



## AIR FORCE TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Contractor with treaty monitoring center puts lifesaving skills to the test**

*By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs*

**PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** – It started out as a relaxing day at the beach – abundant sunshine, warm water, comfortable sea breeze, and good company. But the serene setting was quickly interrupted when beachgoers rushed to help pull a drowning man to safety.



Christopher Minamy, a mechanical engineering contractor for Kegman, Inc., at the Air Force Technical Applications Center here, was visiting his relatives recently on Florida's Sun Coast. Chris and his wife were playing catch with their children as his aunt and uncle planted their beach chairs in the sand to enjoy the scenery and soak in the sun. As they were playing, Chris saw an exhausted couple attempting to drag a man on shore as a woman called for help.

He ran over while yelling to his aunt, Leticia Godinez, a registered nurse with 40 years' experience, to join him at the shoreline to help. When they reached the prone man, the couple said they found him in the ocean, face down, and wasn't sure how long he'd been underwater.

Chris, a former Air Force officer, allowed his military training skills to kick in. They pulled him away from the incoming waves to drier sand. The man was unconscious and unresponsive, so Leticia established an airway. Beachgoers flagged down a police officer who raced over on his all-terrain vehicle. Leticia and the officer worked together to get the man's heart pumping faster, while Chris started stomach compressions on each exhale to get the water out of the victim's lungs.

"When the paramedics finally arrived, they got an IV into him quickly, but were concerned about his heartrate," said Chris. "They performed traditional CPR on him and quickly loaded him onto a stretcher. He was still unconscious at that point."

According to a report by ABC Action News (WFTS-TV/Tampa), the 63-year-old victim was transported to Largo Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. Once he received medical care, he regained consciousness, was able to breathe on his own, and communicate with family members.

"Not a lot was going through my mind at the time we were trying to rescue him," Chris said, "other than trying to get him to breathe and get him to safety. Afterwards, though, I was thinking about it a lot. I really thought he wasn't going to make it based on the shape he was in when we found him. When I heard the next day he was alive, I was very relieved."

The victim's family contacted Chris and his aunt to express their thanks for their selfless actions.

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“His daughter and sister were extremely grateful to my aunt and me for helping out,” Chris said. “They told me the doctors put him into a medically-induced coma for 24 hours, and after that he was responsive and talking to his family members. They also said he has a good chance to fully recover, but has a long road ahead of him. I’m keeping him in my prayers and glad he’s alive today.”

Minamyers supervisor had nothing but praise and admiration for his employee.

“Chris’ sacrificial and quick-thinking efforts to rescue a drowning man were surprising, but not unexpected,” said Rob Martin, geophysical acquisition manager for the MERC-G contract. “As a former Air Force officer and current contract engineer, Chris has consistently demonstrated a commitment to leadership, faith and service to others. We’re extremely proud to have him on our team.”