

HOMECOMING EDITION!

SOUTHERN FLYER



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908th: right place all along

On my last day in the Air Force I stood near the Maxwell Golf Course reflecting on my service as I looked out on golfers hitting balls into the clear blue sky. I didn't think of CBTs, appointments, meetings or inspections. I thought only of the Airmen I had known during my service and the mission we had worked so hard to perform. When my going away party was over, my wife asked if I still wanted to serve. I told her that I would do it full time or not at all. Then quietly we drove out the Day Street Gate for the last time as I closed that chapter in my life.

Eleven days later, on September 11, 2001, I had a change of heart. It took me a few months before a position was available at the local Reserve unit, but I finally got my foot in the door. I reported for duty at the 908th Logistics Group on April 6, 2002. My first day happened to also be a Family Day. Not quite the picture I was expecting. Between the volleyball games, softball games, horseshoes, grills, beer, tank tops and cut off shorts, I wasn't sure if I was in the right place or not. Since then I have had the privilege to serve with the Airmen of the 908th Airlift Wing who have constantly impressed me with their spirit, sacrifice, and service.

The last 14 years seem to have gone by quickly as I reflect on the missions we have performed both at home and abroad. So as I prepare to leave the 908th, I can't help but think of the Airmen I have known during my service and the work we have performed. I know one thing for sure; I have been in the right place all along.



COL. JOE FRIDAY
Commander, 908 MXG



COVER PHOTO:

Ashley Garrison waiting to welcome husband, Captain Heath Garrison, home from deployment, with their daughter Zoe.



"Providing combat-ready support across the spectrum of operations"

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A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (LT. COL.)
WILLIAM LANCE HOGGATT

Let me recap the last days of 2015 and review the first days of 2016. We have survived the food feasts of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I am glad my fitness test is not till spring! We have cheered our favorite college football teams, sic'm Baylor Bears, and at times felt the agony of defeat. We rang in the New Year with resolutions, and as we begin February, most of us have broken them.

The Super Bowl is just around the corner. By the time you read this you will have noticed that the kickoff is on the Sunday of the February UTA at 1730. Many of us will be home enjoying a great game, while those of us that live further from Maxwell may miss some of the first quarter.

So how are college football, professional football, and New Year's resolutions related? All of us without exception were spectators for the college football bowl season; none of us were players. I doubt any of us will reschedule our February UTA in order to play in the Super Bowl; we will simply be a spectator. I would like to encourage all of us to approach 2016 as a player in the game of life.

Most of us approached our New Year's resolutions as players but, in reality we were just spectators, hence we have already broken them. My challenge to all of us is to approach 2016 with a determination to be a player and not a spectator. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Let us live our lives as a player committed to the high ideals of military service and devotion to our God.



IRS Form 1095

Why is it in myPay?

You may have noticed in myPay that there is another form under Taxes: the IRS Form 1095. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law 23 March 2010. The ACA enacted many changes to health care availability for employees and many reporting requirements of employers. Under the ACA, U.S. citizens and legal residents are required to obtain and maintain a minimum standard of health care insurance, called minimum essential coverage. For 2015, taxpayers are required to prove that they have obtained the minimum essential coverage; TRICARE qualifies for this coverage. The proof of minimum essential coverage will be provided by the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Form 1095: *Employer Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage*. Each member of our Air Force team will need to have the IRS Form 1095 to file their taxes in 2016; Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Retiree and Civilian.

In January 2016, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is required to provide each employee with the IRS Form 1095 for employment during 2015. A hardcopy form is scheduled to be mailed to each employee; the form will also be available electronically, through myPay, under the Taxes section.

To ensure secure delivery, protect your personally identifiable information from being lost in the mail, save taxpayer dollars associated with printing and mailing forms, and to reduce associated environmental impacts, Air Force members are highly encouraged to access myPay and opt to receive forms exclusively via electronic means.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

FAMILY DAY 2016

APRIL 2ND

FUN! GAMES! FOOD!

DETAILS TO COME IN THE NEXT SOUTHERN FLYER

Port Dawgs return from deployment



Twenty seven members of the 25th Aerial Port Squadron also returned home in mid-January after a six month deployment in the U.S. Central Command area of operations. Eight of those members are pictured above: (Left to Right) Tech Sgt. David Holland, Senior Airmen Erica Sanders, Brittany Storey, Nigel Mosley, Rickney Hunter and Tajh Fletcher, Tech Sgt. Aaron Rogers and Master Sgt. Sgt. Jamaal Dewberry. While deployed, the port dawgs moved more than 60,000 short tons of cargo, processed about 87,000 passengers, handling nearly 7,000 aircraft. Chief Master Sgt. Lynn Whited said he received lots of praise from the deployed commanders and supervisors about 25th Aerial Port member's knowledge and capabilities to get the job done.



908th Crew Chief Presented AFCENT Safety Award

Brig. Gen. Darren James, Commander of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing presents Staff Sgt. Marcus Black the AFCENT Crew Chief Safety Award of Distinction. This award recognizes crew chiefs whose achievements enhanced mission completion or prevented injury to personnel or loss of aircraft.

Black was recognized for discovering a loose rivet shank inside an engine's intake. He found the item while performing an early morning pre-flight inspection. While examining the aircraft's number 4 engine, he saw a shiny object which was a loose rivet shank, lodged just before the first stage of compressor blades. After removing the item, Black inspected and confirmed no other rivets were loose. If the aircraft had departed with the loose rivet in place, it potentially may have suffered a catastrophic engine failure.

Richey back home as OG/CC



Col. Don Richey receives the 908th Operations Group guidon from 908th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Adam Willis as First Sgt. Marilyn King stands by.

Local boy, Col. Donald Richey couldn't be happier to be back in "Sweet Home Alabama," as the new Operations Group commander for the 908th Airlift Wing. Richey is grateful his latest duty assignment reunited him with family.

Richey's assumption of command ceremony was held Saturday, January 9, at Maxwell Air Force Base, where he has a history with the 908th. Although many he worked with before have left, he quickly became reacquainted with those still in the unit.

"We have been catching up on stories, which has been great,"

Richey said. Richey spent most of his youth on base when his father was stationed at Maxwell from 1981-1984. After graduating from Carver High School, Richey attended Auburn University Montgomery and took part in Alabama State University's ROTC program, and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force.

Over the course of six and a half years of active-duty service, Richey moved around a lot, but Montgomery kept calling him back. He finally became a member of the 908th in June 1993 and stayed here until 2005.

It was 11 years before Richey and his wife returned home from his assignment to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command in Georgia, the 911th Airlift Wing in Pittsburgh, PA, and the 910th Airlift Wing in Youngstown, OH, but he's glad they did. He's now closer to his 6-year-old grandson in Montgomery and his other grown children who live in the Southeast.

Returning to Alabama was paramount for another reason: members of his new command were scheduled to return home soon, following a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

"It was really important for me to get down here as quickly as I could, because I wanted to be in place when our members returned from their deployment to welcome them," Richey said. "A lot of those Airmen are people that I've known from my previous assignments ... the 908th really is family for me."

As Operations Group commander, Richey leads a team of 250 Airmen who provide airlift and aeromedical evacuation and who are often deployed around the world. He hopes to "help the morale of the people," he said.

"I want to make sure that the people who work for me and the people who are assigned here are happy to be here. I want to make sure that they are ready to do their mission, and their families are taken care of and supported," Richey added.

Richey took over following the departure of Col. Ed Jennings, who commanded the Operations Group for eight years.





Awards Banquet March UTA



Our Second Annual Awards Banquet is fast-approaching in March. Last year's event was a first-class affair. This year the committee plans to make this one even better! So plan to come to honor our annual award winners and have a wonderful experience with your 908th family. Purchase your tickets during the February UTA from the squadron points of contact listed below.

908th Airlift Wing

2015 Annual Awards Banquet

Location: Embassy Suites, Montgomery, AL

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2016

Time: 1900-2200

*Attire: Mess Dress/
Semi-Formal*

Cost: \$30

Social Hour: 1800-1900

Contact your Squadron POC to purchase tickets.

Wing POC: Tech Sgt. Dickerson (334) 953-0543



Squadron POCs:

Capt. Patrick Mills - AMXS
 Tech Sgt. Natasha Henderson - 25 APS
 Master Sgt. Orenthia Herren - ASTS
 Staff Sgt. Amber McKenzie - ASTS
 Senior Airman Sarah Shea - CES
 Tech Sgt. Tamaría Birdsong - CF
 Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy - FSS
 Senior Airman Stephanie Bivins
 Staff Sgt. Jerrell Hughes - LRS
 Senior Master Sgt. Michael Swims - MXG
 Master Sgt. Marilyn King - OSS & 357 AS
 Tech Sgt. Kevin Cole - SFS
 Master Sgt. Christopher Foote - SFS
 Tech Sgt. Billy Kidd - AW

Reserve Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance provides eligible Airmen tuition up to \$250 per semester hour or 166.67 per quarter hour with a fiscal year cap of \$4500. TA pays institutions accredited by a national, regional, or specialized accrediting body and recognized by the US Department of Education. Airmen may complete their first Associates, Bachelors, and Masters Degree utilizing ResTA. ResTA cannot be combined with any other Federal Source (excluding Pell Grant) or VA benefit.

Student Responsibilities:

- ✓ Submit education goal and degree plan in AFVEC 10 days prior to Term start date.
- ✓ Update supervisor’s contact information
- ✓ **ResTA must be submitted no later than 7 days PRIOR to term start date**
- ✓ Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or above for undergraduate & 3.0 for graduate level courses
- ✓ Ensure grades are updated in AFVEC Enrollments History within 60 days from term end date. After 90 days from term end date automatic reimbursement is initiated and not stopped or refunded
- ✓ Failed or unsatisfactory grades at the undergraduate or graduate level must be reimbursed
- ✓ Grades of “I” or “W” will be reimbursed contingent on the school’s refund policy on withdrawals
- ✓ Failure to complete all actions will result in an involuntary payroll deduction and no refunds will be provided

- ✓ Grades of “I” or “W” will be reimbursed contingent on the school’s refund policy on withdrawals
- ✓ Failure to complete all actions will result in an involuntary payroll deduction and no refunds will be provided

Education Services Responsibilities:

- ✓ Performs initial Tuition Assistance Counseling
- ✓ Once the student submits an Education Goal the Education Office will review and approve the Education Goal
- ✓ After the student submits a TA funding request the Education Office will reconciled those courses with the provided degree plan and approve

Institution Responsibilities:

- ✓ Ensure the School and degree program is available in AFAEMS
- ✓ Input grades
- ✓ Bills the Air Force based off the AFRC FORM 27 (TA document)

Regionally or Nationally Accredited Schools?

Regionally accredited schools are often academically oriented institutions. Nationally accredited schools often offer vocational, career or technical programs. Within the American higher education system, critics note that national accrediting bodies (though not necessarily all nationally accredited schools) have much lower standards than regional bodies, and consider them disreputable for this reason. Nationally accredited degrees may not be accepted by employers or licensing bodies.

Generally, regionally accredited colleges have general policies against accepting any credits from nationally accredited schools, others are reluctant because regional schools conclude that national schools' academic standards are lower than their own or they are unfamiliar with the particular school. It is important to note that both types of accreditation are legitimate and recognized by the Department of Education. However, there have been lawsuits regarding nationally accredited schools who led prospective students to believe that they would have no problem transferring their credits to regionally accredited schools.

*****CCAF Is A Regionally Accredited Institution*****

New to the 908th

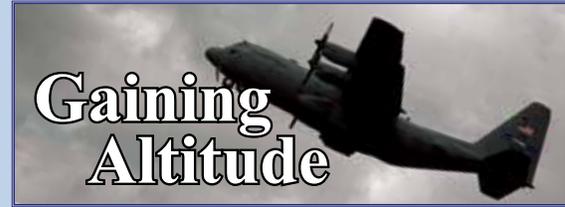
Maj. Justin Kershaw, 357 AS
Maj. Sara Kershaw, MXG
Tech Sgt. William Garrison, AMXS
Tech Sgt. Rhonda Williams, MXS

Senior Airman Paul Grissett, 25 APS
Airman 1st Class Jacquetta Miles, ASTS
Airman 1st Class Vickie Webb, AMXS
Airman Basic Joshua Mahone, CES

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place April 3 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*



Chief Master Sgt. Geoffrey Percival placing Chief stripes on William Rupinen aided by his daughters, Grace and Mary Pat, on January 9. Chief Rupinen is the chief enlisted manager for the 908th Civil Engineer Squadron.



William P. Rupinen



Kristy L. McGrue



Jennifer A. Googe



Octavius T. Ausbon
Jacqueline P. Doss
Ashley J. King
Siedrick E. Orozco
Shavona S. Patterson
Stewart C. Thomason



Steven B. Barker
Andrew C. Edwards
Mia T. Oliver



Cameron L. Rosenhoover
Joshua Williams



Congratulations!

908TH UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

February

* 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 Tech. Sgt. Cedrea Young
(334) 953-1690, option 1

Emer cell: (254) 258-1884

DSN: 493-7332 cedrea.young@us.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.

UTAs FY16

Sept. 12-13	April 2-3
Oct. 2-4	May 14-15
Nov. 7-8	June 4-5
Dec. 5-6	July 9-10
Jan. 8-10	Aug. 6-7
Feb. 6-7	Sept. 10-11
March 5-6	

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
Friday, February 5, 2016			
1500	TBD	SORTS/Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 803/42ABW Conf Rm
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Holiday Inn Express, Prattville
Saturday, February 6, 2016			
0600	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session One	HAWC
0730	0800	** Sign In **	Orderly Room
0900	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session Two	HAWC
0800	1030	Newcomer's MPS Inprocessing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0800	1100	Lab work/DNA/HIV/Blood testing	Bldg 760/Lab
0800	1530	Physicals	Bldg 760/Flr 1
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	1000	SAPM Training	Bldg 1056/CC Conf Rm
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Outprocessing	Bldg 1056/Rm 111/DPMSA
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (DD 689 & Fitness Ltr)	Bldg 760/Flr 1
1530	1630	MXG Change of Command	OTS/Boyd Auditorium
1700	1730	Sign Out Orderly Room	
Sunday, February 7, 2016			
0600	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session One	HAWC
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room
0800	1200	SUICIDE AWARENESS TRAINING	SOC/Polifka Auditorium
1300	1400	3S2 Training/Wing Training	Bldg 903
1300	1500	3D Comm Element Training	Bldg 848
1300	1400	3D0X1 Knowledge Operation Training	Bldg 1056
1600	-	Sign Out Orderly Room	

Support functions' schedule

Activity	Dates & hours of operation	Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Trg FLT	Sat 0730-1700	Bldg 1056/Rm 101
MPS Customer Svc	Sat 1300-1700 / Sun 0700-1300 M-F 0900-1600	
	(Closed 1300-1600 every Wed except drill week)	Bldg 1056/3-5522
Reserve Pay	MTTHF 0800-1600 / Wed 0800-1200 Sat 0900-1600 / Sun 1230-1500	Bldg 1056/3-6722
Fitness For Duty	Sat 0900-1000	
** Bring DD Form 689 & Fitness Letter **		Bldg 760 2nd Floor/3-5714
Medical Records	Sat 0800-1500 / Closed Sun	Bldg 760 2nd Floor/3-5714
Individual Equipment		Bldg 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat 0900-1500	Bldg 851/3-7505
Restricted Area Badge	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Geneva Conv Cards	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Breakfast: 0600-0800 Brunch: 1030-1300 Dinner: 1600-1800	Bldg 668/3-5127
Lodging Office	Bldg 682 /240-5600	
Photo Lab	M-F 0730-1630 / Sun, 1300-1500	Bldg 926/3-7981
Comm Help Desk	Sat 0800-1600 / Sun 1300-1500	

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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