

# Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing  
Air Force Reserve Command  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.  
Vol. 44, Issue 09  
September 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



### *'Big Poppa'*

Aerial port honors  
former longtime super-  
intendent - Pg 8

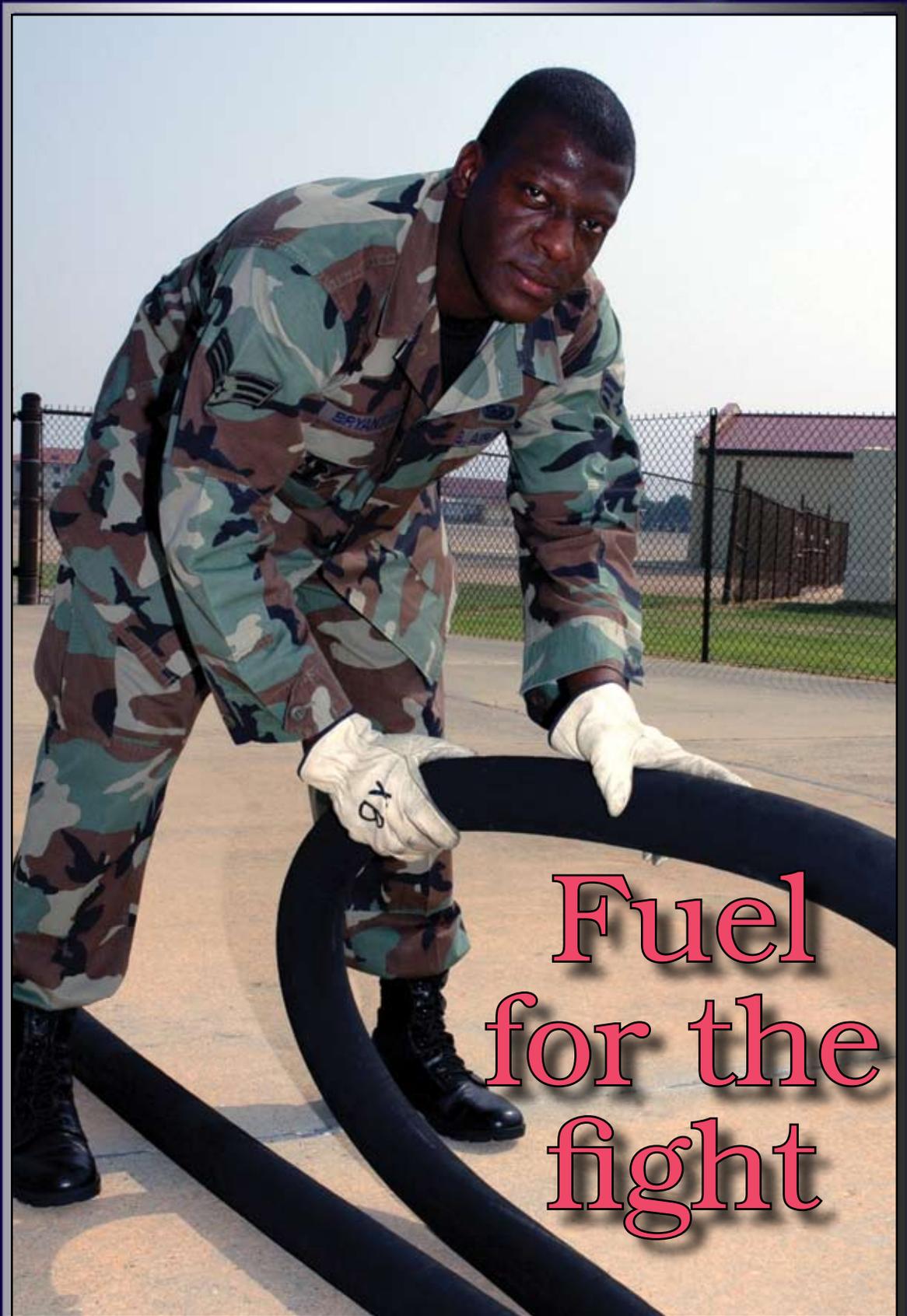


### *Wing snapshots*

Take a look at scenes  
from August's UTA - Pg 12

#### Common Features

Commentary	02
UCI Preparation Checklists	04
Upcoming Events	05
UTA Training Schedule	15



# Fuel for the fight

# Get ready for UCI, refocus priorities

By Col. William J. "Bill" Forshey, Jr.  
Commander, 908<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group

setting our sights on these training monsters and we will eventually get reason back into this process we have for adding on requirements at the higher headquarters level.

Until then we must continue to do our best locally to try and get the medical readiness and physical fitness part of our business back into line with that of our regular component. In order to do so, we need to make having all our personnel **medically qualified** and ready to go out the door on short notice our top priority.

Our second goal will be to have all our personnel **physically fit** to perform the mission no matter where/when they deploy. In order to do that, all units are taking steps to set aside at least an hour of UTA time toward fit-to-fight fitness programs. The aim is to make unit programs that all members participate in and use to help maintain their individual fitness.

The third area where we must try and do better every UTA is to get more hands-on, **AFSC-specific training** for all of our personnel. Sometimes we get so tuned in to physicals and appointments and other areas, we forget we are here to train reservists. That means good, old-fashioned, get your hands dirty training in the primary duties they perform in war-time. Rolled into a lot of those AFSC-specific training areas will be the mission readiness training requirements we all have as part of our duties. We'll continue to work those into our schedules as best we can. Then, based on the available time we have left during UTAs, during annual tours and prior to deployments, we will work at knocking out those other training areas like **ancillary** and documentation.

To help us realign our priorities and ensure they get the proper emphasis, each unit has been tasked to develop a list of their UTA

priorities, making sure these new wing priorities are their priorities as well. The only thing left in this massive equation is us, the reservists. We must take personal responsibility in this process and make sure we are always available to be trained.

Similarly, we must all do our part to accomplish the medical readiness requirements on time and provide documentation to the medical providers. That means we have to be there and take the shot the first month it's due, not the last month. We can't afford to wait and get it on the deployment line any longer. It must be done as soon as possible in order to ensure we are always ready to deploy and only have to address those issues that come due during the deployment, not those that are overdue.

This means if you miss a UTA or annual tour and have requirements due, you need to take personal responsibility and get those items accomplished the next time you are in for duty, don't just wait for the next scheduled UTA. Our medical providers have worked out processes with the host medical unit to take care of immunizations and physicals during the week for our folks that are here on equivalent training or rescheduled UTAs. Take advantage of these options and get it done.

On a related note, Colonel Underkofler, our wing commander, helped craft the following mission statement to get us refocused on our priorities. It's going to be our motto for the UCI and beyond and will aid us in ensuring we accomplish our mission.

Mission Statement:  
To provide the Air Force with **medically qualified, physically fit, AFSC-trained**, mission ready Airman Warriors.

Cover photo...



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Senior Airman Xavier Bryant performs an important daily check, unrolling the hose on an R-11 refueler during vehicle checkpoint operation to look for cuts, scrapes, or separation of the core. See Pages 6 and 7 for story and photos on the 908<sup>th</sup> LRS Fuel Flight.

## Southern Flyer

Commander, 908<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing  
Col. Michael J. Underkofler

### Editorial Staff

Chief, Public Affairs  
Lt. Col. Jerry W. Lobb

Deputy Chief/Editor  
Jeffery Melvin

Public Affairs Specialists  
Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder  
Staff Sgt. Christian Michael

### Address

Editor, "Southern Flyer"  
401 W. Maxwell Blvd.  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

### Phone Number

(334) 953-6804  
or DSN 493-6804

### Fax Number

(334) 953-2202  
or DSN 493-2202

### E-mail

908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Southern Flyer" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

### Editorial policy

Editorial content of the "Southern Flyer" is edited, prepared and provided by the 908<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

We solicit articles, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies.

Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the UTA. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Wednesday two weeks prior to the UTA.

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

Well folks, it's almost time for the Unit Compliance Inspection team to arrive and we're all working feverishly. Don't forget to do that last minute cleanup in your work areas, especially getting rid of the unnecessary clutter in our offices. Sometimes we forget this is an office and not our den at home with our "I love me" walls. Displays of awards and personal mementos should be judicious – hundreds of shot glasses, beanie baby collections and dozens of coffee mugs are just a little too much. Look around your offices and do a little cross-critiquing with each other and see what we have in our offices that we don't need there.

Oh well, on to business. Recently we activated a Process Action Team to see where we jumped the tracks with regards to our UTA prioritization of the myriad of requirements we have each month. During the PAT, we discovered that for years we've put the ancillary training monster on top and pushed medical readiness and physical fitness along with AFSC-specific training to the bottom of the pile.

Well, we determined that we need to put the ancillary part of the equation back on the bottom. Coincidentally, the Air Force has published new guidance that scales down ancillary training requirements to about 90 minutes a year.

Now, that's fine, but numerous other training requirements that are no longer included as ancillary requirements are still on our plates. We have mission readiness and administrative requirements that we must accomplish over and above the ancillary and AFSC-specific training. Not to despair, we're

# Healthy Airmen

## Know how to recognize signs, symptoms of heart attack

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE HAVING A HEART ATTACK, CALL 9-1-1. DON'T GO TO THE ASTS CLINIC, CALL 9-1-1.

How do you know if it is your heart or indigestion or anxiety? The three classic signs and symptoms of heart attack are listed for you below. BUT, when in doubt, call 9-1-1.

- **CHEST DISCOMFORT:** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain, the old elephant sitting on the chest symptom. Or it may seem like severe indigestion.

- **DISCOMFORT IN OTHER AREAS OF THE UPPER BODY:** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.



- **SHORTNESS OF BREATH.** This may occur with or without chest pain.

Women may experience all the symptoms above, but are somewhat more likely than men to experience shortness of breath, nausea/vomit, and back or jaw pain.

If you or some one you're with experiences chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs, don't wait longer than five minutes before calling for help. And remember the 908th ASTS is NOT A TREATMENT FACILITY. Call 911 where you are and use your AED (automated electronic defibrillator) if necessary. Notify ASTS after the member is taken care of.

For more information go on the American Heart Associations web site at <http://www.americanheart.org>.

(Source information from the American Heart Associations web page)

### Heart attack signs

A study of heart attack survivors between the ages of 25-65 shows that one in four put their lives at risk by failing to recognize the symptoms

**Pain - what to watch for**

**Central chest:** Tight ache to intense agony, lasting 30 minutes or more

**Jaw:** Pain radiates up to jaw and into back

**Left arm:** Pain radiates down arm, weakens muscles

**Heart attack:** Fatty deposits clog arteries, deprive heart muscle of oxygen

**Abdomen:** Constrictive pain, *angina pectoris* - often mistaken for indigestion

Source: BMJ © GRAPHIC NEWS

 A diagram of a human torso from the neck to the waist. It highlights four areas of concern: the central chest, the jaw, the left arm, and the abdomen. Arrows point from text labels to these areas. The chest area shows a heart with a blockage in an artery. The jaw area shows a line from the chest to the jaw. The left arm area shows a line from the chest to the arm. The abdomen area shows a line from the chest to the stomach.

# The patience of faith

## A dedication to our Airmen and family members

By Chaplain (Capt.) Val Shumate  
908th AW Chaplain's Office

We live in challenging times in America and around the world. The saint of God as well as the unbeliever has many different earthly challenges to face: achieving educational goals, living single lives in holiness, surviving dysfunctional relationships, overcoming financial shortages, surviving marital crisis, raising children, understanding wars, etc. Even though you may be standing knee-deep in a personal crisis, understand that God stands before his people and says, "Patience" is what you need.

Patience is more than endurance, because patience has its eye focused

on the hope that is anchored in God's love.

Consider this: A saint's life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow are in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint and the unbeliever cannot see, and he stretches and strains, and every now and then the saint says, "I don't know if I can stand any more." God does not heed, he goes on stretching until his purpose is in sight, then he lets the arrow (you & I) fly. Because God never misses his target (he is the architect of perfection), we can rest in peace, trusting God's hands.

Why do you need patience just now? If you maintain your relationship with God by the patience of faith, you can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Job,

whose sincere testimony echoes across the centuries, "Though He slays me, yet will I wait for Him."

Faith is not a pathetic sentiment, but robust, vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. You cannot see him just now, you cannot understand what he is doing, but you know him. Some people's faith is shipwrecked because they do not maintain that mental poise which comes from standing on the eternal truth that God is holy love. Faith is the heroic effort of your life; you fling yourself in reckless confidence on God. Try him - he can be trusted.

God trusts us enough to trust him, and he has established his holy word that we may know how to seek him. God wants us to have patience and to trust him.

# UCI UTA "To Do" List!

By Lt. Col. Troy Vonada  
Chief, Performance Planning

“You never know how a horse will pull until you hook him to a heavy load,” one of the most famous NCAA college football coaches of our time said. He earned his nickname “Bear” because as a 13-year old, he once wrestled a bear for a \$1 a minute and had his ear bitten. During his career, he won 323 games, and in 1981 became the “winningest” coach in all of college football. Toughness was one of his credos and when hired by Texas A&M, he held a pre-season camp (much like boot camp) at Junction, Texas, that only 35 out of 111 players finished 10 days later.

His record of winning championships still reigns supreme: 6 National Championships, 12 Southeastern Conference Championships, 12-10-2 bowl record, 3- time National Coach of the Year and 10-time Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year. If you haven’t guessed it by now, this coach’s name is Paul William “Bear” Bryant. Hailed by many as the best college football coach ever, his coaching peers referred to him as simply “the coach”. One time, he said, “If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride – and never quit, you’ll be a winner. The price of victory is high, but so are the rewards.”

In October, you’ll have the opportunity to demonstrate how well you do your job and how we perform as a team. Headquarters AFRC’s Unit Compliance Inspection team consisting of about 38 members, the Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program team with about 12 members, and the Health Services Inspection team of a couple members will visit to assess how we measure up against other wings and whether our paperwork and programs are “up to snuff.” Coach Bryant is known for famous quotes and one fits here nicely, “Winning isn’t imperative, but getting tougher in the fourth quarter is.” We’re in the fourth quarter. The days ahead are sure to be tough. If we follow Coach Bryant’s lead, believe in ourselves, and have dedication and pride, we’re sure to be successful.

For this UTA, please accomplish the following:

- Ensure SITS and MICP reviews/updates are accomplished and inform CCX
- Prepare solid processes for any deficient items noted in the semiannual self-inspection and document in SITS
- Accomplish final UCI actions, i.e., bulletin board maintenance, clean areas, finalize continuity books, get uniforms in shape, etc.
- Supervisors, re-certify AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record
- Finalize family care plans; secure powers of attorney, AF Form 357s IAW AFI
- Unit education and training managers/supervisors, review/update OJT records (see DPMT if questions)
- Mentors, conduct your mentoring and document (see MPF if questions)
- Maintenance, get ready for your MSEP pre-visit
- Ensure your uniforms are outfitted with the AFRC patch.
- Replace worn out boots or other uniform items

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September

- 8-22 — Coronet Oak  
 4-9 — Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program pre-visit  
 7-9 — Visit to 908th AW by Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, commander, 22nd Air Force  
 7 — "Ballet and the Beasts" at the Montgomery Zoo, 7:30 p.m. (gates open at 6:30), Free, Montgomery Ballet outdoor performance, info, call 409-0522 or 240-4900  
 8 — 908th AW Commanders Call, 3:30 p.m., Polifka Auditorium  
 8 — 908th Airlift Wing Alumni Association Reunion, Facilities tour, bus departs from Maxwell Events Center (formerly Maxwell Enlisted Club) 1:30 p.m. Social, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Gunter Annex Dinner, 7 p.m. Falcon's Nest  
 18 — Air Force 60th Anniversary Activities, Maxwell Air Park; Events kicks off at 6 a.m. with a 60-mile relay race around Maxwell; celebration begins at 3, featuring food vendors, live music, a children's fun zone, a retreat ceremony, ending with fireworks at 7.  
 21 — POW/MIA Day Luncheon, 11:30, Officers' Club  
 22-23 — Commanders' Workshop Weekend

### October

- 8 — Columbus Day (federal holiday)  
 9-14 — Unit Compliance Inspection  
 8-14 — Alabama National Fair, Garrett Coliseum, \$7-\$10, gates open 9 a.m. Oct. 12 and 13, 11 a.m. Oct. 14, 272-6831  
 14 — Run the Runway (1.5- and 2.9-mile options), 7 a.m. behind the 357th AS Building  
 30 — Air Force Association Golf Tourney, Cypress Tree Golf Course

### November

- 1-2 — 908th AW Civic Leader Tour)  
 3 — Enlisted Call, 4 p.m., Maxwell Events Center  
 3 — Officers' Call, 4 p.m., Officers' club  
 11 — Veterans Day (federal holiday)  
 11-17 — Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce "Military Appreciation Week"  
 22 — Thanksgiving (federal holiday)

## ASTS physical exams expanding services during September

With the availability of a health care provider and a dentist, the 908th ASTS physical exam section is able to expand its week-day services to 908th AW members during September.

The process for paraprofessional physical exams has been that the member may come on Wednesdays *after completing their computer health assessment* and do height, weight and blood pressure. If required, the member will also have a hearing exam. Members on orders needing immunizations or lab work may also accomplish that while at the clinic.

**CHANGES TO THE PROCESS for NON-FLYERS:** Optometry will now be added to the Wednesday offerings and no separate appointment will be necessary. Once the entire requirements (ht, wt, BP, hearing, immunizations, lab, dental and optometry) for the physical exam have been met, the member will be scheduled to see the provider, Lt. Col. Carol Anders, a nurse practitioner. Appointments for the provider can be made by calling 3-5714.

**FLYERS:** Flyers must see the optometrist and be seen by a flight surgeon. Therefore, appointments will still be necessary for optometry and to see a flight surgeon. These still need to be made by the individual member and can be done only while the member is in duty status.

**DENTAL APPOINTMENTS:** Dental appointments for class 4's may now be made for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 to 11 a.m. from now until Sept. 19 by calling (334) 953-5714. No orders are required for these class 4 visits.

"This process is provided to help those individuals who are available during the week. Col. Jeffery Bryant, 42nd Medical Group commander, has been working with us to allow members in a military status to be seen by his people," Colonel Anders said. "This is a major accomplishment as the TRICare criteria for Reservists to be seen by regular component health care providers is only while they are on orders for 30 days or more."

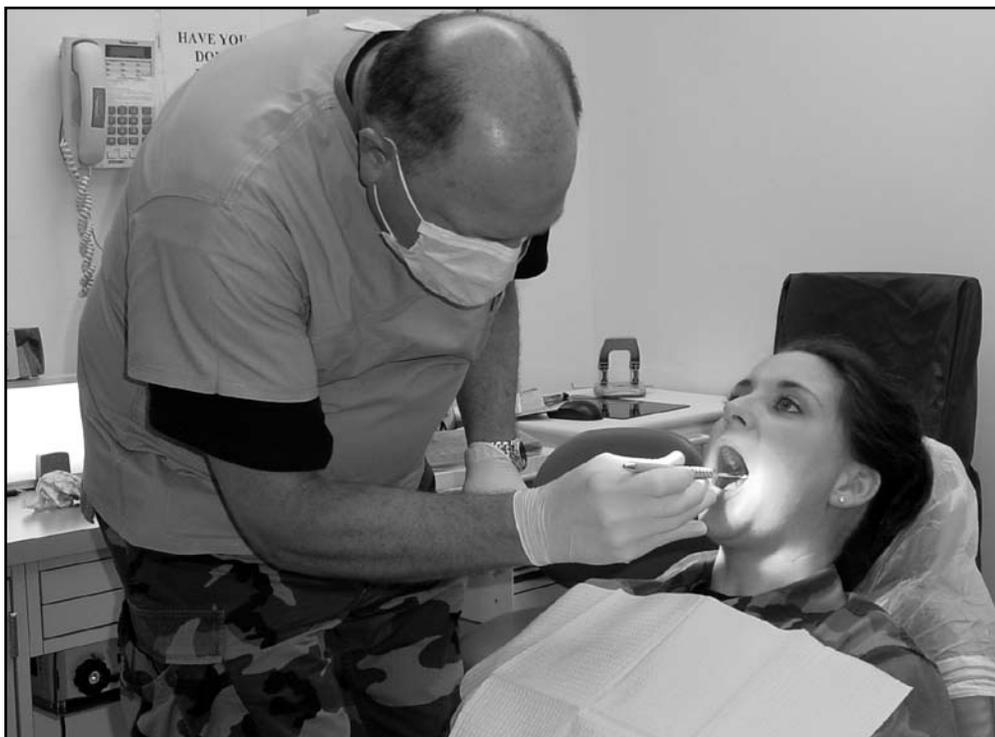


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



Col. Hal Rhea, 908th ASTS's new chief of dentistry, examines a dental patient during the August UTA. Dental appointments for class 4's may now be made for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. until Sept. 19 by calling (334) 953-5714. No orders are required for these class 4 visits.

# Fuel for the fight

**U**nless you're walking, no one goes anywhere without fuel. Car, boat, train, plane, or space shuttle – doesn't matter, fuel is the key.

Few people understand this more clearly than Master Sgt. Donald Larsen and the 10 Airmen of the 908th Logistic Readiness Squadron's Fuel Flight who keep the fuel flowing and the planes flying.

"If we deliver clean, dry fuel on time, then we've accomplished our mission," Sergeant Larsen, the fuels flight NCOIC, said.

The team does more than deliver fuel, however. Lab technicians ensure the fuel is of high quality. They test fuel samples for water accumulation and contaminants, a vital safety precaution. Water or contaminants in fuels could lead to flame outs, engine failures or other aircraft fuel systems malfunctions that may lead to accidents, and perhaps, deaths.

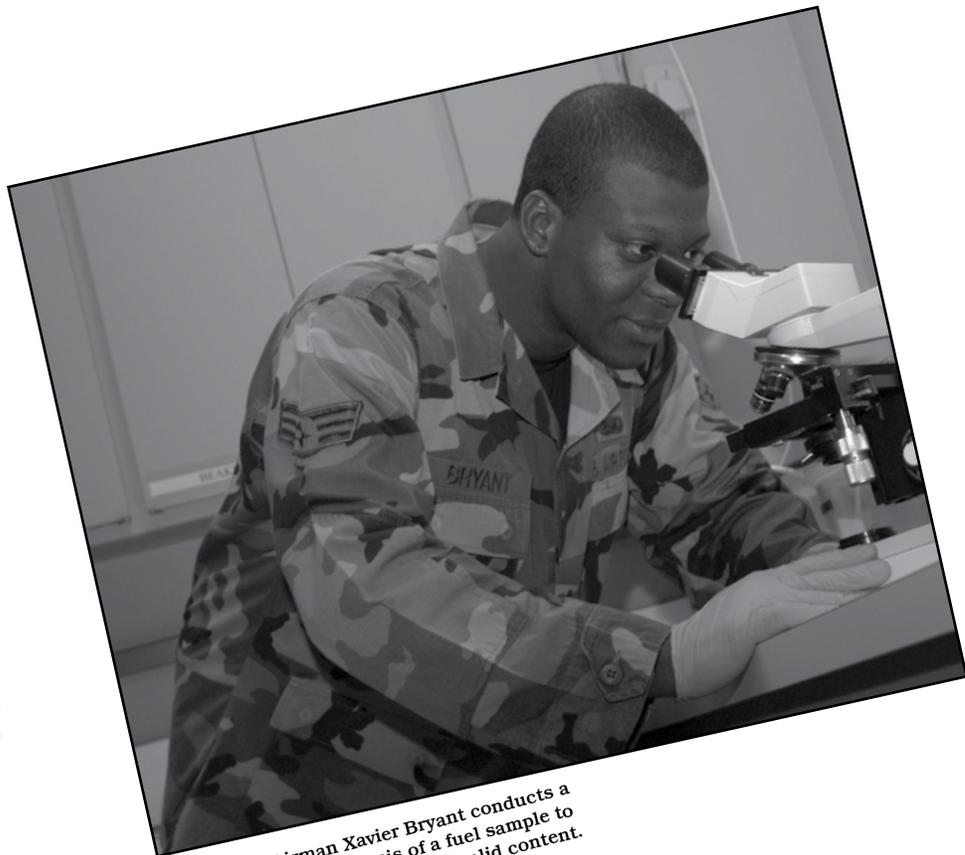
People would be surprised how many tests the fuel that goes in the wing's aircraft undergo, "if only the gas you put in your car was this clean," the sergeant said as he described the lengths they go to ensure the quality of the wing's fuel supply.

And as is the case for nearly every member of today's expeditionary Air Force, deployments figure prominently in their duties, too.

"Coronet Oak always has a fuels specialist plus we've deployed in support of Operating Iraqi Freedom," Sergeant Larsen said.



Fuel flight members conduct a vehicle checkpoint operation on a R-11 refueling vehicle before it's sent to the flightline to service aircraft. The R-11 is capable of issuing jet fuel such as JP-8 at 600 gallons per minute.



Senior Airman Xavier Bryant conducts a microscopic analysis of a fuel sample to determine the presence of solid content.





Staff Sgt. Andy Hernly pulls the 2.5-inch hose from an R-11 refueler in preparation for a refueling operation.

Story and photos by Jeff Melvin



Staff Sgt. Ronnie Warner conducts a bottle method test to determine if a sample of JP-8 meets strict Air Force specifications for quality. This test is performed each time jet fuel is received at Maxwell. The test is also performed randomly at 90-day intervals and sent to the area laboratory at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, for comparison analysis.



Senior Airman Thomas Fitch pressurizes an R-11 to check for serviceability and leaks for safe flightline operation.



Christening the new 25K Halvorsen cargo loader Chief Luther's wife, Ruby, breaks a bottle of camouflaged champagne over its front corner.

# Big Pop



Immortalized in this painting, alongside 25th Aerial Port Squadron's infamous mascot, Tweety, Chief Ron "Big Poppa" Luther is shown before a tarped armored personnel carrier.

Chief Master Sgt. Ron "Big Poppa" Luther listens as Chief Master Sgt Lynn Whited explains the Halvorsen loader's capabilities..



**ppa**

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder  
908th AW Public Affairs

A familiar face returned to the 25th Aerial Port Squadron Aug. 4 to visit his namesake. Former aerial port superintendent retired Chief Master Sgt. Ron Luther took part in a christening ceremony for a 25,000-lb capacity Halvorsen cargo loader bearing his old moniker, 'Big Poppa.'

Current aerial port superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Lynn Whited fondly reminisced about the retired chief, "Ron Luther was our chief for 16 years. He kept this unit sustained and going, and he was the life-blood of our squadron."

Chief Luther said he was "taken aback by the whole thing. I was flabbergasted." He said the biggest thrill was the chance to be with his friends again.

He, too, reminisced about his years in the unit. They started with nothing and "with the help of good people" became the best unit in the Air Force, the chief said.

Chief Whited praised the Halvorsen's utility and durability. Its tires, which are filled with foam, will never go flat, he explained. He added that he has been deployed where "three ran all day, 24/7. Even at 120 degrees, the air conditioning works great!"

The Halvorsen loader gets its name from famed candy bomber Col. Gail Halvorsen who dropped more than 250,000 candy-laden parachutes to the children of Berlin during the blockade following World War II.

# Game Time!

**D**espite being rained out, the Reserve Enlisted Association was ready to roll at the Maxwell AFB Softball complex Aug. 4 with a variety of games and activities for 908th Airlift Wing Airmen, including kickball, volleyball and horseshoes. 908th AW Command Chief Master Sgt. David "Rick" Fanning spearheaded the event and even tested out some of the equipment. The REA plans to host an event twice a year, such as basketball tournament, wallyball, horseshoes, kickball. These activities sponsored by the Reserve Enlisted Association as well as activities sponsored by other 908th AW groups should provide Reservists some variety and fun during the Saturday nights of the UTAs..



Chief Fanning tests the horseshoe pits.



Chief Fanning spikes the volleyball.



# Dedication recognizes Airmen who deliver under fire



Photo by Carl Bergquist

25th APS members unload the reconditioned gun truck at the Enlisted Heritage Hall prior to the dedication ceremony.



Photos by Donna Burnett

Above, Tech. Sgt. John Traum, one of the 908th LRS vehicle operators who participated in convoy duty while deployed, takes a look at the gun truck. Right, 908th Mission Support Group commander Col. Bill Forshey and Chaplain (Capt.) David Dersch look at the display.

Senior Enlisted Leader Summit participants and officials recognized the perseverance of Airmen on convoy duty at the Air Force Convoy Gun Truck Dedication at the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall July 23 at Maxwell Air Force Base's Gunter Annex.

More than 350 people in attendance dedicated a static display of an Air Force convoy gun truck that was left inoperable from an improvised explosive device attack in 2005.

"Today our Airmen provide security in Iraq to ensure desperately needed supplies get to those men and women who need them the most, said Chief Master Sgt. Malcolm McVicar, the director of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall, describing the Airmen who make vital deliveries of equipment and provisions.

The 908th Airlift Wing is part of this rich history, 908th AW Command Chief Rick Fanning, said. Reservists from the wing's Logistics Readiness Squadron deployed to Iraq and drove trucks like the one enshrined at the EHH. Similarly, 25th Aerial Port Squadron personnel coordinated securing the vehicle on display and transported it to and from Hurlburt Field, Fla., for painting and 908th civil engineers poured the concrete slab the gun truck will rest on, the chief added.



Right, Chief Master Sgt. Philip Watkins climbs a ladder at a job site at Helemano Plantation, Oahu, Hawaii. Chief Watkins, 908th CES civil engineer manager, is the project manager for an AFRC-assisted project to build a senior day care center at Helemano, a non-profit organization that assists mentally-challenged, elderly, and physically disabled individuals. Helmano officials said before the Air Force Reserve answered their call for help the much needed day center project languished on the shelf because of its high price tag, an estimated \$ 4 million. Now with Reservists across the country providing volunteer labor, the project is underway. "We traditionally go all over the world to help other people with humanitarian effort. It's really good that we could do something at home. We have great groups coming all summer and are making tremendous strides," Chief Watkins said. In fact, it may have felt a little like home to him, last summer two 908th civil engineers teams took part in an AFRC-sponsored project to build three dormitory houses and a community center at Helemano Plantation.

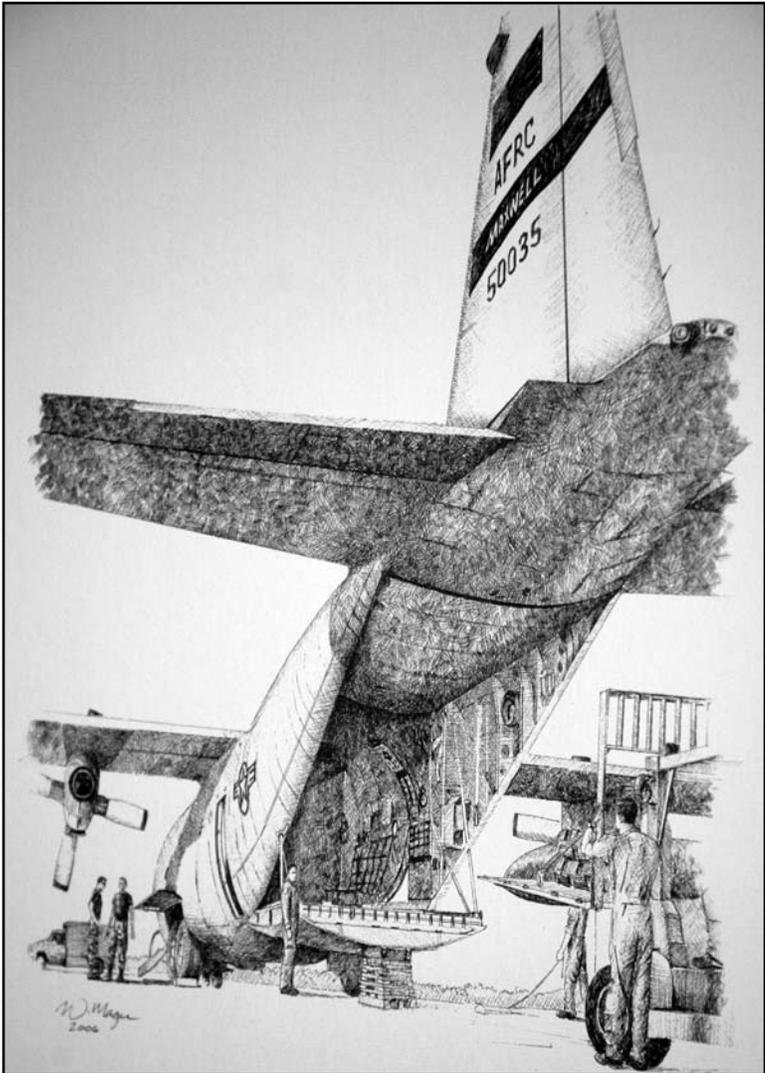


Photo by Jeff Melvin

**Magee art available**

Copies of the 15x20-inch drawing pictured above of a 908th AW C-130 undergoing maintenance while being loaded are being sold as a fund raiser to support wing events. The drawing by former 908th AW Maintenance Group member Capt. Will Magee is available from wing first sergeants.



Right, Tech. Sgt. Quinton Rudolph provides drill instruction to cadets attending the Robert E. Lee High School AFJROTC Summer Leadership School Program. As an initiative of the 908th Human Resource Development Council Outreach Committee, Sergeant Rudolph and fellow 908th Airmen Capt. Tonia Stephens, Master Sgt. Rochelle Peterson and Senior Airmen Crystal Bickerstaff, and Jarren Morgan lent their assistance to the leadership program that featured about 25 students as first time JROTC participants. The Reservists contributed to the program by providing refreshments, instructing on drill and ceremonies, and judging Honor Flight competition. Senior Airman Morgan shared, "It really felt good to have an opportunity to see immediate results after teaching someone."

# Wing snapshots



908th AW Commander Col. Michael Underkofler speaks to the group of wing first sergeants attending the first sergeants workshop July 21 and 22. The workshop was held to bring the wing's three new first sergeants up to speed and to share and adopt best practices among all of the first sergeants on the different programs and activities they manage. Along with Colonel Underkofler's talk, highlights of the gathering included discussions with the group by AFRC Command Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh and 22nd Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. James Fields. The pair dropped in to visit the group while attending the Senior Enlisted Leadership Summit held at Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex that week.

Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb



Former 908th Maintenance Squadron survival shop member Jamar Brooks poses for a photo with family members following his commissioning as a second lieutenant upon graduating from Officer Training School Aug. 17. Lieutenant Brooks was one of three members selected for navigator training by an OTS/Undergraduate Flying Training board in March. Upon completing training, he will be assigned to the 357th Airlift Squadron.

Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

## Program enhances PME options for Guard and Reserve officers

By Lt. Col. Linda Haseloff  
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. -- Leaders of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve have long recognized the importance of professional military education for career progression.

However, U.S. Guard and Reserve officers traditionally have had limited availability for on-base seminar programs for Air Command and Staff College. Due to increased operations tempo and the need to fulfill full-time civilian jobs, a small number of Air Reserve Component personnel are able to attend PME in residence. Consequently, Guard and Reserve leaders sought other means to increase PME opportunities for guardsmen and reservists while enhancing their learning experience.

The ACSC Air Reserve Component Seminar Program was designed in 2004 to fulfill that need.

"The ARCS program is conducted in student-led seminars with Guard and Reserve facilitators," said Lt. Col. Joyce Guthrie, ACSC ANG Component liaison. "This type of learning helps convert some of the 'square filling' attitudes toward those of learning and enjoyment of PME."

Participants in the program spend the initial two weeks in seminar at ACSC on Maxwell covering material from blocks one and two to include taking tests for those blocks. After returning home, they complete blocks three, four and five (including tests) on their own via the

distance learning program. Blocks six and seven, along with the final tests, are completed back in seminar at ACSC for the last two weeks.

Upon completion, students are awarded an ACSC non-residence diploma.

Maj. Paul Gifford, weather officer with the 953rd Reserve Support Squadron, Joint Forces Command, said when he initially enrolled in ACSC through its distance learning program, it was difficult getting started, finding time to study between family and job responsibilities.

"We started class on June 18, and these two weeks here at the Air Reserve Component Seminar have kept me focused on learning and got me jazzed about the ACSC material," he said. "The work load is greater than I expected but it's been enjoyable to take time, sit and be focused on the readings. I will definitely complete ACSC this time and get my diploma."

According to Colonel Guthrie, the intent of the program is to facilitate Guard and Reserve officer completion of intermediate development education (Air Command and Staff College), promote networking and interaction among majors in the field, and allow them to share in the academic experience provided by Air Command and Staff College.

For more information on the ACSC ARCS program, contact Colonel Guthrie at (334) 953-9820.

Air Reserve Component Seminar is also conducted for Guard and Reserve Air War College Distance Learning participants. Twice yearly, guardsmen and reservists from around the United States

gather to cover the first block of instruction in the AWC DL program. The program differs from the ACSC program in that AWC ARCS participants must complete the program on their own without returning the following year.

For more information about the AWC ARCS program, contact Col. Steve Hagel, AWC Reserve Liaison at (334) 953-4367.

## Rules change to require technicians to wear uniforms full-time

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFP) -- When people visit an Air Force Reserve Command unit during a normal work week in the coming months, they are likely to see more people in military uniforms.

Air Force officials changed three instructions Aug. 7 to require all air reserve technicians to wear military uniforms rather than civilian clothes while working in civilian status.

"We want our ARTs to be in uniform because we are integrating with the regular Air Force and Air National Guard throughout the Air Force," said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander. "Total force integration is changing how we interact with the rest of the Air Force."

"Even before 9/11, the regular component depended on us to get the job done," he said. "That dependency is growing because we can't afford to do business as usual. We need to consolidate our forces and capitalize on each other's strengths."

As example of progress, General Bradley cited Reservists preparing to fly F-22 Raptors with the regular Air Force in Alaska, Reservists flying their own C-17 Globemaster IIIs in California and Reservists standing up and managing a C-130 Hercules unit in North Carolina with an active associate unit.

"We are able to take on new and challenging missions because of the skills and experience of our ARTs," said AFRC Command Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh. "Some technicians have told me they feel this uniform change is calling their military dedication or patriotism into question," said the chief. "That is not at all the case. Our technicians have proved themselves in the past and will continue to do so in the future."

General Bradley said the Air Force Reserve is entering a new era which is vastly different than 1958, the year the air reserve technician program was created. "I believe wearing uniforms is an important step to being a full partner and an unrivaled wingman in today's Air Force," said General Bradley.

## Check with orderly room to lessen travel pay woes

By Staff Sgt. Sgt. Clairmont J. Barnes  
Accounting & Finance Technician

When performing official travel, members need to know that the Joint Federal Travel Regulation states that travelers must file a travel voucher within five days of returning from temporary duty. Something many people don't realize is that travel must be coordinated through the unit's orderly room to ensure proper reimbursement of travel or per diem expenses.

When coordinating official travel plans through the orderly room, the traveler should find out if a common carrier (bus, plane, train, or boat) will be used to reach the destination. If so, find out if the unit is paying for the travel or if the traveler is responsible for making and paying for the travel arrangements. If it is the traveler's responsibility to make and pay for the trip, then arrangements must be made through Wingate Travel (the official travel management office for Maxwell AFB) and paid for using the

traveler's government travel card. Official travel arrangements **should not** be made through commercial sites such as Expedia, Travelocity, or Yahoo unless it is specifically authorized in the orders.

The finance office has encountered several instances where TDY members have used commercial sites to procure airline tickets and then filed for reimbursement of the ticket only to be told that they are not authorized reimbursement. These members were not entitled to reimbursement because the travel arrangements were not made through Wingate Travel and the City-Pair fare was not used even though one was available. The only time travel arrangements may be made through commercial sources and reimbursement be authorized is if Wingate Travel deems that City-Pair Fares are not available or if use of them would adversely affect the mission. Thus, unless your orders say otherwise, always use Wingate Travel to plan and purchase common carrier tickets when performing official travel.

# Take Note



Courtesy photo

## Promotions

**Congratulations to the following people promoted to the grades indicated:**

- ....to Chief Master Sgt.  
**Kenneth Mahan, AMXS**
- ....to Master Sgt.  
**Barbara Harbison, 908th AW**
- ....to Tech. Sgt.  
**Paul Boschan, AMXS**  
**Dennis Williams, ASTS**
- ....to Staff Sgt.  
**Charles Jackson, 908th AW**  
**Jeffrey Keevan, CES**  
**John McKinnon, SFS**  
**Jamie Patterson, 25th APS**  
**Jessica Wlaters, ASTS**  
**Kenneth Fontenot, LRS**
- ....to Airman 1st Class  
**Andrew Call, MXS**  
**Taylor Russell, MXS**  
**William Garrison, MXS**
- ....to Airman  
**Robby Jackson, ASTS**

## Airmen sharpen supervisory skills

Unit Reservists graduating from Maxwell AFB Airman Leadership School Class 07-6 Aug. 4 display their diplomas. Pictured from left are Senior Airmen Kimberly Boyd, MOF; Randy Stephens, CES; Kenneth Kibble, SFS; Kanika Blackmon, LRS; Michael Lempke, AES; and James McKenzie, 25th APS. ALS is a six-week course designed to develop Airmen into effective front-line supervisors. This base-level program prepares Senior Airmen for positions of greater responsibility, and training in leadership and management, communicative skills, and the profession of arms. ALS enhances the development of Senior Airmen by strengthening their ability to lead, follow, and manage while they gain a broader perspective of the military profession.

**908th Airlift Wing**  
**401 W. Maxwell Blvd.**  
**Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6501**

Presorted  
 First Class  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit #700  
 Montgomery, AL

**To the Family of:**