

SOUTHERN FLYER

**Key Spouse Training
see page 8**



CATCHING TIME

Wing commemorates first half-century with time capsule

SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 51 Issue 12
December 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*
Col. Adam Willis
- 03 *Chaplain: Beauty in weeds*
Longtime commander passes
FM: Unit voucher training
- 04 357th gets new leader
- 05 Wing dedicates time capsule
- 06-07 Making a jump
- 08 Safety: SharePoint site
- 09 IGI: CAPSTONE prep
- 10 News briefs
Promotions
- 11 UTA schedule/
General info
- 12 Back Page

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PA Officer: Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb
Editor: Mr. Gene H. Hughes
Writer: Master Sgt. Eric Sharman
Writer: Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder

To all 908th AW warriors...

Thank you for your continued dedication to the 908th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserves.

Through you, the 908th continues to maintain its combat readiness in order to support our war time commitment as directed by the President of the United States.

My hat's off to all whom helped the 908 become the best 22nd Air Force wing in IMR status! Outstanding achievement!

We have had a great time this past six months... from an Operational Safety Assessment to climate surveys to implementation of the Air Force Inspection Program, better known as CCIP. I want to say a very heartfelt thank you to all whom have had to overcome your fears of the unknown, buckle down and learn, along with all of us, a new system.

Change does not come easily or lightly to a well-organized machine as the 908th, but as we forge ahead with this new inspection program, I am humbled by your continued presence, focus and commitment to excel. This commitment and ability to learn will be at the forefront of our future as the best wing in 22nd AF! Soon, in January, we will be test-



COL. ADAM WILLIS
Commander, 908th AW

ed in our ability to adapt, change, overcome fear, apprehension. This test will come from the AFRC IG. I know we are ready. I know you are ready. I know you will excel. I know you are proud, and I am proud of you and all you have accomplished.

Stay focused. Stay engaged. Stay proud.

I ask you to continue to challenge yourself, continue to expand your knowledge, opportunities, values... pass down your knowledge to our new young airman so that we may always know the legacy of the 908th Airlift Wing will continue long into the future.

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (CAPT.) MATTHEW HOSHOR

I once saw a child hand a flower to a woman. It was just a typical flower, the regular weed that pops up in a yard. The child found this weed – complete with missing petals – and gave it to a woman. The woman cried.

What I didn't know was that this woman was a widow, that this woman was going through her first holiday alone, that this woman's husband made a big deal out of the holiday. This year, she was struggling. Alone.

The Christmas season is one of the busiest times of the year. Maybe that's because stores are pushing sales as early as September. Maybe it's the rush to "just get through" the holiday craziness. Maybe it's all a jumble of Black Friday sales and hunting season.

Holidays are family times. We hear this often enough. That's why we run around trying to hit the shops looking for the perfect gifts for our loved ones. That's why we put in long days and extra hours to get things done so we can spend the holidays with our families.

Sometimes it isn't the gifts, the parties and pictures with Santa that make the most impact. Sometimes it's the kind gestures and expression of love that touch us the most. Sometimes what we need is not the extra hours or most expensive gifts. What we need is to show love to others. I hope during this busy season you will find beauty in the ordinary weeds and share value in simple acts of love.

Longest-serving wing commander passes

Former 908th Airlift Wing Commander Colonel Robert S. Martin, 80, of Abilene, passed away Saturday, Nov. 1, in Abilene, Texas.

Martin was the longest-serving commander of the wing, from July 18, 1980, to Oct. 1, 1989.

"Col Martin was the commander in the early 80's at a pivotal time for this wing," said former mission support group commander Don Brown. "While he was here, he lived and breathed bringing a fledging, undertasked and underequipped reserve unit into a peer status with our active-duty counterparts.

"Bob cared about every Airman every day, and he never let any of his commanders expect anything less than top-tier performance but with the unique patience, forbearance and personal understand of the unique nature of us Reservists in order for us to be ready when a balloon went up."



Col. Robert S. Martin

E-Finance: Move ahead so you're not left behind

Wing unit training enables voucher processing

By Debbie Smith
908th Finance Office

With special training performed during the most recent Unit Training Assembly, the 908th Operations Group and its component squadrons (357th AS, OSS and AES) can now process all RTS vouchers in E-Finance.

The process is a positive step forward in the travel voucher process.

During the upcoming December UTA, (Saturday, Dec. 6) the maintenance group and its squadrons, as well as 25th APS, will undergo training on the E-Finance process. This will take place at the Hoover Auditorium, located at OTS (Bldg. 1487).

◆ From 2 to 3 p.m., the 908th MXG Reservists will be trained.

◆ From 3 to 4 p.m., Reservists in the 25th APS will get this training.

All units in the 908th will be

receiving this E-Finance training. It will be scheduled during each UTA until all units have received the training, with the expectation that all training will be completed by April of 2015.

When all of the units have received the training all Reserve Travel System vouchers will be filed in E-Finance and then no paper copies will be submitted to FM to process through the Finance Service Officer. Your FM office is available for any questions that you may encounter with the E-Finance process. You can contact myself, Billy Kidd or Staff Sgt. Anthony Keith at 953-6722.

We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of your FM staff and Reservists. Here's hoping you are enriched with love, happiness and a prosperous 2015.

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Master Sgts. Joshua Green, left, and Mark Klein, make final adjustments before sealing the 908th Airlift Wing's 50-year time capsule during its dedication ceremony.



U.S. Air Force Photo/
Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder

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.



"Dan brings a broad background of experience in other units and missions that will be of great benefit to the 357th. He will add another chapter to the 357th Airlift Squadron's outstanding legacy."

- Col. Edward Jennings, commander, 908th Operations Group

New boss at the stick

357th commander faces challenging times for flying service

By Master Sgt. Eric Sharman
908th Public Affairs

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel J. Ebrecht assumed command of the 357th Airlift Squadron in a September change of command ceremony.

Ebrecht assumed command from Lt. Col. Craig W. Drescher, now deputy commander of the 908th Operations Group.

The ceremony was presided over by the ops group commander, Col. Edward L. Jennings.

Ebrecht comes to the 908th from Reserve duty tour at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., where he was a KC-10 Instructor Pilot and the assistant director of operations for the 76th Air Refueling Squadron. As the new commander of the 357th,

his inaugural action has been to observe the unit, and determine the best way to provide positive impact.

"I know I'm walking into an outstanding unit so I don't believe there is anything to 'fix' necessarily," said Ebrecht. "I really just want to see what is going on and figure out how I can have a meaningful and positive impact on such a great squadron."

One immediate challenge the squadron is faced with is fiscal restraints. Outside-the-box thinking will be needed to innovate and accomplish the mission under the current financial limitations imposed upon the Air Force, according to Ebrecht.

"These are certainly tough financial times for the flying community, and we have to change the way we

do business if we are to continue to successfully accomplish our mission," said Ebrecht, "We have to continue to increase efficiency on the flying, and maintenance sides as we go forward."

Ebrecht credits his ability to focus on both the flying and maintenance sides of the mission, to his marriage. His wife, Lt. Col. Kerri Ebrecht, is the commander of the 94th Maintenance Squadron at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga.

"I think we both benefit from each other's careers because it lets us see both side of the coin," said Ebrecht, "It really helps us understand the needs of the other unit, and contributes to a positive ops-to-maintenance dialogue."

Time in a bottle

Wing commemorates first 50 years with time capsule

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

The sealing of the 908th Airlift Wing Time Capsule took place during the November UTA in the Hoover Auditorium at the Officer's Training School.

Another milestone to commemorate the 908th's 50th anniversary celebration, the time capsule will contain, among other things, 908th heirlooms like logo shirts and unit coins.

Lieutenant Colonel Bonnie Gary, the oldest member currently in the wing and Airman Cameron Rosenhoover, the youngest, placed items into the time capsule symbolizing the five-decades-long heritage of the 908th.

Col. Adam Willis 908th Airlift Wing Commander, spoke about the memories being placed into the time capsule for future generations, saying that the time capsule would be a lasting memorial to this generation's members of the 908th Airlift Wing.

"It will be interesting to see what the faces in the crowd look like in 25 years," he said, scanning the crowd.

Former 908th Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Don Brown, retired, spoke where he reminisced about the 908th during the Cold War era. "We went from C-7s to C-130 E s to H's in 1985 to the highly capable mission ready equipment we have today." He donated a 908th jacket that was placed into the time capsule.

The ceremony included Willis



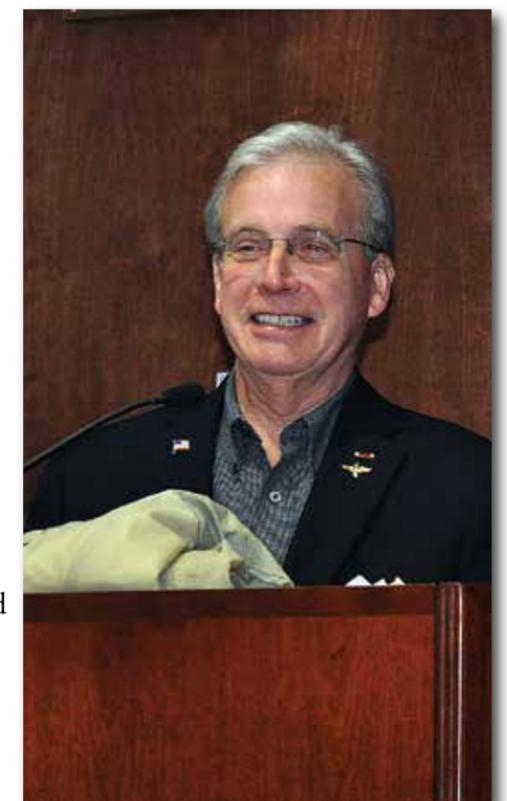
Above, Col. Adam Willis, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, presents a coin to Airman Cameron Rosenhoover during the dedication of the wing's time capsule. Below, Former 908th MSG commander Col. Don Brown, retired, makes his remarks.

awarding a wing coin to Rosenhoover, sort of.

"Airman Rosenhoover, to ensure that you come back in 25 years, I'm going to give you this coin and take it from you. It will be placed in this time capsule," Willis, said, thereby ensuring Rosenhoover's attendance to retrieve the coin in 25 years.

The ceremony concluded with members of the maintenance group — Senior Master Sgt. Dain Payton, Master Sgts. Mark Klein, Joshua Green, Tim Rollins, Mark Klein, Joshua Green and Tech. Sgt. Mark Hill — being recognized for their craftsmanship in the building of the time capsule.

The time capsule is scheduled to be opened in 25 years. See you then.



Look out below!

An insider's look at an Airborne School jump

An Air Force airborne student prepares to make a jump. Lower right, an instructor checks a student's harness.



The following is the second in a two-part series on the 908th's support of the U.S. Army Airborne School.

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

LAWSON AIRFIELD, FORT BENNING, Ga. — More than 300 airborne students have been in the holding area, known as the "Harness Shed" since 5 a.m., donning gear, going over multiple checklists and having instructors and riggers check each person's gear over and over again, ensuring everything is right.

One mistake, one bad piece of gear, one missed item, and the results could be fatal.

The anticipation has been building. To keep the troops' minds focused, instructors, periodically using the public address system, identify which row of students they're addressing and instruct those students to stand. After a few minutes, the students are instructed to turn facing in the opposite direction. This is not only affording the students the chance to stand and stretch, but to have their gear checked yet again.

Large-screen TVs situated throughout the room continuously display the do's and don'ts using the 53-pound, T-11 parachute. Instructors move up



Airborne students prepare to board a C-130 of the 908th Airlift Wing.

and down the ranks of students, looking for potential issues with gear. If the noise so much as reaches a loud whisper, an instructor raises his voice, and the room becomes silent.

Riggers stand by to assist with any problems the instructors might find. Outside, the C-130 engines can be heard growing louder. Suddenly, instructors call the next group to stand and prepare to move.

A C-130 taxis to the shed, and the first group of students marches out, up the ramp and into the plane. They sit, adjusting the gear which is so bulky the seatbelts can't be fastened. Once in the air, instructors check gear one last time and the loadmasters open the jump doors.

"The crew stays flexible with us and keep open lines of communication as well as do everything in a safe manner," said Lt. Col. Korey E. Brown, battalion commander of the 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment who presides over the school. "When they tell me that something's not safe, I definitely listen to them and take their recommendations as to how we go forward."

Upon approaching the jump point, the command to stand is given. Two lines of troops face the rear, some faces looking stoic, others sporting nervous smiles. The instructor shouts out commands, and every set of eyes in his row are on him. The jump point is close, so instructors at each exit door glance outside, scanning for anything that could cause a hazard to their students.



The two instructors turn, giving the thumbs-up to each other and start shouting, "Go!" One after another, students step to the door.

Some step out like walking down stairs, others leap out and a few show visible hesitation before receiving instructor encouragement.

In any case, all exit without a problem.

"I saw the look on the faces of the students as they came up to the door," recalled Capt. Donald Huber, the 357th Airlift Squadron's mission commander. "Some freeze in front of the door, then the instructors behind them literally just shove them out the door, whether they're ready or not, because that's what they're there for, to jump out of the plane."

Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Holder, one of the airborne instructors, is relatively new, with a mere 13 jumps under his belt. He described how a typical airborne student jumping for the first time feels.

"The first thing going through their minds is probably fear," he said. "They're pretty nervous about getting outside of the aircraft for the most part."

After all the students have exited the plane, chute lines are pulled in through the doors by the instructors, hatches are closed, and the plane heads back for another group.

Landing safely in the high grassy field of the drop zone, students gather up their chutes and the rest of their gear and load up on the bus where they return to the Harness Shed and prepare to do it again.

"We wouldn't be able to have the mission without the Air Force flying the aircraft to support the jumpers," said Holder as he eyed the students gathering their gear in the nearby field, "They have to have an aircraft to jump from before graduating Airborne School."

"It's a complete joint effort," said Lt. Col. Craig Drescher, deputy commander of the 908th Operations Group. "People at Fort Benning like us because they know there's a reasonably good chance if Maxwell signs up for a week, they're going to get everything done that needs to get done because the 908th guys have a 'can-do' attitude."



Safety Sense: Wing SharePoint is back

By Senior Master Sgt. Terry Shook
908th Safety Office

“The Enterprise Information Management (EIM) SharePoint environment is not to be used to store official records and is not an official records repository.”

— AETCI 33-303, para. 5. Records Management

Wow, that is not what anyone wanted to hear right after SharePoint crashed and everything was lost. Recently, this was the case for most of us when the Maxwell SharePoint crashed. It could not have come at a worse time, not that there is ever a “good” time, but most of us were knee-deep in answering MICT checklists and uploading required documents.

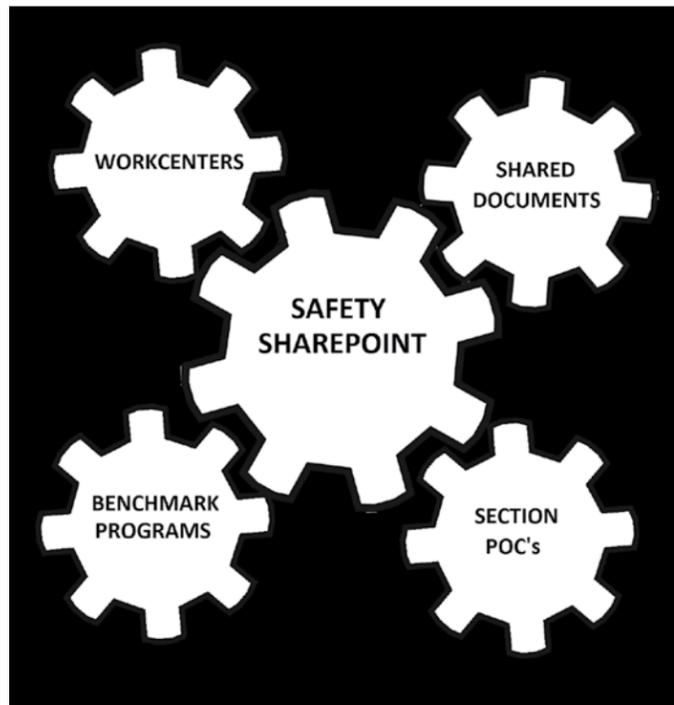
Instead, we were left in a logistical “tailspin” as we scurried around trying to find electronic copies of our lost documents and sadly, without much luck.

By now you’ve probably heard about or even seen the new 908th SharePoint site. Yep, it’s back and this time being managed at AETC and governed by AETCI 33-303, Command Enterprise Information Management SharePoint.

Here are a few things I want to point out and hopefully give you some peace of mind as we once again ask for your participation: EIM SharePoint Administration performs full backups on a weekly basis (Sunday) and differential backups are done daily. Full back up data is retained for seven days and is deleted only after a more recent backup is verified.

As we reengage SharePoint and rebuild the Safety site, let me remind you of the potential benefits based off your participation:

1. It provides a dynamic and interactive location to electronically store copies of pertinent safety information such as your continuity binders.
2. It provides commanders and supervisors of work



centers with a multitude of tools, benchmark programs, safety briefings, and access to actively manage their open hazards as well as recommended corrective actions.

3. In 2013 and 2014, units who actively used this process reduced the time it took for us to complete their annual inspection by half and reduced their findings by an average of nearly 66 percent from the previous year.

So, what is your next step in moving forward? We encourage your unit to use the Safety SharePoint site. Please provide the safety office with your section titles and POC’s. Once we create your folders, based off your requirements, your POC’s will be given the permissions to upload, delete and update information on their assigned folders and documents. This will allow you to reap the benefits from SharePoint – a more efficient and effective unit safety program.

The first 908th AW Key Spouse training will take place **Saturday Dec. 6, starting at 1 p.m.** at the Active Duty Airman and Family Readiness Center, located at 55 S. Mitchell St., Bldg. 677. Reserve your spot with Senior Master Sgt. Roy at (334) 953-3873 or martha.roy@us.af.mil. Child care will be provided. **Ages and reservations are required.**



Inspection system Top 10 for success

By Col/ Kyle Voight
AMC Deputy IG
Artwork by Staff Sgt. Austin May
100 ARW/PA

“The new AFIS is the best change we’ve seen in the inspection business in 30 years,” said Brig. Gen. Steve Arquette, the driving force behind AMC making inspections more relevant, value-added tools for com-

manders over the past three years. The AFIS and its new Unit Effective Inspection (UEI) process are critical to future successes, as they provide wing commanders the tools to evaluate and ensure mission readiness and compliance across the enterprise under a much more effective and efficient approach.

The program became operational on Oct. 1, marking a huge change in how commanders look at their role in evaluating overall wing effectiveness. Yet, there’s still a lot to do before we inculcate the change into Airmen culture. Here are ten things we can do to improve AFIS implementation.

FOR NOS. 6 - 10, SEE BACK PAGE



#2. When did an IG visit start causing wings to stop making improvements? The risk of the IG seeing us actually fixing something often drove us away from doing the right thing at the right time for our Airmen. By showing the IG you can self-detect problems, you are improving your mission readiness ... and UEI grade.



#3. In the past, the formula for an inspection grade sometimes received more attention than the performance itself. The AFIS relies heavily on an organization’s ability to self-assess at a healthy, critical level. UEI grades are about long-term effectiveness ... not simply whether the wing can generate 1-2 weeks of heavily rehearsed compliance. When it comes to getting inspected, be confident, be enthusiastic, and be motivated. But please ... leave the grading to the IG.



#4. MICT is easy if you let it be easy. The self-assessment checklists (SACs) in MICT provide a list of the most important, highest-risk compliance areas for your function. They do not relieve you of all the “will, shall, or must” mandates in AFI guidance. They should give you a valuable way to show your chain of command that you are handling those critical functions every day. That’s why you’re expected to update SACs within 5 days of a change in compliance.



#5. Do you know what your wing commander’s “dashboard” is? It’s not some idealized Excel spreadsheet that captures every metric in a wing. It is your commander’s entire battle rhythm of reports, meetings and decisions. Every wing—just like every major weapon system in our inventory—is unique. If a commander is focused exclusively on one or two instruments, he or she could miss the big picture.

The time for Santa Claus' visit to the 908th Airlift Wing on Saturday, Dec. 6, has been moved to 10:45 a.m. Plan now to bring your children (and for some) grandchildren, out to see the jolly old elf, give him their Christmas wish lists and have their photo taken with him.

New to the 908th

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Maj. Marian Heninburg, ASTS | Senior Airman Jefferey Young, MXS |
| Capt. Jason Deas, 357th AS | Senior Airman James Allen, CES |
| Tech. Sgt. Heidi Pierce, CES | Senior Airman Mark Simpson, 25 APS |
| Tech. Sgt. Christine McDonald, MXS | Airman 1st Class Ross Charles, MXS |
| Tech. Sgt. Henry Doris, AW | Airman Mia Jefferson, ASTS |
| Tech. Sgt. Troy McClain, ASTS | |

Preparing to Disembark

- | | |
|--|--|
| Lt. Col. Mark E. Harrison, 357 AS | Senior Master Sgt. Matthew A. Denton, AMXS |
| Lt. Col. Robert D. Rosedt, ASTS | Master Sgt. Jonathan R. Griswold, AES |
| Senior Master Sgt. Don J. Johnson, AES | Master Sgt. John B. Hughes, FSS |
| Senior Master Sgt. Cathi D. Bradford, AW | Tech. Sgt. Jay G. Ponder, AW |

*** The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place Dec. 6 at 9 a.m. in Building 903, MSG Conference Room.***

BRIEFS

908th Deserving Airman Commissioning Board

Are you ready to employ your education and work experiences to enhance wing leadership? The 908th Airlift Wing will hold a Deserving Airman Commissioning Board on April 11, 2015 to commission at least one enlisted leader.

To be eligible, members must be at least 18 years old, hold a baccalaureate degree or be within six months of completion, score a minimum of 15 for verbal and 10 for quantitative on the Air Force Officer Qualification Test, be medically ready to deploy and have a current passing fit-to-fight score.

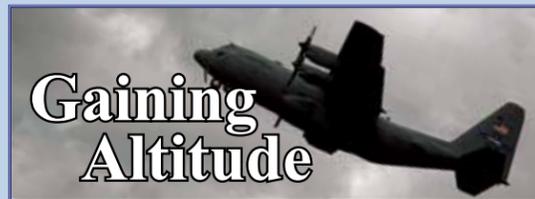
If you have not already taken the AFOQT, it will be administered during the February UTA; contact Education and Training at

953-6678 to schedule the exam. To meet the board, complete packages are due to Force Management by close of business Sunday, March 8, 2015; contact Master Sgt. Naglic or Senior Airman Floyd at 953-5584 for all of the requirements.

Wing will host First Annual Awards Banquet

Please join us as we honor our annual award winners at our inaugural awards banquet, March 7, 2015 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Montgomery. Tickets are \$30 each, and attire is mess dress or semiformal.

For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. James Rickels at 953-6470 or your group point of contact.



Gaining Altitude

Senior Master Sergeant



Nicholas P. Kennelly
Roderick O. Parker

Master Sergeant



Cortney E. Tremer

Technical Sergeant



Angel L. Armstrong
Ashly L. Hill
James O. Kenly
Shannon M. Montgomery

Staff Sergeant



Zacchaeus D. Chames
Dustin T. Daniel
Wesley T. Ingram

Senior Airman



Chad R. Gardunia
Alexandria B. Jefferson
Sasha S. Phillips
Timothy P. Ware

Airman First Class



Louis L. Fields IV
Howard A. Morris
Christian R. Tyler



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

Presorted
First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #700
Montgomery, AL

TO THE FAMILY OF:



#6. "Improving the unit" means a lot more than just making things easier for yourself. If you incorporate more people and processes into your improvements, you will see better results that get buy-in and last longer. By leading those projects yourself, you can expand the influence of your own team by advocating what is right for the enterprise.



#8. Continuous improvement is healthy ... especially if you use methods like those in the AF5021 playbook. But don't let great ideas get bogged down in the process itself. Doing a "6 S" event (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, Sustain, Safety) is a great tool, but if it's the only way you are using AF5021, you need to look harder at your processes, and allow a facilitator to help you with your efforts.



#10. Here's the "foot-stomper"! The "new IG" serves as the true eyes and ears of the commander, who uses that awareness to improve the organization. "We Inspect to Improve" is not just the CSAF's view of the IG ... it is the way we do business under the AFIS. The IG are your teammates--if there is something that needs fixing in the organization and they don't know about it, then YOU don't know about it.



#7. Gen Welsh recently said, "If it doesn't make sense, stop doing it!" But he wasn't talking about doing whatever you want just because you don't like AF guidance. Our first role is to know our guidance inside and out so that we can truly understand when it is unnecessarily hampering our efforts. When that takes place, we're expected to evaluate and accept risk by using waivers to current guidance and by proposing permanent changes in order to make the next version of guidance more useful.



#9. Every Fortune 500 company knows that finding weak areas is a major key to fixing them. But the military tends to think "Red is Dead!" instead. As we shrink budgets and manpower, we have to accept that some "red" in our metrics is normal. If you can accept that--instead of automatically associating red with failure--you are much closer to getting your activity resourced appropriately.