

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 42, Issue 7, July 2005

Kulow KASHS in

Sound upbringing, steady philosophy helps "Doc" earn command honor



Photo by Jeff Melvin

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

Everyone knows money isn't the key to happiness so why does cash play such a big role in Col. (Dr.) Keith Kulow's life?

Because it's not the cold, hard stuff that guides Air Force Reserve Command's 2004 Flight Surgeon of the Year's life, but something completely different. "Doc" Kulow doesn't get his reward from a bank teller, ATM or credit card. His riches spring from his head and heart and they shouldn't be confused with the green stuff but something that sounds similar but is worlds apart – KASHS (pronounced kash sheez).

K, says the Ohio born and raised flight surgeon now living in Florida who vied with 10 other top command flight surgeons for the distinction of being named the Air Force's top flight doc, stands

Left, Doctor Kulow examines 357th AS member Lt. Col. Tom Ohland.

for "knowledge of your job and work."

A stands for attitude. A can-do attitude is paramount, said the 63-year-old former Army battalion surgeon who served during the Vietnam War.

S stands for skills. "You have to develop your computer, medical and people skills to succeed in this profession," said Colonel Kulow.

H stands for habits. Have good work habits, be on time, follow through and pay attention to detail, the colonel advises.

"**S**," he said, "is the spiritual side where you must have the inner strength to continue to love and take care of your fellow man."

This personal philosophy derived from the Bible teachings of devout parents whose offspring include a Lutheran minister, two medical missionaries and an Air Force officer as well as "Doc" Kulow who thrived in private practice as a pediatrician for 17 years after resigning his Army commission in 1971.

Drawn by unpleasant memories of having to change into civilian clothes to avoid being spat on by protestors as he walked through the Seattle Airport at the end of his Vietnam service and his conviction that today's servicemembers weren't being properly recognized for their sacrifices, Kulow joined the Air Force in 1990 after a nearly 20-year break in service. He was assigned to Eglin AFB, Fla., as a pediatrician.

Other assignments included two years at Brooks AFB in San Antonio on the staff of the Air Force Surgeon General, working on the CHCS medical computer system; two years at Luke AFB, Ariz., where he became an operational flight surgeon; four years at Los Angeles Air Force Station; followed by a return to Eglin as chief of occupational medicine until he joined the 908th's 357th Airlift Squadron in February 2003 as squadron medical element.

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Coalition aircraft deliver humanitarian aid in Afghanistan

EDITOR'S NOTE: The May 30th container delivery system airdrop addressed in the following story featured heavy participation by 908th Airlift Wing deployed personnel. 357th AS's Lt. Col. Jan Stzuka was picked for the mission, becoming the first 908th AW aircrew to accomplish this task in theater. Colonel Stzuka's crew earned the envy as well as joy and admiration of other deployed wing members who, according to Chief Master Sgt. Mike Harper, were "all very envious but very glad that we are getting to use our skills both on the airland and airdrop."

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFP) -- U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules based in South-

west Asia delivered more than 50,000 pounds of civil assistance cargo to Afghans during four airlift missions May 18 to 30 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Coalition aircraft airdropped more than 6,000 pounds of humanitarian aid bundles near Kandahar, Afghanistan, on May 30. These air drops were part of the larger civic assistance program Combined Joint Task Force 76 that officials initiated to run concurrent with their maneuver operations.

"As coalition ground forces interact with the local people, they are constantly on the lookout to improve (the citizen's) health and welfare," said Army Chief Warrant Officer John Robinson, battlefield coordination detachment plans of-

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Courtesy photo

Deployed 908th AW loadmasters Tech. Sgt. Mary Keenan, left, and Master Sgt. Sharon Jones secure a humanitarian aid bundle bound for Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Ex-sergeant shares his commissioning saga

By 2nd Lt. Darrell Bogan
908th AW Military Equal
Opportunity officer

When the Deserving Airman Commissioning Board was announced by the vice wing commander about two years ago, I immediately took an assessment of my life – particularly my military career. I was a Master Sergeant at the time and the



superintendent of my unit at the AES. Things were good. So I had to do some soul searching and

weigh the pros and cons to determine if I was ready for the next step -- if I was ready to take on the challenges and responsibilities of becoming an officer.

I discussed the matter with my family and close friends to garner their support. I then discussed it with my immediate supervisor, my first sergeant, and my commander. They supported me wholeheartedly.

Lastly, I talked it over with my civilian employer and indicated that I would have to take a leave of absence for six weeks to attend Officer Candidate School at McGhee Tyson ANG Base in Tennessee.

With all that support in tow I was able to move forward; and from there, the

race was on. I say race because time was of the essence - the board was convening within weeks and I had a lot to accomplish.

The first thing I did was obtain a Deserving Airman Packet from the Military Personnel Flight. The packet outlined the bulk of what needed to be accomplished.

One of the most important things was to take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test. I learned what the scoring requirements for the AFOQT were and began preparing for the exam.

I contacted the Education and Training office to find out when the exam was

offered. My backup plan was to explore other locations to test (Warner-Robins, Dobbins, etc.) in case any conflict with the Education and Training exam schedule surfaced. I also began preparing my packet for submission.

My packet included a cover letter; a combined military and civilian resume; a letter of recommendation from my supervisor, my commander, and civilian employer; and a copy of my college transcript. I also worked with the ASTS to ensure I had an updated physical. I found scheduling the physical and working with the ASTS to be the

lengthiest process. After getting all the aforementioned items together, I interviewed with the board, was selected as the Deserving Airman and off to OCS I went.

Reflecting on my ascension into the officer ranks nearly a year ago, I must say that I find this "side of the house" rewarding. Being an officer has helped me to recognize and appreciate the important role the enlisted force plays in the accomplishment of our mission. And I know that my many years as an enlisted member will undoubtedly contribute to the success I plan to have as an officer.

Next DACP board meets in October

The Deserving Airman Commissioning Program allows qualified enlisted personnel a chance to fill vacant officer positions within the wing. Airmen vie to trade their stripes for gold bars by submitting a package to a wing DACP board. The board meets as required. Historically, that has meant once or twice a year.

The next board meets in October, said Master Sgt. Mark Naglic of the 908th MPF Career Enhancements section. Career Enhancements serves as the POC for the DACP. The 908th AW vice commander oversees the program and chairs the DACP board.

Sergeant Naglic and 908th Vice Commander Col. Norman Ham both point out that interested people should not wait until a board is announced to begin preparations.

"Packages are usually due to the MPF about two months before the board meets. Waiting

for the announcement to begin preparation may not give you enough time," Colonel Ham said.

For complete details of eligibility requirements for the DACP refer to AFI 36-2005 (available at the 908th AW MPF on base or via ARPC Website - www.arpc.af.mil).

An abbreviated version of those requirements is as follows:

- Have a baccalaureate degree or higher
- 18 - 35 years old (Note - certain waiver conditions exist for someone beyond 35 years of age - see AFI 36-2005 for exact information regarding waivers)
- Never held a commission
- Agree to meet the training requirements for the position assigned and remain in it for 3 years (non-rated career fields)
- Agree in writing to attend Academy of Military Science, the six-week Guard and Re-

serve version of the Air Force's Officer Training School

• Achieve minimum AFOQT scores

To apply those interested must provide: information indicating AFOQT exam completed; a military resume; a recommendation letter from his or her squadron commander regarding suitability for DACP; certified copy(ies) of college transcript; copies of last 3 EPRS (enlisted performance reports - if applicable depending on current length of service); and a letter stating personal preference, i.e. 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices of positions currently being offered.

For additional information or to ask questions, contact the 908th MPF Career Enhancements section's Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy or Master Sgt. Mark Naglic at DSN 953-5542 or call Colonel Ham at DSN 493-9080.

America only as strong as weakest link -- could that be you

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford
908th AW staff chaplain

By the time you read this another 4th of July will have come and gone. Typically, this time of celebration includes barbeque, family, and



fireworks. This is a wonderful time to celebrate our history – in just 229 years this nation has gone

from a loose Confederation of Colonies to arguably the last superpower.

As we think of America typically we think of two things – what is wrong and what is right. The funny part is that often times the same stuff is quoted.

We can all bring up subjects like taxes, movies, court cases, and the like. It is easy during those times to look toward others to blame for "what is wrong."

I see the nation of America similar to how my football coach described our team – "it is only as strong as its weakest link." Often times we can find what is

wrong, or right, with America when we look within our own heart.

American did great things in the past because its people did and believed great things. America did wrong things in the past because its people did and believed wrong things. The same holds true today. The concept of "fixing" America can be a large and nebulous concept. What it requires is for you and me to look within our hearts.

As we remember our celebration of America's birthday I hope we rededicate ourselves to values that are needed.

May we always give our allegiance and honor to God.

May we seek to serve and give to others before ourselves.

May we work without looking for reward.

May we do what is right – not necessarily what is popular.

May we realize that as great as we may be – there is one who is greater, who stands willing to help, to heal, and to lift up.

May we continue to say a prayer for all of our friends who are activated and deployed. Say a prayer for their families as well.



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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.



Col. (Dr.) Keith Kulow

Photo by Jeff Melvin

: Kulow KASHS in

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As SME, Doc Kulow looks after the healthcare of the unit's flying personnel, something he says he "loves."

Since the 908th's activation in December 2003, the Ohio State medical School graduate has become the ultimate road warrior, enduring a rigorous schedule that arguably would take toll on a younger man much less the slim, fit Kulow, who despite having had to obtain an age waiver extension, looks more like his flying personnel charges than the 63-year-old grandfather that he is.

In fact, if he looked his age, he'd probably hear "Pops" more often than the customary "Doc" he's heard at the various locations he's deployed to in the past 18 months.

"I've had the distinction of being the oldest active duty member at all my deployed locations," Doc says with a smile.

And what about those locations? The flight doc has certainly earned some frequent flier miles.

"During this activation period (which began in December 2003) I've had four deployments plus a previous deployment in September 2003 to Coronet Oak and 80 days of active duty at Cairo West Airport in Egypt, where I was on the ground when 9-11 hit," Colonel Kulow said.

He's been deployed 10 and ½ months out of the last 18 with 60-90 day stays at Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan, twice; a 60-day stay in Kuwait and a 90-day stay in Qatar. He was promoted to colonel while deployed.

Perhaps all these deployments and his willing acceptance of them were factors that led to his selection by the USAF Society of Flight Surgeons as AFRC's Malcolm C. Grow Award recipient, denoting the command's top flight surgeon. The Grow Award recognizes someone who exemplifies the ideal flight surgeon at the operation level. Selection is based on exceptionally effective support of a flying organization and superior rapport with flying personnel.

Although the colonel didn't earn the Air Force honor, he's not complaining.

"I've enjoyed taking care of the troops. I've enjoyed flying," the flight doc said.

He participated in 45 combat missions comprising around 125 combat sorties while deployed and traveled to "most of the areas in Iraq and Afghanistan flying with C-130 crews, assisting with ferrying troops and supplies," Doc Kulow said with pride.

Twelve years of active duty training plus nearly three decades of experience as a physician meant that the "doc"

was well-prepared for deployment. The hardest part, he said, was the separation from family.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, had endured a one-year separation during Vietnam but "this was back and forth for the last year and one-half."

He was in Kuwait when Hurricane Ivan struck. It was a difficult time for his wife; but fortunately family members helped out. His wife also had several surgeries during this period.

"Fortunately her emergencies occurred when I was home. Last Christmas she had an appendectomy.

The unit support was superb as well he said. "They've actually done a better job of contact and care than when we were on active duty."

Doc has no regrets about returning to the military.

"I had an opportunity to serve my country and I took it. It's been tough on the family, but I think it's a worthy service. It's something I can use in the future."

In case you think that sounds like a swan song, you're wrong. The doc isn't ready to quit just yet -he's just looking ahead.

"The training I received in 'third world' medicine can help me in my retirement. I plan to do medical mission work in Central America once I'm finished."

: Humanitarian aid

Continued from page 1

ficer. "The air component has been extremely supportive in pre-positioning both aid bundles and aircraft to quickly meet the needs of the ground component. Afghans, particularly women and children, benefit from this vital assistance."

Along with Lt. Col. Jan Stzuka's crew performing the mission, the 908th was also represented by the 357th AS's Senior Master Sergeant Donald Tarrance. Sergeant Tarrance served as a joint airdrop inspector for the mission.

"Today it was my pleasure to fly as a Joint Airdrop Inspector for a combat CDS drop with two outstanding loadmasters, Master Sgt. Sharon Jones and Tech. Sgt. Mary Keenan. The technical expertise and "can-do" attitude displayed by these two loadmasters is something we can all hope to achieve. Their diligent efforts led to a successful airdrop on time and on target. I would fly anywhere and anytime with these two outstanding representatives of the Air Force Reserve. They deserve a well done for their efforts today," said Tarrance, praising the performance of fellow wing members, Sergeants Jones and Keenan.

On another mission, coalition aircraft delivered more than 15,000 pounds of needed supplies in the Oruzgan Province on May 24. This delivery assisted the efforts of the Lashkar Gah provincial reconstruction team in the Baghran Valley, officials said.

This team's visit is significant to that area, because it has been a traditional stronghold for the Taliban until recently when leaders there pledged support for the government of Afghanistan, an Army Task Force Bayonet spokesman said. Coalition aircraft also delivered two loads of humanitarian supplies totaling nearly 30,000 pounds May 22 near Jalabad, Afghanistan, and pre-positioned

several bundles May 18 of civil assistance and humanitarian aid within the theater to quickly provide needed resources, officials said.

These airdrops are important to engaging the Afghan people and it is vital that their contents are available for quick delivery, CWO Robinson said.

In recapping one of these airdrop missions, Lt. Col. Michael Minihan, 745th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander, said it was a monumental effort.

"In the C-130 community, airdrop -- combat airdrop -- is the crown jewel," he said.

"Think about all the moving parts, all the potentials for breakdowns and all the people that touched this mission. Think about the young crew flying (more than) 1,000 miles to the drop zone and arriving on time, almost to the second, and delivering the goods. It's simply amazing."

Commenting on the May 30th mission, 357th AS Commander Lt. Col. John Stokes, who served as commander of the expeditionary airlift squadron that performed the mission while deployed earlier this year, called the development "exciting news!"

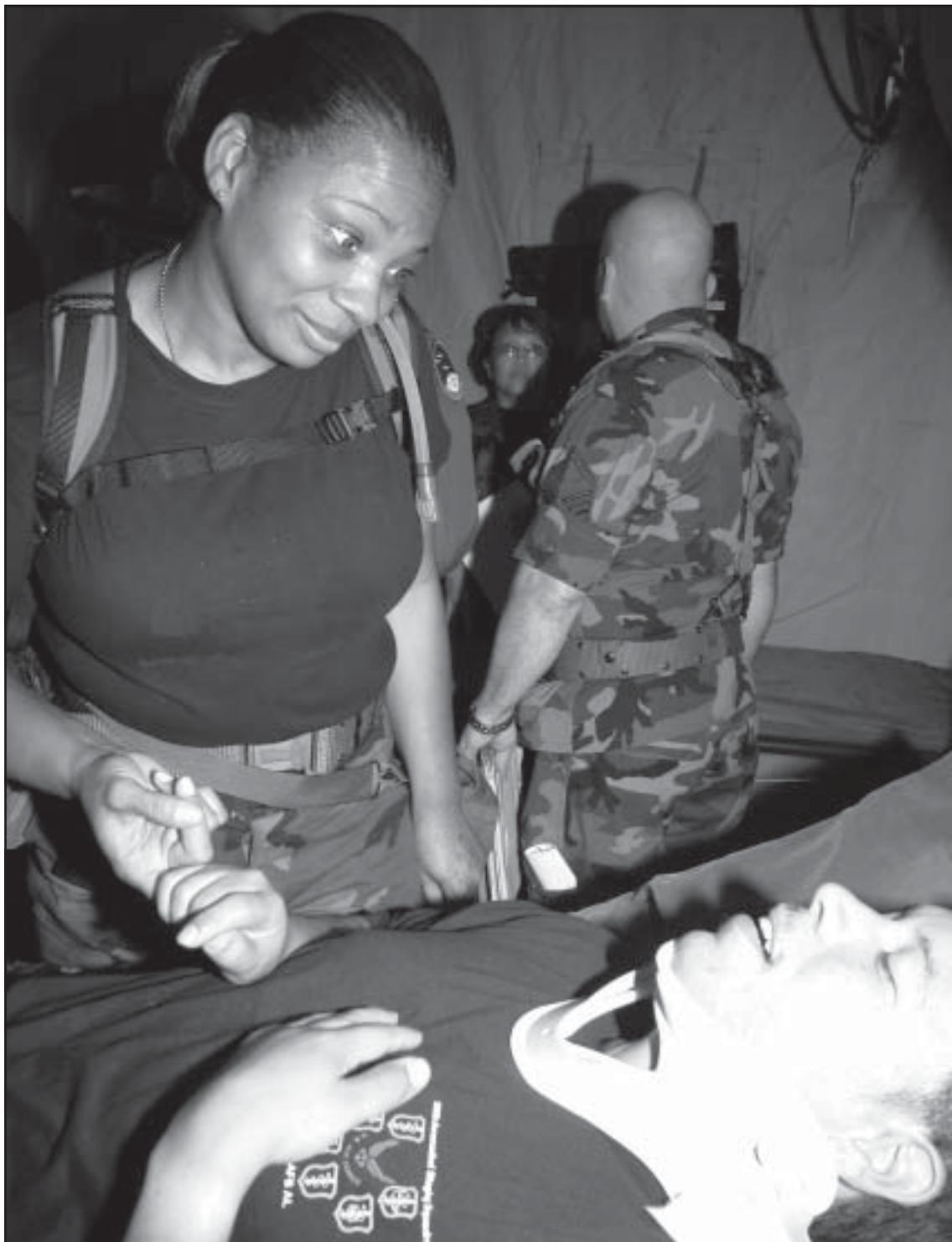
"I'm not at all surprised to hear that Sergeants Jones and Keenan did a fine job - they are true professionals. I'm glad that they, and we as the Reserves, are being included in the CDS drops. Another great opportunity to show everyone how good we are," Colonel Stokes said. Each load of humanitarian assistance contains items like food, water, blankets, school supplies, tools and other items to aid Afghans.

(This article is a revision of a U.S. Central Command release.)



Courtesy photo

Sergeant Jones directs a K-Loader driver.



Clinical Nurse Capt. Cynthia Lewis comforts 'patient' Senior Airman Benjamin Torres.

Photo by Jeff Melvin



ASTS personnel secure a patient to a litter in preparation for moving.



Med Tech Staff Sgt. Ronald Mirenda and Clinical Nurse Capt. George Bensema, evaluators for the ASTS exercise, discuss loading and unloading schedules for patients.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



The exercise featured participation from members from other squadrons such as MPF's Senior Airman Sylvia Bibb.

Photo by Jeff Melvin



Med Tech Airman Sylvia Bibb, 'patient' Sta...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



Photo by Jeff Melvin

No exercise would be complete without an NBC scenario; thus Med Tech Staff Sgt. Adam Pitts sweats it out in chem gear.



Airman 1st Class Andrea Parsons and Clinical Nurse Capt. Thaddeus Piotrowski examine Staff Sgt. LaShundra Gardner.

Photo by Jeff Melvin

Hot fun in the summertime

Medical, other wing personnel practice lifesaving skills

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron personnel performed field readiness exercises designed to enhance their performance in wartime conditions last month. Land navigation training, shelter assembly, litter carrying and transportation configuration were practiced also.

A mass casualty capped off the weeklong exercise designed to train and maintain proficiency of squadron members, so they will be ready to deploy if called. The exercise, held at "Camp Blue Thunder," a tent city on base designed to simulate austere conditions members may encounter on deployments, was abbreviated because of extreme heat conditions and power failures.

The series of exercises included classroom training that medical personnel later had chances to apply during the field exercise portion. Included in the field exercise was a static C-130 aircraft.

One hundred and thirty people including members from personnel, services, chaplain services and security forces participated.

"Folks who have been deployed provided good inputs and added realism," said 908th ASTS Commander Col. Benton L. Busbee.

The ASTS conducts annual training in moving patients in and out of the theater to a definitive medical treatment facility which is the purpose of the contingency air staging facility, or CASF mission, said Capt. George Bensema, nurse

evaluator for the ASTS exercise.

A CASF is a medical holding and staging facility. In wartime medical practitioners staffing a CASF expedite the transport of wounded from the front lines to rear medical treatment facilities. The CASF includes a series of critical-care teams made up of doctors, nurses, medical and admin technicians. The medical teams assess the nature of the injuries, provide first aid, and prioritize the movement of patients to a medical facility based on their conditions.

The additional personnel were needed to accurately depict a CASF.

"It takes all these folks to make a CASF work," Colonel Busbee said.

A large portion of ASTS members have been deployed 'in-theater' in Kuwait and Iraq and we use those people as evaluators and trainers," added Captain Bensema.

"We're using 'lessons learned' brought back by members of the 908th ASTS who were actually deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Colonel Busbee.

The field exercises offer opportunities to role-play. Caregivers were given input cards with information pertaining to the patients in their care and performed the necessary actions under the watchful eye of evaluators.

Despite the unplanned curtailment, the exercise met most objectives and was highly successful, said 908th ASTS/SGX's Maj. Kirsten James, one of the primary organizer's of the training sessions.

Counseling services available as part of OneSource program

Year-old program provides Airmen, families with information, referral services for education, medical, financial, deployment, return, reunion issues

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Sometimes an Airman needs someone to talk to, and although his or her supervisor or friends are available, they are not always the right ones to listen.

The Air Force, as part of a larger effort within the Department of Defense, offers Airmen a professional, private, face-to-face counseling as part of the Air Force OneSource program.

"Air Force OneSource is part of the total system of support that is available at all Air Force bases," said Brenda Liston, Air Force family matters chief. "It is available to active-duty, Reserve and National Guard members, whether they are activated or not."

The OneSource program has been available for more than a year now and provides Airmen and their families with information and referral services for education, medical, financial, deployment, return and reunion issues. In July, the program will be expanded to include face-to-face counseling services for Airmen and their families.

The program makes free counseling services available to help Airmen and their families deal with marital and relationship problems, deployment or redeployment stress, grief and other nonclinical issues.

"This even includes couples counseling for Airmen (who) are single and having relationship issues," Ms. Liston said. "It is easily accessible for our Air Force people dealing with family issues such as returning from deployment, reintegration, grief counseling, couple's concerns or any number of issues a couple, an Airman or a family member would like to speak with a counselor about."

Any active-duty Airman, reservist or guardsman or their immediate family members can access the service, Ms. Liston said.

"It is available to anyone carrying a military identification card -- family or Airmen, active or reserve, activated or not," she said. "Even if you aren't married, you can take your nearest and dearest to talk with a counselor about relationship issues."

Airmen who want to take advantage of the service need only call the Air Force OneSource telephone number to talk to an online consultant. The consultant will take demographic data from the Airman, make an assessment of the issue he or she has, and then help the Airman choose the best course of action. The service can also be accessed by visiting local family support centers.

If counseling is needed, a consultant will help the Airman set up an appointment

with a licensed civilian counselor in the local community. The service comes at no cost to service members and their families, and Airmen are entitled to up to six counseling sessions per issue.

Counseling services are available for nonclinical issues only, however. The service does not handle medical issues involving alcoholism, depression, drug abuse or abuse in the family. In those cases, Airmen will be put in contact with appropriate military agencies. The service also has an obligation to report instances of drug use or physical abuse to the authorities. In all other situations, Ms. Liston said, Airmen can expect the same level of privacy they would with base agencies.

"The face-to-face counseling program is filling a gap we have had for years," Ms. Liston said. "There is clinical counseling available now through Tricare or mental health, but they have never done nonclinical counseling before."

Helping Airmen and their families deal with problems before those problems escalate not only helps Airmen, it helps get the mission accomplished, Ms. Liston said.

"A lot of times issues that become really difficult and (affect the) mission started out with a small issue, like how to readjust when you come home from deploy-

ment," she said. "Problems can be resolved at the lower level before they escalate into real problems."

Air Force OneSource is available anytime by phone in the United States at (800) 707-5784, internationally at (800) 7075-7844 or collect at (484) 530-5913. The program is also available in Spanish at

(800) 375-5971 and to the deaf or hard of hearing, via TTY/TDD at (800) 346-9188. Airmen may also visit the program Web site at www.airforceonesource.com. The site requires customers to log on by using "airforce" as the user ID and "ready" as the password.

Insurance benefits get more scrutiny

WASHINGTON - Air Force Reserve Command senior leaders want reservists to know about the importance of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

A recent tragedy involving a reservist who declined SGLI coverage prompted a call for this benefit to receive more emphasis. In addition to requiring reservists to report to their military personnel flight to decline coverage in person, command officials are looking at adding squadron-level counseling by the first sergeant or commander.

This increased concern comes on the heels of legislation to increase the maximum coverage, to ensure beneficiaries know when an individual turns down the maximum and to help service members who sustain traumatic war injuries.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 raises maximum SGLI coverage from \$250,000 to

\$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for people with traumatic injuries.

In a new twist introduced through the legislation, troops with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of people who are not married, the designated beneficiary will receive notice when the person purchases less than the maximum coverage.

Defense and Veteran Affairs officials are working on the details of the expanded benefits.

The increased SGLI coverage will start Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit will begin Dec. 1. The legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance. The VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.

Come one, come all -- alumni association hosts 908th AW reunion dinner

All past and present unit members are invited to the 908AW Alumni Association Reunion Saturday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Maxwell-Gunter Annex's Falcon's Nest.

The meal will be buffet style and includes sliced roast beef, grilled chicken breast, crispy catfish, salad and various vegetables, desserts and tea or coffee.

"Last year's reunion was a lot of fun, and a big success. Many people attend who hadn't been back to this area for a long time," said Alumni Association member Harriet Mullins.

Mullins urged members who hear about the dinner through the "Southern Flyer" or by letter to spread the word.

"Please give them a copy, or pass their address on to me. Any help with this will be greatly appreciated. If you can't attend this year, please respond back so we can keep you on our mailing list. Bring any pictures you have of unit personnel so we can post them for everyone to see," Mrs. Mullins said.

She added that anyone interested in playing golf should contact Harold Dobbs, (334)277-2077, c130p@aol.com.

Anyone with news about former members who've passed away since the last dinner is asked to let Alumni Association leaders know so they can acknowledge them at the dinner.

For more information, please contact Harriett

Mullins, (334)365-4351; Harold Taylor (334) 365-5529

taylorsh3@aol.com); or Gene Beasley (334) 365-4721

gb306@bellsouth.net).

Please complete and return NLT July 30:

Name: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Dues are \$3 per family, payable every other year

Amount enclosed:

Dinner is \$17 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

Number in Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check or money order payable to: **908th AW Reunion Alumni Association** and send to: Harriett Mullins, 516 McGriff Street, Prattville AL 36067

Take Note



AFRC gets new recruiting logo

Air Force Reserve Command has a new advertising logo that more closely aligns it with the active force while touting the command as a high-tech, professional fighting force. Sleek and simple, the AFRC logo features the Air Force's new logo alongside the words "Air Force Reserve" in a stylish, modern typeface.

Command collecting job info

Time is running out for about 15,000 Air Force reservists in the Selected Reserve to comply with a Department of Defense directive.

Oct. 31 is the deadline for reservists to register information about their civilian place of employ-



Courtesy photo

Hooah from the horn of Africa

The C-130's workhorse capability and versatility take 908th crews to many places as they provide varied missions such as humanitarian assistance and support to America's fight against terrorism. Above, members of Maj. Scott Hayes' crew walk on the flightline at Mombassa, Kenya, during a four-day mission to the Horn of Africa March 16-19. "We took our "Mother ship" aircraft 035 and hauled cargo, mail and pax to Ethiopia and (Nairobi and Mombassa) Kenya. We offloaded three pallets by hand in Ethiopia," said Flight Engineer Senior Master Sgt. Brent Solomon. The flying was great especially the flight over Kenya, Sergeant Solomon said. "We were excited about taking part in the mission and glad we had the opportunity to support it and complete the mission with 100 percent effectiveness. It was a great experience and another pin in the map for the 908th," the flight engineer said.

ment. Some 60,000 of these Airmen, roughly 80 percent of the Selected Reserve, provided that information as of May. Command officials urge reservists to register online as soon as possible by going to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm> and clicking on Civilian Employment Info Program.

TRICARE offers one stop source

The Air Force Reserve Contact Center in Denver is the sole point of contact for Air Force reservists to enroll in Tricare Reserve Select. This is the first time the Air Reserve Personnel Center has been able to provide a service to all reservists under the Air Force Personnel Service Delivery Transformation Shared Services Organization model, a centralized personnel service. The Fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act established Tricare Reserve Select for reservists who served on active duty in support of a contingency anytime since Sept. 11, 2001. The Tricare Web site - www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect - has further details.

Help just call, e-mail away

Last year Air Reserve Personnel Center customers used a telephone or e-mail to request copies of a performance report, update their mailing ad-



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Reservist earns top grad honor

908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's Staff Sgt. Tyeshia Green was recently named the honor graduate from Maxwell AFB's Airman Leadership School. The Columbus, Ga., resident earned the John L. Levitow Award. The award is named for Sgt. John L. Levitow, one of two Air Force enlisted men to receive the Medal of Honor from the Vietnam War, and denotes the most outstanding student in the class. ALS, a five-week class, is the entry-level leadership program for all enlisted people in the Air Force components. The school stresses the leadership and supervisory skills the students will need to be promoted to staff sergeant and become first-line supervisors. Green, a 908th member for nearly five years is a ground radio operator.

dress or replace a lost record. Now they can go online at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/> to ask for the same thing from the Air Force Reserve Contact Center in Denver.

The Web-based service directs the customers to input necessary information, so customer service representatives have everything they need to serve the customer. "We used to use e-mail, but you'd be going back and forth with the customer to make sure you had all their information," said Maj. Doug Ottinger, deputy director of the center's Personnel Delivery Service.

"With Web requests it guides customers through the process, provides customers immediate confirmation that we received their requests via e-mail and automatically assigns an issue management number for their reference and the customer service representatives' reference."



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