

GENERAL AWARD FOR MAJOR MAINTAINER, PGS. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER

*Civic
Leader
Tour
2012*



TEXAS TARGET: TEXAS



SOUTHERN FLYER



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*
Lt. Col. Ken Ostrat
- 03 *Chaplain: Give to CFC*
Money Matters: TSP
- 04-05 Major Posch named
General Lew Allen winner
- 06-07 908th goes big, takes
civic leaders to Texas
- 08 McGill makes chief
Chief Duke addresses enlisted
- 09 Awards & Accolades
- 10 News briefs
Promotions
- 11 UTA schedule/
General info
- 12 CLT Photo Gallery

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Gulf Shore to Jersey Shore

As I sit here, watching the cursor blink at me ambivalently, I'm thinking of all of the farewell editorials I've read in the *Southern Flyer*. They all tend to reflect on a long time spent with the family of the 908th and the enduring memories of a major part of someone's life spent working here.

The truth is, the camaraderie, longevity and continued sense of purpose do make this wing like a huge family.

That makes me the foster child. I'm not from here – I grew up in California thinking the South was one big Hazard County and a hush puppy was a shoe. I wasn't invited to come – I was management reassigned from 22nd Air Force Headquarters (we're here to help). I haven't even been a TAC airlifter my whole life.

I was such an outsider when I got to the doorstep, I couldn't spell SEC.

I haven't been here long. As I think about the messages from members who have been here 15 or 20 or more years my four-year stint is paltry in comparison. What makes

this place special is that none of that mattered. It's a testimony to the character of the people in the wing that I was welcomed into your family and never made to feel that I was ever an outsider. That's a spirit of teamwork and purpose that doesn't always exist.

It's one of the greatest strengths of the 908th because it's something that can't be ordered. It has to come from each individual and it has to be a way of life.

I will be going off to a new and exciting opportunity at the 514th Air Mobility Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, but I would not trade the experience I got here for anything in the world. I've worked for great commanders, had incredible peers and met some of the best people I will ever have the pleasure of working with.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your awesome family for a little while. I expect to continue hearing great things about you as I adjust to life in New Jersey.

Take Care,
KODO



LT. COL. KEN OSTRAT
DO, 908th Operations Group



SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Marla Vickers, general manager of the Montgomery Biscuits, gets hands-on experience with an assault weapon during the 908th's 2012 Civic Leader Tour trip to Texas.

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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 unit training assembly.

The submission deadline for articles or information is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA. Send inquiries and submissions to 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112 or e-mail them to 908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil. Our phone number is (334) 953-6804 or DSN 493-6804; our fax number is (334) 953-2202 or DSN 493-2202. For information about this schedule, call this office at (334) 953-7874.

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) DAVID DERSCH

"Service Before Self" is one of our core values, and a great way to practice putting others before yourself is to donate to a worthwhile charitable organization.

In the 51 years since President John F Kennedy began the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a way for federal employees to make safe and reliable contributions, it has grown into the world's largest workplace charity drive. Millions have been raised, and the generosity of people like you has blessed countless folks.

Everyone from the wing is encouraged to participate. One of the great things about this year's campaign is that they are now accepting on-line credit card donations. Go to www.heartofalabama-cfc.org, click "pledge now" and then choose "CFC Nexus."

Be sure to give your donation under the 908 AW, found as a tenant unit under Air University. Our organizational code is 142. If you prefer to give cash or write a check, see your first sergeant or your group's key worker. Each group from the wing has one who can answer any questions you have.

During the month of November our nation pauses during the Thanksgiving Holiday to reflect with gratitude on the blessings we have received. Let's begin the month by each of us making a little gift to benefit someone else.

As we open our hearts generously now, we can be someone else's Thanksgiving blessing later!



TSP: The Five Funds

Information provided by
908th FM

Last month, we discussed the Thrift Savings Plan. Once military members are enrolled in TSP, they can divide TSP contributions among these five investment funds.

Government Securities Investment "G" Fund

This fund is known for being the safest or least risky investment of the five funds since the only way it will lose money is by some catastrophic event, e.g., if the federal government defaults on its loans.

With low risk, usually comes a lower interest rate or rate of return. The G Fund invests in specially issued short-term, non-marketable U.S. Treasury securities.

Fixed Income Index Investment "F" Fund

Essentially, the F Fund is a higher risk than the G Fund, but is still considered low-risk because it is spread over many generally stable investments. Even if a corporation were to declare bankruptcy, the loss would be minimal.

Depositing into the F Fund is an investment in the Barclays U.S. Debt Index Fund, which tracks the bond-market. A mathematical model determines the amount in which this fund distributes investor's money amongst the various types of U.S. government, mortgage-backed, corporate and foreign government sector securities.

Common Stock Index Investment "C" Fund

Investing in this fund puts members in the thick of the "Standard & Poor's 500" companies. Through the Barclays Equity Index Fund, investors hold common stocks of all the companies within the S&P 500 index. C Fund invests in 500 of the largest companies in the U.S. and are considered the least risky as stock investing goes.

International Stock Index Investment "I" Fund

Tracking the returns of the Morgan Stanley Capital International (Europe, Australia, and Far East) stock index, this fund provides coverage of stock markets in the 21 countries the index represents; this includes 915 companies, 23 industry groups within 10 economic sectors. Simply stated, it grows as the world market grows.

Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment "S" Fund

While the S&P tracks 500 of the largest companies, this fund does just the opposite, with diversity being the key. It tracks small- and medium-sized companies through the Wilshire 4500 index.

Its medium is the Barclays Extended Market Index Fund, which buys stocks of those companies within the index that have market values more than \$1 billion.

For more information, visit <http://www.tsp.gov/index.html>

Posh honor for Posch

MXG's operations boss receives AFRC General Lew Allen Jr. Award

Story and photos
by Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs



During the past few years, the 908th Maintenance Group has covered itself with oil, grease and glory.

From individual maintainers to the group itself, the 908th MXG has earned a number of awards for excellence at the 22nd Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command levels. Recently, the group added another award to its long list of achievements with the selection of Maj. Daniel R. Posch, Operations Officer, 908th Maintenance Squadron as the recipient of the 2012 General Lew Allen Jr. Award for AFRC.

The honor is awarded annually to a base-level officer and senior NCO in the aircraft, munitions or missile maintenance fields directly involved in sortie generation.

Other duties considered included compliance with technical orders, deployments and following up with day-to-day operations.

Posch, who has been in the Air Force for 10 years and in the Reserve since 2006, explained that by competing with other units and winning the award, it enhances the credibility of the unit by showing the 908th Airlift Wing is an elite organization with the experience, competence and training to get the job done.

But the Cleveland native attributed his success to the members of the maintenance squadron. "It's not just a one-person thing," said Posch, "I may be the person whose name is on the award, but it's the airmen on the flight line who are turning the wrenches day in and day out."

Posch gave credit to several folks but most to Lt. Col. Joe Friday, commander of the 908th Maintenance Group, saying, "I have known Colonel Friday for more than five years and he definitely had a lot of influence over the leader I have become."

Posch talked about how humbling it was to win the award.

"This award was not so much a reflection on my work this last

Major Daniel Posch makes a visual inspection of work done on "The City of Montgomery," left and background. Lower right, Posch checks in with one of his maintenance crews.



year but more of a reflection on our organization and the continuing excellence that goes on throughout this organization," he said. "Everyone comes in and gives 110 percent to make these planes the best in the 22nd Air Force and AFRC."

"The Lew Allen Award recognizes professionals who have excelled in their career fields and stood out among their peers," said Friday, who won the award himself in 2010. He said it signifies Posch has been recognized as 'tops' in the category of maintenance field-grade officer and pays tribute to Posch's management and leadership skills.

Friday wasn't the only one impressed with Posch's performance.

"Maj. Posch is without a doubt the finest maintenance officer I have ever served with," said Chief Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, "he is out there hand in hand with every single person. There is nothing he feels is beneath him in doing. Everybody recognizes it and that's why everyone works so hard for him. He's nothing short of phenomenal."

Posch explained that a big part of his maintainers' success comes down to how they prepare the planes from sorties for local training to generating a flight overseas to the AOR.

"It's a reflection of their work that goes into it," he said, describing the squadron as a tight group, "It's a team event here. It's a team organization where almost no one thing can be done by themselves."

The award package now advances forward to the Air Force level, but more important to Posch is how quickly and effectively maintainers ensure the 908th's airplanes are ready to fly on a moment's notice.

"If we had to launch all five of these airplanes in the next 12 hours, we would have all the planes in the air," he said. "Our phones are on 24/7, 365. We are ready to go no matter what is going on, no matter what the task, no matter what the calling, these planes are always going to be ready to go!"

"We take pride in that and exceeding the standards set by AFRC."



908th Airlift Wing Civic Leader Tour!

Gone to Texas

Story by Gene H. Hughes
Photos by Gene H. Hughes
& Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb
908th AW Public Affairs

 Thirty-five of Alabama's leading citizens, representing such fields as business, government, medicine, finance and education took time away from their busy schedules Oct. 4-5 to get an up-close look at Air Force Reserve personnel and equipment, as well as the future of American air power.

Invitees of the 2012 908th Airlift Wing Civic Leader Tour were taken for a tour of Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, as well as Lockheed- Martin Aviation facilities.

After experiencing flight aboard one of the 908th's C-130 Hercules aircraft, guests were given a mission brief at the 301st Fighter Wing before proceeding to Lockheed, where they watched the assembly process of the

three variants of the F-35.

Other highlights included lunch at the base dining facility, a chance to experience simulations of C-130 flight and urban combat and static displays of weapons with the 610th Security Forces Squadron and briefs on explosive ordnance disposal equipment with the 301st Combat Engineering Squadron.

Guests also became familiar with life support parachute simulations and pilot survival gear, as well as some good 'ol Texas barbecue.

Chad Emerson said that the trip was valuable because it showed him "The incredible logistical intricacy all of the operations take. It is amazing to witness how all the distinct parts come together into a complete whole."



Guests of the 2012 908th Airlift Wing Civic Leader Tour pose for a group photo before taking a tour of the Lockheed-Martin facility.



Donald Taylor of Montgomery asks Maj. Jeff Randall about the C-130 during the flight.



Amy Richardson of Air University dons a gas mask with help from A1C Hayley Streng of 301st Emergency Management.



Dottie Blair and Delbert Madison of Montgomery partake of a snack offering.



Col. Brett Clark dons an EOD protective suit with help from Tech. Sgt. Andrew Lebeau of the 301st CES.



Tracy Salter of Greenville tries her hand at an urban pacification simulation.



CMSgt. Jeff Sursely and SMSgt. Dan Montrose of the 301st CES give 908th civic leaders a brief on EOD procedures.



Staff Sgt. Matthew Gordineer of 301st Emergency Management helps Dottie Blair of Montgomery get a good seal.



Braxton Weimer of Montgomery and Don Wallace of Tuscaloosa take a turn on the flight deck.



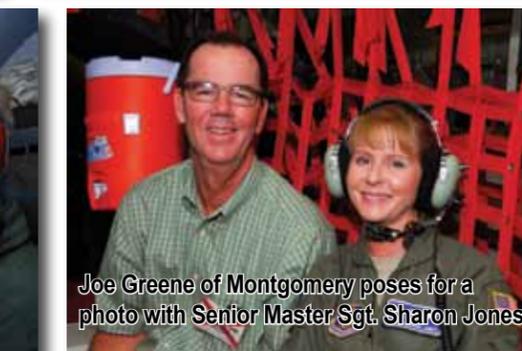
State Representative Jay Love attempts to take off in a C-130 simulation.



Michael Ritzus and Hamp Russell of Montgomery get acquainted during the flight.



Aubrey Carter of Selma jokes with Master Sgt. Adam Childers on the flight deck.



Joe Greene of Montgomery poses for a photo with Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Jones.



Staff Sgt. Zachary Beauford of the 610 SFS shows Clare Watson of Montgomery how to use the sights on her weapon.

McGill 'achiefs' top enlisted rank

By Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival
908th Public Affairs

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron has a new chief. Michael Lynn McGill was promoted Oct. 1 after serving as a crew chief his entire career. A member of the 908th Airlift

Wing since 1994, McGill has spent his whole career here at Maxwell. "I love the 908th, and I'm not going anywhere," he said. With five deployments under his belt and a history of hard work and dedication, McGill was a shoo-in for

the position. "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Mike," said Lt. Col. Joe Friday, commander of the 908th Maintenance Group. "I know he'll do a great job in this capacity and I look forward to working with him in the future."

McGill said he has a hands-on approach to leadership and an open-door policy.

"I want to make sure the airmen have the training they need to succeed so we can be the best C-130 unit in the command," he said.

Knowing it takes a lot of hard work and long hours to reach the most senior enlisted rank, McGill encourages Airmen to complete their professional military education.

"As a young airman, I never thought I'd even make it to master sergeant," he said. "If I can do it, anyone can do it."



Details, fitness, suicide top enlisted call topics

By Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival
908th Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke, Command Chief Master Sgt. of the 908th Airlift Wing, held an enlisted call following the commander's call during the October Unit Training Assembly.

One of Duke's priorities is attention to detail, and he cautioned airmen and NCOs that their attention to detail could one day save their lives.

"This is a dangerous business," said Duke.

Chief Duke briefed airmen on the importance of suicide awareness and prevention, and he offered to personally hug any airmen in need of a pick-me-up. All jokes aside, last year the Air Force saw a spike in suicide rates, and Duke said he takes prevention and awareness measures very seriously.

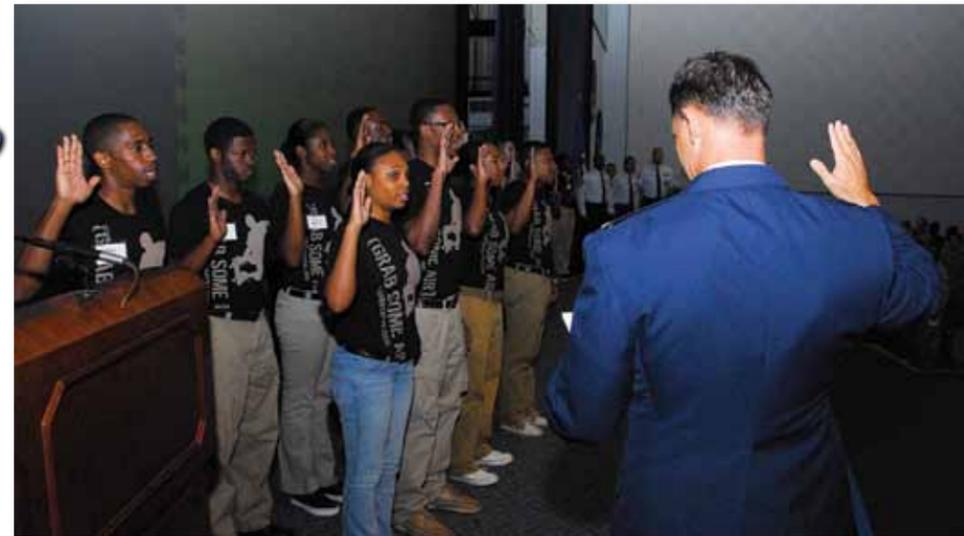
Duke thanked airmen for the recent increase in fitness scores, cautioned airmen about their use of social



media, and welcomed our Civil Engineer Squadron members home from their recent deployment to Afghanistan.

TO PRESERVE, PROTECT & DEFEND

Forty-eight young men and women who have been preparing to enter Basic Military Training took the oath of enlistment during the October Commander's Call. They were welcomed by a thunderous applause upon taking the oath by members of the wing. Right, Col. Brett Clark, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, gives the oath. Below left, enlistees raise their right hands in preparation. Below right, future Citizen Airmen gather for a group photo.



PRECIOUS MEDALS



SMSGT. CYNTHIA B. MULLOCK
Meritorious Service Medal

MSGT. SHAWN A. LISLE
Meritorious Service Medal

SSGT. STEPHIN C. SMITH
Air Force Achievement Medal

SRA CHRISTINA A. DRYDEN
Air Force Achievement Medal

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

On behalf of the Chief's Group, Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Weir of the 908th AES presents Senior Airman Shaniqua Rogers with the Sharp Wingman Award for the third quarter. Rogers was recognized for "her outstanding work with the 908th MSG, her outstanding mentorship and leadership qualities, and her superior performance as President of the Airmen Committed to Excellence (ACE) group," Weir said. "This group also does numerous off duty projects such as Habitat for Humanity." Rogers was initially nominated by Chief Master Sgt. Leon Alexander.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN TO TOWN!



Bells will be ringin' during the December UTA, as Santa Claus will make his annual visit to the 908th Airlift Wing on Dec. 1 at approximately 10 a.m. Make plans to bring your children to meet Santa and have their photo taken with him! Volunteers are needed to assist, so if you want to help out, call the Public Affairs Office at 953-6804 or 7874.



New to the 908th

| | |
|---|--|
| Tech. Sgt. Angela J. Librizzi, OSF | Airman 1st Class Tiffany L. Lollar, 25 APS |
| Staff Sgt. Steven C. Brooks, 25 APS | Airman 1st Class Octavia E. Ruffin, MXS |
| Staff Sgt. Andrew S. Ferguson, SFS | Airman 1st Class Shariff Singletary, MXS |
| Staff Sgt. Angel S. Gonzales, LRS | Airman 1st Class Kenneth L. Taylor, OG |
| Senior Airman Christina M. Blackburn, AES | Airman 1st Class Evelyn S. Vazquez, LRS |
| Senior Airman Jennifer D. Dance, MXS | Airman Basic Jason E. Gessler, MXS |
| Senior Airman Corey D. Miller, MXS | Airman Basic Brittney Jenkins, LRS |
| Senior Airman Cory A. Reid, MXS | Airman Basic Romesha L. Perry, ASTS |
| Airman 1st Class Doran E. Allen, MXS | Airman Basic Cameron M. Smith, AES |
| Airman 1st Class Marley L. Huguley | Airman Basic Steven D. Ward, SFS |

Preparing to Disembark

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Lt. Col. Laurie J. Parker, AES | Master Sgt. Rose L. Hall OG |
| Chief Master Sgt. Adriel D. Carr, 25 APS | Master Sgt. Peggy S. Thomas, CES |
| Master Sgt. Roger L. Butler, OSS | Tech. Sgt. Lynette A. Clayton, ASTS |
| Master Sgt. Lee E. Cobb, CES | Tech. Sgt. Alfred Deramus, Jr., CES |
| Master Sgt. Pamela A. Rhodes, MSG | Tech. Sgt. Christy Houston, OSS |
| Master Sgt. Samuel M. Freeman, FSS | Tech. Sgt. Tdera Jarman, LRS |
| Master Sgt. Michael Guerin, FSS | |

Gaining Altitude

Chief Master Sergeant



Michael L. McGill

Senior Master Sergeant



Keith C. Rollins

Master Sergeant



Jason M. Carmack

Technical Sergeant



William J. Little

Senior Airman



Brandon W. Knight
James A. Robbins
Jamaar C. Jackson
Christopher J. Morgan
Tyler B. Aldridge
Charles E. Raby
Cruetz A. Davis
Antonio D. Ball
Paige M. Harris
Latangerick M. Crowley
Paige M. Harris

Airman First Class



Cynthia R. Wright
Jason E. Gessler

Airman



Jerrell C. Craig
Kaila K. Fernandez
Jeremy D. Goodwin
Jamie J. Hicks
Kayla A. Harris



Above, Dr. Mimi Johnson of Montgomery sizes up an assault rifle. Background, Braxton Weimer of Montgomery tries on an EOD protective suit.



Above, Lucretia Cauthen of Millbrook, right, and State Representative Joe Hubbard pose with Childers. Left, John Anzalone of Montgomery tries on a pair of night vision glasses. Below, guests get a briefing on a hush house.

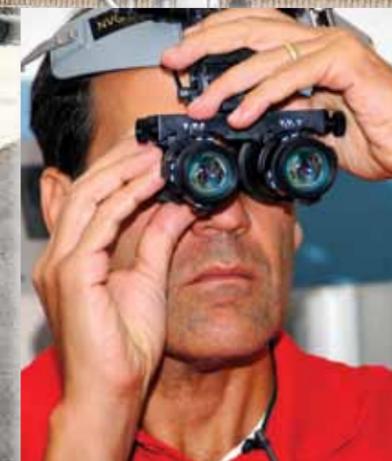
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TO THE FAMILY OF:



Chad Emerson of Montgomery undergoes a parachute egress simulation.



Amy Richardson of Air University, left, Prattville Mayor Bill Gillespie and Lt. Col. Nancy Stevenson of the 908th pose for a photo at Risky's Barbecue in Fort Worth.

