Volume 7, Issue 4 December 2003

By the Dawn's Early Light

A Life is Saved

As published in The Grizzly, December 2003

TSgt Andrew Hughan

You've never read about it, and you haven't seen it on TV. The Navy still isn't discussing it, but it was one of the most daring at-sea joint rescue missions attempted in recent times, and the California Air National Guard was a major participant.

The 129th Rescue Wing, whose motto "These things we do that others may live," combined with "A Few Good Men" blended into a dramatic mission August 23, 2003, when the CaANG unit and the U.S. Marine Corps teamed for a dangerous rescue mission 600 miles at sea in the Pacific Ocean.

A 23-year-old Navy sailor aboard a submarine was facing life threatening consequences as a result of a severe kidney ailment that without immediate medical attention could have resulted in kidney failure. Normally, the 129th has the assets to conduct long-range over water search and rescue missions, but current operations tempo had strained normal resources.

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Board Elections - Officers

March 2004

An election for the three Board Corporation Officers - President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer - is scheduled for 2004. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Officers are elected in even number years (2004) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2005).

The AHA President, Jay Craddock, appointed an Election Committee composed of Director Don Delucchi, the Secretary-Treasurer, John Ruppel, and association member at large, LTC Jim Rommelfanger. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Officers will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers Lunch, scheduled for March 2004 (the date will be announced in a separate flyer in January).

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as an Officer. Individuals interested in serving as an Officer should complete the form included in this issue. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 19, 2004, to:

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.) 6718 Zerillo Drive Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Nominations must be received by January 19, 2004, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots, a self-addressed stamped postcard, will be mailed to all members, with information regarding the Old Timers Luncheon, no later than February 6, 2004. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned no later than March 5, 2004, to be valid. The nominees with the highest number of votes for each office will be declared Officers, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers Luncheon

Interested in serving? Get your nomination form completed and returned ASAP!

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

Lt Col Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

The annual Association Golf Tournament was held October 24, generating \$125 for the Scholarship Program. Thanks to Lt Col Jim Rommelfanger for coordinating the event. We anticipate conducting spring and fall tournaments in 2004.

The Association recently learned of the passing of Lt Col William Heim and SMSgt Michael Patterson. Their names will be added to the Association Roll of Honor.

I'd like to express thanks to the Association members who volunteered to work the 2003 Moffett Air Show. Their efforts generated \$750 for the Scholarship Program.

The Association web page contains an electronic membership update form. If your address changes or membership roster information is incorrect please utilize the form to update Association records. This will preclude us having to purchase an incorrectly addressed flyer or newsletter from the post office.

The Association Webmaster, CMSgt Jim Badgrow is developing the Association Web page Profile Section.

Brigadier General Al Santos' profile, the Unit's third commander, was recently placed in the section. Jim is soliciting information on Col John Breeden to be used in a profile. A profile on Col Charles Koenig will be added in the near future. If you have suggestions for a profile, please contact Jim. www.129AHA.org

Planning has commenced for the annual March 2004 Oldtimers Lunch. Details will available in January.

The Association By-laws require an officer election for terms commencing in 2004. Details are contained in the Newsletter.

A few members have not submitted 2003 dues. If your mailing label reflects "DELINQUENT" please forward payment. The 2004 dues period begins January 1.

With this issue, the OTN is going electronic. If you have indicated in the past you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, the time has come. Not on the email distribution? Let Lynda Fawcett know, and she will add you to the list!

The Board members and I would like to wish all members and their families a joyful holiday season and a prosperous 2004.

Jay

By the Dawn's Early Light

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The Unit had an HH-60G Pavehawk available at Moffett Federal Airfield, the home of the 129th, but the unit's only available MC-130 Combat Shadow tanker was on its way to Florida on another mission.

A call went out to the Marine Corps, which had previously trained with Air Force rescue aircraft and whose KC-130 Hercules can air-to-air refuel the Pavehawks. The Corps, eager to help, sent a KC-130 from the "Raiders" of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, near San Diego.

The 129th's MC-130 was recalled from its Florida mission while planners analyzed the challenges and envisioned various scenarios to successfully complete the mission. After deciding on the best course of action, the staff organized medical teams from the Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Guard, and plotted the best place to rendezvous with the submarine, in the middle of the ocean, at night, and with the knowledge that no one in the 129th had ever removed a patient from a submarine before.

The tankers, helicopters, and crews assembled at Moffett Field and lifted off at 2:00 a.m. The crew included pilots CPT John Brunner and 1LT Hung Nguyen; Flight Engineers TSgt Chris Lassiter and SRA Shane Cook; Pararecuemen (PJs) CMSgt Scott Simpson and SRA Clay Bendle.

Aboard the submarine, the sailor's medical condition stabilized somewhat but still remained critical. Because of the nuclear submarine's classified operations, the flight crews had only the submarine's grid square on a map rather than its exact location. The helicopter and KC-130 flew more than 600 miles over the Pacific and waited for the submarine to surface. Two hours after take off, the helicopter needed refueling form the KC-130. This is a dangerous procedure under optimal conditions and in the dark it's quite a challenge.

After refueling the HH-60 twice, the KC-130 increased speed and went on ahead to locate the submarine. In the helicopter, the crew reviewed procedures and the challenges associated with bringing a patient and PJs aboard the helicopter at night. The KC-130 contacted the submarine and circled at 11,000 feet until submarine personnel confirmed they were ready. The KC-130

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129th RQW Holiday Party

WHERE: MOFFETT NEW HANGER FLOOR

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

WHAT TIME: 6PM COCKTAIL - 7PM DINNER (BUFFET)

HOW MUCH: \$15 (PAY AT THE DOOR – CASH PLEASE)

SEE TSGT CLAYTON OR CMS HAACK FOR ADVANCE PURCHASE

WHAT ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT?

WELL OF COURSE THERE'S ENTERTAINMENT!

THE PJ'S HAVE LINED UP LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WITH DANCING AFTERWARD.

WHAT ABOUT BEVERAGES??

WHAT A SILLY QUESTION... DIDN'T I SAY THE PJ'S WERE HOSTING??? :)
THERE WILL BE A NO-HOST BAR FOR YOUR DRINKING PLEASURE.

WHAT DO I WEAR??

SOMETHING CLASSY... DRESS TO IMPRESS.

WHO'S INVITED?? ALL 129TH MEMBERS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS!

ANYTHING I CAN DO BEFORE THEN??

YES!! PLEASE PASS THE WORD TO ALL TRADITIONALS
SO THEY CAN BRING THE RIGHT CLOTHES AND ENJOY THE PARTY TOO!!!

NOW THAT YOU KNOW... WE'LL SEE YOU ALL THERE!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Space-A Travel Update

Presented by CCMS Ed Boddington

Late this summer AHA member and past Scholarship Director, Pat Darrin and his wife Grace traveled to Duluth, Minnesota by private vehicle to visit family.

The Darrins used another form of our Space "A" privilege by stopping at and using military lodging and facilities on their cross-country trip.

Their military base cross-country driving adventure started with a review of the Temporary Military Lodging Around the World book, which can be purchased at any BX. The book gives location and information on all US Military Bases throughout the United States and its possessions in foreign countries. Updates to the current book can be found at www.militaryliving.com. Locating the bases closest to their route of travel, the Darrins called ahead 24 hours in advance which was very helpful in planning and completing their trip.

First stop was at the Nevada Air National Guard Base/Stead Training Center in Reno. The recently remodeled rooms were very nice and the price was right.

On to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, located between Ogden and Salt Lake City, where excellent accommodations and dining opportunities were found.

Next stop was Francis E. Warren Air Force Missile Base located west of Cheyenne, Wyoming. The base was once an old cavalry post. The accommodations were excellent and the character of the buildings added a lot to their short stay.

Offutt Air Force Base located north of Omaha, Nebraska, was unable to provide over night lodging due to no vacancies that night so they continued on to Des Moines, Iowa, for lodging before completing their trip to Duluth.

On their return trip, the Darrins traveled through western Canada. They took a chance and stopped at a Royal Canadian Air Force Air Training Center near Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Canadian military personnel were very hospitable and the accommodations were excellent.

Space "A" travel can be a lot of fun and a different, economical way to travel via private vehicle across our great country. Check it out on www.militaryliving.com and travel on less per day, the military way!

Berlin Airlift Veteran's Association Reunion

September 2003

CCMS Ed Boddington (Ret.)

At the end of September AHA member MSgt John Macia and his wife Roberta attended the Berlin Airlift Veteran's Association Reunion at Tucson, Arizona. John is a veteran of the Airlift and an active director in the Association.

The Macias invited AHA members MSgt Myron Tejada and his wife Lucy, and CMSgt Ed Boddington and his wife Rose to attend the reunion this year.

As a part of the reunion, various tours around the Tucson area were offered. I know a few, well maybe a lot, of our AHA membership remember Marana, Arizona; the Pima Air Museum; Davis-Monthan AFB; the Bone Yard; Pinnacle Pete's Patio; Little Abner's. Ring a bell? Yeah.

On Sunday, we had an open day in the reunion schedule so our group rented a van and set out to find old Marana Air Park that the 129th flew into many years ago, HU-16s and C-119s days. There is a new Marana Air Park now, but the old one is still there, but run by the CIA. There were two security gates to go through and a lot of funny stuff going on! So we didn't get to see the old pool rooms where we stayed, etc. We did find Pinnacle Pete's Patio, and it still has great steaks and beans.

On Monday, the Berlin Airlift Association dedicated a plaque by a C-54 aircraft at the Pima Air & Space Museum to commemorate the lift operation. Then the group toured the four-hangar, 186 aircraft museum. During our tour we found one of our 129th Troup Carrier Squadron aircraft, SA-16A model O-10022, Old "Double Deuce" as it was affectionately called. A lot of us have flown in that aircraft. You'll be glad to hear it's still in pretty good shape and still has our old squadron flying horse/sea horse insignia on the tail.

After a buffet lunch, our tour continued with a bus trip to Davis-Monthan AFB and a tour of the "Bone Yard" now called AMARC, Aerospace Maintenance & Regeneration Center, the only facility of its kind in the United States.

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Berlin Airlift Veteran's Association Reunion

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This unique 2,600 acre open-air storage compound houses more than 5,000 aircraft and has over 500 personnel maintaining these aircraft.

The reunion concluded Monday evening with a banquet dinner-dance and hospitality suite. We all had a great three days and it was a real privilege to meet and visit with such a dedicated group.

If any of our AHA members participated in, or know someone who was a part of the Berlin Airlift Operation from June 26, 1940, through September 30, 1949, please contact MSgt John Macia at (510) 581-1292 for more information.





Does this plane look familiar? The OTN banner on page 1 is a depiction of this bird.

Below are John Macia and Ed Boddington with the "Double Deuce"



Wild Weasel Reunion

September 2003

Col Joe Shriber (Ret.)

About 75 wild weasels attended a reunion in Washington DC 4-7 September 2003. A short tour of the Pentagon with former Wild Weasels having experience in F-105Gs, F-4Cs, and F-4Gs attended. The current Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard B. Myers, has been assigned since October, 2001 (http://www.dtic.mil/jcs/core/chairman.html).

Attendees cruised the Potomac to Mt. Vernon accompanied by Gen. Myers for the first half of the cruise. Later we met him at his home for about an hour of "old times" and relaxation. We then met for dinner at the hotel. All guests were honored with a brief talk by General Myers, who stressed that President Bush is focused on ending terrorism against America and Americans, and restoring Iraq.

Gen. Myers has been confirmed as Chairman, Joint Chiefs, for two more years, which will mark over 40 years of continuous active duty for the Kansas State University AFROTC graduate. Gen Myers and I were assigned to the 67th TFS in Kadena in 1972 - 1973. The squadron deployed to Korat RTAFB, Thailand from Sep '72 - Feb '73 in support of Linebacker 2 at the end of the Vietnam War. His recent previous assignments included Commander PACAF (Jul '97 - Aug '98); Commander North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), US Space Command' AF Space Command (Aug '98 - Feb '00); Vice Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (Mar '00 - Sep '01); and Chairman Joint Chiefs (Oct '01 - Present).

The next planned Wild Weasel Reunion is planned in three years for either Hawaii or Las Vegas. The General plans to attend.



Gen. Myers & Col. Shriber

Have some good ideas about things the 129th AHA should do?
Want to make changes in the way things are done?
Want to be more involved in the day-to-day operations of the AHA?
Then nominate yourself to become an Officer of the Association!
Any member in good standing (that means your dues are paid) can run for and be elected to the Board of Directors. Officers are elected in even years (2004). Directors at large are elected in odd years (2005).

Now is your chance! Let your voice be heard! Choose to become involved!

NOMINATION FOR CORPORATION OFFICER

Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129th AHA! Place my name in nomination for Corporation Officer.

President	Vice President	Secretary-Treasure		
Name:				
City:	State:	ZIP:		
Telephone:	E-mail Address:			
Rank:	Dates of Service in 129 th :			
Signature:				

Must be received no later than January 19, 2004. Mail to:

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.) 6718 Zerillo Drive Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE, IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE, AND TO SEE JUST WHO IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE, NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE, JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND, ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES, AWARDS OF ALL KINDS, A SOBER THOUGHT CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS DARK AND DREARY, I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER, ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT, ALONE, CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER, NOT HOW I PICTURED A UNITED STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO
OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO,
THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD, THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY, AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY. THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER HOW MANY LAY ALONE, ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE, I DROPPED TO MY KNEES AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE, "SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,
MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP, I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS, SO SILENT AND STILL AND WE BOTH SHIVERED FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT, THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE, WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT. "MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

GOD BLESS ALL OF OUR SOLDIERS, AIRMEN, AND SAILORS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Final Flyby

In Memoriam

We bid farewell to two of our members who have departed on their final journey.

Col William Hein
SMSgt Michael Patterson



By the Dawn's Early Light

Continued from page 2

also served as a radio patch between the submarine, the HH-60, and the additional tanker launched from Moffett to refuel the helicopter on its way home.

Just after dawn, the helicopter approached the surfaced submarine and the pilots hovered the HH-60 above the sub and behind its conning tower. "The Navy was totally squared away when we got there; they had the patient ready in the rescue harness and ready to go," said Nguyen. "We lowered the PJs and made one orbit around the sub, came in, and picked them up." Total time from drop-off to pick-up: seven minutes.

On the flight home, the C-130 tanker from Moffett had arrived on station and the Marine Corps aircraft returned to Miramar. The 129th C-130 refueled the helicopter twice on the way back to the coast. When the aircraft were over land, the tanker headed for Moffett Federal Airfield and the HH-60 went to a waiting ambulance at a soccer field at Stanford University.

This was the 304th life saved by the 129th Rescue Wing with every member of this joint team exemplifying the mission of "These things we do that other may live."

Delinquent Dues

Past Due Memberships

The Board of Directors has received complaints regarding the listing of dues delinquent members in the Ol' Timers Noozze. All six (6) elected members of the Board reviewed the policy of listing the names of dues delinquent members in the newsletter, and voted unanimously to continue the policy.

Be aware that after the original dues notice is sent out at the beginning of the year, 2 additional notices are sent by mail, several reminders are sent by email, and telephone contact is at least attempted. Additionally, generic reminders are published in the newsletter - which has "DELINQUENT" on the labels. Names are not published until after at least 2 formal dues reminders (after the initial billing) have been mailed. All mailings are sent "Address Correction Requested" and re-sent if address changes are received.

These people have indicated they wish to be a member of the organization. With membership goes the responsibility of paying one's dues. If one chooses not to continue that membership, all the Board is requesting of these members is a response such as "no thank you", "take my name off the list", "no longer interested", etc. Without that response, we are required by the corporation by-laws to go through a formal expulsion procedure for non-payment of dues after 2 years. The names of those members are required (those pesky by-laws again) to be part of the official records of the Association - in other words - listed as terminated for lack of dues payment in the Board Meeting Minutes which are published on the web site.

If you would care to discontinue your membership in the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association and no longer receive communications such as the Ol' Timers Noozze, please advise us accordingly. Otherwise, you will receive your dues notice for 2004 shortly after the first of the year.

Please remember, your dues must be current – that is paid through 2003 – to be eligible to receive a ballot in the upcoming elections. Please check your label on this issue of the OTN. If it has "DELINQUENT" printed thereon, please forward either your 2003 dues or your resignation immediately.

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

LTC Jim Mullins

MAJ Melanie Rodgers

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

129th AHA Jackets Available Again

Customized with your name and rank!

After much searching we have found a new supply of the MembersOnly jackets - so we are taking orders for the jackets. We have a limited number of jackets in sizes Medium thru XXL.

The left breast has the new AHA Logo patch with 129AHA embroidered below. The right breast has the new Air Force Patch with your name and status, i.e. ANG or RET, embroidered below. A second embroidered line (COST EXTRA) is available to show your job title, Rank, Call Sign, Aviation Qualification Badge, etc. Jackets are available for \$70 (\$35 deposit per jacket required).

Order your jacket from Don Delucchi at: (925) 689-2683

or online at Nonononi@aol.com

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2003 Dues \$10.00

NAME:	SPOUSE:					
ADDRESS:						
CITY:		ST:	ZIP+4:		+	
TELEPHONE:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:					
RANK:	129 TH SERVICE DAT	TES FROM:		_TO		

Please complete the above information and mail to: 129th Alumni & Heritage Association c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret) 6718 Zerillo Dr. Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

If your personal information has changed, PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE PRESIDENT

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129th Alumni & Heritage Assn. C/O Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret) 6718 Zerillo Drive Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 37¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 37¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.) 6718 Zerillo Drive Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

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Happy & Safe Holidays to All!