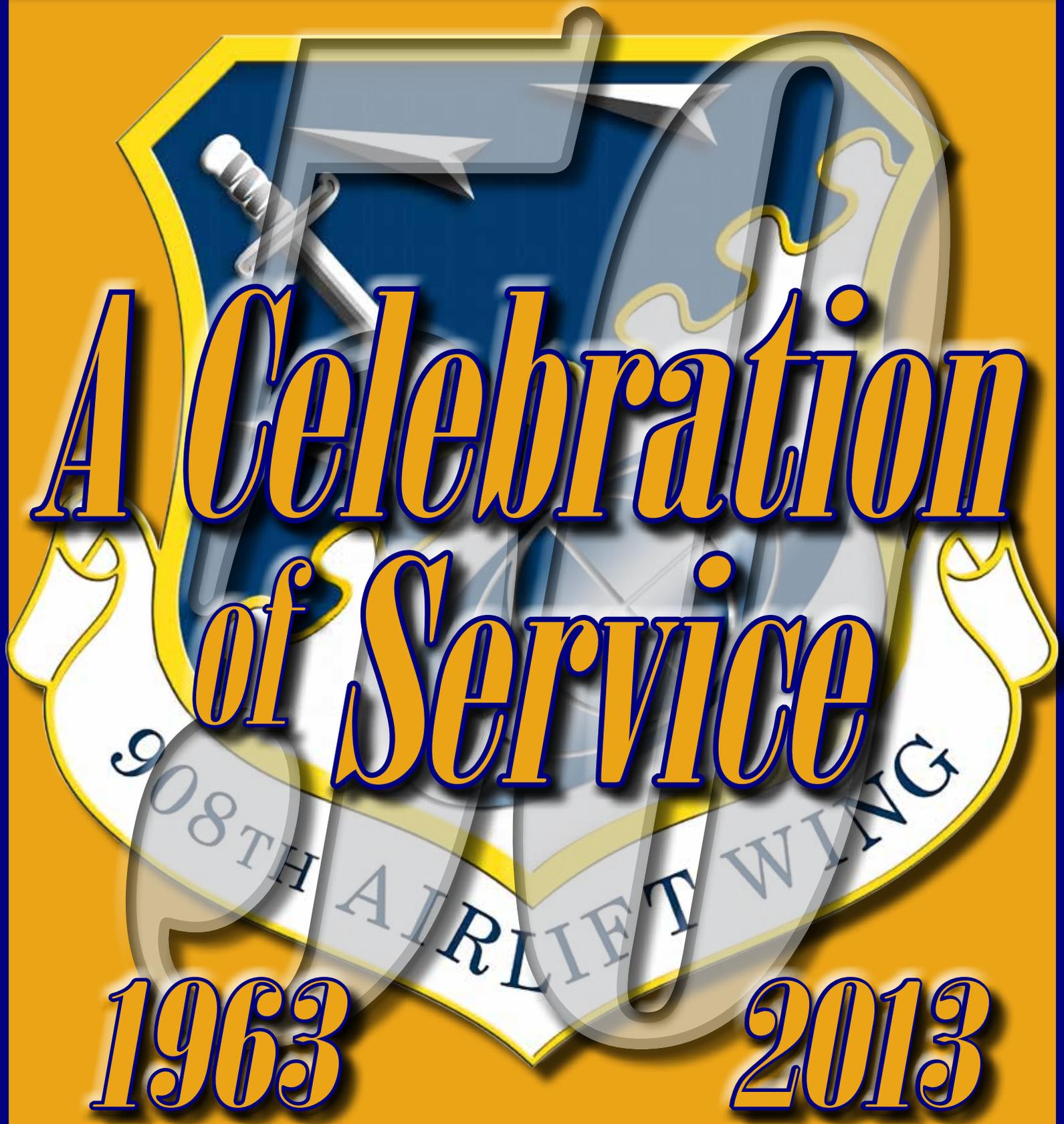


**SPECIAL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

**SOUTHERN FLYER**



# *A Celebration of Service*



**1963**

**2013**

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

**THE AIRMEN**

**THE AIRCRAFT**

**THE ACHIEVEMENTS**



**AIR FORCE RESERVE**

**908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB**

**AUGUST 2013**

# SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 50 Issue 07  
August 2012

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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# Be Proud of Your Legacy

**H**appy 50th Anniversary 908th Airlift Wing! From the wing's creation in Mobile at Bates Field in 1963, the 908th established a proud legacy of achievement. Seven Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards are at the top of a very long list of organizational and individual awards earned by our wing.

From the early days flying the C-119, the brief transitions to the O-2 and U-3, a decade with the C-7 Caribou, and 30 years (so far) with C-130s, the wing has met or exceeded every challenge presented. The one constant through the years has been the dedication, patriotism and spirit of the people associated with the 908th. Across the command and visitors like the AFRC/IG, people have commented that our sense of family and esprit de corps here is unmatched.

This commemorative issue of

the Southern Flyer is a chance to look back and appreciate the unit's history and accomplishments. The unit has been through several transitions but none so significant as the one we've taken since Desert Storm from what had been a "strategic reserve" force to the operational reserve status we have today.



COL. BRET J. CLARK  
Commander, 908th AW

As we look back on our first 50 years, I hope you will take an additional measure of pride in being part of that history. We have much to be proud of, and a responsibility to maintain the wing's proud legacy going forward.

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, planning is underway for a 50th Anniversary celebration and wing Christmas party on Saturday, December 7th. Further details will be forthcoming but please mark it on your calendar, invite your retired friends and plan to be part of the wing's Golden Anniversary bash.

## A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

"CHAPLAIN BOB" ANDERS

My goodness, 50 years have passed, where did they go?

If I am correct this 50th anniversary comes along about the same time some of my 50th anniversaries do.

What? Well, August of 1963 comes very close to the beginning date of my ministry, and when I came to this wing, I was very nearly 50 years old, and last, but certainly anything but least ... August 1963 is when my wife, Carol, and I started dating. Talk about something changing your life.



ANDERS

Of course, there have been a lot of changes in my life in the last 50 years. I'm sure there have been a lot of changes in yours as well. Holy Cow, some of you weren't even around 50 years ago.

Think of the Airframes that have come and gone for our flight personnel and maintenance folks. Think of the vehicles that have been driven, and how "the fins" have changed.

I used to work in the medical field, and there have certainly been a lot of changes there -- lots and lots of changes.

So, is there anything that has stayed consistent over the years?

Well, I can only speak from my perspective, but let me say that while the mission and equipment for the wing have changed over the years ... the "can do and will do attitude" of the people of this wing has stayed consistent, and has supported the Air Force mission through at least five or six "states of conflict."

The faith that we have held in each other and in The Lord, has also remained strong and consistent, and I pray that it always will. When you think you are about to lose it, take the hand of someone and say: "Together we can do this."

# Wing Chaplain receives award

Dersch gets Maj. Gen. Thoralf T. Thielen Award

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder  
908th Public Affairs

Major (Ch.) David Dersch has been selected as the 2012 Outstanding Reserve Chaplain of the Year by the Air Force Reserve Command. Among the many requirements for consideration of the award were training, contributing to mission support, and exhibiting leadership in various activities within the military and civilian community.

Among the many accomplishments of the year for Dersch was serving as project coordinator for several projects including Family Day, attending a chaplain's school, serving as the Yellow Ribbon representative working with deployers and he also deployed.

Dersch described how an airman is only as strong as the people he has around him. He praised his staff saying the chaplain section had received an excellent on the combined unit inspection cumulating in winning another award, the AFRC Readiness Award. "I have a great staff. Chaplain Danford, Chaplain Scott, TSgt. King and SrA Gnann all really were outstanding making my job and ministry a lot easier."

There's a difference in leading a flock in the military versus the civilian world.



Major (Ch.) David Dersch has been selected as the 2012 Outstanding Reserve Chaplain of the Year

Dersch explained how a civilian pastor does a lot more preaching and teaching while an Air Force chaplain does not do as much preaching and teaching but perform more counseling and visitation. "The similarities are," said Dersch, "you're taking care of people and taking care of people spiritually to meet the needs of people during very important times of their lives."

Dersch finished by discussing how volunteering can be good for the soul. "If you want to do something, don't be afraid to volunteer to help because if you volunteer to help, that's a good thing."



## SOUTHERN FLYER

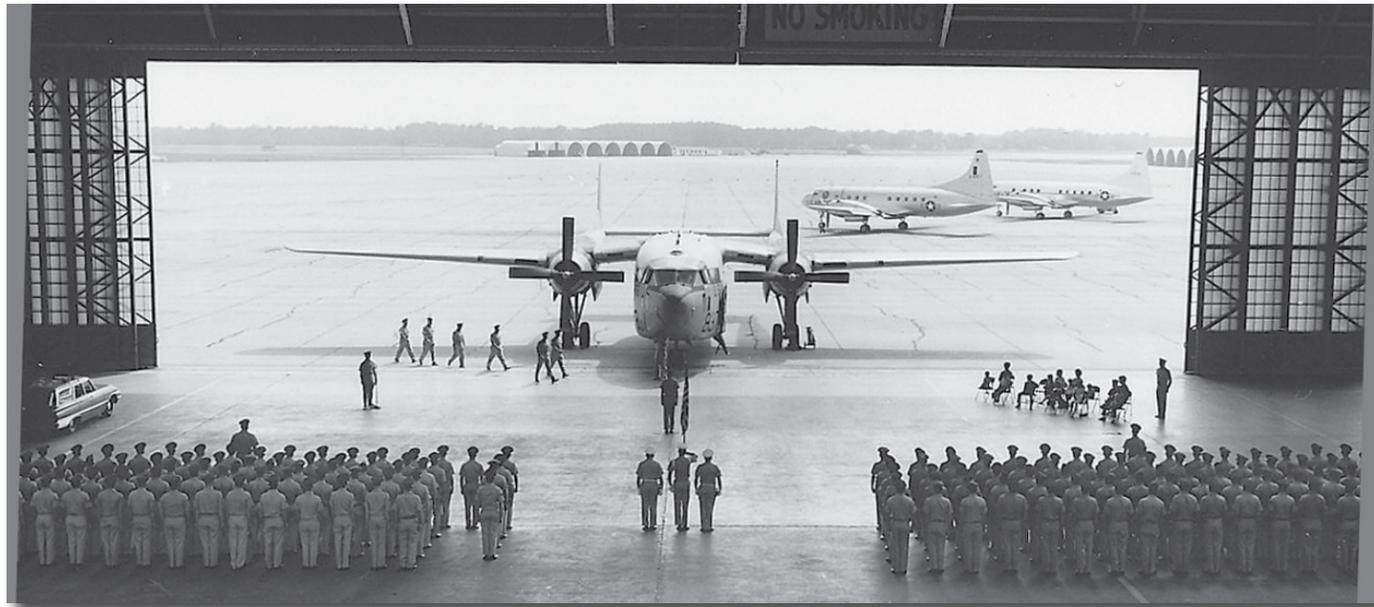
### COVER PHOTO:

This year, the unit that began as the 908th Troop Carrier Group Medium and eventually became the 908th Airlift Wing celebrates half a century of honorable service to the nation.

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Southern Flyer" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content of the "Southern Flyer" is edited, prepared and provided by the 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

We solicit articles, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies. Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the 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.



# BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNIN'

Through 50 years of constant change, the 908th remains 'Ready... Always'

By definition, the mission of the 908th Airlift Wing is "to recruit, organize and train Air Force Reservists to provide unrivaled theater airlift and flexible combat support across the spectrum of military operations."

That mission has been forged through 50 years of the sacrifices and labors of thousands of Alabama's Citizen Airmen, who have taken time from their honorable "double lives," balancing military duty, civilian employment and responsibilities to family.

Throughout the half century of

the wing's existence, that devotion has been a constant. The unit itself has undergone changes in location, mission, makeup and personnel. Its pilots and maintainers have flown and serviced five varieties of aircraft, from bulky to near-ballistic and back again.

Its medics have seen changes in life-saving techniques and great advances in technology, as have members of the communication, personnel and support communities.

The maxim stating "the more things change, the more they stay the same" seems tailor-made for the 908th.



The 908th Airlift Wing was first established as the 908th Troop Carrier Group, Medium on Jan. 15, 1963, under the Continental Air Command (primarily responsible for the nation's air defense mission until January, 1951, when it was tasked with administering the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve).



**FIRST CO: Lt. Col. William A. Willis, Feb. 1963 - Dec. 1966**

The group was stood up Feb. 11 at Bates Field, Ala. (now Mobile Regional Airport), located in Mobile and commanded by the 533d Army Air Base Unit. The group incorporated the 357th Troop Carrier Squadron, which was already located there, having replaced the 78th TCS, which had been moved to Barksdale AFB, La. in 1961.

Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Hesse, who retired in 1994 after 30 years, joined in 1962.

"Back then we were called the 78th Troop Carrier Squadron," he said. "We were out of Bates Field in



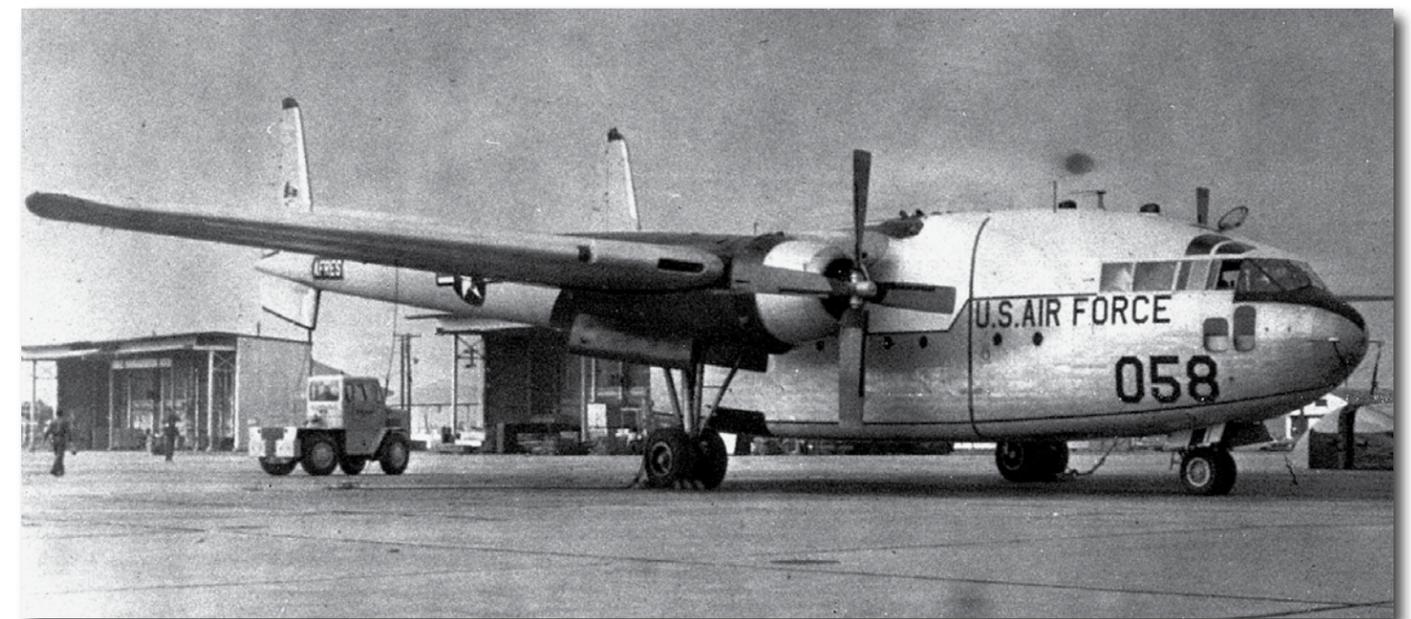
**ORIGINAL MISSION:** Crew members of the 357th TCS brief paratroopers. The 908th's first clients were Mobile Marine Reservists and 20th Special Forces, Army & Alabama's National Guard Unit.

Mobile, flying the C-119 - the loudest airplane you ever rode in. Every bolt in that plane rattled when it flew."

The 357th already had a distinguished history of its own. It had been activated in early 1942 as a B-24 Liberator training unit, been redesignated as a B-29 Superfortress heavy bomber squadron and taken part in the strategic bombing of the Japanese home islands and the mainland. Its last mission was a flyover of the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

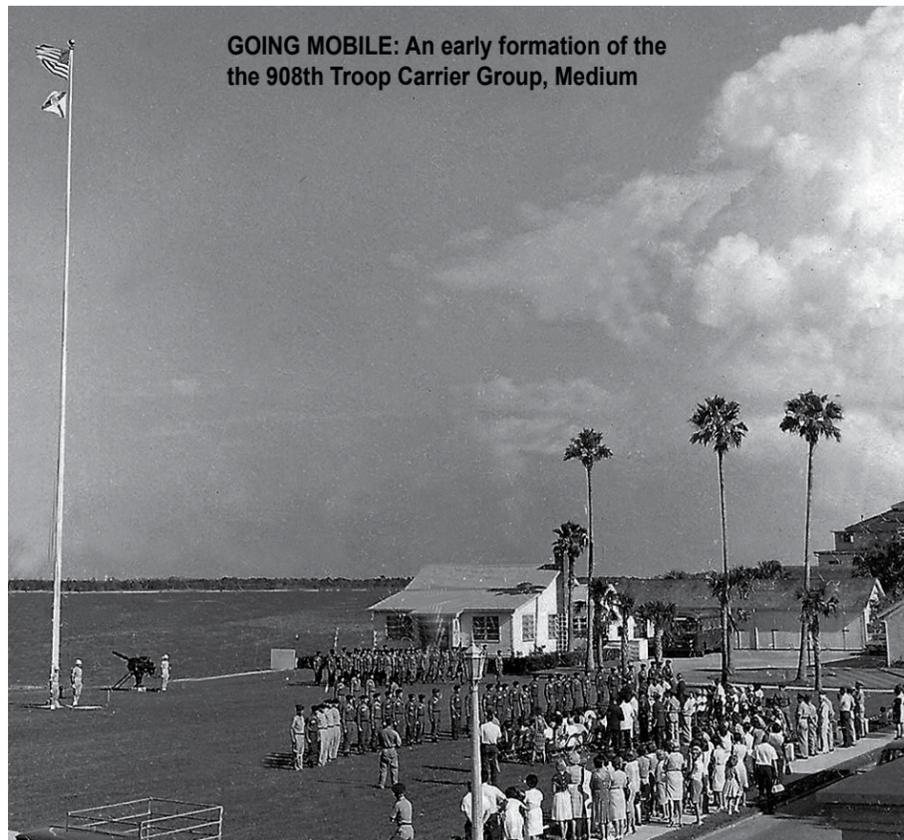
The squadron was inactivated, but the personnel were retrained for airlift and troop carrier missions from 1949 throughout the '50s. Before becoming part of the 908th, the squadron airlifted troops and equipment during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

At his disposal, group commander Lt. Col. William A. Willis had 130 officers and 626 Airmen. The Reservists came from more towns, further distant from Mobile. Originally, reservists came from approximately 30 towns within a 100



### Original Leadership

- Commander:  
**Lt. Col. William A. Willis**
- Executive Officer:  
**Mr. Thomas L. Coker**
- Operations & Training Officer:  
**Maj. Harold D Weekley**
- Maintenance Officer:  
**Maj. John P Cranford**
- Civil Engineer:  
**Mr. William G Howard**
- Civilian Personnel Officer:  
**Mrs. Betty W Sims**
- Procurement Officer:  
**Mr. William H Evers**
- Accounting & Finance Officer:  
**Miss Vivian Lewis**
- Commercial Transportation Officer:  
**Mr. Jay Spafford**
- TAC Advisor:  
**Maj. Harry M Nash**



GOING MOBILE: An early formation of the the 908th Troop Carrier Group, Medium

mile area. Within the first six months, members hailed from 70 towns within a radius of 250 miles. One officer flew 500 miles in his own plane from Asheville, N.C., in order to train with the 908th.

The group was flying 16 Fairchild C-119s, a twin-engine, military transport aircraft designed to carry cargo, personnel, litter patients, mechanized equipment, and to drop cargo and troops by parachute.

Its transport capacity and unusual appearance earned it the name of

“the Flying Boxcar.”

The headquarters element commanded the 908th Material Squadron, 908th Combat Support Squadron, the 908th Aerial Port Flight, The 908th Tactical Dispensary, the 357th, and the 13th Mobile Communications Squadron.

The group’s initial mission was “to provide air transportation for airborne forces, their equipment and supplies, including air evacuation within the theatre of operations; and to organize, recruit, attain and

maintain standards of proficiency which will enable the (435th) Troop Carrier Wing to perform its assigned mission.”

The unit reached a milestone on Oct. 22, 1963, when its 500th reservist was sworn in over Mobile television station WALA on a noon local



AND JU SUIS FINI: The 908th celebrates a fini flight in 1967.



news show.

The changes began almost immediately. The 908th received notice on May 12, 1964 that it would be moved from Bates to the larger Brookley Air Force Base, located near downtown Mobile, in October 1964 due to budget restraints. The task was accomplished by Nov. 15.

The group received a reputation for humanitarian airlift, such as the delivery of emergency supplies to New Orleans to aid victims of Hurricane Betsy, provided support and assistance in the installation of the U.S.S. Alabama in its state shrine,



**Lt. Col. David P. Whiteside, Dec 1966 - July 1967**



**Lt. Col. Marcus C. West, July 1967 - June 1968**



**Lt. Col. John P. Cranford, 8 Jun 1968 - Dec 1968**



**Col. Andrew Chaplin, by Dec 1968 - 2 Feb 1970**



**Col. Marcus C. West, 2 Feb 1970 - Oct 1971**



**Lt. Col. Sloan R. Gill, Oct 1971 - 4 Jun 1973**



**Maj. Lelias E. Thomas, 4 Jun 1973 - 14 Aug 1973**

and took care of regular cargo and mail missions to free Military Airlift Command aircraft committed to Southeast Asia.

The unit closed out 1965 with participation in Operation Christmas Star, airlifting Christmas packages for the troops stationed in Vietnam.

The year 1966 began on a high note, as Governor George Wallace, stating that “whereas, all patriotic

Alabama citizens are proud of the unselfish dedication displayed by the men and women of the 908th Troop Carrier Group, Alabama’s only Air Force Reserve Flying Unit, for their ever remaining alert,” signed

a proclamation naming the third week of February as 908th Troop Carrier Group Week.

On July 16, a 908th C-119 crashed near Jacksonville, Fla., after losing an engine in a fire. The four crewmen and all 30 Florida National Guard members on board bailed out safely, thanks to the pilot, Maj. Robert C. Coyle of Biloxi, Miss. Before ditching the aircraft, Coyle saw to it that every passenger and his three crewmen had jumped.

For his heroism, Coyle was



GETTIN' WET: Early water survival training.

awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Florida Cross.

In July of 1967, the unit, now assigned to the 446th Troop Carrier Wing based at Ellington Air Force Base, Texas, was redesignated as 908 Tactical Airlift Group.

In February 1969, another move was announced. The 908th would move to Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., the following spring, change its mission and fly another type of aircraft.

From the front page of The Carrier, the 908th’s newspaper dated March 1969:



GOOD TO GO: Members of the 908th ready to deploy.

“Our unit will move to Maxwell AFB, Ala., and convert from C-119 Flying Boxcar transports to an interim aircraft, the twin-engine U-3.

The unit will be redesignated the 908th Tactical Support Group.

Manning will be based on the 24 aircraft authorized the group, which is slated to receive such FAC aircraft as the O-1 or O-2 light reconnaissance aircraft at a later date.

Our unit will be reassigned from the 433rd Tactical Airlift Wing, Kelly AFB, Texas, to the Third Air Force



A BRIEF FLIRTATION: The 908th moved into the FAC business with the Cessna U-3 ‘Blue Canoe.’

Reserve Region, headquartered at Dobbins AFB, Georgia. As of this date there are no plans for our unit to be assigned to another wing unit.

The Air Force Reserve FAC units will provide support to Reserve Army units. The mission will include training in searching out and identifying the enemy, marking targets and controlling strike elements on close support missions. The Air Force active-duty FACs are used extensively in Southeast Asia.

With our move to Maxwell scheduled in April, our March UTA will remain the same, the 8th and 9th of March. Our April UTA will be changed and moved up to the 12th and 13th of the month."

The new horse in the 908th stable was the small, twin-engine U-3, a forward control aircraft. Popularly known in the U.S. Air Force as the "Blue Canoe," the U-3 was the military version of the Cessna 310 twin-engine transport.

But the 908th's mission, name, and the aircraft, were not to be long lived. The 908th Tactical Air Support Group, as it was now designated, soon received, in historic fashion, the Cessna O-2.



**IN BIRMINGHAM THEY LOVE THE GOVERNOR:** Maj. Lelias Thomas, 908th commander, left, stands by as Alabama Gov. George Wallace makes a proclamation.

As Sgt. Wayne Poston wrote: "The 908th Tactical Air Support Group, assigned at Maxwell, is the first Reserve Unit in history to receive aircraft directly from the factory.

They just took- charge of ten brand new (FZ-As, delivered to their Maxwell doorstep from the Cessna factory in Wichita, Kan. Previously known as the 908th Tactical Airlift Group, Air Force Reserve, the 908th moved to Maxwell nearly a year ago from Brookley AFB in Mobile with a new mission and a new name, but they are



**JUST SIGN HERE AND THEY'RE ALL YOURS:** 908th commander Col. Marcus West signs the receipt for the group's new Cessna O-2s.

### Lineage

- ◆ Established as 908th Troop Carrier Group, Medium 15 Jan 1963.
- ◆ Organized on 11 Feb 1963, Bates Field, AL.
- ◆ Stationed at Brookley AFB, Ala., 1 Oct 1964.
- ◆ Redesignated as 908 Tactical Airlift Group 1 Jul 1967
- ◆ Redesignated as 908 Tactical Air Support Group 25 Apr 1969, Maxwell AFB, AL.
- ◆ Redesignated as 908 Tactical Airlift Group 15 Dec 1971
- ◆ Redesignated as 908 Airlift Group 1 Feb 1992
- ◆ Redesignated as 908 Airlift Wing 1 Oct 1994.

### Assignments

- ◆ **Continental Air Command**, taked with nation's air defense mission until January, 1951, when it was tasked with administering Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.
- ◆ 302nd Troop Carrier Wing, 11 Feb 1963
- ◆ 435th Troop Carrier Wing, 18 Mar 1963
- ◆ 446th Troop Carrier (later, 446 Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1 Dec 1965
- ◆ 433rd Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Mar 1968
- ◆ Third Air Force Reserve Region, 25 Apr 1969
- ◆ Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
- ◆ 434th Special Operations Wing, 1 Jul 1971
- ◆ 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing, 25 Oct 1971
- ◆ 94th Tactical Airlift (later, 94th Airlift) Wing, 1 Jul 1972
- ◆ 403 Airlift Wing (later, 403 Wing), 1 Aug 1992
- ◆ 10th Air Force, 1 Oct 1994
- ◆ 22nd Air Force, 1 Apr 1997-present.



**Lt Col Jonathan Gardner, 14 Aug 1973 - 17 Jan 1976**



**Lt Col Billie H. Parker, 17 Jan 1976 - 30 Aug 1976**



**Col Jack P. Ferguson, 30 Aug 1976 - 4 Sep 1977**



**Col Robert Q. Head, 4 Sep 1977 - 18 Jul 1980**



**Col Robert S. Martin, 18 Jul 1980 - 1 Oct 1989**



**Col Anthony Tassone Jr., 1 Oct 1989 - 13 Jan 1991**



**Col Thomas W. Spencer, 13 Jan 1991 - 21 Aug 1994**

still Alabama's only flying Air Force Reserve unit.

The 908th is one of only three AF Reserve units in the United States whose mission is that of forward air control. They train in searching out and identifying enemy, marking targets and controlling strike elements on close-support missions. Air Force active duty AFCs are used extensively in Southeast Asia.

Pilots of the 908th are training at the FAC school at Hurlburt Field, Fla. They get orientation and instrumentation training and courses in flying sectors (map reading and flying over a certain path over terrain).

Radio equipment operators are also being trained now during an 11-month technical school at Keesler AFB, Miss. The first electronic communications graduate for the 908th will be in late May. If the unit were activated, these radio men operate from jeeps in forward ground positions and keep communication between the ground troops and the FACs directing the air strikes."

At that time, the group was about 80 percent manned. Of the 96 officers authorized, they had 87, and of the 540 enlisted slots, they had 434



**LOOK! UP IN THE SKY:** The Cessna O-2 flies over Montgomery.

men serving, as well as 60 fulltime Air Reserve Technicians.

The O-2s didn't last long either. A year after the March 1970 conversion, word arrived that the unit would convert to the A-37 Dragonfly, a jet fighter. Amidst plans for receiving the jets, there was yet another change: the 908th would soon return to its roots, providing superior airlift.

The unit was presented with the De Havilland C-7A, a Canadian-built, twin-engine, short takeoff and landing (STOL) utility trans-

port with the unusual capability of extremely short low-level navigation, field landings and takeoffs. The C-7A could transport 25 fully equipped paratroopers or 20 litter patients and a flight nurse.

It had been in Army service since 1961, and with the Air Force since 1967, when all fixed-wing transports were transferred.

The 908th Tactical Airlift Group made good use of the "Caribou," and kept in service for more than a decade, but while the mission and aircraft of the group had changed, the superior performance of its members had not.

It wasn't long before the unit was up and running with its new aircraft. As though making up for lost time, the 908th declared itself combat ready in February 1973 – the first C-7 unit in the Reserve to achieve the status – such as reported in the following story from 1974:

*"The combat readiness of the*



**BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF AIRLIFT:** The 908th returned to its original mission with the acquisition of the C-7 Caribou



## Outstanding Achievement

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is awarded by the secretary of the Air Force to numbered units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

The services include; performance of exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishment of a specific outstanding achievement of national or international significance, combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or military operations involving conflict with or exposure to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force.

The 908th Airlift Wing has been honored with this award seven times in its history, for the following time periods:

- 1 Jul 1972 - 15 Mar 1974
- 1 Jan 1976 - 30 Nov 1977
- 1 Feb 1980 - 31 Jan 1982
- 1 Sep 1986 - 31 Aug 1988
- 1 Sep 1991 - 31 Aug 1993
- 1 Oct 2003 - 30 Sep 2005
- 1 July 2008 - 31 May 2010



THE HERD ON LINE: Thirteen C-7 Caribous rest on the Maxwell flightline.

*908th Tactical Airlift Group (Air Force Reserve), Maxwell AFB, has been confirmed by a Tactical Air Command inspection team from HQ, 9th Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.*

*According to Lt. Col. Jonathan Gardner, 908th commander, the purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the organization, management and mission capability of the Reserve Group and subordinate units.*

*Highly professional standards are required of all personnel in performing air drops of troops, assault landings, tactical medical evacuations, as well as unit personnel and equipment mobility exercises.*

*Colonel Gardner praised all the members of the Group saying, "It took a great team effort to achieve these outstanding results. Every man knew his job and performed it well."*

*The TAC inspectors commended the outstanding manner, attitudes and courtesy of all members of the 908th. They said these were indicative of the high esprit de corps of the unit and a direct reflection on the commander's influence throughout the chain of command.*

Besides its airlift, medical evac and troop carrier missions, the group, at this time

manned by nearly 600 reservists, occasionally got an unusual tasking, such as releasing sterile male screw worm flies over Puerto Rico during Operation Coronet Roundup.

Back at Maxwell, 908th members were accomplishing more firsts for the unit. One member became the first non-ART Reservist to graduate from the Air Force Senior NCO Academy while ten others became the first group of Reservists to be certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), tested and certified by the State of Alabama Health Department.

Aircrews were also being recognized.

In 1975, a C-7 crew directed aerial search and rescue operations for downed crewmen of a B-52 which crashed near Augusta, Ga., Sept. 3.

*"The 908th aircraft was between Augusta and Columbia, S.C. enroute to*



LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE: 908th Maintainers check under the hood of a C-7 Caribou.



**Col Christopher M. Joniec,** 21 Aug 1994 - 24 Aug 1996



**Col William P. Kane,** 24 Aug 1996 - 1 Jun 1998



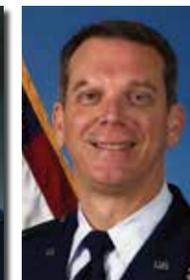
**Col Thomas R. Brown,** 1 Jun 1998 - Feb 2002



**Col James N. Stewart,** Feb 2002 - 4 Apr 2004



**Col Heath Nuckolls,** 4 Apr 2004 - 8 Jan 2006



**Col Michael J. Underkofler,** 8 Jan 2006 - 8 Jun 2008



**Col Brett J. Clark,** 8 Jun 2008 - present



BOU-HOO: After 12 years of service with the 908th, the C-7 Caribou was replaced by the C-130E.

Andrews AFB, Md., when the incident occurred. The C-7 crew included Lt. Col. Jonathan Gardner, 908th commander and aircraft commander and SSgt. Larry Glasscock, crew chief.

After hearing an RF-4 report sighting a fireball and then smoke on the ground, Colonel Gardner, acting on a request by FAA controllers, diverted to the area for closer look.

The wreckage was scattered over a wide area. "Sergeant Glasscock spotted a wheel truck and an engine pod," Colonel Gardner said. "It was then we knew the aircraft was a B-52."

Flying at 70 knots and 1,000 feet, the C-7 crew began a methodical search for the B-52 crewmembers. They picked up a rescue beeper signal

and established voice contact with a survivor, who guided the Caribou over his position in the pine forest. The C-7 flew in a tight circle and vectored an Army helicopter, which had just arrived, to the downed airmen."

In 1978, aircrew members of the 908th took 45 flight examiner, instructor, and basic aircrew examinations for the Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Team from 14th Air Force and passed them all.

It was the unit second such award in a row.

"An excellent rating is difficult to come by," said Maj. Gen. Edward Dillon, commander of 14th Air Force (Reserve). "Two in succession is a 'first' and requires the positive

efforts of each and every member of the unit team."

Most important, however, was the unit's outstanding safety record. To date, the unit has accumulated more than 83,000 accident-free flying hours at Maxwell.

However, another change was coming. In October 1983, the 908th converted to the C-130E Hercules.

The Es arrival was remembered by longtime member, Carl Poteat, former 908th executive officer:

*"I believe it was in August of 1983 when we got E models from the Alaska Guard and phased out the C-7. It was hot. It was my first major event. 'The City of Montgomery' was our very first C-130 we ever got. We didn't have a crew of our own trained to fly it yet.*

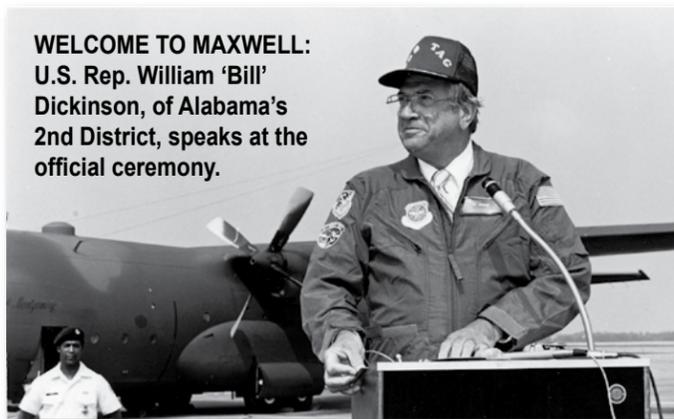
*It was flown in and taxied up to the reviewing stand (with Cong. Dickinson on board) by a crew of mostly MAC advisors with the exception of navigator Dick Gilchrist who had just transferred from the 187th but was checked out in the C-130E.*

*We had another welcome ceremony in 1986 when we got the new H models."*

The C-130 gave the 908th a much-needed lift, accommodating a wide variety of oversized cargo, including everything from utility helicopters and six-wheeled armored



**FIRST HERC:** 908th commander Col. Robert Martin and guests await the arrival of 'City of Montgomery I.'



**WELCOME TO MAXWELL:** U.S. Rep. William 'Bill' Dickinson, of Alabama's 2nd District, speaks at the official ceremony.

vehicles to standard palletized cargo and military personnel. In an aerial delivery role, it could airdrop loads up to 42,000 pounds or use its high-flotation landing gear to land and deliver cargo on rough, dirt strips.

The plane had the ability to perform short takeoffs and landings. Maxwell did not. Assault landing training formerly conducted using Little Rock AFB, Ark., Pope AFB, N.C., and Dobbins AFB, involving several hours of flight time. But it wasn't long before that problem was solved, with the addition of the assault ramp, in 1974.

For after nearly a year and a half of legwork and paperwork, the 908th TAG's very own assault landing strip is now reality.

"The strip is east of the main runway," says Lt. Col Paul K. Stehlik, Deputy Commander for Operations at

the 908th. "It is currently used by the Aero Club. Now the Air Force Reserve will carry out some improvements to the strip, such as resurfacing a portion and adding special markings."

The colonel adds that the traffic pattern for the airfield will be "virtually the same," with no effect on other flying activities.

"Assault landings are a special event," says Colonel Stehlik. "The pilot needs special qualifications to perform them. Though these landings are routine, they constitute a special area tested during check rides."

With only a year in the 130 business, the 908th was leading the pack in mobility capability, and was selected by Headquarters, Military Airlift Command, to serve as the pilot unit for all organizations tasked in wartime to provide eight C-130Es.

In less than three years, the unit

received the brand new C-130H, beginning in June 1986.

During this time, the group was active in real-world operations. The late '80s saw three deployments to Panama. The busy learning period in the new aircraft culminated in May 1987 at the international Airlift Rodeo competition at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., where the 908th placed as first overall C-130 unit in the world, and fourth place overall among all aircraft competing.

The '90s was a decade of activity for the group. Redesignated as the 908th Airlift Group, it supplied a number of members in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1992, more than 30 Reservists were extras for "Body Snatchers," and Capt. Judy Hughes, intelligence officer, was a body double for star Gabrielle Anwar. In



**THAT NEW PLANE SMELL:** The 908th's new C-130H2 aircraft undergo final touches on the factory floor.



**NEW DIGS:** Congressional, municipal, AFRC and 908th leaders dig the first shovelfuls of dirt for the wing's new hangers in 2003.



**A FAMILIAR SCENE:** A member of the 908th bids farewell to his family before deploying to Operation Desert Shield.

'93, Capt. Kathy Byars, the 908th Airlift Group's first female C-130 pilot, joined the group and the group began taking part in a decade-long connection with relief operations in Sarajevo, Kosovo and Bosnia.

In 1994, the 908th Tactical Airlift Group was redesignated as the 908th Airlift Wing.

As the decade came to a close, 908th Airmen assisted in relief and recovery efforts following the destruction wrought by Hurricane Mitch throughout Central America, and winter aid efforts to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Reservists airlifted food, water, clothing, and medical and building supplies.

The new millennium saw an aircrew from the wing taking honors as Best C-130/160 Airdrop Crew in the World at Rodeo 2000 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

More changes came in the form of September 11, 2001.

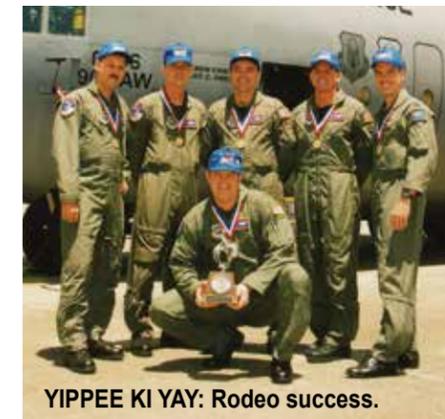
Within two days of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, 26 908th Security Forces Squadron members were called to active duty

to augment security at Maxwell and Gunter, and soon joined the legions of reservists called to support Operation Noble Eagle.

Since then, more than 500 wing reservists have participated in the nation's Global War on Terror, serving at stateside and overseas locations. The largest contingent of reservists, nearly 250 unit personnel, were called to active duty in December 2003 to support combat operations in Afghanistan, with more than 180 aircrew members, maintenance and support personnel deploying to Central Asia.

Subsequently, the 908th Airmen relocated to provide airlift support to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The call up lasted nearly two years, ending in November 2005. During that period, wing aircrews flew more than 10,000 hours, including 7,000 hours in and around Afghanistan and Iraq.

From the war-ravaged mountains and deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq to the U.S. Gulf Coast decimated by Hurricane Katrina, the men of women of the 908th Airlift Wing served with remarkable distinction, dedication, and superb ability to accomplish the mission under the most



**YIPPEE KI YAY:** Rodeo success.

adverse conditions.

Every day, 908th reservists are training and performing missions in support of U.S. humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts worldwide. In 2010, 908th Reservists provided aid to victims of an earthquake in Haiti and flooding in Pakistan.

Today, the wing's members continue to serve with honor and distinction whenever and wherever they are called. Whatever the mission may be, from providing security, maintenance and medical care to humanitarian relief and support of combat operations through superior airlift, the Reservists of the 908th Airlift Wing are still...

"Ready... Always!"



**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** Members of the 908th prepare to depart on a deployment.

Senior Master Sergeant



Cynthia Blais  
James E. Loper

Master Sergeant



Matthew M. Chandler  
Rory D. Lapres  
Jennifer L. Wilson  
Jamaal Dewberry  
Christopher Wild

Technical Sergeant



Eli Dunbar  
Kendra Jenkins  
Alfred Lehmborg  
Cedrea Young

Staff Sergeant



Gary Broaden  
Keith Fuell  
Eugene Mays  
Cory A. Brewster  
Jeffery L. Davis  
Erica D. Deramus  
Cory D. Ledesma  
Roger M. Morris

Senior Airman



Alyccia Baldwin  
Lashanta Buchanon  
Ashley Clark  
Christian Granger  
Ariel King  
Matthew Lee  
Kandace Moore  
Kevin Rodriguez  
Calli Sautter  
Alexis Seymore  
Ethan Smith



Congratulations!

Airman First Class

Stewart Thomason  
Kendria R. Alexander  
Tyler R. Cancel  
Ricky R. Davison  
Luke A. Green  
Marquis M. Jackson  
Michelle A. Mayo  
Erika D. Sanders  
Zachary B. Stanford  
Ashley C. Thomas  
Corbin D. Tunstall  
Chance J. Webster  
Larry C. Williams

Airman

Douglas Bowers  
Olivia Edwards  
Devince M. Bryant  
Edward L. Buchanan  
Jerrel C. Craig  
Kaila K. Fernandez  
Tajh D. Fletcher  
Darien L. Johnson  
Shannon N. Jones  
Ravon H. Levy  
Jylian McCoy  
Latricia P. Parks  
Shamar C. Wilkerson  
Byrant J. Hightower  
Rickney B. Hunter  
Joi N. Iverson  
Daniel P. Johnson  
Nigel L. Mosley  
Courtney T. Ridgeway  
Denver C. Robles  
Deondrea K. Shepherd

# New to the 908th

Maj. Nicole M. Davis, CES  
Capt. Matthew D. Hoshor, AW  
SMSgt. Denise E. Harrison, AW  
Tech. Sgt. Stacy Nabors, 357 AS  
Staff Sgt. Byron A. Davis, 25 APS  
Staff Sgt. Tykesha Caylor, FSS  
Senior Airman Matthew D. Dearth, MXS  
Senior Airman Laurel A. Hutchins, AW  
Senior Airman Kim M. Strickland, LRS  
Airman 1st Class Melanie J. Allor, ASTS  
Airman 1st Class Kiara Nelson, OSF  
Airman 1st Class Ulysses S. Petty, 25 APS  
Airman 1st Class Carl Ross Jr., CES  
Airman 1st Class Ashley Thomas, FSS  
Airman 1st Class Shamar C. Wilkerson, SFS  
Basic Airman Cameron D. Covington, 25 APS  
Basic Airman Jonathon C. Fomby, AMXS  
Basic Airman Victoria L. Garnes, FSS  
Basic Airman Sierra Fitchard, FSS



# Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. Noreen A. Burke, ASTS  
Lt. Col. Kevin D. Fuqua, CES  
Lt. Col. Billy R. Tabor Jr., 357 AS  
SMSgt. Shiela K. Mitchell, ASTS  
Master Sgt. Kenneth L. Bailey, OG  
Master Sgt. Marcus A. Fuller, 25 APS  
Master Sgt. Michael Talley, SFS  
Staff Sgt. David G. Powell, ASTS

\* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing will take place Aug. 3 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, MSG Conference Room.\*

# UTA Lodging

- \* Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 48 hours prior to your arrival.
- \* Maxwell Toll-Free 1 (800) 673-9356  
Direct (334) 953-8557/8558
- \* Input your unit authorization code (Given by unit's First Sergeant)
- \* Dial 953-8557 or 953-8558
- \* Upon request, input USER ID
- \* Upon request, input PIN number, then "#." PIN is assigned during Newcomers. If not known, contact 908th Services.
- \* Make, change, cancel, check reservation  
Reservation: input arrival date followed by departure date, then type [ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA). UTA is IDT.]  
> ADT only? Call Lodging: (334) 953-6133

\* If a scheduled UTA weekend, system will tell you where you will be staying  
Questions?  
Contact Senior Master Sgt. Byron Godwin (334) 953-7332 / Emer cell: (334) 657-1304  
DSN: 493-7332 byron.godwin@maxwell.af.mil

**Checkout time:**  
No time to go to the front desk, or phone charge? Drop the keys in the drop box in Bldg 682 (Main Lodging) for your convenience.  
DO NOT USE this box if you have charges on your bill.

In accordance with AFI 34-246 smoking is prohibited in lodging rooms. You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

## FY12-13

Sept. 8-9	March 2-3
Oct. 13-14	April 6-7
Nov. 3-4	May 4-5
Dec. 1-2	June 1-2
Jan. 12-15	Aug. 3-4
Feb. 2-3	Sept. 7-8

# AUGUST

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
<b>Friday, August 2, 2013</b>			
1600	TBD	Commanders' Staff Meeting	Bldg 929/CP Conf Rm
1600	TBD	First Sergeant's Meeting	Bldg 1055/Conf Rm
<b>Saturday, August 3, 2013</b>			
0545	0945	Fit To Fight Testing	HAWC
0730	0800	** Sign In **	Orderly Rm
0730	1030	Newcomer's MPF Inprocessing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0800	1100	Lab work/DNA/HIV/Blood testing	Bldg 760/Lab
0800	1530	Physicals	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0800	TBD	M4 Training (Classroom)	Range Classroom
0830	1530	Immunizations	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0900	1000	UDM Meeting	Bldg 848/CF Classrm
0900	1000	Fitness for duty (DD 689 & Fitness Ltr)	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0900	1000	First Duty Station Briefing	Bldg 1056/Classrm
0900	1100	Mask Fit Testing	Bldg 760/Flr 2
0900	1000	PAR Team/Facility Manager Training	Bldg 1154/Rm 119
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Outprocessing	Bldg 1056/Rm 111/DPMSA
1000	1100	Wing Training Meeting	Bldg 903/FSDE
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1300	1400	HRDC Meeting	Bldg 1056/CC Conf Rm
1300	1500	CBRNE DSS Training	Bldg 1154/Rm 119
1330	1400	Fitness for duty (DD 689 & Fitness Ltr)	Bldg 760/Flr 1
1500	1600	Lt. Col. Dornhoefer Pinning Ceremony	Bldg 803/AIS Lrg Auditorium

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
<b>Sunday, August 4, 2013</b>			
0600	1000	Fit To Fight Testing	HAWC
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Rm
0700	0830	Newcomer's Intro/Orientation	Bldg 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	TBD	M4 Training (Range)	Range
0800	0900	UCC Training (must complete prerequisite CBT)	Bldg 1055/CE Classrm
0830	0900	Chapel Service (Recommended)	Bldg 803/Sm Auditorium
0830	1130	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
0900	1030	908AW Top Association Meeting	Bldg 845/Lrg Conf Rm
1000	1100	UTA Scheduling Meeting	Bldg 903/FSDE
1000	1100	25 APS Change of Command	Bldg 846
1030	1200	Chiefs' Group Meeting	River Front Inn
1200	1600	Internal Management Period	TBD/Units
1300	1400	SPORTS/Commander's Meeting	Bldg 1055/Cmd Post
1300	1400	3D0X1 Knowledge Operation Training	Bldg 848
1300	1500	CBRNE DSS Training	Bldg 1154/Rm 119
1600	-	Sign Out	Orderly Room

## SUPPORT FUNCTIONS' SCHEDULE

Activity	Dates & hours of operation	Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Trg FLT	Sat 0730-1700 / Sun 0630-1600	Bldg 1056/Rm 101
MPF Customer Svc	Sat 1300-1700 / Sun 0700-1300	Bldg 1056/3-5522
ID Cards	M-F 0800-1600 / Sat 1300-1700 Sun 0700-1300 (Closed 1300-1600 every Wed except drill week)	Bldg 1056/3-5522
Reserve Pay	MTTFH 0800-1600 / Wed 0800-1200 Sat 0900-1600 / Sun 1230-1500	Bldg 1056/3-6722
Fitness For Duty	Sat 0830-0900 / Sun Call Ahead ** Bring DD Form 689 & Fitness Letter **	Bldg 760 2nd Floor/3-5714
Medical Records	Sat 0800-1500 / Sun 0800-1200	Bldg 760 2nd Floor/3-5714
Individual Equipment		Bldg 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat 0900-1500	Bldg 851/3-7505
Restricted Area bdge	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Geneva Conv Cards	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Sat 0830-1030 / Sun 0830-1030 1130-1600 1130-1600	Bldg 668/3-5127
Lodging Office		Bldg 682 /240-5600
Photo Lab	M-F 0730-1630 / Sun, 1300-1500	Bldg 926/3-7981

\*\*\*In case of lodging problems, contact the 908th Rep at 240-5600\*\*\*

## CONTACT THE IG

908th FWA Hotline:  
334-953-3353  
AFRC FWA Hotline:  
(800) 223-1784  
ext. 7-1513  
SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline:  
(800) 538-8429  
DoD FWA Hotline:  
(800) 424-9098





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READY...  
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