

# THE RESCUEGRAM



The Official Information Publication of the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard

December 2008

Lives Saved  
**598**

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



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## NCOs realize benefit of in-residence PME

By Capt. Alyson Teeter, 129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Ten non-commissioned officers from all across the 129th Rescue Wing have been gathering two nights every week since September in the Wing Headquarters conference room to learn and grow professionally together.

Believe it or not, these dedicated NCOs are attending the NCO Academy from here at Moffett. They aren't alone trying to complete the course work by correspondence at home after work. They also aren't away from their families, work, or unit for a six week chunk of time.

The Satellite NCOA was created to provide Airmen an alternative to the six week in-residence Academy that still offers the education and experience of in-residence training. The course follows the distance

learning concept – students are taught by trained, certified Enlisted Professional Military Education instructors via a live two-way audio and one-way video feed.

The distance learning concept allows students to view the instructors teaching the lesson and interact with them in a question and answer format, which has shown to be critical to the learning environment. Certified Site Facilitators are present in the classroom during instruction and lead the students in a guided discussion of the lesson material.

“We ensure the students understand the material presented in the course by asking the students questions about the material.” said Senior Master Sgt.

Neal Crisman, Lead Site Facilitator for the 129th Rescue Wing and 129th Military Personnel Flight member. “We ask ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions as opposed to ‘yes’ or ‘no’ questions.”

The class consists of home station and in-residence phases. During the home station phase, students attend class four hours a night, two nights a week. While in class, students and facilitators are considered part of the NCO Academy and fall under the NCOA



Photo courtesy Military Personnel Flight

Tech. Sgt. Joe Guillory and Tech. Sgt. Joe Barros attend the NCO Academy at Moffett Field. Students follow the same curriculum as those attending the in-residence school.

## THE RESCUEGRAM

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The mission of the 129th Rescue Wing is to provide highly trained and well-equipped rescue resources, able to respond to and sustain the state mission of furnishing trained personnel for state emergencies, such as natural disasters, and to assist civil authorities in the enforcement of the law.

When called to active duty with the Air Force, we provide manpower, material and equipment resources to conduct and complete combat and search rescue operations world-wide. We provide manpower, material and equipment to conduct and complete peacetime search operations.

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## MyEDP sets stage for success

### Airman's Roll Call

"MyEDP," which stands for My Enlisted Development Plan, is a valuable online tool available through the Air Force Portal Website. It is designed to guide Airmen through their own careers and allow them to track the careers of those they supervise or mentor. You can find information on everything from education and training to informal discussion forums with other Airmen.

Here are some things available to you on MyEDP:

- \* Library - This section includes documents and information pertaining specifically to your career field. You may find anything from briefings you can share with your shop to policy letters, and advice for writing enlisted performance reports, awards and decorations.

- \* Discuss Air Force issues in an open forum - The forums allow you to receive input from Airmen across the globe about issues that concern you from assignments and deployments to uniforms and physical training. The forum is monitored for content, but entries are not deleted so Airmen don't get the "party line" answers to their questions.

- \* News - Here you'll find news about your career field as well as Air Force news headlines.

- \* Mentoring - You can upload documents, certificates, transcripts, packages or any other items you would like to make accessible to your supervisors and mentors anywhere in the world, and the Airmen you supervise or mentor can share their information with you.

- \* Outline educational and career goals - Under "Enlisted Development Tools,"

You can view the enlisted career path that can guide your career from Airman basic to chief master sergeant. The enlisted career path outlines promotion requirements, education and training requirements, professional development, career broadening and key leadership roles that can help Airmen achieve their personal and professional goals.

- \* View career and educational summaries - MyEDP gives you access to your Air Force Personnel Center record information, Community College of the Air Force credits and much more. You can view your past duty history, requirements for upgrade and ancillary training, as well as information about professional military education opportunities.

MyEDP is located on the Air Force Portal featured links under "Top Viewed: Career."

## New law allows salutes in civies during anthem

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Veterans and servicemembers not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Dr. James B. Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to servicemembers while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform servicemembers during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008. (Courtesy of VA News)

# 129th Outstanding Airmen of the Year

**Airman**



Senior Airman Sean Pellaton  
129 RQS

**NCO**



Tech Sgt. Fernando Wilkins  
129 MXS

**Senior NCO**



Senior Master Sgt. Larry Hiyakumoto  
131 RQS

**1st Sergeant**



Master Sgt. Jennifer Brouillard  
129 MSG

# Air Force Association Outstanding Airmen of the Year

**Airman**



Senior Airman Alejandro Alvarado  
129 SFS

**NCO**



Tech Sgt. Rachel Velasco  
129 SVS

**Senior NCO**



Master Sgt. Michael Bacon  
131 MXG

**1st Sergeant**



Senior Master Sgt. Chris Underwood  
129 MXG

**Aviator**



Capt. Brian Finnerty  
129 RQS

**Maintainer**



Master Sgt. Joseph Harris  
129 MXS

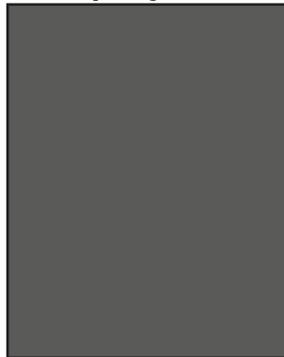
**Medical**



Senior Airman Shane Peralta  
129 MDG

# 129th Officers of the Year

**Company Grade**



Capt. Mike Wagle  
130 RQS

**Field Grade**



Maj. Jason Funk  
129 RQS



# How to sign up for the “Strong Bonds” Marriage Enrichment Seminar

by 129th Rescue Wing Chaplain’s Office

If you are interested in communicating effectively, working as a team to solve problems, managing conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserving and enhancing love, commitment, and friendship, then this seminar is for you. Here is how you can attend:

Interested servicemember notifies Chaplain’s office and then registers online with State Family Programs at <http://www.prestoregister.com/cgi-bin/order.pl?ref=Readyfamilies&fm=1>

- When registering, please select ‘2’ as the quantity amount.

- Registration is open to services members and spouses that have not attended in the past.

State Family Programs sends confirmation of registration via email back to servicemember with copy to Family Readiness. Member advises Military Personnel

Flight (MPF) that they have a letter of confirmation for Marriage Enrichment and requests Spouse be entered into ANG Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS).

Unit orderly room (CCQ) receives AROWS request on spouse and publishes Invitational Travel Order (ITO).

Fund Cite for orders will be from Wing Fund Cite.

Unit determines appropriate duty status to place service member on during this unit funded retreat and publishes the spouses’ Invitational Travel Orders as well.

Unit CCQ bodes them well.

Upcoming dates for Northern California MES in Rancho Cordova, Calif.:

February 21-22, 2009

April 17-19, 2009

June 27-28, 2009

August 22-23, 2009

NCOA continued from Page 1

Chain of Command.

Students receive the same curriculum as those attending the in-residence schools and are held to the exact same standards of academics, physical fitness, discipline and professionalism as in-residence students.

“The students seem happy to be here. It’s a nice a nice option for them because they are only gone from home for two weeks instead of six,” said Tech. Sgt. Alan Barnett, Course Facilitator and 129th MXS member. “This is especially good since there’s a deployment coming up.”

The course ends with a two week in-residence phase taught at McGee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn. Upon completion student receive in-residence credit for the NCO Academy.

Additional satellite academies are scheduled for the upcoming year. Here’s a snapshot of the training schedule for 2009.

- NCO Academy: March 2 - May 15, 2009 (in-residence May 25 - June 5)

- NCO Academy: Sept. 14 - Nov. 27, 2009 (in-residence Dec. 7 - 18)

- Airman Leadership School: March 2 - May 15, 2009 (in-residence May 25 - June 5)

- Airman Leadership School: Sept. 14 - Nov. 27, 2009 (in-residence Dec. 7 - 18)

If you are interested in attending a satellite academy or would like more information, please contact your Unit Training Manager.

## Keep safety in mind during the holidays

### American Red Cross

**Tip #1:** Beware of holiday lighting. Take care when burning candles. Be sure they are kept away from decorations or other combustible materials. Don’t leave children unattended in a room with lit candles, and always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Never display lighted candles in windows or near exits. Lit candles should not be used as tree decorations.

**Tip #2:** Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. Avoid using candles during parties. If guests will be smoking, provide them with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After the party, check inside and under upholstery and in trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.

**Tip #3:** Keep Christmas trees fresh. Choose a fresh Christmas

tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources and exits, and water it daily. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant. If you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.

**Tip #4:** Designate a driver. When attending a party, always designate a non-drinking driver. If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure there are non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving.

**Tip #5:** Buckle up. During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. Wearing a seat belt is the easiest and best way to prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision. Ensure that all passengers are also wearing safety belts.

**Tip #6:** Enroll in a first aid and CPR course. Although these tips can help prevent an emergency,

it is also important to be prepared should an emergency situation arise. To enroll in a first aid or CPR course, contact your local Red Cross.

## Portrait of a Professional -- Staff Sgt. Jeannie Lam, 129 OSF



### **What is your favorite memory in the AF?**

Going on my first helicopter flight in the bay area.

### **What motivated you to enlist in the AF?**

As a native New Yorker, the 9/11 attacks took a significant toll on me. A friend suggested we join the Air Force together; the funny thing is she's still not in the military!

### **How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?**

The military has opened many doors for me and has provided me with confidence, courage, discipline, and training that I can never learn in the civilian world.

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

The Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all you do

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

I would go wherever my skills and trainings are needed

### **Where did you grow up?**

Brooklyn, New York

### **What is your job in the civilian world?**

I'm a full time student and I also work part time at Kaiser in the pharmacy

### **What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I am currently in the honors program at San Jose State University

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

My job, aviation resource management. I get to work closely with aircrew and support members so I get to see first hand what we do during Search and Rescue missions and state emergencies, and I get to go sometimes too!

### **What are your hobbies?**

Biking, snowboarding, and taking my dogs to the dog park



## Day and night training for PJs

Pararescuemen from the 131st Rescue Squadron are constantly training and honing their skills, night and day, for deployments around the world. Above, a bullet shot from a MP-4 rifle goes down range to its target. Right, a PJ keeps the dust out while riding a quad ATV recently. Photos by Staff Sgt. Andrew Hughan, 129th Public Affairs.

## News & Notes

### Welcome new 129th members!

Maj. Mathew Wenthe  
Chief Master Sgt. Andy Archuletta  
Master Sgt. William St Clair  
Tech. Sgt. Randall Johnson  
Staff Sgt. Monique Rivera  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Valdivia  
Senior Airman Darius Abasta  
Senior Airman Andrew Gibson  
Senior Airman Michael Sternberg  
Airman Gaspare Cammarata  
Airman Basic Brian Jaramillo

### The following members were recently promoted to their current rank. Congratulations!

Senior Master Sgt. William Doyle  
Master Sgt. Richard Lower  
Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Ford  
Tech. Sgt. Brian Lockett  
Tech. Sgt. Scott Matthews  
Tech. Sgt. Blake Rudis  
Tech. Sgt. Angela Weiss  
Staff Sgt. Alejandro Alvarado  
Staff Sgt. Jessica Beall  
Staff Sgt. Daniel Naylor

### Community College of the Air Force Graduates

Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Blanchard  
Master Sgt. Jennifer Bush  
Master Sgt. Derek Frazier  
Master Sgt. Shirley Keay  
Master Sgt. Michael Malloy  
Master Sgt. Rosemarie Stokes  
Tech. Sgt. Geoffrey Caravallo  
Tech. Sgt. Duncan Collier  
Tech. Sgt. Leah Zimmer  
Staff Sgt. Andrew Duren  
Staff Sgt. Walter Engle  
Staff Sgt. Theresa Hechler  
Staff Sgt. Inda Araceli  
Staff Sgt. Michael Mearlon  
Senior Airman Cesar Contreras  
Senior Airman Kevin Roman

### The following members have retired, separated, or transferred to another unit. We wish them well and thank them for their service.

Master Sgt. Nicole Glenn  
Master Sgt. Albert Purisima  
Tech. Sgt. Jackson Brakel  
Staff Sgt. Richard Rios  
Staff Sgt. Abraham Velasco

### News and multimedia content posted on public web

In case you missed it, the 129th RQW public Web site has been re-

vamped. Located at [www.129rqw.af.mil](http://www.129rqw.af.mil), the new site includes up-to-date news and information, including coverage of current operations. Photos, videos, graphics, and career information are also accessible from the site. Each month the wing's monthly newsletter, the Rescuegram, is posted in the 'News' section at [www.129rqw.af.mil/news/](http://www.129rqw.af.mil/news/). Check it out!

### Rescuegram newsletter address change

Wonder why your Rescuegram is still mailed to your old address? The Rescuegram mailing is based upon addresses stored in vMPF. Please log on to vMPF to change your address and ensure that your newsletter is mailed to the correct address.

### Junior Enlisted Council hosting children's holiday party

The Junior Enlisted Council is hosting the 129th Rescue Wing Children's Holiday Party Saturday, Dec. 6. The party is scheduled from 3 to 5 pm in Building 650 for children 12 and below.

Santa will be there to greet the children, and crafts, games, cookies, raffle, and hot cocoa will also be available. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP with Tech. Sgt. Kimara Fears at 916-710-5541 or 916-203-9002.

### First Sergeant positions available

The Wing is currently seeking applicants for five First Sergeant positions!

The First Sergeant's professional interface with the commander is imperative to the unit successfully accomplishing its mission.

As a vital link between the commander, base agencies and the enlisted personnel in the unit, the First Sergeant must be credible, perceptive and epitomize the core values of the Air National Guard.

They must have a high level of competency, energy, motivation and communication skills. The First Sergeant promotes enlisted welfare, morale and health issues

and assists the commander in maintaining discipline, standards of conduct, and provides guidance on matters of leadership, military justice and customs and courtesies. A First Sergeant must be exemplary in professional conduct and appearance. Strong leadership traits, professional maturity and command support are necessities to perform their duties.

If you are a Technical Sergeant (eligible for immediate promotion to Master Sergeant) or a Master Sergeant that fits the above description, have an ASVAB score of 43 General or 62 Admin, have a running fitness score of 75 or higher and are willing to retrain into the First Sergeant career field by attending the mandatory USAF First Sergeant Academy within 12 months of your assignment, then read AFI 36-2213, arrange for an appointment with me and submit your application for the position.

The application must include:

- Letter of intent
- Resume
- Current RIP
- Endorsement letter from your commander
- Current fitness report with a running score of 75 or higher

Please submit the application package to Chief Keck no later than Dec. 15 by mailing it to 129RQW/CCC, 680 Macon Rd, Stop #12, Moffett FAF, CA 94035-5006. You may also submit the package electronically.

If you have any questions, Chief Keck can be reached at 650-603-9202 or 650-224-3228.

### Religious Services Schedule

Every Sunday UTA drill weekend in BLDG 650  
Catholic Service: 1015-1045  
Non-Denomination Service: 1100-1130

### Suicide Prevention: Speak up so others don't act out

Suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility. Intervention is critical, because it can help



## News & Notes cont.

change the perception of a person contemplating suicide who thinks of taking his life as a long-term solution to what may be only a short-term problem.

Signs or symptoms of someone contemplating suicide can include withdrawal from society, giving away personal belongings or actions as obvious as saying final goodbyes. If someone indicates he or she is contemplating suicide, help ensure that person receives counseling. And once someone is identified and receiving treatment, it is important to keep track of how they are getting along.

The good news about suicide prevention is that it works. For more information about suicide prevention, visit:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Army Behavioral Health: <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/sprevention/index.html>

Suicide Prevention Resource Center: [http://www.sprc.org/library/event\\_kit/index.asp#gen\\_info\\_factsheets](http://www.sprc.org/library/event_kit/index.asp#gen_info_factsheets).

### **National Prayer Luncheon date announced**

The 129th Rescue Wing is hosting a National Prayer Luncheon here Feb. 8, 2009. The event is scheduled from 11 am to 12 pm in building 650.

The National Prayer Breakfast was established in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to recognize the moral and the religious values upon which the nation is founded. This Interfaith event will also foster a greater sense of community among our diverse wing unit members. For more information, contact 129th RQW Chaplain Assistant, Staff Sgt. Rachel Cruz at x9140.

### **ARPC announces new weekend schedule**

Starting Oct. 4, Reserve Personnel Contact Center customer service counselors will be

available the first three Saturdays of each month to support Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve unit training assemblies from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. MT. While federal holidays may alter the schedule, this enhanced customer service gives drilling Citizen Airmen the opportunity to speak with a customer service counselor during their UTA weekends.

Counselors can be reached by calling 1-800-525-0102 (preferred) or DSN 926-6528. Airmen can always request assistance 24/7/365 by logging onto virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve, the customer service Web portal for personnel support, online at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/>.

FOR THE LATEST  
129TH RQW  
NEWS, GO TO:  
[www.129rqw.ang.af.mil](http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil)

### **Register now for the 2009 OAY Banquet**

Chief Master Sergeant Deborah K. Lott, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the California Air National Guard cordially invites you to the 2009 Outstanding Airmen and First Sergeant of the Year Banquet, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, in Riverside, Calif.

The Banquet will be held at the Riverside Convention Center. The military dress is Mess Dress or Semi-Formal. Pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres begins at 5 p.m. and the introductions and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

RSVP by Jan. 2, 2009 by going to <https://einvitations.afit.edu/OAY565/index.cfm>. You can also register at

<https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/EntryCoP.asp?Filter=AN-OT-01-80>.

### **Two \$500 MOAA scholarships available to 129th personnel**

The Silicon Valley Chapter of

the Military Officers Association of America will award two \$500 scholarships to 129th Rescue Wing personnel. Scholarship candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. Enlisted member of the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard.
2. Candidates selected to receive the awards must be currently enrolled at an accredited Community College or University for the purpose of obtaining a Baccalaureate Degree.
3. A 3.0 grade point average or better on official transcripts.
4. Enrollment must be a minimum of one class of 3 or more credit units.
5. Candidates must have demonstrated to his or her immediate Commanding Officer a high degree of moral character, dedication to duty and perseverance in furthering his or her career over the preceding twelve months.
6. Previous awardees will not be considered.

If you meet all of these guidelines, please contact Capt. Alyson Teeter at x9152 by Jan. 5, 2009, to apply.

### **CAC Login now available for vPC-GR**

Citizen Airmen may now access the virtual Personnel Center – Guard and Reserve using their Common Access Card. To set up their CAC, they must first associate their existing vPC-GR account with their card. Airmen without accounts will need to create one and then associate it with their CAC. Although the CAC option is available, it is not required. Airmen still have the option, whether their account is associated or not, to use their username and password. Related story.

### **December UTA Menus**

Saturday: American Traditional  
Sunday: Deluxe Lunch

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

# Recruiting Assistance Program



Earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training. For eligibility information please visit <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com/>.

## 129th Alumni and Heritage Association

Do you belong to the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association? You don't need to be an alumni to be a member, currently we have about 300 members, total! Our goal is to continue the ongoing heritage of the 129th through current and past members. We support the wing during deployments and homecoming and have an annual scholarship for wing personnel or their families attending college. Please see your Chief for details. Continue your legacy....please support the AHA.

## 2008 - 2009 UTAs

<b>2008</b>	2-3 May
6-7 December	6-7 June
	11-12 July
<b>2009</b>	1-2 August
3-4 January	12-13 September
7-8 February	3-4 October
7-8 March	7-8 November
4-5 April	5-6 December

129th RQW/PA  
MOFFETT FAF, CA 94035

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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