

# Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala., Vol. 46, Issue 3, April 2009

## ORI is coming

ORTP-4 aims to help prepare wing for operational readiness inspection -- Pgs 4-5

## 'Homegrown'

Longtime member new wing command chief -- Pg 3

## AF rates lab best in its class

Nondestructive inspection lab best in Air Force -- Pg 9

## Annual award winners

See wing's top Airmen for 2008 -- Pgs 6-7

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## Serenity Prayer apt in difficult times

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford  
908th AW Chaplain's Office

It seems like each day we watch the news or read the paper, bad news is heaped upon bad news. This inundation causes many of us to be in a constant state of worry, and for good reason. We all want to do what is best for our families, our nation and ourselves. Many of us have to make tough, life changing decisions regarding our future security. This naturally produces a lot of worry.

I was listening to the financial advisor Dave Ramsey the other day and he quoted a statement by Dale Carnegie that gave me pause. Mr. Carnegie stated that "80 percent of what we

worry about will never happen – of the 20 percent that is left – 10 to 12 percent are things we cannot do anything about – things that are beyond our control. All that is left is 8 percent that we can affect."

Now the trouble is that we spend all our time and energy worrying about the things that either will never happen or are completely and totally out of our control. We cannot control what happens with the weather, the stock market, the Global War on Terrorism, etc. Yet, if we were honest with ourselves, we'd admit that is where we invest most of our energy and emotional resources. We end up getting discouraged and despondent.

We need to refocus on the 8 percent

– the things that we can control. Look around yourself and ask – what can I directly control? We can control ourselves, our responses to situations, and our actions. Many times because we are so focused on what we cannot control we miss the great opportunity to be of help to those around us and to change ourselves for the better.

The words of Dale Carnegie reminded me of a prayer written by theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and made famous by Alcoholics Anonymous. A prayer that is good for all of us to know – a prayer you may already know: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference."

## Dersch named Air Force Reserve's top chaplain

Maj. David Dersch of the 908th Chaplain's Office is the recipient of the USAF Chaplain's Corps 2009 Thoralf T. Thielen Award presented to the top Reserve Chaplain.

The chaplain is nearing the end of a 120-day deployment serving as the senior Protestant chaplain for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing located at Al Udeid AB, Qatar. The 379th AEW provides combat airpower and support for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and through support of the Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

Commenting on his selection for the Thielen Award, Dersch singled out wing chaplain Lt. Col. Philip Armstrong for mentoring him and nominating him

and lauded current 908th AW Commander Col. Brett Clark and his predecessor Col. Michael Underkofler for their support for the wing chapel program.

"Receiving this recognition would not have been possible without the wing leadership's encouragement and putting a chaplain on orders," said Chaplain Dersch. "The 908th AW is a wonderful place to serve God and our country, and I look forward to returning home in a couple of months and continuing to help spiritually support our Airmen and their families."

Right, Chaplain Dersch poses for a photo op with Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces Maj. Gen. H. E. Hamad bin Ali Al Attiyah during a visit the general hosted at his home for 150 deployed Airmen.



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

Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder -- Public Affairs Specialist

### Cover photo:

Master Sgt. Teresa Lapcheske, 908th Maintenance Squadron nondestructive inspection lab, performs a weekly system performance check on a magnetic particle unit. See Page 9 for more about the lab's selection as best in Air Force.

## Southern Flyer

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## Kirksey tabbed for top enlisted post

By Jeff Melvin  
908th AW Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey is the 908th Airlift Wing's new command chief master sergeant. Chief Kirksey served as 908th Logistic Readiness Squadron superintendent before his selection to fill the wing's top enlisted position.

He replaces Chief Master Sgt. Rick Fanning who took over as director of the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute at Gunter Annex early this year.

As the command chief, Chief Kirksey will advise the 908th Airlift Wing commander on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective employment of the wing's enlisted Reservists and serve as the commander's representative to committees, councils, boards, and military and civilian functions.

"The professionalism of all the candidates was superior. Selecting a command chief among all the talented people who submitted packages was a difficult decision," said 908th AW Commander Col. Brett J. Clark.

Chief Kirksey got the nod in large part because "he had the mission/people connection so well thought out," the colonel said. "He had a good, positive attitude and was all ready to go forward."

Colonel Clark added that despite his brief stint on the job, "Chief Kirksey has already made an impact. He's off to the races."

This is an exciting time, said the chief, an Alabama native who grew up in Silas, a rural community of approximately 700 people located 75 miles north of Mobile close to the Mississippi state line.

"As a leader, it's amazing to have a group of people buy into your vision or program, but it is totally amazing when that vision comes to fruition and that same group of folks have the opportunity to revel in the excitement and the pride of such an accomplishment with you.

"That is definitely over-the-top. My success rests on the heels of the men and women of the 908th Airlift Wing. From the feedback that I've been receiving since the announcement went out, everyone is onboard 100 percent. That's astonishing. Team 908th, you are a class act and I am proud to serve as your command chief!"

From his rural Alabama upbringing to his rise through the ranks of the 908th after completing basic training

in 1988 and becoming a fuels specialist, the new command chief is truly homegrown, having spent his 20-year career at Maxwell except basic training, a deployment in 2002 and the occasional TDY or school tour. He has no prior active duty service.

"I tell everyone that the Air Force Reserve is the best part-time job that I have ever had and that the 908th Airlift Wing is truly the best wing in AFRC. I am very fortunate to have had and continue to have the opportunity to serve my country 20 plus years alongside my brothers and sisters in arms at the 908th," he said.

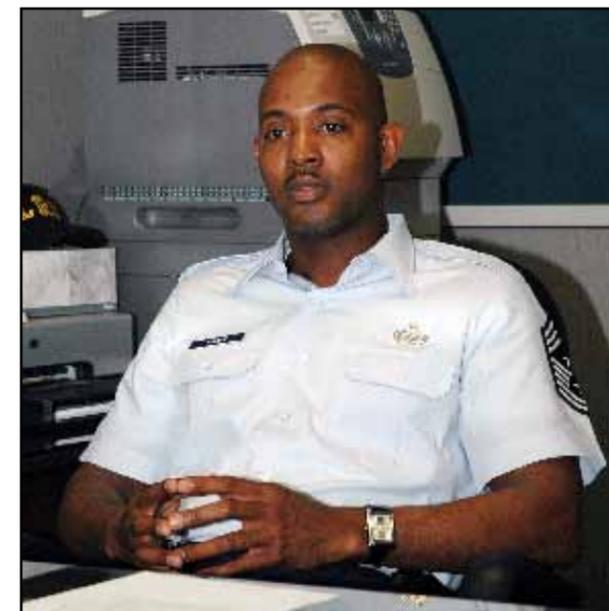
Along with the wing commander's priorities of improved morale, retention and the Dec. 4-11 operational readiness inspection, Chief Kirksey plans to emphasize accountability.

With the ORE/ORI just around the corner, "the 'Boss' and I both agree that opportunistic times are ahead," he said. "There will be an opportunity for each of us to demonstrate the true characteristics of professionalism. There will be long days and shorter nights. I guarantee that you will be challenged!"

Teamwork will be central to meeting the challenge. He said leadership, experience, dedication, perseverance, pride and determination will be needed. "We are looking for swagger. We are looking for that 'win at all cost' attitude. We are looking for the MVPs to stand up. We are crafting a message and that message is, 'Are you all in?'"

He knows about taking advantage of opportunities. Early in his career, he said he thought "If I'm lucky and wait my turn, I can make it to master sergeant (essentially as far as a fuels specialist could go through the normal promotion process)"

However a little voice in his head kept saying, "Always strive to do your best and never quit." He earned recognition as AFRC's Fuels Superintendent of the Year for 2001 and received promotion enhancement program promotion to senior master sergeant in 2003. He then set his sights on the highest enlisted grade,



Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, new 908th AW command chief

sewing on chief in October 2007.

"Seventeen months after sewing on chief, I am the newly appointed command chief for the 908th Airlift Wing. Unbelievable!" he said.

Looking back on his journey, he said he owes thanks to many – God first and foremost, Colonel Clark, family, former supervisors and co-workers as well as friends. His youngest brother is his biggest fan. His aunts and uncles saw his "potential beyond my shortcomings" and his mother stressed the value of getting an education, always preaching, "Strive to be your best! Your attitude controls your altitude." It's a message that still resonates with him today.

"I would humbly say thanks to all of my supervisors (officers and enlisted), co-workers, members, at large, of the 908th, past and present as well as a special close knit group of friends," he continued. "I am the product of lessons learned from each of them. Lastly, I am eternally grateful to my mentors Brig. Gen. (ret) Ed Crowell, Col. William "Bill" Forshey, Maj. Benjamin Smith and David Lionberger, Chief Master Sgts. Lesley Morrisette, Amos Moore (ret), Chief Linda Roberts (ret), Gary Looney (ret), and Jimmy Johnson (ret) and Master Sgt. Rod Parker for your candid discussions and keeping me grounded. I can honestly say that without your guidance I would not be where I am today. Thanks for supporting me and keeping me focused on the big picture."

# ORI Milestones

Make sure these dates are checked on your calendar

Operational Readiness Training Package 4 (ORTP-4): April 23-30, 2009 at Blue Thunder Complex (Maxwell AFB, Ala.) Training

Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE): Sept. 13-20, 2009 at Gulfport, Miss. w/911th IARS, Pa. Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh

\*\*Operational Readiness Inspection: Dec. 4-11, 2009, (location to be announced)



## ORTP-4 Operation Patriot Thunder

April exercise features full slate of activities in preparation for December ORI

By Lt. Col. Steve Catchings  
908th Operations Group Standardization and  
Evaluation chief  
Wing ORI "Warlord"

Many of you may be asking, "What is ORTP-4?" It is the fourth stage of the Operational Readiness Training Program developed to prepare AFRC units for their operational readiness inspection.

The first three training events were mostly tabletop and classroom sessions followed by a scenario-based exercise.

ORTP-4 is the first training event that involves all of the unit type codes that are tasked for the ORI. It is also the first event to involve a full-blown deployment of forces.

Well, it was until these budget constraints hit us. Instead of deploying to Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, we are deploying to the Blue Thunder training camp here at Maxwell... hence the name Operation PATRIOT THUNDER.

During PATRIOT THUNDER, we are going to exercise and evaluate our initial response (IR), deployment, employment (which includes ability to survive and operate) and redeployment.

What to expect: Operation PATRIOT THUNDER will be held April 23-30, with April 25-26 taking the place of the April UTA. The scenario is we are deploying to Korea and arriving before hostilities begin.

Unit deployment monitors and increment monitors will use April 23-24 to build pallets and work on their documentation. Most units are bringing the rest of their folks in for training. On Friday, the 24th, starting at 1500 physicals will be conducted for the primary players.

### Deployment Days

April 25-26 are our primary deployment days. Advanced echelon personnel and cargo will be processed and deploy to Blue Thunder on Saturday. Everyone else will be working with their UDMs to ensure they are ready to deploy and helping with deployment preparations.

Early Sunday morning the processing will begin for the main body deployment. Each unit will have a pickup location. The buses will pick up personnel at their pickup locations in order of chalks. Your UDM will know what chalk you are

on. You will need to have your orders, mobility packet, flak vest, helmet, web belt, disco belt and a bag with clothes, toiletries, training chem gear, etc (a more specific list will be provided).

The bus will take you to the personnel deployment function line for processing. You'll drop off your bag on the baggage pallet then proceed inside to inventory a C-bag. Once inventory is complete, you'll proceed to the PDF line.

After the line, you'll receive a deployment briefing and then be transported to the "aircraft." Since aircraft availability is limited, many of the flights will be simulated by either taxiing the aircraft to Blue Thunder or the bus may take you directly to Blue Thunder. At Blue Thunder you will in process through PERSCO (Personnel Support for Contingency Operations), build a pre-determined number of sandbags and then proceed to your workstation. Buses will take participants back to their respective units at the end of the day.

### Employment Days

April 27-29 are the Employment days. The hours for these days will be



'MOPP Models' – 908th Operations Group personnel were treated to a bit of refresher training with a humorous twist when unit leadership turned the operations briefing room into a catwalk and strutted their stuff demonstrating proper attire for selected Mission Oriented Protective Postures or MOPP levels March 8. From, right 357th AS Commander Lt. Col. Scott Hayes demonstrates MOPP Level "0," 908th OG Commander Col. Ed Jennings, center, demonstrates MOPP Level "2" and 357th Director of Operations Maj. Ken Ostrat, left, demonstrates MOPP Level "4."

approximately 0900-2100. Parking and transportation on these days is still being determined due to some host base limitations. Monday will be primarily setting up work areas and doing drills and training to prepare for the "war." By Monday evening the situation will begin to heat up. The main ability to survive and operate play will take place all day Tuesday. Wednesday may have some ATSO in the morning then the Redeployment will begin around 1200.

### Redeployment Days

April 29-30 are the Redeployment days. This will consist of packing up our workstations and building pallets to redeploy. We will also have to clean the play area and restore the tents, tables, chairs, etc. to the state they were in when we arrived (we'll have to do that

at Gulfport for the operational readiness exercise also).

What am I going to get out of this? They key to success here is the same as it will be for the ORE and the ORI -- that is ATTITUDE.

Try not to get too wrapped up in the simulations or exercise-isms. There will be some stop-n-go's. Moreover, there will be opportunities to accomplish training. The intent here is not to mirror exactly what you are going to experience in the ORI, but to experience a taste of what it will be like during the ORE and ORI.

We plan to balance that by providing a scenario and training environment and concentrate on the training. Don't just go through the motions, try to understand what is going on around you and take the lessons you learn to improve how you plan to operate in a deployed arena

whether it is real world or exercise.

After the exercise, the exercise evaluation team will build a hot wash briefing to highlight the major lessons learned. Every squadron/flight should also do their own after-action report so they can capture their lessons learned as well.

Talk to your supervisors about what you experienced, ask questions if there is anything you don't understand and pass on any ideas for improvement that you come up with. Everyone in the wing, from airman to colonel, has a role to play in preparing us for the ORI in December. Remember, even if you are not a primary or alternate player, there is always a chance that your UTC could be tasked or you may need to fill a position. Learn as much as you can now so this will all be second nature by our ORI.

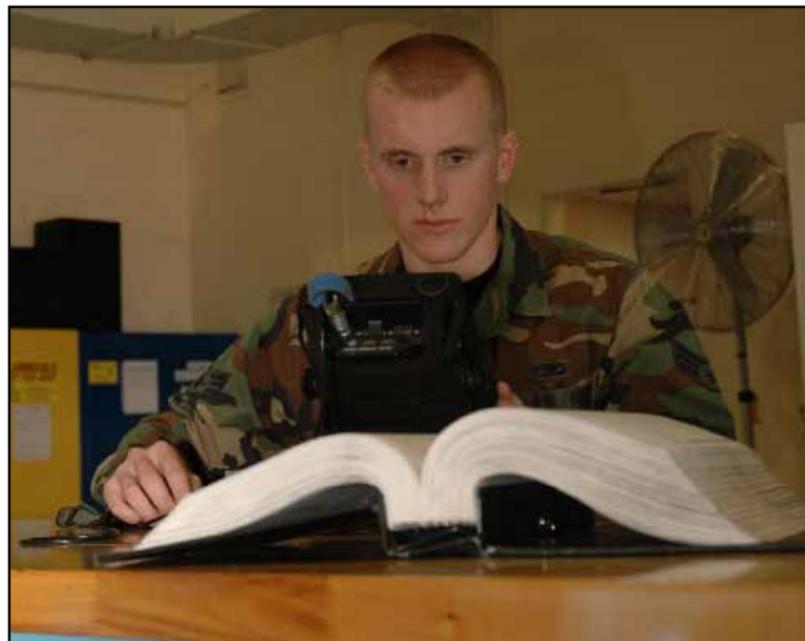


Photo by Jeff Melvin

Senior Airman Craig C. Morris, 908th MXS, Airman of the Year

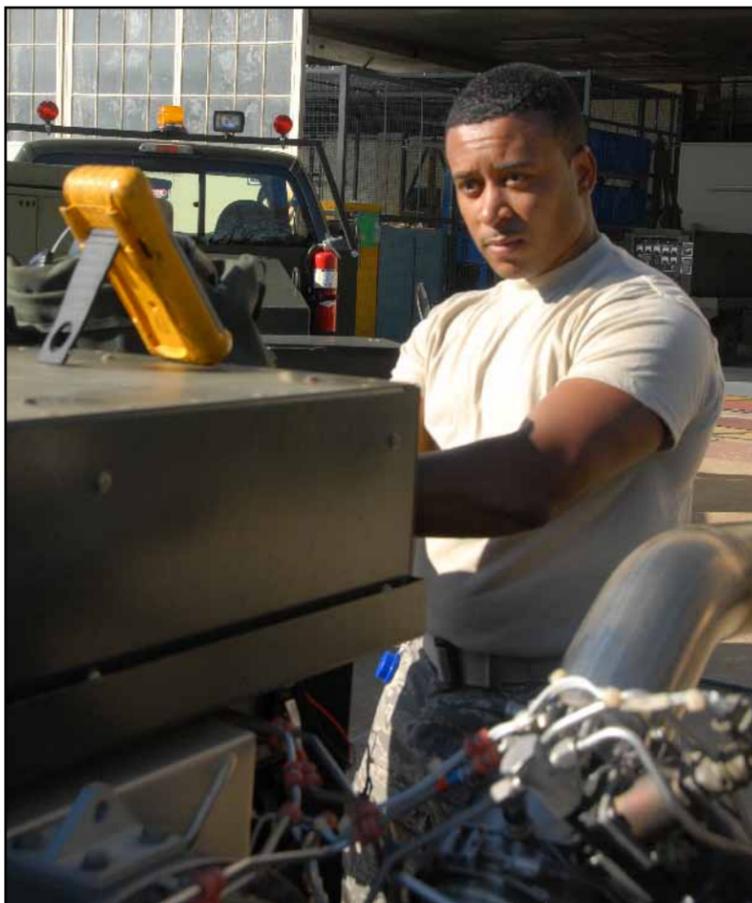


Photo by Jeff Melvin

Tech. Sgt. Quincey Hester Jr., 908th MXS, NCO of the Year

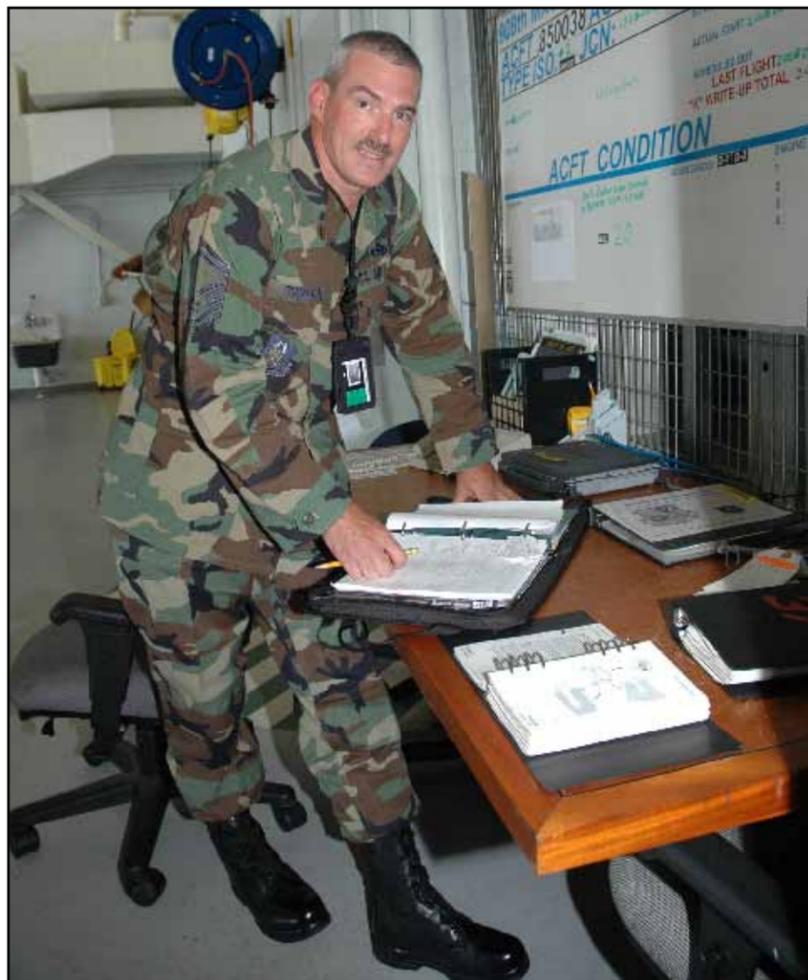


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder

Senior Master Sgt. Gregory D. Taylor, 908th AMXS, Senior NCO of the Year



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Senior Master Sgt. Don J. Johnson, 908th AES, First Sergeant of the Year

# Wing names top Airmen for 2008

Quarterly Award Winners for the Year 2008	
First Quarter 2008	
AOQ	Senior Airman Craig C. Morris, 908th MXS
NCOQ	Tech. Sgt. Keith C. Rollins, 908th MXS
SNCOQ	Senior Master Sgt. Gregory D. Taylor, 908th AMXS
CGOQ	1st Lt. Brian C. Fessler, 908th OSF
Second Quarter 2008	
AOQ	Airman 1st Class Tyrez Turner, 25th APS
NCOQ	Tech. Sgt. Quincey Hester Jr., 908th MXS
SNCOQ	Master Sgt. William Lyndall, 908th AMXS
CGOQ	Capt. Christian Constantine, 357th AS
Third Quarter 2008	
AOQ	Senior Airman Justin A. Proctor, 908th AMXS
NCOQ	Tech. Sgt. John Jackson, 908th AMXS
SNCOQ	Master Sgt. Chris D. Austin, 908th AMXS
CGOQ	Capt. Tonia Y. Stephens, 908th LRS
Fourth Quarter 2008	
AOQ	Senior Airman Danielle L. Owens, 908th MXS
NCOQ	Staff Sgt. Joel F. Howell, 908th OSS
SNCOQ	Senior Master Sgt. Lee M. Mercer, 357th AS
CGOQ	1st Lt Nicholas L. Poe, 357th AS
2008 Annual Award Winners	
Airman of the Year	Senior Airman Craig C. Morris, 908th MXS
NCO of the Year	Tech. Sgt. Quincey Hester Jr., 908th MXS
SNCO of the Year	Senior Master Sgt. Gregory D. Taylor, 908th AMXS
First Sergeant of the Year	Senior Master Sgt. Don J. Johnson, 908th AES
CGO of the Year	(TBA))

## Maintenance NCO has banner year

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder and Jeff Melvin  
908th AW Public Affairs

If only AIG had a year like Senior Master Sgt. Greg Taylor. Good news just keeps coming for the former 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's flight chief.

Named 22nd Air Force's 2008 Gen. Lew Allen Award recipient in July, he's the wing's senior NCO of the Year. Plus, he's his squadron's new traditional reservist superintendent and will pin on chief master sergeant in May. And in late-breaking news from the 22nd AF Senior Leaders Conference, Taylor is the Reserve Command nominee for Senior NCO of the Year and will compete for selection as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

The Allen Award is presented to a base-level noncommissioned officer in recognition of outstanding performance in aircraft generation. Sergeant Taylor earned recognition for his work at home station and while deployed early last year supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom as the lead production superintendent tasked with managing a fleet of three different model C-130 aircraft with crews comprised of active duty, Guard and reserve maintainers.

He competed against candidates drawn from each of 22nd

AF's 13 C-130 units. He said he was surprised to receive the nomination because he didn't expect it.

"It's just not me; I can't do it by myself. I have the entire squadron. My performance is based on what the crew chiefs here can accomplish," Taylor



Senior Master Sgt. Greg Taylor

said. He spoke highly of the deployed maintainers, too, calling them "a very talented team that flawlessly executed our plans."

Maj. Joe Friday, 908th AMXS commander, said he thought it was a great honor that the sergeant was chosen ahead of his peers in the aircraft maintenance squadron flightline operations area throughout the numbered Air Force.

"He's been recognized by his peers here and also by the NAF as having

the skills and the abilities to perform his job with excellence. That really embodies the core values of the Air Force and shows the dedication of the Airmen of the 908th," the major said.

"In no way can I say the credit falls to me," said Sergeant Taylor, commenting on his nomination for the Allen Award. "All I can do is direct the activities and ensure Airmen have the tools to complete the mission. My job is to ensure people are trained in what they do."

The new TR aircraft maintenance superintendent is similarly humble about his selection as the wing and command's top senior NCO.

"It does feel good to be recognized for your actions, but I have never been one to gloat or ask for the notoriety," he said. "I have always been proud to serve with this unit and am thrilled to be able to represent the 908th with this honor."

He also acknowledges the role of three mentors in his success: his immediate supervisor, Chief Master Leon Alexander, 357th Airlift Squadron senior loadmaster Chief Master Sgt. Michael Harper and his father-in-law, retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Wallace.

Chief Alexander, he said, should get "a lot of the credit for my success from his mentoring ability and guidance."

Although he never worked directly for Chief Harper, he said through numerous deployments together he "gained valuable experience from his professionalism and his devotion to the Airmen."

He added that very early in his career his father-in-law, Chief Wallace, provided the guidance and professionalism a young Airman could emulate. "These three individuals directly or indirectly have greatly attributed to my success over time," Taylor said.

As in the case of the Allen Award, earning recognition as Senior NCO of the Year came as a surprise. Seeking personal recognition, he said, is never his agenda. He simply strives to do the best at whatever he's assigned.

"My goal is to one day leave this unit better prepared to meet the challenges of our future," Taylor said.

## Sergeant candidates sought for July board

Are you a good communicator? Are you able, perceptive and exemplify Air Force Core Values? If so, then you may want to be a First Sergeant!

The First Sergeant is time honored and a vital link between the commander, enlisted personnel and the community. The First Sergeant is responsible for the day-to-day management of the unit and is the focal point within the unit for all matters concerning enlisted personnel. They are a vital link between the commander, enlisted personnel and the community.

The next First Sergeant board will be held on the July UTA. To be eligible,

- be in the grade of MSgt or a TSgt immediately promotable to MSgt
- have a minimum physical profile of PULHES 333231 and not have an ALC of C-2 or C-3.
- have a minimum General AQE score of 62 or Administrative score of 41.
- be financially stable.
- have a minimum FIT score of 75
- have completed NCO Academy

If selected you must be able to attend the First Sergeant Academy within 12 months from the date of appointment. Additionally, you must complete the Senior NCO Academy within 18 months upon graduation from the First Sergeant Academy and you must maintain FIT

standards and as well as remain a First Sergeant for a minimum of 3 years.

Interested applicants who meet the above criteria should submit their military resume, copies of last 3 EPRs, a current Record Review Rip (RRR), and a recommendation from your commander with current FIT score to Master Sgt. Cynthia Barker in the Personnel Employment office at the Military Personnel Flight in Bldg. 1056 not later than .

Applicants will be notified via mail, when and where to report to meet the board. For more information, you may contact Sergeant Barker at 493-5525, or your First Sergeant.

## Best in show

### Evaluators rate nondestructive inspection lab Air Force's NDI Lab of the Year

By Jeff Melvin  
908th AW Public Affairs

It wasn't a case of worst to first, but the 908th Maintenance Squadron's nondestructive inspection laboratory's recent recognition as 2009 USAF NDI Lab of the Year represents a considerable climb says the supervisor who secured the lab's ascent to the top with a "steal."

Nondestructive inspection, or NDI, is a program the Air Force uses to ensure the durability of structural parts and components of aircraft and support equipment without destroying the part and, in some cases, without removing the part from the aircraft. NDI inspection is a key component of safe flying. Every five years, active duty, Guard and Reserve NDI labs, equipment and proficiency of personnel are evaluated based on Air Force Research Laboratory and Air Force NDI Office criteria. The lab with the highest rating is named the Michael D. Koflanovich USAF NDI Lab of the Year recipient.

Senior Master Sgt. Dain Payton, chief of the 908th Maintenance Squadron's Fabrication Flight, sheepishly credits a bit of thievery for the NDI lab's good fortune.

"They're still mad at me at Duke Field for stealing her (908th MXS NDI lab NCOIC Master Sgt. Teresa Lapcheske). This shop went from failing an inspection five years ago to (when we got her) being the best. She turned this shop around."

Payton was almost apologetic as he described his "steal."

Desperately seeking help to run the NDI section, he called a friend at Duke Field who told him about Sergeant Lapcheske who willingly worked mandays for two years before she was hired as a fulltime air reserve technician.



Master Sgt. Teresa Lapcheske uses eddy current to inspect nose landing gear tow fitting arm for cracks

Sergeant Lapcheske downplayed her role in her shop earning recognition, saying "I don't feel like I did that much, I just did my job."

All of the section's traditional reservists are topnotch, she said.

Payton, her supervisor, agreed about the quality of the section's personnel but the credit lies firmly on Sergeant Lapcheske's shoulders, he said.

"She's one of the best trainers I've ever seen. She lays out a schedule for every UTA weekend that meets guidelines for up-grades. Plus, she writes good training programs and lesson plans."

Everyone that inspects this shop is amazed at her programs, the fabrication flight supervisor said.

Although Sergeant Lapcheske said she was surprised her shop was selected as the best in Air Force, Payton said he wasn't.

"I've been around the Air Force long enough to know this is a top-notch shop," Payton said. He added that this was confirmed when the inspector who evaluated the shop pulled out the list of write-ups from five years ago – a list that neither he nor Lapcheske had seen.

"She had corrected every write up (23 pages). The inspector couldn't believe it," Payton said with obvious admiration. "That's when I knew she had a pretty good shot at it."

Sergeant Lapcheske, ever humble, piped in. "This is a very big honor. Basically, in a career you only have three or four shots at it. It's something to be proud of."

The other members of the 908th NDI team are Tech. Sgts. Edward Sierzego and Darrel Lakes, Staff Sgt. Keith Jeffries and Senior Airman Craig Morris.

# AF leaders name next top enlisted leader

WASHINGTON (AFNS) - Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley have announced the Airman selected to be the service's next enlisted leader. Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy will become the 16th chief master sergeant of the Air Force during an appointment ceremony June 30 which will coincide with Chief McKinley's retirement. "This is a good day for all Airmen," General Schwartz said. "While they will lose a tremendous leader and advocate in Chief McKinley, they gain a worthy successor in Chief Roy. Given his record and reputation, I am confident that Chief Roy will carry the best interests of our Air Force family forward to our nation's leaders as we support today's joint fight and rebalance our force for the challenges ahead." Chief Roy and his wife, Paula, will come to the Pentagon from Camp Smith, Hawaii, where the chief currently serves as the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander, representing more than 200,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines. Chief Roy joined the Air Force in 1982. His career includes assignments as a heavy equipment operator in the civil engineer career field and then in leadership



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley (right) introduces his replacement, Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy, to attendees of the Senior Enlisted Forum May 8 at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Chief Roy, who currently is the senior enlisted advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander, was selected by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz to become the 16th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. He will assume his duties on June 30, following Chief McKinley's retirement.

positions at the squadron, group, and numbered air force levels. He has served as the command chief master sergeant at wings in Air Education and Training Command, Air Mobility Command and Air Combat Command. He was also deployed as the command chief master sergeant of the 386th Air Expeditionary

Wing in Southwest Asia. Prior to assuming his current position he was the command chief master sergeant for U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Chief McKinley will retire next month after serving for 30 years. He has served as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force since June 30, 2006.

## First Sergeant candidates sought for July board

Are you a good communicator? Are you credible, perceptive and exemplify the Air Force Core Values? If so, then you may want to be a First Sergeant!

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Applicants will be notified via mail, when and where to report to meet the board. For more information, you may contact Sergeant Barker at 493-5525, or your First Sergeant.

## Take Note

### Promotions

Congratulations to the following people promoted to the grades indicated:

....to Master Sgt.  
Cassandra Crayton, 25th APS  
Ralph Hood, 25th APS  
Cedric Robbins, 357th AS  
Cassandra Satterwhite, 357th AS

....to Tech. Sgt.  
Kenneth Autry Jr., MXG  
Robert Gregory, 908th AW  
Rory Lapres, MXS  
Jamie Patterson, 25th APS  
Jay Ponder, 908th AW

....to Staff Sgt.  
Christopher Barbour, SVF  
Shameka Douglas, SVF  
Christopher Downs, 25th APS  
Michael Hosea, 25th APS  
Alisha Livingston, LRS  
Nicholas Munkachy, MXS  
Peggy Nguyen, MXS  
Jeremy Ossman, 25th APS  
Lee Phillips, MXS  
Henry Relf Jr., SFS

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### To the Family of:

Benjamin Taylor, CES  
Adam Weber, 25th APS

Brandi Walker, SVF

....to Senior Airman  
Justin Bryson, MXS  
Sean Coe, ASTS  
Jacoby Cotton, AES  
Shon Manning, 357th AS  
Blake McArdle, 357th AS  
William Mills II, MXS  
Michael Sullivan, MXS

....to Airman 1st Class  
Marvin Perdue Jr., LRS

....to Airman  
Chiquita Charles, ASTS  
Leigh Fincher, AES  
Brandy Fraher, ASTS

## Max-Gunter lends helping hand to "Extreme Makeover Home Edition"

Master Sgt. Rod Parker, chief, wing education and training, second from right, and more than 80 volunteers from the Maxwell-Gunter complex lend their support to the hundred of volunteers and production personnel from the ABC Television show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Feb. 23. The Maxwell group were involved in all phases of the construction and clean-up for a two-story home built for a Montgomery family. "I thought it was important to show support for those in our community that need it most," Sergeant Parker said. "When I read of the tragic losses that the Jordan Family endured and the way that they continue to support and educate others in need, I knew I had to be a part of this worthy cause."



Photo by Donna Burnett