



# California Military Department California National Guard



## SEARCH AND RESCUE

### Information Alert

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## California Air National Guard Rescues Chinese Sailors off Coast of Mexico

California Air National Guardsmen from the 129th Rescue Wing are conducting a long-range, over-water rescue of two injured Chinese sailors on a fishing vessel today about 700 miles off the coast of Acapulco, Mexico.

The mission began Sunday when Guardian Angel Pararescuemen parachuted off an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft into the Pacific Ocean and boarded an inflatable Zodiac boat. Equipped with medical supplies, the Pararescuemen maneuvered the boat next to the Chinese fishing vessel before boarding and providing medical treatment to the injured sailors.

Two Air National Guard HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters departed this morning en route to the fishing vessel's location, where the Pararescuemen plan to hoist the sailors off the fishing vessel onto the helicopters hovering above. The sailors will then be flown to Acapulco where they will be transferred to an aircraft headed to the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California.

The sailors are scheduled to arrive in Miramar this evening and will then be transported to University of California San Diego Medical Center, for further treatment. "The 129th Rescue Wing provides great value to California and the nation by responding to rescues beyond the capability of other first responders," said Colonel Steven J. Butow, 129th Rescue wing commander. "This remains a complex and dangerous rescue mission, but our dedicated Airmen remain committed to helping these sailors."

The primary mission of the 129th Rescue Wing is to conduct its wartime mission of combat search and rescue anywhere in the world. In addition to its wartime mission, the unit also works closely with the Coast Guard and other civil agencies on state missions; equipped with MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft and HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, the 129th has performed a wide variety of civilian search-and-rescue missions, including responding to distressed persons aboard ships, lost or injured hikers, and medical evacuations. Over the course of its history, the 129th Rescue Wing has rescued close to a thousand distressed people.

Photos of the rescue will be available online at <http://www.129rqw.ang.af.mil> and <http://www.facebook.com/129RQW>.

If you would like more information about this rescue or the California National Guard, please contact Specialist Rebecca Love, [rebecca.a.love@us.army.mil](mailto:rebecca.a.love@us.army.mil) or call (916) 854-3705.

If you have any questions regarding this, or any other matter pertaining to the California National Guard, please contact Major (Retired) Darrin Bender at (916) 854-3705.