



129th Rescue Wing's February Rescue e-Gram

908 Lives Saved

These Things We Do...That Others May Live

AIRMAN RETURNS HOME WITH A PURPLE HEART

by Airman First Class Jessica Green
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs



Capt. Mary O. Jennings, 129th Rescue Wing HH-60G Pave Hawk co-pilot, receives the Purple Heart from California Air National Guard Commander, Maj. Gen. Dennis G. Lucas, during an awards ceremony Dec. 6, 2009. Captain Jennings was the recipient of the Purple Heart due to injuries sustained in a July 29, 2009 Afghanistan rescue mission. (Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez)

An Air Guardsman from the 129th Rescue Squadron here was awarded a Purple Heart at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Dec. 6.

Capt. Mary Jennings, HH-60G Pave Hawk co-pilot, received the Badge of Military Merit, also known as the Purple Heart, by Maj. Gen. Dennis Lucas, commander of the California Air National Guard, in a ceremony attended by her family, friends and fellow Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing.

She recently returned home from her deployment to Afghanistan after being wounded by enemy forces during the rescue of three injured American soldiers. Air Force rescue helicopter Pedro 15 launched July 29 from Kandahar Airfield in route to the convoy that had fallen under attack once striking an improvised explosive device.

"We couldn't see any enemy fire as we arrived on scene," said Maj. George Dona, Pedro 15 pilot, also from 129th RQS. "We were in voice contact with the soldiers on the ground and we could hear over their radios that they were under distress."

The soldiers were taking cover from hidden enemy positions on the western side of the convoy. Pedro 15 took immediate fire upon the first landing, taking off right away, in enough time to drop off two pararescuemen, or PJs, in the zone, Major Dona said.

"One shot actually came directly into the cockpit and pretty much destroyed the entire co-pilot windshield," said Major Dona. "Captain Jennings took shrapnel and there was blood instantly all over her side."

Pararescue team lead, Tech. Sgt. Aaron Butler, from the 38th RQS assigned to the 23rd Wing at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., stayed on the aircraft after the first landing to ensure Captain Jennings was alright, while the rest of his pararescue team deplaned to collect the patients. Pedro 15 flew about a mile south to escape enemy fire and guarantee that both the helicopter and crew were in good enough condition to continue the save, Captain Jennings said.

"The helicopter was determined fully functional," she said. "We couldn't bring ourselves to return home without the patients."



Capt. Mary Jennings, an HH-60G Pave Hawk co-pilot with the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., stands with Tech. Sgt. Aaron Butler, a pararescueman from the 23rd Wing, Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Sergeant Butler treated Captain Jennings for shrapnel wounds sustained during a July 29, 2009 rescue mission in Afghanistan. (Courtesy of Capt. Mary Jennings)

Despite the danger Pedro 15 faced, the crew, including 129th RQS flight engineer Senior Master Sgt. Steven Burt and 129th RQS aerial gunner Tech Sgt. Tiejie Jones, returned to the scene after getting a call from the PJs saying they were ready to haul out the three patients, Major Dona said.

"Then again, as soon as we landed we took immediate fire. We landed next to the patients and the PJs were already moving them in," he said. "We took constant fire, and in about 20 rounds to the backside of the helicopter the systems started to deteriorate slowly."

Captain Jennings told Major Dona, who was on controls, to hold the helicopter on the ground through the fire as she watched the PJs load the patients on the helicopter.

"There were people yelling, lights flashing, and people screaming through the radios, all while dodging bullets," said Captain Jennings. "Major Dona had a lot of patience and confidence in his team to stay on the ground through all the chaos. His amazing pilotage skills saved all our lives."

About 30 seconds after takeoff the back cabin was full of fuel, hydraulics were leaking, and systems were not working correctly. Captain Jennings flipped the fuel selector to cross feed between the two fuel tanks to keep the engine from flaming out. This was a huge factor in keeping the helicopter airborne, Major. Dona said.

"As I enabled the second tank I saw it was ticking down to zero as well," said Captain Jennings. "We needed to land. It was a decision to either crash three miles away or land two miles away."

The crew of Pedro 15 made the right decision. After landing the helicopter about two miles south of the convoy attack the crew shut down and quickly secured a perimeter to protect the patients. Nearby flight Pedro 16 landed next to their crippled wingmen and loaded all patients and as many crew members as possible before departing, Major Dona said.

"Army OH-58D Kiowa helicopters came to retrieve the rest of the crew," said Captain Jennings. "Being small single-engine, single-rotor, two-seater helicopters, there was no room for us inside. We had to stand on the skids and hold onto rocket pods."

As if the heroic pilotage of Captain Jennings and Major Dona weren't enough, Sergeant Burt also showed extreme valor. While PJs were loading patients onto Pedro 16 and the crew was being exfiltrated on to the skids of their cover ships, one of the pararescuemen called for help. Sergeant Burt ran through the rain of fire to help, Captain Jennings said.

"He totally put his life on the line," she said. "I'm extremely proud of my crew's heroism."

Looking back at the incident, Captain Jennings is thankful for her crew and their bravery.

"In a country where rocket propelled grenades are used everywhere, it was amazing that no one had an RPG. Everything was covered in fuel, including ourselves," she said. "It was nothing short of a miracle that we survived."

RESCUE CREWS TRAIN JAPAN AIR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE PILOTS

by Airman First Class Jessica Green
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs



Capt. Takeshi Tokuda, a Japan Air Self-Defense Force UH-60J pilot with the Air Rescue Wing at Komaki Air Base, Japan, prepares for air refueling training with the 129th Rescue Squadron, Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., Dec. 9, 2009. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Japanese Air Self-Defense Force pilots teamed up with 129th Rescue Wing aircrews here for refueling training Dec. 7 to 18.

Maj. Eiji Sekine and Capt. Takeshi Tokuda, UH-60J pilots both with the Air Rescue Wing at Komaki Air Base, Japan, and Maj. Masahiko Miyazaki and Capt. Takemas Tsuchimiochi, C-130H Hercules pilots with the 1st Tactical Airlift Wing at Komaki AB, received hands-on training for day and night air refueling on the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter and MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft.

"They have done some refueling training with the 33rd Rescue Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan," said Maj. Mathew Wenthe, the 129th Rescue Squadron's tactical officer. "However, the 33rd RQS is on a deployment rotation leaving them unable to provide any more training or academic service to the JASDF pilots."



Maj. Mathew Wenthe, a 129th Rescue Squadron tactical officer with the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Federal Airfield Calif., and Maj. Eiji Sekine, a Japan Air Self-Defense Force UH-60J pilot with the Air Rescue Wing at Komaki Air Base, Japan, walk away from the HH-60G Pave Hawk after air refueling training Dec. 9, 2009. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

This collaboration was prompted by the JASDF's plan to buy refueling pods for the C-130H. They are currently flying KC-767 Jet Tankers and UH-60J's but have no refueling systems, Captain Tsuchimiochi said.

"When we got word from Kadena, we thought it would be a great experience to support," said Major Wenthe. "There's a big push for building partnership from the Pacific Air Force and we see this as a key element to that partnership. It's been a blast."

JASDF's plan is to buy refueling probe packages for their UH-60's so they can do air refueling while on rescue missions. Their job will be to return to Japan and teach their fellow pilots the training they've learned here, Major Wenthe said.

"Our rescue squadron saves include retrieving sick fishermen at sea and shipwrecks," said Major Sekine. "With this training we will return to Japan to train our pilots and become operational in the near future."

Focusing on safety, partnership and accuracy while training, the Japanese pilots will return home to improve their rescue mission's range and efficiency.

"We do our best, thank you for all of the training," said Major Miyazaki. "We appreciate everything."

FORMER ARMY MEDIC SAVES CHILD

by Brandon Honig

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



At the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez, 129th Rescue Wing still photographer, came to the aid of an 18-month-old girl who experienced a seizure. The former Army medic's lifesaving actions earned her the Joint Service Achievement Medal. (Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

For Staff Sgt. Kim Ramirez, 129th Rescue Wing still photographer, the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., was an unfamiliar place to hear a familiar call.

"Medic!"

She instantly turned and ran, not knowing what emergency could be drawing a crowd on the other side of the memorial, where she was escorting World War II veterans who had been flown to Washington by the nonprofit Honor Flight Network.

"My first thought was that one of the gentlemen had fallen," she said. "Then I was running, and I saw my instructor holding a little girl."

The little girl was the 18-month-old great-granddaughter of one of the World War II veterans who was taking an Honor Flight tour. The Honor Flight Network flies veterans to Washington to tour memorials for wars in which they fought. Priority is given to senior veterans and those who are terminally ill.

"My instructor said he had tried something [to revive the girl]. ... I saw she was completely green and purple," Sergeant Ramirez remembered. "I've had to give CPR twice before, so I just pulled her out of his arms, and after that, it's like the movies: Everything got quiet and [I] just focused on the little girl."

Sergeant Ramirez, who was an Army medic for nine years before joining the California Air National Guard last year, administered CPR until paramedics arrived, then she gave them a report and quietly stepped away. The next day, Sergeant Ramirez learned the young girl had experienced a febrile seizure due to an ear infection but would fully recover, largely because of the former medic's quick action.

Sergeant Ramirez, who was in the Washington area attending a Defense Information School course for her new military occupational specialty as a photographer, was bestowed the Joint Service Achievement Medal for providing emergency care that contributed to the child's recovery.

"Using her experience as a former Army medic, she expertly assumed control of the situation and administered rescue breathing after care provided by other service members failed to help the child," the citation states. "Her actions directly contributed to the stabilization and recovery of the child and fostered a positive image of Defense Information School and the military community in a high-profile environment.

"Through her distinctive actions, Staff Sergeant Ramirez reflected credit upon herself, the United States Air National Guard, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense."

JANUARY 2010 PORTRAIT OF A PROFESSIONAL

Portrait of a Professional is a monthly profile of an outstanding Staff Sgt. and below. Airman 1st Class Jessica Green, 129th Rescue Wing public affairs specialist, is featured in this month's Portrait of a Professional.



Airman 1st Class Jessica Green, 129th Rescue Wing public affairs specialist, is this month's Portrait of a Professional, shown here interviewing October 2009 Portrait of a Professional, Staff Sgt. Joshua Webster, 131st Rescue Squadron pararescueman. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir)

What is your favorite memory in the AF?

Although I haven't had a chance to have too many memories, only having about six months under my belt, I would have to say that my time in tech school experience was by far the most exciting, fun and beneficial experiences of my life. I made awesome friends, learned a lot, and made great contacts with other people that will be in the small public affairs community within the military, throughout all services.

What motivated you to enlist in the AF?

I enlisted in the guard specifically for my job. I'm going to school at San Jose State for journalism, and I've always wanted to do something great with my education. I enlisted to fine tune my education in the field, military training triumphs university teaching.

How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?

I've always been a pretty self driven person; with the help of the military I've better learned the wingman concept. I've learned that I cannot succeed alone, but need the help of others. Being a leader requires a lot of

correspondence with everyone above and below you to ensure that everyone is getting the help they need. All of the people I've meet so far in my military career have been very quick to help in any way possible, I hope that I too can build that confidence and rapport to make sure the mission gets completed.

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

I believe it was at basic training when I was told that "when civilians see you in uniform, you might be the only Airman that they'll ever see, and you want to make the right impression because you are representing the Air Force." With that piece of advice I take pride in representing the Air Force through leadership, responsibility and maturity as best I can in and out of uniform.

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

I would really like to join the war effort in Afghanistan. Enlisting while a war is going on is one thing, but serving my country and never being deployed to support is another. Being in public affairs, I want to deploy to do all that I can to help and have our story told.

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

I wouldn't choose any other job; I came in specifically for this career field and wouldn't have it any other way.

Where did you grow up?

San Jose, CA

What is your job in the civilian world?

I will be a full time student next semester and working in a temporary technician slot on base as long as I can. Working here as a staff writer and gaining as much experience and knowledge as I can will only help me in my education

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I really enjoy cleaning, so when I get bored at home I clean my house and rearrange the furniture in my room.

1ST SERGEANT SPOTLIGHT: SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON WELCOMES NEW FIRST SERGEANT

by Airman 1st Class Jessica Green
129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Sean McCambridge, First Sergeant for the 129th Security Forces Squadron.

A fuels craftsman with the 129th Logistics Readiness Squadron here has joined the 129th Security Forces Squadron as their first sergeant April 2009.

Master Sgt. Sean McCambridge, the new 129th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, was promoted and assigned to carry on the responsibility, accountability, and discipline of a first sergeant.

"I have served my full 20 years and decided I wanted to be able to stay in [the military] a little bit longer and give something back," said Sergeant McCambridge.

Sergeant McCambridge originally joined the Air Force with hopes of travel and adventure. Being a native Californian he didn't get much travel from being stationed at nearby Travis Air Force, Calif. and Nellis AFB, Nev. However, Sergeant McCambridge got his fill of adventure while deployed to Saudi Arabia during the first gulf war, he said.

After five years of active duty, Sergeant McCambridge joined the 129th Rescue Wing as a fuels specialist, then began working in computer operations.

"Being in the 129th Logistics Readiness Squadron I was told that becoming a first sergeant would most likely result in being moved to a different squadron," said Sergeant McCambridge. "I was introduced to the SFS as an augmentee. That's when I got to know the people and really liked the squadron."

When he got word that the SFS later had an opening for a first sergeant, Sergeant McCambridge took advantage and applied.

"I'm pretty outgoing, I like to try different things, so being in a leadership role isn't intimidating to me," he said. "Dealing with commanders and chiefs, and seeing what they want to present to our people has allowed me to see how to be a better leader."

Having once been offered a first sergeant position in the past, Sergeant McCambridge had to pass up the opportunity because his professional military education was not completed. He now hopes to share his experience with other, stressing the importance of education.

"Make sure your PME is up to date and ready," he said. "That is advice I would give to anyone, not just those interested in becoming first sergeants."

After returning from First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala. last April, Master Sgt. McCambridge still feels like he is learning his position here, but has a lot of enthusiasm about his job.

"My leadership philosophy has always been lead by example. I want the squadron to see that there are opportunities outside the career field," he said. "I'm hoping with my 20 years of knowledge and experience I can be their go-to person for any questions they might have."

129TH ASSISTS U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



An HH-60G Pave Hawk crew from the 129th Rescue Squadron here assisted the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge in cargo lifting pieces of old crane Dec. 21 and 22, 2009, to Stinson Beach, Calif. The FNWR is made up of all the Farallon Islands and Noon Day Rock located 28 miles west of the San Francisco Bay, and supports the largest seabird nesting colony south of Alaska. Thirteen seabird species numbering over 200,000 birds nest here each summer. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service's website, the FWS teamed up with biologists from PRBO Conservation Science (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory) in 1968 conducting year-round

wildlife research. Biologists focus on population dynamics, documenting species recovery, quantifying the impacts of climate change for seabirds, multiple marine mammals' species, and the entire marine food web. Following rules and regulations to preserve the natural wildlife, safe transport of humans and supplies requires complicated logistics, including a five to seven hour boat ride to the island. Because there are no docking facilities, small loads of people and cargo are shuttled in a small motor boat, then must use an industrial crane to lift everything on-shore. The 129th RQS also aided the FNWR Feb. 17 and 18, 2009, by transporting 48 critically needed photovoltaic batteries to power the lighthouse and biologists workshops.



FAMILY READINESS CORNER

FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS KICKED OFF SUCCESSFUL 2009 HOLIDAY BENEVOLENCE PROGRAM

by Carolann Wunderlin
129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program coordinator

A meal drive in Nov. and Dec. was instituted by a small handful of private citizens from the Silicon Valley community in San Jose, providing a dozen frozen turkeys and incidentals for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This effort was facilitated by one of the new 129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness volunteer coordinators, Micayla Wiltron, of the 129th Operations Group. Micayla is the proud mother of SrA Jeremiah Wiltron, an Integrated Avionics Systems Journeyman with the 129th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Micayla joined the volunteer team full force in Jun, starting with the homecoming of our Djibouti returnees. She initially became the squadron volunteer coordinator for the 129th Rescue Squadron under Lt. Col. Dan Lapastole, commander for the 129th RQS. Not many weeks later her presence quickly grabbed the attention of Col. Mark Sheehy, commander for the 129th OG, during the Family Day Picnic Oct 3.

Col. Sheehy asked Micayla to assume a higher role of overseeing the Group Level Family Readiness Program in addition to her already established rapport with the 129th RQS.

Sharing equal notoriety is another newcomer to the Family Readiness Program is Elaine Vindiola, wife of MSgt Mark Vindiola, traffic manager with the 129th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Elaine's natural leadership abilities quickly adopted Micayla as a mentor through the nuances of the guard family lifestyle. They also supported each other through the emotionally-consuming deployment process where, although Elaine's husband wasn't deployed, Micayla's son was.

Between Micayla, Elaine and all the help from their children, the packing, stuffing and distributing of the donated turkey meals was a very smooth operation. Their determination and spirit of compassion along with the handful of private donors, who wish to remain anonymous, deserve thanks for the impact on the lives of those they helped.

Lt. Col. Henderson, commander of the 129th AMS expressed his very personal thanks to both Elaine and Micayla immediately upon hearing airmen from his unit was helped. Lt Col Nance (brand new commander to 129th LRS) who donated a generous amount of wrapping paper to help our volunteers during the last days of the project! Lt Col Jaurique, Deputy Group Commander of 129th Mission Support Group and Maj Toy, Commander of Force Support Flight, were always the hospitable Hosts for our volunteers working each week of this benevolence project.

Furthermore, thanks is also granted toward the enthusiastic efforts of Beverly Rogers, 129th Medical Group volunteer coordinator and Louise Tamayo, 129th Maintenance Group volunteer coordinator, ensuring that the Giving Tree Program was set up in their respective areas. Thanks to Julie DeMaria of Operation Care and Comfort, Eric Firestone of the Moffett Commissary, as well as those community agencies who joined in the Marine Corps Toys For Tots and the private donors.

In closing, thanks to all of those who participated in helping our families in need.

MORE "YEAR OF THE AIR FORCE FAMILY" EVENTS IN 2010

by Carolann Wunderlin

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program coordinator

The 129th Rescue Wing's Family Day Picnic kicked off the very first event commemorating the Year of the Air Force Family, with the recognition of "Military Spouse of the Year" presented by the State Adjutant General's Wife, Mrs. Leslie Wade, Oct. 3. The official celebration of "Year of the Air Force Family" is July 2009 through June 2010.

With the move toward a "one Air Force" concept, the 129th Family Readiness Office has done a name change consistent with things to come. Therefore, like our active duty Air Force counterparts, our very own Family Readiness Office is now called the "The Airmen & Family Readiness Program."

Not only has the New Year brought a new name to our office - we also moved our office. The Airmen & Family Readiness Program now sits in a prominent location where Airmen and families who may be visiting the 129th Force Support Flight offices in building 653.

This new location will be the hub of many activities slated for the New Year. Airmen and family meet and greets, joint service family program collaborations, family readiness meetings, community service meetings, recurring military spouse and family members training, and much more will all be taking place in the new office.

New spouses are also encouraged to visit the Airmen & Family Readiness Program office after obtaining their first military dependent ID card, which is located next door. New spouses should also attend the New Spouse Welcome Orientation brief.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE AIRMEN & FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM EVENTS FOR 2010

January

Theme: New Beginnings

Event: "We Moved" Party Activity: Sunday/UTA early morning coffee & pastries to all visitors

February

Theme: Airmen Sweetheart Month Activity: Sweetheart Totes for girl/boyfriends, fiancés, significant others.

March

Theme: Going Green

Activity: The Volunteer Family Support Groups will be accepting your container recyclables in order to raise money to buy shirts for all the volunteers. Goal is to raise enough to wear these for the TAG Family Readiness Symposium in April. Clothing expenses are not funded through the program according to strict guidance.

April

Theme: Volunteer Appreciation Month / TAG Family Readiness Symposium in San Diego Event: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Location TBD.

May

Theme: Military Spouse Day/Mother's Day

Event: Military Spouse of the Year

Activity: Three Swing Piñata fundraiser

June

Theme: Life Milestones

Event: Father's Day, Graduations, & Weddings are recognized through the Airmen & Family Readiness Program
Event: Congratulation Certificates for Graduates (for children, spouses and Airmen!) Kids Father's Day
Sentiments are posted.
Activity: Fundraiser TBD

July

Theme: Remembering our nation's Independence Day
Event: Family Readiness Volunteers will be visiting Wounded Warriors at VA Hospital Palo Alto as well as their families staying at the Fisher House.
Activity: Pie Throwing fundraiser

August

Theme: Back To School
Event: Back to school totes for families and airmen.
Activity: Fundraiser TBD

September

Theme: Air Force Birthday
Event: Nostalgia Lane. Airmen are invited to post one early career picture on our "Blast from the Past Wall"
Activity: Fundraiser TBD

October

Theme: Carving out the Best in You
Event: TBD
Activity: Best Pumpkin Contest fundraiser

November

Theme: Giving Thanks to our Veterans
Event: Veterans Wall
Activity: Thanksgiving Meal Drive

December

Theme: The Giving Tree
Event: Each Group hosts their own Holiday Tree
Activity: Holiday Giving Program (toy/meal drive)

Some events are tentative as of the time of this publication. Events will be hosted out of the new Airmen & Family Readiness Office, unless otherwise posted.

JANUARY UTA NEWS & NOTES

WELCOME NEW 129TH MEMBERS!

Senior Airman Milford Kelly
Senior Airman Troy Wilkinson
Airman 1st Class Gianluca Cugnetti
Airman 1st Class Jose Guerrero
Airman 1st Class Wai Ho
Airman 1st Class William Roberts
Airman 1st Class Arcelio Solorzano
Airman 1st Class Christina Yuen

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE RECENTLY PROMOTED TO THEIR CURRENT RANK. CONGRATULATIONS!

MSgt. Jessica Jackson, 129th MXS
MSgt. Daniel Starner, 129th MXS
Tech. Sgt. Radoslaw Ciesielski, 129th MSF
Tech. Sgt. Khamstone Manisisaket, 129th MSF
Staff Sgt. Joseph Almony, 129th MXS
Staff Sgt. Lance Zhang, 129th CF

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Master Sgt. Anja Oneil, 129th MXS - ANG 1st Sergeant Academy
Tech. Sgt. Megan Metzger, 129th FSF - NCO Academy (In-Residence)
Tech. Sgt. Darren Pon, 131st RQS - Academy of Military Science
Tech. Sgt. Maria Tubergen, 129th OG - Academy of Military Science
Staff Sgt. Michelle Masso, 131st RQS - Airman Leadership School (In-Residence)
Staff Sgt. Joseph Zhang, 129th CF - Airman Leadership School (In-Residence)
Senior Airman Isaac Corneil, 131st RQS - Airman Leadership School (In-Residence)
Senior Airman Anhtoon Nguyen, 129th MSX - Airman Leadership School (In-Residence)
Senior Airman Adam VanHaaster, 131st RQS - Airman Leadership School (In-Residence)
Airman 1st Class Tyler Gibson, 131st RQS - Academy of Military Science

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE RETIRED, SEPARATED, OR TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER UNIT. WE WISH THEM WELL AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE.

Tech. Sgt. Denise Barnett, 130th RQS transferring to 144th Fighter Wing
Tech. Sgt. Scott Mathews, 129th RQS transferring to Inactive Ready Reserve
Staff Sgt. Christina Andrews, 129th RQS transferring to 144th Fighter Wing

2010 UTA SCHEDULE

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

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

EVENT CALENDAR

Jan. 16: OAY Banquet

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REFERRAL GUIDE

Companied in collaboration with the Wing Family Readiness Office, EO offers assistance for military personnel and their dependants. With resources such as California National Guard support, Post-Deployment & Transition assistance and advisors, Troop & Family Support, community resources such as the base chapel, TriCare Office and Retiree Activities the Equal Opportunity office is here to help. For more information read over the brochure on our website: <http://www.129rgw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-091215-030.pdf>

SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING BDUS

Come join the sisterhood of the traveling BDUs' first ever conference for military dependent teen girls 13-18! (Admission is free) The Sisterhood aims to unite military girls together in sisterly support, inspire military girls with speakers, breakout sessions, and curriculum, and encourage military girls to lead in their communities. The Sisterhood hopes to launch our attendees out into their communities as mentors, leaders, champions for military youth, and glass ceiling crashers. This conference is open to the first 400 teenage girls, ages 13 - 18, who are dependents of military members of any branch of service; active and reserve components. The registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Online Registration Starts Nov. 21, 2009. The Conference takes place in Clovis, CA, March 12-14, 2010. For more information visit www.sisterhoodbdus.org or check out the brochure at our website <http://www.129rgw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-091215-037.pdf>

PLEASE BEGIN YOUR VIDEO TRIP WITH VPC-GR INTRODUCTION

ARPC recently launched the Informational Video (https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/video_help.asp) on vPC-GR. Located just above the vPC-GR login button; the new page combines the many instructional videos into one location.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2010 AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE AWARD

Air Force Personnel Center officials are now accepting nominations for the 2010 American Legion Spirit of Service Award. Sponsored by the National Headquarters of the American Legion, it is presented annually to an enlisted member from each of the military branches for outstanding volunteer service performed off duty in the local community. For more information, visit AFPC's secure "ASK" Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> or contact Capt. Alyson Teeter at 650-603-9152.

AIR FORCE OFFICIALS REINFORCE TATTOO, BODY ALTERATION POLICY

Air Force senior leaders have taken steps to ensure Air Force dress and personal appearance standards are applied consistently across the service. Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, outlines the current provisions and prohibitions to include standards governing piercings and body alterations. AFI 36-2903 states "Excessive tattoos and brands will not be exposed or visible while in uniform." Excessive is defined as any tattoo/brands exceeding one-quarter of the exposed body part and those above the collarbone when

wearing an open collar uniform. The AFI also outlines the current provisions and prohibitions to include standards governing piercings and body alterations

NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FROM MILITARY SPOUSES

The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship program awards up to \$1,000 to military spouses to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2010. Apply online at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/scholarships>. Spouses of uniformed service members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees and survivors) of any branch or rank are eligible to apply.

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.

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. Contact TSgt Velasco at 650-603-9197 for more information.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD FITNESS PROGRAM UPDATE

This draft instruction currently in staffing reflects testing for ANG AGR and drill status guardsmen only ONCE a year under the new guidelines.

1. Per revised AF/A1 timeline for the new Fitness Program implementation, Air National Guard members who require Fitness Assessment between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010 will be assessed under current requirements/scoring as defined in Air National Guard Instruction 10-248. Effective 1 July 2010, all members will test under the new Air Force Instruction 10-248 Fitness Program requirements. This draft instruction currently in staffing reflects testing for ANG AGR and drill status guardsmen only ONCE a year under the new guidelines.
2. During the 1 Jan - 30 Jun 10 testing period, unit Physical Training Leaders (PTLs) will provide two scores where possible: one being the actual score under the ANG Instruction and one showing the projected score had the new Air Force Instruction standards applied. This will help Airmen gauge performance under the new test. Members evaluated during this period via STEP will not receive additional scores as the new standard precludes STEP testing.

3. This program implementation approach will enable us to get into the new fitness battle rhythm while allowing Airmen the opportunity to see how they'll fare under the new standard; it will also afford commanders adequate time to adjust fitness programs and to enhance awareness.

2009-2010 CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (CNG EAAP)

Applications are now being accepted for the new California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program. The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) will pay up to 100% of fees at most public and private California educational institutions for qualifying members of the California Army or Air National Guard and State Military Reserve. Please note that the application deadline is 22 January 2010. This program stands to provide substantial educational assistance to many of our California Air National Guard members

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) is a state-funded program designed to provide an educational incentive to improve skills, competencies, and abilities for up to 1,000 service members who remain active in the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia. This program authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) to make payments to eligible program participants. Participants can receive up to the amount of the Cal Grant A award for attending the University of California or the California State University, up to the Cal Grant B award for attending a community college, up to the Cal Grant A amount for a recipient attending a non-public institution, or up to the Cal Grant A award plus \$500 for books and supplies for graduate studies.

How to apply

Applicants must submit an application and a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) prior to the application deadline date of January 22, 2010. Applications will be processed, verified, and awardees selected.

On January 4, 2010, applications and program information will be available online at www.csac.ca.gov and by request from the office of the adjutant general. Send to: Office of the Adjutant General, Joint Force Headquarters, Attention: Katrina Beck, 9800 Goethe Rd., Box 37, Sacramento, CA 95826

For additional information, please contact the Base Education and Training manager SMSgt Jacqueline Harris at (650) 603-9186 or [at jacqueline.harris@ang.af.mil](mailto:jacqueline.harris@ang.af.mil) or Katrina Beck at (916) 854-4255 or at katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or visit the Commission's Web site at www.csac.ca.gov

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