

Second Survivor Of C-130 Crash In July Back At Pope

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Staff Writer

The second of two survivors of a C-130 Hercules transport that crashed on Fort Bragg July 1 was scheduled to return to Pope Air Force Base today, according to base officials.

Sgt. Tony P. Holmes, 28, the flight engineer, was to fly to Pope on a C-9 Nightingale, an Air Force medical evacuation aircraft, said Capt. Brian Irving, Pope's public affairs officer. Irving said this morning those reports came from Holmes' squadron and were unconfirmed.

Lt. Marc A. Lenke, 26, the co-pilot of the C-130 that crashed during a low-level parachute maneuver before a crowd of about 5,000 spectators at Sicily Drop

Zone, returned to Pope about two weeks ago after undergoing treatment for burns at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Five others were killed in the crash.

Irving said neither of the two will be allowed to speak to reporters because Air Force officials are still investigating the cause of the crash. The investigation will continue for several months.

Air Force officials have said the cause of the accident may never be fully disclosed to the public in order to protect the investigation process.

Irving said on Tuesday that Lenke was still in the Air Force but is not on duty and is recovering at home. He said Holmes has been discharged from Brooke Army Medical Center and has been released to the "medevac" system that sched-

ules patients on available flights.

Four crew members and an Army sergeant who was watching the event died in the fiery crash. The Air Force victims were Capt. Garry M. Bardo, 31, the pilot; Capt. John B. Kieser III, 28, the navigator; TSgt. Timothy J. Matar, 32, loadmaster; and Airman 1st Class Albert G. Dunse, an additional loadmaster. The soldier was SSgt. David "Lance" Hunter, an intelligence sergeant with HHC, 3rd Bn., 73rd Armor Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

The airplane belonged to the 40th Tactical Airlift Squadron, one of three flying squadrons in Pope's 317th Tactical Airlift Wing. The crew was attempting a low-altitude parachute extraction system maneuver in which the airplane drops to between 5 and 10 feet off the



LT. MARC LENKE
Co-pilot of C-130

ground and heavy equipment is pulled out of the rear cargo door by a parachute. The plane then climbs back into the sky without touching down.

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