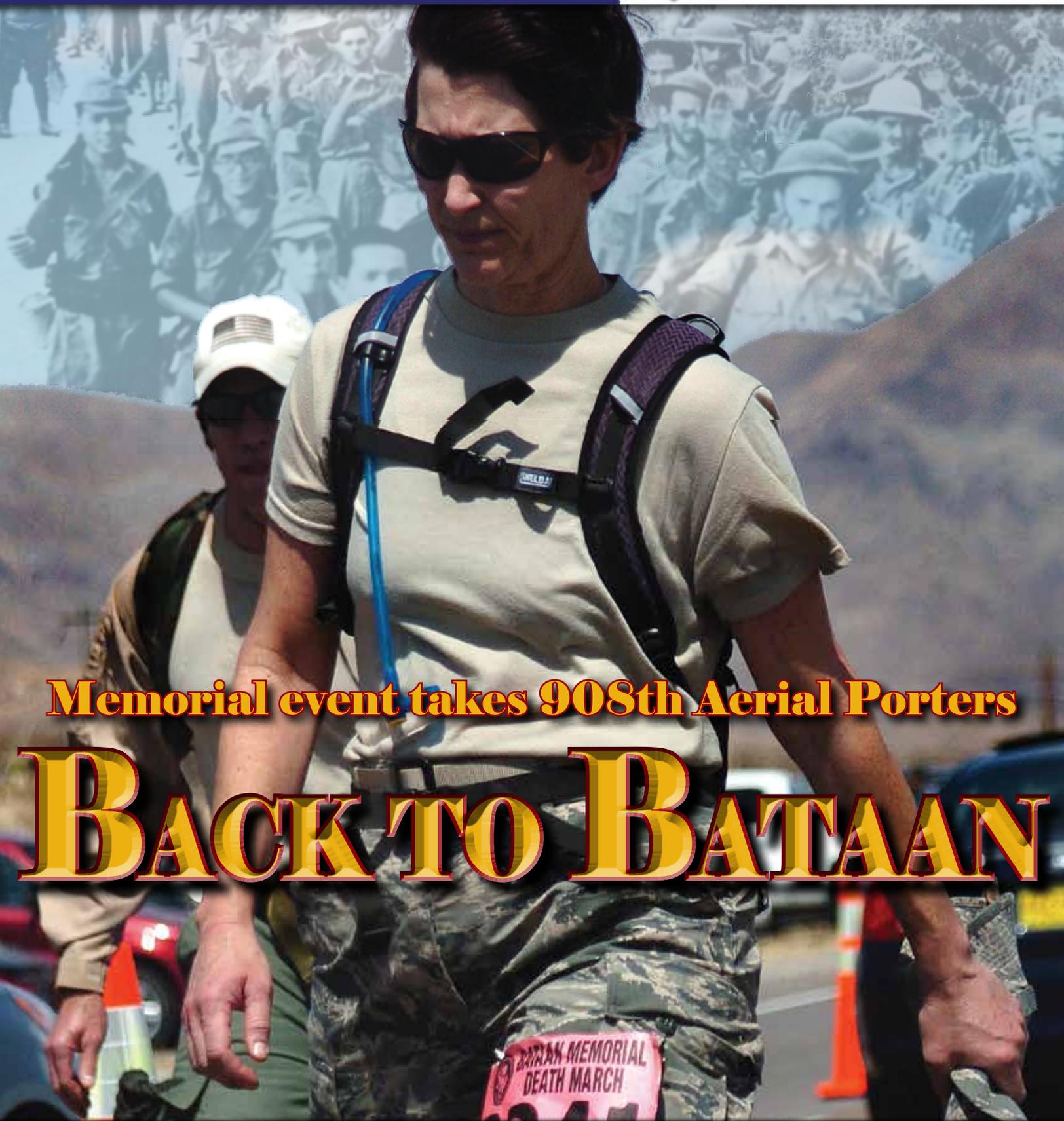


**MSG COMMANDER EMBARKING FOR BARKSDALE PGS. 4-5**

**SOUTHERN**



**FLYER**



**Memorial event takes 908th Aerial Porters**

# **BACK TO BATAAN**

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

**FIT TO FIGHT STRATEGY**

**MAINTAINING THE STANDARDS**

**HELPING BOSTON'S VICTIMS**



**AIR FORCE RESERVE**

**908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB**

**MAY 2013**

# SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 50 Issue 05  
Month 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*  
Maj. George Hilyard
- 03 *Chaplain: Transitions*  
Money Matters: Surcharges  
Leaders' Notebook
- 04-05 *MSG commander*  
heading to Barksdale
- 06-07 *Port Dawgs take part in*  
Bataan March memorial
- 08 *Minot 'Milkman' builds*  
support for aircraft
- 09 *Maintainers win monthly*  
excellence award in AOR
- 10 *News briefs*  
Promotions
- 11 *UTA schedule/*  
General info
- 12 *Vaya Con Dios!*

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PA Officer: Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb  
Editor: Mr. Gene H. Hughes  
Writer: Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder  
Writer: Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival

# Fit to Fight: A matter of will

Those of us "old hats" who have been around AFRC for a while have seen the Fit to Fight Program evolve from a mile and a half run to a three mile walk, to the current program of proper aerobic conditioning, strength/flexibility training, and healthy eating.

The governing instruction regarding how the Air Force and its Reserve is to run the program is AFI 36-2903. Now with all the legal stuff being said, this is

what this writer would like for you to get out of this article.

If you look at it from the Air Force perspective, you are an asset to the organization. You are a much better asset if you are physically conditioned to handle the stresses of war and conflict. And on a personal note, you just might live longer, too!

I had the pleasure of helping with the F2F testing during a UTA. As I stood at the halfway point to call out times and give some encouragement, low and behold — in the distance came the first runner. As I strained to see just who it was, I was expecting one of the young airmen to be lead-

ing the pack. But to my amazement, it was a 50-plus-year-old leading by a large margin! Now this person is not a marathon runner or anything close, so after the run, I went to ask him the secret for his success.



MAJ. MICHAEL HILYARD  
DO, 908th AES

His secret: Walking every day! Plus, he works on his muscular numbers by doing 40 pushups every day. So, you don't have to be a physical fitness guru to pass the F2F, you just have to be willing to work at it more than a couple of weeks prior to the test.

Trust me, you can tell the people who have done that to get ready. Too little, too late!

Find a partner to exercise with, most people will continue to exercise when they have someone to encourage them. Try to do some fun runs in your local community, 3Ks, 5Ks and even 10Ks. No one says you have to run the whole distance; in fact even professional athletes use a run-walk routine. This is much easier on your heart, and they say their running times are even faster with a burst of energy off of the walk cycle.

As the Nike slogan says, "Just Do It!"

## A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) DAVID DERSCH

This upcoming UTA we celebrate as our LRS, Maintenance, and Ops deployers return home from their four months overseas. Each of these Airmen and their families will experience some kind of transition as they reunite and get back into the swing of things at their work places.

Many will graduate from college or high school and experience another major transition as they leave one chapter behind and begin another. Personally, my last of five children graduates high school and will be leaving home. This means that Marcia and I will face an empty nest for the first time in 27 years — a big transition for us!

And then there are transitions in the 908th. Col Peterson will soon be moving on to Louisiana. Lt. Col. Stephen Wales joins us as the CES commander this month. And Deputy Wing Chaplain, Maj. Jamie Danford, has departed to be the Wing Chaplain at Dobbins.

Ch. Danford has been with the 908th more than 10 years, so this is going to be a huge transition for both him and us. Transitions can be scary, but they are also times of excitement and opportunity. While no one can exactly replace someone who leaves us, God in His Providence brings new people into our lives to bless us. We'll miss Father Jamie and his unique personality! Please say a special prayer for Chaplain Danford as he becomes the spiritual leader at the 94th Airlift Wing.



# Sir, your surcharges

Merchants can now assess fees to credit, government travel cards

By Maj. Charnellec Joyner  
908th FM

This month's article focuses on Government Travel Card surcharges, which went into effect in January.

As the result of a recent settlement between a class of retailers and the card associations (MasterCard and Visa), beginning January 27, merchants in the United States and U.S. territories are now permitted to impose a surcharge on credit/charge card transactions to cardholders who present a MasterCard or Visa branded card for purchase.

Surcharges are additional fees that a merchant adds to the cost of a purchase when a customer uses a charge/credit card.

◆ The surcharge rate may not

exceed four percent of the amount for each transaction.

◆ Surcharges may not be added to debit, prepaid or cash purchases.

◆ This surcharge can be applied to ALL MasterCard or Visa branded credit/charge cards, to include the Government Travel Charge Card (both IBAs & CBAs).

◆ Merchants are required to notify customers before an actual purchase — at the store entrance and at the point of sale — or in an online environment, on the first page that references credit card brands.

For additional information about merchant surcharging, please visit the link below:

[http://usa.visa.com/personal/using-visa/checkout\\_fees/index.html](http://usa.visa.com/personal/using-visa/checkout_fees/index.html)

# The toughest person to lead is always yourself!

To be successful in any endeavor, we need to learn how to get out of our own way. Blind spots hamper our leadership by obscuring the habits and behaviors that are holding us back. If we don't develop self-awareness, then we'll keep bumping into the same roadblocks.

When we are foolish, we try to conquer the world, but as we gain wisdom, we begin to concentrate on conquering ourselves. If tomorrow you were to demonstrate greater self-

leadership to the people you lead, what would you be doing that you haven't done before?

## Monthly Leadership Challenge

This month, identify and implement practices to increase self-leadership.

- ◆ Consult a mentor
- ◆ Implement three specific practices
- ◆ Reflect on your results.



## SOUTHERN FLYER

### COVER PHOTO:

Tech. Sgt. Tracy Piel of 25 APS makes her way through the course as she takes part in the recent 24th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March (Photo Illustration by Gene H. Hughes)

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 this office at (334) 953-7874.

# Peterson's recipe for success

## Support group commander proud of Airmen's accomplishments as he departs

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder  
908th AW Public Affairs

Take a salty commander, throw in two cups of experience, a cup of worldly wisdom and a dash of common sense and you get a whole lot of leadership.

The result is Col. Roy A. "Pete" Peterson, commander of the 908th Mission Support Group.

Two years after assuming that command, Peterson is preparing to travel to Louisiana where he will be the mission support group commander for the 307th Air Base Wing at Barksdale, AFB.

"I honestly believe because of Col. Peterson, we're better today than we were the day he walked into the door," said Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy, group superintendent. "I wished he wasn't leaving this soon because there's still a lot of work to do, but there's been a definite improvement since he's been here. The things he has done to build up this group and support this group has just been phenomenal."

It's easy to tell the colonel loves his job. Peterson, who can make an audience laugh with his disarming charm, also knows how to command respect. He has done this by both example and instruction.

Peterson has definitely been changing the recipe since his arrival, and that comes from experience. After 15 years active duty, he spent a six-year hiatus from the military as a restaurateur.

"It was a Caribbean restaurant, they had never had one in Oklahoma City," he said.

With an obvious affection for cooking culinary delights along with his wife, Peterson continues to cook for family and friends.

When Peterson arrived at the 908th, he immediately began spicing things up. He began by instilling confidence and building morale. Peterson said he feels this has been his greatest accomplishment here.

"(I'm proud to have) each and every person in the MSG know he/she is an important entity of their unit,

group, and wing; that their confidence has been restored and they can wear their swagger through their new-found or regained subject-matter expert (SME) status."

For Peterson, this was made evident when the 908th was notified in February, 2012 of the force structure announcement that the wing would be losing its planes. Despite the dour news, Peterson said MSG personnel kept their focus, maintained their swagger and displayed their SME knowledge during the June, 2012 CUI/LCAP where three group units were rated as 'Satisfactory' with two units receiving 'Excellent' in Quality Assurance and LCAP."

"Over the past couple of years, I have tried to instill in them, the ability that they know their stuff. They don't turn wrenches, they don't fly planes, but when it comes to aero porting and force supporting and civil engineering, they do know their stuff. They do make a difference."

Upon his departure, Peterson wants his airmen to continue what they're doing and practice what they've learned.

"Simply stay focused," he said.

## Mission Support takes time to celebrate achievements, superior Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder  
908th AW Public Affairs

Mission Support Group recently hosted its first quarter Hail and Farewell, created to recognize outstanding performers, welcome new arrivals and those members retiring or departing.

Col. Brett Clark, commander, 908th Airlift Wing, said it was good to see all the people gathered at the event so everyone could realize the magnitude of how large the MSG truly is.

Squadrons comprising the MSG are the 908th CES, LRS, FSS and SFS, and the 25th APS.

"What you do every day as a wing commander is a humbling experience, and when I forget that, it's time to exit stage left," Clark said.

Peterson welcomed squadron commanders present, including Maj. Steve Wells, the new commander of the 908th Civil Engineering Squadron, and asked each to step up and say a few words.

Then the FSS nominees for the 1st quarter awards were announced, each receiving a special coffee mug in recognition of their nomination.

Finally, the MSG presented a new accolade, "The 'Pillar Award,'" created

to recognize two outstanding individuals from each squadron.

"In theory, we're the pillars, holding up the wing and recognizing those whose performance is above and beyond," said Senior Master Sergeant Martha Roy, group superintendent. "You don't have security unless you have cops, you don't have cargo on the plane unless you have APS."

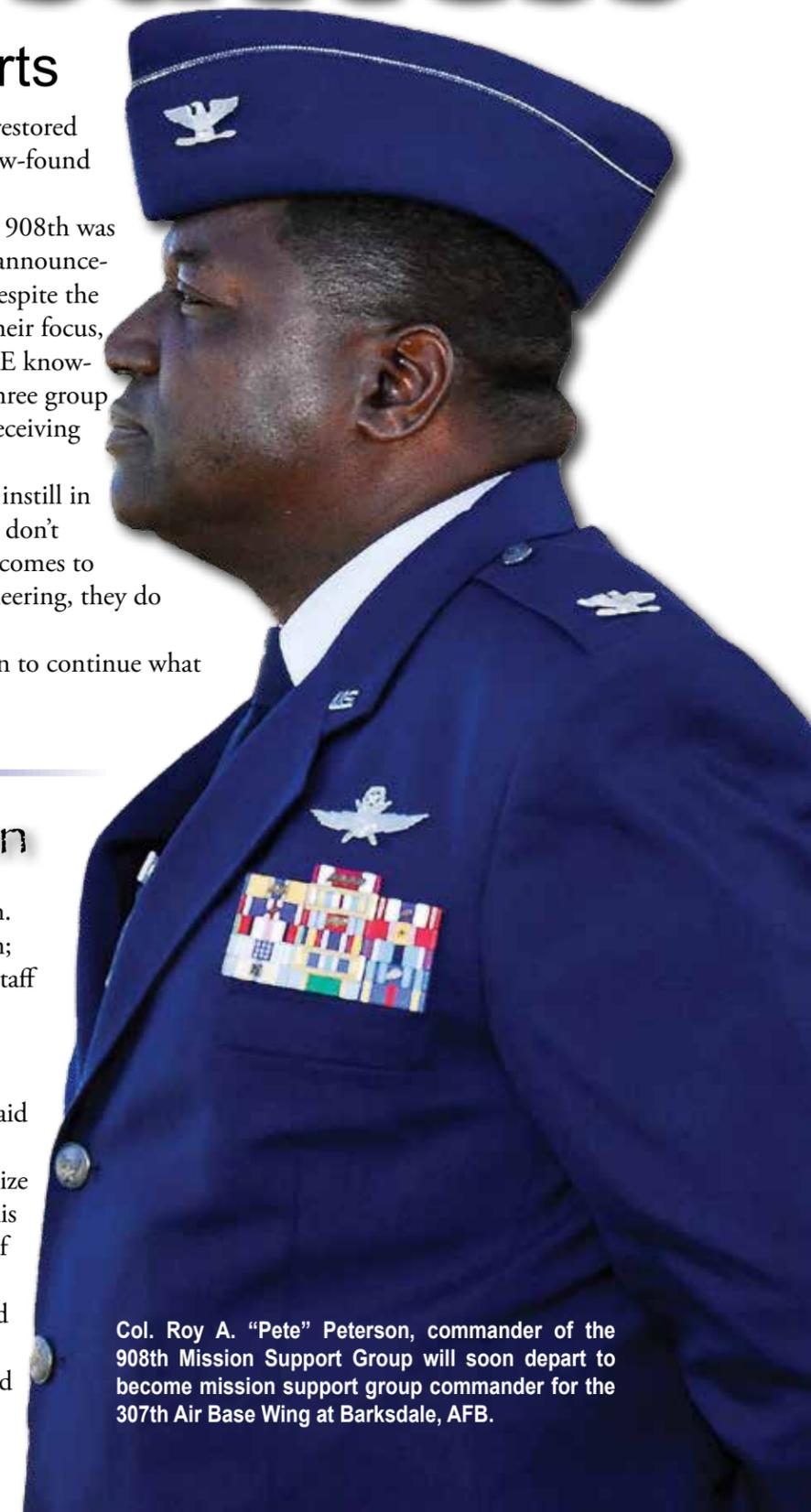
Recognized were, from 25th APS, Senior Airmen Gary Broaden and Jason Mckenzie; from CES, Staff Sgts. Kevin Summersill and Briana Collins; and from FSS, Tech. Sgt. Aaron Knight and Senior Airman

Austin Criner. Also honored were, from LRS, Tech. Sgt. Mona Villalobos and Staff Sgt. Earl Dickerson; and from SFS, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Foote and Staff Sgt. Warren Powell.

Roy said the event was something Peterson has wanted to put together for a long time.

"There's a lot for us to be thankful for," Clark said of the day's events. "It's a great day, and this is the right thing to do. Take a little time out and recognize the folks who are giving, those who are running this great organization. Our vision is to have a legacy of high achievement, that's what you're all about."

"You do important stuff," Peterson proudly told his Airmen. "Don't let anybody tell you that you don't. I see it every day. I am so grateful to each and every one of you."



Col. Roy A. "Pete" Peterson, commander of the 908th Mission Support Group will soon depart to become mission support group commander for the 307th Air Base Wing at Barksdale, AFB.

# MARCHING IN MEMORY

## 25 APS Airmen honor Bataan survivors at annual event

By Tech. Sgt. Tracey Piel  
25th Aerial Port Squadron

Just before dawn on March 17, I stood with my friends and fellow “port dawgs” Staff Sgt. Veronica Natal and Abby Helton, among nearly 6,000 participants awaiting the start of the 24th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March.

Every year White Sands Missile Range, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Army Morale Welfare & Recreation and countless sponsors and volunteers put on the event to honor the survivors of Bataan. Participants may register for a marathon distance of 26.2 miles in a variety of different divisions to include military or civilian; individual or team; light or heavy. Also offered is an honorary march of 14.2 miles. Natal and Helton signed up for the honorary march and I registered for the military light category.

Opening ceremonies included a welcome from White Sands Missile Range Commander, Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham, followed by a Blackhawk flyover and a rather poignant moment, a symbolic roll call of Bataan survivors. Some answered. Most did not. Then, as ordered, thousands of marchers – military and civilian – snapped to attention as a bugler played TAPS for the survivors who had died during the past year.

In preparing for the march, I read numerous historical accounts of the Battle of Bataan and the subsequent “Death March.” Nearly 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers were captured after the surrender of Bataan on April 9, 1942. The POWs were then marched approximately 65 miles with little to no food or water in unrelenting heat to prison camps up the Bataan Peninsula.

They were victims of constant humiliation and torture by their Japanese captors. To step out of formation for a drink of water from a ditch meant almost certain death. To stumble, fall or lag meant a bullet to the head, a bayonet in the back or a beheading. And the bodies were left lying where they fell as examples for others to see.

It is estimated – exact numbers aren’t known – that 7,000 to 10,000 men died during the march.

Once the POWs reached the prison camps, the conditions were unimaginable – little food and water and



no medicine, but a never-ending supply of filth, disease and death – a heaping amount of hell. Survivor James H. Cowan wrote in his memoir: “At last the Death March was over. But if we had known what lay ahead, most of us would have preferred to have died on the march.”

Natal, Helton and I picked up our registration packets and were fortunate enough to meet 93-year-old Oscar L. Leonard, who survived the march and spent three and one-half years as a POW. A human scarecrow at liberation, he still weighed only 85 pounds after a month in the hospital.

A look around during the opening ceremony told a story of surviving not just Bataan, but several wars across multiple generations. The day was to honor the considerable suffering and sacrifice of all veterans, to include a group of Wounded Warriors who led the march along a route dominated by sand, hills and wind.

At mile 22, I had a sort of awakening when I was passed by a one-armed, one-legged Wounded Warrior – shirtless and wearing a kilt. I’m not going to lie. My initial thought, was “Geez, Tracey, dig a little deeper – you were just passed by a guy missing half of his limbs and wearing a skirt.” But as quickly as the thought entered my mind, it was replaced with admiration for this soldier and his strength and determination. This guy was a survivor, just like those of Bataan.

Natal claims her favorite part of the march was getting to mile marker 14 with the end in sight and survivors waiting to shake your hand. Personally, I don’t know if I have a favorite part. Maybe meeting some of the few remaining veterans of WWII – the greatest generation – a generation nearly lost to us by time.

“The whole event was inspiring. Marching side by side with family members of POW’s, all military branches including foreign, some carrying heavy packs, old and young, the volunteers... it all impacted me,” Natal said. Me too.



# Minot's 'milkman' supports C-130 mission

By Senior Airman Joel Mease  
379th Public Affairs

Most Airmen would never know a few blocks of wood, commonly known as a milk stool in the C-130 community, can be all that stands in the way of a C-130 being able to perform its mission.

Those blocks of wood are officially called "ramp support," and they must be used when cargo weighing more than 2,000 lbs. is placed onto aircraft. So when the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron arrived at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, they quickly ran into a problem when two of their aircraft's ramp supports were in poor shape.

"The milk stools can go through a lot of abuse," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper, a loadmaster with the 746th EAS. "We repaired them the best we could, but we would need new ones to replace them."

However, no one in the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron had experience making a ramp support. So when Senior Airman Horace Hand was given the project, he had to build one when he didn't even know what it did.

"I really had no idea what it was going to be used for. I had asked and they said it was going on an airplane," said Horace, a structural apprentice with the 379th ECES. "It wasn't until the chief came out and asked if I wanted to see what my work was used for that I realized just how important it was."

The squadron wasn't just pleased with his work, they were impressed.

"Airman Hand did a lot of things we normally don't see," Harper said. "He was able to make it lighter without taking away any strength from the support. A normal milk stool is going to weigh around 85 lbs. and the two he built were around 65 lbs."

While going from 85 lbs. to 65 lbs. may not sound a lot, it means a lot to the crew in the back of the C-130 who have to lift that added weight, Harper said.

"When we forward deploy, you have a flak vest on



Senior Airman Horace Hand, right, received a tour of C-130 operations by Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper for designing ramp supports for the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron's C-130s after some of their supports were no longer serviceable. Commonly known as milk stools in the C-130 community, the supports are required when cargo weighing more than 2,000 lbs. is placed onto the aircraft. Hand is deployed from the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. (Air Force photo/Senior Airman Joel Mease)

plus the added weight of the helmet," Harper said. "Those 20 pounds can really make a difference."

Airman Hand was more than happy to get the opportunity to see the fruits of his labor in an operational setting.

"I thought it was awesome," Hand said. "I normally go fix things and don't really realize what it does or why it's important. I would've never guessed what I made was going to make it possible for the mission to continue."

The squadron's appreciation even reached its commander, who gave a coin for the chief to give to the young Airman. He didn't just make us more effective, he prevented the mission from failing, the chief said.

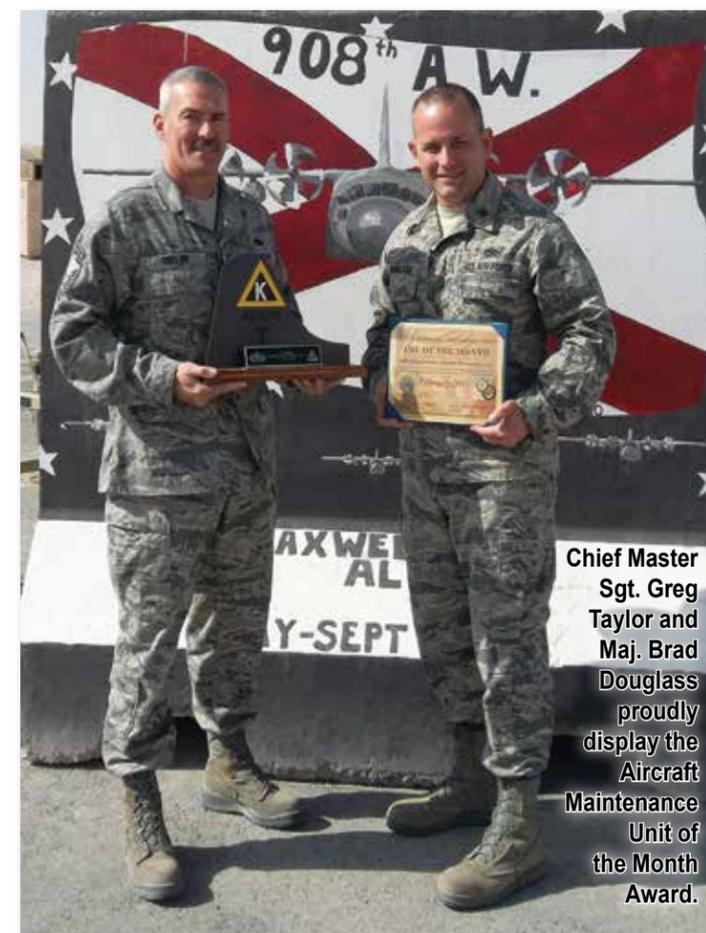
"It would've been a mission show stopper for us on what kind of cargo we can carry (if he didn't make it)," Harper said. "You think with even all the new technology and new airplanes, you still got to use the same old milk stool."



Senior Airmen Giovanni Lewis and John Stephenson check a tail panel.



Senior Master Sgt. Marshal Sims and Tech. Sgt. Rory Lapres troubleshoot a flight deck.



Chief Master Sgt. Greg Taylor and Maj. Brad Douglass proudly display the Aircraft Maintenance Unit of the Month Award.



Tech. Sgts. David Baxter and David Williams check build up in the vent valve.

## Maintainers export excellence overseas

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

They've proven themselves at every level, from the wing level to the numbered Air Force level, all the way to the Air Force level, and now they've added yet another accolade to their already ample trophy case.

Deployed members of the 908th Maintenance Group were recently honored for their efforts in Southwest Asia, and were named the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing's "Aircraft Maintenance Unit of the Month" for February.

While sustaining a 100-percent mission effectiveness rate as part of the 746th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Maxwell maintainers provided additional assistance to transient Air Force, Marine and Navy aircraft, along with producing 122 sorties from 379 flying hours.

During the month, they were able to provide aircraft that moved 969 passengers and 370 tons of cargo.

"This award shows that we continually met 100 percent of our tasked missions," said Maj. Brad Douglass, "and we did so in a safe and compliant manner day in and day out. The hard work starts with the youngest airman all the way to the experienced production super, but everyone understands the bottom line is getting the aircraft ready for its mission."

"This is yet another example of how the men and women of the 908th Maintenance Group 'Export Excellence,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Greg Taylor.



**FSS STRIKES OUT FOR AWARENESS**

Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy, Staff Sgt. Debra Bates, Senior Airmen Austin Criner and Harold Floyd participated in a bowl-a-thon. Staff Sgt. Young came to support the team. The strike-out sexual assault event was part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The team had a total of 35 strikes.

**New to the 908th**

Maj. Jason Johnson, 25 APS  
Capt. Evan B. Crouse, OSS

Airman 1st Class Siedrick E. Orozco, MXG

Airman 1st Class Sarah N. Shea, CES

Airman Carl R. Cooper Jr., FSS

Airman Devin J. Hunter, 25 APS

**Preparing to Disembark**

Lt. Col. Noreen A. Burke, ASTS

Lt. Col. Kevin D. Fuqua, CES

Maj. George M. Hilyard, AES

Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper, 357AS

Senior Master Sgt. Gary D. Brooks, FSS

Senior Master Sgt. Clarafrancie D. Cromer, ASTS

Senior Master Sgt. Shiela K. Mitchell, ASTS

Senior Master Sgt. Andres E. Soler, 25 APS

Master Sgt. Karen L. Collins, LRS

Master Sgt. Marcus A. Fuller, 25 APS

Master Sgt. Michael J. Guerin, FSS

Master Sgt. Rose L. Hall, OG

Master Sgt. Ralph E. Hood, 25 APS

Master Sgt. Sharon D. Jackson, AW

Master Sgt. Monnica A. Reed, MXS

Master Sgt. Michael Talley, SFS

Tech. Sgt. Stephen S. Boyd, CES

Tech. Sgt. TSgt Paul Boschan, MXG

Tech. Sgt. David S. Daniel, MXS

*\* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place Aug. 3 at 9 a.m., Building 903 in the MSG Conference Room.\**

**BRIEFS**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Airman Committed to Excellence, the E-1 through E-4 group at the 908th, will be taking part in the Heros' Welcome: Picnic in the Park, scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at Ida Bell Young Park in Montgomery. Anyone interested in volunteering can call (334) 819-0272, but all members of the 908th family are invited.

Also, ACE will be taking volunteers to assist in the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. Members will be serving at the Children's Center of Montgomery, 310 North Madison Terrace, on Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information on these events, call Senior Airman Shaniqua Rogers, ACE President, at (334) 953-5029.

**Gaining Altitude**

**Master Sergeant**



Benjamin L. Parnell III

**Technical Sergeant**



Corey A. Campbell

William E. Gibson

Lisa J. Lawson

Joel T. May

Paul M. McGowan

**Staff Sergeant**



Earl Dickerson II

**Senior Airman**



Joseph Abernathy

Pedro A. Cortestorres

Faren M. Douglas

Corey D. Hall

Brandon Williams

**Airman First Class**



Veljulisia T. Canty

Ashley M. Harris

Jamie J. Hicks

Careasha N. Little

**Airman**



Lewis D. Rain

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TO THE FAMILY OF:

*"The 908th Airlift Wing has always been and will always be home to me. I have deeply enjoyed working here and getting to know everyone as they do the great work and mission that we have been called to perform. If in my tenure here I have helped anyone I am glad, if I have helped them reach someone greater than myself I am honored."*

— Ch. (Maj.) Jamie Danford,  
Deputy Wing Chaplain

