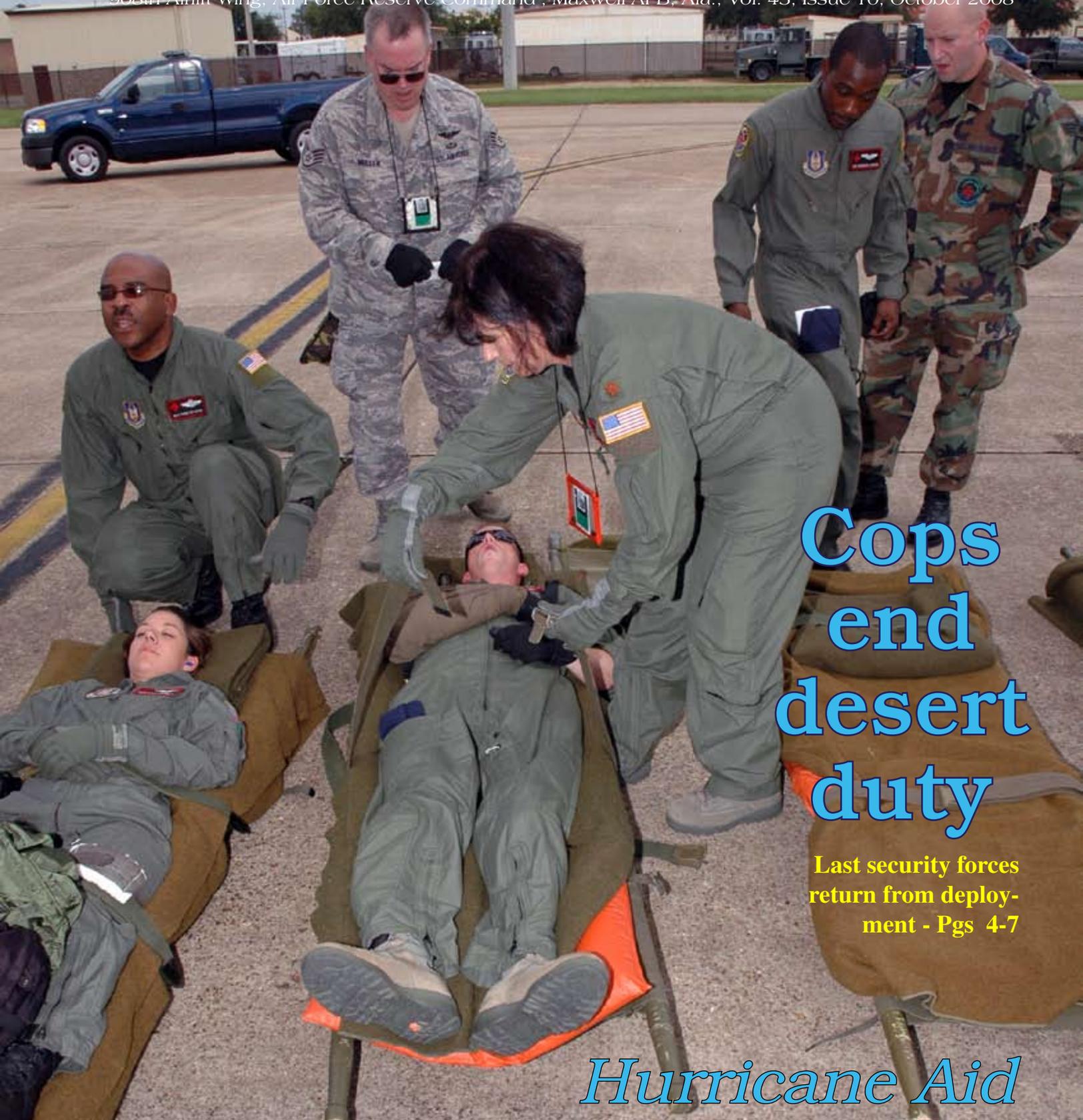


Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala., Vol. 45, Issue 10, October 2008



Cops end desert duty

Last security forces
return from deployment - Pgs 4-7

Hurricane Aid

Flight nurses, medics assist
hurricane evacuation efforts
-- Pgs 8-9

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AMC evaluators to visit operations group

By Col. Edward Jennings
Commander, 908th Operations Group

The 908th Operations Group will receive an Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit from Headquarters Air Mobility Command Nov. 13-20.

This type of evaluation is the premier operations inspection. Possible ratings range from a high of outstanding to a low of unsatisfactory. The visit has three basic phases: written examinations, flight evaluations, and a review of all flying programs.

Members of the operations group have been preparing for the visit since early spring. The chiefs of aircrew programs in the 908th Operations Group, 357th Airlift Squadron, 908th Operations Support Flight, and 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (standardization and evaluation, aircrew training, tactics, and flight management) have been reviewing their processes and adjusting them to ensure they comply with AMC standards.

As for the written examinations, this is one case where the test is known before it is given. Each crew position has a master question file that is used for periodic written exams. Questions for the tests HQ AMC administers will come from this master file.

Each aircrew position has been taking ASEV prep tests from this file each UTA since early spring and members are fully ready to receive their tests if they were given today. The tests will be administered over the October UTA in advance of the formal visit.

In fact, the ASEV has technically begun. Two successful flight evaluations have already been administered. I fully expect that all flight evaluations will have the same result. Our aircrew members are known for their expertise, and I have no doubt this will be revealed to the ASEV team. Our programs and flying expertise will make us stand apart from other units.

I know that all the members of the operations group are ready, and will undoubtedly impress the ASEV team. Our members have been studying, our shop chiefs have been consulting with our numbered air force and higher headquarters to make any needed changes to their programs, and our aircrews are among the finest in the command. The operations group is aiming for an outstanding ASEV, and I have every confidence we will achieve that high standard!



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

357th AS chief pilot Lt. Col. Dave Hughes (left) and new 357th AS director of operations Maj. Ken Ostrat (center) huddle for an impromptu conference on the flightline with 908th OG commander Col. Ed Jennings. The operations group is set to undergo an aircrew standardization and evaluation visit Nov. 13-20.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Col. Brett J. Clark – Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

Lt. Col. Jerry W. Lobb – Chief, Public Affairs

Jeffery Melvin – Deputy Chief/Editor

Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder – Public Affairs Specialist

Cover photo:

908th AES members practice patient movement and care skills during periodic training over the September UTA.

Southern Flyer

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, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies. Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the unit training assembly. **The submission deadline for articles or information is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA.** Send inquiries and submissions to 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112 or e-mail them to 908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil. Our phone number is (334) 953-6804 or DSN 493-6804; our Fax number is (334) 953-2202 or DSN 493-2202. For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

Building people while we build machines

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Dersch
908th AW Chaplain's Office

Several months ago I introduced you to "Strength for Service," a daily devotional that was given to more than 1 million of our service members during World War II and the Korean War. The chapel has copies of this inspiring devotional available in our literature racks, as well as at our office. This month, with the permission of the publisher, I'd like to share with you the devotion from Aug. 23. It is as true today as it was when written over 60 years ago.

"I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them." 2 Kings 18:23

The ability of America to build machines has been demonstrated in these days in a manner to surprise the most optimistic. Planes, ships, guns, motors—every type of equipment is rolling off our plants by thousands. When schedules were first announced, the nation was doubtful whether they could be met, but this question mark has been removed.

While all America rejoices to see the mechanical part of our nation's defense making such marvelous strides, it is well for us to study again one of history's most often repeated les-

sons. The shores of human history are lined with the wreckage of nations who have developed the power to build things and have fallen short in the far more important task of building people. Little of permanent good or permanent strength will come to us if we have "two thousand horses" and lack the riders to set upon them.

Beginning with George Washington, our greatest patriots have realized the importance of religion in its relation to national permanence. Christianity and democracy are inseparable. Both grow in a common soil, and neither can thrive without the presence of the other. Spiritual character is as necessary to America today as planes and battleships!

God of our Fathers, we bow in gratitude before Thee for the gifts of iron and steel and material things, and for the ability of our people to weld these into the implements we need in defense of our nation. Grant us to see that without spiritual power and character these will not suffice to make us and keep us free. Help us in our daily life to remember that "blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." We ask in Christ's name. Amen.

— J. O. J. Taylor, Central Methodist Church, Fitzgerald, Ga.

Healthy Airmen --

Know how caffeine affects the body

by Lt. Col. Carol Anders
Nurse practitioner, 908th ASTS

What do nine out of 10 Americans consume some type of regularly, is the most popular behavior-altering drug, lifts your mood, clears mental fogginess, chases away that tired feeling, you feel its effect in 15 minutes, makes you become more alert, energetic and productive, releases free fatty acids from fatty tissue, affects the kidneys, increasing urination which can lead to dehydration and is found naturally in over 60 plants? That's right **CAFFEINE**.

Caffeine has no nutritional value, but most people use it after waking up in the morning or to remain alert during the day. Three 8 oz. cups of coffee or 250 mgs of caffeine per day is considered moderate amount of caffeine intake and is not associated with any recognized health risks. However six or more 8 oz cup or 500+mgs from any source is considered excessive intake of caffeine. It cannot replace sleep. It can make us feel more alert by blocking sleep-inducing chemicals in the brain and increasing adrenaline production. It is not recommended for children. It can be used in conjunction with ergotamine to prevent and/or treat migraine headaches. The March of

Dimes recommends that women who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant consume no more than 12 oz. of coffee or 200 mgs of caffeine per day. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has banned caffeine above a urine level of 12 micrograms/ml which could be the result of drinking four large cups of coffee or 1000 mgs of caffeine.

Effects of Caffeine include but are not limited to insomnia; negatively interact with other medications you may be taking such as antibiotics or bronchodilators; increase the heart rate and quicken breathing; and in some people it increases their blood pressure.

How much is too much caffeine? Though moderate caffeine consumption is likely to cause harm, too much (greater than 500-600 mgs) can noticeably affect your health and cause restlessness, anxiety, irritability, muscle tremors, sleeplessness, headaches, nausea, diarrhea or other gastrointestinal problems, abnormal heart rhythms, confusion, convulsions, shortness of breath and increased thirst.

How to curb you consumption of caffeine: Know how much you are consuming on a daily basis from all sources. Abruptly stopping caffeine can cause withdrawal such as

headaches, fatigue, irritability and nervousness. These will resolve after several days, but can be avoided by gradual reduction in your intake of caffeine.

Sources of caffeine

Food/Beverages	Amount of food/drink	Amount of Caffeine in mgs
Mountain Dew	12 oz	55
Coca-Cola	12 oz	34
Diet Coke	12 oz	45
Pepsi	12 oz	38
7-UP	12 oz	0
Drip Brewed Coffee	5 oz	115
Iced Tea	12 oz	70
Dark chocolate	1 oz	20
Milk chocolate	1 oz	6
Cocoa beverage	5 oz	4
Chocolate milk beverage	8 oz	5
Cold relief medication	1 tablet	30
Chocolate syrup	1 tablespoon	3
Coffee ice cream/frozen yogurt	½ cup	2
Espresso	1 oz	40
Starbucks Café Latte	16 oz	150
Starbucks Coffee Grande	16 oz	330
Red Bull	8.3 oz	76
Vault	8 oz	47
NoDoz Maximum Strength	1 tablet	200
Excedrin Extra Strength	2 tablets	130

Security forces complete Iraq mission safely, with distinction

908th SFS end six-month mission to Kirkuk Regional Air Base - F.O.B. Warrior, Iraq.

A historic six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom ended in late-August with members of the 908th Security Forces Squadron accomplishing their stated as well as seldom stated, but never forgotten goal of “doing the mission, but most importantly, taking care of each other and watching each others’ backs.”

Preparations for the deployment reached their zenith in December when the 908th SFS members began training at Camp Swift, Texas, with other SF units set to augment the 506th Expeditionary SFS at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. The first team headed for Kirkuk Regional Air Base in early January, with the main body following in February.

While deployed, the 45 Maxwell SF team members served with distinction while occupying nearly every position – from the base defense operations center, supply and mobility, to the airman standing on the perimeter – in a large expeditionary security forces unit comprised of Airmen from throughout the Air Force responsible for protecting Kirkuk and its 5,000 personnel.

Among the 908th SFS members earning distinction were Tech. Sgts. Lelia Collins, Michael Talley, and James Harrell and Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Ward.

Sergeant Collins was selected by the First Sergeant’s Council as the Diamond Sharp Troop for the month of July for distinguished service as tactical automated security sensor specialist and radio and telephone operator in the base defense operations center. Her duties included monitoring multitude of sensors and alarms, dispatching patrols, and forwarding vital information to higher headquarters to deter threats, respond to attacks, and neutralize the enemy.

Sergeant Michael Talley was presented the AFCENT Commander’s



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. James Harrell, 908th Security Forces Squadron, holds an Iraqi child while on duty at Kirkuk RAB, Iraq. Sergeant Harrell and 44 908th Security Forces Squadron members have returned home after completing a six-month tour of duty.

Coin by Lt. Gen. Gary North for outstanding achievement as NCOIC, S4, Mobility Section, for the 506th ESFS. With only three days of training, the sergeant mastered a job he had never done before. He was responsible for the successful movement of over 600 personnel and their equipment in and out of the theater. Coordinating with agencies and units on base and abroad, he helped expedite the rotation of incoming and departing personnel. He also engineered several humanitarian leave actions to ensure members got home during family emergencies.

Sergeant Ward served as a law enforcement specialist at Forward Operating Base Warrior. He responded to numerous criminal acts and performed patrols ensuring the installation interior was secure while other SF members protected the perimeter. Sergeant Ward investigated countless crimes and apprehended individuals while defending the base as well as liaised with Army, Air Force OSI, Army Criminal Investigative Division, and other human intelligence organizations.

Sergeant Harrell earned recognition as 506th ESFS NCO of the Month for exemplary performance while serving as entry control supervisor and fire team leader. He supervised the processing of over 26,000 vehicles and over 76,000 local nationals, greatly increasing the defensive posture of the installation. Sergeant Harrell monitored

over 20 munitions transfers from Iraqi Police to explosive ordnance disposal teams proved crucial in protecting over 5,000 coalition forces personnel and \$1.5 billion in resources. Additionally, Sergeant Harrell responded to a fire in his sector that threatened hundreds of thousands of dollars in vital resources. He managed to extinguish the blaze before fire department personnel responded, suffering smoke inhalation in the process.

Squadron members braved numerous rocket and IED attacks, 100 degree plus temperatures, and separation from loved ones with negligible damage, no loss of life to the base populace, and no breaches of security.

Members employed various weapons systems, sensors, and tactics to secure the base. They assisted and facilitated various agencies in promoting security and cooperation, thus contributing to the success of the Multinational Forces in Iraq.

The 908th SFS mission at Kirkuk RAB didn’t end when the last team left. Capt. John Brooks, the unit’s operations officer, arrived shortly before their departure and will remain behind to carry on the squadron’s excellence.

Now safely at home, 908th SFS members are enjoying the comfort of family and friends before preparing for their next mission. (Based on information supplied by 908th SFS member Tech. Sgt. James Harrell Jr.)

The family that deploys together

Airman plans family reunion in Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – It's not uncommon for family members, especially reservists, to deploy together to the same location. It is, however, uncommon to plan a family reunion during a deployment. But Senior Airman Benjamin Hathaway did just that when he volunteered for a six-month deployment in Iraq.

Hathaway's mother, Tech. Sgt. Kelly Beeler, and her sister, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly McBride, were deployed to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron here from Maxwell AFB, Ala., about six months ago. They were about to head home when Hathaway showed up from the 310th Space Wing at Schriever AFB, Colo.

"(McBride) and I work at the same base, and we knew six months prior to our deployment we were coming over here," said Beeler, a fire team leader for the 506th ESFS. "My son was stateside, and I knew he was trying to come over, too."

Since they were living in cities more than 1,100 miles apart, Beeler had not seen her son for a while. Visiting family members from that distance can present a challenge.

"My son and I can see each other just like any other parents and children living in different cities," Beeler said.

From Hathaway's perspective, the long distance obstacle was a little different. It had been too long since he'd seen his mother.

"There's a thing called long dis-

tance. She's in Alabama – I'm in Colorado. It's not a very viable excuse, but it's the only one I've got," said Hathaway, laughing. "I figured it'd been two years since I've seen her – I might as well go visit her in Iraq. So here I am."

Hathaway had plenty of official duties to keep him busy when he arrived, but Mom was determined to spend time with her son before she and McBride left for home.

"He got here seven days ago, and we've been doing a lot of catching up," Beeler said.

With his mother and aunt preparing to leave, Hathaway, who hails from Colorado Springs, Colo., has to get squared away mentally and physically for what lies ahead of him during the next six months.

"I'm not quite settled in yet. I'm waiting for my mom's group to leave so I can get a bed," Hathaway joked. "Mom's been here long enough. I get to take her place."

It didn't take him long to understand the importance of the position he will assume.

"We're taking care of everyone inside the installation so they can

sleep at night and don't have to worry," Hathaway said. "We're out there defending the base while they're snoozing and dreaming about being home with their families."

McBride, a radio operator for the 506th ESFS, signed up for the Air Force Reserves at the same time as her sister, and they have been together ever since.

"I really love what I do. We all love our country," McBride said.

McBride and Beeler said they will stay in the military until they retire. Beeler, who's served in active-duty and Reserve capacities for 18 years, originally entered the service in 1977 to travel.

"It was a different world in '77. I got out after 15 years of active duty. I stayed out 11 years, and I missed it every moment," said Beeler. "After (Sept. 11), I was determined to come back in. I found out I wasn't too old for the Reserves, and I can still do the job. That's what motivated me to come back. I love my country, love what I do, love the job, and I'm glad to be able to do my part."

Although his family has encouraged him to stay in, Hathaway is

looking at his future through a more wide-angled lens.

"One of the greatest things about the military is the endless possibilities. There's still so much I want to do," Hathaway said. "I'm only 27. I still have a lot of time left to do whatever I want. I'd like to go to college full time and get a commission as an officer. It's a goal (I've had) since high school – to be a pilot. It's something I could see myself doing until retirement."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston

Senior Airman Benjamin Hathaway poses for a photograph at Kirkuk AFB, Iraq Aug. 7 with his aunt, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly McBride (left) and his mother, Tech. Sgt. Kelly Beeler.

**Last cops
return
from
Iraq
tour of
duty**



Family and friends greet Tech. Sgt. Michael Talley at Maxwell AFB Aug. 26. Sergeant Talley and 25 other 908th SFS members returned from a six-month tour at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. His group represents the last of the 45 members of his squadron to return home..



Tech. Sgt. Eric Townsend gets a kiss from his wife, Tamara



Staff Sgt. Chris Moore is greeted by wife, Keri (center) and son, C

News



Staff Sgt. Henry Relf Jr. holds his son, Dallas.



Staff Sgt. LeArthur Armstead pauses for a photo with wife, MaKeisha, and son, Jacob



Photos by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Family and friends wait anxiously in the CE classroom after bad weather forced postponement of the Airmen's flight into Montgomery Airport prompting unit officials to arrange to send a bus to Atlanta to pick up the returning warriors.

Flight nurses, medics assist hurricane evacuation efforts

By Jeff Melvin
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Eleven members of the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron took part in Air Force hurricane evacuation efforts last month.

Two AE crews comprised of four flight nurses and six flight medics were assigned to a Total Force team operating out of Little Rock AFB, Ark., Aug. 30 – Sept. 14, while one medical administrator helped direct the operations of a mobile aeromedical staging facility team dispatched to Corpus Christi, Texas, Sept. 11.

Little Rock AFB served as the hub for aeromedical evacuation operations for Hurricanes Hanna, Gustav and Ike. The aircrews transported patients from area hospitals and nursing homes in Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and McAllen, Texas to Dallas medical facilities.

The 908th AES teams were among 28 on call at all times. The 908th teams flew two missions during their nearly three-week stay but remained poised to respond when called. The first mission took place Aug. 31 when a 908th AE crew took part in a mission to provide in flight care to 13 elderly patients, two on ventilators, during a flight from Beaumont to Oklahoma City, Okla., aboard a C-130.

During the second mission, a 908th AE crew provided care to six elderly patients during a flight from Beaumont to San Antonio Sept. 12. An account of this mission was featured

in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette newspaper Sept. 13.

Flight nurse Lt. Col. Jeffrey Starr, who participated in similar efforts for Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, said this deployment was “the most intense by far.”

The evacuations efforts were better planned and organized than previous ones and there were ample crews and help, he said, but the degree of illness and fragility of the patients made them more involved.

“The types of patients are totally different than what you’re used to,” he said.

Neither the increased intensity nor the fragility of the patients lessened the satisfaction, however.

“We love doing this job,” Starr said. “I tell people truth be told we’d pay to do this job. You get a great feeling. All of us would like to have flown more. These (the evacuees) are our neighbors.”

Flight medic

Tech. Sgt. Melinda Ford expressed sentiments similar to Starr’s. This was her first hurricane evacuation effort and although the population was different, geriatric versus battle wounded, she said, “I like to think of them as my relatives. You provide the best care when you think of them as family members.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Willis
Maj. Traci Shamburger prepares a patient for a flight from Beaumont Airport, Texas to San Antonio Sept. 12.



From right, Tech. Sgt. Melinda Ford, Mast... ment from a C-130 Sept. 12 after a combi... AE team to transport medical patients fro... in southern Texas.

She related a story about an older patient on her first mission, Ms. Annie, whom she had difficulty making comfortable.

“At the end of the mission she told me she loved me, it made me cry,” the flight medic said.

Tech. Sgt. Sean Kassebaum, flight medic, and Capt. George Hilyard, medical administrator, found themselves performing tasks unlike those performed by the other AES members. Their duties were administrative and managerial in nature.

Kassebaum, who was at Little Rock, was key member of an aeromedical evacuation operations teams, or AEOT, charged with managing the 28 AE crews and 16 critical care teams assigned to the Little Rock staging hub.



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Starr



Tech. Sgt. Sean Kassebaum



Capt. George Hilyard



Senior Airman Angela Burton

Photos by Jeff Melvin



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Willis

Staff Sgt. Apen Phillips, and Senior Airman Angela Burton unload medical equipment from Little Rock AFB, Ark.'s 61st Airlift Squadron and an 908th AES from Beaumont, Texas to San Antonio in preparation for Hurricane Ike's landfall

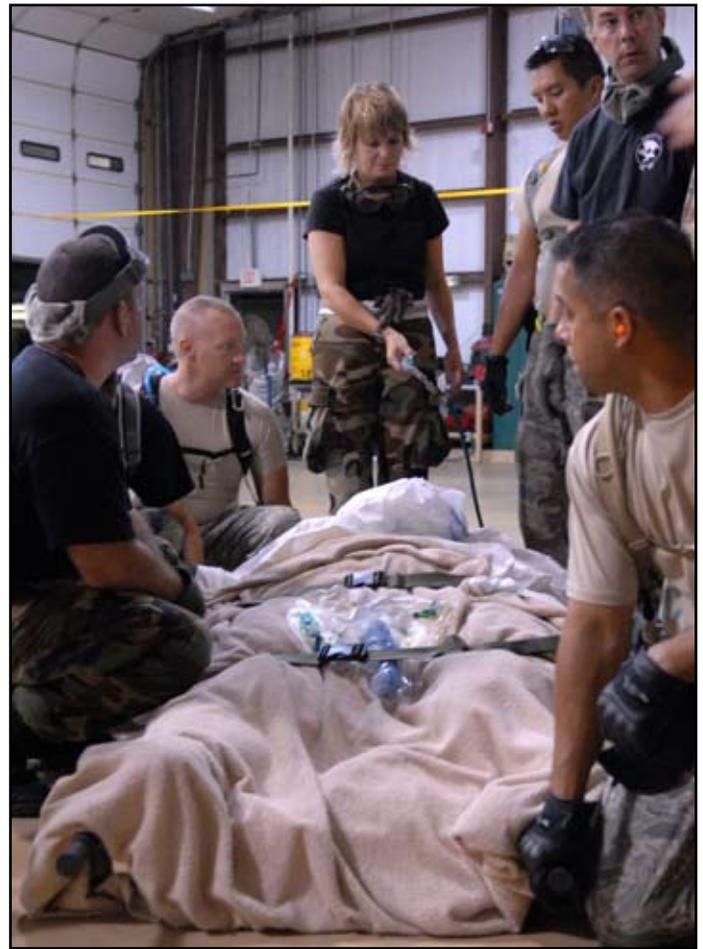


Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Willis

Active duty, Guard, and Reserve Airmen from multiple Air Force bases load hospital patients onto a C-130 aircraft at Little Rock AFB, Ark. Sept. 12. Little Rock AFB served as a hub for aero medical and transportation missions in preparation for Hurricanes Hanna, Gustav, and Ike.

AETs are made up of two flight nurses and three flight medical technicians while CCATs comprise one critical care flight nurse, one critical care doctor and one respiratory technician. Active duty, Guard, and Reserve military personnel comprise the teams.

Sergeant Kassebaum said all the teams have massive amounts of equipment that must be taken care of, all the crews have strict guidelines about the amount of rest and sleep they have to have and how long they are allowed to be on alert, a considerable challenge. His prior experience with Hurricanes Rita and Katrina evacuations efforts made this challenge "a piece of cake" although hectic.

"It was just slamming and jamming," the flight medic said. "Go out set up the aircraft, go back pick up the crews, load up all their equipment, go out to the airplane unload all the equipment and in a couple hours do just the opposite when they come home."

It's the most unglamorous part of the AE world, but vital, Kassebaum said.

"It makes me feel good. I know I was a very important cog."

Captain Hilyard's duties were similar to Kassebaum's. He served as the aeromedical evacuation officer for a mobile aeromedical staging facility team from the 6th Air Mobility Wing at MacDill AFB, Fla. The staging facility is outfitted with more than \$750,000 in medical supplies and equipment to handle up to 600 patients with minimal to intensive care needs. The mission of the MASF team is to receive patients from any type of situation and prepare them for flight. The MASF team arrived in Corpus Christi Sept. 11, a day after Hilyard's arrival.

The 23-member MASF team moved about 55 people, most of them elderly patients from nursing homes, before Hurricane Ike's advance forced them to shut down and move north.

The captain said he provided much needed AE expertise to the MASF team, something they were in dire need of. The patients were frail and many were already in need of critical care so CCATs (critical care teams) were already on site.

Many didn't want to leave and many had no idea where they were

going so they were understandably agitated.

"I went from tail to tail of the airplanes finding out who was onboard, getting them ready to move out and helping to keep them calm," the medical administrator said. "I hit the ground running and it didn't stop until the next day."

Taking care of the elderly patients and being able to help was rewarding, he said.

For Senior Airman Angela Burton, a flight medic on her first live mission, the deployment proved equally rewarding and satisfying.

"It was a great learning experience and I derived a great sense of self satisfaction from being able to help. We helped many elderly people who probably didn't have many options. The crews were great; I was able to glean a lot of knowledge," she said.

Despite the heat and the long days, no one complained. "Everyone wanted to be there. I'm glad I was able to participate in something like this before I deployed to a war type situation because you learn a lot. It helps you identify your strengths and weaknesses. It was certainly rewarding," the young flight medic said.

The participating AES members: medical administrator Capt. George Hilyard; flight nurses Lt. Col. Jeffrey Starr, Maj. Tracy Shamburger and Capts. Cinnamon Kellenberger and Richard Foote; and flight medics Master Sgts. Apen Phillips and Donald Washington, Tech. Sgts. Melinda Ford, Caterina Durham, and Sean Kassebaum, and Senior Airman Angela Burton.

Education office presents info about degree programs

The Air Force places a great deal of emphasis on Education which increases self-esteem, builds better leaders, and aids in the transition to the civilian job market. Below are some areas that may affect and benefit you during your military career.

Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)

CCAF is the largest community college in the world and is the only community college in the Department of Defense. It is a federally chartered, regionally accredited community college and every enlisted Airman is a CCAF student or graduate. Each degree program consists of 64 semester hours and combines Air Force education and training with a core of general education requirements obtained from civilian education sources.

The requirements are:

- Must receive a 5 level in your AFSC
- Technical Education.....24 semester hours
- Leadership, Management & Military Studies.....6 semester hours
- Physical Education.....4 semester hours
- General Education.....15*semester hours
- Oral Communication.....3 semester hours
- Written Communication.....3 semester hours
- Mathematics.....3 semester hours
- Social Science.....3 semester hours

- Humanities.....3 semester hours
- Program Elective.....15*semester

Total :.....64 semester hours

*Note: The Paralegal degree requires 18 SH of general education (addition of a 3 SH general education elective) and 12 SH of program elective.

You can visit: <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf> or the AF Portal (Air Force Virtual Education Center)

Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU-ABC) Program

AU- ABC links Airmen with Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) degrees to “military friendly” colleges and universities. The program maximizes the application of CCAF degree credits by applying all 64 CCAF degree credit hours towards a comparable Bachelor degree.

Key features:

- Builds on CCAF degree
- 100 percent 4-year degree opportunity for Airmen
- CCAF degree + 60 semester hours = Bachelor’s Degree
- AF relevant, career-field –focused degree programs
- Virtual campus – electronic instruction & online student support

For more information, contact the wing education and training office at (334) 953-6771

Money Matters – Get ready for new government travel card

The Government Travel Card (GTC) program has converted from Bank of America (BoA) to Citibank. The current Bank of America GTCs will no longer work after 2359hrs EST Nov. 29. The new Citibank GTCs will become effective at 0001hrs EST Nov. 30. Below are a few things every cardholder should know:

- Authorized GTC cardholders should automatically receive their new Citi GTC.
- Upon receipt of your new Citi GTC, do not dispose of the current Bank of America GTC.
- New Citi GTC cards must be validated via telephone or internet upon receipt.
- The current GTC, issued by Bank of America will not

work after 2359 hrs EST Nov. 29, 2008

- The new Citi GTC’s will not work until 0001 hrs EST Nov. 30, 2008.
- If you are on official travel during Nov. 29-30 carry both of your government travel cards.
- Cardholders are responsible for payment of any outstanding Bank of America charges.
- Speak with your unit before disposing of your current GTC.
- If you do not receive a new GTC, contact your unit orderly room. (submitted by Staff Sgt Clairmont Barnes, 908th FM accounting technician)

Past, present wing members meet, greet

From left, former 908th AW members Faye Williams and Bo Foster and Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford chat while waiting to dine at the 908th AW Alumni Dinner and Reunion held at the Falcon’s Nest on Gunter-Annex Sept. 6.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Take Note



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Promotions

Congratulations to the following people promoted to the grades indicated:

....to Master Sgt.
Felicia Cunningham, MXG
Rose Hall, OG
Sean Spraley, MXS
to Tech. Sgt.
Matthew Candler, MXS
Jeremy Flowers, SFS
Christopher Herndon, AES
Marcus Martin, CF
to Staff Sgt.
Jowell Howell, OSF
Joe Marks, CES
Frank Mitchell III, 25th APS
Roman Warrick, 25th APS
Joseph Scott, AES
to Senior Airman
Matthew Dearth, 357th AS
Cameron Duncan, 25th APS
Stephen Hogeland, 25th APS
to Airman 1st Class
Melissa Hamilton, MSS

First group of medical providers return from Iraq

Above, Senior Airman **Quanita Knight**, 908th ASTS, gets a warm welcome from awaiting squadron members after exiting the arrival area at the Montgomery Airport Sept. 18. Airman Knight and five other medical personnel returned home following a 120-day rotation at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The six returning providers and seven others yet to return worked areas such as supply, intensive care unit, nursing administration, contingency aeromedical staging facility (CASF) or as a civilian/military liaisons. The Balad hospital is the busiest trauma center in the world and serves as the coalition medical hub for all of Iraq.

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

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