



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

946 Lives Saved

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

## 129 RQS Pilot Receives Purple Heart

by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jessica Green

129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

An Air Guardsman from the 129th Rescue Squadron was awarded a Purple Heart at Moffett Federal Airfield, Aug. 8.

Capt. Benjamin Copley, an HH-60G Pave Hawk co-pilot, received the Badge of Military Merit, also known as the Purple Heart, by Col. Amos Bagdasarian, commander of the 129th Rescue Wing, in a ceremony attended by fellow wingmen from the 129th RQW.

He recently returned home from his first deployment to Afghanistan after being wounded by enemy forces Feb. 4, during the rescue of a civilian interpreter in critical condition after sustaining a gun-shot wound in the shoulder.

"We got a call to go to a location south of base and I didn't think much of it because we were called out to support a British Special Forces team at same location the day before," the Pleasant Hill native said. "Our wingmen went in to pick up the survivor and were instantly under small arms fire from a nearby building, however they successfully completed the rescue."

Capt. Copley was deployed to Camp Bastion, the main British military base in Afghanistan located in the northwest of the Helmand Province, for 55 days.

On his seventh day in country, after running at least five missions a day, the captain thought he had seen it all.

"Teams were running at an extremely high tempo for weeks at a time, usually working twelve hour shifts that turned into fifteen hour days," Capt. Copley said. "We went into the zone, essentially off memory, landed and completed the pick up, then as we were egressing the area, all I remember was --BAM!"

Flying low at about 120 knots, about 150 miles an hour, after leaving a successful rescue, a round went right through the pilots windshield, shattering the night vision goggle mount on his helmet, said the captain.

"I wasn't wearing a face shield, so I got shrapnel in my face and neck," the traditional guardsman said. "There was a lot of blood, so we flew directly to the Bastian hospital and I instantly hopped in an ambulance."

While being taken care of at the hospital, Capt. Copley was informed that the maintenance squadron had already replaced the windshield and the aircraft was mission ready again. However, the captain took a little longer to recover.

"I was given local anesthetic to remove larger pieces of shrapnel in my cheek and lip," said the captain. "After being on the ground for two days, I was cleared to fly again."

For the next week and a half Capt. Copley was called back to the same location.

"The quickest lesson I learned was to always wear my face shield," said the pilot. "I did a lot of soul searching since the incident, and dealt with having to return to it every day, however, now that I'm back at the 129th, I've already volunteered for our next deployment rotation."

# *Family Readiness Corner*

## **'Our Military Kids' Grant Program**

from Michelle Nelson

Director of Family Programs and Military Outreach Our Military Kids

*Our Military Kids* wants to help your family through the deployment of your loved one. If you have a child or children between the ages 3 to 18, and your spouse is currently deployed overseas with the National Guard or Reserves, your child is eligible for a grant. The grants, which can be up to \$500, will pay for up to six months of an extracurricular activity at a location of your choice in your geographic area.

The grant application process is simple. Visit our website at [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org) and select the appropriate one-page application (<http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/how-to-apply/apply-now.php>). Once you download and complete one application per child, send it to us via fax or regular mail, along with a copy of three supporting documents:

1. A copy of the Title 10 deployment orders
2. A form of ID for your child – we accept a Military ID, birth certificate (if Service Member is shown as a parent), or 1172 Deers form (printout showing dependents from DEERS website is acceptable)
3. Attach a flyer, brochure, registration form or website printout showing contact information and program costs (be sure to include documentation showing monthly or weekly fees, equipment fees, registration fees, etc.)

Once we receive your application and documents, a check is sent within ten days directly to the service provider of the activity. We will match the cost of six months fees plus registration fees, equipment fees, etc. An exciting notification packet will be sent to each child informing them that the grant was approved.

If you have any questions, please visit our FAQ page (<http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/how-to-apply/faqs.php>). If you don't see an answer to your question, call our office at 703-734-6654. Keep in mind – we can only provide grants to children with a parent who is currently deployed – if your service member has yet to deploy, you may apply for a grant no earlier than 30 days prior to the report date on the title 10 Mob orders.

The most difficult part of this process is deciding which type of activity you would like your children to participate!

We look forward to awarding grants to your children. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Michelle Nelson at 703-734-6654 or [mlnelson@ourmilitarykids.org](mailto:mlnelson@ourmilitarykids.org).

## **Back To School Tools**

from Ms. Carolann Wunderlin

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program Manager

Now that a new school year is once again upon us, just a reminder of some great opportunities for military families:

### **Sittercity.com**

Sittercity is the nation's largest online source for local babysitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors, and contains more than 1 million caregiver profiles. The Sittercity Corporate Program, funded by the Defense Department, offers military families, including active-duty, Guard and Reserve members, with a paid membership to the site.

The paid membership enables military families entry to a custom-built Defense Department Web site portal where they can match up caregivers to their situation; gain instant access to caregiver profiles that include background checks, references and reviews; and find military-certified care providers as well as caregivers who are military-subsidized and authorized access to a military installation.

Military members and their families can activate their membership by going to <http://www.sittercity.com/dod>.

### **Tutor.com**

The Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families program gives eligible military families access to free online tutoring and free homework help from live, professional tutors in more than 16 subjects. Tutors help K-12 students, college students, and service members and spouses going back to school or through a career transition. K-12 students can get help in more than 16 academic subjects, including algebra, chemistry, calculus, and physics.

Adult learners can get back-to-school and career help, including GED prep and resume writing. Eligible members and the tutor work together in a secure online classroom, where they can chat, draw on a shared whiteboard, upload files, and browse the web together.

To determine eligibility, visit <http://www.tutor.com/military/eligibility>. Installation staff can also download brochures from the "spread the word" section of the website.

### **Scholarships: Don't Let The Money Go To Waste!**

Take advantage of the more than 200 scholarships and grants listed here available for everyone!  
<http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-068.pdf>

*For more information about the 129 Rescue Wing Airman and Family Readiness office and its programs please visit the website at <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/resources/familyreadiness.asp>.*

# ***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. Kevin Quinn, 129th OSS
- Staff Sgt. Megan Devillers, 129th RQW
- Staff Sgt. Richard Sousa, 129th LRS
- Airman 1st Class Lucas Baker, 131st RQS
- Airman 1st Class Robert Brodsky, 131st RQS
- Airman 1st Class Andre Coville, 131st RQS

## **Congratulations!**

**The Following Members Have Recently Been Promoted To Their Current Rank.**

- Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Betts
- Master Sgt. Vincent Brouillard
- Master Sgt. Michael Carter
- Master Sgt. Christopher Hernandez
- Tech. Sgt. Jim Bob Epperson

## **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

## **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 129<sup>th</sup> RQW members will be on military status when performing ORE or ORI events.

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*

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

**We Wish the Following Retired, Separated and Transferred Members Well**

- Tech. Sgt. Joseph Barros
- Staff Sgt. Allen Frische
- Staff Sgt. Alana Groshong
- Staff Sgt. Abdul Khan
- Staff Sgt. Travis Lee
- Staff Sgt. Bryan Lembo
- Senior Airman Christopher Allen

## **2010 UTA Schedule**

October 2-3

November 6-7

December 4-5

## **Important Uniform Updates**

The following uniform items will be phased out on these dates:

### **Oct. 1, 2010**

- 100% Wool Pullover Sweater
- 2EXXX, 3AXXX and 3CXXX legacy badges
- Black Fleece
- Green Fleece used as an outer garment without name, service designator and rank  
*\*if optional Green Fleece is worn has an outer garment, it MUST have name, designator and rank*

### **Dec. 31, 2010**

- Gray and Dark blue scarves, gloves, mittens and earmuffs

### **Oct. 1, 2011**

- 33S Legacy badges

### **Nov. 1, 2011**

- Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU)
- Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU)
- Tan Boots (excluding Airmen deployed to the area of responsibility)  
*\*wear of the ABU will be mandatory as of 1 November 2011*

For more information on uniform items, visit the Air Force uniform website at

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dress/index.asp>

## **Scholarship Update: \$1,000 AHA Awards**

Please take note of the following updates from the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association, these are huge financial opportunities! Applications due no later than Nov. 7, 2010! Six \$1,000 awards will be given during this award cycle. Applications should be submitted to the scholarship chair, retired Chief Master Sgt. Liliana Ramos. You can submit copies electronically to: [lilramos@pacbell.net](mailto:lilramos@pacbell.net) or by mail to 129th RQW Alumni Heritage Association, Attn: Scholarship Chair, 680 Macon Road, Mailstop 11, Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035. View the 129th AHA Scholarship Program Policy for application and guidelines at <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-044.pdf>.

## **Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet: Job and Resource Fair**

In support of the State of California, the Employment Development Department is hosting a job and resource fair for Veterans, National Guard, and Reservists returning from active duty Thurs, Oct. 21, 2010. Fair held 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lions Gate Garden Pavilion, 5640 Dudley Boulevard, McClellan, Ca 95652. Dress for success and bring your resume, meet and interview with employers, find out about job opportunities, obtain benefits, training, and career information and get assistance from DMV and CalVet financing. For additional information please call Randy Hadley or Carol Katalbas at 916-277-03031 or view the flyer at <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-045.pdf>.

## **Operation: Care and Comfort Memorial Golf Classic**

Operation: Care and Comfort, along with specialist Adam Kinser will hold the Memorial Golf Classic Oct. 8, 2010 at the Golf Club at Moffett Field. Sign in begins at 9:00 a.m. with a shotgun start (scramble format) at 10:00 a.m. Entrance fee of \$80 for individuals and \$300 for a team of four includes a complimentary gift bag, 18 holes with a cart, raffle tickets and tickets for lunch and drinks. There will be prizes for the top two teams, the best military team, the longest drive (men and women) and the closest to the pin. All proceeds go to Operation: Care and Comfort. For more information and registration form please visit <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-048.pdf>.

## **Discount Admission to California's Great America**

In support of the 129th Rescue Wing, California's Great America is offering discount admission at \$27.00 to members of the 129 RQW and their families on Oct. 9, 2010. Tickets must be purchased online at the following link to receive this discount: [www.cagreatamerica.com/129rqw](http://www.cagreatamerica.com/129rqw). Regular Admissions costs are \$54.99 for adult (ages 3 -61 and 48 inches and taller) and \$24.99 for juniors (ages 3-61 and under 48 inches tall) and \$24.99 for seniors (over the age of 62). *Disclaimer: California's Great America is not endorsed by the 129th Rescue Wing and/or any of the 129th Rescue Wing Representatives.*

## **Post-Deployment Health Reassessment**

All redeployed personnel must respond to the PDHRA 3 to 6 months after returning home. Most Active Duty Airmen can access the PDHRA online. However, members of the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) must make an appointment to complete it at the local military treatment facility. Reserve and Guard members are directed to call 1-888-PDHRA-99 (1-888-734-7299) to complete the assessment. For information on common post-deployment health concerns, click <http://www.afterdeployment.org>. For more information email <mailto:afmoa.pdhra@us.af.mil>.

## **PCS Satisfaction Survey**

Airmen who recently completed a permanent change of station move should complete the personal property Customer Satisfaction Survey. This 12-question survey ensures leaders are aware of how the move went. The surveys are e-mailed between seven and 21 days following the delivery of household property. Airmen who didn't receive an e-mail are requested to either select the Personal Property/POV link at [www.SDDC.army.mil](http://www.SDDC.army.mil) to access the survey. To read more about this issue please visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123223411>.

## **Officials Urge Protection Against Identity Theft**

Defense Department officials are urging servicemembers to be aware of identity theft and are providing ways for them to protect themselves. Identity theft can cause financial stress, and servicemembers dealing with financial issues are less likely to be ready to fully perform their missions. To help servicemembers protect against identity theft, the DOD has joined with the Federal Trade Commission on its "Deter, Detect and Defend" campaign. For more information visit (<http://www.129rqw.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-050.pdf>), review their brochure (<http://www.129rqw.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-051.pdf>) or go to their website (<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/index.html>) for more information.

## **Air Force Officials Increase Deployment Times**

The air and space expeditionary force rotational baseline will be changed from 120 to 179 days for most active component Airmen. Expeditionary combat support Airmen will begin their transition to the new baseline in December 2010 with full implementation expected by October 2012. According to Air Force officials, 71 percent of Airmen are already deploying outside the 120-day baseline. The revised construct will therefore increase predictability for affected Airmen and their families while providing better support to combatant commanders by increasing continuity at deployed locations. For more information go to <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123221320>.

## **Commissary On-Site Sale - "It's Worth The Trip!"**

The Travis Air Force Base Commissary is hosting an On-site Sale with the US Coast Guard in Petaluma, Friday, Oct. 8, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The sale will be held at US Coast Guard (TRACEN), 599 Tomales Road, Petaluma, California 94952-5002. National Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, active-duty military service members, and dependents can take advantage of the great commissary sale. Spectacular savings on popular grocery items including, but not limited to 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! Customers must present an appropriate Department of Defense ID card that authorizes commissary privileges in order to shop. Cash, checks, debit cards and credit cards are accepted for payment. The use of coupons is highly

encouraged! For more information please visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) or contact Mitchell Kennerly at 707-437-5455.

## Hispanic Heritage Month Continues

National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, has been observed throughout the world, giving people of all backgrounds the chance to come together to celebrate unique cultures. While originally proclaimed as National Heritage Week in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month is now, coinciding with the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries, Mexico and Chile. At a population of more than 48 million, Hispanics comprise the nation's largest ethnic or racial minority. This month's theme, "Heritage, Diversity, Integrity and Honor: The Renewed Hope of America," showcases the diversity within the Hispanic culture. National Hispanic Heritage Month was established in 1988 to celebrate the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. It's encouraged to all units within the California Army and Air National Guard to spend some time this upcoming UTA weekend to formally recognize and celebrate the Hispanic culture during this month's observance. If you have any questions, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at 916-854-3421.



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Find these and other stories on the 129th Rescue Wing Web site -- <http://www.129rqw.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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