

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala., Vol. 45, Issue 7, July 2008

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Retiring former med squadron commander reflects on rewarding career, offers thanks

By Col. Benton L. Busbee
Special assistant to the commander, 908th AW

What started out in 1974 as a conversation with my father turned into a dream career that spanned three decades.

I wasn't looking for a military career when I joined Air Force ROTC in the early '70s. I was looking for a way to supplement my college tuition. My initial goal was to serve my four-year commitment and move on. Well, it's been 30 years almost to the day that I accepted the oath and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the finest military organization in the world.

As I replay the memory tape of my military career, I'm awe-struck and humbled by the opportunities and privileges I have been afforded over the past 30 years.

I have witnessed firsthand service before self, excellence and integrity by the fine men and women that I have served with and that have supported me over the years in various positions of command and leadership, especially these past six years here at the 908th Airlift Wing and 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

It was a much different world when I entered active duty in 1978. I was stationed at Grand Forks AFB, N.D., as a missile launch officer. At that time the military threat was Russia and to a lesser degree, China. We knew where their nukes were and they knew where our nukes were and life was good.

In the late 1980s, I was given the fantastic opportunity to serve a stint at



Col. Benton L. "Ben" Busbee

the Pentagon. Things were changing in a big way in Europe and it wasn't long before the landscape had completely changed and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was no more. I was working as a manpower programming officer at the time and our task was to calculate 'what ifs' which equated to huge force structure reductions based on the changes occurring in Europe. The common theme in the Washington political circles was that the Cold War had ended and so had the threat.

In 1990, my active duty service commitment was waived and I took an early out to pursue a civilian career in healthcare administration. I resigned

my regular commission on June 4, 1990, accepted a reserve commission the next day, and took an assignment at the 403rd Wing at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Since joining the Air Force reserve in 1990 a major component of my life has been time spent doing something I truly loved and will cherish for the rest of my life.

The active reserve mission is awesome, it's challenging, and it brings out the very best in the men and women who make it happen. Post Desert Storm/Desert Shield I had the privilege of being assigned to a task force to formulate the design and operation of the current contingency aeromedical staging facility (CASF) concept of operations. This process is being applied today in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's saving lives. Again, it was an opportunity and a privilege afforded to me.

As we all know, Sept. 11, 2001, changed our world in a way no one ever could have imagined.

One major outcome of post 9/11 is that the traditional reservist mission transitioned to the now Active Guard and Reserve mission or Ready Reserve. It has been an honor to work through this challenge and transition with my fellow peers in the medical community. As the bar is continually raised, you continue to meet the challenge. There is nothing in the civilian job market that compares to the camaraderie found in a military unit. I could go on and on. However, I will end here by saying thank you to the men and women of the 908th ASTS and the 908th AW for making my final assignment the best in a 30-year career. I salute you and I will miss you.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Col. Brett J. Clark – Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

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

Jeffery Melvin – Deputy Chief/Editor

Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder – Public Affairs Specialist

Cover photo:

Medical personnel use the the buddy system to remove their overboots during contamination control area processing supervised by Master Sgt. Larry Parker, 908th CES. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos from the training session.

Southern Flyer

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God's peace and financial peace

By Chaplain (Capt.) David Dersch
908th AW Chaplain's Office

One of Jesus' rules for living is for us not to worry about material things in this world, like what we wear, or what we'll eat, etc. (Matthew 6:30-34). We should have faith that the God who knows when a sparrow falls will take care of us, since we are more valuable than any bird.

In our consumer driven, materialistic culture, worrying over finances has been elevated to a national pastime. With easy credit, the proliferation of high interest revolving debt, and a slowing national economy, many folks are anxious about their financial futures.

God directs us not only to have faith in his provision, but also to plan well when it comes to money. Solomon, a sage for the ages, wrote many proverbs about finances. One

of the most well known is that the borrower is slave to the lender (Proverbs 22:7). To have God's peace, and financial peace, we would do well to heed sound financial wisdom.

According to the Military Family Research Institute, over 56 percent of enlisted military members report difficulty with family finances, and 47 percent say they are in "over their head" with their own expenses.

To help our members in this area, the chapel team is sponsoring a workshop for 908th AW members. Using the well-known Financial Peace University model, 357th Airlift Squadron members Maj. Doran Gillie and Capt. Christian Constantine will be facilitating a weekly seminar beginning the first Wednesday of August.

For more details, contact Major Gillie at 953-5016, Captain Constantine at 953-6572, or someone from the chapel at 953-5372.

Infection Control Corner *What you should know about Lyme disease*

By Maj. Donna Roberts
Infection control officer, 908th ASTS

Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States with more than 23,000 cases reported annually.

Lyme disease is passed to humans by the bite of blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks, most commonly found in the eastern United States. The Lyme disease bacterium normally lives in mice, squirrels, and other small mammals and is most prevalent in the late spring and summer. Areas with woods, bushes, high grass, and leaf litter are likely to have more ticks.

People working in wooded areas should wear hats, long sleeves and long pants. Insect repellents should be used, following proper directions. Skin and clothes should be checked for ticks daily. The hair, underarms, and groin should be checked. If found, ticks can be removed from the skin with fine-tipped tweezers, pulling them away from the skin with a gentle motion. The area should then be washed with soap and water. Removing ticks within 24 hours reduces the risk of being infected with the Lyme disease bacterium.

Symptoms of Lyme disease include an expanding circular rash, fever, joint and muscle pains, headache, chills, fatigue, and swollen lymph glands. Most cases can be successfully treated with antibiotics. Follow-up with a health care provider is recommended if symptoms occur.

For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/lyme.



Photo from "Southern Flyer" archives

Teams square off in bowling tourney

Teams and bowlers are still needed for the "9 Pin, No Tap" bowling tournament sponsored by the 908th Chief's Group, July 12 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Maxwell AFB Bowling Lanes. Ten teams are needed; cost for three games and shoes is \$8. Contact Chief Master Sgt. Lyn Whited, 25th APS, at 953-7971 to register.

908th teen named command's top youth

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

Air Force Reserve Command recently named the daughter of a 908th Maintenance Group member as its Youth of the Year for 2008.

Fifteen year-old Elizabeth "Layne" Sims, daughter of 908th Maintenance Squadron Avionics Flight's Master Sgt. Craig and Lori Sims, received the award, which recognizes outstanding achievements and accomplishments of youth program members who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys and Girls Club as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

"I was shocked that I won it," Layne said. "It was a really great thing.

"She was in tears," said mom, Lori, describing her daughter's reaction to the news that she'd been selected for the award that neither she nor Layne sought.

Layne's nomination stemmed from a call from Teresa Dearth, wife of 908th Maintenance Operation Flight superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Doug Dearth, a family friend and fellow MXG HERC (Help Every Reservist with Contingencies) Boosters club member.

Mrs. Dearth called and said she thought Layne would be a great candidate for the Youth of the Year Award and asked if they would put a package together. The original intent was to surprise Layne's dad, Craig, who was deployed. Well, that didn't work since Craig received some e-mails from friends in the squadron congratulating him on his daughter's nomination.

Proud about the nomination, he's doubly proud about Layne's selection as Youth of the Year.

"It's very gratifying," the proud parent said. "It shows not only that we recognize her abilities, but that other people do as well. ... It shows we're doing something right.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Master Sgt. Craig Sims, 908th MXG, poses for a picture with his daughter, Layne, 2008 AFRC Youth of the Year award recipient. The Youth of the Year Program is conducted in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Youth of the Year Program. As an award winner Layne will attend the General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Challenge Institute at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. in late July.

Lori, equally proud, chimed in. "It means a lot that friends like Doug and Teresa Dearth recognize things in our daughter that we do."

A few of the accomplishments that earned Layne the award were her involvement in the Prattville High School JROTC program where despite her youth she's advanced to cadet captain and served as squadron commander; her involvement with the HERC boosters; as well as National Beta Club, National Honor Society and Autauga County Teen Court and Peers Are Staying Straight (PASS) member.

"I have known Elizabeth for two years—her charisma, professionalism

and sustained performance are absolutely unbeatable! She is the epitome of a quiet professional," wrote Prattville HS JROTC instructor Master Sgt. Larry Smith, in a letter of recommendation.

"She (Layne) is a leader and a role model to younger campers and to her peers at camp," said Susan Hook, owner/director of a girls camp Layne has attended the past six years. "She has high moral standards and evidence of a strong work ethic that put her in a position to apply for a counselor/staff position once she is beyond camp age."

Layne, ever humble, paid tribute to her family.

"My family, whether it is my immediate family or my military family, is very important to me because of the love, support and their encouragement for me to succeed in life," said the high school sophomore, who wants to attend Georgetown University and obtain a nursing degree.

That nursing degree will help her realize her dream, a dream inspired in large measure by her father's "war stories." She said she loves the friends and families he has met throughout his career. "The families and the bonds that they have when Air Force members deploy is an awesome sight. It would be a dream come true to be able to follow in my father's footsteps and serve my country with pride and patriotism as my father has done before me."

She wants to become an Air Force flight nurse so "she can go to remote places and help others in need."

And as much as she wants to follow in her father's footsteps, bright girl that she is she wants to create some memories of her own.

"A nursing career in the Air Force would allow me to see the world abroad. I would be able to see places that my father has visited such as Europe, Panama, Africa and Japan. I have heard about his adventures my whole life and would love to have some of my own."

The Youth of the Year Program is conducted in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Youth of the Year Program. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point-average and be in 9th to 12th grade.

Healthy Airmen

Cope with the pressures of battle

Lt. Col. Carol L. Anders
Nurse Practitioner, 908th ASTS

Recent articles in the "Air Force Times," "Time" magazine and even our own "Montgomery Advertiser" about the mental well being of our military have prompted this month's article.

Not only are we deploying troops to the AOR to daily face the horrors of armed battle, but battles are being faced at home as well. Rising cost of fuel and food, home foreclosures, sickness in families, changes in personnel either through retirement or change of commands and loss of jobs are attacking our mental and emotional well-being. All of these are bombarding us on a daily basis. How do we cope? Where do we find the strength to continue to wage the battles that we confront?

It is estimated that 27 percent of soldiers in Afghanistan screened positive for acute stress (PTSD), according to a Mental Health Advisory Team V report in March 2008. The same report estimates soldiers in Iraq sleep an average of 5.6 hours a night when studies show 7-8 hours of sleep is needed for peak performance. The percentage of positive screenings for mental health problems increases dramatically with increased sleep deprivation per night. Suicides among our military are the highest in recorded history. Repeated deployments see increases in the percentage of occurrence of mental health issues.

So what is the solution to PTSD? The article in "Time" magazine would have you believe that antidepressants are the answer. However, studies have shown that antidepressants alone are

not the answer.

In fact, with prolonged use without counseling antidepressants can be harmful. Any course of treatment involving antidepressants must be followed with mental health care by a provider skilled in counseling for PTSD.

Veteran's hospitals are beefing up the services they offer in this area. Similarly, our colocation with the 42nd Medical Group is a great asset to Airmen returning from deployment needing assistance.

The reserve force has looked at the use of antipsychotics and antidepressants. In the past, any use was banned, now a year's course of therapy and medications is usually approved if progress is being made. Use of these medications beyond a year; however, is looked at by medical boards case-by-case.

So you haven't been deployed or maybe you have but it's not the horrors of armed battle that confront you on a daily basis, but the struggles to just survive in today's economic climate or the opportunities that have been dealt to you. How do you cope in these circumstances?

Start by taking a lesson from our combat studies. Here's what these studies show:

- Sleep deprivation makes the world hard to handle. The body needs to shut down (sleep) in order to recharge itself for the challenges of the next day. 7-8 hours of sleep a night is recommended. If you are an early riser, you may need to go to bed earlier to get your hours in.
- Get away from the battle for a short period. While sleep can be a good escape, too much sleep can be seen as



a sign of depression. Sometimes just taking a walk around the block can clear your head and let you see the battle from a new direction. Hemingway wrote in one of his novels that "you can not always look into the sun". Sometimes that break in conflict helps to refocus the combatants to come back refreshed to fight a new day.

- Exercise is a great stress reliever. The endorphins released with exercise produce some of the strongest opiate and analgesic effects known to man. You may have heard of the "runners high". It truly exists and helps us to overcome our battles.

- Talk it out—whether it is with a best friend, the family pet, a counselor, the chaplain or your God—verbalizing what is bothering you often helps to put it in perspective.

- List the good things (blessings) in your life. When all seems black around you, list the good that is still there. It may be simple things like food in the pantry, a roof over your head, good health, fresh air to breathe, freedom to come and go as you please, to laugh, to reach out and talk to someone, a warm, dry bed to sleep in, clean water to drink, the ability to take a shower or put on clean clothes. We have so much to be thankful for.

Healthy Airmen know how to cope with the battles we face, and if not, we care for our wingman. Don't struggle on your own; seek help to fight those battles. Call a friend, see the chaplain or call the ASTS. Help is available.



Colonel Clark takes command of 908th AW

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

Col. Brett J. Clark took the reins of command of Alabama's only Air Force Reserve unit June 7, replacing Col. Michael J. "UK" Underkofler, who has led the 908th Airlift Wing since January 2006.

22nd Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, who presided over the change of command ceremony, prefaced his remarks about the wing's departing and incoming leaders with praise for the 908th's people.

"I want to thank you for your volunteer service. I want to thank you for your leadership," General Mazick told the gathering of unit members in the audience which included Mayors Bobby Bright of Montgomery and Jim Byard of Prattville and soon-to-be Air University commander, then-Maj. Gen. Allen Peck. "You were the first ones to who stood up and said, 'We're going to go back to the desert.'"

General Mazick said the groundwork the 908th laid out while deployed earlier this year paved the way for subsequent C-130 wings to flourish.

General Mazick thanked Colonel Underkofler for good stewardship and good leadership. "Those in command know there is no greater task for commanders than to ensure that you are trained, you are ready and you are



Col. Brett J. Clark, right, accepts the wing guidon from Maj. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, signifying assumption of command for the 908th Airlift Wing.

equipped when we send you off to war and "UK" has fulfilled that promise to you and to us (22nd Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force)."

From taking care of the families, to ramping up the fitness program, to his emphasis on facility improvements, to the Air Force Reserve 60th anniversary celebration, Colonel Underkofler "leaves a legacy of caring," the general said, adding that it was now time for Colonel "UK" to have a staff job and help the other 14 organizations in 22nd Air Force.

General Mazick then turned the spotlight on new 908th AW commander, Colonel Clark, lauding his performance in his previous job as commander of the 440th AW's Detachment 1 at Pope AFB, N.C.

That job involved the challenging task of setting up an associate C-130 unit, a task the general felt Colonel Clark was particularly suited to because of his experiences with the 919th Special Operations Wing at Duke Field, Fla. Colonel Clark was the director of operations for the 919th SOW's 5th Special Operations Squadron when it transitioned to reserve associate status alongside the 1st SOW's (active duty) 9th SOS in 1999. Together the 5th and 9th SOS formed an associate unit, flying and maintaining 10 regular Air Force MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft. He later served as commander of the 919th SOW's 919th Operations Group.

"Brett, thank you for stepping up," the general said. "I wish you the best. I know under your leadership this unit will continue to have great success."



Among the dignitaries in attendance were Mayors Bobby Bright of Montgomery and Jim Byard of Prattville.

Colonel Underkofler, who was awarded the Legion of Merit before the change of command ceremony, put his twist on a refrain from the Air Force 60th anniversary video shown prior to start of the ceremony, changing the phrase, “We were there” to “You were there.”

“You were there,” he told river region community and civic leaders and Maxwell-Gunter staff. “You helped make tough times more bearable, good times more joyous and my service here more productive.”

The men and women of the 908th were there, he said, “for our inspections and exercises. You were there for our humanitarian airlift missions, for our combat sorties and ground combat missions, for treating the injured and returning them for definitive medical care, for loading, launching, refueling, and fixing airplanes in all types of weather and conditions. You built facilities and roads, and fed, housed, protected and trained warfighters here and all over the globe.”

He then thanked his family for their support and sacrifices and praised his successor as the right person to lead the wing through the challenges ahead.

He ended with a thank you to the 908th. “I’ve been honored to serve you. I’m humbled by your service to the nation. You are unrivaled. You were there and I know you’ll be there when the nation needs you,” Underkofler told the audience.

Colonel Clark introduced his family, thanked them for their support and acknowledged their contributions to his career successes. He then talked about the keys to a successful Air Force organization. Not surprisingly, he listed three keys familiar to all Airmen: integrity, service, and excellence as well as a fourth, loyalty.

Loyalty, he said, is a key element to the success of great organizations. “Loyalty is a decision. Loyalty is the glue in teamwork. Loyalty moves up and down as well as horizontally within an organization. Loyalty is that drive and obligation to quietly offer and communicate alternatives without damaging a commander’s credibility. Loyalty allows us to clearly see the unit comes before the individual. And most importantly, loyalty will draw us together both in the best or worst of times.”

He said he had firsthand knowledge of the 908th’s sterling reputation since he’d flown C-130s throughout his career and had worked closely with many 357th Airlift Squadron aircrew and 908th maintainers in many deployed locations



908th AW Commander Col. Brett J. Clark speaks to the group of Air Force Reservists, and local community and military dignitaries in attendance following his assumption of command.

from Desert Shield, to Provide Promise, to Joint Forge.

He cited other examples of the 908th’s contributions to the nation’s defense such as real world humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, contingency and combat operations.

He shared a final thought with the unit members in the audience about the 908th’s reputation. “At the end of 2005, the 908th had just finished a two-year mobilization simultaneously with many other C-130 units within the Air Force Reserve Command. It was a tough two years and all these mobilized wings needed the rest. Yet in 2008, our nation and our command called upon the C-130 theater airlift units to gear up and volunteer to return to the AOR. Who led the charge, volunteering to be first to return to the fight — of course it was the 908th Airlift Wing,” the colonel said.

After thanking Colonel Underkofler for his efforts and General Mazick for having confidence in him, he ended his remarks, saying, “I know that there is no greater responsibility than to be assigned command of a combat coded unit while our nation is at war. It is an honor and privilege to command the 908th Airlift Wing. ... To all the Airmen of the 908th, it is a thrill to join your team. Expect me to hit the ground running with enthusiasm. You can expect my very best effort and my loyalty. Together we will write the newest chapter of success and achievement in the history of the 908th. I can’t wait to get started.”



Photos by Jeff Melvin

Col. Brett J. Clark, center, is welcomed by members of the 908th Airlift Wing during a reception following his change of command ceremony. He is flanked by his mom, Collette, left, and his second in command, Col. Jon Andre, right.

Med units brave heat for wartime training

Despite the sweltering heat, 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and Aeromedical Evacuation personnel performed field readiness exercises designed to enhance their performance in wartime conditions last month.

Along with classroom training, the medical practitioners underwent chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and/or explosive training and practiced litter carrying and patient movement capped by the loading and unloading of patients on a unit C-130 aircraft..



Readiness flight chief Master Sgt. Larry Parker explains how to proceed through contamination control area station No. 1, the Arrival Point and Initial Decon Area.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Smithers and Master Sgt. Joseph Smith, ASTS, act as litter bearers.



AES aeromedical technician Staff Sgt. Caterina...

Feature



Photos by Jeff Melvin



908th ASTS Tech. Sgt. Terrie Reichmuth decontaminates and rinses her gloves before heading to the next station.



Senior Airman, Shiletha Myles, AES (right), gets help removing her overboot from her buddy, 908th ASTS Staff Sgt. Melissa Bayer.



a Durham leads 'ambulatory patients' to the awaiting C-130.



Medical personnel secure 'patients' for transport.

Donley in as acting Secretary of Air Force

Michael B. Donley is the new acting secretary of the Air Force, succeeding Michael Wynne, who held the position since November 2005.

Mr. Donley was previously the administration and management director for the Secretary of Defense, a position sometimes referred to as “mayor” of the Pentagon.

The secretary is responsible for organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its nearly 323,000 men and women on active duty, 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, 160,000 civilians and their families. He oversees an annual budget of approximately \$110 billion and ensures the Air Force can meet its current and future operational requirements.

Mr. Donley has more than 26 years of experience in the national security community, including service in the Senate, White House and the Pentagon. During his career he has been involved in strategy and policymaking at the highest levels and is a recognized expert in national security organization, planning and budgeting.

From 1996 until his appointment at his former Pentagon post, he was a senior vice president at Hicks and Associates, a subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation. During this time he served as a special adviser to the Defense



Michael Donley

Reform Commission in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the State Department and contributed to several major defense projects involving organizational reform and planning.

From 1993 to 1996, Mr. Donley was a senior fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses. He was acting secretary of the Air Force for seven months in 1993. From 1989 to 1993 he served as the assistant secretary of the Air Force (financial management and comptroller) with responsibility for budgeting, cost and economic analysis.

Mr. Donley served the National Security Council as deputy executive secretary from 1987 to 1989 and as director of defense programs from 1984 to 1987. He was also a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee (1981-84), a legislative assistant to the Senate (1979-81) and the editor of the National Security Record for the Heritage Foundation (1978-79).

He served in the Army from 1972 to 1975 with the 18th Airborne Corps and 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), attending the Army's intelligence and parachute schools and the Defense Language Institute.

Mr. Donley earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations from the University of Southern California. He attended the Program for Senior Executives in National Security at Harvard University and, until recently, was a doctoral candidate at Georgetown University.

Military, civilian employees must follow rules regarding involvement in political activities

WASHINGTON – As U.S. servicemembers and Defense Department civilians ponder candidates during the election season, they should realize there are limits placed upon their involvement in certain political activities.

Political-related “dos and don'ts” pertaining to military members of all service branches are proscribed within Defense Department Directive 1344.10, titled: Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty.

The federal Hatch Act delineates what federal civilians, including those working for the Defense Department, may or may not do in the political realm.

For example, servicemembers and government civilians may attend political events like meetings and rallies, but military members must only be spectators and not wear their uniforms.

In addition, troops aren't permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity within political groups, or take part in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

Under Hatch Act rules, government civilians may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They're also allowed to manage political campaigns, distribute literature (except at work), write political articles, or serve as spokespersons for political parties or candidates.

Military members generally aren't allowed to campaign for political office. Civilians can campaign for office in non-partisan elections. Partisan political activity is defined as activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party or candidate for a partisan political office or partisan political group.

Yet, basic rules apply to both military members and government civilians. Neither can use their position in the

military or the government to influence or interfere with elections. Servicemembers and federal civilians never can engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

For example, servicemembers and government civilians are not to distribute political literature at work. This also applies to politically partisan electronic mail messages forwarded over the Internet.

Servicemembers and government civilians are encouraged to exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process. But, they should know there are rules in place that govern the extent of their involvement in political activities, officials said. (Source: American Forces Press Service)



Come one, come all Alumni dinner set for Sept. 6 at Gunter Annex

All past and present unit members are invited to the 908th AW Alumni Association Reunion Sept. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Falcon's Nest on Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

The buffet starts at 7 p.m. and includes sliced roast beef, chicken breast, salad and various vegetables, desserts and tea or coffee.

Noting that people are the key to a successful reunion, Alumni Association committee member Gene Beasley, said the reunions are successful because of "good food and the good company of all that attend, whether it is their first time or they've attended many times." He added the reunion isn't merely an old-timers' club but "an ideal opportunity for those of us still here to listen and learn from those that were here before us."

He asked that people share the information about the reunion since the news doesn't also reach everyone. "If you know any current or former member who hasn't received a letter about the reunion, please give him or her a copy or pass his or her address or e-mail address on to me."

Beasley added that those unable to attend should still respond back so they can remain on the alumni association mailing list.

"Photos have been a big hit. If you would like to share photos you have of unit personnel or aircraft, please put your name on the back so we can return them to you." Beasley said, adding that tech savvy folks can e-mail photos. E-mailed photos will be shown in a digital frame.

He also asked alumni association members to pass on information about any former 908th people that passed away this year. He noted that all vehicle occupants must have a picture ID to enter Gunter Annex.

For more information, please contact Gene Beasley at (334) 365-4721 (home) or (334) 399-5198 (cell) or e-mail Gene Beasley at beas1259@bellsouth.net (home); Annie Cantrell at (334) 569-0373 (home) or (334) 462-7695 (cell) or e-mail: cantrellannie@hotmail.com or Joe Gargus at (334) 365-5529 (home) or jocapratt@bellsouth.net.



Photo from "Southern Flyer" archives

Please complete and return ASAP (Deadline is Aug. 15):

Name: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Dinner: \$19 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

Number in Party: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check or money order payable to:

908th AW Reunion Alumni Association

Send to: Annie Cantrell, 356 Beachwood Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092

PH: (334) 462-7695, E-MAIL: cantrellannie@hotmail.com

Wing snapshots

Tech. Sgt. Dimitri Jefferies was named class commander of the Gunter NCO Academy Class 88-04. Pictured here, Sergeant Jefferies holds the plaque he and his classmates donated as a legacy item to be displayed for historic purposes. The plaque details the career of former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Thomas Barnes, the first and only African-American CMSAF.



Photo by Melanie Rodgers



Deployed 25th APS member Staff Sgt. [Name] unloads a cargo pallet of [Name] air freight.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Tech. Sgt. Guincey Hester (far right), 908 MXS, also an ART in the aerospace ground equipment shop explains the operation of a B809 Generator. The generator is used to supply power to aircraft on the ground

Feature



Photo by Senior Airman SerMae Lampkin

James McKenzie, 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, is seen operating a forklift to move cargo from the back of an aircraft at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq May 22.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Senior Master Sgt. Terry Shook, wing safety manager (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Thrasher Jones, wing performance management NCO (right), discuss an aspect of the fitness program during the June UTA.



Photos by Jeff Melvin

Playoff fever

Above, Mark Naglic gets ready to deliver a pitch and right, outfielder Joe Stone gets ready to swing during the 908th AW intramural softball team's 18-2 playoff win against 42nd Med Group June 24. The squad followed that up with 12-11 win June 27 to stay in the championship chase at press time. Below, the softballers head to the dugout following their opening day playoff win. The members of

the squad are: James Melton (coach), Mark Williams (ass't coach), Joshua Civelli, Michael Eubanks, Sammy Gipson, Joe King, Danielle Owens, Teresa Lapcheske, Lee Phillips, Wesley Prater, Craig Sims, William Mayfield, Joe Stone, Jamie Womack (all of 908th MXS); Chris Austin and Harless Bassett, AMXS; Bill Moore, MOF; Colby Leathers and Mark Naglic, MPP; Tim Oliver, SFS; and family members Fred Boyd and Daryl Thorton,



Take Note

Work planning

Right, Staff Sgt. Katrina George, 908th MPF chief of customer service goes over the plan of action for Sunday of the June unit training assembly with Airmen Melissa Hamilton and Anthony Green.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following people promoted to the grades indicated:

....to Senior Master Sgt.
Darrel Tubbs, 25th APS

....to Master Sgt.
Matthew Higgins, 25th APS
Patrick Kowalczyk, ASTS
Brian McNutt, 25th APS

....to Tech. Sgt.
Angela Dixon, AES
Kenneth Johnson, 25th APS

....to Staff Sgt.
Sandra Byrd, ASTS
Wesley Carnes, SFS
Lillian Garrett, 25th APS
Victor Nguyen, LRS
Natalie Parnel, 25th APS
Anson Pryde, SFS
Mattie Taylor, CES
Koron Webb, AMXS

....to Senior Airman
Calnecia Gregg, ASTS
Curtisha Walker, MXS

....to Airman 1st Class
Tony Donofrio, AMXS

Wing hosts workshop

The 908th Airlift Wing will host a two-day workshop called "Preparing Today for Tomorrows Challenges," Aug. 16-17 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

"As Citizen Airmen, we face unique challenges trying to balance family, civilian job, and military requirements," said 908th AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Fanning. "With the help of the Airman and Family Readiness Center as well as some other key leaders from the military and civilian communities, this event will be two days of learning about finances, education, CCAF, TSP, promotions, relationship building, goal setting, bullet writing, deployment preparation and hopefully we will have some fun as well," the chief continued.

Those interested in attending should contact their respective supervisor, first sergeant, or commander.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

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