families Upcoming Classes**

from Ms. Carolann Wunderlin

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program Manager

The Operation Ready Families is the California National Guards family Assistance Network. Its mission is to assist units as they support the families of servicemembers during peacetime and times of training and deployment. Dedicated to their vision of being a fully functioning family Chain of Concern, the following courses are available to Airmen and/or their spouses to enhance their readiness and wellness.

### **Family Readiness Course - Feb. 26 and 27, 2011 in Chico, Calif.**

Provide the essentials on establishing and maintaining a viable Family Readiness system in California National Guard units. Suggested attendees are unit volunteers, military point of contact for Family Readiness, commanders and other leaders. Topics include Family Program Essentials, Effective and Legal Fundraising, Deployment, and more

### **Non-Military Volunteer Only Course - Jan. 15 and 16, 2011 in San Luis Obispo, Calif.**

This course is a follow-up to the Family Readiness Course, providing leadership skills, training to unit and command volunteer coordinators. Sessions include: My Life in a Box, Leadership Skills, Operation Eagle Eyes, Compassion Fatigue, The Media & You, Community Relations and Be a Part of the Solution - A Practical Exercise for Volunteers.

### **Marriage Enrichment Seminar - Jan. 22 and 23, 2011 in San Diego, Calif.**

The purpose of the seminar is to coach couples on how to communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance love, commitment, and friendship.

For more information regarding registration please go online to [www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies) or contact June Sato at 916-361-1957. Send your questions or comments to [ready.families@ca.ngb.army.mil](mailto:ready.families@ca.ngb.army.mil) or call toll free to 1-800-449-9662.

*For more information about the Airman and Family Readiness Office and its programs please visit <http://www.129rgw.ang.af.mil/resources/familyreadiness.asp>.*

## ***December UTA News & Notes***

This is a compilation of news bits Airmen and families can use to prepare for the upcoming UTA weekend.

### **Welcome New 129th Members!**

- Staff Sgt. Michael Foster, 129 MXS
- Staff Sgt. Lester Lardizabal, 129 AMXS
- Senior Airman Chris Salazar, 130 RQS
- Senior Airman Nathan Schmidt, 131 RQS
- Airman 1st Class Pedro Bautista, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Bui, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Betty Chan, 129 LRS
- Airman 1st Class Jerrett Collins, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Kobbe Farwick, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Matthew Gallardo, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Pablo Rios, 129 LRS
- Airman 1st Class Adrian Romero, 129 MXS
- Airman 1st Class Joseph Taormina, 129 AMXS

### **Congratulations!**

**The following members have recently been promoted to their current rank.**

- Chief Master Sgt. Jason Red, 129 RQS
- Senior Master Sgt. David King,
- Staff Sgt. Louis Garcia,
- Staff Sgt. Jerald See,
- Senior Airman Roberto Oregon,

### **Thank You for Your Service!**

**We wish the following retired, separated and transferred members well**

- Capt. Thomas Maranda, 129 SFS
- Senior Master Sgt. George Granada, 130 RQS
- Master Sgt. Steven Viera, 129 MDG
- Staff Sgt. James Reineck, 129 MXG
- Staff Sgt. Melanie Tan, 129 MDG
- Staff Sgt. Abraham Velasco, 129 CES
- Senior Airman Douglas Dashiell, 129 AMXS

### **2011 UTA Schedule**

January 8-9  
February 5-6  
March 5-6  
April 9-11  
May 10-15  
June 4-5  
July 9-10  
August 6-7  
September 10-11  
October 1-6  
November 5-6  
December 3-9

## **Religious Services Schedule**

Chapel services have been moved from the MXG classroom to the new Family Reception area of bldg 669. 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

## **Holiday Children's Party**

On Sat. Dec. 4 the 129 RQW will be hosting this year's Children's Christmas party. It will be held 4:30-6:00 pm in building 669. Bring your families and your smiles to this wonderful event. Activities will include mailing letters to santa and troops, arts and crafts, a visit from santa and photo opportunity. Holiday music will be provided by ANG Band ensemble and a special visit from the NASA fire truck. If you have any questions, concern or would like to RSVP please contact SSgt Silvia Bacon @ 650-603-9820 or by email [silvia.bacon@ang.af.mil](mailto:silvia.bacon@ang.af.mil)

## **2011 California Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet**

Four of our 129th Airmen will be competing for California Air National Guard's Airman, NCO, SNCO and First Sergeant of the Year. Attending the banquet is a great and entertaining way to support these Airmen and represent the 129th RQW amongst our fellow ANG wings. This year's event will take place Jan. 15, 2011 in Fresno, Calif at 5:00 p.m. The banquet will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center and is a formal event. Registration closes Jan. 4, 2011. To register please go to

[http://www.calguard.ca.gov/air/Documents/OAY2011/2011\\_OAY\\_Banquet.htm](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/air/Documents/OAY2011/2011_OAY_Banquet.htm).

## **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program - Dec. 11, 2010**

This event is for all phases of the deployment cycle: Pre-deployment, During deployment, and Post-deployment. Deployers and family members, who are scheduled for, currently are, or have completed 90 consecutive days of Title 10 or Title 32 other than for training, are eligible for the YRRP event. Military members will be placed on Special Training orders and is allowed 2 Invitational Travel Orders (ITO) for family member attendees who reside over 50 miles, and age 13+. Other members are welcome to attend without ITO are also eligible. MUST register online at [www.jointservicesupport.org](http://www.jointservicesupport.org) to reserve your space. Single Airmen can also invite two family members (i.e. parents, siblings, etc.). Childcare is provided during the event. Please contact your Airmen and Family Readiness Program assistant SSgt Silvia Bacon ([silvia.bacon@ang.af.mil](mailto:silvia.bacon@ang.af.mil)) or the YRRP specialist Autumn Decosta ([autum.decosta@us.army.mil](mailto:autum.decosta@us.army.mil)) for assistance.

## **No Texting While Driving on Base!**

To all 129th RQW personnel from Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th Rescue Wing Commander: NASA Security has notified the wing that a large number of 129th personnel have been observed using cell phones/handheld devices while driving motor vehicles on Moffett Field; this is not allowed By Federal Law on federal property. NASA Security has the ability cite persons in violation of motor laws. The fine for using a cell phone while driving if ticketed by NASA is more than \$100. Don't take any chances. DRIVE SAFELY!

## **Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award**

This award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to businesses that employ members of the National Guard and Reserve. The accolade was created to publicly recognize employers who provide exemplary support to their National Guard and Reserve employees. Applications are now being accepted for 2011. The nomination process can be found at [www.freedomaward.mil](http://www.freedomaward.mil) and must be completed by Jan. 17, 2011. If you have questions or need assistance with the process please contact the California National Guard ESGR representative, Mr. Jerrold Jurin at [jarrold.jurin1@us.army.mil](mailto:jarrold.jurin1@us.army.mil) or 916-854-3106.

## Portal Helps Vets, Reserves, Guardsmen Land Jobs

[Http://www.usar.army.mil/arweb/EPI/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.usar.army.mil/arweb/EPI/Pages/default.aspx) is a new state-of-the-art web portal to help servicemembers, their families get jobs with civilian employers who value their military experience. The user-friendly tools will enhance the popular Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces program by making it easier for both job hunters and more than 1,200 employers seeking their skills. The new portal simplifies the job application process by allowing users to set up a personal profile and maintain a record of their job searches and search parameters, Colonel Leonard explained. That means users don't have to start from square one each time they enter the system, saving them time and inconvenience.

## Air Force officials seek Warrior Games participants

Air Force officials are seeking 25 warriors to compete in the 2011 Warrior Games, an Olympic-style competition open to wounded, ill and injured military members and veterans. People interested in applying should do so immediately by calling the Air Force Wounded Warrior office at 800-581-9437 or sending an e-mail to [afwounded.warrior@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afwounded.warrior@randolph.af.mil) for application information. The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2010.

## Commissary On-site Sale

Take advantage of spectacular savings on popular grocery items at the Commissary On-site Sale. The Lemoore NAS Commissary is traveling again and is hosting an On-site Sale at the Hammer Field Armory in Fresno, California. The sale will take place at 5575 E Airway Blvd, Sat. Dec. 11, 2010 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. National Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, and active duty military service members and dependents can take advantage of the great savings at the Commissary. Sale items may include paper products, soap and cleaning products, canned goods, sodas, sport drinks, water, laundry detergents, and a variety of other products at savings of 30 percent or more! For information about this Commissary and other locations near you, please visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). For more information please contact Cynthia Parker 559- 998-4667/4669

## Free Skiing at Sugar Bowl Resort

FREE skiing and snowboarding for active military personnel with a valid military ID card on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. Tickets can be bought at any ticket window or online at [www.sugarbowl.com/military](http://www.sugarbowl.com/military) or by calling 530-426-9000.



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Find these and other stories on the 129th Rescue Wing Web site -- <http://www.129rgw.ang.af.mil>. The 129th is also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/129RQW](http://www.facebook.com/129RQW), Twitter at [www.twitter.com/129RQW](http://www.twitter.com/129RQW), YouTube at [www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing](http://www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing) and Delicious at [www.delicious.com/129RQWPA](http://www.delicious.com/129RQWPA).

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