



129th Rescue Wing's September Rescue e-Gram

946 Lives Saved

These Things We Do...That Others May Live

California Air Guard holds first Hometown Heroes Salute Awards Ceremony

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



California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing honored 109 Airmen and their families at the Hometown Heroes Salute Award Ceremony at Moffett Federal Airfield Aug. 7, 2010.

Recognized in this ceremony were Guardsmen that have deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations across the globe since Sept. 11, 2001 through April 15, 2010, who have not previously been recognized.

In August 2008, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, sanctioned the ANG Hometown Heroes Salute recognition program. The purpose of this program is to celebrate and honor Airmen, families, communities and those special supporters who have significantly contributed to supporting our Airmen and the ANG's mission.

In order to properly recognize the sacrifices of eligible guardsmen, awards are presented in a two-phase campaign. Phase I includes all eligible ANG members deployed for 30-179 consecutive days. Phase II was implemented January 2010 to include members deployed for more than 180 consecutive days.

All recognized Airmen receive a framed Letter of Appreciation signed by the ANG director and command chief master sergeant that contains the Hometown Heroes Salute coin. Members recognized in phase II, depending on their deployment length, also receive a framed American flag or Hometown Heroes eagle statue.

The honored Airmen's spouse, or significant other, receives an engraved pen/pencil set with the ANG Hometown Heroes Salute Logo. The Airman's children receive unique Hometown Heroes Salute dog tags. Lastly, each honored Airman receives one Hometown Heroes Salute Logo Medallion to recognize their center of influence for outstanding support during their deployment.

September 2010 Portrait of a Professional



Portrait of a Professional is a monthly profile of an outstanding Staff Sgt. and below. Senior Airman Josh Tidwell, a HH-60G Pave Hawk Helicopter flightline crew chief with the 129th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is featured as this month's Portrait of a Professional.

What is your favorite memory in the AF?

Well I have a lot of great memories, however most of them are stupid stories that appeal to my sense of humor. In tech school I actually got pushed into being a green rope against my will and we had groups of Airmen to take care. One of my guys was from North Dakota and had never seen a cockroach before in his life and its Virginia so they were all over this place in our dorms. So it was our second night there and this giant cockroach crawls across the middle of the room and he absolutely freaked out. He started throwing paperwork everywhere. It was like watching 'I Love Lucy' or something because he was standing on top of the chair, scared. He was screaming at the top of his lungs, I have never laughed that hard before in my life.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

All four years of school I was in Air Force JROTC color guard and drill team. I slung rifles, did award ceremonies and stuff like that.

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

I would have to say this it's something directly related with my job, and that's accountability. Being really responsible for everything in your possession, from the equipment you check out to the hardware you take with you to do a job. In our career, leaving something, such as a small washer, could cause catastrophic failure to the aircraft and cost someone their life. It's funny to think back when I was younger I just threw laundry on the ground and I never thought I would have to change that method. Around here I'm so paranoid about stuff like that. That's one of the more valuable lessons I've learned.

Senior Airman Josh Tidwell, a HH-60G Pave Hawk Helicopter flightline crew chief with the 129th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is featured as this month's Portrait of a Professional. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dan Kacir)

How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?

Its let me see things I never thought I would actually get to see. I've traveled the world, only to Afghanistan and back, but I've seen things that have really made me grow up and mature. I've grown more so in these three years that in the last ten before I enlisted. It's definitely improved the character of the man.

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

I would go to Germany. We went through there briefly on our way to Afghanistan last year and I only got to see a little bit of it. It really looked like a beautiful country and the kind of place I would like to roam around in and check out some sights.

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

I actually spend a lot of time considering my options for jobs, even at an early age. When I was growing up, my best friends dad was a helicopter crop duster pilot and I've always wanted to be involved with just that. I've always considered opportunities to get involved with helicopters, and it just didn't seem that I could do anything outside of crop dusting from where I grew up. So I started doing a little research and found out about this career field and the Guard. I wouldn't want to do anything else if I had the choice. However, if they every opened unmanned aerial vehicle piloting to the enlisted career field, I would love to try that.

Where did you grow up?

Bakersfield, Ca.

What are your hobbies?

I like to you around and play with computers quite a bit, I regularly go hiking. I usually try to go camping every winter in the snow. Up in the Sierras, it's my favorite time to go.

Execution through Engagement



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

As soon as newly enlisted Airmen in the Air National Guard step into their careers, an opportunity unlike any other military service, including the active duty Air Force and its reserves component, is offered.

Leadership development begins the moment men and women join the United States Air Force.

Along with their enlistment and transition to becoming an Airmen, new Guardsmen are immediately enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force and assigned to Student Flight where they are introduced to the Air Force's and Air National Guard's way of life, to include our core values, our mission, the total force concept, customs and courtesies, drill and ceremony, the chain of command, ancillary training, etc.

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)

As our Airmen continue along their career paths they are subject to some of our military services' premier professional military education such as Airman Leadership School, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Air and Space Basic Course, Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

It is important that this knowledge we gain from our PME is passed along to other Airmen within our organizations. One way of doing so is through mission-driven mentoring.

At the 129th Rescue Wing, it is essential to the success of our mission that we as leaders ensure that our greatest assets are mentored. We must motivate and encouraged our Airmen to engage in career, leadership and force development opportunities as they are the future leaders of our organization.

This begins with the very first hand-shake that we extend to them as it is at this time that they are looking for our leadership and guidance to help shape and mode their careers and transform into tomorrow's leaders. It is our duty to educate our fellow Airmen by converting our ANG training, education, and experiences into opportunities for them to use as they progress in career, leadership and force development.

We must also provide our Airmen with the resources available (e.g. family readiness, legal and chaplain assistance, and other support agencies) to assist them throughout their growth process in all aspects of their lives which in turn will be beneficial to our mission as well as the strength of our nation.

As we continue to push the Flywheel and raise 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:

- Strategic execution is shared and formulated to build upon the future vitality of our force. Without a doubt, engaged Airmen are on the pursuit of excellence!
- In the words of former President John F. Kennedy, we must "... think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

Air Guard Families Encouraged to Register with AFPAAS



by Carolann A. Wunderlin
129th Rescue Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager

The lifestyle we adapt as a military family is to prepare for the separation from our Guardsmen as they annually train to be "ready to deploy."

Families should also adapt the mindset and learned behavior to prepare to evacuate in case of natural disasters, prepare a shelter-in-place, or seek refuge when traveling if they encounter a disaster.

While we would inherently attempt to contact our Guardsmen to inform them of our whereabouts, it's encouraged as an additional safety net to report our whereabouts to proper authorities.

The Air National Guard, keeping pace with our Air Force counterparts, has made available the Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System.

The AFPAAS is a website designed to help Air Force personnel and their families directly affected by natural and man-made disasters allowing them to update their current accountability status.

The website provides a tool to report families status, current location, update emergency contact information and request assistance.

AFPAAS helps the Air Force leadership to account for personnel and to make decisions that support Guardsmen and their families.

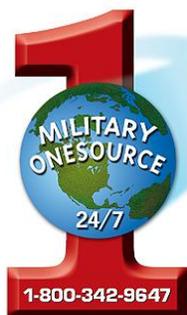
Without question, Air Guard families should add to their knowledge bank, this timely reporting and tracking tool, to identify their well-being and whereabouts in times of emergencies.

For more information, visit the AFPAAS website at <https://afpaas.af.mil>, check out the brochure at <http://www.129rgw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100908-045.pdf>, or contact your Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager at carolann.wunderlin@ang.af.mil or call 650-603-9118.

Family Readiness Corner

Free Tutoring for Military Families at Tutor.com

from MilitaryOneSource.com



Parents and kids alike are raving about [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com), the free online tutoring service provided to eligible military families around the world by the Department of Defense.

Students can work with a certified, professional tutor online to get help with homework, study skills, test prep, and more. Tutors cover math, science, social studies, and English from K-12 to the introductory college level.

To get started, go to www.tutor.com, select your service branch, and follow the directions to get a password. After registering, you will receive an e-mail with your access code and you'll be ready to begin chatting online with your tutor.

Those eligible for the service include active-duty military members and their dependents, reservists on active duty in a deployed status and their dependents, National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status and their dependents, and DoD civilians in a deployed status and their dependents.

If you need help getting started, you can e-mail the staff at help@tutor.com or call them at 1-800-411-1970. For more information about this and other services please visit the Military One Source newsletter at <http://www.129rqw.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100908-036.pdf>.

Spouse Battlemind Course

Sat. Sept. 11 from 1:00-2:00pm

Class intended for new spouses or inexperienced spouses and significant others dealing with deployment separation. If no dependent ID, those interested should RSVP with Carolann Wunderlin 650-603-9118 or email carolann.wunderlin@ang.af.mil indicating your full name and U.S. citizenship status so that they can be identified on the NASA Bases Access List for entry through Macon Gate.

Send Some Love to a Loved One

JCPenney Portraits

Exclusive offer for families of deployed military members from Sept. 1 - Oct. 31, 2010. Free sitting fees, one traditional portrait sheet and one portrait sheet shipped to your service members APO. Additional traditional portrait sheets \$3.99 each, plus save 40% on collections. Must show valid military I.D. For more information visit <http://www.jcpportraits.com/offers/portraitslove.html>. *NOTE: Reference to JCPenney does not constitute as an endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the United States Air Force, The California Air National Guard or the 129th Rescue Wing. This listing is provided for information sharing purposes only.*

Parent's Guidebook To Deployment

Please visit <http://www.129rqw.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100908-041.pdf> to view "Our Sons, Our Daughters" A National Guard Parent's Guidebook to Deployment by Paula Sumrall. Packed full of wisdom and helpful hints, this book will assist parents during the deployment process: from how to use resources like the Family Readiness Group and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, to knowing how to contact your child overseas and what to consider when raising their dependents. The guidebook includes a pre-deployment checklist, information about family readiness groups, emergency notifications, dealing with wounded warriors, post traumatic stress disorder, tips from fellow parents, it even includes an appendix with a list of Web sites for getting free stuff and much more. This book is a must for the parent who wants to support their Citizen-Soldiers

and Airmen and the important mission they've been called to do. For more information please visit the National Guard Bureau Family Program Office www.guardfamily.org.

Airman & Family Readiness Regional Youth Team Forming Now!

If you are interested in being part of a 129th Youth & Teen Volunteer Team, you will receive training and represent the 129th Rescue Wing at Yellow Ribbon Events. Those interested should contact Carolann Wunderlin at carolann.wunderlin@ang.af.mil or call 650-603-9118.

National Guard Special Needs Survey Extended

The National Guard Family Programs office has received numerous inquiries about extending the deadline on the Special Needs Survey from 31 Aug. to 30 Sept. Service Members attending the September drill will now have the opportunity to respond until the end of September. Anyone interested in participating in the survey can click on the following links: <http://tinyurl.com/39v85ph> or <https://www.jointservicesupport.org/Survey/TakeSurvey.aspxPageNumber=1&SurveyID=403>

Timely News For Deployers

Combat And Other Hazardous-Duty Entitlements Remain For Troops Serving In Iraq

The change from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn does not affect combat and other hazardous-duty entitlements troops serving in Iraq receive, a Pentagon spokeswoman said today. Servicemembers deployed to Iraq will still receive hostile fire/imminent danger pay, hardship-duty pay, and incidental expenses. Some troops will qualify for family separation allowances. Also, all pay for warrant officers and enlisted members is tax exempt, while officers are exempt from taxes for up to \$7,611.30 each month they serve in an eligible area. For more information please read the article posted from the American Forces Press Service at <http://www.defense.gov/News/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=60679>

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>.

September 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
- Master Sgt. Summer Mize, 129th MDG
- Staff Sgt. Joel Bakamis, 131st RQS
- Staff Sgt. Garrison Simpson, 131st RQS
- Staff Sgt. Richard Sousa, 129th LRS
- Senior Airman Donna May, 129th MXS
- Airman 1st Class Adrian Dang, 131st RQS
- Airman 1st Class Jonathan Jordan, 129th MXS
- Airman 1st Class Joe Sandoval, 131st RQS
- Airman 1st Class Robaire Welch, 129th MXS

Thank You for Your Service!

We Wish the Following Retired, Separated and Transferred Members Well

- Senior Master Sgt. Alice Duerr, 129th LRS
- Staff Sgt. Cristine Billings, 561st Band

Congratulations!

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

- Tech. Sgt. Leiv Arnesen, 129th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. Ronel Marcellano, 130th RQS
- Staff Sgt. Leah Simpson, 131st RQS
- Senior Airman Yaohui Chen, 129th RQW
- Senior Airman Eric Kelly, 149th CCS
- Senior Airman Brian Jaramillo, 129th SVF
- Senior Airman Daniel Otis, 131st RQS
- Senior Airman Kayla Sather, 129th MDG

2010 UTA Schedule

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

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.

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*

The 129th RQW Credited 946 Lives Saved!

While supporting joint operations in Afghanistan with the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, the 131st Rescue Squadron has earned the 129th Rescue Wing an additional 7 combat saves since the last reporting period. Saves included local nationals, U.S. military members and Afghan National Army soldiers. The 131st RQS current deployment statistics include 37 saves, 137 assists and 136 missions.

United States Senate Youth Program Seeks Delegates from DoDEA

The United States Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. The 49th annual program will be held in Washington, D.C., from March 5 - 12, 2011. Two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity will spend a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Student delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense and directors of other federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. All transportation, hotel and meal expenses will be provided by The Hearst Foundations. In addition, each delegate will also be awarded a \$5,000 College Scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. ANG youth are eligible. If their high school principals, guidance counselors or social studies teacher don't have the USSYP application they may inquire directly to their state selection contacts using the USSYP website: <http://www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/>. Additional information on the overall United States Senate Youth Program is available from <http://www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/>.

TRICARE Retired Reserve Launches

For the first time, members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60, the so-called "gray area" retirees, can purchase TRICARE health coverage for themselves and their eligible family members with the Sept. 1, 2010 launch of TRICARE Retired Reserve. Retired Reservists may qualify to purchase TRR coverage if they are under the age of 60 and are not eligible for, or enrolled in, the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. They must also be members of the Retired Reserve of a Reserve component and qualified for non-regular retirement. For instructions on how to qualify for and purchase TRR go to www.tricare.mil/trr. For calendar year 2010, the TRR member-only monthly premium is \$388.31 (\$4,659.72 yearly), and the member and family monthly premium is \$976.41 (\$11,716.92 yearly). Premiums will be adjusted annually. The comprehensive health care coverage provided by the premium-based TRR is similar to TRICARE Standard. After purchasing TRR, members will receive the *TRICARE Retired Reserve Handbook*, which includes details about covered services, how to get care and who to contact for assistance. For more information please visit www.tricare.mil/trr or <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100908-088.pdf>.

Defense Secretary Gates Answers Our Questions

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates delivered a speech to the Marines' Memorial Association in San Francisco, Aug. 12, 2010. After the speech, the audience was granted with a question and answer session, where secretary Gates offered interesting perspectives on Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, etc. On one hand Dr. "Gates expressed Great concern within the Middle East region as well as with North Korea," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Underwood, the 129th Rescue Wing Human Resource Advisor, who was a member in the audience. "On the other hand he communicated his "optimism" regarding his initiatives to heighten support and funding for servicemembers in uniform, reduction in contract spending, the state of Iraq 10 years from now." To view the speech please visit <http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1498&41498=20100813>.

Air Force Encourages Employees To Cash In On Ideas

A multi-service focused contest, called the Innovation for New Value, Efficiency & Savings Tomorrow Awards, runs Aug. 9 through Sept. 24. The Department of Defense-led program is designed to produce money-saving ideas that

improve the way the DOD operates. Civilian and military employees are encouraged to share their ideas online at www.defense.gov/invest.

Coleville Commissary On-site Sale

Take advantage of spectacular savings on popular grocery items at the Commissary On-site Sale. The Fallon NAS Commissary is hosting an On-site Sale Sun. Sept. 19 from 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. at the Coleville Marine Corps. 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! 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 or contact Wendy Matuszak 775-426-3420 or wendy.matuszak@deca.mil. For information on pre-ordering meat, please e-mail Wendy prior to Sept. 13.

VA's Home Loan Program Continues To Stay Strong

Mortgage loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to have the lowest rate for serious delinquency and foreclosures in the industry. For more information read the related article at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123218643>. To obtain more information about the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, veterans can call VA at 877-827-3702. Information can also be obtained at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov>.

Electronic Cigarette Use

The Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Charles Green, has released a memo to alert all Airmen about the safety concerns regarding electronic cigarettes. "E-cigs" are battery-operated devices that look like conventional cigarettes and deliver nicotine as a vapor. Advertisements claim these are a healthier. To view the memo please visit <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100908-083.pdf>. Should you have any questions regarding the use of electronic cigarettes, my point of contact is Lieutenant Colonel Dan Kulund, AFMSA/SG30, (703) 588-7267, DSN 425-7267, or dan.kulund@pentagon.af.mil.

Military Discount for Oakland Raider's Tickets

All Military personnel and their family & friends will receive a special purchase opportunity through the Raiders Corporate Manager Link. By purchasing you will receive no extra per ticket fees and better seating locations. You can save even more if you attend the Nov. 7 Veteran's Day Game.

Veteran's Day game

Nov. 7th - Oakland Raiders vs. Kansas City Chiefs @ 1:15pm

- 1st & 2nd level seating available for \$25 per ticket / 3rd level seating available for \$20 per ticket
- Use offer code T10USA at <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=raiders&o=705&g=143>

All other games

- 1st & 2nd level seating available starting at \$61 per ticket / 3rd level seating available starting at \$26 per ticket
- Use offer code T10MG at <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=raiders&o=705&g=142>

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These Things We Do...That Others May Live

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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