

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 43, Issue 11, November 2006

'America soars on Air Force wings,' CSAF says

by Gen. T. Michael Moseley
U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff



Gen. T. Michael Moseley

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The United States of America depends on its Air Force to defend the population, deliver global effects and jointly accomplish national objectives to an extent unseen in the history of mankind.

In my 35 years of service, many things have changed. Yet, what has remained constant is the extraordinary dedication, courage, and skill of the men and women we call "Airmen" who deliver for the nation every minute of every day in air, on the surface, in space and cyberspace.

I am often asked:

What does the Air Force contribute? What does our national investment in air, space and cyberspace power bring to America? Let me share with you some observations of our Air Force that have inspired me since I was a new Second Lieutenant -- fresh from commissioning at Texas A&M University -- and continue to fill me with pride as the Eighteenth Chief of Staff

of the United States Air Force.

I see Airmen (Active, Reserve, Air National Guard and Civilians), vigilant at their post, who provide first warning of threats worldwide through space, air and cyber systems that never sleep and never blink.

From satellites that provide early warning, to over-tasked unmanned aerial vehicles and surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, Airmen operate the world's most advanced sensor network. They watch the globe -- to include North Korean preparations for missile launches, Iranian nuclear programs, and the dangerous borders between warring na-

tions. Airmen are America's global eyes and ears, likely the first to tip off of an emerging threat to Americans and America's interests.

I see Airmen who provide the first response worldwide for natural disasters -- on scene for rescue and delivering humanitarian supplies (to include complete hospitals) that often mean the difference between life and death.

I see Airmen airborne, in the center of the worst storms and hurricanes in history, to track and provide the warning that is critical to save lives and protect citizens' property.

I see Airmen airborne, fighting forest and range fires, deliv-

ering fire retardant liquid from C-130s -- again to save lives and protect citizens' property. From rescuing individuals in danger, to providing storm warning, to fighting fires, to delivering supplies across a global air bridge, Airmen are the real manifestation of American compassion and strength.

It has been my observation that Airmen do these tasks so well that people at risk expect an American response no matter how far or how adverse the conditions or how tough the task. It has also been my observation that these Airmen make all this look so easy that others believe it is easy - which,

Continued on Pg 2

President, military leaders dedicate Air Force Memorial

by Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- On behalf of a grateful nation, the president of the United States accepted the Air Force Memorial in a dedication ceremony here attended by military leaders of the past and present, political and business representatives and thousands of ordinary citizens and Airmen alike.

"A Soldier can walk the battlefields where he once fought," said President George W. Bush. "A Marine can walk the beaches he

once stormed, but an Airman can never visit the patch of sky he raced across to defend freedom. And so it is fitting that from this day forward, the men and women of the Air Force will have this memorial."

The ceremony was the highlight of a daylong open house event that attracted thousands of people from around the country to the south parking lot of the Pentagon. Huge screens were put up which allowed the visitors in the parking lot to view the dedication ceremony, which took

place at the base of the memorial. That crowd included H. Ross Perot and his son, H. Ross Perot Jr., who is chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Continued on Pg 3

Designed by the late James Ingo Freed, the memorial with its three soaring spires inspired by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds bomb burst maneuver, pays tribute to and honors the patriotic men and women of the U.S. Air Force and its predecessor organizations.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young

: America soars on Air Force wings

Editor's note: This is an abbreviated version of the article, "America soars with Air Force wings." Readers can find the complete article on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123029134>

Continued from Pg 1

of course, it's not.

I see Airmen who are often first to the fight through the attributes inherent in the exploitation of Air Power, engaging enemies across vast ranges on a truly global scale, striking targets or transporting themselves and their fellow Warriors to hot spots throughout the world. These Airmen then stand alongside them in the fight as a joint team, delivering military options, anywhere on Earth.

These Airmen fly bombers on a truly intercontinental scale, routinely striking targets at ranges unequaled in the history of warfare, with peerless precision, speed, and lethality, while simultaneously holding other targets at risk, thereby deterring and dissuading adverse actions.

Other Airmen fly the giant airlift and refueling aircraft, also on a truly intercontinental scale, daily delivering humanitarian relief supplies, other war fighters, cargo, and the means to conduct theater war fighting on the scale required in this long war on terrorism. In fact, every 90 seconds, somewhere on the surface of the Earth, these Airmen take to the air -- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, good weather or foul in defense of this country.

I see Airmen slip into hollow cockpits of fighter aircraft and, to paraphrase James Salter's "Gods of Tin," plug themselves into the machine. As these Airmen prepare themselves for combat, the canopy grinds shut and seals them off. Their oxygen, their very breath, is carried with them into the chilled vacuum in a steel bottle. Their only voice is the

radio. They're as isolated as a deep-sea diver.

For these warriors -- operating in their unique domain -- time and space are compressed. To them, geographical expanses are reduced and geographical barriers are bypassed by the hurtling aircraft -- again exploiting the inherent benefits of the ultimate high ground and vantage of operating within this unique domain.

In combat, these Airmen live or die alone. They're certainly accompanied by others, flying and fighting alongside -- but, really, they are alone in these fighter aircraft. They're fighting the laws of physics, as well as our increasingly lethal enemies. And the connection to technology is real because first they become part of the aircraft and then the aircraft becomes a part of them, all in defense of this Nation. I see Airmen succeed throughout the world, mirroring America's diversity and its blend of capabilities, devotion, courage, and valor that unite Warriors across cultures and national boundaries.

I see Airmen who provide measured military effects and save lives. I see Airmen standing shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters on the ground, hunting terrorists as part of our Special Ops teams, driving convoys, guarding bases, conducting truly high risk combat search and rescue missions, and providing medical services in places the devil himself doesn't dare to tread.

I see the daily mission reports from US Central Command, documenting multiple examples of Airmen on the scene when surface troops are in contact, who attack with both the aircraft-mounted gatling guns and with the precision-guided munitions, and whose actions set the conditions for victory. This is the essence of the combatant spirit and the joint team.

I see Airmen who quietly support national objectives over the long term. When American ground troops returned home after liberating Kuwait in 1991, Airmen stayed in theater as the preponderance of the force deployed to not only enforce the United Nations' Resolutions but to defend the local populations from tyranny. In fact, since that time, Airmen have been fighting in Iraq for 16 straight years, including the 12 years of sacrifice and deployed operations in support of Operation Northern Watch and Operation Southern Watch -- standing guard in the desert as the major American military force engaged.

I see Airmen demonstrating the inherent flexibility of American Air Power in responding to combat tasking during this same period with two additional deployments into the Arabian Gulf, as well as combat operations over Bosnia and Kosovo and an unwavering air bridge for re-supply and medical evacuation -- without skipping a beat.

I see Airmen on duty at this moment flying America's constellation of military spacecraft. This solely Air Force mission involves hundreds of military satellites and thousands of Airmen, serving as the Nation's eyes and ears. These Airmen operate the key spacecraft that provide early warning, communications, precise navigation and weather information for America's combat forces. They are "on watch" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week -- and again, they have never skipped a beat. I see Airmen airborne at this moment in support of Operation Noble Eagle -- overhead the cities and citizens of the United States. This solely Air Force mission involves hundreds of aircraft and thousands of Airmen, operating from dozens of locations -- scattered from Alaska, to Hawaii, to the East Coast, serving as the airborne shield for America.



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



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Home improvement

908th CES structures technician Tech. Sgt. Dennis Ellis, center, instructs civil engineers personnel on the erection of a Small Shelter System. These portable shelters provide protection for personnel, equipment and supplies in all types of extreme climate and terrain. As part of the unit's recurring contingency training, CE personnel also

received training erecting a TEMPER (Tent, Extendable Modular Personnel) tent, a versatile tent used for many functions, including billeting, field feeding, latrines, administrative offices, shops, kitchens, shower/shave units and medical facilities.

: Air Force Memorial dedication

Continued from Pg 1

Also in attendance were former chiefs of staff of the Air Force, secretaries of the Air Force, chief master sergeants of the Air Force, Air Force Medal of Honor recipients and their families.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley spoke at the event, saying he was deeply honored to be a part of it. He reflected on the Airmen who serve today, and their connection to the dedicated Airmen who served in the past.

"We have the most powerful air, space and cyberspace force in the world," he said.

"This is a long overdue tribute to all those who are a part of this ongoing cycle of dedicated and talented Americans who service in the Air Force."

The Air Force Band performed several pieces while a video was shown with clips from pilots climbing into World War II bombers to modern-day Airmen working in the sands of Iraq.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley spoke of several Airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. He read an excerpt from a letter sent by Senior Airman Jason Cunningham,

an Air Force parajumper with the Special Forces to his wife, Theresa, before he was killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2002.

"As if aware of his impending death, he wrote, 'I'll die a happy man doing the job I love'," read General Moseley. "Those are the words of a true PJ, and it speaks volumes of his commitment and dedication. We honor him with this memorial, as well as the countless others who are like him."

Several aircraft, ranging from World War One biplanes to today's stealth bombers and fighters, flew over the crowd and memorial

in chronological order, providing visual evidence of the evolution of military flight.

The ceremony ended with a demonstration from the Thunderbirds, who buzzed the crowd before doing the bomb-burst formation, which inspired the design of the three-spires of the memorial.

"We commemorate today the courage of the men and women who wear the Air Force blue," said President Bush. "We remember those who gave their lives for their fellow Americans. We mourn their loss, we pray for their families and we consecrate their legacy here today."

Wing bids farewell to Chaplain Bob

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

The man who has looked after the spiritual needs of 908th Airlift Wing members and their families since May 1995 is hanging his uniform in the closet Nov. 5.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Anders retires next month after 28 years of service.

He began his military career as an U.S. Army chaplain's assistant, serving from 1965-1971. Then, after a 13-year break in service, the man now known almost exclusively around the wing as "Chaplain Bob" was commissioned as a chaplain (1st Lt.) in the Hawaii Air National Guard in October 1984.

His years of service to the 908th have yielded many memories, he said.

"There have been lots of picnics, potlucks and deployments over the years. I have prayed for you many times... and you have prayed for me many times as well. We have laughed and rejoiced at weddings and we have hugged and cried at funerals. Through all of these events and through all of these years, I have tried to do the best that I could. None of it would have come to pass without your support, and for that I shall forever be grateful," wrote Chaplain Bob in a farewell column in last month's wing newspaper.

Talk about his retirement from the military does little to remove the ever present smile from his face, perhaps because the memories are more good than bad and perhaps because he realizes his work continues along a path he embarked upon almost 46 years to the day of his impending retirement.

At an age when most youngsters were struggling with the onset of puberty, the Martinsville, Va.-native already had a clear idea about his future.

"Nov. 13, 1960, I walked forward in the evening church service, took the minister by the hand and said, 'I dis-

"Nov. 13, 1960, I walked forward in the evening church service, took the minister by the hand and said, 'I distinctly feel that God is calling me into the ministry.' I was 13, fixin' to be 14,"

-- Chaplain Bob



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Anders

tinctly feel that God is calling me into the ministry.' I was 13, fixin' to be 14," said Chaplain Bob, describing how his journey to the ministry began.

This wasn't the idle musings of an unknowing teenager, the devout man-child went to work answering that calling.

Already a member of his junior high school band, he polished his piano playing skills, honed his musicianship, studied the Bible regularly and paid careful attention to "how my minister did things."

By the age of 15, he had his first paid church staff position, leading the congregation and the choir at a Texas church, following his Air Force officer father's transfer there from Florida.

Similarly, upon his family's move to California the following year, his new pastor asked him to lead the choir.

"They also needed a custodian and someone to mow the lawn, so I did those jobs, too. I was a high school junior. I also met my wife, Carol (Lt. Col. Carol Anders, 908th ASTS, nurse practitioner, physical exams section), in 1963. We've been together ever since," said Chaplain Bob.

He joined the Army in 1965 despite the fact a parishioner had agreed to pay his way to attend a four-year Bible college. His reason, he felt strongly that the Lord wanted him to join the Army. He said he had no idea what he would do in the Army but he felt compelled to join. His recruiter told him he seemed like an ideal candidate to be a chaplain's assistant.

His first duty station was in Japan at the Army's largest medical facility in the Japanese theater, a 500-surgical bed hospital facility.

"I got there in January 1966 as a Private E2 and by November, I was an E5,"

said Chaplain Bob, describing his rapid advancement to the NCO ranks.

He supervised four chaplain's assistants, supporting four chaplains and was responsible for two chapels – all at the age of 19.

Although he admits that his progression was "exceptionally fast," he also acknowledged the help of others contributed almost as much as his hard work.

In 1968 he left Japan for reassignment to an Army communications detachment at Gunter Air Force Station. He helped deactivate several of the detachment's operating locations, finishing quickly enough that he was released from active duty by summer and entered the ready reserve for three years.

Another milestone occurred in 1968; he and Carol got married.

After leaving the Army, the Anders moved to Fresno, where Chaplain Bob worked at a hospital and worked several positions at various churches in California before his ordainment in 1977. By then he'd already been in the ministry for about 15 years.

He went to seminary, earning master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., in 1982.

While attending the seminary, he and Carol went to Hawaii on what he described as "a singing, teaching, preaching Vacation Bible School, backyard Bible Club trip."

After his commissioning in 1984, Chaplain Bob returned to Hawaii, serving three years in the Hawaii Air National Guard. The Hawaii years were some of the most rewarding of his life, he said.

He derived the most pleasure from serving the congregation of his small civilian church. The church, he said, was a true melting pot, with 13 nationalities among its membership. He and Carol were the only two whites.

After their tour ended in Hawaii, the Anders returned to California in 1987, settling in the Sacramento area.



On the military side, Chaplain Bob served three years at Mather AFB, followed by five years at McClellan AFB with the 940th Air Refueling Wing.

While in Sacramento, the chaplain started to feel a distinct calling to go into a hospital ministry, partly because of his own health situation. In 1990 he had two major surgeries, one of which was life threatening.

Acting on this 'calling,' he earned certification in basic and advanced clinical pastoral education in 1995.

That same year, the Anders decided they wanted to be closer to family so they made another move, this time to Alabama and the 908th.

Fast forward 11.5 years and we find Chaplain Bob on the brink of retirement from the 908th and reflecting on his years here.

When they moved here they essentially had two part-time jobs, their Reserve positions. "People looked at me like I had rocks in my head but I felt very strongly that was what I should do and the wing chaplain's slot was open here at the 908th."

Their leap of faith has paid off for him and for the men and women of the 908th.

"My time here has been fabulous. The opportunities for service have been terrific. Every squadron or group that I have deployed with our ministry has been well received. I have made so many close friends here in the 908th. Many people have come in and out of my life. It's a great ministry and I'm not quite sure how I'm going to do without it," Chaplain Bob said. "You can't be as close to a group of people as I have over the past 11.5 years and have it yanked out of your life and say it's not going to have an impact because it will. I just don't know what it will be yet."

He won't be idle though. Although no longer working at the 908th, his hands will still be full with his civilian ministry and chaplaincy at the Montgomery regional Veterans Administration Hospital.

His attainment of both jobs might give even the most skeptical reason to believe Chaplain Bob receives help from above.

When he accepted the job at the 908th Chaplain Bob didn't know there was a VA hospital in Montgomery. A friend told him about a job opening there. After working at the VA for a few days, a VA official commented that he would love to hire him if he had the necessary credentials. Well you know how the story goes with Chaplain Bob,

he seems to lead a blessed life and as he's fond of saying, "The Lord opens a door."

In addition to being an ordained minister, the applicant needed clinical pastoral education certification – the certification Chaplain Bob obtained in California when he felt the calling to enter the hospital ministry. He got the job.

His civilian ministry happened provisionally as well. The ANG chaplain who befriended him and told him about the VA job, knew about an upcoming pastoral vacancy at Pine Level Baptist Church, in south Montgomery County.

Chaplain Bob took the job ministering at the small church after several wide ranging discussions with its members and their acceptance of his statement that he had "moved here to be the wing chaplain for the 908th AW." That meant there would be times that his military commitments would call him away. The congregation agreed; he continues to minister at Pine Level today.

Chaplain Bob said it hasn't been difficult to fulfill his obligations to the unit because the 908th is an exceptional organization. While many initially come to the unit because of its proximity to where they live, they stay because it's a very active and dynamic unit, he said.

"Our security forces are all over the map. Our aerial port is the premier aerial port in all of the command. I mean even active duty people come over and look at our aerial port. Our planes are well cared for. Our AE Squadron is one of the best in the command. When the people over at the Headquarters think of aeromedical evacuation, they think 908th. It's a great unit. It's folks from all ranks and all walks of life. And I enjoy being the pastor here."

One of his proudest moments while caring for the spiritual needs of the 908th came in 2002 when he earned recognition from the Reserve Officers Association as Chaplain of the Year. The competition was keen; all Air Force chaplains, active duty or reserve, were eligible.

"I don't think a Reservist had ever won," he said with obvious pride.

The award was presented at the ROA mid-winter convention in Washington, D.C. Along with the distinction of winning the award, Chaplain Bob experienced another proud moment, delivering the invocation at a luncheon attended by President Bush. Although the chaplain didn't get to meet him, he



Lt. Cols. Bob and Carol Anders

said "the president waved or signaled as if he was acknowledging my invocation upon his departure."

It isn't hard to believe that the president was impressed; Chaplain Bob has that effect on people. An anecdote from former longtime 908th AW member retired Brig. Gen. Robert Corley, illustrates this point.

The general invited Chaplain Bob to perform his wedding ceremony. The ceremony was held in Minnesota so the chaplain had to certify his credentials with the county registrar to sign the marriage license and perform the ceremony.

"He faxed all the information to us and when we took it in to the county office, they commented, 'We have never had a preacher from a church in Alabama and the Air Force perform a wedding in this county. Why do you need someone from way down there to perform your wedding?'"

"Needless to say, by the time he left town he was known to everyone he came in contact with as Chaplain Bob, and they all loved him. In fact, they tried to convince him to stay, but he was not so sure he would like the weather there in the Winter, and besides, he had plenty to do at home in the 908th and at his own church," General Corley said.

Another past 908th leader, former wing commander retired Col. Tom Brown, aptly described the prevailing opinion of the wing's members on the subject of Chaplain Bob's retirement.

"He did a great job looking after our people in good times and sad times. He was right there whenever anyone in the wing was in need of a kind word or comfort at the loss of a loved one. He even had some timely advice for my wife on how to deal with me and the kids."

Colonel Brown, who led the unit from June 1998 to February 2002, expressed another sentiment that's probably shared by most 908th members. "If you think he is leaving, think again. I bet he shows up for at least the next two UTAs out of habit alone," the colonel said.

Medical people, units earn healthcare honors

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

Two 908th AW members and units are among the 17 people and seven units selected as Air Force Reserve Command's Association of Military Surgeons of the United States award winners. The

awards will be presented at the AMSUS Awards luncheon, Nov. 8, in San Antonio, Texas.

Originally, a membership organization for surgeons and physicians only, AMSUS is now comprised of more than 9,000 healthcare profession-

als serving in the active duty, Guard, and Reserve military services, U.S. Public Health Service, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

908th AES members Capt. Jameson Durham and Staff Sgt. (then-Senior Airman) Caterina Durham were selected as Outstanding

Officer and Airman, respectively, assigned to an aeromedical evacuation squadron. Similarly, 908th ASTS took top honors in the aeromedical staging squadron (100 bed) category and 908th AES was named top aeromedical evacuation squadron with C-130 as primary aircraft.

The AES duo were recognized for accomplishments in advancing the healthcare mission of their service through demonstrated compassionate and quality patient care and service, clinical support or healthcare management.

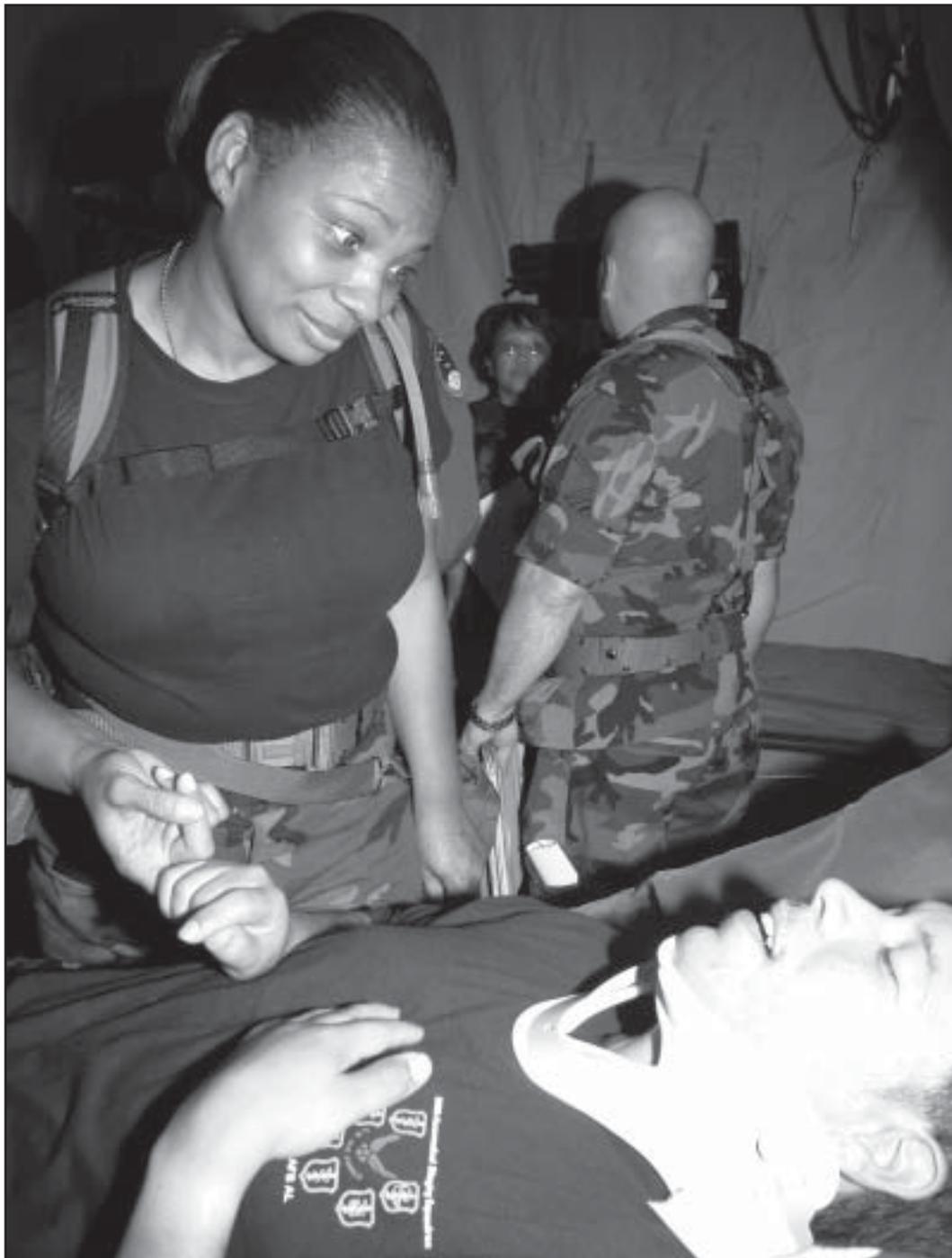
Captain Durham, a health services administrator, serves as 908th AES's director of operations and senior Air Reserve Technician. He lauded the invaluable role his co-workers played in his selection.

"My colleagues deserve this honor as much as I do for all their countless hours of self sacrifice ensuring everything we do in the 908th AES goes above and beyond normal duty requirements of patient care and comfort," the captain said. "Their tireless efforts and willingness to go the extra mile while always maintaining a phenomenal attitude contributed not only to my success but overall mission success as well.

Sergeant Durham, an aeromedical services technician who earned a nursing degree this summer, said she was shocked but pleased to receive the AMSUS honor.

Her performance while deployed contributed to her selection.

Remarking that it was her first deployment, she said she couldn't have succeeded without the help of her fellow crewmembers, one of whom was an 908th AES colleague.



Archive photo by Jeff Melvin

People like clinical nurse Capt. Cynthia Lewis, pictured here performing initial patient assessment and emergency stabilization of a simulated casualty during a training exercise, helped ASTS earn the distinction of being named AFRC's top (100 bed) aeromedical staging squadron.

AMSUS Award Winners

More than half of the AMSUS individual award winners are from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Westover ARB award recipients include:

Officer, NCO, and Airman, respectively, Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron: Maj. Reid Squier, Tech. Sgt. Mary Grasso and Senior Airman David Meulenaere, 439th ASTS

NCO and Airman, respectively, Assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit, Tech. Sgt. Darlene St. George, and Senior Airman Paul Driscoll, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Wright-Patterson AFB award recipients include:

Air Reserve Technician NCO assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit: Chief Master Sgt. William Millar, 445th AMDS

ART Officer and ART NCO, respectively, Assigned to an Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron: Maj. Todd Mulhorn and Senior Master Sgt. Brian W. Fowle, 445th AES

NCO Assigned to an AE Squadron: Master Sgt. Joseph Kotsko, 445th AES,

Aerospace Medicine Squadron with a Generation Mission: 445th AMDS

Other individual award winners are:

ART NCO assigned to a Deployable Medical Unit: Master Sgt. Emiliana Harris, 604th Medical Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Airman Assigned to a Deployable Medical Unit: Senior Airman Joshua Ratcliffe, 419th MDS, Hill AFB, Utah

NCO Assigned to a Deployable Medical Unit: Tech. Sgt. Sarah Rowley, 419th MDS, Hill AFB

Officer Assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit: Maj. Susan Beylotte, 315th AMDS, Charleston AFB, S.C.

ART NCO Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron: Master Sgt. Becky Smith, 914th ASTS, Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

Brig. Gen. Beverly Lindsey Administrative Excellence Award: Col. Laura Talbot, 440th MDS, Gen. Mitchell IAP ARS, Wis.

Other unit award recipients include:

Aeromedical Staging Squadron (250 bed): 433rd ASTS, Lackland AFB, Texas

Lt. Gen. George E. Schafer Trophy: 440th MDS, Gen. Mitchell IAP ARS

Aerospace Medicine Squadron with Expeditionary Medical Support: 440th MDS, Gen. Mitchell IAP ARS

Medical Quality Initiative award: 914th ASTS, Niagara Falls IAP ARS

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron with Aircraft other than C-130: 445th AES, Wright-Patterson AFB (Extracted from an AFRC News Service news release)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

908th AES med tech Staff Sgt. (then-Senior Airman) Caterina Durham has been named AFRC's top Airman assigned to an aeromedical evacuation squadron.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

908th AES's director of operations Capt. Jameson Durham has been named AFRC's top officer assigned to an AE squadron.

"I couldn't have asked for a better deployment. I thought I'd be alone but the crewmembers took me under their wings," she said.

She also praised the patients, who she said, were "very helpful. They never complained; they made the job easier."

Describing ASTS personnel as "highly motivated, hard-working individuals whose superior performance is routinely displayed both at home and around the world," 908th AW Commander Col. Michael Underkofler praised the healthcare providers for their first-rate professionalism, devotion to duty, and superb patient care.

"I can always count on their unequivocal commit-

ment and support to accomplish the mission," Colonel Underkofler said.

Commenting on his squadron's individual and unit recognition, 908th AES Commander Lt. Col. Ronnie Roberts said, "I'm not surprised by the selection as our members are out in the system around the world taking care of the wounded and ill. I'm proud to have quality personnel selected for individual awards; however, it's the members working together supporting one another that promoted us as the outstanding unit. It's an honor to be selected as outstanding unit; the reward is being part of a team bringing home our wounded and ill."



Photo By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Life support technician Tech. Sgt. Ralph Roy gives AES's Maj. Sheryl Cheek some pointers on the proper way to ignite a flare.



Photo By Jeff Melvin

Before starting their land navigation training, AES's Capt. Dana Baker and Master Sgt. Jonathan Griswold sample their lunch, MREs.



Photo By Jeff Melvin

Maj. Scott Hayes' group gets an intel briefing, explaining the scenario.



Photo By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Staff Sgt. Michael Laursen, Master Sgts. Ken Eddy and James Rickels and Maj. Scott Hayes examine a map as they orient themselves before heading to the extraction point.

Aircrew, aeromedical personnel practice survival skills

Nine wing aircrew members and aeromedical personnel took part in a survival training class Oct. 14.

After classroom instruction and the flare popping demonstration, the group boarded a bus for the Tuskegee National Forest where they put their land navigation skills to test in simulated downed aircraft scenario. The group was broken down into two teams. Each was tasked to make their way to an extraction point

while avoiding contact with an opposing force. The training is conducted by members of the 357th AS life support and intelligence sections.

Life support technician Tech. Sgt. Bryan Wilson, one of the trainers, said the course is "more of a refresher for aircrews and an introductory course" for many of the medical personnel. The training is conducted twice a year, Sergeant Wilson said.

Air Force Reserve changes officer promotion system

WASHINGTON -- Air Force Reserve Command is changing its officer promotion system to meet future total force requirements.

The command will implement the changes starting with the Oct. 16 Air Force Reserve Line and Non-line Colonel Promotion selection board. Results of the board are expected to be announced early next year.

In one change, the command will combine Selected Reserve (Categories A and B) and Participating Individual Ready Reserve (Category E) officers into a single promotion group.

"All participating members should have the same opportunity and compete with each other for promotion," said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander. "This change is especially prudent in light of our strategic shift to an operational Reserve, increased Total Force Integration, and challenges posed by the Base Realignment and Closure commission and Program Budget Decision 720."

In addition, in recent years the Air Force Reserve promoted more lieutenant colonels to colonel than it had available colonel positions. This prompted the command to adjust the promotion opportunity for its line officers competing for colonel from 45 percent to 40 percent. At the same time, command officials decided to stop holding continua-

tion boards for lieutenant colonels to remain in the Air Force Reserve beyond their mandatory separation date of 28 years total federal commissioned service.

The decision to form one competitive promotion category was not done in a "vacuum," according to General Bradley.

"I chartered a general officer-led promotions working group in July 2006 with cross-functional representation to weigh all the different options of changing the competitive categories and taking better care of our people," he said. "This was the best recommendation the group proposed and the right thing to do for our Citizen Airmen."

The team consisted of a cross-section of reservists. They included senior officers from AFRC headquarters, a wing commander, a squadron commander, a readiness management group detachment commander and functional managers from line and non-line career fields, as well as legal and personnel experts from the Air Reserve Personnel Center, AFRC headquarters and the Office of Air Force Reserve.

Under force shaping actions, the Air Force Reserve will shift some of its personnel authorizations from paid positions in the Selected Reserve to non-paid status in the Participating Individual Ready Reserve.

"This change confirms the command's commitment to a robust and viable PIRR," said Col. Becky Lewis, director of personnel in the Office of Air Force Reserve. "It considers all participating members together, allowing us to follow personnel management policies that enable and identify the force most suited to meet mission requirements."

Changing promotion opportunities for lieutenant colonels and eliminating boards to keep them beyond their mandatory separation dates were necessary, according to Col. Shaun Kelleher, chief of the directorate of personnel's force management policy division in the Office of Air Force Reserve.

"These changes will help manage our colonel production more efficiently and enable a reasonable expectation for colonel-selects to pin-on in a timely manner," he said. "Simply stated, we have too many people making colonel and not enough positions for them. This has made it increasingly harder for colonel-selects to find Reserve jobs in a timely manner and pin on their new rank."

Command personnel officials said they will continue to work to analyze and proactively manage the force to meet the dynamic needs of an operational reserve and their Unrivaled Wingman. (AFRC News Service)

Master sergeants need senior NCO academy to fill higher rank jobs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Master sergeants must now finish the Air Force Senior NCO Academy before they fill a senior or chief master sergeant position in the Air Force Reserve.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, announced the policy in a Sept. 27 memo.

Before master sergeants had to complete the top enlisted professional education before they sewed on senior master sergeant stripes. However, they could fill a higher-graded position as long as they enrolled in the academy within six

months of their duty effective date.

The new policy still requires getting the academy done before promotion but gives added emphasis to the importance of enlisted professional military education.

"This policy will ensure continued enlisted force development of our senior NCOs by preparing them in part for positions of greater responsibility," said Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, AFRC command chief master sergeant. "Force development, by design, is intended to be a series of experiences and challenges, combined with education

and training opportunities, that develop enlisted members as Airmen and leaders."

Master sergeants who have not completed the academy but who are assigned to higher-graded positions will have six months to comply with the new policy. If they do not complete the academy in time, the Air Force Reserve may reassign them to a lower-graded position or realign the chief master sergeant or senior master sergeant authorization to a lower graded authorization in the organization. (AFRC News Service)

AFRC postpones mandatory wear date for command patch until May

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command has postponed the mandatory wear of the AFRC patch on battle dress uniforms and flight suits until May 1.

AFRC unit reservists were supposed to start wearing the patch Oct. 1, but command officials delayed it because of a lack of patches.

As of Sept. 11, the command had about one-fourth of the patches it needed, according to Col. William F. Nadolski, deputy director of manpower and personnel at AFRC headquarters, in a memo to wing commanders and manpower officials.

"As patches are issued, members are expected to wear them on their uni-

forms as soon as possible," Colonel Nadolski said in the memo. "Extending the wear date will allow additional time for remaining ordered patches to be delivered to the distribution point and disseminated to the field for issue." (AFRC News Service)

Air Force leaders to discuss new 'cyber command'

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

Editor's note: This is an abbreviated version of the article, "Air Force leaders to discuss new cyber command." Readers can find the complete article on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123028524>

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Air Force leaders are gathering in early November to discuss plans for creation of a new command, one chartered with flying and fighting in cyber space.

Cyberspace became an official Air Force domain, like air and space, on Dec. 7, 2005, when Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley introduced a new mission statement.

In a letter to Airmen, they said the new mission was to "deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace." Now, Air Force leaders are planning to stand up a new "cyber command," to be responsible for fighting in that domain, said General Moseley.

"To deliver the full spectrum of effects we will evolve a coherent enterprise, with warfighting ethos, ready to execute any mission in

peace, crisis and war," the general said. "We will foster a force of 21st century warriors, capable of delivering the full spectrum of kinetic and non-kinetic, lethal and non-lethal effects across all three domains. This is why we are standing up an operational command for cyberspace, capable of functioning as a supported or supporting component of the joint force."

Air Force leaders begin planning for the new cyber command Nov. 16 at the Cyber Summit. During the summit, Air Force leaders will chart a way ahead for the Air Force's role in cyberspace, also called the cyber domain, said Dr. Lani Kass, director of the Air Force Cyberspace Task Force.

"The chief of staff of the Air Force is going to gather his senior officers and talk about the new domain, in which, according to our mission, we are going to fly and fight," she said. "Our objective is to come out with a course, a vector, that will set us up for transforming our Air Force, to get us ready for the fight of the 21st century."

According to Dr. Kass, cyberspace is neither a mission nor an operation. Instead, cyberspace is a strategic, operational and tactical warfighting domain -- a place in which the Air Force or other services can fight.

"The domain is defined by the electromagnetic spectrum," Dr. Kass said. "It's a



domain just like air, space, land and sea. It is a domain in and through which we deliver effects -- fly and fight, attack and defend -- and conduct operations to obtain our national interests."

The cyber domain includes all the places an electron travels. The electron, which is part of the atom, can travel from one atom to the next. This concept is key to electronic communication and energy transmission.

An electron may travel from a cell phone to a cell tower, for instance. The path the electron takes, the shape of its path, the speed it travels, and the direction it travels are all critical to ensuring the cell phone works and that a usable signal is received.

As part of a signal, an electron can travel from a

handheld computer to a reception tower, over a wire to a telephone, to a television through an antenna, from a radio transmitter to radio, and from computer to computer as part of a network.

The electron can also travel, as part of energy transmission, from a microwave oven to popcorn seeds to make them pop, from generators over a wire to a light bulb, and from an X-ray machine through bone to a detection plate to make an image for a doctor to review.

The places where the electron travels is the cyber domain, or cyberspace. And the ability to deliver a full range of cyber effects -- to detect, deter, deceive, disrupt, defend, deny, and defeat any signal or electron transmission -- is the essence of fighting in cyberspace.

Seventeen units Reservists earn associate degrees

Community College of the Air Force now holds only one formal graduation ceremony per calendar year. The next formal ceremony will not be held until Apr/May 07 timeframe. The 908th AW Training Office wishes to congratulate the following unit Reservists who received their CCAF diploma in October 2006. These people should stop by wing training and pick up their diplomas. The CCAF graduates and their respective areas of study are as follows:

Senior Master Sgt. James Lowery II, ASTS, Health Care Management

Master Sgt. Timothy Oliver, and **Staff Sgt. Richard Bell Jr.**, SFS, and **Staff Sgt. Ben Cecil**, MOF, Criminal Justice

Master Sgt. Adriel Carr, and **Tech. Sgts. Cassandra Crayton** and **Nichole Stiger**, 25 APS, Transportation

Tech. Sgts. Teddy Dinkins, ASTS, and **Dwayne Gore**, AES, Allied Health Sciences

Tech. Sgt. Brian Harper, AMXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Tech. Sgt. Jacqueline Hines, 908th AW, Financial Management

Tech. Sgt. Sharon Jackson, ASTS, Health Care Management

Tech. Sgt. Joe Whitt, MXS, Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology

Staff Sgt. Tarissa Brown, ASTS, Medical Lab Technology

Staff Sgts. Thomas Clay, CF, and **Robert M. Petro II**, ASTS, Electronic Systems Technology

Staff Sgt. Spencer Roeder, MXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Take Note

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

- | | |
|--|--|
|to Senior Master Sgt.
Dain Payton, MXS | Tron Sutherland, ASTS |
|to Master Sgt.
Jonathan Griswold, AES | Daniel Thompson, MXS |
| Orlando Pogue, 357th AS | Robert Tomasello, 357th AS |
| Jeffrey Porter, ASTS |to Senior Airman
Kimberly Galy, AES |
| Jason Towery, AES | Keondrick Johnson, AES |
|to Tech. Sgt.
Alfred DeRamus Jr., CES | Joshua Jones, MXS |
| Jeffrey Holder, 25th APS | Leslie Jordan, 25th APS |
| David Stinson, MXS | Frank Mitchell III, 25th APS |
| Troy Stokes, AMXS | Mary Neal, 357th AS |
| Joe Whitt III, MXS | Joshua Phillips, 25th APS |
|to Staff Sgt.
Daniel Cavender, MXS | Christopher Spence, MXS |
| Thomas Clay, CF |to Airman 1st Class
Ian Murphy, 25th APS |
| Frantina Iverson, ASTS | Stephin Smith, MXS |
| Larry Livingston, MXS |to Airman
Daniel Gregory, CF |
| Anthony Maxie Jr., CES | |



Photos by Jeff Melvin



It's a family affair

Newly promoted Lt. Col. Nancy Stephenson (above), Scott Fallon (left), and Winthrop Johnson (below), get help pinning their new rank from family members. Daughter, Laurel, and son, Philip, flanked by their sisters, Amelia (left), and Jessica (right) helped Stephenson. Son, Garrett, and wife, Jeanne, helped Fallon. Wife, Beth, and father, Lynwood, assisted Johnson.



Wing-wide run/walk set for Max flightline in November

The Runway Run/Walk is a go for Nov. 5, said Lt. Col. Troy Vonada, chief, performance planning, one of the event's organizers.

"Everyone except for those exempted, i.e., those taking their PT test, newcomers, or other appointments must plan to show up behind Building 1050 (357th AS) for the Run/Walk NLT 6:30 a.m., Sunday of the November UTA," Colonel Vonada said.

The course, he said, will be a challenging 3 miles across taxiways, runways and the ramp. Organizations that want to run as a group to build Esprit de Corps and foster camaraderie may do so, he added.

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