



# SOUTHERN FLYER



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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# What kinda docs are you?

I was recently asked “what exactly does the ASTS do,” by a member who was somewhat disgruntled when I explained to him that we do not X-ray, prescribe medications and diagnose injuries or medical problems. I thought that many in the wing might have the same question.

During the course of a UTA weekend, providers and medical technicians are tasked with providing medical services to the 1,000-plus members of the 908 AW. Our in-garrison mission is to maintain medical readiness by providing required immunizations, specific diagnostic/laboratory studies and documenting the chronological course of your health.

Injuries in the line of duty are documented and elevated to ensure proper provisions are made. Health problems stemming from military and non-military related circumstances are also evaluated, based on information brought in from specialists and primary care providers, to determine if members are qualified to serve and in what capacity. The decisions that precipitate from our

actions often determine the course of our member’s careers and, more importantly, their health.

In time of war, the ASTS has a deployed mission of maintaining medical staging facilities that receive, maintain treatment of and transport injured warriors toward more definitive care. We function as a “medical lay-over site” for wounded military members.



MAJ. BRYAN A. SMITH  
Nurse Practitioner, 908th ASTS

We strive to provide the medical services we are tasked to provide and likewise accomplish our much-needed training. We have resolved not to sacrifice one mission for the other, so we schedule examinations on Saturday and training on Sundays.

What do we need from you? If you know you have issues, don’t wait until drill weekend to address them. Go to your provider, specialist or medical facility. Get copies of all documentation (doctor’s/ER notes, radiographic study, laboratory tests).

You might have to pay a small fee and sometimes there’s a waiting period. Keep a copy for yourself and give a copy to the ASTS. Write down to whom you give it.

## A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

TECH. SGT. KELVIN L. KING

Resilient is what we all need to be — not an easy task with what the world throws at us. As Reservists we have to do a juggling act with our home, work and military lives. It doesn’t take much to make us “drop the ball” if we aren’t resilient. It’s not the end of the world if and when you do.

Whatever it is you’re grappling with, the most important thing is to pick up the pieces and start again. We become an even stronger person than before.

There are times we have feelings of despair or being overwhelmed or aggravated with things that come our way. This is when we must pull from what we believe in to help us get through these obstacles. We may pull from inspiration from a higher power, or from loved ones. When dealing with the stresses of life, we must learn to bounce back.

You can have joy in your life even when you have trials. The key is to have a positive attitude no matter what. Try to put yourself in the company of those that are positive and good role models. You may want to be a good role model yourself. Everyone, in some way, has someone who looks up to them. Don’t let them down!

One of the biggest things that can bring you down is being around negative people. We all know negative people, but don’t let it rub off on you. Surrounding yourself with positive people can help keep your spirit elevated.



# Tax time is coming!

By Debbie Smith  
908th FM

You can get a head start on the 2014 tax season by going to Mypay and retrieving your W-2:

The following are available now:

- ◆ Annuitant 1099-R
- ◆ Retiree 1099-R
- ◆ Civilian W-2 (DoD/Non-DoD)
- ◆ Reserve Component Air Force, Army, and Navy W-2
- ◆ Army Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) W-2
- ◆ Army Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Civilian W-2
- ◆ Savings Deposit Program (SDP) 1099INT
- ◆ Travel/Miscellaneous W-2

If you need to determine if you’re taking the correct amount out of your checks each month, check out the IRS Calculator web site:

- ◆ [www.irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator](http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Withholding-Calculator)

## IRS Withholding Calculator

If you are an employee, the Withholding Calculator can help you determine whether you need to give your employer a new Form W-4, Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate to avoid having too much or too little Federal income tax withheld from your pay. You can use your results to help fill out the form.

## Who Can Benefit From The Withholding Calculator?

Employees who would like to change their withholding to reduce their tax refund or their balance due; Employees whose situations are

only approximated by the worksheets on the paper W-4 (e.g., anyone with concurrent jobs, or couples in which both are employed; those entitled to file as Head of Household; and those with several children eligible for the Child Tax Credit); Employees with non-wage income in excess of their adjustments and deductions, who would prefer to have tax on that income withheld from their paychecks rather than make periodic separate payments through the estimated tax procedures.

CAUTION: If you will be subject to alternative minimum tax, self-employment tax, or other taxes; you will probably achieve more accurate withholding by following the instructions in Pub 505: Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Ready to start? Make sure scripting is enabled before using this application. Continue to the Withholding Calculator.

## Tips For Using This Program:

Have your most recent pay stubs and most recent income tax return handy. Estimate values if necessary, remembering that the results can only be as accurate as the input you provide.

To change your withholding, use your results from this calculator to help you complete a new Form W-4.

Submit the completed Form to your employer.

Happy New Year to all and may 2014 be a wonderful year!

## SOUTHERN FLYER

### COVER PHOTO:

Senior Airman Keith Smith of the 908th FSS pauses to have a photo taken on a tour given during his recent trip to the Armed Forces Culinary Excellence Forum in California.



Courtesy Photo/  
Senior Airman Keith Smith

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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.

## FSS Reservist donations fulfill crucial need

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

The Life South Blood Mobile is waiting for you to step up and give the gift of life. Though the Life South bus visits the wing quarterly, many members may not realize Life South visits here to collect blood for those who need it. There is always a vital need for blood donations during the holiday season, and a need to replenish the supply once the holidays are over.

Nearly 50 Airmen donated blood during the January UTA, but two members of the 908th FSS gave blood that will not only help restock the supply, but also help a special-needs clientele.

Though every blood type is desired, there is always an extra-special need for cytomegalovirus negative blood, which means donors' blood is tested for the cytomegalovirus. A person with CMV-negative blood has not been exposed to cytomegalovirus, a type of the herpes virus. The person contracting the virus would feel flu-like symptoms.

"No, we usually don't find it on a regular basis," said Kendall Simmons, a recruiter for Life South Community Blood Center. "That's why it's so special. That blood type can stay on the shelf for babies. If the test ends in a positive result, it's not life threatening or fatal in adults, but in babies, if they get it, it's fatal."

For newborns, CMV-negative blood is crucial, being free from antibodies as well as CMV.

"I found out about a year ago that my blood was going to Children's Hospitals, at which time I became keenly aware of the need to give blood as often as possible," said



Tech. Sgt. Courtney Tremer, above, and Maj. Michael Boggan, below, both members of the 908th FSS, donate blood during the recent LifeSouth Bloodmobile visit. Both members are CMV-negative, meaning their blood can be used to save babies.

Maj. Michael Boggan.

Also donating blood was Tech. Sgt. Courtney Tremer, who was told her blood was CMV Negative and suitable for the treatment of infants, which excited her.

"I have kids of my own and it is definitely good incentive to donate blood," she said upon learning her CMV-free blood could be utilized to help up to eight babies.

The 'O' Negative blood type is commonly referred to as "universal," meaning people who have it can donate blood used to help those with any blood type. It is used for critical-need situations and therefore, there is always a shortage for it.

"The only way to find out if you're one of these candidates is to go donate blood to get tested," Tremer said. "It's easy, takes all of 10 minutes and it may save a life."

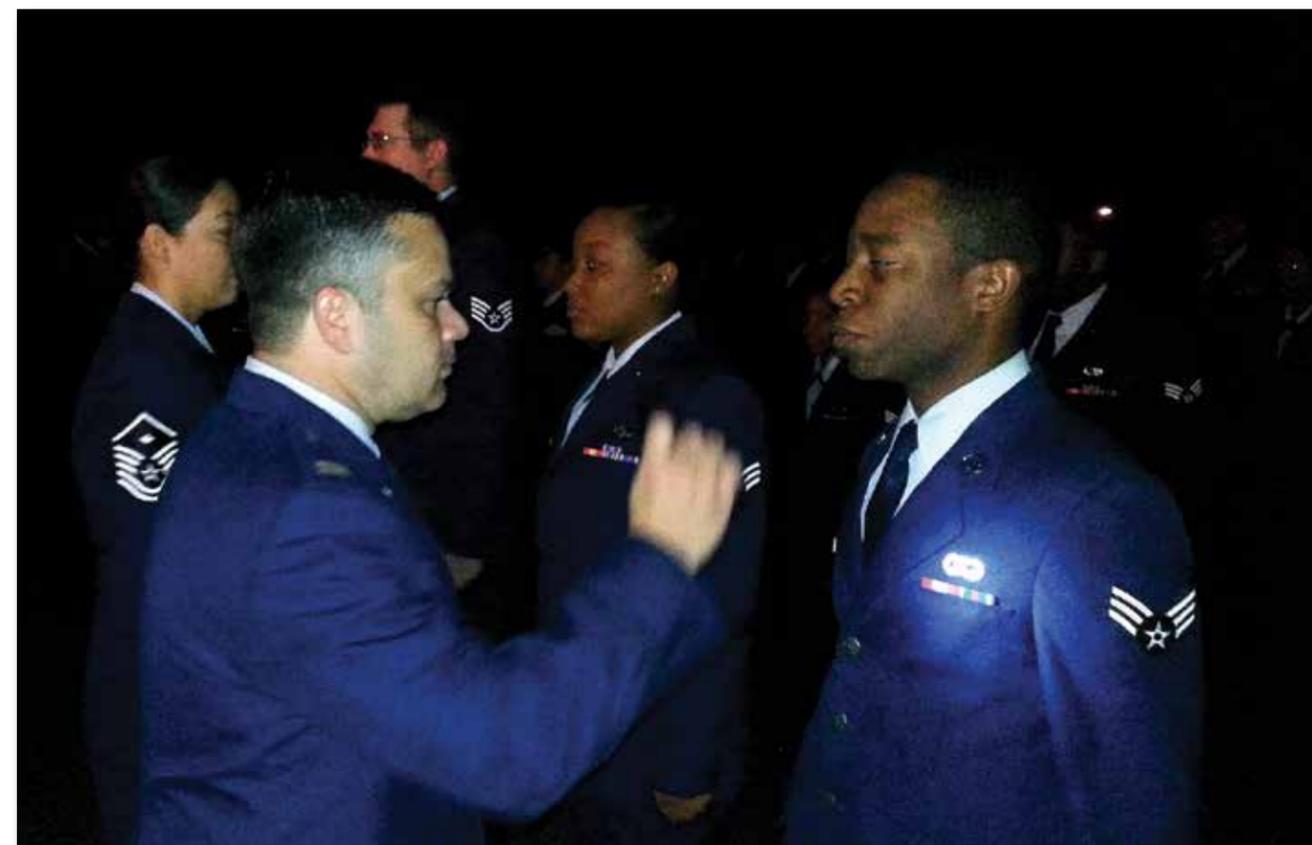
A large percentage of the population contracts the virus at one time

or another, but if the potential donor hasn't had it, their blood may be used for the medical treatment of infants. Those with negative types are especially needed.

The blood bus will return to the 908th on Saturday, March 1.



## LIGHTS-OUT TRAINING



Courtesy photo/Capt. Raymond Kingler

The 908th LRS was beginning its annual blues inspection on Saturday of the January UTA when the lights suddenly went out due to the severe thunderstorms in the area which caused a massive power outage at Maxwell AFB. Undaunted by the setback, the squadron proceeded to meet the challenge by completing the inspection by flashlight. Above, Capt. Eric Withers inspects Senior Airman Marvin Perdue, assisted by First Sgt. Jennifer Wilson.

## Wing's Top 3 will honor new enlisted leaders

By SMSgt Quincey Hester  
President  
908th Top Three Association

During the upcoming February Unit Training Assembly, the 908th Airlift Wing's Top Three Association will host a Senior NCO Induction Ceremony in honor of the members promoted to master sergeant during calendar years 2012 and 2013.

The event will take place Sunday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m., in the Officer Training School Boyd Auditorium.

A reception will follow. An invitation has been sent to all enlisted and commanders throughout the wing to join in celebrating this special occasion.

For all guests planning to attend, uniform of the day will be the acceptable attire.

We hope to make this a memorable event appropriately recognizing the achievement of the 908th Airlift Wing's newest members of the Senior NCO corps.





Senior Airman Keith Smith, a Reservist with the 908th Force Support Squadron, recently attended the Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone in St. Helena, Calif. Above, Smith poses for a photo with the picturesque local scenery as a backdrop.

# Main Course

## SERVICES AIRMAN HAS A RECIPE FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

Somehow or another, cooking has always been simmering in Senior Airman Keith Smith's life.

Before enlisting, he worked in the fast food industry, and his military occupation as a Reservist with the 908th Force Support Squadron has food services as one of the five core fields. Even so, food wasn't always on the front burner.

In fact, the Montgomery native

said he joined the military because he wanted to get away from food and try something else. He didn't know which direction his life would take after high school, but he did know one thing -- he needed a change.

Ironically, his path would lead him towards a very familiar road.

Today, Smith is not only serving his country, but thanks to his performance in the 2013 John L. Hennessy competition -- a joint effort between the Air Force and civilian

food-industries to recognize the best in dining operations and personnel -- he can make a career serving up culinary creations as a professional chef.

Smith, who describes himself as "the guy whose toast always falls with the butter side down," was recently awarded a trip to the Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence, a week-long course at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone in St. Helena, Calif.

At the institute, Smith and his

fellow students were taught by chef instructors whose resumes include five-star restaurants across the country, as well as numerous culinary honors.

Subjects taught during the course covered a wide range of activities, such as interactive tastings, panel discussions and tours. The students also received instruction on techniques used in the kitchen, including knife skills, selection of ingredients, international styles, healthy options and plating, as well as how to repair and recover recipes gone awry.

Smith said he most enjoyed the hands-on classes and lessons given by professional chefs, saying their skills were like nothing he had ever seen.

"Their passion for what they do was inspiring," he said. "I was honored to be able to get tips and advice from them and have them sample some of the dishes I prepared."

Like most young boys, Smith's early years were filled of dreams of being a fireman or an astronaut. His kitchen experiences mainly involved making quick and easy meals after school. But while visiting his uncle, a retired Army cook "who always put a lot of work and effort into his cooking," his began to look at food preparation differently.

"I was able to see all the different ideas and techniques that my uncle's family used," he said. "They worked quickly and neatly and there was always plenty of food. I became more interested in cooking through watching them."

His first real hands-on experiences came with his first job at 16, working at Stevi B's Pizza Buffet. With an often short-handed staff, Smith was needed in kitchen, even though his primary job was working the register. He said he enjoyed working on the cooking line, and



Smith and classmate Airman First Class Luz Garcia of the 105th FSS at Stewart ANGB pause during a tour of the Demaine Chandon Winery, located in Napa Valley, Calif.

eventually wanted to try cooking different things outside of work.

"I started getting involved in cooking at my house. I kept in mind some of the foods I watched my uncle and his family prepare and if I ever had a question or needed a recipe I could call them and get it."

Smith's uncle and his family in Colorado Springs, Colo. continue to be his biggest influences.

"My uncle is the one who convinced me to join the Air Force and I'm proud to be in the same career field he was. All of us had a lot of fun cooking together on holidays and from day to day and for that reason they are influential to me."

Smith also credits one of his younger cousins, a big fan of the Food Network, as having an impact. He said cooking shows were always on and eventually they caught his attention, especially those featuring celebrity chef Rachel Ray.

"The dishes she makes are simple, but often different than anything I might have thought of on my own."

When he's not attending drill weekends with the 908th, he's work-

ing in the deployed kitchen at the Force Combat Support Training site at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, preparing meals for students and putting his new skills to use.

"What I enjoy most about cooking is seeing peoples' reactions and hearing their comments about my dishes," he said. "That's where I feel I can learn the most. It's always rewarding when I see people are enjoying something I've made."

His current plans involve meeting all the requirements for promotion to staff sergeant and afterwards, he's looking forward to many more exciting years in the Air Force until retirement. However, he doesn't rule out having his own place someday, where he can do what he loves.

"My favorite dishes to make are Southern foods," he said. "I'm a country boy at heart and I like to make anything that takes me back to my roots. If I had my own restaurant you would definitely find those familiar comfort foods as choices on my menu."

For a guy whose toast always falls butter-side down, things are certainly looking sunny-side up.



Senior Airman Patrick Ezelle, 25 APS



Trailblazer Award  
4th Qtr FY 2013  
LRS



Trailblazer Award  
3rd Qtr FY 2013  
1st Qtr FY 2014  
SFS



Airman First Class Faren Douglas, SFS

## 908th Mission Support Group recognizes accomplishments

By SMSgt. Martha Roy  
908th MSG Superintendent

During the January UTA, Col. Harold Linnean, commander of the 908th Mission Support Group, held his first group commander's call. He spoke about the need for reflection, to treat others with dignity and respect, to remember influences and "do your (darn) job."

One of the most anticipated segments was when awards for the past three quarters were handed out.

"I believe people want to feel respected and to be associated with success," said Linnean. "Awards are one way to make people feel special and to recognize the results of their hard work."

After quarterly awards were handed out, Linnean recognized Senior Airman Shaniqua Rogers as the wing's nominee for the Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award. The award "recognizes the accomplishments of officers and enlisted members who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties, and the conduct of their lives."

Rogers will now compete at the MAJCOM level.

Within the group, there is the coveted "Trailblazer Trophy" which recognizes the squadron having the best metrics for commanders' programs. These include focus items including per-

AWARDS, NEXT PAGE



Staff Sgt. Donavon Johnson, LRS



Master Sgt. Grant MacDaniel, 25 APS



MSG Safety Award  
FSS



Lance P. Sijan Award  
Senior Airman Shaniqua Rogers, FSS



Master Sgt. Michael Conner, SFS



Capt. Raymond Klinger, LRS



Senior Airman Theresa Hall, LRS

## 908th offers professional development course

The 908th Force Development Section is offering new and exciting Professional Development Courses. There are three components to each of the hybrid courses:

**Classroom:** One-hour seminar  
Guided discussion held on Thursdays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
**Homework:** Practical Application Project

Integrate principles daily and mentor peers, subordinates, family, etc. (self-reflect, mentor and journal at least one hour each day).

**Classroom:** Two hours Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Evaluation

Return to class one week later to present lessons learned; held on Thursdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion; earn 10 professional development hours and one continuing education credit per course completed.

The curriculum presented will form the basis of our interactions. However, the experiences that you bring to the course, your practical application project, and ultimately your P2P evaluations will add the most value to this professional and personal growth initiative.

The first class of five, Growth: Applied Growth Principles & Practices, has already taken place, but the remaining four classes are still available. Classes will take place in the 357th Airlift Squadron auditorium.

For more details, call 953-6678.

**Resilience**  
Course No.:  
RS129-908PDC  
Dates: Feb. 13 and 20

**Efficiency**  
Course No.:  
EF129-908PDC  
Dates: Mar 13 and 20

**Teamwork**  
Course No.:  
TW129-908PDC  
Dates: April 16 and 23

**Leadership**  
Course No.:  
LD129-908PDC  
Dates: May 14 and 21

### AWARDS, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE 8

formance reports, fitness and medical readiness. The 908th SFS earned the trophy for the third quarter of fiscal year 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014, with honors for fourth quarter FY 2013 going to 908th LRS.

The final award presentation was for a newly created 908th MSG Safety Award. According to Linnean, "Safety is one of the most important issues that we face day-to-day. A successful unit

safety program is key to mission success within the Air Force. Keeping our Airmen safe should always be our number one goal."

The award went to the 908th Force Support Squadron, which revamped its existing safety program and made it the best group program. A recent wing-wide inspection revealed the hard work, noting that the number of write ups decreased from more than 20 to five.

### 908th Mission Support Group Quarterly Award Winners

**Second Quarter 2013:** Senior Airman Patrick Ezelle, 25th Aerial Port Squadron; Staff Sgt. Donavon Johnson, 908th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Master Sgt. Grant MacDaniel, 25 APS, and 1st Lt. Jaika Stone, 908th Security Forces Squadron.

**Third Quarter 2013:** Airman First Class Faren Douglas, 908th

SFS; Staff Sgt. Tina Ashley, 908th LRS; Master Sgt. Michael Conner, 908th SFS; and Capt. Raymond Klinger, 908th LRS.

**Fourth Quarter 2013:** Senior Airman Theresa Hall, 908th LRS; Staff Sgt. Angel Gonzalez, 908th LRS; and Master Sgt. Steven Higginbotham, 908th SFS.

### Volunteer Opportunity

Are you "young?" Are you interested in helping other young people find a home in the 908th?

If so, we have an opportunity for you to volunteer.

A local group of students participating in Aviation Explorers will be visiting the 908th on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The students, ages 14 to 18, are interested in pursuing careers in aviation-related fields. Given their interest and ages, they are good candidates for us to educate and hopefully inspire to join us.

With your help, they will come away with a better impression if they can talk to some of you who may be just a few years older than they are.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this visit, please contact Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb in the 908th Public Affairs Office at 953-6804.



# OFFICER PROMOTIONS



**DRESCHER**



**JOHNSON-CAGE**



**VONADA**

The following officers have been selected for promotion to colonel:

- Lt. Col. Craig W. Drescher, 357 AS
- Lt. Col. Constance C. Johnson-Cage, FSS
- Lt. Col. Troy N. Vonada Jr., AW

## New to the 908th

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Tech. Sgt. Robert E. Light, MXG          | Senior Airman Vista W. McDuffie, MXS            |
| Staff Sgt. Kenneth Price, LRS            | Airman First Class Lawrence C. Newson III, AMXS |
| Senior Airman Courtney A. Murphy, 25 APS | Airman Basic Nicholas A. Johnson, AW            |
| Senior Airman Jacob L. Dorminey, 25 APS  | Airman Basic Carter S. Moorer, AMXS             |
| Airman Basic John B. Flournoy, MXS       |   |

## Preparing to Disembark

- Senior Master Sgt. Ronald J. Holland, SFS
- Master Sgt. Teresa J. Morgan, ASTS
- Staff Sgt. David G. Powell, ASTS

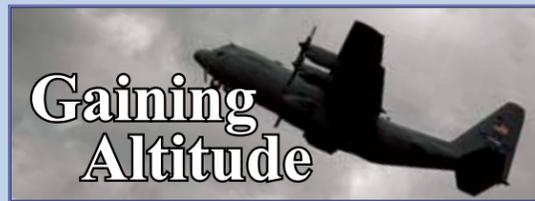
\* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place April 5 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.\*

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## Gaining Altitude

### Technical Sergeant



- Tina M. Ashley
- Barbara M. Autry
- Jeffrey A. Pearce

### Staff Sergeant



- Matthew D. Dearth
- Shaniqua C. Rogers

### Senior Airman



- Zachariah F. Burrow
- Tavarius R. Finley
- Ashley M. Harris
- Jonathon R. Pilgrim
- Vincent D. Senegar
- Keith K. Smith
- Robert L. Tremble
- Isshecar L. Windham

### Airman First Class



- Jonathon C. Fomby
- Alexandria B. Jefferson
- Daniel P. Johnson
- Alana P. McClain
- Timothy P. Ware

### Airman



- Elijah W. Benson
- Andrew R. Hampton
- Victoria L. Lott



## Maxwell's Barnes Center hosts 908th squadron for enlisted education and development day

Unit comes away with heightened sense of appreciation for Air Force past, future

By Master Sgt. Roderick Parker  
908th Force Development

If your objective is to elevate your organization to a heightened culture of leadership and professionalism, a day at the Barnes Center for Enlisted Education is a must.

In December, the 908th Force Support Squadron did just that. It didn't take long to realize that we were standing on the shoulders of giants. Upon entering the lobby of the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy you'll see the hallways are draped with portraits of former chief master sergeants and command chief master sergeants of the Air Force.

But my greatest leadership lesson came before that day. Early on in the preparation stage, I came to appreciate how great leadership and great attitudes can truly transform the culture of an organization – that's exactly what we discovered at the Barnes Center. As I evaluate and reflect on our day, I tend to return to three key lessons learned; the excel-



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TO THE FAMILY OF:



Members of the 908th FSS recently visited the Barnes Center at Maxwell Air Force Base for an Enlisted Education and Professional Development Day. According to the author, The excellence and enthusiasm of the staff was contagious.

lence of the Barnes Center staff, that excellence is contagious, and that our enlisted heritage lays the foundation for world-class enlisted leaders.

The Barnes Center Staff is undoubtedly the most outstanding and courteous team of professionals you'll ever have the pleasure to work with. From the first day we asked about their availability to support us, until they concluded "The Barnes Center Panel of Enlisted Professionals," we knew we were welcome and they were actually excited we were there.

So there we were, a Reserve unit being welcomed

with open arms to the world's finest enlisted military academy!

The excellence and enthusiasm was indeed contagious. In the afternoon we conducted the first "908th FSS Panel of Enlisted Professionals," and it was equally as impressive. The panel's insight gave us a new and refreshing perspective on the views, experiences and potential of our future leaders.

Finally, a visit to the Enlisted Heritage Research Institute left us in awe of the great enlisted leaders who came before us. More importantly, we left with a great sense of appreciation and responsibility. Our charge is not only to carry the torch with strength and dignity, but to lift it higher and keep it lit for generations to come.