

 Print |  Email

 Reddit |  Digg

## Aircrews rescue dozens swamped by Ike

Staff report

Posted : Tuesday Sep 16, 2008 6:43:23 EDT

Helicopter aircrews rescued dozens of people Saturday from Texas towns swamped by Hurricane Ike.

Pave Hawks with Joint Task Force 129 flew low over Galveston and the Bolivar Peninsula, hoping to find citizens trapped in their homes. Some of the men, women and pets spotted on porches or wading through the muddy, debris-filled water were evacuated, but several insisted on staying.

Overall, JTF 129, a self-contained search-and-rescue unit comprised of more than 100 people, has saved 48 people and 13 dogs in response to Hurricane Ike.

“The task force members did an incredible job over the past 48 hours flying in extremely violent conditions,” Col. Mark Sheehy, 129th Rescue Wing Operations Group Commander and JTF 129 Commander, said in a statement. “They epitomize the Air Force Rescue motto of ‘These things we do that others may live.’”

Meanwhile, airmen with the 331st Air Expeditionary Group who were also headed toward Galveston made an emergency stop when it spotted the town of Nederland under water. Two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and two HC-130P/N long-range refueling aircraft quickly circled to pull people from rooftops and flooded roads.

In addition to rescuing the 17 people from the flood waters, the teams also rescued three Chihuahuas and two black cats, according to an Air Force news release.

 Print |  Email

 Reddit |  Digg