



129th Rescue Wing's January Rescue e-Gram

946 Lives Saved

These Things We Do...That Others May Live

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Amendments

Capt. Benjamin Hernandez-Stern

129th Rescue Wing Legal Office

President Barak Obama signed the Veterans Disability Protection Act of 2010, which made substantial improvements to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) in October of last year.

The 2010 amendments augment the protections that were enacted in 2008 that updated SCRA for the twenty-first century.

The amendments expanded the right to terminate cellular phone service and clarified deployed servicemembers rights to terminate residential leases. Additionally, the amendments formalized their private right of action to sue under SCRA.

SCRA protects those persons who serve on Title 10 status for the nation's defense, from adverse consequences to their legal rights that may be a result from their service. Generally, SCRA protections begin the first date of the active Title 10 period, and may extend from 30 days up to 180 days after the member is released from Title 10 status depending on the circumstances.

SCRA protections include:

Protection of Credit Information

A credit agency may not identify a member's status as guard or reserve because such identification may cause a lender to deny or revoke credit, change credit terms or view the credit report negatively against the member.

Reduced Interest

A member may reduce the higher interest rates the member pays for any financial obligation (credit card, loan, and mortgage) individually or jointly entered into before active service to six percent if active service materially affects the member's ability to repay the financial obligation. In addition, the SCRA prohibits the lender from accelerating the principal amount owed, and forgives, versus defers the excess interest payments that would have been due under the higher interest rate so that the member is not liable for the excess after he or she is released from active service. This reduced interest rate is effective only during the period of active military duty for most obligations; however, for a mortgage obligation, the reduced interest rate continues for one year following release from military service. Finally, this reduced rate does not apply to financial obligations (including refinancing or credit card balance increases) entered into or accrued while on active service, or to federal guaranteed student loans.

Termination of Automobile Leases

The SCRA contains a protection that allows a member to terminate an automobile lease that the member signed either before or during active duty if the member meets certain conditions. Generally, a reserve or guard member must, after entering the lease, be called to active duty service for at least 180 days or more. An active duty member must, after entering the lease, EITHER (a) receive military orders for a permanent change of station either i) from the continental United States (CONUS) to outside CONUS or (ii) from a state outside CONUS to any

location outside that state OR (b) deploy for 180 days or more. Terminating the lease requires written notice to the lessor with a copy of military orders.

Termination of Real Estate Leases

A member may terminate, without penalty, leases and rental agreements entered into before or during active military service for real estate properties (i.e., residences, businesses) if the member meets certain conditions. Previously, the SSCRA did not permit such terminations if the lease or rental agreement was entered into during active service. Generally, the member must be called to active duty service for at least 90 days, or receive military orders for a permanent change of station or orders to deploy for at least 90 days. Such terminations also terminate any obligation of the member's dependents under the lease. Terminating the lease requires written notice to the lessor with a copy of military orders.

Termination of Cell Phone Contracts

Cell phone installment contracts are also protected. These contracts may be cancelled or suspended if the servicemember is deployed overseas for 90 days or longer or if he makes a permanent change-of-station (PCS) move. The servicemember may cancel or suspend the cell phone contract without penalties or extra fees as long as the deployment or PCS materially affects the servicemember's ability to satisfy the contract or utilize the service.

The material in this handout represents general legal principles. The law is continually changing; although the information in the handout was current as of the date it was drafted, some provisions may have changed. Prior to deploying, contact the JAG office for guidance on how to take advantage of these protections.

January 2010: Portrait of a Professional



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Parks, an instrumentalist with the 561st Air Force Band, practices playing the trombone at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., Dec. 15, 2010. Staff Sgt. Parks is featured as this month's Portrait of a Professional. (Air National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Ray Aquino)

Portrait of a Professional is a monthly profile of an outstanding Staff Sergeant or below. Staff Sgt. Jennifer Parks, a trombone player with the 561st Air Force Band, is featured in this month's Portrait of a Professional.

What is your favorite memory in the Air Force?

Traveling with the band to Vandenberg Air Force Base. We had our Annual Training there and we got to go out into the community and play at the San Luis Obispo farmers market. It was funny because they set us up across from the tri-tip barbecue pit so our uniforms smelled after a two hour set.

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

I think as a young adult the chain of command concept is important; knowing your place and realizing you have a place.

What motivated you to enlist in the Air Force?

I started out as a civilian contractor for about a year and a half, because the band needed a trombone player. I enjoyed being around the people in the band, half of them grew up in the same place I'm from, and the other half I went to school with. Just being around a good mix of people was motivation enough.

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

I would want to play at the NATO Games in Germany. Every year different military bands showcase during the NATO conference, it allows us to show military power through music.

How has being an Airman changed your outlook on life?

One of the reasons I joined the military was to give me a reason to stay in shape. Since joining the military I've gone from being a high school band director, for six years, to being in Law Enforcement for past three years. Since I have enlisted and kept myself in shape, I am now taking my SWAT test in the spring.

If you could choose any Air Force job, which would it be? Why?

A lot of people I work with ask me why I went enlisted and didn't commission, so I would probably get my commission and go work with the Unmanned Flight Project.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Modesto, Calif.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy board sports; snowboarding and wake boarding especially.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

It may surprise people that I work in a women's jail facility. I think people in the wing assume band members wouldn't have odd jobs, but we pretty much have everything.

Family Readiness Corner

Operation Ready Families Upcoming Classes

from Ms. Carolann Wunderlin

129th Rescue Wing Family Readiness Program Manager

The Operation Ready Families is the California National Guard's family Assistance Network. It's mission is to assist units as they support the families of servicemembers during peacetime and times of training and deployment. Dedicated to their vision of being a fully functioning family Chain of Concern, the following courses are available to Airmen and/or their spouses to enhance their readiness and wellness.

Family Readiness Course - Feb 26 and 27, 2011 in Chico, Calif.

Provide the essentials on establishing and maintaining a viable Family Readiness system in California National Guard units. Suggested attendees are unit volunteers, military point of contact for Family Readiness, commanders and other leaders. Topics include Family Program Essentials, Effective and Legal Fundraising, Deployment, and more.

11 SEATS AVAILABLE

Non-Military Volunteer Only Course - Jan 15 and 16, 2011 in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

This course is a follow-up to the Family Readiness Course, providing leadership skills, training to unit and command volunteer coordinators. Sessions include: My Life in a Box, Leadership Skills, Operation Eagle Eyes, Compassion Fatigue, The Media & You, Community Relations and Be a Part of the Solution - A Practical Exercise for Volunteers.

17 SEATS AVAILABLE

PICK Program March 12 and 13, 2011, San Diego, CA

The PICK (Premarital Interpersonal Choices & Knowledge) program, for single Soldier and Airmen, is a research based program that is designed to equip singles to ask the right questions, look for the right (and wrong) characteristics in a potential spouse, and keep relationships at a proper pace. Other seminars that focus on married couples deal with issues such as communication, intimacy, trust and problem solving, but the PICK program helps you find the right person in the first place.

35 SEATS AVAILABLE

Please register for one event at a time, for processing purposes. For example, if you wish to attend the Family Readiness Course and the Volunteer Only Course, register for FRC first and then submit. Once submitted, return and register for the Volunteer Only Course. Go to <http://www.prestoregister.com/cgi-bin/order.pl?ref=Readyfamilies&fm=1> to register. In the Quantity/Selection enter "2" to register a couple for Marriage Enrichment or select the check box to register for the Family Readiness course, PICK program, or the Volunteer Only course. When asked for payment contact information, it is not used for payment information, that's just how the system labels it, this is the information we will use to reach you. If you are requesting an Invitational travel order, this address MUST be your home address. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

For more information regarding registration please go online to www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies. Also, send your questions or comments to ready.families@ca.nqb.army.mil or call toll free to 1-800-449-9662.

Youth Scholarship Opportunities

from Military Community & Family Policy News

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy is directly responsible for programs and policies which establish and support community quality of life programs on military installations for service members and their families worldwide.

Please see the youth scholarship opportunities and other pertinent news announced in the Military Community & Family Policy newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Beth Riffle (beth.riffle@osd.mil), Barbara Goodno (barbara.goodno@osd.mil) or Bruce Moody (bruce.moody@osd.mil) in the Office of Communications & Outreach (MC&FP).

Scholarship News

Leadership Scholarship for Military Daughters

For the third year in a row, The Julie Foudy Leadership Foundation will continue to honor and support families who are serving our country by offering full scholarships to military daughters interested in attending the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy. These scholarships have been generously funded by TriWest Healthcare specifically for military families. Applications for 2011 will be available the first week of January at the Foundation's Web site, www.foudyleadershipfoundation.org.

The application is a PDF file, which will need to be downloaded, printed, completed, and then mailed to the address provided. Interested applicants with questions about the Foundation and/or the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy before the first of the year can contact Kerri McClellan at kerri@foudyleadershipfoundation.org or at (949) 338.5544.

College Grants Available From Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society plans to award up to 3,000 grants to dependents of Air Force members for their college education through the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program. Applications for these \$2,000 need-based grants are now available from the Society's Web site. Completed forms must be received by Air Force Aid Society no later than March 11, 2011.

The grant program is open to dependent children of active duty, Title 10 Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reservists and deceased Air Force members. Spouses of active duty members and surviving spouses of deceased personnel are also eligible. All applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2011-2012 academic year, and are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average. For more information, see <http://www.afas.org>.

Defense Commissary Agency Scholarship for Military Children Program

Scholarship applications will be available Dec. 7 in commissaries worldwide and online at www.militaryscholar.org. Since the program was announced in 2000, it has awarded \$8.3 million in scholarships to more than 5,400 children of service members. For more information, see http://www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/2010/DeCA_116_10.cfm.

Professional Development

"Forging the Partnership" Family Resilience Conference save the Date

Mark your calendars to be in Chicago April 27- 29, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency for the interagency family readiness conference, "Forging the Partnership." The conference will bring together professionals from DoD and USDA and build connections, competency and the capacity of our agencies and programs. The conference will

feature keynote speakers, current youth and family research presenters, interactive workshops, computer labs and much more. For more information, see

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/service/conferenceandworkshops/fy2011>.

DoDEA Launches New Application for Educator Career Program

DoDEA is pleased to announce the launch of a new online application process for the Educator Career Program. The program provides internal and external candidates an opportunity to be considered for principal and assistant principal positions for the 2011-2012 School Year. This new online application tool will simplify the process by eliminating the narrative knowledge, skills and abilities - KSAs - and a supervisor assessment. To access the online application tool, see <https://webapps.dodea.edu/ECP20>. All applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. EST Jan 18, 2011.

DoDEA's Chat Room features a conversation with Mr. Gordon who shares his thoughts about military communities and strong schools. See the program at <http://10.101.0.102/pressroom/video.cfm?cld=CR>.

Family News

Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) Support

Educational and Career Counseling Services are provided by career consultants at no cost to you - Ask for skill and career interest self-assessments, career exploration information, education and training program referrals and more, available to all military spouses.

MyCAA Financial Assistance

MyCAA Financial Assistance for education and training programs leading to a license, credential or associates degree for spouses of servicemembers in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2 and O1-O2 who are pursuing portable career employment - up to \$4,000 with a \$2,000 annual cap that must be spent within three years of the first course. Visit the MyCAA Web site to see if you are eligible and to establish your MyCAA Account: <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>.

Military Installation Spouse Employment Programs

Local military installation Spouse Employment Programs offer a wide variety of support services including resume assistance, interview tips, information on federal employment, job fairs and local employer information. Find your nearest program here: <http://www.MilitaryINSTALLATIONS.dod.mil>.

Care Package Information Available

Family care packages are always a welcome treat for our deployed service members and especially so during the holidays. Are you looking for postal information? Go to www.ourmilitary.mil; see the box on the right for "Holiday Mail for Troops." In addition, DoD's Office of Community Relations provides some helpful guidelines. For the link to holiday care package guidance, see

http://www.ourmilitary.mil/pdf/Sending_Care_Packages_This_Holiday_Season.pdf

For more information about the Airman and Family Readiness Office and its programs please visit <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/resources/familyreadiness.asp>.

January UTA News & Notes

This is a compilation of news bits Airmen and families can use to prepare for the upcoming UTA weekend.

Congratulations!

The following Airmen have been selected as the 2010 129th Rescue Wing Airmen of the Year.

- Senior Airman Bryson Barnette, 129 SFS - Airman of the Year
- Tech. Sgt. Douglas Montgomery, 129 SFS - Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
- Master Sgt. Jessica Brown, 129 MXG - Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
- Master Sgt. Anja O'Neil, 129 MXG - First Sergeant of the Year
- Airman 1st Class Jessica Green, 129 RQW - Honor Guardsman of the Year

Welcome New 129th Members!

- Staff Sgt. Fitzgerald Capati, 129 OSF
- Staff Sgt. Scott Anderson, 129 LRS
- Airman 1st Class Donald Emerson, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Benjamin Duckett, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Mathew Main, 129 AMXS
- Airman 1st Class Jason Truong, 129 MXS

Well Done!

The following members have recently been promoted to their current rank.

- Senior Master Sgt. Boyd, Johnston, 129 LRS
- Master Sgt. Brian Cantrell, 129 MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Roberta Textor, 561 Band

Thank You for Your Service!

We wish the following retired, separated and transferred members well

- Senior Master Sgt. Lenny Melton, 129 RQW
- Master Sgt. Gary Antone, 129 LRS
- Tech. Sgt. James Bellew, 130 RQS
- Tech. Sgt. David Dooley, 129 SFS
- Tech. Sgt. Carole, Schindler, 561 Band
- Staff Sgt. Rebecca Cohen, 129 SFS
- Staff Sgt. Albert Rinker, 129 SFS
- Staff Sgt. Alan Syto, 149 CCS

AMS Graduates!

The following graduated the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science.

- Master Sgt. Richard Lower, 129 MXG
- Tech. Sgt. Raymond Torres, 129 LRS

Religious Services Schedule

Chapel services have been moved from the MXG classroom to the new Family Reception area of bldg 669. Services take place every Sunday morning of UTA drill weekend in Building 650.

- Catholic Mass: 10:15-10:45
- Non-denominational services: 11:00 - 11:30

2011 UTA, ORE and ORI Schedule

Use the following schedule for drill attendance as opposed to the TAG special order M-1.

February 5-6: War Skills College

March 5-6

April 9-11: CRTC War College/Exercise Training

- April 9-10: UTA
- April 11: Annual Training (as designated by Commander)

May 14-20: Phase I/II ORE

- May 14-15: May UTA
- May 16-17: July 2011 RUTA (as designated by Commander)
- May 18-20: Annual Training (as designated by Commander)

June 4-5

July 9-10: RUTA (May 16-17 as designated by Commander)

August 6-7: Ancillary Block Training

September 10-11

October 1-7: Phase I/II ORE

- Oct. 1-2: UTA
- Oct. 3-4: February 2012 RUTA (as designated by Commander)
- Oct. 5-7: Annual Training (as designated by Commander)

November 5-6

December 3-10: Phase I/II ORI

- Dec. 3-4: UTA
- Dec. 5-10: Annual Training (as designated by Commander)

AHA Scholarship Recipients Announced

The 129th Alumni Heritage Association is proud to announce their 2010 scholarship recipients. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 from the 129th AHA. This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Staff Sgt. Ricky Karicas, 129th SFS will be receiving the SMSgt Delluchi Scholarship
- Staff Sgt. Leah Simpson, 131st RQS will be receiving the Col Koenig Scholarship
- Staff Sgt. Leslie Zapata, 129th OG will be receiving the Lt Col Hatley Scholarship
- Senior Airman Ryan Lyau, 129th FSF will be receiving the Maj Harshman Scholarship
- Airman 1st Class Edgar Beaver, 129th FSF will be receiving the Gen Santos Scholarship
- Airman 1st Class Amber Poynor, 129th OSF will be receiving the Col Lina Ruppel Scholarship

2010 Tax Statement Information

Tax season is here and it's time for annual tax statements. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is in the process of preparing and distributing the millions of tax statements due to DoD customers by the end of January. Applicable tax statements will be available on MyPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

No Texting While Driving on Base

To all 129th RQW personnel from Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th Rescue Wing Commander: NASA Security has notified the wing that a large number of 129th personnel have been observed using cell phones/handheld devices while driving motor vehicles on Moffett Field; this is not allowed By Federal Law on federal property. NASA Security has the ability cite persons in violation of motor laws. The fine for using a cell phone while driving if ticketed by NASA is more than \$100. Don't take any chances. DRIVE SAFELY!

Spice Illegal For Airmen, Produces Dangerous Side Effects

Spice, considered by some to be a marijuana alternative because it has the same effects, is a mixture of potentially dangerous herbs coated with chemicals and is often smoked like a cigarette. It is banned from use by

Airmen and scheduled to soon become illegal for all U.S. citizens. If an Airman uses spice, disciplinary or adverse administrative actions will be pursued under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Fitness Regulation Changes Based On Airmen's Feedback

An Air Force Guidance Memorandum was issued that provides policy changes to AFI 36-2905, Fitness Program, and was implemented Jan. 1. Compliance with the program is mandatory and outlines notable clarifications from the original July 1 guidance, such as specified waist-measurement procedures, sit-up and push-up instruction and clarity of target-component values to achieve an overall passing score. For the complete AFGM 2, visit the Air Force e-publications website or read the complete article at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123236029>.

All Americans Encouraged To Visit A National Park This Year

National Park Service officials will waive admission fees on 17 selected dates throughout 2011 and encourage all Americans to make a New Year's resolution to visit a national park this year. The 2011 fee-free dates are: Jan. 15-17; April 16-24; June 21; Sept. 24; and Nov. 11-13. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>.

2011 Air Force Marathon Registration Open

The 15th annual event will occur Sept. 17 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. In addition to a full 26.2 mile marathon, runners also can compete in a 13.1 mile half marathon, a 10K run or a 5K race. Marathon organizers are encouraging runners to register early this year.



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Find these and other stories on the 129th Rescue Wing Web site -- <http://www.129rqw.af.mil>. The 129th is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/129RQW, Twitter at www.twitter.com/129RQW, YouTube at www.youtube.com/129thRescueWing and Delicious at www.delicious.com/129RQWPA.

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