

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 43, Issue 8, August 2006



Not just another day at the office

357th Airlift Squadron member Tech. Sgt. Scott Cathcart and other aircrew members swim toward a raft where Master Sgt. Edward Champagne, life support NCOIC, awaits. 357th AS flight engineer Senior Master Brent Solomon and his son are in the background aboard his boat. About 40 aircrew personnel underwent water survival training at Lake Martin July 8 under the watchful gazes of the life support section. See more pictures on Page 6.

Courtesy photo by Tech. Sgt. Joe Houston



Meet the new 908th AW vice commander

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Old-timer has been there and done his part

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Fantastic welcome warms vice commander

Col. Jon Andre
908th Airlift Wing vice commander

Thank you for the warm welcome to the 908th AW. Since picking up the mantle of the vice wing commander July 10, I have been out meeting our people in their work places. Clearly, this is an excellent unit with an outstanding group of talented people supporting it.

Looking at the faces of the 908th members, it is hard to believe that over 27 years have passed since I enlisted in the Air Force. One lesson that has been driven home over the years is that professionals doing a great job, and having fun, are a powerful force.

In 1983, near the end of my active duty tour I found myself at McChord AFB, Wash. I stopped someone in the parking lot and asked, "Who would you talk to if you wanted to be a loadmaster?" "Chief Master Sgt. Don Deshon," was the reply. That proved to be a fortuitous event.

Chief Deshon would be my boss for the next five years - really great years. The chief had a gift for being a consummate professional,

while at the same time having an enormous amount of fun and unflinching support for his people. Watching how the chief managed his section and people proved to be a life-shaping event for me.

Chief Deshon's section was consistently the most organized and well run section in the wing. Enthusiasm, coupled with deep job knowledge, allowed his NCOs to run a shop that was at once fun and exceedingly professional in every regard.

In the tradition of Chief Deshon, providing exceptional support to the people of the 908th AW and having a lot of fun are the main tenants of my play book. The 908th has proven to be an incredibly capable and mission-ready organization. Based on the people I have met recently, I believe the 908th AW is pretty good at having fun too.

My job here is to support the commander in the mission readiness of the wing. That support is achieved by supporting you - all the while having fun. Support for you



Col. Jon G. Andre

Photo by Jeff Melvin

can be through facilities, personnel, policy management or commander's programs.

You will be seeing me often; I will be out and about with each unit in the wing on a recurring basis. Meeting the people that make the mission work is an important part of the job. Representing this wing in the best manner possible can only be accomplished through knowing the people. The vast majority of great ideas I've seen implemented came from the folks doing the job - the subject matter experts.

Many of the issues and ideas that we work on may not come about during our tenure, but just like Chief Deshon's section, we are laying the foundation for future success for those who come after us. It is my express desire that those who follow at the 908th AW will think back to us and say, "Those were professionals who knew how to get the job done, support their people and have fun."

I look forward to working with 908th members and with Colonel Underkofler to continue the great success of the wing. I'll be there to work hard and play hard while we continue to build upon our past success.

Again, thank you for the fantastic welcome to the 908th family; I'm honored to be working with you.



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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

Meet the new vice commander

Name: Col. Jon G. Andre

Duty title: Vice commander, 908th Airlift Wing

Hometown: Hiialeah, Fla.

Previous assignment: Commander, 403d Operations Support Flight, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Duties and responsibilities: Provides support to the commander by supporting the personnel, facilities, mission and commander's programs of the 908th AW, also perform duties as a C-130H pilot.

Flight Information: Command pilot with 8,000 flight hours in T-37, T-38, WC-130E, WC-130H, W/C-130J, C-141B/C, MD-88, MD-11, and B-727 aircraft

Work philosophy: Get the mission accomplished and take care of the troops. "I'll be there to work hard and play hard while we continue to build upon our past success.

Reserve status: Traditional Reservist

Civilian occupation: MD-88 pilot for Delta Air Lines, Inc. in Atlanta, Ga.

Marital status: Married with children, lives in Powder Springs, Ga.

Other tidbits: Former Air Reserve Technician, 'big on mentoring,' doesn't plan to stay behind desk, encourages wing members to maintain healthy balance among Reserve duty, family, civilian job

Air Force Reserve supports nation at home, overseas

Note to readers: The following is the third article in a four-part series on testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Defense April 26, 2006, by Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander.

WASHINGTON – Since 9/11 the Air Force Reserve has defended the nation and supported the homeland as a total force partner.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Defense April 26, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander, outlined what Air Force reservists have done for the country at home and abroad.

"The Air Force Reserve is a critical component in the security of our nation," he said. "Our reservists have made major contributions to the Global War on Terror, flying more than 80,000 sorties (360,000 flying hours) in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom."

Since 2003, the Air Force Reserve has flown nearly 52,000 sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Last year the command flew 14,658 sorties during 55,781 hours of flying time.

Air Force Reserve crews have flown more than 28,000 sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since 2002. Last year they flew 5,328 sorties in 25,409 hours of flying time.

At home, they have flown more than 10,000 sorties supporting Noble Eagle missions since 2002. Last year those sorties dropped to 150 in the

course of 906 flying hours.

But, supporting the homeland last year meant more than securing the nation's airspace.

"The onslaught of hurricane strikes to the coastal United States in 2005 required a response unlike anything seen in our modern history," the general told the subcommittee members. "The Air Force Reserve was fully engaged in emergency efforts; from collecting weather intelligence on the storms to search and rescue, aeromedical and evacuation airlift."

Two units that stood out were the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla. Keesler's Hurricane Hunters flew 59 sorties into the eye of hurricanes and tropical storms to gather information. After Hurricane Katrina pummeled the Gulf Coast, reservists from the

920th RQW flew more than 100 sorties and recovered 1,044 people who were threatened by the rising water.

In September Reserve airlift units from around the country responded with medical and evacuation teams to assist in the transfer of more than 5,400 passengers and patients within and from affected areas. Later on specially equipped C-130s from the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, flew aerial spray missions to combat insect-borne illnesses.

In his closing remarks to the senators, the general said: "Our vision is to provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners. We gratefully appreciate your continued support in helping us defend this nation in our role as an Unrivaled Wingman." (AFRC News Service)

Prospective first sergeants meet wing board in August

The next First Sergeant Board will be held Sunday of the August UTA at 9 a.m. in the Command Chief's conference room. All applicants must meet the board in service dress uniform.

Interested applicants should submit their military resume, copies of their last three enlisted performance appraisals, a current records review listing, and a letter of recommendation from their commander to Master Sgt. Cynthia Barker, 908th MPF,

Building 1056, not later than 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 4.

908th AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore cited three useful sources for those interested in finding out more information about the First Sergeant career field: AFMAN 36-8001, Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures, Chapter 8, Para 8.2.6; AFMAN 36-2108, Airman Classification and AFI 36-2113, The First Sergeant, Chapter 11.

AFMAN 36-8001, Chapter

8, Para 8.2.6 lists the special instructions for retraining into the first sergeant special identifier 8F000. "This contains very important information. When we advertised the First Sergeant positions for the last board, we had several individuals apply, but only six actually met the requirements spelled out in the Air Force manual," Command Chief Moore said.

AFMAN 36-2108 describes the duties and responsibilities, along with special duty qualifi-

cations for the special duty identifier 8F000, First Sergeant. "The duties listed primarily pertain to the Active Duty, but are very applicable during AEF rotations and other deployments supporting active duty; it also gives you a big picture of the role of the First Sergeant," Chief Moore added.

AFI 36-2113, Chapter 11, explains the Roles and Responsibilities of the AFRC first sergeant.

Don't get too busy to take time out for God and you

By Chaplain (Capt.) Val Shumate
908th AW chaplain

Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Exodus 18:18

Jethro's advice to Moses, his son-in-law, is good advice for many Christians. Moses had just led the children of Israel out of Egypt, and they

looked to him as a judge who knew God's law and would settle disputes.

When Jethro came to visit and saw how much Moses was doing, he suggested Moses delegate some of his responsibilities. This would allow Moses not to become overwhelmed by many issues and circumstances.

Jethro encouraged Moses to adopt a system of judges that would rule in Israel.

Many of us are too busy that we never take time out to regroup. In our busy life, we lose sight of our purpose. We become so entwined with the day-to-day issues that we do not stop to take time out. There are many times when we are so busy that we do not have time to sit down and reflect on what God is asking us to do or telling us to do.

Even God took time out

after creation! Should not we also take time out? God wants the best for his people. God wants us to take care of ourselves. If we want to please God, we must learn to spend quality time with those we love and quality time communicating with Him. Spend time being restored so that our strength can be renewed. TAKE TIME OUT FOR GOD AND FOR YOU!

Rules of engagement set for political participation

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) -- Political freedom is something the military has defended since the founding of the United States.

But, while free to participate in the political process, there are some rules military members need to know. "Our main job is to follow the orders that come down our chain of command, which has an elected official at the top," said Maj. Frank Minogue, chief of civil law for Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

"It would undermine our whole command structure if it appeared that the Air Force was supporting one side, or candidate, over another," Major Minogue said. The November 2006 elections are fast approaching and will decide all 435 House of Representative seats, 33 of the 100 Senate seats and 36 state governors, along with numerous other state and local elections across the country.

It is vital that military members do not give the perception that the military supports one political party, issue or candidate over another, Major Minogue said. Political activity rules are listed in Air Force Instruction 51-902, Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force. Violators of this instruction can be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and receive up to two years confinement and a dishonorable discharge, the major said.

Examples of prohibited activities listed in the instruction include attending a political event in uniform, using official authority to interfere with an election and affect its course or outcome, and using contemptuous words against officials in public office. Military members are allowed to attend political events in civilian clothes but only as a spectator. Speaking publicly at these events is not allowed in or out of uniform.

There also is a separation in the rules about participating in partisan and nonpartisan political activities. The rules tend to be stricter for partisan politics, the instruction states.

Partisan politics are defined in the instruction as an "activity supporting or relating to candidates who represent, or issues specifically identified with, national or state political parties or associated or ancillary organizations. A candidacy, declared or undeclared, for national or state office is a partisan political activity, even if the candidate is not affiliated with a national or state political party."

Partisan politics generally refer to established political parties and political positions on the national scale. These rules are not in place to restrict a military member's political freedoms, the major said.

"Obviously we want people to vote and express their opinions," Major Minogue said. "People are encouraged to participate in the political process, just not as representatives of the Air Force."

It is crucial that Airmen remain neutral, said Richard Peterson, deputy chief of the administrative law division, in the office of the Air Force judge advocate general.

"Regardless of whom the American public chooses, we give our elected officials our best efforts and support in performing our duties," Mr. Peterson said. Contact either the 908th AW or 42nd Air Base Wing legal offices at (334) 953-6008 and 953-2786, respectively, for more information about the instruction.



BEFORE joining the 908th then-Airman 1st Class Ben Brown at Phu Cat Base, Vietnam in 1972, pondering his decision to join the Air Force (near the 'bare bones' barbecue grill).



AFTER joining the 908th, Senior Master Sgt. Ben Brown at Camp B to join the Air Force Reserve.

Old-timer has been there and done his part

By Lt. Col. Dennis R. Pierson
908th AW Staff Judge Advocate

Senior Master Sgt. Ben E. Brown, 908th Security Forces Squadron, has been around and seen a lot in an Air Force career that began nearly 35 years ago, when he enlisted in the Air Force a year after graduating from Central High School in Phenix City, Ala., in 1969.* (See note at bottom of page)

After training as an air policeman, the young Airman soon found himself in Vietnam, where he served from 1971-1972. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, he was stationed at several different places. At Phu Cat and Da Nang Air Bases, he performed airbase defense duties, providing protection for a variety of aircraft, including F-4 Phantom fighters, C-130 Hercules transports and "Spooky" and "Puff the Magic Dragon" gunships. He also provided security for a remote radar

installation nicknamed "Monkey Mountain" located in northern South Vietnam. After leaving Vietnam he was stationed at Tyndall AFB, Fla., where he separated from the Air Force in 1974.

After several years of civilian life, Sergeant Brown found himself missing the camaraderie, excitement and adventure of military life. He joined the 908th Airlift Wing in 1982, where he is currently assigned to the 908th SFS. In 2005, he volunteered for a 180-day deployment to Iraq. After receiving detainee operations training from the Army at Ft. Lewis, Wash., he was assigned to the 586th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Camp Bucca, a detention facility in Iraq, where he served from June to December 2005.

Assigned as First Sergeant of Bravo Company, 586th ESFS, he was responsible for the operational control of a 100-person company performing detainee operations

under the tactical control of the Army. He helped provide security at the facility containing over 8000 detainees.

During that assignment, he helped quell two large-scale detainee riots in the internment compound, one of which occurred as NATO officials were trying to provide the detainees an opportunity to participate in the historic Iraqi constitution vote. He also assisted with security for the transport of more than 1,000 detainees. In October 2005, he earned recognition as his unit's Senior NCO of the month.

Unfortunately, during his lengthy Air Force career, Sergeant Brown has not been able to avoid the tragedy of war. While he was traveling in a truck convoy from Camp Bucca to Kuwait during September 2005, a member of his squadron whom he had known since they trained together at Ft. Lewis,

Airman 1st Class Elizabeth N. Jacobsen, and a soldier were killed when their truck struck an improvised explosive device. As a senior NCO in the squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Brown felt an inexpressible sense of fatherly loss for the young Airman. As his eventful military career draws to a close, Senior Master Sergeant Brown will enjoy the sense of satisfaction to be derived from long and faithful service to his country. (* 1969 was an auspicious year for the 908th AW; in addition to Senior Master Sgt. Brown, both the writer and Lt. Col. Carl Poteat graduated from high school that year. It was also the year of man on the moon, the Kent State massacre, the Manson murders, Woodstock, Chappaquiddick and Hurricane Camille.)

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mp Bucca, Iraq, in 2005, savoring his decision



Courtesy photos

Senior Master Sgt. Ben Brown stands on the roof of one of Saddam Hussein's palaces while deployed in 2005.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joe Houston

Above, Tech. Sgt. Ralph Roy shows Maj. Robert David and Lt. Col. Sam Dayhood (accompanied by daughter, Sara) how to don the CWU-16/P anti-exposure suit designed for quick donning by crew members prior to emergency ditching of aircraft at sea.



Lt. Col. John Stokes, Maj. Bill Tabor, and Master Sgt. Ken Bailey, on shore, don their life preservers before joining fellow aircrew members in their swim toward the raft where life support technician Master Sgt. Edward Champagne awaits. The aircrew members must reach the raft to pass their evaluation.



Staff Sgt. Everett Jones instructs Tech. Sgt. Steve Wells (in dark sunglasses) and from left, Maj. Doran Gillie, Tech. Sgt. Scott Cathcart, and Lt. Col. John Stokes in the use of the single person life raft.



Left, Col. (Dr.) Keith Kulow and Senior Master Sgt. Lee Mercer. "Doc" Kulow is wearing one of the adult/child life preservers carried onboard the aircraft for passengers.

Not just another day at the office

For aircrew members to survive a water ditching and effectively exit a submerged aircraft they must train – in water, so about 40 357th Airlift Squadron aircrew members received Water Survival Training at Lake Martin July 8.

The water survival training simulates the actions an aircrew member must take to safely escape if his or her aircraft crashes into the water.

According to aircrew life support officer Capt. Jeff Randall, the

branch takes the aircrews to Lake Martin to ensure realistic training.

"You wouldn't go down in a pool," the captain reasoned.

Boat owners in the unit like Senior Master Sgts. Brent Solomon and Lee Mercer and Master Sgt. John Hughes donate use of their boats, plus fuel, making the training affordable as well as effective.

The outing is usually capped off with a picnic, making it a "good deal all the way around," Captain Randall said.



Aircrew members erect canopy for the 20-person life raft, in the case of an aircraft emergency over water, the cover provides protection from sun wind and rain.



Left, Operation KIDS participants buckle up during C-130 walk through. Below, 357th AS navigator 1st Lt. Christopher Harris allows Mariah Tatum to explore the cockpit of a 908th AW C-130.



Photos by Jeff Melvin



Zachary DaSilva gets a quick course in self aid and buddy care.



Tech. Sgt. Flo Walker answers questions from Operation KIDS parents.

Operation gives kids peak at deployment process



Operations KIDS primary organizer Tech. Sgt. Flo Walker conducts a stand up interview for area TV stations. Sergeant Walker, 908th AW's traditional Reservist family readiness director, is currently performing Reserve duty with the host unit family readiness branch.

Area military children got a firsthand look at the deployment process in Operation KIDS, Kids Investigating Deployment Services July 6.

The six-hour event conducted by 42nd Air Base Wing aimed to give Active Duty, Guard and Reserve children, ages 5-13, insight into what their parents experience when they leave home for a military deployment tasking.

The day began with a 7 a.m. attendance check, roll call, and processing line, followed by briefings, a walk through of a 908th AW C-130, and deployment to the Blue Thunder training are simulating conditions and living arrangements found in a forward deployment location.

Operations KIDS ended with a welcome home celebration and debriefing.

Supply, Transportation mix, work seamlessly at McChord

By Senior Airman Kanika Blackmon
908th Logistics Readiness Squadron

A shaky start gave way to smooth sailing and invaluable training for 908th Logistics Readiness Squadron members during their two-week trip to McChord AFB, Wash., June 17 through July 1.

First, about that shaky start! While flying over the Rockies in Colorado, the "bird" experienced noticeable turbulence, that to those on board, seemed to last a lifetime.

"Personal" bags and wet towels were in heavy demand as about 12 of the 50 members experienced extreme motion sickness. Many would agree with Senior Airman Toccara Hunter who said, "I thought this was going to be my last day on earth because it felt like the plane was going down".

The LRS group possibly set a record that no other 908th AW group can, or at least want to, match.

"This was the first time I have ever seen every single motion sickness bag used," said Loadmaster Chief Master Sgt. Michael Harper.

What a way to start an annual tour!

Though turbulent on the front end, the two-week training period provided supply and transportation members training second to none.

Supply members were assigned to storage and issue, receiving, customer service, repair cycle, MICAP (mission capable process) and MRSP (mission readiness spares packages).

In storage and issue, Senior Airmen Chris Ferguson and Emmanuel Brown trained on login/logoff with the SATS (standard asset tracking system) gun; processed "put a-ways," pulls, and movements using the SATS gun; and operated the WAVE, a vehicle similar to a forklift.

Additionally, members received further exposure to MICAP activities such as deleting codes, creating details, de-

"The active duty personnel in the supply section were very eager to provide training to our unit, and they were very receptive to us being there."

-- Master Sgt. Michelle Robinson

leting details, and monitoring status.

While assigned to Customer Service, Tech. Sgts. Quinton Rudolph and Renee Fuller received training in research/records maintenance and stock control, including processing transactions in the standard base supply system, a computerized system used to account for material at base level.

Effective working relationships developed quickly. "The active duty personnel in the supply section were very eager to provide training to our unit, and they were very receptive to us being there," said Master Sgt. Michelle Robinson.

LRS transportation members were also beneficiaries of unique training opportunities. Specifically, transportation management operations personnel received hands on training in aerial port packing and crating functions. This included processing group travel reservations for over 100 members deploying to Southwest Asia and other locations; conducting counseling sessions for members in PCS, separation, and retirement status; processing DITY (Do it Yourself) moves and all other applicable shipments for active duty personnel.

Staff Sgt. Kendra Jenkins and Senior Airmen Yolanda Roland and Zachary Floyd also processed active duty and dependent members' overseas travel. As a supplement, since this training is available in only four regions, Tech. Sgts. Henry Preston and Angela Oden coordinated activities for TMO members to spend some time at nearby Ft. Lewis

to gain exposure to joint personal property shipping office training.

Vehicle Maintenance, under the leadership of Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Prestridge, performed varied functions as well. Tech. Sgt. Michael Moody worked in the heavy equipment shop, helping with the summer rebuild program for the deicer fleet by replacing a speed limiter in a deicer boom and conducting training in electrical troubleshooting for host unit mechanics.

Staff Sgt. Stephan Jones replaced sheared bolts on a Striker 1500 aircraft rescue and firefighting unit. This unit was in a dead lined status, and would not have been returned to service until the repairs were made. Sergeant Jones repaired the air cylinder assembly for the bumper turret rotational and directional controls by adjusting the bleed control plates. He also replaced the throttle cable and throttle spring assembly on a P-21 Fire Fighting Vehicle.

Senior Airman Corey Baker conducted vehicle inspections with fleet management, scheduled maintenance reports, performed yard checks, updated estimated times for completion for each work center, billed parts, input minor maintenance reports, created the end-of-day report, and performed backups for OLVIMS (On-Line Vehicle Interactive Management System).

In preparation for overseas deployment, vehicle operations members Tech. Sgts. Stephen Smith and Kelvin Pinkston trained Senior Air-

men Eric Thornton and James Bonds on all procedures associated with the operation of the tractor trailer, and Staff Sgt. John Traum trained Senior Airmen Rao Rajendra, Alisha Livingston, and Victor Nguyen on all procedures associated with operation of a wrecker.

In support of active duty, LRS transportation members meticulously planned and executed transport of two C-82 aircraft wings, used superior organizational skills to restrict the vehicle traffic flow due to wing width; expertly moved three truckloads of scrap metal and furniture to include skillful loading via usage of two forklifts, and expedited material to Defense Reutilization Material Office approximately 15 miles off base.

After a whirlwind of varied training, the group got an opportunity to tour local activities, starting with a McChord AFB C-17 -- some even sat in the pilot's seat. After seeing the seats inside the plane that allowed Airmen going overseas to sit comfortably, even while wearing backpacks, the group's thoughts turned to their return trip back home; all hoped there were no surprises...especially considering the trip over.

The 908th LRS members learned many useful things that can be applied to the operations here at Maxwell AFB. Though the beginning of the trip seemed dark, the members accomplished their training and found the light at the end of the tunnel.

Wear of AFRC patch becomes mandatory Oct. 1

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force Reserve Command is in the process of making the wear of the AFRC patch mandatory on battle dress uniforms and flight suits for unit reservists and headquarters staffers.

Continued on page 9

AFRC patch

Continued from page 8

These people, who include those assigned to the AFRC headquarters and the Air Reserve Personnel Center, can start wearing the patch now. Oct. 1 is the mandatory wear date.

The new patch policy does not apply to mobilization assistants, individual mobilization augmentees and full-time members of the Active Guard and Reserve assigned outside the command.

“Our Air Force reservists are proud to be Airmen in our Air Force today. As we try our best to be an ‘Unrivaled Wingman,’ we are proud of our heritage as Citizen Airmen. Our people want to be recognized as reservists,” said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander.

“As an Air Force major command, we wear our command patch so people know who we are,” the general said. “We have been a major command for over nine years. Our folks deserve to be recognized for the great work they do for our Air Force and our nation. We are ‘One Air Force, Same Fight...an Unrivaled Wingman.’”

The AFRC patch will go on the right breast pocket. Unit commanders may approve the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

FEDS Heal dental exams continue

Tech. Sgt. John Camarata, a crew chief with the 908th AMXS, is x-rayed by FEDS Heal dental assistant, Courtney Harkless. FEDS Heal dental examinations are being scheduled through the unit health monitors for members Class 4 dental status. Examinations, by appointment only, will be conducted from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4 and 7:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Aug. 5 in Building 1055.

wear of one sewn-on, subdued patch on the left breast pocket, either a numbered air force, wing or squadron organizational patch. That patch will be centered between the left and right edges and the

bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket.

People assigned to the area of responsibility will follow the guidance prescribed by that combatant command.

AFRC officials approved

the purchase of the patches last year, and most units have already received funding to buy them. (AFRC News Service)

Tell a friend, annual alumni reunion dinner set for Sept.

All past and present unit members are invited to the 908th AW Alumni Association Reunion Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Falcon's Nest on Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

The meal will be buffet style and includes sliced roast beef, grilled chicken breast, crispy catfish, salad and various vegetables, desserts and tea or coffee.

Noting that people are the key to a successful reunion, Alumni Association committee member Gene Beasley, “Last year’s reunion was successful because of everyone there, whether it was their first time or whether they’d attended many before. We hope everyone returns and enjoys each others company. Even though we try to reach everyone, we miss some. If you know any current or former member who hasn’t received a letter about the reunion, please give him or her a copy or pass his or her address on to me.”

Beasley added that those unable to attend should still respond back so they can remain on the alumni association mailing list.

“If you would like to share photos you have of unit personnel or aircraft, please put your name on the back so we can return them to you. And, if you know of anyone who has passed away since our last dinner please let us know so we can recognize them at the dinner.”

If you need further information, please contact Gene Beasley (334) 365-4721 or e-mail Beasley at: gb306@bellsouth.net (home) or work e-mail: gene.beasley.ctr@csd.disa.mil

Please complete and return ASAP:

Name: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Dinner: \$19 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

Number in Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check or money order payable to: **908th AW Reunion Alumni Association**

Send to: **Gene Beasley, 306 Woodvale Road, Prattville AL**

Right, Dru Amos and Amanda Thomson get ready to rumble.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman



25th APS's Dru Amos has her game face on.



Both boxers get tagged.



908th SFS's Jeffrey Paul



Jeffrey Paul, left, and Victor Victoria exchange punches.

Fight Night debuts at Max

Two unit Reservists were among the 14 Maxwell-Gunter complex members that laced up gloves and took part in the Maxwell Fight Night June 29.

25th Aerial Port Squadron's Drusilla 'Dru' Amos and Security Forces Squadron Jeffrey Paul tested their mettle against tough competitors in two of the seven 3-round bouts witnessed by a capacity crowd of more than 600 spectators.

Amos is known to many wing personnel because of powerlifting records she set in her age group several years ago. Never one to shy from a challenge, the powerlifting grandmother squared off against Amanda Thomson, a youngster nearly half her age, in one of the night's most entertaining matches.

Paul's match against welterweight Victor Victoria also drew cheers from the crowd. Both 908th boxers lost. Amos survived several knock downs, in her loss by decision. Paul's bout was stopped in the third round; his opponent awarded the victory by technical knock out.

Boxing training is offered three times a week at Maxwell under the tutelage of Joe Watts, an active duty Air Force enlisted member who is a veteran amateur boxing coach.

Those interested should contact Watts at (334) 953-5867 or via e-mail. (Compiled from story in the Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch)

Take Note

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

-to Tech. Sgt.
James W. Chaney, Jr., AES
Felicia K. Cunningham, MXS
Michael D. Freeman, 908th AW
John Geiger, 908th AW
Dwayne Gore, AES
Grant McDaniel, 25th APS
Christopher Sims, 908th AW
Monica Stallworth, ASTS

-to Staff Sgt.
Corey Baker, LRS
Ebony Besteda, ASTS
Tifarah Boyd, MSS
Ben Cecil, MOF
Michael Fisher, OSF
Everett Jones Jr., 357th AS
Michael Laursen, AES

-to Senior Airman
Karen Layne Adair, AMXS
Jeffrey Folds, CES
Jaran James, MXS

- Vannisha Howard, MXG**
Ryan Miller, MXS
Gregory Nikonchuk, MXS

-to Airman 1st Class
Quiana Carter, MSS
Lacammie Haynes, ASTS
James Short Jr., 357th AS
Santana Wilson, LRS

-to Airman
Curtis Richardson, CF

Top 3 host mentoring session

All 908th AW enlisted members in grades E-1 through E-4 are invited to attend a 908th AW Top Three Association mentoring session Saturday, Aug. 5 at The Maxwell AFB Enlisted Club from 5:30-7:30 p.m. "There will be free pizza and soft drinks. Come as you are in uniform," said Master Sgt. Nancy Butler, Top Three Association secretary.



You tell 'em, chief

Chief Master Sgt. Owen P. Watkins speaks to a group of fellow chiefs, co-workers, friends and well-wishers on the occasion of his ascension into the Air Force top enlisted rank. The 908th AW Chiefs' Group welcomed 908th CES civil engineering manager into their ranks with an induction ceremony July 9.



'We want your blood'

Tech. Sgt. Gregory Nipper donates blood during the Red Cross blood drive here last month. Sergeant Nipper, a bio-med technician with the 908th ASTS, received a ball cap, T-shirt and a chance to enter a drawing for two round-trip Delta International plane tickets. Thirty three unit members participated, yielding 25 productive pints of blood, which will save up to 75 lives, said Roxanne Ray, 908th AW command section secretary, who coordinated the short-notice blood drive.

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