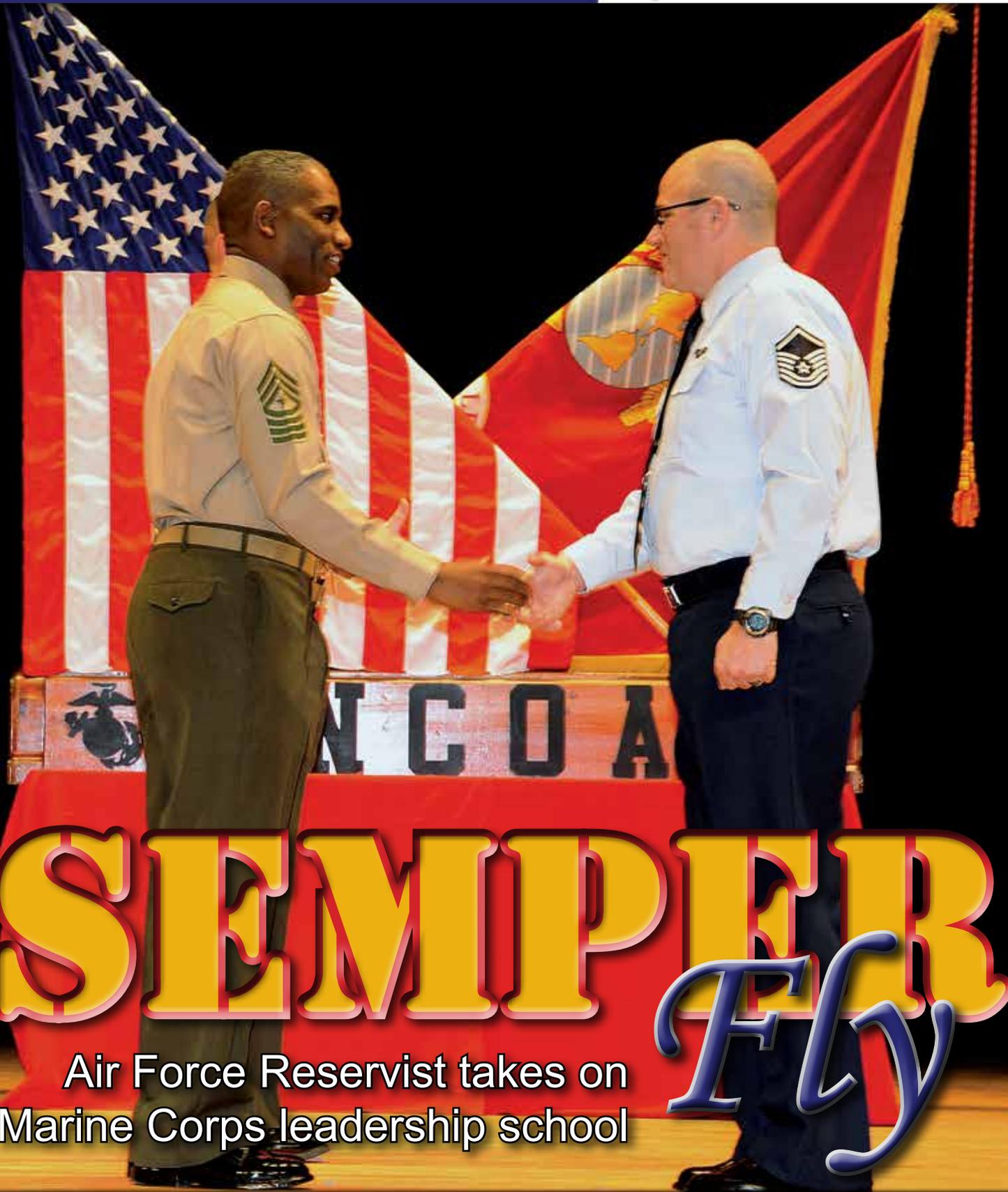


SOUTHERN FLYER



SEMPER FLY

Air Force Reservist takes on
Marine Corps leadership school

SOUTHERN FLYER



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Finding the right balance

There have been many times in my 15 years as a Traditional Reservist that

I have found difficulty balancing my military and civilian life. With both sides I am always dealing with a constant challenge of having to find new ways to balance the two.

Most of the time though, it is no fault of either party but my lack of communication or poor planning. This usually happens when you know you need to take additional time for additional duties, PME's, or find out you are going to be tasked with a deployment.

Communicating the needs of one to the other is sometimes the hardest thing to do in these situations.

I feel this lack of communication is due to the fact that we don't want our military career to have a negative impact in our personal or civilian life. We need to be upfront informing our significant others and employers of our career goals,

timelines and expectations. With the demanding tempo put on today's military members, we need to be open and honest with our family, friends and employers.

In life, you should always be ready for the unexpected and have a plan to get you through. I do not think there is a perfect method or any one single technique for

balancing your life. The key is finding out what is most important to you between your career and personal life and prioritizing it in your daily schedule.

Work-life balance is about finding the best way to juggle all the things that need to be accomplished in our life. Don't be afraid of asking for support from supervisors, coworkers, friends and family. Make time showing your family you care about them. Give yourself a buffer between things and it is really important to take personal time for the things you love to do.

Remember, always be open and honest with your communication; plan ahead and don't procrastinate!



CMSGT. KEITH A. TARECO
908th MXG Superintendent



By Debbie Smith
908th FM

How can I change my state of legal residence?

In order to make a state change, you will need to fill out a form DD-2058. Please submit your change through your pay office or admin office for processing. Changes to your state of legal residence may not be made retroactively.

How do I register for myPay?

Once your pay account has been established by your payroll office and your first system generated payment has been issued, your myPay account is established and you will automatically be sent a temporary password. Generally, it will be four weeks from the time you receive your first paycheck to when you receive your temporary password in the mail. Once you receive it, you must customize it within 45 days. If you do not customize the password it will expire and you will have to request a new one.

Upon initial log on, use your full SSN and the temporary password provided to you. The system will prompt you to customize your Login ID and password. If you have any inquiries or need to make pay changes prior to your MyPay account being established, you must contact your servicing payroll office or Customer

Service Representative.

What is the maximum amount that can be garnished from MyPay for a commercial debt?

A maximum of 25 percent of your disposable pay can be garnished for a commercial debt. Disposable pay is defined as gross pay minus authorized deductions. Authorized deductions include, but are not limited to, applicable federal, state and local taxes, health insurance premiums, normal life insurance premiums, normal retirement contributions, including contributions to TSP, and debts owed the United States.

TSP (Thrift Savings Plan):

If you elect Roth TSP and wish to continue those contributions, you must submit a new Roth TSP election on myPay or submit a TSP election form to your finance office during the time period from Jan. 1-31, 2015. Otherwise, your Roth TSP contributions will stop after January 2015. Elections for Roth contributions for February 2015 will be accepted until Jan. 31.

You may enroll online with myPay or submit the paper election form, TSP-U-1, available on www.tsp.gov, to your finance office.

If you have any questions please contact FM at 953-6722.

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (LT. COL.) WILLIAM HOGGATT

Did you know that April is National Humor Month, International Guitar Month, Lawn & Garden Month, National Pecan Month and National Welding Month? The month begins with April Fool's Day and ends with National Honesty Day. April also includes Ex-spouses Day and No Housework Day.

You would expect the chaplain to point out that several important religious holidays also fall in April, such as Good Friday, Easter, and Passover. These Holy Days reflect Christian and Jewish beliefs of new life and forgiveness.

As I look more closely at the month of April, I notice Patriots Day falls on the third Monday in April and, unless you've lived in New England, you probably know very little about Patriots Day. Several years ago I lived in Boston and discovered this significant holiday commemorating the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, which began the American Revolution and honors the "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

Now what does all this have to do with Christian and Jewish Holy Days or even April Fool's Day? April is when the weather starts to clear, the rain and the snow diminishes, and the temperatures begin to warm. The result is that new life returns all around us, much like forgiveness brings new life to our souls and Paul Revere brought life to the American Revolution.

COVER PHOTO:

Master Sgt. Chris Wild, right, recently achieved a rare accomplishment for an Air Force Reservist; graduating the Marine Staff NCO Advanced Course at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

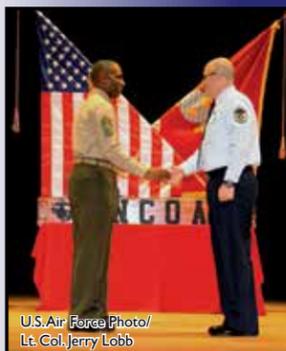


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We solicit articles and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to Southern Flyer editorial policies. Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the unit training assembly. The submission deadline is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA.

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U.S. Air Force Photo/
Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Wing's newest bird to roost in Little Rock

Operations Group deputy dons eagle, departs for new command

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

Lieutenant Colonel Craig W. Drescher, former commander of the 357th Airlift Squadron and deputy commander of the 908th Operations Group was promoted to colonel Sunday, March 8 during a promotion ceremony.

Along with the promotion, he's getting a new job, commanding the 913th Airlift Group at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Drescher said he's excited to be working with an active-duty squadron in the fully integrated airlift group created by the Air Force Total Force Integration initiative, where the Air Force places active-duty components with Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units.

"I'm looking forward to leading this very unique and talented group," said Drescher, "It's gone through a couple of transitions the last few years. I look forward to us executing whatever missions we are given with precision and excellence."

The 913th Airlift Group is a unique group that's more like a small wing than an operations group.

"There are two flying squadrons, one of which is an active duty squadron, the other six squadrons are made up of reservists," he explained.

Before his career in the Air Force Reserve began, Drescher served in the Navy, where he worked as a Radar Intercept Officer, flying F-14A Tomcats from aircraft carriers.

Drescher said he's grateful for the opportunities afforded to him during his 10 years with the 908th.

"I will miss the people the most," he said. "The members of the 908th Airlift Wing are the most dedicated group of patriots I have ever had the pleasure to serve with. Their example has made me a better officer."



Newly promoted Col. Craig Drescher, above, departs the 908th Airlift Wing to take command of the 913th Airlift Group at Little Rock AFB. Left, Drescher is congratulated by 908th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Adam Willis.



AFRC boss visits 908th

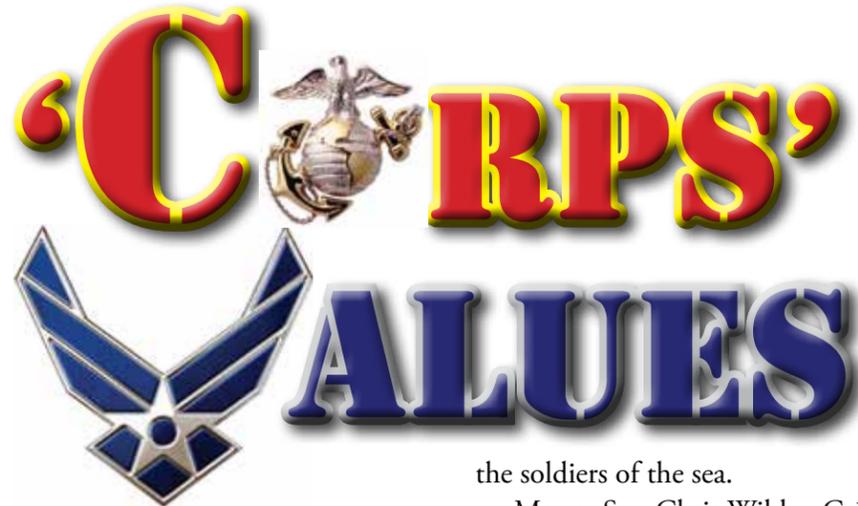


The current and future state of the Air Force Reserves were the focus of the day during the recent visit to the 908th Airlift Wing by AFRC Commander Lt. Gen. James Jackson. The service's top Reservist met with unit commander and senior leaders, and then took time for an all-hands call to answer questions on topics ranging from sexual assault and suicide prevention to uniform policies and the state of the command's C-130s.





Master Sgt. Chris Wild of the 908th Airlift Wing is no stranger to working with other services. Above, he ground guides an Army rocket launcher into a C-130. He recently graduated from the Staff NCO Advanced Course at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.



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

When it comes to polar opposites, Air Force Reservists and active-duty Marines are as far apart as it gets. Even in joint operations, it's not often one finds the men and women of the wild blue yonder mixing with

the soldiers of the sea.

Master Sgt. Chris Wild, a C-130 loadmaster with the 908th Airlift Wing, recently challenged himself by attending the Marine Staff NCO Advanced Course at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Having deployed many times, he said that each time, there were occasions where his C-130 crew would

AFRC Reservist faces active-duty Marine challenge ... and wins

have the honor of transporting Marines. He wanted to get an up-close look at Marine Corps culture by volunteering for the course.

"I, like most, have always been thoroughly impressed with the military professionalism, discipline, and the "can-do" attitude they carry with them," he said. "I hoped to get a glimpse of how a Marine is built. This class was my chance and it paid off."

"Marines are a different animal from Air Force Reservists," he said.

"Their priorities are in an order that fits only the Marine Corps: first, military appearance; second, fitness; and next comes discipline and responsibility. These are the core of the "good" Marine. Lose any of these and you're of no use to the Marine. Only after these are satisfied, is the Marine worthy of learning the combat skills and technical information they need to do their job."

At 48 years old, Wild was his service's "elder statesman." The average age of students in the class was 32 and the youngest student was 26, which Wild noted is younger than his own children.

He said there was a noticeable hush when he was called out of the room to sign a waiver required for attendees 45 or older. Some of the instructors laughed now and then while they were doing PT, but after he broke two ribs on the confidence course and still finished, nobody in the class said a word about his age.

Wild was one of four Air Force members who added this unique line to their military resumes, and the only Reservist. Also attending were Master Sergeants Rolando Barrera, a sensor operator with 432nd Air Wing, 17th Reconnaissance Squadron at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.; Ryan Bloom, a special mission operator with the 23rd Wing, 347th Rescue Group, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; and Cleveland Ford, of the 23rd LRS at Moody.

"Throughout the course, we've been taught that it's our responsibility as senior enlisted members to lead, and to do it with a keen sense of understanding and support of our commander's intent. It's our job to show those we supervise how their duties tie into the bigger picture and have an effect on the mission. It's not

just our responsibility to keep our officers and commanders informed, but to do so with brutal honesty."

"When asked for our opinions, we should to draw on our experiences and provide them professionally," he said.

Wild said he recommends the course for Air Force Reservists, but advises the proper preparation and mindset.

"This course is not one that builds your knowledge of the Air Force doctrine or assists you in getting college credits and professional management certificates," he said. "It includes very intense physical training, and Marine subject matter, very little of which translates to the Air Force Reserve. So, if you come here, come for the deeper understanding of enlisted leadership responsibilities

and command expectations.

It's not a picnic, there is no billeting with maid service to be found. There is no free internet, no phone service, no television, and no computer access provided. Bring everything you think you might need. You will be cooking for yourself for seven weeks and you will probably lose some weight. Your rooms will be inspected weekly for cleanliness and organization.

Despite the cautionary tale, Marine instructors are complimentary of the Air Force's participation.

"The Air Force members always seem to do very well in our courses," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Alex Torres, a faculty advisor for the course. "I think it's awesome that we get the different perspectives with another service represented in the class."



Also graduating the Staff NCO Advanced Course with Wild, left, were Air Force Master Sgts. Rolando Barrera, 432nd Air Wing; and Ryan Bloom and Cleveland Ford, 23rd Wing. (Photos by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb)



*CAPT. RAY KLINGER, LRS
CGO OF THE YEAR*



*SMSGT. MARTHA ROY, FSS
SNCO OF THE YEAR*



*MSGT. NADIA NETTLES, FSS
FIRST SGT. OF THE YEAR*



*SSGT. TONY KEITH, AW
NCO OF THE YEAR*



*SSGT. KRESSTON DAVIS, SFS
AIRMAN OF THE YEAR*



908th Airlift Wing Awards Banquet

After a year of training and preparing for inspections, members of the 908th shared an evening of camaraderie and recognized the spirit of excellence in the wing. The event was emceed by Senior Airmen Evelyn Vasquez and Jacob Dorminey. Chief Master Sgt, Michael R. Belerose, AFRC First Sergeant Functional Manager was the guest speaker. Among the evening's highlights was a POW/MIA Ceremony, honoring servicemen and women who are captive or unaccounted for. The main event was the awards presentation, culminating with the recognition of the wing's annual award winners.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATE!



Master Sgt. Christopher Berryhill, 908th Maintenance Squadron, recently graduated from the First Sergeants Academy. Standing with Berryhill is Chief Master Sgt. Bellerose, AFRC First Sergeant Functional Manager.

New to the 908th

Staff Sgt. Christina Jenkins, LRS
 Staff Sgt. Justin Lozada, AW
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Knizel, SFS
 Senior Airman Caleb Toney, MXS

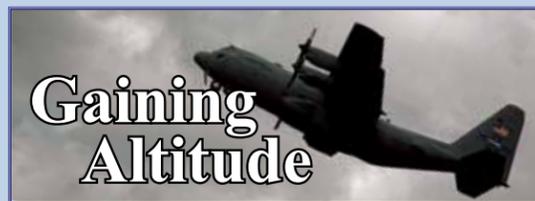
Airman 1st Class Austin Coar, AES
 Airman Avian Shine, AES
 Airman Basic Jasmine McNeal, ASTS
 Airman Basic Taylor Lee, ASTS

Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. William E. Bush, 357 AS
 Lt. Col. Gwendolyn C. Hill, ASTS
 Lt. Col. Robert D. Rostedt, ASTS
 Master Sgt. Wayne D. Askew, ASTS
 Master Sgt. Joseph C. Denman, FSS
 Master Sgt. David G. Greer, 25 APS
 Master Sgt. Jonathan R. Griswold, AES

Master Sgt. Curtis D. Henderson Jr., 25 APS
 Master Sgt. Brandy H. Lindsey, ASTS
 Master Sgt. David G. Greer, 25 APS
 Tech. Sgt. Jay G. Ponder, AW
 Tech. Sgt. John T. Traum III, LRS
 Staff Sgt. Marc D. Joyner, CES

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place April 11 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*



Gaining Altitude

Master Sergeant



Karen K. Hamblin

Technical Sergeant



Tiffany N. Johnson
 Kurt B. Meadows
 Henry M. Relf Jr.
 Tyrez L. Turner

Staff Sergeant



Christopher Adams
 Nathan E. Basham
 Shaquita N. Bonner
 Cody A. Boyd
 Kresston L. Davis
 Corey D. Holt
 Jacob D. Koslofsky
 Derrick J. Mickle
 Altumn S. Pryor
 Kendall Williams

Airman First Class



Wade A. Messick



Members of the 908th Run Team took a huge first step recently as they took part in the 2015 Montgomery Marathon. The event drew thousands of athletes of all fitness levels, from first-timers to world-class distance runners, who completed in distances of 5K, half or full marathon. Clockwise from top: Team members gather for a group photo prior to the start; SMSgt. Terry Shook and Maj. Carmel Weed make the finish line; members are all smiles at the start; Capt. Matthew Hoshor makes his way through downtown; TSgt. Billy Kidd gives an interview to a member of the local media; Lt. Col. Patrick Albrecht and SrA Sara Shea are ready to test themselves.

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