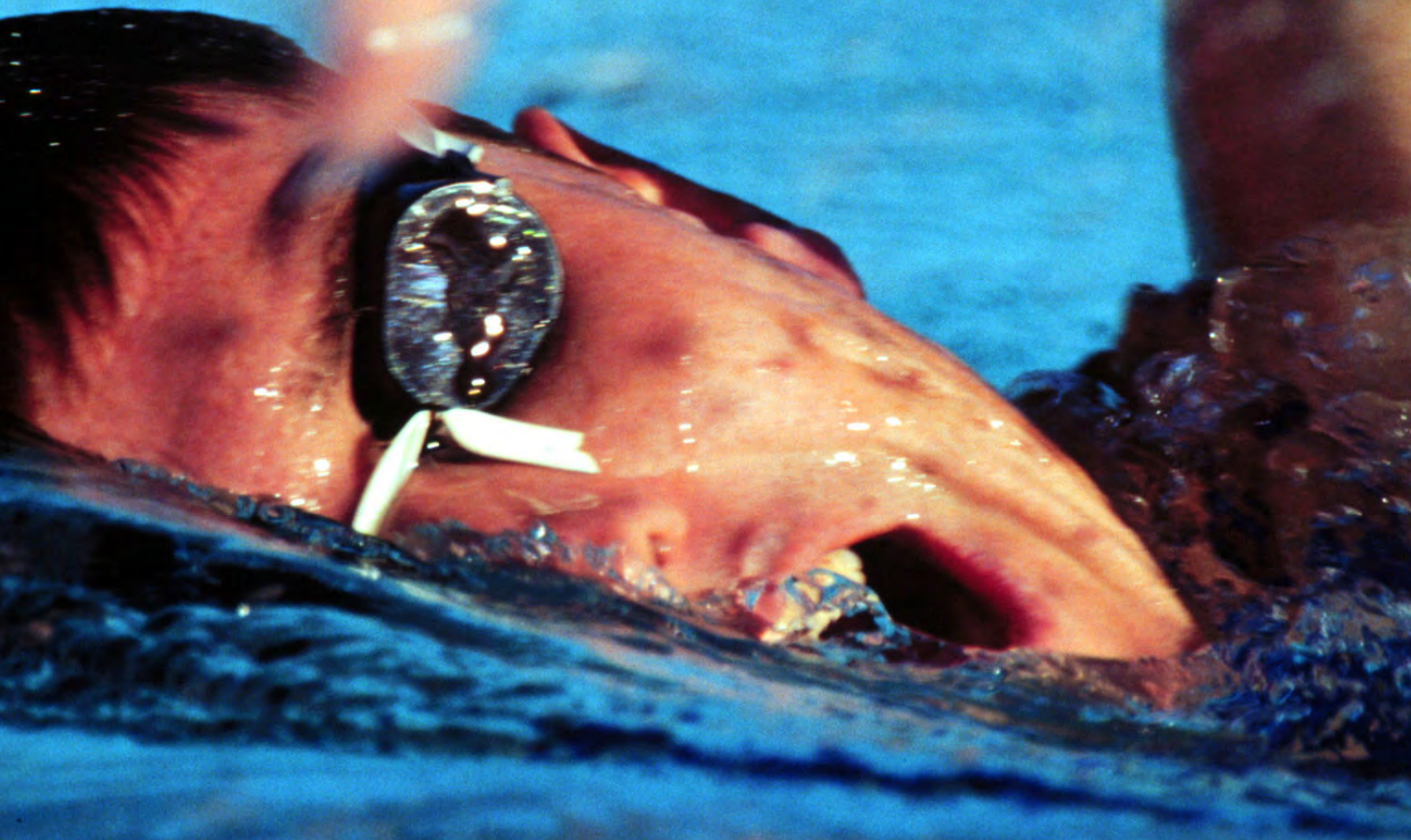


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ANGEL'S WINGS

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SENIOR HIGH

RESERVE COMBAT RESCUE OFFICER AND TWO-TIME OLYMPIAN **CAPT. CHAD SENIOR** PADDLES HIS WAY INTO GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

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ANGEL'S WINGS

VOL.6 NO.1 JAN / FEB 2008

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cover photo / TECH. SGT. ROBERT A. WHITEHEAD



THE INSIDE SCOOP

news & features



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Two-time Olympian and former world's number-one-ranked modern pentathlete Capt. Chad Senior, now a combat rescue officer at the 920th, gets immortalized by his alma mater.



THE TUSSLE AT TORTUGA pg.10

Canadian search and rescue techs and 920th Rescue Wing regulars got together in early January for the group's biannual search-and-rescue exercise.



TWO FOR ONE pg.9

In a move designed to test the waters for host-tenant operations at Air Force bases nationwide, the 920th Rescue Wing and 45th Space Wing command posts join forces under one roof.

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timemanagement

UTA SCHEDULE

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April 5-6
May 3-4
June 7-8
July 12-13
August 2-3
Sept. 6-7

DINING FACILITY

Br. 6 - 8 a.m. (weekdays)
Br. 5:30 - 9:15 a.m. (UTAs)
Ln. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dn. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

FITNESS CENTER

Mon/Fri 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sat/Sun 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

BARBER SHOP

Mon/Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Mon/Sat 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.



COL. STEVEN KIRKPATRICK

Commander, 920th Rescue Wing

Inspections complete, our journey continues

We recently completed two major evaluations here at Patrick—the Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) and Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Program (MSEP) inspection. I realize a lot of work went into preparation and execution for both inspections. Each evaluator I spoke with was impressed at the high level of effort and professionalism of our people.

Regarding the results—the UCI was a mixed bag. Overall, we received a ‘satisfactory,’ with write-ups in 40 areas. We had many great results as several of our programs and processes were very solid. Other areas needed a little work but were in compliance with all major directives. There were a few programs that will require a more concerted effort to become more in compliance. The good news, though, is that we will use the UCI report to clean up all areas that need work and become a better wing as a result.

The MSEP is an intense inspection directed at our maintenance folks—truly a measure of not only how compliant we are regarding directives, but also how proficient we are at mission performance. Our maintenance group received an ‘excellent’ in checklist ratings as well as in personnel evaluations. This is no small feat. Many wings don’t pass the MSEP. As a matter of fact, we’re the only wing in the four-year history of this inspection to receive an ‘excellent’ in both evaluation areas. I’m very proud of my maintenance group for this achievement, and I know you are as well. Kudos for a huge success!

Besides these two major inspections, we continue to stay busy with real-world deployments. Our security forces troops just returned from a successful deployment, and I’m very glad to have them home safely. We’re preparing to embark upon a 14-month activation/mobilization for our HH-60 forces, and our aeromedical and HC-130 folks are preparing to deploy later this year. As the busiest wing in the Air Force Reserve, we’ll continue to meet the call and give deployed commanders the best our military has to offer. I thank all of you for your dedication to serving in this capacity.

We’ll continue to support space shuttle launches and recoveries as well as civil rescues that pop-up. Just last week, we supported a shuttle landing in the morning and later that afternoon were called upon to look for two F-15 pilots after their mishap near Macdill AFB.

It’s obvious to me that this wing’s operational pace will never slow down. That’s why we need to always be ready, prepared and vigilant in the way we train and prepare for our missions. Operational risk management and adherence to safety standards are absolutely essential to performing our mission. I have no doubt we have the right personnel and practices in place to continue to be successful at any mission they throw at us.

So, thank you for your efforts in ensuring the success of two intense and difficult evaluations. I’m proud of you and of the success of this wing.

Keep up the great work!

NEWS BRIEFS



Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is **SEEKING APPLICANTS TO FILL RECRUITING POSITIONS** in locations across the globe.

The application process begins with a face-to-face interview with a local senior recruiter. If selected, applicants attend a 5-day evaluation and selection course at recruiting service headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. During the course, candidates undergo open-ranks inspections, physical training, give speeches and complete memorization work.

The top candidates get the opportunity to attend the six-week recruiting course at Lackland AFB, Texas. Coursework there includes Air Force Reserve benefits and entitlements, program-selection criteria, advertising and promotion, community relations and speech and salesmanship. Course emphasis is on student performance and practical application. An initial recruiting tour of extended active duty can last up to four years.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Gary Johnson, 920th Rescue Wing senior recruiter, at (321) 494-3002, or Master Sgt. Briana Ontiveros, training NCO at Reserve headquarters, at (478) 327-0630.

HOURS FOR PAY AND TRAVEL OFFICES on Saturdays of drill weekends are as follows: the 920th military pay office will be open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and the 45th Space Wing travel pay office will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ON THE RECORD

Seek out your infamy,
and the universe will conspire.

- Paulo Coelho
from his novel, "The Alchemist"

This year's **2008 AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND** (AFAF) campaign runs Feb. 11 to Mar. 21. The fund supports four foundations:

AF Aid Society: Official AF charity, offers interest-free loans/grants to active-duty members in financial emergencies. Retirees and widows considered on case-by-case basis.

AF Villages Indigent Widows' Fund: Provides dignified, cost-effective living options to widows of career retired AF Officers.

AF Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund: Provides housing to qualifying widows and surviving spouses, as well as temporary services for needy Airmen and their families.

The General and Mrs. Curtis LeMay Foundation: Cares for widows of AF personnel of all ranks, provides financial aid if necessary.

Additional information, as well as donation boxes/jars, will be available in unit orderly rooms.

For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Dorlen Martin at: (321) 494-4005.

As determined by their status in DEERS, the majority of Reserve members may now be eligible to purchase **HEALTH CARE COVERAGE** under the restructured Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) program. More information about the program is available on the Tricare Web site on the TRS page at: www.tricare.mil/reserve/reserveselect.



The Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) will award ten **SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,500** to descendants of active and retired enlisted and officer members, to include Guard and Reserves in paid drill status, of the U. S. uniformed services, including the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Public Health Service.

The Scholarship Selection Committee is now accepting applications for 2008-2009 scholarship awards. This year there will be ten scholarships of \$3,500 each awarded. The MOAACC Scholarship Program is an online system. Further information can be obtained at the MOAACC Web site. The deadline for receipt of all forms is June 15.

Patrick Air Force Base/Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

April 5, 2002

PJs trade stripes for bars

By Tech. Sgt. David Byron
920TH RGG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

These are two second lieutenants nobody calls "Butter Bar."

For most enlisted people who plan on making the Air Force a career, achieving the rank of chief master sergeant is the ultimate goal. Second Lts. Gregory Lowdermilk and Raymond "Rusty" Bradshaw of the 920th Rescue Group here went there and then some.

In a recent ceremony at the Academy of Military Sciences, McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., Chief Master Sgt. Lowdermilk and Senior Master Sgt. Bradshaw



From left, 2nd Lts. Gregory Lowdermilk and Raymond "Rusty" Bradshaw, 920th Rescue Group, show off their old stripes after becoming second lieutenants recently. The two are the first Reserve component officers in the pararescue field to complete the officer training program at the Academy of Military Sciences. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Byron)

civilian life, he worked as a medical program analyst for the Department of Defense Manned Space Flight Office at Patrick AFB.

This job required him to travel around the world supporting Space Shuttle flights.

"I didn't have any problems leaving my civilian job. I qualified for a civil service retirement," he said. "Besides, this is what I want. I've always wanted to be a PJ full-time."

Bradshaw, scheduled to become a master sergeant 1, said becoming a lieutenant weighed heavily on whether to accept the commission.

"It was a tough decision. Making chief is a pretty big deal. I consid-



photo/Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse



photo/Jim Laviska

As the CRO flies

Capt. Greg Lowdermilk, a 920th Rescue Wing Combat Rescue Officer, retired Feb. 15 after serving 27 years as an Air Force pararescueman. During his career, he not only risked his life to save others countless times, he also broke new ground by trading his chief master sergeant stripes for 2nd lieutenant's bars to become one of the first two Air Force Reserve combat rescue officers. His brother, Army Maj. Eldon Scott Lowdermilk (above, pinning a Meritorious Service Medal to his brother), presided at the ceremony. Captain Lowdermilk plans to begin a new adventure in New York City as a project manager.



photo/Airmen 1st Class Kasey Houff

Showdown at the Conch Republic

BY MASTER SGT. CHANCE C. BABIN
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

The 920th Rescue Wing gathered together a sampling of its rescue assets along with the Royal Canadian air force's 435th Transportation and Rescue Squadron to conduct Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) 2008 in Key West, Fla., Jan. 10-14.

The annual event is designed to build teamwork with our rescue counterparts from the North, while getting valuable maritime search-and-rescue training.

A total of 120 Airmen from the 920th and 435th participated in the exercise, along with three HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, two HC-130 P/N Hercules aircraft and one Canadian C-130.

"Our overall number-one goal was developing camaraderie between us and the Canadians," said Lt. Col. Jeff Hannold, director of operations for the rescue wing's Hercules squadron. "It was a huge success, and the SAREX couldn't have been any better."

This year's event was the first the 920th brought their Pave Hawks, which increased time spent on logistics.

"The planning leading up to it was more involved because the addition of helicopters and additional assets," Colonel Hannold said, "but from an execution standpoint, it went picture perfect."

The exercise featured extensive search-and-rescue (SAR) training and one day of competition between the teams. The SAR training consisted of rescuing a downed pilot from the Gulf of Mexico.

The C-130s scanned a more than 300 nautical-mile radius while searching for the survivor. Once they found him, para-rescuemen (PJs) dropped in for the save.

Next, the helicopters came in to exfiltrate, or *remove*, the survivor and the PJ. Once onboard the helo, PJs administered medical care and the survivor was then returned to Key West.

Canadian search-and-rescue technicians, known as SAR Techs, participated alongside the PJs. Because there were five C-130 crews, the scenario was repeated five times.

The day of competition consisted of three phases: spot landing, two separate

air-drop competitions and a survivor-locator competition. This training took place at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, located just outside Patrick AFB, roughly a 40-minute flight from the Keys.

Though scripted, the exercise wasn't without real-world challenges. One of the HC-130s had engine trouble, and the aircrew were forced to fly her back to Patrick for repairs. But a group of spirited wing maintainers ensured the downed aircraft's crew wouldn't be kept on the sidelines for the exercise.

"The maintenance guys jumped through hoops and loaded all the equipment to a new plane," Colonel Hannold said. "They got the new plane ready in minimal time and got us ready to go."

While the C-130s were busy at the Cape, the helicopters conducted hoist training at the Dry Tortugas, a small chain of islands 70 miles west of Key West.

In the end, the Canadians took home the honors during the competition, but everyone was a winner as the teams built bonds and gained valuable experience.

Deploying reservists get ‘National’ sendoff

A small group of reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing here departed today on the first-leg of a 14-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Before they left, the deploying reservists were visited on the flightline by John Patterson, a pitcher for the Washington Nationals baseball team, which plays its spring-training games at nearby Space Coast Stadium.

Mr. Patterson gave out hats and baseballs, signed autographs, visited with family members and personally thanked each Airman for his or her service.

After saying their good-byes, the reservists boarded one of the unit's HC-130 Hercules aircraft en route to Arizona, where they will join helicopter pilots, aircrew and support personnel from the wing's subordinate unit at Davis-Monthan AFB.

The group of approximately 80 wing personnel will then head for Afghanistan for the first half of a mobilization to support the U.S. Army medical evacuation operation.

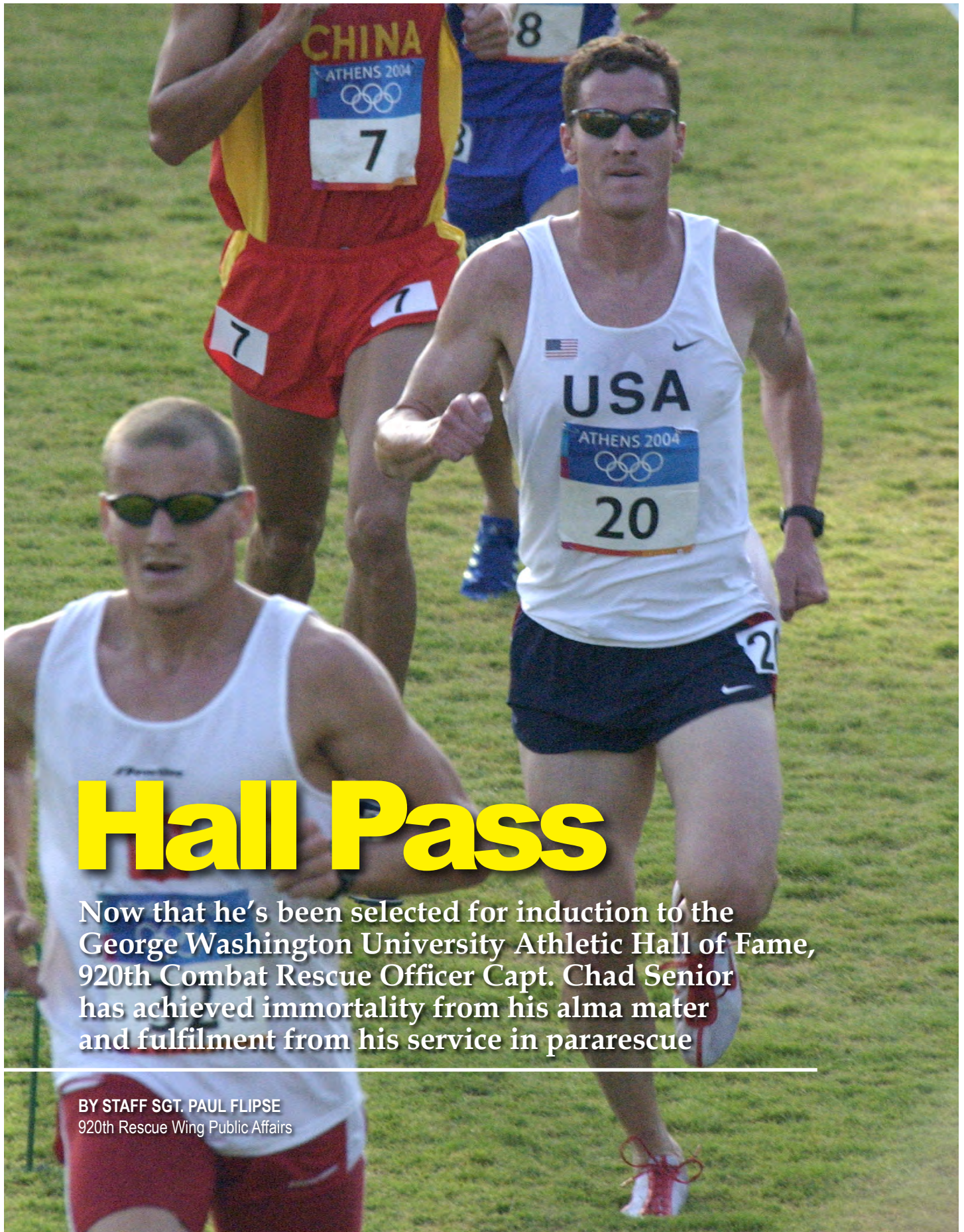
Later this year, the 920th will send another group of reservists from here to pick up the second half of the mission.

The wing's primary war-time job is combat search and rescue, which involves locating and rescuing servicemembers isolated in combat—such as pilots shot down behind enemy lines.

The medevac deployment, called an “in-lieu-of” mission, marks the first time the 920th will undertake the role for the Army.



photo/Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse



Hall Pass

Now that he's been selected for induction to the George Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame, 920th Combat Rescue Officer Capt. Chad Senior has achieved immortality from his alma mater and fulfilment from his service in pararescue

BY STAFF SGT. PAUL FLIPSE
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

photo/Master Sgt. Lono Kollars

C

APT. CHAD SENIOR IS UNDER ATTACK...

Sitting behind a barren desk in a small, boxy office at the east end of the pararescue squadron here, he is being bombarded by telephone calls. He calmly presses the handset of the office phone to one ear while he unfolds his jangling cell phone and presses it against the other.

"It's been like this all week," he confesses between rings.

The reason for the tidal wave of telecommunication is his two upcoming trips away from the 920th. In a few weeks, he'll head for Alaska, where he'll join the Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron on a deployment to Southeast Asia. But first, he'll travel to Washington D.C. to be inducted into George Washington University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

It was there at GW that Captain Senior displayed some of the athletic prowess that would one day carry him to the Olympics. He swam for the school team—the Colonials—from 1993 to 1997, lettering all four years and breaking five school records (two of which he still holds). Before leaving the university with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, he won two Atlantic 10 Conference Championships in the 1,650-meter freestyle.

Of his induction into his alma mater's hall of fame, the collegiate star said it was the human element—the fact that people selected him, as opposed to the way a winner of a race is declared—that made it special.

"It's usually a stopwatch that determines who gets first, second and third," he said. "The difference is that people gave me this ... not the clock."

Yet the people would never have chosen to immortalize Captain Senior had he not devoted himself so intensely to his training, to whittling as many ticks as he could off all those clocks along the way. Within three years of leaving George Washington, he became the world's top-ranked athlete in the modern pentathlon, a grueling and diverse event comprised of shooting, fencing, swimming, equestrian show-jumping and cross-country running—all on the same day.

In 2000, he helped the U.S. team win two gold medals at the World Pentathlon Championships—a first in team history—then went on to compete in both the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2004 Olympics in Greece, finishing 6th and 13th respectively. But in spite of his success, he would soon walk away from his life as a competitor on the world's stage—not

from disenchantment with his sport or a persistent injury, but solely for philosophical reasons.

"I didn't stop because I couldn't compete on that level any more," he said. "I actually felt my best years were ahead of me."

The young officer leans back slowly in his office chair, free for the moment from the angry swarm of phone calls. He has the bright, boyish face one could image on any American son—a kind of wry, thinly-chiseled innocence. But as he speaks of the emotions that prompted him to change his life in such a profound way, his eyes reflect not the naiveté of youth, but the intense resolve, confidence and wisdom that comes from understanding yourself.

"I reached a point in my life when I had to figure out what was important to me," he said. "This job has a much more tangible, direct impact on people's lives. If I can take someone out of the water and bring them home to their family—that's more important than any race."

This selfless ideal is common among pararescuemen, the quiet, humble group of Airmen who, without fanfare, endure the toughest training of any military special operations unit for the sole reason of saving lives.

"They're very gifted and talented people," said Captain Senior of his fellow PJs.

The same can surely be said of him, a fact underscored by the 920th Rescue Wing's commander, Col. Steve Kirkpatrick.

"We're very proud of Captain Senior," said the colonel. "He has continued to excel throughout his military career, and he's an outstanding combat rescue officer."

Though he has found fulfillment in pararescue, there are still times, he admits, when he misses the athletic competition that was so much a part of him for so long. The upcoming summer Olympics, scheduled to be held in Beijing, China this September, will be a particularly rough time for the former pentathlete.

"The closer it gets to the games, the more difficult it'll be," he said.

But come September, you won't find Capt. Chad Senior in Beijing. Instead, you'll find him here at Patrick or deployed to a combat zone in some far-flung corner of the world, still fiercely dedicated to shaving those precious ticks off the clock.

Only this time, he'll be doing it to save a life.

"If I can take someone out of the water and bring them home to their family—that's more important than any race."

CAPT. CHAD SENIOR

Combat Rescue Officer and two-time Olympian, describing the feelings that pulled him from his life as a world-class athlete into the field of pararescue.





miles: 26.2

participants: 18,000

flight surgeons: 2

running a marathon
through the
magic kingdom:

priceless

Rat Race

Reserve doctors go the distance at annual theme-park event

BY STAFF SGT. HEATHER L. KELLY
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Held in Orlando, Fla., runners come from all over the world to participate in Walt Disney World's annual marathon.

More than 18,000 runners took part in the January event.

Among the crowd were 920th Rescue Wing Aeromedical Staging Squadron flight surgeons Majors Jaime Abuan and Corey Anderson. Both are no stranger to the running circuit, having now completed five marathons between them.

"Disney is a great run. You start off at Epcot and run through the Magic Kingdom, Disney characters are high-fiving you throughout the run," said Major Anderson. "It's a fun family event."

The majors spent a great deal of

time preparing for the challenge. Major Anderson ran 6 to 14 miles, three to four days a week and on weekends. Major Abuan started out at 30 miles a week, working up to as many as 50.

"It helps to gradually build up mileage each week," said Major Abuan. "I broke it up by doing little runs throughout the week and one major long run at the end of the week. Nutrition and rest are also very important. Preparing with cross training and cycling helps as well."

When they aren't caring for 920th members on drill weekends, both physicians care for Florida's civilian population. Major Abuan is a family physician practicing in Lakeland, and Major Anderson is an anesthesiologist resident in Gaines-

ville, soon relocating to Brevard County's Holmes Regional Medical Center in July.

"Commitment to a healthy lifestyle—including exercise and nutrition—can make or break a military career," said Major Anderson. "As physicians and Air Force members, I feel it is important to practice what we preach."

Currently, both majors plan on running next year's Disney marathon.

"Running a marathon is a real physical achievement. It is also mental challenge more than anything. You have to train your body and your mind to ignore the pain," said Major Abuan. "It helps to really do your research first. Training is intense and it takes persistence, but it's worth it," he said.

Thomas Paine, one of America's Founding Fathers, once said, "The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

While he's far from a revolutionary, Lt. Col. Joel Kinnunen knows a little about conflict and triumph. As an accomplished triathlete, Colonel Kinnunen, who recently took command of the 308th Rescue Squadron here, had a goal of representing the United States in the 2007 World Triathlon Championships, held at Hamburg, Germany last September.

But his dream was dealt a crushing blow in December 2006 when he suffered a severe knee injury at the Combat Rescue Officer's Course at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. Facing a long and difficult recovery, and with the world championships only nine months away, the prospects of attaining his goal weren't good.

In the world of sports, the difference between winning and losing often lies in how a person deals with adversity. Colonel Kinnunen decided to deal with the challenge he faced the way any world-class athlete would and the only way he knew how: by throwing himself 100 percent into his rehabilitation.

A little more than six months and countless grueling hours of work later, the colonel found himself on the doorstep of reaching his goal at the U.S. National Triathlon Championships at Beaverton, Ore.

He needed only to place in the top 16 of his age bracket (40-44) to qualify for the



No stranger to battle

New pararescue commander overcomes debilitating injury in world-class style

BY MASTER SGT. CHANCE C. BABIN
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

world championships.

He finished 19th.

Although disappointing, his result was remarkable considering what he overcame to get as close as he did. So remarkable, in fact, that in spite of his injury, his 2007 race results were still good enough to land him on the list of alternates for the world championships. But unlike his situation at Beaverton, he would now have to rely on others to reach his goal.

To participate in the world championships, triathletes must pay their own way to and from the event, which is held at a new venue each

year (the 2008 event will be held at Vancouver, Canada).

As a result, many who qualify choose not to compete. So it was possible for Colonel Kinnunen to make the team if enough people decided not to participate.

"I figured I had a good shot at making it on the team," he said.

He figured right. And so it was that Colonel Kinnunen found himself on a Fall day in Northern Germany facing-off against the world's best triathletes. Weakened by food poisoning days before the race, the colonel started slowly but finished strong, clocking in at

2 hours and 14 minutes.

"I finished 54th out of 132," Colonel Kinnunen said. "It was a little slower than I expected. But, under the circumstances—not too bad."

Not bad indeed. But he won't have much time to reflect on his accomplishment. He just took command of a pararescue squadron here at Patrick that belongs to the busiest wing in Air Force Reserve Command. He has to uproot his family from Oregon, where Colonel Kinnunen has lived and worked most of his life, and relocate them to the Space Coast.

And last but certainly not least, he must find time to train for triathlons, the relentless regiment of exercise required for him to compete at a world-class level.

One final thing he needs to do: squirrel away money for a trip to Vancouver. That is, if he wants to compete in the 2008 Triathlon World Championships, for which he has already qualified.



Capture the flag

Lt. Col. Joel Kinnunen, a former rescue-helicopter pilot, assumes command of the pararescue squadron here at Patrick AFB in a January ceremony. He succeeded Lt. Col. Coy Speer, who is retiring after 20 years of military service to teach science at a high school in New Mexico.

photo/Staff Sgt. Paul Filipe

Dirty Jobs

STORY & PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. RAYMOND F. PADGETT

920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Editor's Note: *This is the first in a series of articles just how filthy an Airman can get doing his or her job at the 920th Rescue Wing. Got dirt? Call us at (321) 494-0535/6. We'd love to tell your story.*

Where there's smoke, there's fire. And where there's gunsmoke, there's gunpowder residue.

Both are plentiful at the 920th ordinance shop, where maintainers are responsible for the cleaning and care of a large cache of machine guns—more than 55 in all. These guns have ample opportunity to get dirty, as they all spend time attached to one of the unit's fleet of 14 HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters for use during combat search and rescue operations, civilian rescues, NASA launch support and humanitarian-relief missions.

"We tear apart and clean each gun every time every time they're fired," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Fried, an aircraft ordinance mechanic with the 920th maintenance squadron.

He hauls a 7.62 mm GAU-2C, otherwise known as a mini-gun, onto a workbench.

"This one isn't that bad—only 2,000 rounds were put through it last night," he said as he prepared to clean the weapon, a procedure that can take four to five hours if a gun is really dirty.

"We tear it down, clean it in a solvent bath, then reassemble and lube every part," he said.

But gunpowder resin isn't the only thing these maintainers must scrub from mini-guns. The weapons routinely become encrusted with filth during brownout conditions—the giant, whirling cyclone of mud, dirt, grass and debris whipped up by a helicopter when landing on an underdeveloped airfield.

"They still fire," said Sergeant Fried, referring to the GAU-2C.

After the weapon is disassembled, most of the parts go to a parts-cleaning station to be sprayed, scrubbed and bathed in PD-680, a smelly, petroleum-based solvent. To do this safely, Airmen must wear multiple layers of protective equipment to keep the harsh chemicals in the solvent from absorbing into their skin, eyes, nose and mouth. Then everything is reassembled and covered with an oozing, grayish Teflon-based lube.

According to Tech. Sgt. Mark Tucker, the Browning M2 .50-caliber machine gun creates the most mess—even though the mini-gun has more barrels and puts out more rounds. The M2 is a leftover from World War II but dependable enough for today's fighting forces. Sergeant Fried attributed the M2's excessive grime to the large size of the round it fires: a .50-caliber cartridge is more than five inches long.

"It throws carbon through the entire bolt assemblies—caking on the metal all the way up to the flash suppressor," he said.

Add sand to the mix of oil and grease and things get truly filthy.

"We start with clean gloves, but the grease penetrates them pretty quick," he said.

To get himself clean before heading home, Sergeant Tucker employs an impressive list of supplies—auto-mechanic cleaning gel, biodegradable degreaser, bathroom soap and a hefty amount of elbow grease.





When Two Become One

Patrick Air Force Base becomes the Air Force's test case for host-tenant operations as Reserve and active-duty command posts consolidate under one roof

STAFF SGT. HEATHER L. KELLY

920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

IN A MOVE that further illustrates the vanishing line between the Air Force Reserve, Guard and active duty forces, the 920th Rescue Wing and 45th Space Wing command post operations are preparing to merge in April.

"Personnel and equipment are expensive to maintain," said Lt. Col. Rex Myer, 920th Rescue Wing Command Post superintendent. "Ultimately, it's more advantageous to the government to create one command post at each installation."

"When we deploy, we have multiple agencies working together," said Colonel Myer. "We've always practiced 'train the way you fight,' this is just an extension of that."

Colonel Myer has been working with his counterparts at the 45th Space Wing command post since October 2007 to

ensure a successful transition. Combining the operations will be a three-step process.

"We're currently in the planning stages—but starting to implement things now," the colonel said. "The next step is to combine checklists and procedures. We need to learn their systems."

Controllers from both organizations will require additional training in each other's tasks and unique requirements.

"There will be a learning process for both units," he said.

The units are currently refining the installation plan. Once finished, controllers will be capable of conducting command-post operations for the full range of missions at Patrick AFB.

"A lot of functional areas around both wings are working together to make this happen," said Colonel Myer. "We've

always coordinated well together. That's the key to making this project work well."

Master Sgt. Michael Trejo, the Rescue Wing's command post NCOIC, has been instrumental in that coordination.

"Customer service for wing members and aircrews will improve," said Sergeant Trejo. "When people deploy, there will be a 24-hour point of contact. They will be able to contact someone at the command post whenever they need to. We will also benefit from the brand new facility."

"All together, I think it will be a lot better. We are all looking forward to it," Sergeant Trejo said.

Colonel Myers agreed.

"The improved facility and solid relationship we have with our active-duty counterparts gives us a big advantage in implementing this program," he said.

Deploying? Legal matters

The 920th Legal Office offers advice on how to avoid fighting legal battles from a warzone

BY MASTER SGT. RAY PADGETT
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

SINCE SEPT. 11, Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing have constantly deployed in support of combat-search-and-rescue both at home and abroad to some of the most dangerous regions in the Global War on Terrorism.

Making sure their financial and legal affairs are in order before they head out the door is the each member's responsibility, but the wing's legal office is always here to help.

"In addition to the usual power of attorneys and wills, many people have legal questions about their specific situations before leaving home for an extended period of time.

The wing legal office can answer many of these questions pertaining to property or vehicles free of charge to the servicemember," said Lt. Col. Timothy Hughes, the staff judge advocate.

"We send people out the door confident their families will be taken care of in the event of unforeseen circumstances. This allows them to concentrate on their mission," said Tech. Sgt. Buffy Kooyer, a paralegal.

According to Sergeant Kooyer, Airmen shouldn't wait until just before a deployment to visit the legal office.

"It's imperative to keep updated legal information, especially if you have family,"

she said. "There have been many instances Air-Force wide where outdated information did not allow for allocation of assets to family members left behind."

Power of attorneys, durable power of attorneys, wills, living wills and notary services are all offered at the legal office.

"It is important for people to talk with their family about estate and end-of-life planning," said Master Sgt. Sherry Boswell, legal office superintendent. "Wills and living wills are critical tools in this process."

The steps necessary to make a will are located on the wing Intranet site, 'wing staff' folder, and then the 'legal office' link to find a downloadable copy of a will worksheet.

"If you bring in a completed worksheet and schedule an appointment with the staff judge advocate on the Saturday of the unit training assembly, we can usually return the completed will by Sunday of the same UTA," said Sergeant Boswell.

She said the difference between a will and a living will is that one applies to what will happen when someone dies, the other to what will be done in the event of a catastrophic event that leaves someone alive but near death.

A will outlines the disposition of personal property and appointment of guardians for minor children. A living will protects an individual's rights

920TH MAINTENANCE GROUP **SAVE OF THE MONTH**

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Cope, Staff Sgt. Ronald Arroyo and Staff Sgt. Joshua Cigainero distin-

guished themselves in the performance of outstanding service to the 920th Maintenance Group, Patrick AFB, Florida.



On November 21, 2007, the day before Thanksgiving, aircraft 90-26231 was scheduled to be on alert for the duration of the holiday weekend. Later that afternoon, the pre-flight inspection of the aircraft was being conducted. During the inspection, a tail rotor paddle was found cracked, which forced the aircraft to be grounded. With no helicopter shop personnel scheduled to work the night shift, Sergeants Cope and Arroyo volunteered to stay in order to replace the defective part. Sergeant Cigainero, who works in the engine shop, also volunteered to help replace the part.

The three Airmen subsequently removed and replaced the cracked tail rotor paddle. On the night before a holiday weekend, when most people were at home preparing for Thanksgiving, these three NCO's were working to ensure the 920th could stand ready and be available for a search-and-rescue mission should the need arise.

Based on their actions as well as their dedication to duty, the above mentioned are hereby awarded the "Save of the Month" for December 2007.

regarding resuscitation, nourishment and medical care while at the end stages of life.

Another important document to a servicemember, especially those deploying to a combat zone, is the appointment of a health care surrogate.

According to Colonel Hughes, a health care surrogate is someone who can make medical decisions for you in the event you cannot.

"The Terri Schiavo case is a good example of what can happen if you don't have a living will or a health care sur-

rogate," he explained.

In most cases a simple power of attorney only takes a few minutes by using an automated, online process. All you need is your military identification and the name and address of who you want to leave the power of attorney to, Sergeant Kooyer said.

The staff judge advocate also advises on a host of issues, including line of duty determinations, demotions, the drug demand reduction program and discipline issues.

For more info, visit www.legalassistance.law.af.mil.

PROMOTIONS

senior master sergeant

ERIC DRAPER
JUAN MALDONADO
JAMES TURMAN

master sergeant

ERIC BAUGH
DAVID CARDEN
BENJAMIN GARRIDOGODOY
TRAVIS LEMON
JEFFREY LUND
BRENT PAUTLER
MICHAEL PELEZO
TED RODRIGUEZ
MICHAEL TURNER

technical sergeant

DAVID FULLER
DANIAL MORGESE
ESTHER NOEL
GARRY ORTIZ
FRANCINE TORRES
BETH WASSON

staff sergeant

PATRICIA BAEZ
BERT BENTON
NICOLE BLANKENSHIP
DANIELLE BOHNER
LUKE BORLEE
BENJAMIN BOUTELLE
CHERYL DIFRANZO
MONIQUE FOULKES
SARAH HERNANDEZ
KARLOS HUDSON
JAMIL JEFFERS
BARBARA JONES
JORDON KELLY
ANGELA MCFALL

GABRIEL MORGAN
MOTES MOTES
ALBERTO NEVAREZ II
RANDALL PASQUARELLI
JASON PFISTER
JOHN PITTENDREIGH
ABRAHAM RIVERA
LEONARD RUSS
MEGGAN SHORT
JOSEPH TEMPIO,
TERRANCE WOODS

senior airman

LINDSAY BLY
SARA BOLIN
MICHELLE CRUZ
CHRISTIAN DIAZ
GARY GRANDISON
STACIE GREER
OSCAR RIVERA
JEROME SALGADO
CAITLIN SUKOWSKI

airman first class

ADAM BOUTELLE
GERALD FAVIS
TABATHA HAYTAIAN
CRISTIAN HIDROBO

airman

JONATHAN DICKINSON
JAHNELL PEAY

NEWCOMERS

LT. COL. STEVEN PODNOS
MAJ. DAVID ANDERSON
MAJ. KELLI PARKS
CAPT. CATHERINE CORREA
CAPT. PATRICIA HAYDEN
CAPT. NATHAN HOLLAND

2LT RICHARD PEREZ-ROSA
TSGT. MARY ESPINO
TSGT. ALTRAMEISE MYERS
TSGT. MARCUS NEAL
TSGT. WHITMORE PELECANOS
TSGT. KEISHA PHILLIP
TSGT. JEFFERY STOPFORD
TSGT. JOHN VREELAND
SSGT. RAYMOND ALBIZU
SSGT. MICHAEL BERGER
SSGT. SHAUN BROWN
SSGT. MIRIAN CASTILLO
SSGT. NELSON CASTILLO
SSGT. CHRISTOPHER COLLINS
SSGT. JOSE DIAZ
SSGT. NICHOLAS ELLIOT
SSGT. RONALD FANNEL
SSGT. MODESTO GARCIA
SSGT. MICHAEL GONZALES
SSGT. CRYSTAL LAROSE
SSGT. MICHAEL LING
SSGT. VANESSA MARTINEZ
SSGT. MICHAEL MITCHELL
SSGT. WILLIAM PARKER
SSGT. DELANA PEREZ
SSGT. ROBERT QUINN
SSGT. SCOTT ROBERTS
SSGT. AMY SCHMID
SSGT. CYNTHIA SHAFFER
SSGT. JAIME STUBBS
SSGT. THOMAS WEST
SSGT. ANNA VAZQUEZ
SrA GREGORY BASCOMBE
SrA JASON BIRDSONG
SrA MICHAEL BRALEY
SrA JARED BURGESS
SrA TERRY CARTER JR
SrA CASTILLO-BROCK
KRISTOPHER
SrA JILLIAN COWELL
SrA KEVIN DELAROSA

SrA CHRISTOPHER DOSTER
SrA BENNIE EFRID
SrA LISA GAVIN
SrA DANIEL HALDI
SrA SHAUN HENDERSHOT
SrA AILEEN JIMENEZ
SrA STEPHEN LANGONE
SrA MARQUITA MORAN
SrA ENGELS SAMBOIS
SrA YAVUZ SENOL
SrA LESLIE THOMAS
SrA SANTOS TIRADO
SrA ALISON WAGNER
A1C CHERYL BEAUCHAMP
A1C DEMETRIOUS BURNETT
A1C BENJAMIN EATROS
A1C JULIANN FORLENZA
A1C DANIEL RODRIGUEZ
A1C JEROME SALGADO
A1C CHANEL WATERS
AB JONATHAN DICKINSON
AB ALISA DIXON
AB TRAVARUS ELLIS
AB GERALD FAVIS
AB BRITTANY LEVINSON

FAREWELLS

LT. COL. COY SPEER
CAPT. GREG LOWDERMILK
MSGT. MICHAEL FRIZZELL
MSGT. DANIEL HOLLSTEN
MSGT. CHAD HUGHES
SSGT. JEFFREY CLARK
SSGT. JEREMY FARSON
SSGT. WILSON MALDONADO
SrA JONATHAN PUGMIRE
SrA KAREN STRISHOCK
SrA RYAN WILSON
AB JON PREEPER

Human resources council invests in people

As part of the Air Force Reserve's vision, The 920th Rescue Wing has formed a Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) committee here that is at work for each and every one of you.

The HRDC serves as a tool for commanders at all levels to address issues that affect wing members at all levels. With the idea that, If we take care of peo-

ple, people will take care of mission.

"It's all about leveraging existing programs to the maximum benefit possible," said Master Sgt. Rodney Hage manager of the HRDC for Air Force Reserve Command.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Maj. William Moore, the 920th Military Equal Opportunity Officer at (321) 494- 6551.





Reserve seating

Purple-heart recipient and Air Force Reservist Senior Airman Diane Lopes (second row, second from left), a 920th Rescue Wing security specialist here, was selected to sit with Laura Bush in the First Lady's box during President George W. Bush's last State of the Union address Jan. 28. Airman Lopes is currently undergoing extensive physical therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the D.C. area and was singled out by the White House to be Mrs. Bush's guest as an Air Force representative.

"It's a tremendous honor to have been selected to attend this," she said.

"It's exciting to be able to experience history up close and personal."

Mrs. Bush was joined by her daughters, Barbara, left and Jenna.

(White House photo/Joyce N. Boghosian)

