

SOUTHERN  FLYER



Off We Go

# SOUTHERN FLYER



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*  
Maj. Bryan Smith
- 03 *Chaplain: Take the Time Money Matters: What Cliff?*
- 04 *Wing Wins Safety Award Mishap Notification*
- 05 *Cancer Survivor Reaches Benchmark in Recovery*
- 06-07 *Deployers Depart*
- 08 *908th Alumni Members Making the News*
- 09 *2012's Best of the Best*
- 10 *News briefs Promotions*
- 11 *UTA schedule/ General info*
- 12 *Deployers Photo Gallery*

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# It's that time of year again!

You may or may not be aware that the State of Alabama has for the past two weeks of the flu season been above the statistical threshold for a flu epidemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In short, we are well on our way to a flu epidemic in Alabama of proportions comparable to the one seen in 2009. If one considers the missed man-hours and the economics of elevated health care costs through hospitalizations and antibiotic therapy secondary to contracting the flu, it is staggering.

All of this could be avoided through the simple preventive measure of vaccination. Thusly, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended an annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged six months and above in the United States since 2010. The CDC publishes these federal recommendations.

Through vaccination the introduction of inactivated flu elements stimulate the production of antibodies in the body before actual expo-

sure to the flu virus.

The result... immunity! Immunity keeps our kids healthy and in school. Keeps our senior family members out of the hospital and keeps our airmen on the job.

With that in mind, we can better appreciate the mandatory flu requirements for medical readiness and its benefits to the Air Force Mission. In November 2012, the 908th ASTS kicked off the 2012-13

908th Airlift Wing Annual FluVax campaign with a goal to vaccinate the entire wing -- that's nearly 1,200 airmen.

We are happy to report that as of Jan. 1 of this new year, the wing had a 92 percent flu vaccine compliance statistic, greatly contributing to the medical and operational readiness of the entire wing.

We encourage each member along with the squadron health monitors to remain vigilant with currency on flu and all other required vaccinations. Together, through vaccination, we keep ourselves healthy, and make our families less susceptible.



MAJ. BRYAN SMITH  
908th ASTS

# A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

February is the month we're bombarded with popular images of love and affection. While some blame the greeting card industry for creating Valentine's Day — the tradition of using this day to let someone know you care about them has a significant history.

It is important as humans to be connected and in a relationship with those around us. The saying, "No man is an island unto himself" is very true. We need to not only love and care for others, but to be loved and cared for as well.

It is interesting that while we have technology to keep us in touch and connected with each other, people feel isolated and alone. Just the other day I was talking with someone about the art of letter writing. They said when they receive a letter it lets them know the person spent time to draft and mail it — more than just a quick e-mail or text. That time and investment let them know they were loved.

This is not just in the romantic sense but in the everyday aspect that deals with friends and family.

As a Christian chaplain, I am fond of First Corinthians, chapter 13, which speaks of the importance of love. It was not written to people in a romantic involvement, but to show how we as humans need to relate to other humans.

Think of those who are important to you — take the time to tell them how much you care.

May God continue to bless us.



# What's the 'fiscal cliff,' and what does it mean?

By Staff Sgt. Tony Keith  
908th FM

Many times when the President signs legislation into law, it seems like the impact of those laws aren't felt by most of us. We can rest assured that is NOT the case with the Jan. 2 law signed by President Obama.

The law, known as the "Fiscal Cliff Legislation" will impact nearly every American's paycheck, starting with the first pay period of 2013. So, what does that mean to you?

The first impact is the return of the Social Security withholding tax rate to 6.2 percent. Over the past couple of years, this rate was lowered by 2 percent as part of the economic stimulus legislation that was passed during the height of the recent financial crisis. This impacts both civilian and military personnel.

On the civilian side, this translates to two percent less take-home pay. Conversely, military members' bringtake-home income pay includes other items, including base pay increases, annual raises in such allowances for quarters (BAH), food (BAS) and of course, promotions to the next higher pay grade.

As a result of this, military per-

sonnel might see higher, lower, or no change to take-home pay at all. bring-home income, lower bring-home income or no change in bring-home income.

You should compare your first Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) of 2013 with your last LES of 2012 to determine

if your paycheck was affected by this new law. You can look at the block titled "FICA Taxes" and compare the two amounts.

This will let you know if you netted less bringtake-home pay as a consequence of this change. Civilians employed by DOD can look at the block titled "OASDI" on their LES and complete the same comparison.

It is expected that the first military personnel to see probable differences in their bringtake-home income will be those in the reserves. However, military personnel on active duty will likely notice differences starting with their mid-month January 2013 payroll, with civilians employed by DOD experiencing the higher withholding rate for social security starting with the pay period that ended Dec. 29.

**Sources:** American Forces Press Service, Associated Press.



## SOUTHERN FLYER

### COVER PHOTO:

Captain Tim Dixon of the 357th Airlift Squadron embraces his wife before embarking aboard a C-130 bound for Southwest Asia for a four-month deployment.

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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.

U.S. Air Force Photo/  
Gene H. Hughes



Col. Brett Clark, 908th wing commander, presented Lt. Col. Craig Drescher, 357th AS commander, with an Air Force Flying Hour Milestone Award.

## 357th AS achieves 42 years of accident-free flight ops

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

As the 908th Airlift Wing prepared to deploy to Southwest Asia, time was taken to recognize a benchmark made by the safe operations of its flying squadron.

Colonel Brett Clark, wing commander, presented Lt. Col. Craig Drescher, commander of the 357th Airlift Squadron with an Air Force Flying Hour Milestone Award.

The award recognizes the unit for flying nearly 150,000 hours during the last 42 years without a Class B or higher accident/incident.

"We've been flying airplanes here a long time here," Clark said. "That's absolute proof positive of our high standard of excellence. We have tackled many challenging missions in countless places around the world with not one serious safety event."

"This award clearly indicates to everyone that no matter what the mission, no matter what we're facing, we're successfully getting the job done, and we're taking care of these airplanes and returning our Airmen home safely. You should be proud of yourselves; I am certainly proud of you."

"I would say the award speaks to the absolute professionalism and commitment of the maintainers who keep the planes flying and the aircrew who fly them," said Lt. Col. Craig Drescher, 357th commander. "This hasn't happened over a short period of time but over many, many years. This award is indicative of the great family we have in the 908th and the culture of excellence that permeates through the wing."

## Mishap Notification, Know Your Role!

Safety Mishap Notifications are not just for mishaps that occur while the member is on a military status, or on duty and at work in the Reserves. Did you know that if you are involved in a mishap while in civilian status, at work (e.g. ART), or in military status – on or off duty, you must promptly report it. This includes whether TDY or deployed.

Here are a few scenarios you must report:

1. You are on active duty orders, you get off work today go home and get burned while lighting your grill, you must report it to your supervisor; this includes late at night, early in the morning, weekends and holidays.

2. You are an ART, and during your duty day, on the way to lunch, you are involved in a motorcycle wreck, you must report it to your supervisor.

3. You are a Traditional Reservist, on UTA status, at the hotel on a Saturday Evening. You strain your back yelling at the T.V. during the Auburn game.

Your prompt mishap reporting to your supervisor initiates a chain reaction that ensures all required agencies/personnel are notified. This is important as each agency has AFI requirements that must be met in the event of an incident. The Wing Safety Office is one such agency. It is extremely important that the Safety Office interviews you ASAP.

We all know how our recollection of details decreases with the passing of time. Don't wait. Please take the initiative and notify us directly. We will set up an appointment to discuss your details. If enough time goes by before your appointment, write down as many details as you can so you won't forget.

The two main reasons we conduct mishap analysis are to determine the root cause and to prevent that particular mishap from reoccurring. You may be asking what kinds of information we need to know about your mishap and what exactly do we do with it. These are good questions.

The Air Force Safety Center maintains a database used to capture all required information surrounding each and every mishap that meets reporting criteria. After our interview with you, we will determine if it meets reporting criteria. Once we complete our analysis, and the information is uploaded, that data is used to provide trend analysis.

Analysis must be completed within 30 days from the date of the mishap. So, taking this into consideration along with the fact that the majority of us are only here for two days a month, you can see we have a challenge in meeting our deadline.

If you would like to learn more, please call the 908th Safety Office at 953-7873 or stop by and visit us. We are located in building 1056, Room 206.

## Survivor not taking gift of giving for granted

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder  
908th AW Public Affairs

When one experiences a traumatic life event, it can either strengthen or weaken personal resolve to face such an event's challenges and give hope and inspiration to others.

As Airmen of the 908th trained and took care of regular military requirements during the January UTA, few were aware of one Airman's overcoming one of life's greatest ordeals and her long journey back.

The LifeSouth blood mobile made one of its frequent stops at the 908th, and while many Airmen made donations, Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy, a survivor of breast cancer, chemotherapy and multiple surgeries, hasn't been able to give for five years.

With an ear-to-ear grin, Roy expressed to LifeSouth technicians how happy she was to once again be allowed the privilege of donating blood, and speaking about the experience came easy for her while giving thanks for her recovery.

"I thank the Lord every day for the support and encouragement I have received from family and friends," she said.

There had been dark days to face in 2007 as she learned about her cancer, which had already robbed her of loved ones, and began treatments.

"My oldest sister had died of breast cancer in 1995 and my middle brother died of pancreatic cancer in 2005."

Knowing what was in store, Roy's husband Andrew knew it would be a team effort, and being retired, he would have the necessary time.

"It was a 'walk' we had to do together," he said.



Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy chats with LifeSouth blood mobile technician Kenall Summers while making her first donation in five years.

"As I look back on when I was first diagnosed with cancer, it became a long road ahead of me that had to be walked," she explained, "Once it was confirmed I had cancer, I was immediately scheduled for various surgeries."

But the surgeries were just the beginning. Along with the surgeries came chemotherapy treatments and five years of having to take Arimidex, used to treat breast cancer by lowering estrogen hormone levels in an effort to shrink a tumor and slow its growth.

"Even though the medicine was necessary, it still had negative effects such as body aches and pains, upset stomach, weakness and thinning hair," she said.

"Throughout the whole thing, I asked myself if I would be able to overcome what she did," Andrew said. "But we're Christians — all of our strength came from above."

Friends and family also provided encouragement and support.

The 30-year veteran of the Air Force and Air Force Reserve said

she finally learned of her victory in December.

Roy is still facing obstacles to allow her body to heal, but she's feeling almost completely back to normal and has a positive attitude.

"I was overwhelmed with such joy and excitement," Roy summed up, "that I had finally crossed the finish line and the Lord gave me the strength to be victorious."

Now, she's back at her job with the 908th Force Support Squadron doing what she does best, staying in the thick of things.

And in regard to his wife donating blood as soon as she was able, Andrew said, "This is her way to help give back, but she could not until the Arimidex was over. What better thing to give than your blood if it's going to save someone else's life?"

So there she was sprawled out on the sofa seat of the blood mobile still grinning with happiness. The gift of life had been returned to her, and now, she can once again give a gift of life to others.

# UNTIL THEN



## Family, friends and VIPs gather to honor 908th deployers

By Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival  
*908th Public Affairs*

After months of training, processing and planning, more than 100 members of the 908th Airlift Wing said goodbye to family and friends here as they deployed to Southwest Asia in support of airlift operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The first group left Jan. 6 and the second four days later.

“We’ve been preparing for this deployment for more than a year,” said Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Curtis, logistics planner for the 908th Airlift Wing. “A lot of work went into making sure they were ready to go out the door.”

Processing the deployers included the scheduling and conducting of all necessary training, fulfilling medical and legal requirements and preparing the loads of equipment for transport prior to deployment. It took a team effort of the entire wing to make it all possible, and the departure received a grand sendoff.

The last of the deployers flew out C-130s Jan. 10 after a farewell gathering attended by Lt. Gen. David Faddock, commander of Air University, Col. Trent Edwards, commander of the 42nd Air Base Wing and U.S. Representatives Mike Rogers and Martha Roby, who expressed their thanks for the Airmen’s commitment and sacrifice.

“I want to tell you from the bottom of my heart thank you for what you do,” an emotional Roby said. “To the wives and husbands and children of all of you leaving

today, we’re here for you during this deployment and we want you to call on us if there is ever anything we can do to make this time less burdensome for you.”

Rogers said that he is honored to represent members of the 908th, and wished them a safe deployment.

After the warm words of praise, the deploying Airmen bid farewell to their loved ones and boarded the C-130s.

The Airmen will be deployed about four months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“During 2010, the last time you deployed down range, you flew more than 2,100 combat hours, moved 4,000 tons of cargo, and almost 13,000 troops,” Co.1 Brett Clark, wing commander, said to the deployers. “I am confident that the exploits and accomplishments of our Airmen on this current deployment will serve to set a new standard of success and achievement.

“You are an incredible team with one hell of a record of mission success. It’s your time to enrich the legacy of the 908th. Let’s ensure we send a clear message, that we are an organization like no other.

“Go make it happen.”





## Alabama ROA pays tribute to Stewart

Alumni members of the 908th Airlift Wing were on stage in Birmingham during the National Veteran's Day observances there. Col (Ret) Don Brown (at right) presented former 908th commander, Maj. Gen. James N. Stewart (left) with the Alabama Reserve Officer's Association's Minuteman Award. The honor recognizes the highest level of service and loyalty in defense of the nation. Stewart's family were among the roughly 1,000 people on hand for the presentation of the award.

## FORMER ASTS BOSS TAPPED FOR STAR

The Defense Department recently released a list of 21 general officer promotions. The list of Air Force officers, selected by President Obama, now heads to the Senate for confirmation.

The list of officers under consideration for promotion to brigadier includes former commander of the 908th ASTS, **Col. Lisa A. Naftzger-Kang**. She is currently serving as mobilization assistant to the assistant Air Force surgeon general, Medical Force Development, and assistant Air Force surgeon general, nursing services, Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

Naftzger-Kang served with the 908th Airlift Wing from September 2007 to May 2009. In her civilian capacity, She is a certified family nurse practitioner working in the department of surgery at a major hospital in Chicago, Ill.



# 908TH'S BEST OF 2012



**AIRMAN**  
Senior Airman  
Davey Atkins  
25 APS



**NCO**  
Technical Sgt.  
Keith Jeffries  
MXS



**SNCO**  
Master Sergeant  
Cassandra Crayton  
25 APS



**1ST SGT**  
Master Sergeant  
Chris Barnby  
OSS



**CGO**  
Captain  
Kristin E. Hill  
MXG

## 2011 QUARTERLY AWARD WINNERS

**AIRMAN**  
SENIOR AIRMAN DAVEY ATKINS, 25 APS  
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
SSGT COREY CAMPBELL, LRS  
SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
MASTER SGT. CASSANDRA CRAYTON, 25 APS  
COMPANY GRADE OFFICER  
1ST LT BRYAN POWELL, 357 AS

**AIRMAN**  
SENIOR AIRMAN KEVIN GARRETT, MHS  
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
STAFF SGT ROBBIE HINMAN, MHS  
SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
MASTER SGT. TERESA LAPCHESHE, MHS  
COMPANY GRADE OFFICER  
CAPT KRISTIN HILL, MXG

**AIRMAN**  
SENIOR AIRMAN JACOBY COTTON, AES  
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
TECH. SGT. KEITH JEFFRIES, MHS  
SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
MASTER SGT. SEAN HASSEBAUM, AES  
COMPANY GRADE OFFICER  
CAPT RAYMOND KLINGER, LRS

**AIRMAN**  
SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN WALTERS, MHS  
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
TECH. SGT SCOTT TUCHER, MHS  
SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
MASTER SGT. WILLIAM MAYFIELD, MHS  
COMPANY GRADE OFFICER  
CAPT ERIC WITHERS, LRS

## NCOS MEETING THE CHALLENGE



The following staff sergeants were recognized at the most recent NCO Induction Ceremony: Angel L. Armstrong, Debra A. Bates, Kevie A. Daniels, David S. Davis, Charles W. Doucet, Darryl M. Good, Melissa M. Hamilton, Robby T. Jackson, Donovan L. Johnson, Tiffany N. Johnson, Jacob M. Kayl, Billy W. Kidd Jr., Johnny L. King III, Charles A. Roland, Keili A. Sanders, Brandi S. Walker and Michael C. Williamson

## New to the 908th

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Capt. Charnelle Joiner                | Airman 1st Class Sharonda D. Roper   |
| Tech. Sgt. Rafael Sarvicato Jr.       | Airman 1st Michelle Mayo             |
| Tech. Sgt. Christopher L. Sims        | Airman Edward L. Buchanan            |
| Tech. Sgt. Kelvin L. Kling            | Airman Allen F. Poole II             |
| Tech. Sgt. Bryan E. Pearson           | Airman Zachariah F. Burrow           |
| Staff Sgt. David W. Irons             | Basic Airman Alexandria B. Davenport |
| Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Deluca          | Basic Airman Rickney B. Hunter       |
| Senior Airman Dustin B. Robertson     | Basic Airman Nigel L. Mosley         |
| Airman 1st Class Larry C. Williams II |                                      |

## Preparing to Disembark

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Lt. Col. Kevin D. Fuqua, CES                    | Master Sgt. Samuel M. Ferrell, FSS      |
| Lt. Col. Marcus L. Puccini, OSS                 | Master Sgt. Michael J. Guerin, FSS      |
| Maj. Travis Shults, MXS                         | Master Sgt. Rose L. Hall, OG            |
| Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper, 357AS      | Master. Sgt. Charles E. Hammond, 25 APS |
| Chief Master Sgt. Godfrey Hutto, ASTS           | Master. Sgt. Ralph E. Hood, 25 APS      |
| Senior Master Sgt. Clarafrancie D. Cromer, ASTS | Master. Sgt. John O'Connor, FSS         |
| Senior Master Sgt. Sammy T. Gipson, MXS         | Master. Sgt. Michael Talley, SFS        |
| Senior Master Sgt. Andres E. Soler, 25 APS      | Master Sgt. Peggy S. Thomas, CES        |
| Master Sgt. Roger L. Butler, OSS                |   |

\* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place April 6 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.\*

## BRIEFS

### Volunteer Opportunities

The 908th is looking for a few good Airmen, for the first time in years we have three vacancies in all three groups (Operations, Maintenance, Mission Support) for a group career advisor.

If interested, submit a civilian and/or military resume, plus any references, to Master Sgt. Dimitri Jefferies, no later than close of business Sunday of the March Unit Training Assembly via e-mail at [Alvin.Jefferies.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Alvin.Jefferies.1@us.af.mil).

## Gaining Altitude

Senior Master Sergeant



Matthew A. Denton  
Quincey M. Hester Jr.  
Michael L. Swims

Technical Sergeant



Eva M. Appiah  
Aime R. Jensen  
Leslie K. Jordan

Staff Sergeant



Kevein W. Garrett  
Lucius A. Green III  
Aaron T. Rogers  
Barry R. Scott

Senior Airman



Samaletta B. Collins  
Corey L. Dupre  
Robert A. Lewis  
Tiffany L. Lollar  
Quincy A. Miller  
Ashia K. Muhammad  
Joe D. Roberson  
Octavia E. Ruffin

Airman



Allen F. Poole  
Cameron M. Smith



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