

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
Vol. 44, Issue 2, February 2007

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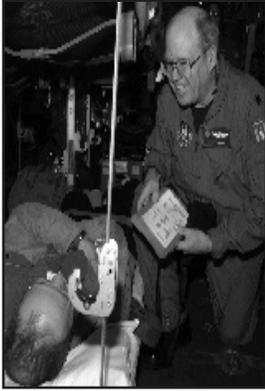


Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

908th AES flight nurse Lt. Col. Scott Starr chats with a patient onboard a wing C-130. 908th AW flight and aeromedical evacuation crews are currently flying missions from Andrews AFB, Md., airlifting wounded service-members to stateside treatment facilities near their homes or duty stations. See Pages 6&7 for complete story.

Southern Flyer

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Editorial policy

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 UTA. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Wednesday two weeks prior to the UTA.

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

Countdown to UCI

UCI Preparation: Just Do It!

By Lt. Col. Troy Vonada
Chief, Performance Planning

Most of us are familiar with the Nike slogan, "Just Do It!" What a great anecdote for fitness and just about anything else of seemingly insurmountable odds. The toughest thing about getting fit is to just get started and once you've done it for awhile it may become a pattern (experts say if you do something continually for 21 straight days in a row, it becomes a habit). Time management experts say that you should ask yourself the following question throughout the day to be a more productive employee, "what am I doing right now?" So, my question for you is, "What are you doing for UCI preparation right now?"

UCI stands for Unit Compliance Inspection and we are scheduled for a HQ AFRC UCI from Oct. 9-13, 2007. Performance Planning has conducted four meetings already in preparation for the UCI and by far the most often asked question is, "Where do I find my checklist?" I have a simple answer for you. First, navigate through the web to the HQ AFRC/IG webpage through the following link, <https://wwwmil.ig.afrc.af.mil/self%20inspection/>.

If that doesn't work for you, then I recommend the AFRC limited access homepage at the following link, <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/>. Once at the limited access homepage, click on HQ Staff on the blue menu bar, click on IG, click on Inspection Management System checklists in the yellow box, and finally click on the Key Process List box.

At this point, you'll need to know what A-staff designator your career field falls under, for example A1 is Personnel, A4 is Logistics, etc. Please contact CCX if you have any [problems](#) in locating your checklists.

Now that we've covered the checklists, let's dive into Air Force Instructions. I recently had a face-to-face conversation with the OIC of AFRC's Inspection Division and he had the following insight to offer, "The inspection is based on AFIs."

Profound, huh? Simple, right? Now, for what he meant to say. Know your job! If you know your AFIs and are doing your complete job, A-Z, then you should sail through the UCI. Bottom line is if you're knowledgeable, customer-oriented and mission-focused then you're sure to impress the inspectors. Let's all put the UCI at the top of our priority list and "Just Do It!"

Time is running out: MEO needs your survey input

Time is running out for wing members to complete the wing climate assessment administered by the military equal opportunity office. Deadline for completion is end of the February UTA. The purpose of the assessment is to give feedback to the wing commander and command chief about the human relations climate within the 908th.

The voluntary survey only takes 10 minutes to complete and can be accomplished from any computer not just a dot.mil computer. The information is confidential. MEO officials said each member's input is invaluable and urge maximum participation. Please see your First Sergeant for a password or contact the MEO office at (334) 953-6672.



African-American History Month 2007

From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “African-American History Month.” What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of African American History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his

childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population—and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation’s history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected *Journal of Negro History*. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. (Source: Article and artwork obtained from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

Letter to Airman focuses on 'Excellence in All We Do'

SAN ANTONIO (AF-NEWS) – In the Jan. 11 Letter to Airmen, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne discusses the core value of “Excellence in All We Do” and how it relates to Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century.

The secretary said he was impressed with the “amazing things” Airmen are accomplishing in the Air Force while serving in a combat zone.

“I was also proud to see Airmen everywhere using Air Force Smart Operations to strive for excellence in their deployed workplaces,” wrote Secretary Wynne. “Seemingly simple suggestions, such as rearranging tool rooms and weapons storage facilities, saved time, money, and even lives, while giving us a more efficient and lethal organization.”

Secretary Wynne said AFSSO 21 assists Airmen by empowering them to ask how they can improve things.

“Excellence must be our prevailing attitude,” he wrote.

This Letter to Airmen and other senior leader viewpoints can be found in the Library section of Air Force Link.

AF Reserve to get new command chief

WASHINGTON – A reservist stationed at the Pentagon will become Air Force Reserve Command’s command chief master sergeant March 8, 2007.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Master Sgt. Troy J. McIntosh from among 10 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories - traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members - applied for the command’s top enlisted position.

Chief McIntosh has been the superintendent of the AGR Management Office in the Pentagon since April 2005.

“I hope as the Air Force Reserve becomes even more of an operational force, the enlisted corps is given every opportunity to train and participate in all Air Force missions,” Chief McIntosh said.

Chief McIntosh said he is excited about the continuing work of the enlisted force development team and how this will benefit all AFRC enlisted personnel by providing clear career paths for their future development.

He will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, who has served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant since November 2004. Chief Winsett plans to retire in March 2007.

Chief McIntosh entered the Air Force Reserve in 1992 after serving on active duty in the Air Force from 1981 to 1992 with tours in Holland, Italy and Georgia. During his career, Chief McIntosh’s duties have included assignments in security forces and personnel as a traditional reservist, air reserve technician and AGR member.

Chief McIntosh is from Fresno, Calif. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. (AFRC News Service)

Awards keep coming for medical personnel

Lt. Col. Anders is command's top nurse practitioner

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW public affairs

The awards keep coming for wing medical personnel. Lt. Col. Carol Anders, a provider for the 908th ASTS physical exams section, has been selected as AFRC's nominee for the 2006 Air Force Medical Service's Outstanding Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award.

Colonel Anders' honors come fresh on the heels of two wing members and units earning recognition in November by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Winning the award is a "humbling experience," the colonel said. "You always try to do a good job, but it's nice to know that someone else thinks you're doing a good job as well."

She said she loves her job which is hard to imagine considering she's been a nurse for more than 35 years.

"I began my nursing career at the ripe old age of 15, when I took my first nursing course to become a nursing assistant," she said.

She spent those early years as a certified diabetes educator. After nearly 25 years as a diabetes specialist, she became a nurse practitioner because she wanted a greater capability to help people.

Advanced nurse practitioners, unlike other nurses, can diagnose, work in collaborative practice with physicians or set up their own practice. Nurse practitioners, or NPs as they are sometimes called, are often used where there is a shortage of physicians.

It's a demanding profession and requires extra training, post master's degree work and credentialing.

Colonel Anders joined the Air Force in 1989 and has been a fixture in the 908th since 1995 when she and her husband, recently retired 908th AW senior chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders, moved to Alabama.

She has served in several positions within the 908th ASTS including staff development and operations & training officer and is credited with mentoring many of the unit's personnel.

"She's an impeccable officer whose



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Lt. Col. Carol Anders examines a patient. Colonel Anders is AFRC's Air Force Medical Service Nurse Practitioner of the Year nominee.

immediate positive influence has gained the respect of officers and enlisted alike," said Col. Ben Busbee, 908th ASTS commander.

The wing's activation in 2003 presented an ideal opportunity for her to meet her need to serve as well as meet the wing's need for a medical practitioner to help during the deployment process.

The letter nominating her for the advanced nurse practitioner of the year award credits her with medically processing over 500 personnel for deployments to 13 separate countries with no medical returns and describes her as "critical to success of continuous deployments for wing members."

Other notable accomplishments singled out in the nomination letter include:

- Planning and coordinating training plans and schedules to meet the sustainment, readiness and upgrade requirements of more than 12 AFSCs
- First nurse practitioner for the 908th to be credentialed with host 42nd Medical Group, adding additional capability
- Completing 174.8 hours of continuing professional education in the last two years for advanced certification

- Retested as a Certified Diabetes Educator, one of only 15 in the state and only one other nurse practitioner

- Representative for State Nursing Association, on the State of Alabama Diabetes Advisory Board

- Current in trauma nursing core course, advanced cardiac life support and advanced burn life support

The nurse practitioner is well aware that she had help earning recognition. "We have a great group of people," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of camaraderie here. Our enlisted corps is phenomenal as well as the people in physical exams, the traditional reservists and air reserve technicians."

Her job isn't without challenges, however. The greatest challenge stems from the nature of her profession and the Air Force. NP training is geared toward preventative medicine. The ASTS isn't a treatment facility. Sometimes the decisions or diagnoses healthcare personnel make affect people's careers and they may not be allowed to continue to serve. That's one of the downsides of the job, she said.

"We're dealing with people's lives. Our Airmen are special people."

The healthy Airman...knows his numbers

Health and wellness are the buzz words in the news, on the internet and on the job as we begin a new year. In order to be at your very best in the world of health and wellness you must know your numbers. Four sets of essential numbers regardless of age are cholesterol level, blood sugar, blood pressure, and BMI (body mass index). The acceptable level in these numbers has changed over the last five years as studies have shown lower is better.

CHOLESTEROL LEVEL: Total cholesterol levels are measured by blood testing. Cholesterol is necessary for the formation of the body cell walls and various hormones and bile salts. It has two sources – food we eat and what is synthesized within the body. Desired value is less than 200mgm/dl. Cholesterol is most notorious for its role in the development of cardiovascular disease. While knowing your total cholesterol is important it is also necessary to know the make up of the cholesterol if you have a family history of heart disease, are over 40, have diabetes mellitus (sugar in the blood) yourself, or its in your family and/or you have high blood pressure. The three components of total cholesterol of importance are HDL's, LDL's and triglycerides.

BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL: Alabama ranks No. 1 in the nation for the number of cases of diabetes mellitus known most commonly as sugar in the blood. There are two types of diabetes mellitus. Type 1 usually occurs in the younger population and is an autoimmune disease. This is when the body attacks the cells in the body that make insulin (the hormone used to keep blood sugar under control). Type 2 diabetes is the most common, comprising about 90 percent of the cases. It used to be seen in those over the age of 40 and was called maturity onset. However, with the increase in obesity in children, lack of exercise, and poor

dietary habits, Type 2 diabetes is now seen in all ages. Desired values are 60-110 mgm/dl of glucose (sugar) in a blood sample drawn after 12-14 hours of no calorie intake.

BLOOD PRES-SURE: Simply put, blood pressure measures the pressure put on your blood vessels from the inside out. It is reported in two numbers. The systolic (top number) measures the maximum pressure that occurs when the ventricles (large chambers of the heart) push blood through the body. The diastolic (bottom number) measures the resting pressure or constant pressure on the blood vessels in your heart. Desired values for blood pressure have dropped dramatically over the last five years. Values of less than or equal to 120/80 are the new standards.

BMI (Body Mass Index): The most widely used formula for assessing body weight. It is measured by knowing your body weight and height. Various tables are available to determine this. Desired values are 18.5 to 24.9. Just knowing your weight and height are no longer the most important numbers.

908th AW medical officials urge wing personnel and their families to look for periodic "Healthy Airman" articles in the pages of the "Southern Flyer." These articles aim to help unit members understand the importance of cholesterol level, blood sugar, blood pressure, and BMI numbers and help them improve their numbers. Wing medical officials plan to provide other important health news as well. (Source: Lt. Col. Carol Anders, 908th ASTS)



Infection control tidbit! What is M-R-S-A?

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of bacteria (staph) that is resistant to many antibiotics and is a common cause of healthcare-associated infections. MRSA is often referred to as a "super-bug" due to its strong antibiotic resistance and can also be acquired in the community.

MRSA is a rapidly growing problem. The Centers for Disease Control recently examined the prevalence of MRSA in intensive care units and found a dramatic increase over time.

Staphylococcus is commonly found in the soil, dirty surfaces, on human skin, in lungs and the intestinal tract of healthy persons. It can live for three weeks on a dry surface, can cause skin infections, surgery infections, food poisoning and pneumonia. When food contains staph germs, vomiting is the primary symptom and may occur in one to three hours. Cooking the food will not prevent the illness because it is caused by a toxin released by the cell wall of the bacteria.

For more information on this and other related infections, visit the website; Prevent Infection.org (Source: Maj Donna Roberts, Infection Control Officer, 908th ASTS, at (334) 953-5404)



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

18 AF commander visits

Col. Michael Underkofler and Chief Master Sgt Lyn Whited show Maj. Gen. James Hawkins, center, around the 25th Aerial Port hangar during the general's Jan. 12 visit. General Hawkins commands Air Mobility Command's 18th Air Force. On full mobilization, the 908th AW would fall under 18th AF. After a meeting with Colonel Underkofler and the wing's group commanders, General Hawkins toured the wing.

Bringing them

Reserve crews, aircraft carry wounded to care facilities near homes, duty stations

By Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb
908th AW Public Affairs

Nurses and aeromedical technicians from the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base have been transporting wounded, injured, sick service members home from Andrews AFB, Md., since September when Air Force Reserve Command took over primary responsibility for stateside aeromedical transportation.

Since early December, they have been joined in the effort by 908th aircrews, maintenance people and aircraft.

Operating from three hubs, located at Andrews AFB, Md., Scott AFB, Ill., and Travis AFB, Calif., members of the 775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron care for service members as they are transported to medical facilities near their homes or permanent duty stations.

"The 775th stood up Sept. 21 and we started flying missions that day," said unit commander Col. Allen Gilbar. An active duty unit, 375th AES Provisional, handled the duties prior to September when Air Force Reservists took over responsibility for the mission and the unit was redesignated. The provisional squadron stood up in March 2003 at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 775th is aligned under the 375th Operations Group and is headquartered at Scott AFB, with Detachment 1 at Andrews AFB and Detachment 2 at Travis AFB.

"We are providing the patients we're transporting the best care available anywhere with some of the best nurses, medical technicians and support staff our nation has to offer," said Colonel Gilbar, who

"I'm home!" Army Specialist Lorne Rizzoto celebrates arriving in his home state of North Carolina with Master Sgt. Debra Leddy, an aeromedical technician from McGuire's 514th Airlift Wing, who cared for him during a flight from Andrews AFB Md.

hails from the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. "The overall experience level of our nurses and medical technicians is very high. Many of our nurses have 20+ years of experience. Some were working in high level trauma centers the week before reporting to us. Their attitudes are fantastic."

"We are providing ... the best care available anywhere with some of the best nurses, medical technicians and support staff our nation has to offer."

**Col. Allen Gilbar
775th EAES**

tic since they volunteered and are doing a job they very much wanted to do."

Performing this mission with volunteers represents a change in the way the Air Force Reserve does business and is in keeping with the command's new vision.

Colonel Gilbar says, "As General Bradley (Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander, Air Force Reserve Command) says, 'We are no longer a strategic reserve, we are now an operational command, filling our requirements with volunteerism instead of mobilization.' This operation

supports that concept. We are staffing an active duty squadron on a rotational basis, with one active duty crew assigned to us. The benefits of Reserve management of the squadron and mission are that we provide the flexibility and predictability to make things work for Reservists and their civilian employers."

Eighty people are assigned to the 775th, 75 are reservists and five are active duty. Those Reservists come from units across the command, including major participation from the following units, 315th AW, Charleston AFB, S.C.; 439th AW, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.; 514th AW, McGuire AFB, N.J.; 908th AW; 445th AW, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; 433rd AW Lackland AFB, Texas; and the 349th AW, Travis AFB, Calif. The volunteers are on duty for a year, rotating 60 days at Andrews, Scott or Travis and then 60 days at their home units.

Many of the same units also support the mission with aircraft and personnel – people like Maj. Ron Baumgardner, a navigator with the 908th AW's 357th Airlift Squadron, who said, "There is no better feeling than flying medevac and humanitarian missions that directly impact my fellow compatriots in a positive manner. I would fly 'til I die if I could."

Maj. Kim Coleman, a flight nurse with the 908th AW, was one of several people who voiced similar sentiments. "I left active duty after 8 ½ years to get back into aeromedical evacuation because there is not a better, more satisfying job in the Air Force," she said. Since there are few positions available in the active force, nurses and medical technicians usually are only allowed to serve a single tour in the aeromedical airlift. However, Reservists can fly throughout their career.

Another 908th AW flight nurse, Lt. Col. Sharon Andrews, a critical care nurse from the Chicago area, said she finds her Reserve position so rewarding she regularly commutes over 700 miles each drill weekend from her home in Illinois to perform her Reserve duties at the 908th.

"I feel a real sense of purpose in my mission as an aeromedical technician," said 908th AW member Master Sgt. Tom Haney.



home



903th AES flight nurse Capt. Richard Foote gets a high five from Army Pvt. Amber Zeunen as she was transported home aboard one of the wing's C-130 aircraft. Private Zeunen was injured while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photos by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Litter-borne (above) or walking (below) servicemembers returning from combat received lots of attention at every stop.

greater honor is there than taking care of our heroes and bringing them home?"

Senior Airman Jeanne Zellmer, an aeromedical technician from the 934th Airlift Wing on her first deployment, said, "Although I'm sorry that I will be away from home over the holidays, I am excited to be able to get out and help patients get closer to home. It is satisfying to know I have the skills to provide great patient care, but actually getting out and doing it is awesome!"

Maj. John Crotty, Officer In Charge of 775th EAES Detachment 1 at Andrews AFB, explained that the aeromedical crews were formed to create the best blend of clinical and aircrew experience. "Each crew is a mix of people from different units, with different primary aircraft, C-17s or C-130s, so no matter which platform they fly on, they have at least one expert on that system. At first the crews from each of the bases wanted to fly together and resisted the 'NFL Draft' as they called our system of making crew assignments. However, now that the first group is coming back for their second 60-day rotation, they want to fly with their 'drafted' crews. They've learned a lot from each other as to how things are done at Maxwell, Westover, Charleston, etc., and they can take that fusion of experience back to their home stations."

Approximately 60 percent of the Air Force's aeromedical evacuation capability resides within Air Force Reserve Command. The Air National Guard provides about 35 percent with the remaining 5 percent coming from the active duty force. This was determined to be the most cost-effective method of offering wartime capability with minimum peacetime cost.



Good hands people

Maintainers pitch in to help co-worker, neighbor

On Wednesday morning, Nov. 15, 2006, Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Dearth's vacation suddenly turned from calm to near calamity.

Sergeant Dearth and his wife, Teresa (retired former 908th MXS member), were at home preparing to tackle some home remodeling when around 10:30 a.m., the tornado sirens blared. Less than 30 seconds later, the bathroom window was broken out, there were three holes in the roof, and most of the privacy fence was gone. Sergeant Dearth's new grill (affectionately known as "Grillzilla") was now resting quietly in the neighbor's kitchen window.

The rain continued to pour and in about 15 minutes water started leaking through the ceiling of the Dearth's bedroom. Their only recourse if they wanted to prevent further damage was to climb on the roof and somehow cover the holes, as well as cover or move the bedroom furniture as fast as possible.

Fortunately, help was on the way. Master Sgt. Brent Hardie had called to check on things, and Teresa told him that yes, they could use some help.

"Within 20 minutes, several folks from the 908 MXS Avionics Flight and the 908th Maintenance Operations Flight showed up. They began placing tarps on the roof, moved all bedroom furniture to other parts of the house, then began clearing up pieces of fencing, window, shingles and "grillzilla" from the yard," Teresa said.

While clearing debris from the neighbor's driveway, they noticed that



Members of 908th avionics shop (Sergeants Rollins, Fefelov, Weinzirl and King) help Senior Master Sgt. Dearth, center, and his son AB Matthew Dearth with emergency roof repairs.

the Dearth's neighbor's house had some major roof and window damage. Since the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Geiser, were out of town on vacation the group realized that they would be returning to a mess if something wasn't done.

"The guys immediately went to work. One went to Home Depot to purchase additional tarps; another went home to house borrowing plastic and tarps while the others climbed the roof and began covering the Geiser's roof and windows," Teresa continued.

Mr. Geiser works at Gunter, so someone called his shop to get word to him that his home had suffered severe damage and that it was being taken care of as much as possible.

The Geisers returned home around midnight and came over to express their gratitude to the Dearth's. Although most of their living room furniture was soaked,



Mr. & Mrs. Geiser's damaged home

most of it was saved thanks to the quick response of the folks from the 908th MXS and the 357th AS.

The Dearth's and the Geiser's want to say a special thanks to the following personnel for coming to their aid:

Senior Master Sgt. Terry Shook, Master Sgts. Brent Hardie and Aaran Weinzirl, Tech. Sgts. Ronald "Joe" King

and Keith Rollins, and Staff Sgt. Alexey Fefelov, 908th MXS Avionics Flight

Master Sgt. William Moore, 908th Maintenance Operations Flight plans & scheduling section

Airman Basic Matthew Dearth, 357th AS loadmasters section (story and photos provided by Teresa Dearth)

Wing snapshot



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Dru Amos didn't let a deployment stop her from maintaining her commitment to fitness. The sergeant came home with extra baggage, a trophy for "Strongest (woman) in the AOR." The fitness center manager sent a letter to 908th commander, praising her as "one of the finest and strongest NCOs in the AOR."



Photo by Jeff Melvin

LRS's Tech. Sgt. Anita Gray, shown here issuing a gas mask and A1 bag to newcomer Airman 1st Class Angel Montgomery, is one of the many unsung heroes who make invaluable contributions to the wing's success.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

908th ASTS Master Sgt. Eren Grey-Smithers retires in February. Sergeant Grey-Smithers served as a senior dental technician and "has guided her section through many challenges and excelled as one of my premier senior NCOs," said Col. Ben Busbee, ASTS commander.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

New 357 AS first sergeant Master Sgt. Donnie Freeman gives some feedback to information manager Senior Airman April Lamb. Sergeant Freeman, a 357th member since 1993, got a taste of the job while filling in for his predecessor during a deployment. A law enforcement officer in Nashville in civilian life, he said, "I like dealing with people, I look forward to this challenge."



Lt. Col. Ronnie Roberts



Lt. Col. Sharon Andrews

Two medics to pin on silver eagles

Two 908th AES members were among the 343 Airmen selected for promotion by the fiscal 2007 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Colonel Promotion Selection Board. The board convened Oct. 16-21; the results were announced Dec. 22.



Lt. Cols. Ronnie J. Roberts and Sharon A. Andrews were selected from among a pool of more than 2,000 Air Force Reserve officers considered.

Roberts is the 908th AES commander; Andrews is a flight nurse

Promotion effective dates are based on the individual's line number.

Two others with 908th ties were also selected for promotion, former 908th AES health services administrator Lt. Col. Michael J. Dankosky and former ASTS clinical nurse Lt. Col. Deborah J. Lytal-Britton. (Source: ARPC News Release)

DOD announces changes to Reserve component policy

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) – Department of Defense officials are changing the way they will manage reserve-component forces, announced Dr. Robert M. Gates, secretary of defense Jan. 11.

The first aspect of the policy change will involve the way the department manages deployments of reserve forces. Currently, reserve deployments are managed on an individual basis. In the future deployments will be managed on a unit basis, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments.

The second aspect of the change addresses the maximum mobilization time for members of the reserve forces. Currently, the policy is for a maximum mobilization time of 18 months. The department will reduce the maximum mobilization timeframe to one year.

Third, the policy objective for involuntary mobilization of Guard and Reserve units will remain a one-year-mobilized to five-year-demobilized ratio. However, today's global demands will require a number of selected Guard and Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment-to-demobilization ratio remains the goal of the department, as does the active component's ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.

The fourth aspect of the policy change will establish a new program to compensate individuals in both active and reserve-component forces who are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment ratios. It will also involve servicemembers who are required to extend beyond established rotation-policy goals.

The final aspect of the policy change will direct commands to review their administration of the hardship-waiver program, to

ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed servicemembers.

These policy changes will better allow the department to posture itself for success in the uncertain environment in which it currently operates and well into the future.

Air Force Reserve switches to monthly enlisted promotion cycle

by Staff Sgt. Paul Flipse
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Enlisted Air Force reservists now have a better opportunity to move up in rank.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, approved changing the promotion cycle from every other month to monthly. The change took effect Jan. 1.

"This is truly a 'good-news' story for our enlisted force," said Chief Master Sgt. Jackson Winsett, command chief master sergeant for AFRC.

The change was made to align the enlisted promotion process with the Air Force's Future Total Force concept and facilitate implementation of the Personnel Services Delivery and Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System.

General Bradley also approved a change that will allow retraining senior airmen and below to be promoted before completing their retraining and being awarded a three level in their retraining Air Force specialty code.

"We're fortunate to have a commander who wants his enlisted force to be given every opportunity to succeed, and these actions support his desire," Chief Winsett said.

Air Force Instruction 36-2502, Airman Promotion Program, has more information about enlisted promotions. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

New features available on myPay

ARLINGTON, Va (AFPN) – Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced several improvements have been made to myPay providing customers continued ease for on-line transactions.

A new feature has been added for military service members on the Savings Deposit Program that allows service members serving in designated combat zones an opportunity to deposit a specific amount of money in a high interest rate account.

"Previously, only deposits could be made," said Pat Shine. "Service members can now request withdrawals from the account through myPay and we've added a link to the withdrawal form from the SDP statement."

Another improvement provides military service members access to a printer-friendly option. While all myPay customers can print their own LES' and W2s from the web whenever and wherever, the printer-friendly option allows for higher quality print copies of all documents.

Shine explained that myPay wants to keep customers up-to-date on new information and notifications related to their pay.

"We need current e-mail addresses to send pertinent information to our customers. A new myPay feature asks customers to enter their current e-mail address. Once on file, the system annually certifies the address to make sure it's current."

Shine added that maintaining the safety and security of myPay is a top priority. "We proactively implement new security features on a routine basis to protect our customers against Identity theft and scams," he explained. "The secure technology provided to myPay customers meets or exceeds security requirements in private industry worldwide."

For more about myPay, go to [//mypay.dfas.mil/](http://mypay.dfas.mil/)

Take Note

Congratulations to the following people promoted to the grades indicated:

....to Chief Master Sgt.
Keith Alexander, ASTS

....to Master Sgt.
Thomas Eichorn, ASTS
Derric Hall, 25 APS
Tamara Leonards, ASTS

....to Tech. Sgt.
Dennis Brooks, ASTS
Shatanya Cook, 25 APS

Michael Herman, OSF
John Metcalf, 357 AS
Loretta Moore, 908 AW
Kelvin Pettus, 357 AS
Serina Senegar, 25 APS
Cynthia Shavers, ASTS

....to Staff Sgt.
Clarence Hicks, LRS
Christopher Hines, AES
Toccaro Hunter, LRS
Damion Howell, MSS
Willie Johnson, SVF
Frederick Koehl, 25 APS

Bettie Mercer, ASTS
Benjamin Parnell III, 25 APS
Joellie Reagan, 25 APS
Tanya Stubbs, ASTS
Ronald Wilkes, AMS
Gregory Williams, 357 AS
Jennifer Wilson, CES

....to Senior Airman
Dewanna Robinson, ASTS
Crystal Tremblay, ASTS

....to Airman 1st Class
Mellissa Mollett, CES
Tia Moore, ASTS



Photo by Jeff Melvin

APS member takes part in Africa relief mission

A 25th Aerial Port member, Senior Airman Bryant Culpepper, was one of about 20 Airmen who participated in Operation Unity Knight, a U.S. led relief effort to rain-soaked Kenya in early December.

The team of Airmen, with specialties including aerial port, aircraft maintenance, security forces and a U.S. Navy medic, began work Dec. 8 executing a plan to load and drop 240,000 pounds of relief supplies.

"It means a lot to me to be here," Airman Culpepper said. "The fact that these supplies are going to help people who really need them, I'm proud to be a part of that."

More about Operation Unity can be found on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123034725>

JAG packs house

908th AW staff judge advocate Lt. Col. Dennis Pierson, center, stresses a point while conducting a briefing during one of the monthly PERSCO/MPF in-house training sessions.

908th Airlift Wing
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