

SOUTHERN FLYER



***CONDIT STRESSES COMBAT
READINESS DURING CHANGE
OF COMMAND***

SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 53 Issue 7
July 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Readiness key to wing mission*
Col. David Condit
- 03 Words to live by
In search of new officers
and first sergeants
- 04 Condit takes charge
Engineers take on training
- 05 SF grapples with training
- 07 New NCOs take oath
- 08 Hennessy Award winner
- 10 News briefs
Promotions
- 11 July UTA Schedule
- 12 Encouraging motorcycle
safety

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PA Officer: Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb
Editor: Andrew Stamer
Writer: Andrew Stamer

Readiness key to wing mission

As I drove onto Maxwell AFB for the first time I met many professional Airmen of the 908th and Team Maxwell. Their professionalism was on display for my friends and family who came in for my change of command. I'm grateful to all who worked so hard to make the day a success. I recognize the impact an event like this has on our busy training schedules. My family felt welcome into our new community, and I'm eager to get to know the people and mission better.

I started by studying and thinking about our Wing Mission Statement, "Provide combat ready support across the spectrum of operations." As I read, I was reminded about why I'm here. It's not for the benefit of my family. It's not for my career. It's not to please my commander. I'm here to support the Airmen of the 908th as they carry out the mission.

As the men and women of the 908th get to know me better and interact with me they will hear a consistent theme. I included this at my change of command ceremony. Some have heard me say it in person as I've had the opportunity to get out to some of the units. The theme is a focus on why we exist as Airmen. That



COL. DAVID CONDIT
Commander, 908 AW

ultimate purpose is a combat mission.

In our mission statement, combat is the central point. That's intentional. Everything we do is tied to the idea that we exist to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Some do that through political rhetoric and diplomacy – we, the military, do it with lethal power. Don't ever forget that. Regardless of whether you are ever called to fire a shot, you are part of the team that fights. You are combat Airmen.



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

COVER PHOTO:

Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, commander, 22nd Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command, hands the 908th Airlift Wing flag to Col. David Condit during his change of command ceremony June 4.



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

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 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 is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA.

Address: 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112
E-mail: 908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil
Phone: (334) 953-6804/7874 or DSN 493-6804; Fax: (334) 953-6355

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (LT. COL.)
WILLIAM L. HOGGATT

We find ourselves in the heart or is that the heat of summer. Independence Day is the very pinnacle of summer. I am reminded of what Erma Bombeck said, "You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and Soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

However, the Fourth of July is more than just another opportunity to go to the beach or to have a backyard cookout. The Fourth of July reminds all of us as we celebrate our independence that we have hope because of these words: "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness;" more than just mere words, they are our Declaration of Independence and words to live by.

Several thousand years before these great words the psalmist stated, "Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge." True words to reflect upon as we contemplate our nation's celebration of freedom.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver (retired) said of this Psalm, "There is something about hope, we think of those hope-filled stories of Soldiers in battle, who do extraordinary things; they are able to do it because we walk and move out in hope we have never had a greater need for hope than we do today in this world in which we live."

Where do you find hope? Hope can be found in the men and women who serve in the military defending our nation's freedom. President Eisenhower said, "Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, and the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."

Citizen Airmen, thank you for guaranteeing our nation's freedom and remember hope resides in letting God be the strength of your life. Stay strong!

Are you ready to become an officer?

By Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy, 908 AW/FSS

A Deserving Airman Commissioning Board will be held in September to select new officers from the enlisted force. To meet the board, you must have a bachelor's degree or be within six months of obtaining it. Minimum Air Force Officer Qualifying Test scores for verbal must be 15, and 10 for quantitative. You will also need to be able to attend Officer Training School and graduation prior to your 35th birthday.

Contact Wing Training to schedule a test date if you have not taken your AFOQT. Appointments can be made by calling 334-953-6771, 334-953-6678 or 334-953-0249. Results will take about seven days to post. You are only authorized to be administered this test twice.

Look for the package requirement via email or you can contact Tech Sgt. Bibb at 334-953-5584 for the complete Deserving Airman Commissioning Package checklist. Completed packages are due to 908th Military Personnel Section's Career Development Office by August 7.

Looking for a few good first sergeants

By Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy, 908 AW/FSS

The 908th is looking for energetic members who would like to serve the wing as a First Sergeant. A board will be held during the September UTA to select our next group of First Sergeants to fill current/upcoming vacancies. Time and location is to be determined. Previous applicants must re-apply.

Eligible applicants must: be in the grade of master or tech sergeant immediately promotable to master sergeant, have a minimum physical profile of PULHES 333231 and not have an ALC of C-3, have a minimum General AQE score of 62 or Administrative score of 41, be financially stable, have scored 80 or higher on last two fitness tests (or 90 or higher on most recent fitness test, no failure on any portion within the last 12 months or exemptions from any components, whereas deployment and/or pregnancy exceptions do not count), have a current completed assessment prior to attending the First Sergeant Academy F, completed NCO Academy, and have a Community College of the Air Force degree.

If selected, applicants must: be able to attend the First Sergeant Academy within 12 months from the date of appointment, complete the Senior NCO Academy within 18 months upon graduation from the First Sergeant Academy, maintain FIT standards, and commit a minimum of three years to this special duty.

Applicants who meet the above criteria, a package will need to be submitted to include the following items: a letter explaining why you want to be a first sergeant, military resume in accordance with Tongue and Quill (AFH 33-337), copies of last three Enlisted Performance Records (or a letter explaining why do you do not have three), a current Career Data Brief from virtual Military Personnel Flight, recommendation from the commander, and a print out of current fitness score.

All packages are due to the 908th Force Management Office, by 4 p.m., on August 7.

Members meeting the board will be notified of their appointment time and location. Dress for the board will be service dress blues.

Combat cornerstone to Condit's command

By Andrew Stamer, 908 AW/PA

After two weeks on the job, Col. David Condit took the guidon from 22nd Air Force Commander Stayce Harris and accepted his charge as the new commander of the 908th Airlift Wing during a change of command ceremony at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., June 4.

While Condit has been in command of the wing since May 15, the ceremony held during June's monthly Unit Training Assembly was conducted in front of 908th members to signify the formal passing of responsibility, authority, and accountability to the new commander.

"I knew he was the right man for the job," said Harris upon offering Condit the position. "I knew it was a win-win, not only for the wing, but for our nation."

"I wanted to be with these great Airmen, with this great mission, this great community, and this great state, so that's why I'm here. Because I chose to be," said Condit.

Condit served on active duty for 10 years prior to his service in the Reserve, and has experience as an Air Reserve Technician, Active Guard Reserve, and as a Traditional Reservist. Because of this, Harris said he "can speak to the opportunities and challenges of these statuses and how we as Reservists try to balance work, school, family, and serving our nation."

As he addressed the audience, Condit made clear, "I'm here for you."

"As a wing commander, my job is to ensure that we're ready to fight our nation's wars," he said.

He credits the unit's current condition with the former Commander Col. Adam Willis, who is now commander of the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"He set me up for success," Condit said of Willis. "I'm just excited to continue his legacy."



Col. David Condit (right) salutes Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, commander, 22nd Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command, stating he is ready to take command of the 908th Airlift Wing during his change of command ceremony held at the Squadron Officer's College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., June 4, while Command Chief Master Sgt. Tina Carlson holds the unit flag. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb)

"I'm going to take my time, get to know the people, get to know the community, and really find out where we're at," said Condit. "This unit is doing great, and this team is doing great, so I'm going to see where I can facilitate to keep us on track, keep us mission ready, and keep those combat forces ready to go any time."

The wing's mission is to provide combat ready support across the spectrum of operations. "The key word is combat," said Condit.

It's a refrain that's stuck with him since he first mentioned joining the Air Force. His father, an F-4 pilot who was in Vietnam, told him that it wasn't about the relationships, the adventures, or seeing the world. "You're there for combat," Condit remembered his father telling him.

"I don't want this wing to forget that

this is a combat wing. We have members in combat today ... that's what we do; that's why we exist. I don't care what your role is, it makes a difference," he told the Airmen in the audience.

As commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, he will have 1,200 Airmen who will continue to airlift people and cargo, maintain aircraft, provide medical care for patients in flight and on the ground, and support combatant commanders with logistics, engineering, security forces, communications, and other critical services.

Prior to this position, Condit was the Operations Group Commander of the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. He has been a professional aviator for more than 26 years. He has experience flying multiple aircraft including trainers, reconnaissance, special operations and airlift.

Civil Engineers split up for training

Half to Maine and half to England

By Capt. Josh Newman, 908 AW/CES

Members of the 908th Civil Engineer Squadron performed their annual tour from late May into June by splitting up the squadron on two separate missions.

Hitching a ride in a C-135 Stratolifter from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., the jet stopped to refuel in Bangor, Maine. It was here where half the squadron went on their mission to Boy Scout Camp William Hinds, Raymond, Maine, leaving the squadron's remaining 26 Airmen to fly overnight to Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England.

The squadron's primary mission at Lakenheath was to assist the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron based at Lakenheath as part of the 48th Fighter Wing, with overdue work items.

The first workday at Lakenheath started with physical training with the 48th engineers, followed by splitting the 908th engineers into their assigned tasks. Most of the Airmen were assigned to their specialty shops to receive hands-on training responding to work orders, though some were assigned to infrastructure inventory groups, which was a critical need for the 48th that was identified during planning for the annual tour.

During the two weeks, one linear segmentation team inventoried 476 manholes which saved more than \$1.2 million worth of contractor inspection costs. The Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness teams completed 540 inspections of on-base structures. The Emergency Management shop was able to accomplish most of their required training for the year as well, which included an Instructor Fundamentals course, a Protective Masks course, and a Detection, Monitoring, and Sampling Equipment live-fire course. The structures/heavy equipment section spent a late night repairing a section of the Lakenheath Base perimeter fence that had collapsed during heavy rains earlier that day.

At the end of the two weeks in England, the squadron wrapped up their annual tour with a barbecue.

Three outstanding performers were identified during this time: Outstanding Airman, Senior Airman Demarcus Cade; Outstanding NCO, Staff Sgt. Robert Booker; and Esprit de Corps Award, Staff Sgt. Nikia Freeman.



Airmen donned protective gear during a Detection, Monitoring, and Sampling Equipment live-fire course during their annual tour with the 908th Civil Engineer Squadron, alongside 48th Civil Engineer Squadron engineers at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England. (Courtesy photo)

Lt. Col. Jonathon Byrnes, commander, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, coined these individuals for their hard work.

The engineers stopped once again in Bangor to pick up their comrades training with Lt. Col. Patrick Albrecht, commander, 908th Civil Engineer Squadron.

On arrival back to Maxwell, the engineers were received by Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, commander, 22nd Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command, for a surprise greeting as they deboarded the plane.

Grappling with annual training

By Andrew Stamer, 908 AW/PA

For two weeks in June, the 908th Security Forces Squadron has been using its annual tour to put Airmen through their paces with education, fitness, leadership, and team building exercises.

The training is a yearly requirement, and the team was able to use a broad range of facilities both locally and regionally, to get it done.

“Every year’s a little different,” said Maj. Sounthavone Thiphavong, commander, 908th Security Forces Squadron, of this year’s training session. “This is definitely a great opportunity for them to practice their skills.”

For their part, the Airmen got to take part in Armament Systems and Procedures baton training, which is a non-lethal use of the expandable baton. A team building exercise – built around an obstacle course, was moved to an early morning start on June 11 due to the high heat and humidity. The unit broke into fire teams, and they were tasked with completing obstacles to test them mentally and physically.

“As a commander, it’s a great time for them to do their training, but also a good time for me to evaluate the squad leaders, the NCOs, the leadership ability, and how they lead their squads,” said Thiphavong.

On one of the training days, the unit traveled to Fort Rucker, Ala., for heavy weapons firing. Other weapons training was held at Maxwell’s firing range, where they shot M-16 rifles and 9 mm pistols. Qualification is normally done during Unit Training Assemblies, but Senior Master Sgt. Steven Higginbotham, flight sergeant, 908th Security Forces Squadron, said those with prior engagements during the UTA were getting it done during the annual tour.

“We shoot the weapon system twice a year,” said Higginbotham. The first time being for qualification and “the



Tech Sgt. James Kenly, security forces, 908th Security Forces Squadron, fires a 9 mm pistol during weapons training. (Photo by Andrew Stamer)



Staff Sgt. Brandon Williams, security forces, 908th Security Forces Squadron, crawls under a rope obstacle during a team building exercise during the unit’s annual tour. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb)

second time is for familiarization as well as 9 mm qualification.”

During the weapons portion of the training, combat arms instructors had the Airmen load magazines with a variety of round configurations.

“In qualification testing, we shoot approximately 210 rounds. Half for practice, and a little over 100 rounds for qualification,” said Higginbotham as the Airmen shot in blocks with dummy rounds in order to demonstrate what they should do in case of a malfunction, jam, or misfeed. This is done so “we can maneuver the weapon, get it back running, and engage the target still.”

“When we go downrange or do anything, as far as cops go, we’re always armed,” said Higginbotham. “The better we are with our weapons systems the better we can defend the base and everybody on the base. For cops, this is our bread and butter, this is our job.”

They also shot with gas masks on. The troops also put on the physical training gear and sweated during a two-day course in grappling at the Hot Box in Wetumpka, Ala., about a 20-minute drive north of Maxwell.

Tech Sgt. Johnny Bowen, a security forces officer with the 908th Security Forces Squadron, helped teach the class which is based around Brazilian jiu-jitsu, which he trains and instructs at the Hot Box.

“I also teach for my department through the VA (Veterans Affairs),” Bowen said, where it is referred to as Ground Defense and Recovery / Defensive Tactics.

“I’ve had to use it multiple times in different law enforcement roles,” said Bowen, who works as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer for the VA when not serving as a Reservist.

The course is built around sequences

of events, like starting on the feet, and how they can go about subduing the perpetrator. But it also gets into how to react if someone gets on top of them and tries to choke, punch, or grapple. All these scenarios and practice go into building muscle memory, said Bowen.

“The more training I do, the more it’s muscle memory, and I don’t really have to think on what I have to do,” said Staff Sgt. Joy Bates, security forces, 908th Security Forces Squadron.

“This combatives training is just as important as any weapons training we do,” Bowen said. “We don’t pull our weapons every day, but we do have to deal with people every day, and this allows us to do that safely.”

“We have to have tools in our tool bag to use when we can’t use a weapon,” said Bowen. “These are ways to control someone without hurting them or hurting ourselves.”



Tech Sgt. Johnny Bowen (bottom) shows how to gain control of an opponent during a grappling training exercise held at the Hot Box in Wetumpka, Ala. (Photo by Andrew Stamer)



Airmen take oath as newest NCOs

By Andrew Stamer, 908 AW/PA

The room was packed with a standing-room only crowd, as members of the 908th Airlift Wing crammed into Maxwell Air Force Base's Husband Auditorium to welcome the wing's newest noncommissioned officers.

The induction ceremony saw 47 Airmen take their oath as NCOs willing to accept the responsibilities of their charge and to commit and agree to guide all future conduct by this oath.

Former Command Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke, Sr., who retired in May, was the guest speaker.

"You've moved into the teacher phase, the most important thing is to make your Airmen the very best they can be," Duke said. "You must make sure they have the tools, the time, and the expertise to perform their duties. You are preparing your young Airmen to go to war."

Duke told the sergeants that it is now their responsibility to set their Airmen up for success.

"Teach them to write well," Duke said, referring to the Enlisted Performance Report, which helps Airmen tell their story of what they do. "When we sit down at a board and review packages, we never meet you" except for what's written in the EPR.

"The second thing I want you to understand is that you are an NCO," Duke told the NCOs. "You've worked your tails off to become a noncommissioned officer."

Duke told the audience that it wasn't just about teaching their Airmen, but also young officers. "They expect your counsel, they're looking for your mentoring. They will only be as good as you teach them to be," he said.

In order to do this, Duke said they should uphold the standards to the highest degree.

"There are amazing Airmen in this wing. You set a high bar, they will reach it. You set a high bar that is hard to get, and they'll fight for it. You owe that to these Airmen," Duke said.

"I've seen young men come and go, in and out of the desert, and they were successful because the NCOs took good care of them," Duke said.

"You've started on a new journey, and that journey has to do with growing up others, not just growing up yourself," Col. David Condit, commander, 908th Airlift Wing said in remarks after the NCOs took their oath. "Being responsible for a mission; not just being part of a mission. Those are awesome charges."



Newest NCOs (from front left): Christopher Adams, Gabrielle Bates, Shaquita Bonner, Cody Boyd, Kenneth Brizendine, Gregory Bush, Jerrod Butler, Michael Caldwell, Matthew Chandler, Aaron Coggin, Kresston Davis, Ivan Desindes, Jacob Dorminey, Melissa Erickson, Patrick Ezelle, Harold Floyd, Jr., Adanda Fondon, Ulysess Grant, Jr., Luke Green, Corey Hall, Paige Harris, Jamaar Jackson, Brandon Knight, Dwayne Lee, Jr., Tamara Lewis, Kyle Lutsic, Breynna McGilberry, Amber McKenzie, Derrick Mickle, Christopher Morgan, David Patrick, Charles Raby, Bryan Renforth, Kateecha Robinson, Kevin Rodriguez, David Smith, Dustin Smith, Ethan Smith, Jimmy Smith, Keith Smith, Gary Tanks, Caleb Toney, Ashley Turnage, Christina Valdes, Kendall Williams, Larry Williams, Jr., and Edward Wilson.

Services sends sergeant to select school

By Andrew Stamer, 908 AW/PA

After competing in the John L. Hennessy Awards for food service, a 908th services member now gets to attend further training in the culinary world.

Staff Sgt. Octavius Ausbon, services, 908th Force Support Squadron, was notified of his individual award during the June Unit Training Assembly by Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, commander, 22nd Air Force, who also gave him a commander's coin for the achievement.

Ausbon will attend a week-long forum at the Culinary Institute of America's Greystone Campus in St. Helena, Calif. He was nominated as a top performer during the Hennessy Competition, where he said he did anything and everything that the team needed.

"I did everything I could to help make sure we won as a team," he said. During the competition he was in charge of making sure the cooking and sanitation units were working properly, but he also helped assemble the tent and its floor.

"When I was nominated out of my unit, I was humbled by it, but I really wanted us to win as a whole," he said. "I feel good about it, but I would feel great if we would have won as a team."

While at the forum, Ausbon said he hopes to learn some new methods and styles of cooking to add onto his current range of soul food and a bit of Chinese he currently does.



Staff Sgt. Octavius Ausbon is presented with a coin by Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, during June's UTA. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb)

"While I'm out there I'm going to be taking some culinary classes," said Ausbon, a native of Pine Hill, who chose services as his specialty when he joined in 2011. "I had always wanted to become a better cook, and always wanted to one day own my own restaurant, so I thought that services would help open up that avenue."

The perfect meal, he said, would be fried chicken, collard greens, cracklin' cornbread, and yams "to top it off. I think that's a good Southern meal right there."

Ausbon graduated from Alabama Southern Community College with his associate degree, and will attend Troy University, Troy, Ala., in the fall to finish a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. He is first generation Air Force.

New to the 908th

Capt. Kelly Adam, 25 APS
 Tech Sgt. Wesley Thaxton, FSS
 Tech Sgt. John Dorriety, AMXS
 Staff Sgt. Micheal Gills, CES
 Staff Sgt. Benjamin Elliot, AMXS
 Staff Sgt. Jordan Mann, AMXS
 Staff Sgt. Tyler Aldridge, AMXS
 Staff Sgt. Orin Olds, 25 APS

Staff Sgt. Susan Arroyo-Hall, ASTS
 Senior Airman Joseph Shumaker, LRS
 Senior Airman Jared Bostwick, 25 APS
 Senior Airman Mark Jones, LRS
 Airman 1st Class Taylor Clark, SFS
 Airman 1st Class Chase Young, MXS
 Airman Joseph Blackmon, FSS
 Airman Alison White, LRS



Samaletta Collins
 Faren M. Douglas
 Lyndon A. Jackson
 Giovanni S. Lewis
 Rian D. Lewis
 Briana R. Nelson
 Kiara S. Nelson
 Erik D. Perkins
 Amanda D. Scott
 Brittany D. Storey
 Zachary D. Trawick
 Larry C. Williams



Demarcus J. Cade
 Deric L. Craig
 Dylan C. Hissom
 Eric S. Minar
 Christian J. Neidhamer
 Kyle E. Smith



2nd Annual Kickball Tournament

CALLING ALL SQUADRONS!!!

Date: Saturday, 6 Aug 2016

Time: 1730

Location: Softball Complex

Deadline: NLT 1200 / 6 Aug 16

1ST Place Trophy & Awards
Presented
by
908 AW 56'ers




POC: TSgt Earl Dickerson 953-0543



I want that trophy!

BRIEFS

HARRIS NOMINATED FOR THIRD STAR

Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, commander, 22nd Air Force, was nominated by President Barack Obama to be promoted to lieutenant general and become the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director of the Air Staff for the Air Force. If the Senate confirms the nomination, she will become the first female African-American to ever achieve the rank of lieutenant general for the Air Force. "Stayce is an outstanding role model for all generations and is a great leader for all Airmen," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, commander, Air Force Reserve Command. Harris, a graduate of the University of Southern California, is a command pilot with more than 2,500 hours in numerous aircraft.

ZIKA VIRUS MONITORING CONTINUES INTO SUMMER

The Air Force continues to closely monitor the emergence of Zika virus infections to help inform and protect Airmen and their families. Zika is primarily transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. Evidence now supports a risk of birth defects from Zika and pregnant women should take every precaution to prevent mosquito bites. Almost all U.S. cases come from living and traveling in countries in Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. The symptoms of Zika virus infection include fever, skin rashes, headaches, and joint pain, but most cases are asymptomatic. Getting rid of standing water where the mosquito vector can breed can help prevent Zika.

BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM TRAINING

Online training designed to educate Airmen about the new Blended Retirement System is now available online. The BRS will go into effect Jan. 1, 2018. This course will provide eligible active and reserve component members an understanding of both the current and new systems. Although the majority of Airmen don't fall under BRS, it is important for leaders to know its impact on future Airmen. The BRS Leader Training is a 30-minute course designed to provide basic familiarity with the key components of the retirement system and the timeline for implementation. While designed primarily for leaders, the course is open to anyone to learn more about BRS.

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 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

July 9-10
Aug. 6-7

Sept. 10-11

UTAs FY17

Oct. 1-2
Nov. 5-6
Dec. 3-4
Jan. 7-8
Feb. 11-12
March 4-5

April 1-2
May 6-7
June 3-4
July 8-9
Aug. 5-6
Sept. 9-10

908TH UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

July

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
Friday, July 8, 2016			
1500	TBD	SORTS/Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 803/42ABW Conf Rm
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Holiday Inn Express, Prattville
Saturday, July 9, 2016			
0530	TBD	Fit to Fight Testing Session One	HAWC
0730	0800	** Sign In **	Orderly Room
0730	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/Floor 1
0830	1530	Immunizations	Bldg 760/Floor 1
0900	1000	UDM Meeting	Bldg 848/CF Classroom
0900	1000	Fitness for duty (DD 689 & Fitness Letter)	Bldg 760/Floor 1
0900	1000	First Duty Station Briefing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0900	1000	SAPM Training	Bldg 1056/CC Conf Room
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Outprocessing	Bldg 1056/Rm 111/DPMSA
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1400	TBD	Clothing Monitor Meeting	TBD
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (DD 689 & Fitness Letter)	Bldg 760/Floor 1
1700	1730	Sign Out	Orderly Room
Sunday, July 10, 2016			
0530	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session One	HAWC
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session Two	HAWC
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	MTTFH 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	

Motorcycle safety is for everyone

By Andrew Stamer, 908 AW/PA

The warm summer months see an increase in motorcycle activity, and with that comes a need to know how to ride safely.

For Soldiers of the 20th Special Forces Group, motorcycle safety is a prerequisite, as motorcycles and other vehicles are part of the equipment they will use for their mission.

Prior to deployment to AFRICOM, members came to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to attend the motorcycle safety course offered here. While most of the Soldiers already know how to ride, they will cross-train other members of the unit who are busy taking safety courses for ATV and 4-wheelers at other locations.



Jim West, traffic safety manager, 42nd Airbase Wing, gives safety pointers to Capt. Trey, battlefield forensics, 20th Special Forces Group, during the Basic RiderCourse. (Photo by Andrew Stamer)

“We’re trying to get our certificates so we can go down range and be safe,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richie,

an engineer with the 20th Special Forces Group out of Albemarle, N.C. “This is the first time we’ve had to get certificates.”

“This training helps us with possible infiltration platforms for the team and helps us be more dynamic with how we can move about, and mission planning and different operations we can do,” said Staff Sgt. Jeff, weapons sergeant, 20th Special Forces Group. Part of Jeff’s specialty is movement techniques the team can use.

“Most of us have experience,” said Capt. Trey, battlefield forensics, 20th Special Forces Group. “It’s all about bringing that experience to the team, and getting safety certificates will enable further missions.”

The basic rider course is a two-day event, consisting of 15 hours, and is broken into two parts – the classroom portion, which consists of a written test, and then 10 hours of riding, said Jim West, traffic safety manager, 42nd Airbase Wing.

“We teach them the basic slow movements they need to ride a motorcycle,” said West. “How to get on, how to get off, how to change gears, how to stop, how to turn.”

**908th Airlift Wing
401 W. Maxwell Blvd.
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6501**

**Presorted
First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #700
Montgomery, AL**

TO THE FAMILY OF:

Not only does the base provide the teachers, but it also provides the motorcycles and helmets for anyone on base to learn how to ride a motorcycle. And the coaches are MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) certified to teach the Basic RiderCourse 1 and 2. West also offers the Advanced RiderCourse for more experienced riders.

The importance of the course is it will “make you a better driver of a car,” said West. It can also be counted as a defensive driving course for some insurance companies, which can reduce insurance rates.

Due to the heat, five coaches were rotating throughout the riding portion of the course; four of whom came from the 908th.

“We’re the only unit in AFRC that has certified rider coaches and their own program,” Lt. Col. Carmel Weed, wing process manager, 908th Airlift Wing, who is one of the MSF-certified coaches. He said he tries to teach two classes with the 42nd, in addition to the six classes the 908th teaches to Reservists, during some UTA weekends.

“This is the first time I’ve been involved where these guys are deploying and have to have this course to do their jobs,” said Weed of teaching the course for the special forces Soldiers. “This is really meaningful stuff.”

It’s not just a course for bikers. Weed had been riding for about 20 years before taking the course.

“I took this course and I realized all the bad habits I had and poor technique. I’m a lot better than I was before,” Weed said. “I put my wife and my 20-year old son through this course, and I think they’re better drivers for it.”