



# 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



Vol. 3 Issue. 2

Supplement to the Desert Lightning News

April 3, 2009

## 309 AMARG's CPR-trained Wingmen aid co-worker in need

The Wingman concept, borrowed from the time-honored tradition within the Air Force flying community to look out for each other, was demonstrated in its purist form here at 309 AMARG on February 12.

As the workday came to a close, AMARG Wellness Advocate, Mr. John McClusky talked with Mr. Albert Sanchez, a sheet metal craftsman, assigned to the 577th Commodities Reclamation Squadron (577 CMRS), in a small breakroom located near Albert's shop floor. Seconds later, all dialogue between the two stopped when Albert fell unconscious.

"We were in the middle of a conversation when Albert slumped forward," said Mr. McClusky. "I yelled for help, and in just seconds, every employee within earshot heeded my call. The response was incredible."

Losing color, four employees, Mr. Tom Picard, Mr. Byron Huntington, Mr. Armando Garza and Mr. McClusky lowered Mr. Sanchez to the floor.

Employee actions immediately following Mr. McClusky's call for help were well coordinated; as if they practiced routinely for a crisis. Mr. Jeff Cole, 577 CMRS, quickly placed a call to 911, and offered detailed directions to emergency response dispatchers. Others began CPR.

Mr. Joe Kelly, a fellow sheetmetalworker, knew the exact location of the defibrillator and sprinted to retrieve it, alerting supervisors, Mr. Richard Ruley, Demil Supervisor for 578th Storage and Disposal Squadron (578 SDS) and Mr. Jeff Clement, medium aircraft chief for 576th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Squadron (576 AMRS), of the situation.

Working in tandem to recover a pulse, Mr. Huntington and Mr. Adam Hickey, both contract employees for J.K. Hill & Associates, initiated the lifesaving chest compressions and resuscitation efforts. Mr. Clement felt for the slightest sign of a returning heartbeat and ensured Albert's airway was clear. Responding to the radio emergency, Mr. Harry Waddle, AMARG's deputy Chief of Safety, relieved Mr. Huntington and continued critical chest compressions.

Despite the seriousness of Albert's condition, his buddy caregivers remained focused, running on adrenalin and instinct, helping "Al" hold on to life until emergency units arrived.

"I'm thankful for all of the CPR training I received during my 30 years of combined service in the Air Force and civil service," said Mr. Clement. "At times you may think that all that training is a pain, but as in this case, you never know when an opportunity will present itself and you put those life-saving skills to use."

According to one local emergency responder, 309 AMARG is extremely fortunate to have co-workers, who without hesitation, immediately jumped in to save a life. Unfortunately, in similar cases many people are hesitant to perform

CPR before the emergency teams arrive.

"Time stood still and it seemed like forever, though emergency responders arrived within minutes to take over," said Mr. Hickey, a 33-year old sheet metal mechanic who recently moved here from Oregon.

"We just kept thinking we needed to do everything we could to give Al a fighting chance before the paramedics arrived. When I started working for AMARG, it was Al who helped me transition to the military way of doing things," said Mr. Hickey. "He's good people and knowing Al, if the roles were reversed, he would be the first in line to save a life."

"We were there for a reason, and glory be to God" stated Mr. Huntington, who experienced the loss of his mother on the very same day, just two years earlier. "We're all very happy Al is on the road to recovery," he said.

Furthering the Wingman spirit, coworkers Mr. McClusky, Mr. Cole and Mr. Garza, continue to assist Albert, his wife Dina and family with legal matters, meals and moral support as he recuperates at home.

On March 27, Brig. Gen. John Cooper, Commander of the 309th Maintenance Wing at Hill AFB, Utah, visited 309 AMARG and included a stop at the breakroom to recognize, thank, and present Albert's co-workers with a commander's coin and certificate of appreciation for their lifesaving assistance.

"They say the character of a man is often defined in a time of crisis," said Brig. Gen. Cooper, shaking hands with many of Albert's friends as he let them know they represent the epitome of true Air Force Wingmen.

Mr. Clement remembers a very different kind of appreciation on the day of Albert's collapse.

"We were at the hospital and Al's wife Dina gave me a hug and said 'Thank you' as we waited for an update on his condition," said Clement.

Several hours after the General's departure, Albert visited 309 AMARG and joined his fellow workers for a slice of celebratory pizza in the small, once-again overcrowded breakroom where heroes were made.

"They all deserve recognition, from my co-workers to the firefighters," said Mr. Sanchez thankfully. "I wouldn't be here without them!"

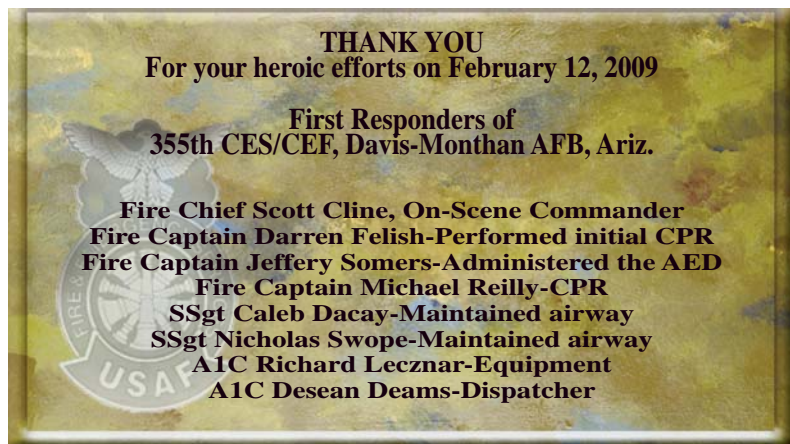


Brig. Gen. John Cooper, 309 MXW Commander, presents a commander's coin to Mr. Byron Huntington for his lifesaving efforts on February 12. Also pictured from left, Mr. Armando Garza, 577 CMRS, and Mr. Jeff Clement.

**THANK YOU**  
For your heroic efforts on February 12, 2009

**First Responders of**  
355th CES/CEF, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

**Fire Chief Scott Cline, On-Scene Commander**  
**Fire Captain Darren Felish-Performed initial CPR**  
**Fire Captain Jeffery Somers-Administered the AED**  
**Fire Captain Michael Reilly-CPR**  
**SSgt Caleb Dacay-Maintained airway**  
**SSgt Nicholas Swope-Maintained airway**  
**A1C Richard Lecznar-Equipment**  
**A1C Desean Deams-Dispatcher**



A 577th Commodities Reclamation Squadron team stands near the aft section of a Navy P-3 Orion aircraft, the first of twelve to be disassembled for shipment in support of the Navy's foreign military sales program. Taking approximately 4,700 manhours, the team meticulously removed the engines, wings and tail for ease of shipment and reassembly. Pictured from left, Mr. Ryan Graves, Mr. Ferdinand (Fred) Vega, Mr. Adam Schiller, Mr. Tim Moore, Mr. Jerry Ferguson, and Mr. Tony Masters.



### 309 MXW CC presents maintainer award

Mr. Ferdinand (Fred) Vega, an aircraft worker assigned to the 577th Commodities Reclamation Squadron, receives the Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award from Brig. Gen. John Cooper, Commander, 309th Maintenance Wing, Hill AFB, Utah.

The award is presented to maintainers who demonstrate the highest degree of sustained job performance, job knowledge, job efficiency and results.

Mr. Vega is lauded for his maintenance prowess and setting standards for his peers. A key player in the reclamation of F-15 parts valued at \$2.1 million, Vega's also recognized for spearheading the reclamation of 4,158 parts from 30 T-38 aircraft during fiscal year 2008.

Mr. Vega's accomplishments will propel him forward to compete on behalf of the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Headquarters, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

## Advertising

## 309 AMARG responds to warfighter demand for C-130 barrel nuts

In March, reclamation teams from the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (309 AMARG) removed, inspected, and shipped more than 500 C-130 barrel nuts to waiting Air Force customers throughout the world.

Barrel nuts connect the outer wings to the C-130's center wing. When teams conducting routine maintenance at Robins AFB, Ga. discovered cracks in these critical fasteners, the Air Force grounded its entire C-130 fleet.

Responding to an Air Force call for both a stop-gap in the field and a complement to a limited replacement supply of barrel nuts, 309 AMARG immediately dispersed

priority reclamation teams to more than 40 C-130s reserved in storage as critical parts resources.

Within a twelve-day span, hundreds of removed wing-joint nuts moved from the desert, through a close-up viability inspection, and out to the customer on the battlefield.

Worth an estimated \$24,904, 309 AMARG

rushed twenty-six shipments of the fasteners to maintenance units throughout areas of the CENTCOM AOR to Ramstein Air Base, Germany to help replenish their diminishing supply of this critical hardware.

The 309 AMARG reclamation team takes great pride in quickly fulfilling customers' parts needs.

Last summer for example, the same reclamation crews worked diligently to meet critical parts requirements from the T-38 System Program Office at Ogden Air Logistics Center (OO-ALC) at Hill AFB, Utah.

The team removed more than 3,500 aircraft parts from varying locations on the airframes of 30 stored T-38s and expeditiously sent those components to Hill in staggered shipments. This effort permitted the OO-ALC's engineers to perform engineering analyses to ensure flight control systems on the Air Force's fleet of T-38s remain safe.

In fiscal year 2008, 309 AMARG teams reclaimed and shipped 17,341 parts, with a supply-system value of more than \$500.2 million to our nation's warfighters.



*One of the many C-130 aircraft currently stored at 309 AMARG serving as a critical parts resource. In March, more than 500 barrel nuts were removed from the desert and shipped to the customer on the battlefield. Actual C-130 aircraft barrel nut shown in inset photo.*

## Advertising

# Advertising