

**EDUCATOR, WING LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, PG. 6-7**

# SOUTHERN FLYER



**P**ast  
*resent*

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**G.I. BILL BENEFITS: PASS THEM ON!**

**DEPLOYED 908 WINGMEN SHINE**

**ALUMNI GATHER FOR ANNUAL DINNER**

**AIR FORCE RESERVE**

**908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB**

**MAY 2010**

# SOUTHERN FLYER



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

# Not in the fight alone

“One of the best features of the C-130 H2 aircraft is it can land on nearly any strip of concrete, dirt or grass, day or night, with up to 92 ground troops or 42,000 pounds of cargo. It can drop 64 fully-equipped paratroopers or pallets of cargo with pinpoint accuracy. Its one fine aircraft, exactly what our combatant commanders are demanding.



COL. MCCAULEY VON HOFFMAN  
Maintenance Group Commander

It does have one disadvantage — it’s slow. Because of this, our aircrews have adjusted their training in preparation for their upcoming combat operations. They practice short, steep descents with steep banking maneuvers. Why? Because it reduces the time our aircraft and crews are exposed in critical flight. That’s right, they are practicing counterattack maneuvers, practicing watching for ground fire, and studying current intelligence briefs.

As a reminder, it is not just the Soldiers, Marines, and Special Forces of all services that come under fire — it is our very own 908th Airmen. Although only the six-person aircrew will execute the missions in hostile territory, they cannot do so in isolation. The deployed maintainers and supply folks will provide the safest aircraft possible. Our finance and personnel offices back home will ensure that our deployed personnel can focus on providing combat airlift and aeromedical evacuation without having to worry about whether they are in DEERs or their voucher will be paid. Our chaplains, first sergeants, JAGs, and super- visors will meet every family emergency that may arise, and through the efforts of our CES and ASTS, they’ll be fully-trained and medically qualified. Although a few are going overseas, it will take all of us to ensure the primary mission of this wing is met. I am fully confident that together we will do precisely that.

Deployers, make sure family members know we are here to meet their needs. Leave them with a phone number to call and encourage them to let us know if they need help. We’d rather fix the problem right away than have them lose sleep over something we can resolve and reduce their stress. Good luck and God Speed!

## A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

Have you ever taken time to notice what happens when you cast a stone into a still pond or lake? I’m sure you’ve noticed the ripples it causes. They start at the point of impact and then extend further out. What’s also interesting is the larger the object – the greater the “ripple.”

This past UTA I was at two funerals of people connected to the wing. In each instance, people stood and shared how the deceased had affected their lives. Their actions caused a ripple effect around them, and others were affected by those actions.

It was wonderful that in both instances, people were affected positively. In several stories lives were radically changed and altered for the better.

We have all heard the cliché that “actions have consequences.” This is very true, and some of these consequences are neither seen nor expected. They are the effects our actions have on others. We do not do good or bad in a vacuum – others see and are affected by the actions we choose. If I choose to drive my car well past the speed limit, my actions affect not only me, but ripple over to others as well.

It is my prayer we will take time to recognize, before we leave this world, how we affect others. May we take time to be positive and shining examples. May it be said of us that people were affected positively by our actions.



Long-term exposure to acids, like those in sodas, can break down tooth enamel, resulting in expensive dental repair.

# For enamel, acid’s a bad trip

By Maj. Rory Frederick  
908 ASTS

Most of us realize a connection between what we eat and our overall health, but a lot of us don’t know about the effect of food and drink on our teeth. The main thing to be aware of when considering food’s effect on our teeth is that acid dissolves enamel.

Acid can enter the mouth in beverages, such as soda, coffee, wine, citrus juices or sports and energy drinks. Acid can also be produced in the mouth when the sugars in the foods we eat are converted to acid by the bacteria that live in the mouth on the surface of our teeth and within the gums.

So how is it possible for the hardest substance in our bodies to be destroyed by this acid? Enamel is 95 percent mineral. The acid acts like a magnet to draw out the mineral content from within the molecular (crystal) structure of the enamel. If the missing mineral content (calcium) is not replaced in time the crystal structure of the tooth collapses.

To defend our teeth against this acid attack we need to limit the amount of time our teeth are exposed to acid (gulp a 12-oz. soda with a meal vs. sip one liter over an afternoon). We can also defend our

teeth by exposing them to fluoride, limiting sticky, sugary and starchy foods and brushing and flossing to remove food stuff and bacteria from the enamel surface.

The body actually defends the teeth pretty well against acid with the saliva in the mouth. The saliva will buffer the acid back to a normal pH as long as the acid is a limited amount over a short period of time. The saliva also contains minerals to replace what may have washed out during contact with acid. Increasing exposure of the enamel to fluoride either through toothpaste, fluoride mouth rinse, or fluoride in water will replace missing mineral and bond stronger to the crystal structure than the calcium that it replaces.

## Tooth friendly tips

- ◆ **Substitutes** for sticky sugary starchy snacks (cupcakes, chips, crackers, etc.) are foods like cheese, apples, carrots, pears. However, limit exposure of tooth enamel to citrus fruit or juice due to citric acid.
- ◆ **Chew gum** - preferably sugarless or xilitol gum, this will stimulate saliva production and it will also mechanically remove food stuff stuck to the enamel surface.
- ◆ **Drink more water** to increase saliva flow.

## SOUTHERN FLYER

### COVER PHOTO:

Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, command chief of the 908th Airlift Wing, poses with Elaine Grimes, widow of the wing’s first command chief, the late Chief Master Sgt. Billy Grimes.

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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/  
Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb



Staff Sergeant Aaron Knight, 908th Airlift Wing education program manager, discusses education benefits with Senior Airman Chemetaya McMillian. He wants wing members to know that Post 9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33) benefits can be transferred to spouses and children.

# Chapter & Pur\$e

POST 9/11 GI  
BILL BENEFITS  
ARE GOOD

... PASS IT ON.

By Gene H. Hughes  
Senior Master Sgt. Chemetaya McMillian, 908th AW Public Affairs  
In his presence, visiting units, making himself available and possessing an acute knowledge of education programs has paid off for Staff Sergeant Aaron Knight. Since November of 2007, when he first became the 908th Airlift Wing's education program manager, his numbers are the best in the wing's history.

"We've had the most Community College of the Air Force graduates since I've been in this position," he said.

Where 20 graduates would be considered a good number for a fiscal year, Sergeant Knight helped 35 wingmen reach that goal in 2009. And with a new education benefit program for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, he's positive he can increase that figure.

"Under the Post -9/11 G.I. Bill (Chapter 33), if

you've been in the armed forces at least six years, you can transfer the bill to your spouse," he said. "If you've been in for 10 years, you can then transfer the benefit to your children. As a Reservist, you must be activated for at least 90 days of aggregated (nonconsecutive) time since Sept. 11, 2001.

To obtain the benefit for previous chapters, a member must have 90 consecutive days of service.

The benefit pays the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed that of the most expensive in-state undergraduate program. According to Sergeant Knight, this depends upon the zip code of the institution the member, spouse or children decided to attend. In addition, the benefit pays a monthly housing allowance up to E-5, with dependents.

"That's paid directly to you," he said. "And on top of that, they pay up to \$1,000 book stipend that year. So it's an awesome benefit."

If a member wants to find out how much of a benefit he/she is entitled to, Sergeant Knight said the first thing is print out the individual's point summary sheet and figure out how many active-duty days have been accumulated since 9/11. This determines the percentage of benefit that can be received.

The point summary sheet will also aid Sergeant Knight in determining which of the four chapters of the G.I. Bill is more beneficial to the member.

"That's a major decision," he said. "Once you decide to become eligible for Chapter 33, you lose the opportunity for all other chapters. It's an irreversible decision. You can't go back."

He added that most members want Chapter 33 benefits, not for themselves, but their children or spouse.

"They'll stay eligible for tuition assistance or tuition reimbursement which pays up to \$250 per semester hour not to exceed \$4,500 per fiscal year," he said. "That goes toward any tuition, and as long as they're pursuing a degree, they're eligible for that benefit."

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Knight, 908th Airlift Wing Education Program Manager at 953-6771.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES



Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Taylor, 908 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, presents Staff Sgt. Cortney Tremor of the 908 ASTS with the Sharp Wingman of the Quarter Award. The Sharp Wingman Award is a quarterly award given by the Chief's Group to highlight exceptional enlisted members in the wing. A chief nominates somebody outside of his or her organization for the award. According to Chief Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, 908 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Sergeant Tremor was nominated by the Maintenance Group for providing extraordinary customer service in preparing the men and women of OPS and MX for the upcoming deployment. Chief Alexander said that while both groups made numerous last-minute changes to the DRMD, Sergeant Tremor would immediately delete and add the changes in PIMR to see exactly what the members needed, and spearheaded the huge push to get all deployment medical requirements accomplished in one UTA -- willingly accepting last minute stragglers. Throughout the hectic ordeal she remained calm, professional, and always smiled, representing the core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence.



Senior Master Sgt. Connie Rollins, 908 LRS, waves while receiving special recognition in a ceremony with the Air Force Thunderbirds during the recent Maxwell Air Show.

Earl Dickerson, a sixth-grade educator, is the 2010 Montgomery County Teacher of the Year. When he puts on his uniform as a member of the 908th Airlift Wing, right, he brings his organizational skills to Logistics Plans.

Courtesy photo/  
Earl Dickerson



# Old school

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

Making selfless sacrifices on behalf of others is a hallmark of military service. The history of the armed forces is overflowing with tales of those who have made such sacrifices, both great and small.

While Airman First Class Earl Dickerson has never taken a bullet meant for another, the traditional ethics and values of the 908th Airlift Wing Reservist exemplifies the quality of spirit and selflessness any commander would like to have.

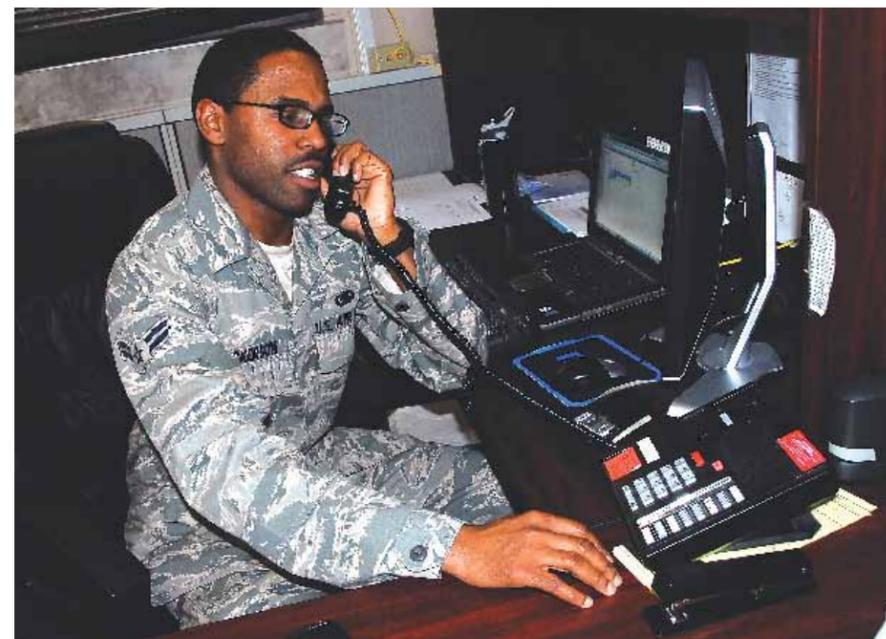
Aside from his military service, Airman Dickerson teaches sixth-grade math, science and social studies at W.S. Garrett Elementary School in Montgomery, Ala., and he's one of the best educators in the area. He has been named 2010 Teacher of the Year for the school, and 2010 Elementary Teacher of the Year for all of Montgomery County, out of a field of 2,000 educators.

He almost joined the service upon graduation from high school, but changed his mind and went for his degree instead. The service was never far from his mind. He has an uncle who retired from the Air Force who was very influential in his youth.

"After all the years I've been teaching, I realized the sacrifices that others have made for me to gain and maintain my freedom," he said. "So I finally decided to join the Reserves. I have two important jobs now; teaching the students and defending my country."

Airman Dickerson, a member of the Logistics Readiness Squadron, joined the wing in March of 2009. As with many Reservists, he has been able to benefit

## Reserve service educational for award-winning teacher



from the crossover of skills and experience between military service and civilian employment.

Being a teacher has its advantages when he comes to work at the wing, he said.

"You have to just be ready for anything and everything that's possible. You have to be aware at all times. I work with sergeants who are great at what they do, and I'm learning from them each and every day.

"I'm a better teacher because my job in logistics teaches me how to plan how to move people and materials efficiently," he said. "Also, my service shows me how to get the students to be responsible for their own actions and have some discipline.

You may be smart, but if you don't have that discipline, that self control, you won't get too far in life. That's what I try to take back with me."

The Reserves and wing logistics benefit because he gives them "an individual who has great personal discipline and who understands and appreciates the importance of getting into the books and Air Force Instructions in order to help learn their job," according to Capt. Hope Norton, Logistics Plans chief.

"What work organization wouldn't be more successful because of a member like that? When you're around someone who's disciplined and takes pride in what they do, it just rubs off on you. It inspires you

to become an even better Airman."

Airman Dickerson also gives of himself through community activities, such as church functions, service organizations and voter-registration programs. He is involved with the Salvation Army, Montgomery Area Food Bank, and the United Way, as well as his local Neighborhood Watch program.

He also holds a bachelors in elementary education from Troy State University, and a Masters and his education specialist degree in educational leadership, or administration, from Auburn University Montgomery.

With such a high degree of education, Airman Dickerson could have easily obtained the advancement, opportunities and benefits becoming an officer would offer -- benefits his recruiter and several classmates at basic training were quick to point out. But the perks weren't why he decided to serve.

"I just wanted to make sure I'm giving back," he said. "I have a family, and I want to make sure that my son and daughter have the same freedoms that I have today, and I want to be a part of that. I wasn't concerned about the pay. That's not where my heart is."

He still has the option of becoming an officer, but for the time being, the married father of two is content to learn; and through his example, he might have a few lessons to teach as well.

# EXTRAORDINARY AIRMEN ASSIST EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS

## IN IRAQ ...



Three members of the 908th Airlift Wing's 25th Aerial Port Squadron are branching out into new territory. Technical Sgts. Patrick Clark, Shantanya Cook and Kristy McGrue, above, have taken on the responsibility of being managers of the commercial tender program, which ships military cargo on commercial cargo aircraft. Since taking charge of the program, the wing members have moved 288 pallets weighing 612 short tons, saving the government approximately \$2.5 million in a month. "They utilize a multitude of aircraft types (including the Antonov An-12 and An-124, the Ilyushin Il-76, the Tupolev Tu-204 and the Boeing 727) and have done an outstanding job learning this new program and executing it to its fullest potential," said Chief Master Sgt. Harold Whited, 25 APS transportation superintendent.



Master Sgt. Derric Hall, Tech. Sgt. Debbie Walker, Tech. Sgt. Kristy McGrue and Staff Sgt. Frank Mitchell, members of the 25th Aerial Port Squadron, reenlist while deployed to Iraq. 25 APS photos/CMSgt. Harold Whited



Members of the 25 APS, along with 332d ELRS commander, Lt. Col. Charlesworth, won the Joint Base Balad open mic night competition. Above, Senior Airmen Taurean Omoregie and Nathan McCrary, Airman First Class Travion Spell, Staff Sgt. Brandon Foster, and Colonel Charlesworth.

## ... IN AFGHANISTAN



Major Richard Foote (left) and Tech. Sgt. Chris Hines of the 908th Airlift Wing, assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Flight, give medication to a wounded U.S. servicemember in a C-130 over Afghanistan.

Right, Tech. Sgt. Karen Hamblin, left, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Shock, 451st Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron technician, brief patients loaded onto a C130J prior to take-off March 25 at Camp Bastion. Sergeant Hamblin, of the 908th AES, helped load six patients onto the aircraft to take to Kandahar Airfield for further treatment.

Air Force photo/Senior Airman Nancy Hooks



Background photo of Iraq red air courtesy of CMSgt. Harold Whited



Col. Brett Clark, 908th Airlift Wing commander, meets with Elaine Grimes, widow of the late Chief Master Sgt. Billy Grimes, first command chief of the wing, and members of his family. Chief Grimes was honored for his service to the wing at the annual Alumni Dinner April 10.

Photos/ Gene Beasley, Patti Beasley and Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

# Goldtimers

Alumni dinner celebrates wing's treasured past

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

Current and former members of the 908th Airlift Wing shared stories of the unit's past, while learning about its future as they gathered April 10 for the annual Alumni Dinner.

During the event, the late Chief Master Sgt. Billy Grimes, the wing's first Command Chief, known at the time as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, was honored with a special award, accepted by his widow. Knowing the significant impact the wing had on his life, yet unaware of the presentation, eight members of his family traveled from Chicago at the last minute to attend the event.

"When I presented Mrs. Grimes with the honorary trophy there was an immediate outburst of emotion from one of the granddaughters," said Command Master Chief Cameron Kirksey. "It was truly one of the most humbling and heartfelt moments I've experienced as Command Chief by far. I will never forget that moment."

Chief Grimes served from November 1979 to June 1990, and passed away in November of 2009.



Former members of the 908th Airlift Wing join together at the annual Alumni Dinner. Left, Sue Parker, Gene Beasley and Terry Parker share a laugh. Below, left, Jerry Roland, Flo Edwards and Harold Taylor pose for a photograph.



# (Heart)beat cop

Member of 908 SFS saves cardiac victim

By Susan Griggs  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. -- There are angels among us ... and some of them are in uniform.

About 5:15 a.m. Friday, Tech. Sgt. James Harrell Jr. was on his way home from a shift with the 81st Security Forces Squadron. As he traveled west on Pass Road, he turned south onto Rodenberg Avenue -- not his normal route home.



HARRELL

"I can't explain it ... I just decided to turn there," said Sergeant Harrell, a familiar face at Keesler for the past six years. He's actually assigned to the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., but is on temporary duty here.

As he approached Irish Hill Drive, he saw something in the eastbound lane ... a body. An elderly man who had been walking his dog collapsed in the road. Sergeant Harrell rushed to his aid, while the clerk at a nearby store called 911.

"He wasn't breathing and he had no pulse," he recalled. "People kept driving by, but didn't stop to help."

He credited his Air Force first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training with his ability to keep the man alive for five to seven minutes

until the emergency response arrived.

"My response was automatic -- this man needed help," he continued. "It was very intense and seemed to take forever. When the EMTs got there, he was flat-lined ... he'd had a massive heart attack and they had to shock him five times to bring him back."

The emergency responders took the victim to Biloxi Regional Medical Center and Sergeant Harrell headed for home, emotionally and physically drained by the incident. One thought kept nagging him -- did the man survive?

Later that day, a call came from the Biloxi Police Department -- the stricken man had survived and was in serious but stable condition. The official police report noted that the hospital staff said that due to Sergeant Harrell's quick actions, the man would probably recover without serious consequences.

"I'm so glad that gentleman survived," Sergeant Harrell commented. "It was an incredible experience -- knowing you've helped another human being is very rewarding."

Perhaps the greatest reward was the phone call he received from his 10-year-old daughter, Taylor.

"Daddy, God sends angels," Taylor insisted. "God sent you to help that man."

## CLIMBING HIGHER

ENLISTED

Master Sergeant



David N. Reza

Technical Sergeant



Jamaal R. Dewberry  
Joel F. Howell  
Kenneth D. Kibble  
Rickey Martin  
Timothy B. Smith

Staff Sergeant



Brandon N. Foster  
Ian W. Murphy

Senior Airman



Gregory W. McGhee Jr.

Airman 1st Class



Michael T. Micklowck

Airman



Ashley N. Bailey  
Andrew S. Burris

*Congratulations!*



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