



129th Rescue Wing's July Rescue e-Gram

928 Lives Saved

These Things We Do...That Others May Live

Online Personnel Services and Total Force Center Support



The virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR), the virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF), and the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) are now available for Air National Guard members to use online 24/7.



Some of the applications available in vPC-GR include, initiate and process decoration nominations; request corrections or changes to your federal awards and decorations; view your duty history and request a correction or change to your duty history; submit a voluntary separation discharge/resignation or retirement application; write, sign, and submit evaluation's including LOE's and request a copy of your EPR/OPR forms.



Applications for your use in vMPF include view/print a visual display of your federal awards and decorations; view your data verification brief, access your record review and update some of the data; as well as update your emergency data information.

The Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) allows you to view and print forms from your official military personnel record.

You can access vPC-GR, vMPF and PRDA from the AF Portal, www.my.af.mil, under the Top Portal Links section. The Total Force Service Center is available for customer support and provides processing for online services. Contact the TFSC at 1-800-525-0102 if assistance is needed.

Awards and Decorations

Have you just been awarded a federal award or decoration? Well now you can view/print a visual display of your Federal Awards and Decorations using virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF). Do you want to recognize outstanding airmen? You can use virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) to initiate and process decoration nominations such as Meritorious Service Medal (MSMs), Air Force Commendation Medals (AFCMs) and Air Force Achievements Medals (AFAMs).

Retirement, Voluntary Separations or Discharge

Wow...how time flies when you are having fun! You can't believe it has been at least 20 plus years since you were in Basic Training and wondering what in the world was I thinking! It is now time to say good-bye and transition into that new career you've been dreaming about. Remember you do not have to wait until drill weekend to begin the separation/retirement process. You can start the process at home with online services. Go to virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) to submit a voluntary separation discharge/resignation or retirement application.

Proof of Service Letter/20 Year Letter

Do your current goals include purchasing a new home, refinancing your current residence, applying for a new job or preparing for military retirement? Just a reminder when you start gathering the necessary paperwork the

Veteran's Administration, bank or credit union requires, you can utilize online services to request a "Proof of Service Letter" from virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) or a "20-year letter" from virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR). If you're stepping off into a new career you apply for retirement using vPC-GR if an ANG unit member and vMPF if an ANG Statutory Tour member.

Evaluations

Is it time to draft, sign, or submit an evaluation and you cannot attend the scheduled Unit Training Assembly this month? Did you know that you can keep the process moving using online services? In virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) you can write, sign, and submit evaluations, including LOEs. You can also request a copy of previous EPR/OPR forms. If needed, you can view your evaluation data to include reporting official information in virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF).

Electronic Military Personnel Records

If you are planning to go to the Force Support Squadron on drill weekend and ask for copies of forms from your military personnel record – think again – because electronic records are now available and you can access them 24/7 from your home! Just use the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) to view and/or print forms from your official military personnel record.

Duty History

Every job position you've held in the Air National Guard is important and should be properly documented in your military personnel record. You can use virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) to view your duty history and request a correction or change to your duty history. If you're already in vPC-GR, you can request corrections to your duty history from there as well.

EPR / OPRs Records Copy

Applying for a Technician or Statutory Tour position or just need a copy of your current or past Enlisted/Officer Performance Records (EPR/OPRs)? The information is just a click away! You can use virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) to request a copy be sent to you from the Total Force Service Center-Denver or use the Personnel Record Display Application (PRDA) view and/or print a copy. You can also view your evaluation data to include reporting official information online by accessing virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF).

Updating Personnel Information

Have you recently had a change in your status? Did you get promoted, reenlist, married, divorced, move into a new home/apartment, have an addition or reduction to your household or sent a child off to college? If any of the circumstances mentioned above or any others have occurred in your life; this is a reminder to review your personnel military records and to submit the required supporting documentation to correct or update your personnel data. You can review and update some of your personal data online using virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) or contact your servicing Commander's Support Staff or Military Personnel Section.

New Air Force Legal Assistance Website



From Capt. Benjamin Hernandez-Stern
129th Rescue Wing Judge Advocate

The Air Force JAG Corps unveiled the new Air Force Legal Assistance Website worldwide in February to increase efficiency and track client satisfaction with their legal assistance program.

The legal assistance website, <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>, is a new feature available to all components of the Air Force, active-duty, National Guard and reserve members, to include retirees and dependents. It offers Airmen, for the first time, online access to power of attorney and will templates, along with answers and information about more than 50 legal topics.

The website was created to increase efficiency and track client satisfaction with the Air Force legal assistance program. Because it is a public site, clients may access the site's features from the comfort of their homes without a common access card. The site's features include:

- Legal Topics: Short papers on common legal assistance topics such as wills and family law issues. It also contains links to other helpful sites.
- Legal Worksheets: Access to online questionnaires for wills, living wills, and powers of attorney. After completing the online worksheet, the website provides each client a unique "ticket number." Data entered by clients is secure and may be accessed only after clients visit their local legal office and provide their ticket numbers to legal office personnel.
- Online Survey: Following a visit to the legal office, clients are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the professionalism and helpfulness of our legal professionals.

Many clients have visited a legal office to obtain a will or other legal document, and realize after arriving that they need to gather more information or documents from home. Sometimes a client realizes he needs to speak with his spouse about an issue. Completing an online worksheet will help minimize these multiple visits.

By filling out an online worksheet, clients will be able to consider critical issues online prior to visiting the legal office. After receiving a ticket number, a client may take his ticket number to the legal office. An attorney will then access a client's data with the ticket number. This will reduce the amount of information the client needs to bring with him, and allow the legal office to streamline the process to some degree.

While the website increases convenience for clients, everyone should note the following:

- Information on the website is for educational and informational purposes only. The website cannot replace consultation with your local JAG, and Airmen should never rely solely on the website when making decisions.
- Clients will not have the ability to print a legal document (will, power of attorney, etc.) from the website. Clients will need to visit the legal office and provide their ticket numbers to obtain their legal documents.
- The website is designed for client convenience, but no one is required to use the website prior to visiting the legal office.

The legal office encourages Airmen to visit the website next time a legal need arises, and feel free to visit the legal office during their legal assistance hours of 8:00-11:00 a.m. on Sundays of drill. The website also offers a legal services locator to find the nearest military legal office to Airmen outside of commuting distance to the 129th RQW.

The 129th Rescue Wing Judge Advocate's office is very excited to integrate these new functionalities into how they handle business and look forward to continuing to serve the 129th community's legal needs. If you have time, please go to the website and give feedback on the website and your experience with the 129th JAG office.

Pursuing Greatness Through Leadership



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

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Underwood is the 129th Rescue Wing's Human Resources Advisor. The HRA promotes opportunities for all Air Guard members to maximize their potential for success without regard to cultural differences. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino)

What does greatness look like in leadership, especially during turbulent times of overwhelming chaos and stress throughout the world? As leaders, how do we increase our capacity to pursue greatness through leadership during these times?

These are questions that many of our leaders today are trying to answer and many of our leaders of yesterday faced and answered with action. Not only did those leaders talk the talk but they walked the walk and as a result they became what we term exemplary leaders. In other words they became our great leaders.

People that generally come to mind when we think of great leaders are those such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., General Douglas McArthur, Mother Theresa, Rosa Parks, John F. Kennedy, Amelia Earhart, Cesar Chavez, Gandhi, etc.

Gandhi stated, "as human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world - that is the myth of the atomic age - as in being able to remake ourselves." Considering these inspiring words and the impact of this exemplar leader on the world, I would offer to my

fellow leaders of today the idea of collaborating, in a co-operative inquiry process. I recommend we collaborate with others who share similar interests and concerns as we do in our efforts to develop new knowledge in education, community development and organizational development.

Researchers John Heron and Hilary Bradbury quote fellow researcher Peter Reason in their book "The Handbook of Action Research" by stating "cooperative inquiry is a way of working with other people who have similar concerns and interests to yourself, in order to: (1) understand your world, make sense of your life and develop new and creative ways of looking at things; and (2) learn how to act to change things you may want to change and find out how to do things better."

I would argue that in this cooperative inquiry process we may find our individual greatneses and our ability to influence change in education, our communities and our organizations. In this process, we just might become leaders-in-action, find our greatness and remake ourselves. In turn, following the words of Gandhi, we can "be the change that we want to see in the world."

My fellow Air Force leaders, as we continue to deliver on our promise by pushing the Flywheel and raising the bar that the Air National Guard Office of Cultural Leadership and Development has set for us, continue the Flywheel Momentum by interweaving these points into your agendas for all meetings and monthly roll-calls:

- From Heritage to Horizons, we stand on the shoulders of giants. Heroes like Billy Mitchell, and Doolittle, Spaatz, and Rickenbacker Heroes who faced and beat incredible odds. We have inherited a history of excellence, courage, and Greatness. We must live up to that heritage, become a part of it, and pass it on.
- The Air Force's greatest resource is our Airmen. Many of you may have worked side by side with Airmen that have inspired, encouraged and challenged you. Know without a doubt that Airmen are our greatest resource! How do we continue to attract the best Airmen to accomplish great deeds?

July 2010 Portrait Of A Professional



Staff Sgt. Silvia Bacon, a knowledge operations apprentice with the 129th Mission Support Group is featured as the July 2010 Portrait of a Professional. (Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Green)

Portrait of a Professional is a monthly profile of an outstanding Staff Sgt. and below. Staff Sgt. Silvia Bacon, a knowledge operations apprentice with the 129th Mission Support Group is featured as this month's Portrait of a Professional.

What is your favorite memory in the AF?

I got to deploy to Sicily when I was stationed at Travis AFB. I was the person that got to take these big firearms, essentially escorting a carrier of weapons into Sicily. It was funny because the people at the terminal had never seen a female military member, so they didn't believe. They thought I was just a girl trying to take this weapon into their country, so I sat in the terminal for hours. They had to take my ID, they called supervisors and people back in the States to make sure I was cleared to go. When I was finally able to leave the terminal I had a really good time, I was there for a week and met a lot of great people.

What motivated you to enlist in the AF?

I was born and raised in Miami, Florida and Miami is a huge party spot. I was kind of at a dead end, and I didn't want to follow my friends and what they were doing. My family couldn't afford to send me to college and the. My older brother is in the Army so the Air Force seemed very interesting at the time, like a good thing to do.

How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?

It shows responsibility for sure. I love the Air Force. It gives you a sense of stability, especially in the economy we're in right now. Responsibility is so huge, you don't realize until your deployed and it hits your right in the face, you're part of something big. You don't really realize it as an Airman, or going to basic training until you do your job when you're needed.

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

Definitely comradery. This is your family when you're away from home. For me, being from Florida and my husband from Arizona, both in the military, you have to embrace your co-workers as family because that's all you have. Especially as a young Airman, coming to a new duty station and not having anyone, you really have to lean on co-workers for support.

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

I would go back to Italy, I loved it there. I really had a great time. I also visited my husband while he was in Turkey, and that was great too, so I'd love to be deployed there.

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

I would love to go into the finance field. I'm studying to be an accountant, so I believe if I worked in finance it would give me a lot of the experience that I need. So that way when I do retire I can say that I have experience, not just a degree.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm a really good runner, and highly competitive in all sports. Another one that always gets people is how much I know about football.

What are your hobbies?

I go to school full time and a mother of three, so I don't really have a lot of hobbies. I do like to sleep every time I get a chance though.

Family Readiness Corner

Register For Your CDVA, Operation Welcome Home Benefits

from Ms. Carolann Wunderlin

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program Manager

Attention members of the 129th Rescue Wing, 162nd Combat Communications Group, 149 Combat Communications Squadron and 561 Air Force Band! You may be eligible for federal and state benefits, please register to receive these benefits. Specifically, for members who have served on Title 10 and Title 32 status.

Title 10 status includes national service in missions commanded by and funded by the federal government. Title 32 includes National Guard duty and inactive duty training (required drills and training) under the command of the state governor.

Please read the excerpt from Brig. Gen. Mary J. Kight, the California adjutant general, memorandum for California National Guard servicemembers dated June 14, 2010.

1. California National Guard Servicemembers have continuously answered the nation's call to serve, whether that service has been in the form of Title 10 or Title 32 status. For the most part, service in our military entitles members to federal and state benefits which require registering for those benefits. In addition to registering for your federal benefits, I encourage all qualifying Guard members to register with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) and take advantage of earned state benefits for military service.
2. Registration with the CDVA opens the door to information and assistance in areas such as educations, healthcare, employment services, CalVet farm and home loans, fishing and hunting licenses, and state park and recreation passes. Registering also allows you the opportunity to identify your local county veteran office which serves as another outstanding source for information and assistance.
3. While registering is not mandatory, again, I encourage all qualifying Guard members to register with CDVA. Veterans can complete the registration process by visiting the CDVA website (<http://www.cdva.ca.gov/vetservice/reintegration.aspx>) or through the CDVA link on the California National Guard homepage (<http://www.calguard.ca.gov/pages/default.aspx>).
4. A new program for veterans provided by the CDVA, California's Operation Home Program (www.veterans.ca.gov) facilitates the connection of returning veterans with information and assistance for access to those hard-earned benefits. Inspired by veterans, this California program was created in gratitude for service to this country. Veterans have already expressed heartfelt thanks for this new program.
5. Take the time to register for your state and federal veteran benefits!

For more information about the office and its programs please visit the 129 RQW Airman & Family Readiness website at <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/resources/familyreadiness.asp>. To View past and present versions of the Post It please go to <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100708-075.pdf>

July 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!

Capt. Eric Davis, 131st RQS
Tech. Sgt. Gerald Messier, 129th RQS
Staff Sgt. Keandra Abdul-Rahim, 129th RQW
Staff Sgt Fernando Borrego, 129th FSS
Staff Sgt. Carl Cheek, 129th MXS
Staff Sgt. Christopher Dominguez, 129th MXS
Senior Airman Bruce Griffith, 129th MXS
Senior Airman Benjamin Hawks, 129th MXS
Senior Airman Charles Howell, 129th MXS
Senior Airman Dustin Miller, 129th MXS
Senior Airman Todd Novello, 129th RQS
Senior Airman Ashley Ramirez, 129th RQW
Airman 1st Class Daniel Fasholz, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class Alphonso Myers, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class Danyel Newsome-Schulke, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class Hector Palomares, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class Sophie Powers, 561st Band
Airman 1st Class Lara Rolando, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class Anthony Spano, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class Amanda Stallcup, 129th AMXS
Airman 1st Class Andre Wells, 129th MXS
Airman 1st Class William Woodsmall, 129th MXS

2010 UTA Schedule

July 10-12
August 7-8
September 11-12
October 2-3
November 6-7
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

928 Lives Saved

Col. Amos Bagdasarian, commander for the 129th Rescue Wing, announced June 14 that the 129th RQW has been credited with 913 lives saved. The 131st Rescue Squadron, currently deployed to Afghanistan, has earned two combat saves. The 131st RQS earned an additional three combat saves, reported June 24, 2010. As of July 8, 2010, the 131st RQS has earned an additional 12 combat saves since the last reporting period. These saves involved non-coalition soldiers as well as U.S. military members. The 131st RQS last updated deployment statistics include 19 saves, 77 assists, 79 total missions.

Congratulations!

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

Staff Sgt. Isaac Corniel, 131st RQS
Staff Sgt. Christina Bueno, 131st RQS

Thank Them for Their Service at the 129th!

The following airmen have retired, separated or transferred, we wish you well.

Chief Master Sgt. Warner Ratcliff, 149th CBCS
Master Sgt. Jayme Duree, JFHQ
Tech. Sgt. Michael Maturo, 131st RQS
Staff Sgt. Donald Ohlson, 129th LRS
Staff Sgt. Yee Vang, 129th MXS
Senior Airman Jonathan Bidwell, 129th RQW
Senior Airman Anna Esclamado, 129th MXS

2010-2011 UTA ORE and ORI Schedule

In accordance with the memorandum for all 129th Rescue Wing members sent out by Col. Amos Bagdasarian, the 129th RQW Wing Commander, the following dates are scheduled for 2010 and 2011 Unit Training Assembly's and Super Drills for the Operational Readiness Exercises in preparation for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. These dates are to be used for drill attendance as opposed to the special orders M-2 dated Dec. 1, 2008 and M-1 dated Oct. 1, 2009 that were sent out by the Adjunct General. Note: All 129th RQW members will be on military status when performing ORE or ORI events.

2010

July 10-12 - *Phase I ORE (July 12 required if identified by unit commander)*

August 7-8

September 11-12

October 2-3

November 6-7

December 4-5

2011

January 8-9

February 5-6

March 5-6

April 9-11 - *CRTC Training (April 11 required if identified by unit commander)*

May 10-15 - *Phase I/II ORE (6 days)*

June 4-5

July 9-10

August 6-7

September 10-11

October 1-6 - *Phase I/II ORE (6 days)*

November 5-6

December 3-9 - *Phase I/II ORI (7 days) Feb 2012 UTA moved to Dec. 5-6 2011*

Developmental Education Programs for Officers

Officers have until Aug. 31 to apply for special developmental education programs available for the 2010-2011 academic year. The four programs include the Olmsted Scholarship Program, White House Fellowship Program, Mansfield Fellowship Program and Information Assurance Scholarship Program. More information about these programs is available the Air Force Personnel Center personnel services website under Officer Developmental Education Programs at <http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Air Force Officials Ban Use and Possession of Mood-Altering Substances

Air Force Instruction 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program has been revised to enforce the prohibition the ingestion of any substance, other than alcohol or tobacco, for the purpose of altering mood or function. Lt. Col. Elizabeth L. Schuchs-Gopaul, a judge advocate with the Air Force Judge Advocate General Action Group says the possession of any intoxicating substance, if done with the intent to use in a manner that would alter mood or function, is also prohibited. The guidance cited the designer drug "spice," salvia, inhalants, propellants, household chemicals, solvents and other substances used for "huffing," along with prescription drug abuse. Violators will be punishable as violations of a lawful general regulation under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Violating this new punitive memorandum is punishable by a dishonorable discharge, confinement for two years, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, Colonel Schuchs-Gopaul said. Enlisted members also face reduction to the lowest enlisted grade.

CNG Education Assistance Award Program Update

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program issues financial awards to qualifying members of the California Army or Air National Guard and State Military Reserve. This financial education benefit can pay for up to 100% of fees at most Universities of California, California State Universities and California Community Colleges. For those who missed the June 15, 2010 priority deadline can still apply! New and renewal applications are still being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for the 2010 -2011 Academic Year. All completed statements of understanding are to be sent to Ms Katrina Beck via FAX to (916) 854-3439 or email at Katrina.beck2@us.army.mil.

New Applicant Procedures

New applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CNG EAAP application online. New applicants must also download, print, and complete the statement of understanding, and have it signed by their commander. These documents are available at www.calguard.ca.gov/education under the heading "It Takes Three."

Renewal Applicant Procedures

Those who were selected to receive educational assistance under the CNG EAAP for the 2009 - 2010 academic year need to also download, print, and complete the Renewal Statement of Understanding, and have it signed by their commander to apply for educational assistance for the 2010-2011 academic year. These documents are available at www.calguard.ca.gov/education under the heading "For Renewal of Current Program Awardees."

Review of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy

California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are encouraged to provide their input to the Department of Defense's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The Secretary of Defense has established a Comprehensive Review Working Group to study the DoD policy and make recommendations for changes to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" issue. The CRWG is interested in soliciting Servicemembers input from all branches and components of the military. In an effort to efficiently solicit that input, the working group has set up a website for Servicemembers and their families to access. Soldiers and Airmen may log on to the U.S. Government information system located at www.defense.gov/dadt to provide their input.

Improved Physical Fitness Uniform Coming To A Store Near You

An improved physical training uniform will be available in select military clothing sales stores later this month. The IPTU, which consists of a running jacket, pants, trunks and a T-shirt, is an optional uniform. The IPTU running suit consists of a different material with enough of a color shade difference to be identifiable from the current suit. However, the current PTU and IPTU shorts and shirts may be mixed and also worn with the IPTU running suit. By utilizing the latest advances in textile technology, the IPTU offers significant improvements in both comfort and functionality over the current PTU. Improvements include the elimination of the "swish-swish" in-motion noise, better reflectivity, lighter weight and state-of-the-art moisture wicking material with a quick-drying, anti-microbial liner. The IPTU will be in short supply starting out. Once all military clothing stores have received shipment, the IPTU will be available via Internet purchase worldwide around October.

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

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