

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## U.S. Air Forces Central Command Public Affairs

July 9, 2013 Release Number 1-7-13

## **Combined Forces Air Component Command Airpower Statistics**

## German-born Airman focused on dedication to adopted home by Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hoy U.S. Air Forces Central Command

7/2/2013 - SOUTHWEST ASIA -- For each service member, the reason they decide to serve is different. For some it's school. For others it's a chance to see the world. Still, others choose to serve because they feel obligated to give back.

The latter is the case for Airman 1st Class Sven Raemer, a special mission aviator on the HH-60 Pave Hawk. Born in West Berlin, Germany, he moved with his parents and sister to Colorado in 1993, eventually receiving his American citizenship in 2010, the first in his family to do so.

Raemer is currently deployed to the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from RAF Lakenheath, England. For Raemer, it's just another step in his effort to give back.



Airman 1st Class Sven Raemer is a special mission aviator with the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. Raemer was born in West Berlin, Germany, before he and his family moved to Colorado in 1993. He is deployed from RAF Lakenheath, England. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hoy)

"I think service, even before the military, was really important to me," he said. "Giving back for all the liberties and freedoms we have is a big deal. If you're appreciative of what you have, you should really give back."

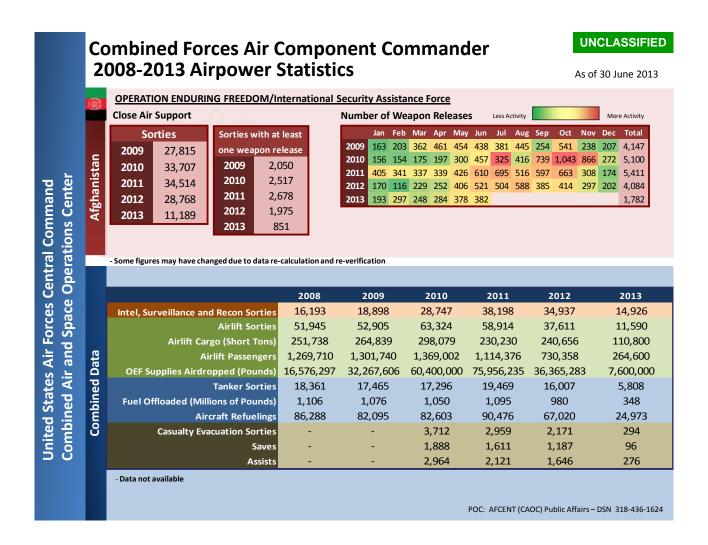
However, giving back by joining the military, especially by being an aerial gunner, may not have been what his parents had in mind.

"Growing up, I came from a very peacenik kind of family," Raemer explained. "My mom used to participate in protests, my dad never touched a gun, probably still hasn't. We didn't have violent video games, no BB guns. I guess I sort of sought it out as a kid."

Seeking it out eventually led to Raemer joining the military in April, 2011. Initially a door gunner, the Air Force would merge the career field with helicopter flight engineer to create the new special mission aviator. Raemer was one of the first in his squadron to become a fully qualified SMA.

For the full article or to download high resolution photographs, visit: <a href="http://www.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123354682">http://www.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123354682</a>

For the Airman in the Flight, multi-media project on Airman 1st Class Sven Raemer, visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ax8DC2mtOQ&list=PL5xgYnhOH14zfDPXMofQ\_cmJmgD



- 30 -

For more information, click **here** for the AFCENT web site (http://www.afcent.af.mil). Click **here** for the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System web site (http://www.dvidshub.net). Call U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs Media Operations at commercial 011-974-4458-9555, then connect to DSN 436-1624, or email **mu\_afformediaops@afcent.af.mil**.