

Air Rescue Association Newsletter

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Jul 2022

**2022
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ARA Newsletter
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Air Rescue Association

8226 S Diamond H Ranch Pl
Vail, AZ 85641



President's Notes

Chris Barnett



Hello Rescue Warriors and happy Independence Day!

As we move fully into summer the planning for the 2022 reunion has been finalized! Many thanks to Dan Beatty who has done all the work setting up what will be a fantastic re-union in Valdosta Georgia, home to Moody Air Force Base and the 23rd Wing. The 23rd Wing is looking to put on a great show with visits to each of the Rescue squadrons, to include the unveiling of the full operational capability demonstration of the Whiskey model of the HH-60. This will mark the latest in the arsenal our new rescue warriors will be operating to continue the heritage of rescue excellence.

Check in is Wednesday and the Wing demonstrations and squadron visits will be on Friday, but don't miss Thursday! Our symposium format will be back from last year and we will have briefings from each active duty, the air reserve component, and staff members from the pentagon to give us the view of the state of the rescue community. We will still have war stories, culminating in the story of the rescue warriors who were on the ground for the Afghanistan pull-out. Due to scheduling conflicts we are doing the symposium on Thursday instead of Friday, but please make sure you join us for this fantastic view into what our rescue family has been doing and is doing, and where we will go in the future.

We will also be hosting the second annual rescue games on Friday! Of course, we will have our meetings Saturday but extremely excited to be hosting the Rescue Ball Saturday and looking forward to a new Kight Award and Jolly Green Mission of the Year winners! Can't wait to see you all there.

Chris "Skip" Barnett

President, ARA

2022 ARA Reunion Registration (two pages)

To register electronically go to:

Please register not later than 07 August

<https://www.usafrescue.org/reunion-registration>

If you prefer to register via mail, PLEASE FILL OUT and RETURN THIS PORTION to the address at the bottom of this page:

Your Name Tag _____

Spouse Name Tag _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Is this a new address? Yes ___ No ___

Phone No. _____

E-Mail address _____

Arrival Date _____ Dep _____

Is this your FIRST reunion? Yes ___ No ___

Do you have a military I.D. card?

You: Yes ___ No ___ Spouse: Yes ___ No ___

* * * * *

Can you help with these events?

Hospitality Suite Yes ___

Registration Yes ___

Bus Trips Yes ___

* * * * *

YOUR GUEST'S INFORMATION:

Name Tag _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Relationship _____

Please complete both sides of the Registration Form (other side of this page) and mail the outer portion to:

Air Rescue Association

c/o Dan Beatty

12196 Stanley Canyon Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3635

If you have any questions, you may write to Dan Beatty at the address above or **call or email** him at

(719) 338-0276 cell (best number to call)

- I cannot receive text messages

or (719) 488-1962 home

Please remember Colorado is on Mountain Time

E-mail: whrlybrd76@aol.com

REMINDER:

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESEVATIONS EARLY!!!

NOT LATER THAN

***** **Mon, 15 Aug 22** *****

Fairfield Inn & Suites Valdosta

2010 West Hill Ave

Valdosta, GA 31601

If you need any dates before or after you will need to call the hotel directly at (229) 242-1225

Make your hotel reservations directly with the Fairfield Hotel and say that you are with the Air Rescue Association to receive a rate of

2 Queens \$89.00

1 King \$89.00

per night plus tax.

RESERVATION LINK:

[Book Your Group Rate | Marriott International](#)

PHONE: 1-229-242-1225

IMPORTANT:

Your name tag is your introduction to other members of the group.

Don't leave your room without it!

Be sure to include your payment (check if you mail in) for the total due from the other side, payable to:

Air Rescue Association.

VALDOSTA 2022 REGISTRATION FORM
(Keep This Copy)

All costs are per person Cost x No. = Total

Life Memberships are available to those at least 70 for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. Life Memberships also include the member's spouse.

Age _____ \$ _____

Annual ARA Dues \$10 x ___ Yrs. = \$ _____
(\$10 per year; \$5 Widows/widowers)

Registration Fee \$30 x ___ = \$ _____

WEDNESDAY, 07 SEP

1800 Welcome Social at Rainwater Center \$40 x ___ = \$ _____
(heavy hors d oeuvres & prime rib carving station)

THURSDAY, 08 SEP

0900 - Travel to Base (Moody Field House) \$50 x ___ = \$ _____
0930 - 347th RQG/CC Words (PRELIM/NOT COORDINATED)
1000 – Status of Rescue Briefings (HC-130J, HH-60W, A-10, PJ)
1200 Lunch
1300 – Rescue story #1
1400 – Rescue Story #2
1500 – Rescue Story #3
1800-2100 Dinner train (90 seats) \$120/person x ___ = \$ _____

meal options

- entrée (chose one per person)
-- steak _____
-- chicken _____
-- pork chop _____
- starch (chose one per person)
-- twice baked potato _____
-- loaded mashed potato _____
- vegetable (chose one per person)
-- steamed broccoli _____
-- vegetable medley _____

FRIDAY, 09 SEP

0900 – Travel to base (Moody Field House) \$50 x ___ = \$ _____
0930 – Reception / Intro
1000 – CSARTF Demo LIVE FIRE (HH-60W/HC-130J/A-10/ PJ)
1100 – Lunch
1230 – Static displays
1430 – Units tour
1600 – Rescue games
1700 – RESCUE cookout / BBQ \$30 x ___ = \$ _____

SATURDAY, 10 SEP

0900-1000 ARA BOD meeting
1030-1130 ARA General Membership Meeting # attending _____
1130-1330 TOML BOD meeting
OPEN
1700 Cocktails
1800-2200: Awards Dinner / Ball @ Rainwater Center

meal choice (choose one per person)

____ Herb & garlic rubbed rib-eye \$80 x ___ = \$ _____
____ Creamy dill salmon fillet \$70 x ___ = \$ _____
____ Chicken cordon blue \$70 x ___ = \$ _____

Please advise if you have **dietary restrictions** _____

TOTAL DUE

Check # _____
Date _____

NOTE 1: Includes transportation, ALL gratuities and event / meal costs

NOTE: All meals include gratuity

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(Keep This Copy)

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TOTAL DUE

Check # _____
Date _____

NOTE 1: Includes transportation, ALL gratuities and event / meal costs

NOTE: All meals include gratuity

Jolly Green Merit Scholarships

Committee Chair: Ken “KP” Price

Article by: Sarah Lively, Program Manager

An all-volunteer team of TOMLF-ARA members facilitated the 2022 Jolly Green Merit Scholarship (JGMS) program, continuing the 40+ years of the Jolly Green Legacy. The six-person team scored 39 applications on demonstrated academic and extracurricular achievements. The final decision was made to award \$18,000 to eight top-ranking students. Thank you to Committee Chair Ken “KP” Price and members Rich Farley, Wade Koch, Mike Martin, Dave “Rum” Morgan, and Kathleen Skelly, for scoring over 39 applications.



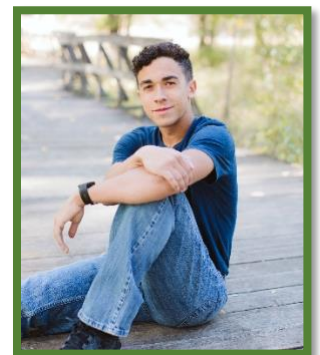
This year’s first-place student is Sierra Stocker. She is the daughter of former Pararescueman (PJ) Master Sergeant (MSgt) Arnold Stocker. She will receive \$5,000 toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics at Harvard University. After graduation, Sierra plans to pursue a career in mathematical modeling and technology—the process of creating **a mathematical representation of a real-world scenario to make a prediction or provide insight.**

Our second-place student is Savannah Stocker. She is the daughter of former PJ MSgt Arnold Stocker. An undergraduate student at Syracuse University, she will receive \$3,500 towards a Bachelor of Science in Inclusive Elementary and Special Education, with a minor in Disability Studies. Upon graduation, she aspires to be an elementary school teacher in New York City.



Samuel Cary is this year’s third-place award recipient. He is the son of HH-60G pilot Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Jonathan Cary. He will receive \$3,000 for his first year at the University of Florida. Samuel plans to earn a degree in Aerospace Engineering and work for companies such as SpaceX or NASA to explore space.

This year’s fourth-place student is Dylan Thornburg—son of HH-60G pilot LtCol Jason Thornburg. Dylan will receive \$1,740 toward a five-year degree program (Bachelor of Science and Master of Science) in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Santa Clara University. He plans to become an Electrical/Computer Engineer and focus his efforts on research and development.





This year's fifth-place student is Thomas Higgins. He is the grandson of pilot Major (Maj) James F. Maxam. He will receive \$1,500 toward his first year of undergraduate studies at Colorado Mesa University, where he plans to earn a degree in Exercise Science. Following in his dad's footsteps, Thomas plans to apply to medical school in pursuit of becoming an Emergency Medicine Physician.

This year's sixth-place student is Alexandra Gendreau, daughter of HH-60G pilot LtCol Robert Gendreau. She will receive \$1,250 toward her graduate degree in Chemistry. Upon graduation from the College of William & Mary, Alexandra plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry or Pharmacology. She aspires to work in the pharmaceutical field.



This year's seventh-place student is Lauren Woosley. She is the daughter of HC-130 pilot LtCol James Woosley. She will receive \$1,000 toward her undergraduate degree in Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies at Baylor University this upcoming fall. Upon earning her bachelor's degree, she plans to attend graduate school for Occupational Therapy.

This year's eighth-place student is Ryan Mueller. He is the son of HH-60G pilot Colonel James Mueller. He will receive \$1,000 toward his first year at Baylor University where he plans to pursue a degree in Physics, and a minor in Music. Ryan feels "The knowledge of physics will allow me to take part in the discovery of ways to improve the everyday lives of people around the world, as well as provide the opportunity for groundbreaking research that would have the potential to make vast improvements for quality of life, whether directly or indirectly". He aspires to be an Astrophysicist.





That Others May Live Foundation Raises More than \$20,000 at its Inaugural Toasting The Bold, Arlington, VA

That Others May Live Foundation (TOMLF) netted over \$20,000 at its inaugural fundraising benefit, **Toasting The Bold**. The gala was held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia, and welcomed more than 70 of the National Capital Region's military, business, and philanthropic leaders.

Toasting The Bold is a nationwide event to raise awareness and funds for U.S. Air Force Rescue Heroes and their families. Held in multiple states, TOMLF's Toasting The Bold fundraisers provide attendees the opportunity to join the foundation in honoring and supporting these men and women, who regularly have given so much to ensure our very freedom. Some of these heroes have given everything and have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

This year's gala featured keynote speaker, **Todd Robinson**, an American screenwriter, and director. In his movie, "The Last Full Measure" (2020), Mr. Robinson brought public recognition to A1C William Hart Pitsenbarger, who sacrificed his life saving 60 others, and the effort to recognize his courage with a posthumous Medal of Honor. Joining Mr. Robinson on stage was former **Secretary of the Air Force, F. Whitten Peters**. Together, they shared highlights of the 20 years it took to bring the movie to the big screen.

TOMLF would like to recognize this year's sponsors: **Affiliated Monitors, Inc., GMRE, Inc., Valient Integrated Services, Roger and Margo Coleman, The Bolger Family, and The Asia Group Foundation**, and the many individuals who generously donated to this year's event.

"We had a great turnout, in spite of having to reschedule the date due to the late 2021 spike in COVID cases" executive director Terri Wallace said. "We have an organizational goal to strategically launch our Toasting The Bold fundraisers in multiple locations, and the D.C. region was top of our list. We are extremely appreciative of the continued generosity of our event benefactors during a time when many companies are cutting back."

The evening highlights included live and silent auctions, a paddle raise for TOMLF's programs, and ended with a champagne toast to honor the U.S. Air Force Rescue men and women who proudly serve in honor of defending America's freedom.

SAVE THE DATE: The **2nd Annual Toasting The Bold D.C.** is scheduled for April 20, 2023, at the Army Navy Country Club. For more information, contact the foundation at (702) 956-0713 or tomlf@thatothersmaylive.org.

About That Others May Live Foundation:

That Others May Live Foundation (TOMLF) provides grants for immediate tragedy assistance, critical support, and scholarships for the families of U.S. Air Force Rescue service members who are killed or wounded (to include both visible and invisible wounds) in operational or training missions. Established in 2002, TOMLF is a GuideStar Exchange Platinum Level Participant and "Best in America" 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. To learn more, visit thatothersmaylive.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Southwest

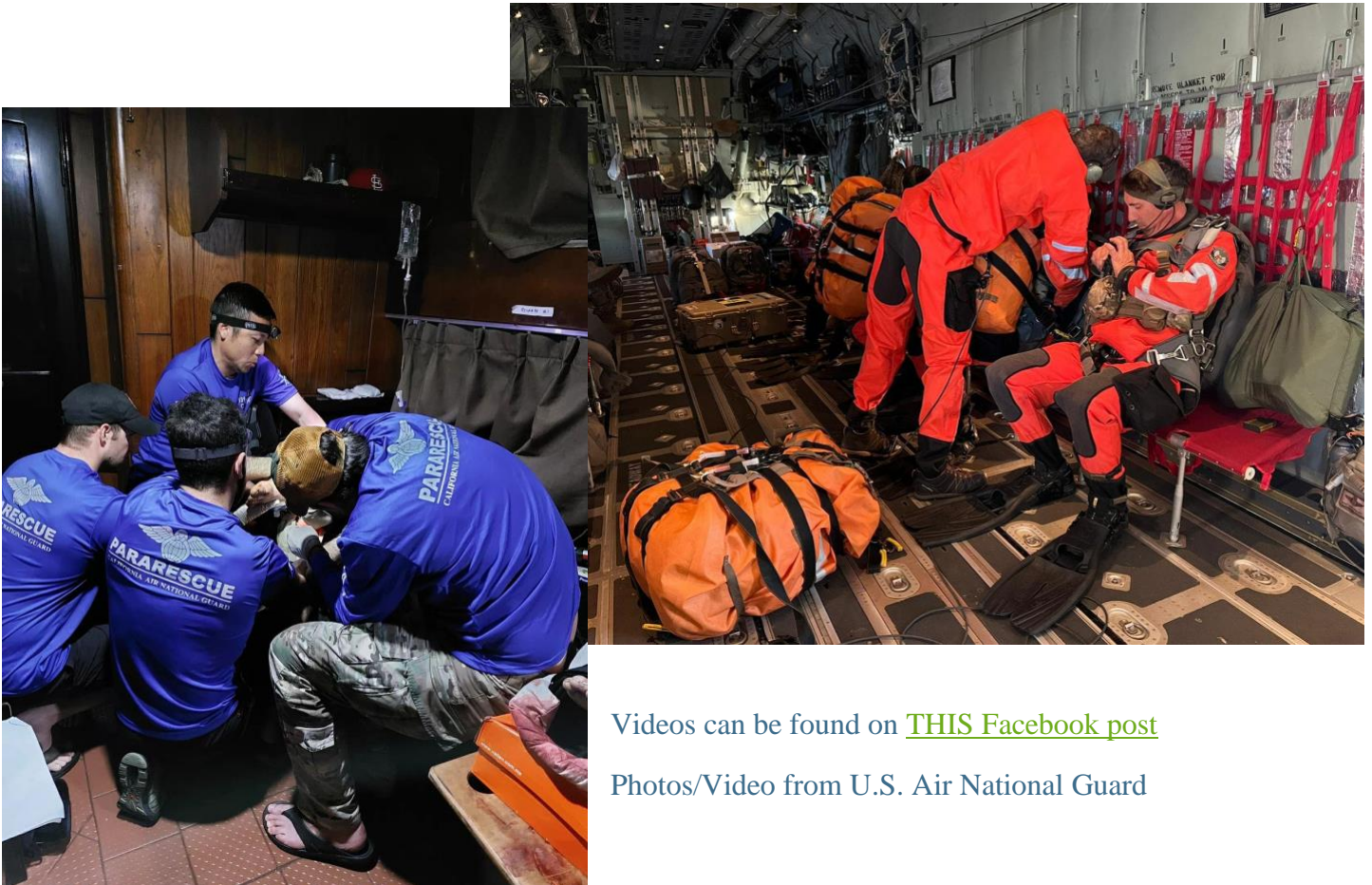
13 May 2022

[#BravoZulu](#) to the crews of the [129th Rescue Wing](#) with the [California National Guard](#) and members from the 11th District/Pacific Area Command Center.

Last Week Two fishermen who were seriously injured in an accident that sank their boat more than a thousand miles off the coast of Mexico are now safe after [#pararescuemen](#) from the 129th Rescue Wing jumped from an HC-130J Combat King II aircraft last Friday night to reach them and provide medical assistance.

The injured fishermen and two dozen other passengers of the sunken vessel were aboard another boat when they were treated. They were taken to Socorro Island, a remote island nearly a hundred miles off the coast of [#CaboSanLucas](#) for further transport to a hospital.

“This was an extremely complex international rescue that lasted multiple days due to the distance offshore”, said Douglas Samp, the Alameda RCC Search and Rescue Specialist. “Fishing alone and over a 1000 miles offshore, the crew was rescued within 4 hours due to the AZTECA 7 Captain’s timely decision to activate the 406Mhz SARSAT Beacon which alerted the Rescue Coordination Center Alameda to coordinate a rapid response.”



Videos can be found on [THIS Facebook post](#)

Photos/Video from U.S. Air National Guard

That Others May Live

Petoskey veteran wins design contest, finds out his emblem was approved 61 years later

October 11, 2013 | Catherine Dewey -- Saturday contributor, Petoskey News



Catherine Dewey/SATURDAY

In 1952, Petoskey veteran Bill Steffens won a design contest to create a new emblem and insigne for the Air Rescue Service, a service of the United States Air Force.

After winning his \$25, the design was sent off to the Pentagon to be approved, but he was discharged from the Air Force before he received any word — until February of 2013.

Steffens was watching a show on The National Geographic Channel when he heard the man on television describing the emblem on his aircraft.

“I was in shock! I called my wife to the living room because the guy on television was describing my design,” said Steffens. “I never knew that they approved the design until over 60 years later.”

Steffens started the design in 1951 when stationed in Hawaii. His commander told him about the contest and Steffens knew he wanted to submit something. The emblem depicts an angel wrapping its wings around the world in protection with the insigne “Ut Alique Viva,” and its translation, “That Others May Live.”

When Steffens was close to finishing his design, he was on Midway Island. He wanted a little color on the design, so he went to a tavern, The Clipper Lounge. He was not allowed in, because it was a civilian bar, but he knocked on the back door. Steffens was looking for children’s coloring utensils to fill in the color on the emblem. The staff provided him with some paint brushes so he could complete his work.

When he returned months later, on Nov. 5, 1952, he found the building in ruins from a massive storm. He never was able to tell them he had won.

Steffens dedicated more than 10 years to the United States military. He was an airman in World War II, the Cold War and the Korean War. He started as a bombardier on a B-17. Two years later he went to radar school and was a radar bombardier navigator on B-29, a position he had for the remaining eight years.

As a radar bombardier, Steffen’s main mission was to rescue people who were down. They would drop food, water and supplies and make contact on location. More than 99 percent of the missions were flying over the Pacific Ocean.

On one of his many missions, they were flying over the Pacific when Steffens received an alert on his radar. It was just one signal but they plotted a course backwards to find what made that signal. In less than an hour they found a man floating in the water. They contacted a nearby sailboat which brought the man home.

“It was an absolute miracle that we found him,” said Steffens.

Most of Steffens’ missions were classified at the time. Another mission was working with the Central Intelligence Agency.

They flew their B-29 over the Bering Sea between Alaska and the former Soviet Union with special filters, checking for atomic particles. Russia and the United States had an understanding they wouldn’t test above ground, but it was found during his mission that Russia was testing on land and emitting atomic particles.

Recently, Steffens received a call from Michigan Congressman Dan Benishek’s office. On Oct. 19, Steffens will be honored at a ceremony at the United States Coast Guard station in Traverse City. Steffens’ family and friends are invited to come.

Steffens went to college on the GI Bill at Central Michigan University. After school, the Air Force veteran became an electronics teacher for Petoskey Public Schools, St. Francis Xavier School and North Central Michigan College.

The Air Rescue Service was disestablished in 1965, and made over into the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, according to history by the Air Force Special Operations Command.

Steffens has six children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He lives in Petoskey with his wife, B.J. Steffens.

He would like to thank Jon Luckhardt of Ventilation Plus Equipment for making the sign of his emblem.

Original article appears [HERE](#)



Alert on HKIA

How Air Force rescue personnel were deployed within 72-hours in a CSAR operation to support NEO weeks before the fall of Kabul to the Taliban

Published Oct. 12, 2021

By Lt. Col. Kristen Duncan

23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

Editor's note: This article has been thoroughly reviewed for operational security by U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) a/o Oct. 6, 2021.

In a classified briefing in mid-July, the 23rd Wing commander waited until the intel Airman finished her briefing before telling the room, "The hair on the back of your necks should be standing up; this is not the Afghanistan we all knew." Ready to deploy the forces for the operation, Col. Russell Cook, HH-60 rescue pilot and Flying Tigers wing commander, used his young A-staff to synchronize the Secretary of Defense's Vocal Order (VOCO) to deploy a Personnel Recovery Task Force (PRTF), including rescue units from Moody, Nellis and Davis-Monthan Air Force Bases, to provide Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) during the U.S. non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) at Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA), Kabul, Afghanistan.

"I knew this was going to be different -- all of the assumptions and experiences from the past in Afghanistan were invalid," Cook said. "I spoke with the leadership before they left and made sure they understood that. By the time they walked out the door, I was 100 percent confident that the team was ready to execute their critical life-saving mission in the most challenging of environments."

The deploying Airmen, led by Lt. Col. Brian Desautels, 71st Rescue Squadron and PRTF commander, were posturing to go into HKIA without any hardened base support. The only food and water they could expect were the palletized water bottles and Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) they would carry. As a real-world test of Agile Combat Employment (ACE), more than 170 multi-capable Airmen were set to deploy into a highly contested airfield and airspace, establish security, and remain on alert to provide personnel recovery support to Americans and allied partners during the NEO.



"I have been on eight deployments, all with rescue," Desautels said. "This is by far the most dynamic."

CSAR is part of the Personnel Recovery (PR) mission. "It's the ability to report, locate, and support isolated friendly forces and recover and reintegrate them under friendly control," said Maj. Aaron Gordon, 23rd Wing A3, director of operations and HH-60 rescue pilot. Unlike many other Department of Defense (DoD) assets, they are equipped to rescue downed Combat Air Forces (CAF) aircrew in highly contested environments, under fire and behind enemy lines.

The U.S. Air Force PRTF included: operators, maintainers and support personnel for HC-130J Combat King II aircraft with the 71st RQS, 23rd Maintenance and 723rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons from Moody AFB; Guardian Angels (GA) from the 58th Rescue Squadron and HH-60G Pave Hawks from the 66th Rescue Squadron from Nellis AFB; and a 355th Wing advance echelon (ADVON) team from Davis-Monthan AFB. Of note, a GA team from Davis-Monthan AFB's 48th Rescue Squadron was already forward deployed in support of the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, which has had an enduring presence in Afghanistan and provided PR support for AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawks for a U.S. Army task force.



COVID

The main limiting factor for deployment was vaccination status for COVID-19. The DoD recently mandated the Pfizer vaccine after it received FDA approval, however at the time of the spin-up, deploying Airmen were faced with the possibility of not being able to exit the aircraft depending on the transient country's requirements and COVID-19 protocols. This was the main concern for commanders and became very apparent as a readiness issue for deploying forces. Given the option to deploy or pass the opportunity to the next able Airman, nearly three dozen Flying Tigers volunteered to receive the first shot of the Moderna vaccine and to receive their second dose downrange.

Within 12-hours, the 23rd Medical Group conducted over 100 rapid COVID-19 testing and laboratory diagnostic analyses, ensuring the first airlift was launched within 32 hours of the deployment order (DEPORD).

Medical professionals "provided just-in-time COVID-19 vaccinations to 33 Airmen to meet the CENTCOM and AOR specific 100 percent COVID-19 vaccination requirement," said Col. Ronald Merchant, 23rd Medical Group commander. "Additionally, the 23rd MDG completed all medical, dental and mental health reviews over a 72-hour period with 100 percent of the deploying forces completing their screening requirement."

One fully vaccinated-breakthrough case was identified during testing prior to deboarding at the deployed location, and the person was put in isolation while close contacts of the individual quarantined in a guarded area away from other Airmen. An Azerbaijani guard with an AK-47 was just one of many unique aspects to this nearly two-month deployment.

LAUNCH

The initial VOCO from Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin was received Friday, July 16, around 1 p.m. EST with the official DEPORD given around 6:30 p.m. The following day, the State Department announced

Operation Allies Refuge (OAR), which was directed by the president for relocation flights for Afghan nationals and their families eligible for U.S. Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs).

Throughout the first 24 hours, Moody AFB's wing, group and squadron commanders, as well as the lead wing A-staff -- made up largely of captains and majors -- led spin-up operations and logistics, processed personnel through PDF-lines and loaded cargo onto Internal Slingable Unit (ISU-90) containers, generated aircraft and began crew rest. The first chalk of deploying Airmen arrived at the Deployment Control Center (DCC) Saturday night, many with their families. The key spouse network led family support and provided snacks and care for spouses and children.

"The Flying Tigers are always ready to fight -- it showed as the whole wing came together and worked through the weekend to ensure our warfighters and their families were 100 percent prepared and supported," Cook said. "None better."

When the Louisiana native assumed command of the Flying Tigers, May 27, he said, "Growing up in south Louisiana I was enamored with the Flying Tigers, who at the time were at England Air Force Base. What struck me then, and what strikes me now, is when the world is in turmoil, the Flying Tigers are ready -- they're the first out the door and the first to fight."

The Flying Tigers have a long storied heritage of volunteering and deploying at a moment's notice, ready to Attack, Rescue and Prevail, but this deployment was remarkably different. The Afghanistan many of the Airmen had deployed to before provided Bagram and Kandahar Airfields as hardened bases with many Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and airfields in the country under U.S. control, but the U.S. had recently evacuated the last, largest and longest-held base at Bagram Airfield on July 2.

This would be a true test of ACE without centralized Command and Control (C2) in a highly contested environment. Fortunately, Cook has been leading the ACE lead wing concept since he took command and empowering an organic A-staff to synchronize operational planning. Calling it the next step in his 2015 study on resiliency in C2, Cook wrote one of his two graduate theses on the subject. He asserted that an "organic design is an evolutionary concept for C2 of airpower." He wrote, "Through networked peer-to-peer communication relationships, organic staffs are both producers and consumers of data."

He also asserted, "Providing contingency authority to subordinate and coordinated commanders places airpower firmly in the dominant construct of mission command." Cook not only efficiently used his A-staff, but he placed mission command directly on a squadron commander. Desautels would be coordinating directly with the forward commander of U.S. Forces - Afghanistan, a Navy Rear Admiral who looked directly to him. Cook even asked, "Are they used to you not being an O-6 (Colonel) yet?" It



didn't matter, Desautels said. "The two-star pointed to me and said, 'I'm looking at you to give me the best CONOP possible on all those assets.' It was very unique."

The highly effective PRTF deployment of all personnel and organic airlift was executed in less than 72 hours. The original three chinks on C-17s would've all launched within 48 hours, however the final one was delayed due to maintenance and pushed to Monday morning, canceling a basewide Airfield Assault 5K/10K run. In ironic hindsight, HKIA would become the airfield assaulted one month later.

ALERT

The first chalk arrived to HKIA within 96 hours on July 20. The first few weeks in country were mixed with COVID-19 Restriction of Movement (ROM), quarantines, and establishing security and operations in the 83rd ERQS Tactical Operations Center (TOC) on the NATO ramp. For nearly four weeks, the PRTF of pilots, loadmasters, Special Mission Aviators, maintainers, support personnel and GAs from the expeditionary rescue squadrons and aircraft maintenance units remained on alert. As the Taliban swept across the country and the last major cities fell, such as Mazar-i-Sharif and Kunduz, by mid-August the Taliban were rapidly progressing into Kabul.

"We started posting our guys at different locations. GA provided an assessment in our barracks, and maintenance personnel would stay there 24/7 with their weapons and armor patrolling the building," the PRTF commander said. "That's what allowed me to sleep. It allowed me to rest. That was really appreciated."

Desautels had just worked for 27 hours straight and been asleep for only 1 1/2 hours when he awoke to explosions and rapid gunfire on Aug. 15. He and the others on crew-rest sprinted out of their barracks joining aircrews and maintainers pulling the plugs, starting the engines and scrambling to flush the aircraft as HKIA's civilian terminal had been breached by thousands of local civilians and potentially Taliban forces, which overran Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, among other allied security forces.



"I'll never forget that feeling or sensation that we felt, like we were launching aircraft to save our lives," he said.

Hordes of people enveloped the runway, beginning from the civilian terminal and began swarming across to the NATO ramp, he said. "It was impressive to see the discipline of U.S. forces not to use lethal force when they were facing insurmountable odds, against an unknown threat with known weapons."

The most unique thing about this deployment that caused stress back home, he said, was the 24/7 news of HKIA, because that was the only place the deployed Airmen could be in Afghanistan. Families and spouses watched with the rest of the world, as the iconic video of a USAF C-17 took off among a swarm of desperate Afghans who resorted to holding on to the outside and wheel chamber of the departing airplane. Not caught on video and less than a minute later, both HC-130J Combat King II aircraft took off on a sliver of remaining runway. With seconds to spare, they were airborne skimming just 10 ft. above the crowd.

"I was able to contact the CFACC (Combined Forces Air Component Commander) and received authorization to take off from the taxiway, if needed," Desautels said. "The strategic message: we would have a runway." The aircraft, Fever 11 and 12, remained outside the threat, loitering for 13.1 hours and aerial refueling twice with KC-135 and KC-10 tankers, from McConnell and Travis AFBs respectively.

Pararescuemen (PJs) from the 58th and 83rd ERQS secured the NATO ramp, while 66th and 71st ERQS operators and maintainers secured the PRTF barracks and Joint Operations Center (JOC) and Role 2 medical treatment facility. The Role 2, with U.S. and Norwegian military medical professionals, was close to executing their "Alamo Plan" (to collapse into a safe and hardened structure) based on the real but unknown threat, but they were directed to remain open to support casualties. To stay open, the senior enlisted leader of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Forward (USFOR-A FWD) said he needed people to cover security. PRTF pilots, maintainers and support personnel donned their vests, helmets and M-4 rifles and manned defensive fighting positions.

After this moment, priorities shifted to Force Protection to ensure all personnel on HKIA were safe, which meant lockdown and having a round chambered, he said. After the surge of people, they needed an assessment of the airfield as Rear Admiral Peter Vasely, commander of USFOR-A FWD, was talking with leadership in Washington D.C. and CENTCOM. Reinforcements by the U.S. Marine Corp's 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, and several National Guard units deployed into HKIA beginning on Aug. 18-19, bringing the number of U.S. forces from under 1,000 to almost 6,000.



"I crossed the runway with a small security detail, about 100 yards from the Taliban with gunfire going off," Desautels said. "Single digit hours after regaining the perimeter, we determined we were going to go over there."

The initial plan was to go over at 2 a.m., but instead they were delayed until 9 a.m. crossing toward the unsecured side in broad daylight. "I didn't even think about it until later and how intense it was, and how close we were and unsecure and on the fringe," Desautels said. "I filled the role of being a pilot and an engineer with the Afghan Chief Aviation Authority for Afghanistan (the FAA equivalent). We wanted to get to the south ramp to determine the feasibility of the southside of the terminal to receive passengers and to operate civilian aircraft from that particular ramp."

Over the next 11 days, PJs treated Afghan civilians for injuries caused by the amassing crowds and heat -- including four urgent and 19 non-urgent patients. In one harrowing instance, a 58th ERQS PJ carried four children to safety after their parents were trampled. Outside the gates, 66th and 71st ERQS Airmen escorted American citizens (AMCITS), coalition partners, green card holders, dual citizens and at-risk Afghans with U.S. SIVs. They identified and rescued one at-risk Afghan, who was one of the first female Afghan Air Force pilots, along with her AAF husband and toddler.

A simultaneous effort by retired veterans, contractors and former instructors of Moody's 81st Fighter Squadron were stateside working tireless operations to help get the Afghan Air Force pilots and maintainers -- who had lived and trained in south Georgia -- safely from Afghanistan. They took photos of the wall of graduates to

provide photos with names to the PRTF and Marines running security. Community leaders and congressional staff members helped them successfully get U.S. visas. The process wasn't smooth nor without catastrophe, but after many attempts and controlled movements, they were evacuated to other locations.

PRTF Airmen spent a lot of their free time helping at the gates, since the Marines were tasked with providing security. "They would help the Marines out with medical care for evacuees and pulling AMCITS in the crowd and usher them to the front. The critical gap was never filled because it was an arduous task just to get people through," Desautels said. "We coordinated with the USMC JTF-CR commander, to help fill that critical gap." Airmen also built shelters for Afghans, distributed food and water, cared for children and soothed babies as they were waiting for evacuation flights. In all, PRTF Airmen helped evacuate more than 500 people.

In addition, while most embassies had already evacuated, Desautels said he personally coordinated security and flights with the Ambassador of Pakistan for 458 Pakistanis from their embassy, as well as liaised with the Ukrainian Defense Attaché to evacuate close to 150 Ukrainians and Afghans.

ISIS ATTACK

The Defense and State Departments both sent messages to American citizens and commanders warning of an imminent attack at the gates Thursday morning, Aug. 26.

"Many of our Airmen had just been pulling AMCITs, coalition partners and SIVs at Abbey Gate," Desautels said. "The harrowing work speaks to the Airmen of Rescue, who live for the mission to its core." The Airmen rescued about 50 people before 2 p.m. while the Marines provided security.

The sewage alley near Abbey Gate was packed with over 10,000 people when it was bombed around 6 p.m. local time. The terrorists (reportedly affiliated with ISIS-K) then engaged with small arms fire.

"I was able to get full accountability in minutes of all the personnel in our organization, then worked with the GA squadron commanders to determine their feasibility to support the Role 2," he added.



"I'd like to think the deployments I've had over the years prepared me to be the most effective commander I could be," he said. One of those lessons came from pararescueman Chief Master Sgt. Alan Lankford, who shared how important accountability was when his unit came under attack in 2011 at Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

"You can't provide support without having accountability," Desautels said. "From day one, we did drills, exercises and Primary, Alternate, Contingency and Emergency (PACE) plans for accountability. I was so proud of the PRTF to get full accountability within minutes. Once accounted for, I told them to find out where they could help."

Outside the Role 2, PJs were providing initial trauma care to two dozen casualties, and the PRTF sent five additional PJs to the Marine Casualty Collection Point, which treated close to 20. Other rescue Airmen supported further CASEVACs on HH-60G Pave Hawks and Army CH-47 Chinooks. An additional team was postured on a HC-130J to CASEVAC patients out of HKIA to a higher level of care, but were not needed because a C-17 with a Critical Care Air Transport Team (C-CATT) had been alerted.

"There were lots of very badly injured people hurt ... lots of blood," he said. "The surgeons were worn out. Many died on the operating table."

Eleven Marines, one Navy corpsman and one Army Soldier were killed in the attack. Seventeen servicemembers were wounded and received care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, before being transported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. One Marine was still in "serious but stable condition," according to a U.S. Marines spokesperson, as reported Oct. 6.

More than a thousand servicemembers attended the ramp ceremony of the 13 KIA at HKIA. Ramp ceremonies have historically never been shown before, but this one was mistakenly uploaded and then removed on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS). On social media, veterans and servicemembers shared the photos and memories of their own experiences at ramp ceremonies, as the fall of Afghanistan has been more emotional for many who have served there.

"We paid our respects as they ushered them to the C-17 Freedom Flight," Desautels said. "Somber moment for everyone."

OFF ALERT

The day after the bombing during an operations and intelligence update at Moody's command post, Col. Chris Richardson, 347th Rescue Group commander said, "That's what the men and women are doing that serve beside you. They're kicking ass."

To maintain alert until all U.S. forces were out of Afghanistan, the PRTF relocated to Pakistan to ensure they could provide CSAR capabilities as the final manned aircraft exited the AOR.

"Our ability to start off in a TOC in a small operations center for the 83rd to support a team of 10 people, where we got our Initial Operational Capability, and then to move into a JOC where we could have everyone brief for 100 people, and then from there we collapsed back into the 83rd ERQS TOC as we prepared for our retrograde plan -- ultimately relocating to a separate location out of country to hold alert for the final days -- to put the whole force forward in another country," Desautels said. "That whole thing was very high risk, nobody else would move there, and we went. Pretty impressive."

The last American military aircraft flew out of Kabul around 11:59 p.m., Aug. 30, meeting the Aug. 31 deadline negotiated with the Taliban and U.S. officials. Soon after, Desautels sent a message, "Mission complete. Off alert as of 2135Z per CFACC actual."

THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE



The U.S. Air Force led the largest NEO in U.S. history -- in 17 days the DoD evacuated approximately 124,000 people, including 6,000 Americans. The rescue Airmen from Moody, Nellis and Davis-Monthan AFBs were there weeks prior, ready to -- Rescue, That Others May Live -- and their life-saving stories of heroism and bravery will continue to be documented. In early September, Moody's Flying Tigers, families and community leaders welcomed home the returning Airmen who were waving the American flag out the top of the taxiing aircraft.

"This deployment is probably a bigger life impact," said Lt. Col. Maxwell Miller, 71st RQS director of operations. "Marking the event is a significant event for the base, for the Air Force, and really for the military who have served in Afghanistan." This year was the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, when the U.S. homeland was attacked by Al-Qaeda terrorists and in response servicemembers were first deployed to Afghanistan, commencing operations Oct. 7, 2001. For twenty years, with the help of coalition partners, U.S. Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Coasties, Guardians and government civilians have done their sacred duty, well and faithfully, to protect America.

MISSION COMPLETE



Original article and additional photos can be found [HERE](#)

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF HONORS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MAJOR GENERAL
(RETIRED)
CHAD P. FRANKS



2022 *Toasting* the **BOLD**

SATURDAY, AUG 13TH, 2022
6PM COCKTAILS & PHOTOS
7PM PROGRAM
9PM CHAMPAGNE TOAST
DENIM & DIAMONDS ATTIRE

Major General Chad “Sparky” Franks retired from the Air Force after 31 years of dedicated service. He culminated his career as the Commander, 15th Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. General Franks was responsible for organizing, training, and equipping 13 wings and three direct reporting units in Air Combat Command ensuring the operational readiness of over 800 aircraft and 47,000 Airmen. General Franks is a decorated command pilot with more than 3,300 flying hours in the MH-60G, HH-60G, HC-130, and T-37 including combat hours flown in Europe and Southwest Asia.

Please join us as we toast and honor the U.S. Air Force Rescue men and women who proudly serve in honor of defending America’s freedom.

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES—BLUE SKY MAIN HANGER
13005 WINGS WAY, ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112

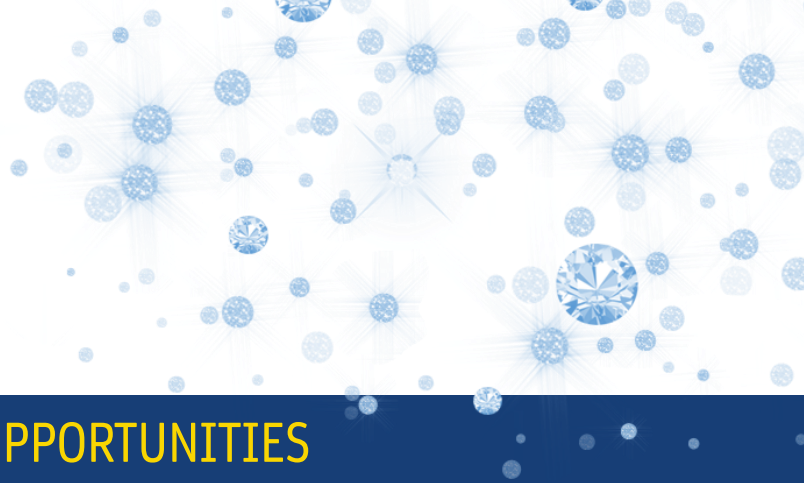
Register here: https://thatothersmaylive.ejoinme.org/TTB_CO_2022



Event proceeds benefit the That Others May Live Foundation’s programs and services for the families and children of U.S. Air Force Rescue Heroes who are killed or severely wounded in operational or training missions with scholarships, immediate tragedy assistance, visible and invisible wounds, and other critical support.

To learn more about the event or foundation, visit thatothersmaylive.org
or email tomlf@thatothersmaylive.org

2022 Toasting the **BOLD**



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR: \$7,500

- 16 Tickets (two tables in prime location) with company branding
- Recognized as **Presenting Sponsor** on event marketing collateral
- Welcome letter in the Event Program
- Full-page recognition in Event Program
- Opportunity to address the guests from the podium for 3 minutes
- First right to the following year
- Logo & Link on TOMLF website
- Recognition in event signage, social media, e-blasts

COMBAT RESCUE SPONSOR: \$5,000

- 10 Tickets (one table in prominent location) with company branding
- Recognized as **Combat Rescue Sponsor** on event marketing collateral
- Full-page recognition in Event Program
- Logo & Link on TOMLF website
- Recognition in event signage, social media, e-blasts

KING SPONSOR: \$2,500

- 8 Tickets (one table with company branding)
- Recognized as **King Sponsor** on event marketing collateral
- Half-page recognition in Event Program
- Logo & Link on TOMLF website
- Recognition in event signage, social media, e-blasts

JOLLY GREEN SPONSOR: \$1,000

- 6 Tickets with company branding
- Recognized as **Jolly Green Sponsor** on event marketing collateral
- Name & logo recognition in Event Program
- Logo & Link on TOMLF website
- Recognition in event signage, social media, e-blasts

GUARDIAN ANGEL SPONSOR: \$300

- 2 Tickets to Event

FRIEND SPONSOR: \$175

- 1 Ticket to Event

SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

Please make checks payable and send to:

That Others May Live Foundation
871 Coronado Center Drive, Suite 200
Henderson, NV 89052

Register here:

https://thatothersmaylive.ejoinme.org/TTB_DC

We are unable to attend,

but wish to donate

\$ _____

- \$7,500 Presenting
- \$5,000 Combat Rescue

- \$2,500 King
- \$1,000 Jolly Green

- \$300 Guardian Angel
- \$175 Friend

Organization/Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



For more information,
contact Terri Wallace at
(702) 956-0713, email at
ttmlf@thatothersmaylive.org
or visit thatothersmaylive.org.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Information, Year end Dec 2021

The screenshot displays the Wells Fargo website's 'Account Summary' page. At the top, the Wells Fargo logo is on the left, and search, security, and user icons are on the right. Below the logo is a navigation bar with 'Accounts', 'Brokerage', 'Transfer & Pay', and 'Plan & Le'. The main content area is titled 'Account Summary' and includes a 'Customize' link. Two account cards are shown: 'BUSINESS CHECKING' (account number ...6422) with an available balance of \$10,464.01, and 'BUSINESS MARKET RATE SAVINGS' (account number ...6887) with an available balance of \$26,535.93. Below the accounts, there is a section for '*Account Disclosures' with text stating 'Deposit products offered by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Member FDIC.' and 'Equal Housing Lender'.

Account Name	Account Number	Available Balance
BUSINESS CHECKING	...6422	\$10,464.01
BUSINESS MARKET RATE SAVINGS	...6887	\$26,535.93

*Account Disclosures
Deposit products offered by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Member FDIC.
Equal Housing Lender

Memorial Roster

We have been notified of the passing of the following members since publication of the Jan 22 Newsletter.

Editor's note: please notify the ARA Vice President, Vic Pereira (skilandfly97@gmail.com), if you are aware of the passing of any ARA members.

Krista Farnham

John William Christianson

Henry "Harry" "Obce" O'Beirne

Charlie Harris

♥ May they rest in peace

Reunion Sites

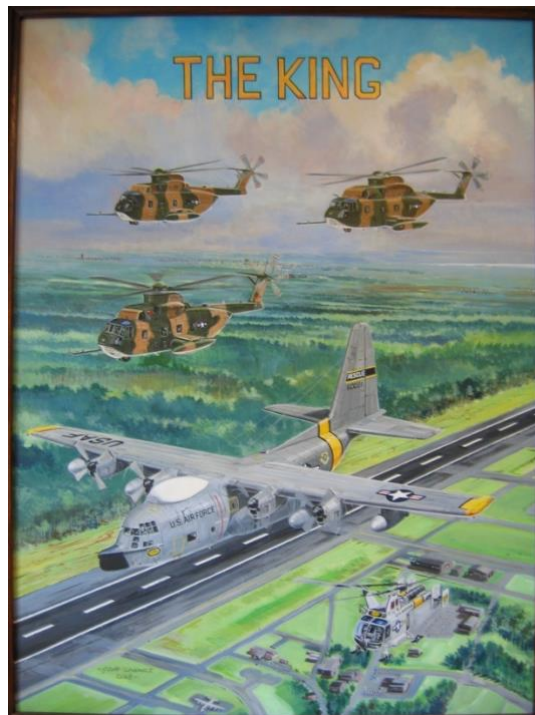
1976	Coeur D'Alene, ID	Bob & Jake Dyberg	1999	San Diego, CA	Ed & Dorothy Uranich
1977	Albuquerque, NM	Rich & Lou Anne McVay	2000	Branson, MO	Shad & Mary Shaddo
1978	Albuquerque, NM	Dick & June Kight	2001	Las Vegas, NV	Bob & Jake Dyberg
1979	San Diego, CA	Ed & Bobbie Ladou	2002	Atlanta, GA	Sandy Gonzalez
1980	San Antonio, TX	Bill & Oleta Montgomery	2003	Dayton, OH	Dan & Jane Bigelow
1981	Ft. Walton Bch, FL	Glen & Nadine Sullivan	2004	Seattle, WA	Bruce & Jan Haskins
1982	Scottsdale, AZ	Roy & Charlotte Jacobsen	2005	Colo. Springs, CO	Dan & Martha Beatty
1983	Colo. Springs, CO	Warren & Alice Ruppert	2006	Savannah, GA	Rip Powell
1984	Charleston, SC	Hank Tammenga	2007	Louisville, KY	Tony & Betty Muehling
1985	Seattle, WA	Al & Gladys Scott	2008	San Antonio, TX	Keith Sullivan & BRAT
1986	Williamsburg, VA	Bob & Alice Mennell	2009	Philadelphia	Ron & Peg German
1987	Honolulu, HI	Bob & Jake Dyberg	2010	Sacramento	Bill & Marcie Farnham
1988	Dallas/Fort Worth	Bob & Dorothy Walsh	2011	Branson	Gatherings Plus (Sandy G.)
1989	Hyannis, MA	Vince & Ginny McGovern	2012	Chattanooga	Walt & Mary Eleanor Hines
1990	San Francisco, CA	Verd & Fran Rasmussen	2013	Fort Worth, TX	Gene & Jeanette Lewis
1991	Denver, CO	Lou & Dee Sacane	2014	Charleston, S.C.	Bill & Mary Severns
1992	Tucson, AZ	Don & Kathleen Godbey	2015	San Diego, CA	John & Eleanor Colombo
1993	Hot Springs, AR	Gene & Lou Watkins/ George & Marge Tuck	2016	Las Vegas, NV	Walt Hines/TOMLF
1994	Portland, OR	Joe & Dory Herrmann	2017	Melbourne, FL	920 Rescue Wing/Walt Hines
1995	Nashville, TN	J. B. McCarley	2018	Westhampton, NY	Walt Hines/Mike & Carla Cassels
1996	Orlando, FL	Sandy & Gina Gonzalez	2019	Tucson, AZ	Heidi Meisterling
1997	Orlando, FL	Ted & Bev Tatum	2020	Postponed	
			2021	Ft Walton Beach, FL	Dan Beatty

Kight Award Winners

2021	Matthew C. Blankenship	1999	John McGonagill
2020	John H. Konkol	1998	Robert G. McNeil
2019	Mark E. Fraser	1997	Crews of AF Rescue 206/212
2018	Dustin Jespersen	1996	Crew of AF Rescue 986
2017	Kevin M Rynbrandt	1995	Crew of AF Rescue 26114
2016	Maurice Muro	1994	Crew of AF Rescue 811
2015	Brian Scott	1993	Keith A. Sullivan
2014	Brandon T Casteel	1992	Karen A. Pickering
2013	Brian R. Dicks	1991	Michael A. Wayt
2012	Jose L. Cabrera	1990	Michael Callahan
2011	Matthew C. Leigh	1989	Terry L. Muncy
2010	Salvatore L. Portelli	1988	Dell T. Hamilton
2009	James E. Hangsleben, Jr.	1987	Timothy P. Malloy
2008	Stephen H. Thacker	1986	William H. LeRoy
2007	Jason E. Snyder	1985	Carl R. Binford
2006	Eric T. Trocinski	1984	Bruce C. Johnston
2005	Trevor J. Boyko	1983	Lee A. Roberson
2004	John B. Creel	1982	Joe Martinez
2003	Keith A. Sullivan	1981	Richard G. Flaherty
2002	Robert H Walker	1980	Jay G. Jinks
2001	Randall R. Nelson	1979	Louis DeMartino
2000	Kevin P. Mullins	1978	Robert L. LaPointe

Become an ARA Lifetime Member!

Tired of having to get reminded about annual dues? Become an ARA Lifetime Member! It's easy and just work with Vic Pereira (skiandfly97@gmail.com) on the application. If you've paid for this year or more, we can deduct that amount off the total! Lifetime Memberships are available to those at least 70 years of age for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. If you're at least 80, congrats because your Life Membership is free! Life Memberships also include the member's spouse! Come on in and join the ARA Lifetime Member team!



Air Rescue Association

Application for Membership

Since 1976, and 47 successful reunions later, the Association still seeks and accepts eligible persons who wish to enjoy the camaraderie of “rescue” people. As stated in the bylaws, “Membership in the Association is open to all persons, regardless of grade, rank or position who were or are assigned to the USAF Air Rescue Service or its antecedent and descendent organizations. Other military personnel, government civilian employees, or contractor representatives who were associated with Air Rescue; current and former members of the U.S. Coast Guard and Civil Air Patrol; plus any persons who have been rescued, recovered, or rendered emergency assistance by Air Rescue are also eligible and welcomed for membership. Adult close family members (parents, spouse, children and siblings) of those eligible for membership in accordance with the foregoing are also eligible for regular membership in their own right.” If interested in becoming a member, please supply the information requested in the form below, with a brief summary of applicable Air Rescue service and other pertinent information.

Join online at the following link: <https://www.usafrescue.org/membership>

Please check all applicable: New Member ____, Update Dues ____, Update Contact ____, Other ____

Dues \$_____ for ____ years. (\$10.00 per year per person [\$20.00 per couple] up to 5 years in advance).

Individuals who are at least 80 years old, or have hosted an ARA Reunion, or have paid dues for at least 20 years, or were Life Members of the Jolly Green Ass’n are eligible to become ARA Life Members. (Member must notify the ARA VP, Sec’y or Treas of their eligibility).

Life Memberships are also available to those at least 70 for \$100.00; for those at least 60 for \$200.00 and for all others for \$300.00. Life Memberships also include the member’s spouse.

My check # _____ for the total amount of \$ _____ is enclosed. (No cash, please).

Last Name

First Name

Spouse Name (if applicable)

Address (City, State & Zip)

Home Phone

Cell Phone or Fax

Email Address

Air Rescue Assignments (Yours or relative’s) Include Unit, Base, State/Country, Years There

Unit 1: _____

Unit 2: _____

Unit 3: _____

Unit 4: _____

If New Member, how did you hear about us? _____

Mail this form and check (no cash, please) to:

Air Rescue Association
8226 S Diamond H Ranch Place
Vail, AZ 85641

Air Rescue Association Store

If you'd like to purchase some cool USAF Rescue swag, please go check out Undaunted Apparel at <https://undauntedclothing.com/product-category/collections/air-rescue-association/>

There are great items including hats, mugs, coins and more!

