

SOUTHERN FLYER



AIRLIFT WING AND A PRAYER

for
HAITI



SOUTHERN FLYER



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PA Officer: Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb
Editor: Gene H. Hughes
Writer: VACANT

Perception can become reality

“We’ve had a little time to decompress and revel in our ORI success, so it must be time to move on to the challenges ahead. In fact, by late spring, we’ll have nearly a third of the wing’s personnel deployed.

Colonel Clark gave us a glimpse of his vision for the coming year at January’s awards ceremony, specifically focused on our desire to be the finest wing in the Air Force. One of his key points was that our perception can become our reality. It really doesn’t matter what others say about our wing; however, it’s crucial how we see ourselves. John Winthrop wrote of America as a “city upon a hill,” to which Ronald Reagan added “shining” to further describe his vision for our nation. That is the way we need to look at the 908th: a beacon to others, a benchmark against which they can measure themselves.

However, we cannot attain this lofty goal unless we’re willing to invest ourselves in its realization. An early boss of mine wrote of the difference between renting and buying, although not in strict real estate

terms. If we view our attachment to the 908th as a rental agreement, we’re likely to see it as short-term and temporary. But if we “invest” in the organiza-

tion, buying in to the vision set out for us, we can picture our fortunes rising with those of the wing. This is the foundation for attaining significant, long-term success. As others recognize this achievement, our positive

reputations will grow accordingly.

Writer Howard Hodgson notes that “Whatever business you are in, you are in a business of relationships.” At the end of the day, we must recognize that good relationships are the foundation for achievement. Many of us developed some “foxhole friendships” during the ORI and learned that having someone believe in you enough to fight with and for you is uplifting. These connections can and should be nurtured and grown.

So, how to we become the best wing in the Air Force? We envision it, we invest ourselves in it, and we continually strengthen and refine the relationships we have with our fellow fighters.

Fight well, fellow Airmen!



COL ROB SHEPHERD
Vice Commander, 908 AW

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

Almost every one of our months is defined by a holiday. It is hard to think of November without Thanksgiving. The month of July is defined by Independence Day. February is no different, defined by Valentine’s Day, or more correctly, St. Valentine’s Day.

Much of this history of the Christian martyr Valentine is lost in the mist of history. The day became associated with romantic love in the Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. Since that time February 14 has been most closely associated with the mutual exchange of “valentines.” One side note – even though men get blamed for forgetting this day – they’ll spend twice as much as women on this day.

We must remember that love is more than words or poems. Love is an action that is expressed for the betterment of the other person, never ourselves. In my faith tradition the Apostle Paul reminds us that, “Love is not self-seeking, but always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.”

True love also always has a sacrificial element. True love never asks, “What’s in this for me?” True love is willing to go the extra mile, pay the extra price, and do whatever is asked for the person or persons to whom it is directed.

This Valentine’s Day, and every day, let us truly show those we love how much we care. Let us do this not with just words and cards, but with actions - each and every day.



Air Force photo/Gene H. Hughes

Capt. Sherteria Scott-Brown and Lt. Col. Donna Roberts inspect the expiration dates on a shipment of Hepatitis B vaccine. Those preparing to deploy should take precautions.

Deployers: Be wary of hepatitis

By Lt. Col. Donna Roberts
908 ASTS

Viral hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused by any one of several viruses, and occurs throughout the world. It is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal liver disorder. There are three known types of viruses that can cause the infection; Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. More than 1.4 million people worldwide and more than 300,000 in the United States contract the illness annually.

Hepatitis A is historically called infectious hepatitis. It is found in the stool of persons infected with the virus, and is spread through person-to-person contact or through contaminated food or water. Common foods contaminated include raw or uncooked shellfish, salads, or unpeeled fruits. Daycare workers who do not use good hand hygiene are at risk for contracting it.

Sometimes referred to as a travel disease, this form of hepatitis is the

most frequently occurring vaccine-preventable infection in travelers.

There are ways you can protect yourself against the virus. Use only bottled or boiled water for drinking or ice cubes, and brushing teeth, when traveling. Do not eat unpeeled fruits, salads, uncooked vegetables, or raw shellfish when eating out. Even in “western restaurants”, these foods could be contaminated.

Do not eat food or drink beverages obtained from street vendors. Always use good hand washing by utilizing friction, soap and water for 12-15 seconds after toileting, before eating, and whenever hands are visibly soiled.

Persons traveling to areas of high endemicity for Hep A, such as Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean should inquire with their medical provider about receiving the vaccine. The Hep A vaccine should be administered at

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COVER PHOTO:

Just two hours after receiving the order, the first of several 908th Airlift Wing C-130s to take part in humanitarian airlift missions to the earthquake-stricken nation of Haiti lifts off from Maxwell AFB.

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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 this office at (334) 953-7874.



U.S. Air Force Photo/
Gene H. Hughes

Recruiters' mission: Go get 'em!

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Being the new kid on the block is usually a disadvantage for most. There are new surroundings, new faces and new rules of the road to learn. It can be an uphill battle.

That's not the case for the recruiters of the 908th Airlift Wing.

The wingmen, based in Birmingham, Huntsville and at Maxwell, recruit exclusively for the reserves, non-prior service people, for a limited area. There's also an in-service recruiter who can place separating personnel close to their homes throughout the country.

Between them, they work an area which covers most of Alabama, part of Georgia, half of Tennessee and a chunk of Mississippi.

Technical Sgt. Edward Norris, who works out of Huntsville, brings his people skills from the insurance and financial services profession to the table. Senior recruiter Master Sgt. William Cox said his ability to relate and administrative talents are a definite benefit.

"He's very good at what he does," said Sergeant Cox. "A lot of people have been impressed with him."

Technical Sgt. Philip Fogleman, who mans the Birmingham station, is relentless and dogged and "always on the road" in his quest to find recruits.



Wing Commander Colonel Brett Clark, center, poses with members of the 908 recruiting team. From left are Technical Sgt. Philip Fogleman, Master Sgt. Steven Kramer, Technical Sgt. Edward Norris, and senior recruiter Master Sgt. William Cox. Not pictured is Master Sgt. Jesse Tremer

This, coupled with his attention to detail and flawless paperwork are major reasons why he is already close to achieving his goal for this year.

Covering the Montgomery area, Master Sgt. Steven Kramer already knows the ins and outs of the recruiting service, having served in that capacity in the Navy. Although everyone in the office is competitive in a naturally competitive business, Sergeant Cox said that Sergeant Kramer "takes it up one more notch."

Prior service recruiter Master Sgt. Jesse Tremer, who also has active-duty experience in the field, covers Maxwell. He has obtained the equivalent of a recruiting hat trick. He is a recipient of the Gold Badge; the highest honor active-duty Air Force recruiting has to offer, the National Guard's top recruiting honor and made the AFRC Century Club.

The wingmen's competitive drive and experiences served them well at the biannual recruiting conference,

held this year at the Air National Guard Combined Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Ga. The office, part of the Eastern Recruiting Squadron, earned top honors for operating locations that support a wing and third place overall.

The team was only outgunned by two officer accession shops, which support multiple wings, and have more available positions to fill.

During the awards dinner, Master Sgt. Steve Kramer was named Top Rookie of the Year.

Each member also made the Century Club, given to wingmen that place 150 percent of their mission goals. Each also won a 110 Percent Badge.

The office's success is nothing new, but this amount is rare, according to Sergeant Cox.

"It's unusual to have all your recruiters make Century Club," he said, "especially in a small ROL like this." Everybody was new to recruiting, still in their first year. They were all in their initial training or supplemental training, which makes it stranger that we won so much."

But they're not resting on their laurels.

For Fiscal Year 2009, the goal was 22 for Sgt. Kramer and 33 for the other offices. This year it's 46 across the board and 35 for Sgt. Tremer, making 173 the office goal. So far, the team is right on target, with 61.

"Everybody's right where they're supposed to be." Sergeant Cox said.

If you know someone who would make a great Airman and would like to help keep the Air Force Reserves strong while winning awards ranging from satellite radios to laptop computers, you might be interested in the new "Get One Now Program." For more info on the program, call Sergeant Cox at 953-6737.



Taking charge

New leadership assumes command

During the January UTA, three officers of the 908th Airlift Wing assumed command of subordinate units. Lt. Col. Craig W. Drescher, left, receiving the unit guidon from 908 Operations Group Commander Col. Edward Jennings, assumed command of the 908th Operations Support Flight. Maintenance group units underwent change as well. Major Madalyn Marlatt took command of the 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Maj. Travis Shults took over the helm of the 908th Maintenance Squadron.

U.S. Air Force photo/Gene H. Hughes



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Barbara Hamman



U.S. Air Force photo/Gene H. Hughes

Fond farewells

Colonel John S. Huguley, who served with the wing from 1986 to 2004 in a variety of maintenance billets, retired recently in a ceremony at Maxwell. Above, Colonel Huguley poses with wife Susan and 908 Command Master Chief Cameron Kirksey. Linda Roberts, former chief master sergeant, the first 908th Airlift Wing Command Chief and longtime member of the Financial Management Office, also retired. Above right, RPA Analyst Mary Henley bids Roberts goodbye at a ceremony at Carraba's Italian Grill in Montgomery.

Haiti

908 BRINGS COMFORT INTO CHAOS

By Gene H. Hughes
908 AW Public Affairs

Personnel and aircraft of the 908th Airlift Wing have been providing much-needed support to the stricken nation of Haiti. The first C-130 Hercules sortie took off at approximately 4 p.m. Jan. 15, and since that time, several additional humanitarian flights have taken place.

The 908 wingmen, whose motto is "Ready ... Always," have been flying to various locations where they have been loading Army personnel and equipment before transporting them to Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

"The 908 has been providing a maximum number of volunteers to move as many airlift missions from the United States into Haiti, particularly Port-au-Prince airport, which has been a very busy place obviously," said Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark.

"I have to say, given all that, on behalf of the AFRC and certainly the 908 and the Air Force, we send our condolences to the people of Haiti in the wake of this immense tragedy. I gotta say that the 908 has had a tremendous response. Only hours



U.S. Air Force photo/
Gene H. Hughes
Flight Engineer Tech. Sgt. Aubrey Walters boards the first 908 C-130H to depart in support of Haitian relief.

after this tragedy occurred we had an incredible amount of volunteers."

To achieve the goal of providing maximum relief to the stricken nation, the earthquake relief effort is a coordinated response between the Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and the U.S. Southern and Transportation commands, two of the seven unified commands under the Department of Defense's umbrella.

Despite the eagerness of 908 personnel to help victims of the recent massive earthquake – all of whom have volunteered – there have been challenges getting planes into the country, due to the large volume of aircraft attempting to deliver supplies.

"Certainly we have capabilities

in excess of what we're sending right now, but one of the limiting factors to what we can put downrange is the density and the amount of air traffic trying to get in there."

The wing commander said that the entire maintenance and operations groups are involved in the effort to produce mission sorties from the pick-up points to the final destination.

Capt. Dave Kemp, co-pilot of a recent mission to Haiti talked about the mission and what it means to 908 members to be a part of it as his plane, loaded with Army vehicles, went through final flight preparations.

"We're headed down to see what we can do and we're going to give them any extra help that we can," he said. "It's very rewarding (being able to help). We know it's not going to be pretty, but we're looking forward to being able to provide support from the State of Alabama, the Air Force Reserve and Air Mobility Command as a whole."

A few days later, when the crew returned to Maxwell, mission pilot Lt. Col. David Hughes spoke about the conditions in the air around Port-au-Prince, once the plane had been handed off from the control



U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Christopher Harris

Above, dust and smoke continue to rise above the stricken city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti days after the devastating earthquake and its powerful aftershock. Right, Capt. Nicholas Poe prepares for the first 908 C-130 departure for Haiti. Below, the combat control team maintains a strict schedule for the daily influx of 100-plus aircraft.

center in Miami.

"When we were switched to Port-au-Prince Control, that's when things were noticeably different," he said. "They simply weren't accustomed to the amount of traffic they were receiving. The arrival and approach is exactly the same as what is flown commercially, and the procedures are pretty straight forward.

"Their lack of radar control, however, makes each radio call last about three times longer than when under radar control as they have to ascertain exactly where you are before they can give you your next instruction. They did quite well considering the sudden workload."

Colonel Hughes said the runway and taxiway seemed unaffected by the earthquake and increased traffic.



U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Christopher Harris



U.S. Air Force photo/Gene H. Hughes

He said he feels humbled by the efforts being put into the relief operations.

"We have, by far, the easiest job when compared to what the folks on the ground are being asked to do," he said. "The people we worked directly with on the ramp (C-130 maintenance, Aeromedical Evacuation personnel, and Operational Support Squadron members from Hurlburt Field, Fla.) were deployed within hours of notification and are tentatively scheduled to be running 24 hour ops for two weeks to 45 days ... or longer. Most of these people are sleeping in tents within 100-300 feet from the helicopter ops area and aircraft ramp."

Airlifts continue to transport supplies into Haiti. Within the past few days, the wing has also flown injured evacuees out.

"It's done my heart good to see what we can muster in such a short period of time when it comes to this kind of mission," Colonel Clark said. "I couldn't be prouder of the 908 than I am at this moment."

908's ORI SUPERSTARS



Receiving AMC IG coins are Master Sgt. Barbara J. Hamann, Master Sgt. Mary K. Hawkins, Master Sgt. Ronald A. LeBoeuf, Technical Sgt. Stephanie R. Rudolph, Technical Sgt. Daniel B. Varnes Jr. and Staff Sgt. Dwayne F. Curtis.

Master Sgts. Dennis Ellis, Joel Stanfield, John Farris, Tech. Sgts. James Mayo Jr., John Vaughn Jr., Pat Brown Jr., Randy McGonigal, Staff Sgt. William Gibson, Senior Airmen Kevin Summersill and Marc Joyner.



Airfield Damage Repair Team was also recognized. They are Major William Friday Jr., Master Sst. Darrell Willson, Tech. Sgt. Michael Ralph, Tech. Sgt. Troy Stokes, Tech Sgt. Stephanie Woods and Staff Sgt. Bennie Smith III.

At the January UTA Commander's Call, The Inspector General team from Air Mobility Command and Col. Brett Clark, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing honored several 908 airmen for exceptional performance during the recent ORI.



Singled out for individual recognition are Major Richard O. Foote Jr., Major Kevin D. Fuqua, Master Sgt. William J. Lyndall, Technical Sgt. Christopher J. Foley, Technical Sgt. Douangmala S. Ordinario, Technical Sgt. Christine I. Sowell, Technical Sgt. Catherine M. Coats, Staff Sgt. Nakeya T.C. Livingston and Senior Airman Caleb M Kohler



Recognition was given to the Aeromedical Staging Nursing Team, 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. They are Major Noreen A. Burke, Major Bonnie P. Gary and Major Linda C. Peacock.



Real-world medical team members deployed during the ORI were Captain Russell Shoultz, Chief Master Sgt. Kimberly Devore, Senior Master Sgt. Quadro Smith and Master Sgt. James Chaney.

HEPATITIS, FROM PAGE 3

least two weeks before departing.

In those who develop symptomatic hepatitis A, flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, and a general feeling of weakness may occur. Other symptoms include anorexia, nausea, jaundice, dark urine, and abdominal pain.

Hepatitis B is commonly known as serum hepatitis. This virus is found in blood and other body fluids, including urine, tears, semen, vaginal secretions, and breast milk. It is usually spread by contact with infected blood or blood products.

Transmission can occur through close interpersonal contact, including sexual contact and the sharing of razors or toothbrushes. Many people may be infected but never have symptoms. If they do occur, symptoms are similar to those of Hep A, in addition to muscle and joint pain. It is reported that 5-10 percent of persons who become infected with Hep B become chronic carriers.

Even though this group is usually asymptomatic, they have the greatest potential for developing long-term complications, such as cirrhosis and liver cancer. Hepatitis B appears to be the most serious because of the many ways it can be acquired and its potential for complications.

Like the Hepatitis B virus, the Hepatitis C virus may be spread through contact with contaminated blood or through household or sexual contact with an infected person. Hepatitis C can be contracted through poorly screened blood transfusions.

No specific treatment for viral hepatitis exists as therapy is directed at relieving symptoms. Knowing and adhering to good infection control practices is the best prevention.

Please contact your Infection Control Officers; Lt Col Donna Roberts or Maj Catherine Moore at the ASTS for information or comments. Website information can be found at CDC.com

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE



SMSgt. Brent Hardie
SNCO, 1st Qtr
SNCO of the Year



TSgt. William Tidwell
NCO, 1st Qtr



SRA Charles Martin
Airman, 1st Qtr



Capt. Derek Shehee
CGO, 2nd Qtr
CGO of the Year



MSgt. Marshall Sims
SNCO, 2nd Qtr



TSgt. Michael Freeman
NCO, 2nd Qtr



SrA. Michael Sullivan
Airman, 2nd Qtr



1Lt. Tracie Hall
CGO, 3rd Qtr



MSgt. Marty Ashley
SNCO, 3rd Qtr



SSgt Stephanie Woods
NCO, 3rd Qtr
NCO of the Year



SrA William Garrison
Airman, 3rd Qtr
Airman of the Year



MSgt. William Rupinen
1stSgt of the Year

DOG DAY AFTERNOON



U.S. Air Force photo/Gene H. Hughes

Major Sarah Butler, commander of the 908 Mission Support Flight, right, smiles at daughter Alexis. The 10-year-old, who has cerebral palsy, was recently selected to receive a helping dog through a combined effort of the Defense Commissary Agency, Milk-Bone and Canine Assistants. Sometime this summer, Alexis will take part in a special camp where she will be specially matched with her dog. The pair will then undergo two weeks of training.

PROMOTION ORDERS

ENLISTED

Master Sergeant

Caterina J. Durham
John M. Metcalf Jr.

Technical Sergeant

Thomas Q. Mullen
Jessica K. Self
Michael A. Smith

Staff Sergeant

Zola A. Barbour
Abby R. Helton
Nicole A. Plummer
Phillip J. Rosenow
Courtney E. Tremer
Taran N. Walker

Senior Airman

Gary Broaden
Bobby T. Jackson

Airman 1st Class

Parthina M. Armor
Nakesany T. McMillian

Airman

Cory D. Ledesma
Deonte K. Malone
Daniel K. Mayben
Joshua T. Stolley

Congratulations!



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BRIEFS

Leadership development

The AFRC Force Development Branch is seeking candidates for the Junior Officer Leadership Development Course. This course is scheduled for April 29 through May 2 at Dover AFB Del. The company-grade officers course is a professional development opportunity providing valuable tools and skills in leadership principles and practices.

Applicants should gain unit/group commander approval and

submit attached application to MSgt Belinda Ray (953-6771) by Monday, March 24.

Drill team seeks assistance

Sidney Lanier High School is requesting help with their annual Drill Team Competition scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20. A planning meeting is set for Thursday, Feb. 18 at 4:50 p.m. If interested, contact Master Sgt. Melvin Watts at Melvin.Watts@maxwell.af.mil

