

LRS ROCKS THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, PGS. 6-7

# SOUTHERN FLYER



*Simply*

# OUTSTANDING



Reservist caps award-winning year at D.C. gala

# SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 52 Issue 10  
October 2015

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*  
Col. Pat Brooks
- 03 Chaplain: It's only the wind  
CFC: Support matters
- 04-05 LRS deploys members  
to Washington State
- 06-07 Air Force lauds 908th  
Airman at D.C. dinner
- 08 Security Forces Squadron  
gains new commander
- 09 Wing historian digs into  
past so future won't forget
- 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

# Motivate your inner 'rock star'

I'm PUMPED! I just got back from the Air Force Association's recognition of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, in Washington D.C. (See pages 4-5 for more coverage from the event.)

Staff Sgt. Kresston Davis, from our 908th Security Forces Squadron, superbly represented not only our wing, but approximately 53,000 enlisted members of Air Force Reserve Command. She, along with the 11 other honorees, were honored in style during an awards dinner on Sept. 14. About 700 people were on hand (including more generals than I've seen anywhere) to honor 12 enlisted members.

During the dinner, each honoree was introduced, and their accomplishments read, as they stood front and center. The collective achievements of these Airmen are most impressive; in addition to doing outstanding work in their fields, all have college credit, nine have completed their Bachelor's degrees and two have Master's degrees. One, a technical sergeant and pararescue specialist, recently finished his Doctorate.

While I am proud of Staff Sgt. Davis am impressed with the other OAY selectees, I thought about other 908th enlisted who also do superior

work, and either have, or are working to complete, college degrees. Several of you came to mind. You have the quality to be Airmen of the Year, and I wish you had been in the audience. I believe, after witnessing that event, you would have been highly motivated to up your game, finish your degree, PME, etc., and to strive (to borrow an Army slogan) to "be all that you can be."



COL. PAT BROOKS  
Vice Commander, 908th AW

We've got a number of "rock stars" in our wing, and many others who have that potential within. Sometimes all that's required for an ordinary person to accomplish extraordinary things is to have a dream and share it, so others can help you reach your goal. If you dream of becoming a chief, a colonel or even a general, work hard, contribute, study, and discuss your goals with your supervisors and commanders.

Attending the event was exciting and motivating. Thanks, Staff Sgt. Davis, and to the supervisors and commander in Security Forces who nominated her, for making it possible for me and a small group of other "old folks" to attend. I think all present experienced a sense of pride in our service and in the great enlisted people who make it the best Air Force in the world!

## A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (CAPT.) MATTHEW HOSHOR

Fall can be a bittersweet season. In spring, we see vibrancy and growth as tiny green leaves appear on seemingly dead branches. During fall, it can seem as though the good is slipping away. Winter's cold is coming, and with it, the leaves will be torn from the tree, twisted by the wind, and crushed underfoot by those passing beneath the once-beautiful branches.

Though the leaves are gone, the cold hasn't changed the tree. It will continue to live and grow – as God intended. Fall will strip it of beauty, yet it won't destroy it, for the tree is resilient. The wind may blow, howl and tear away leaves, but those who look will not see decay and death. They will see life and strength. The tree is just as strong and alive as it was in spring. If we wait, fall and winter will pass and, eventually, spring will return.

The wind will blow this way, and it will blow that way, but it's just wind. When the leaves fall, all seems lost. It isn't! As the seasons change, don't be discouraged by wind and falling leaves. The tree's strength is not in its leaves, but in the depth of its roots. We don't see the roots, so they are often ignored or neglected. Stay strong in your roots, and your integrity and strength will survive. The chilling seasons will pass.

Falling leaves and chill winds might seem depressing, but remember, they fall only to further protect the roots; the true strength and foundation of the tree.



# CFC: Why your support matters

By Maj. Robert McNulty  
908th CFC Coordinator

There are many organizations that do outstanding work in the community by helping others in a variety of ways. Some of the larger charities you probably recognize are the Red Cross, Humane Society, and the Food Bank. However, there are some smaller, lesser-known organizations doing fantastic work that many of us have never heard of. It's not until we have an event or issue in our lives that we become aware of these groups and what they do.

Such was the case with my family. While my wife and I were stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, our daughter was born prematurely and had some issues needing to be dealt with by specialists at Cook Children's Hospital in Dallas. We were lucky because our daughter's case was not particularly seri-

ous, and we lived within two hours driving distance of Dallas. However, during this situation we met several families with children whose conditions were much more severe and had traveled eight hours or more. Their insurance usually covered the medical portion – sometimes not everything, though – but it did not cover the travel, hotel stays, and all the costs these families had to pay out of pocket.

After talking with these families, we learned many had received help. Organizations, such as those in the CFC, provided them assistance finding discounted lodging, tickets to theme parks, prepaid gas cards, support groups, etc.

Many of us don't become fully aware of these organizations until a friend, a loved one or even ourselves have to endure difficult circumstances.

## COVER PHOTO:

Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year Staff Sgt. Kresston Davis and her parents, with members of the 908th Airlift Wing, recently attended the OAY dinner in Washington, D.C.



"Providing combat-ready support across the spectrum of operations"

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 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.

Address: 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112  
E-mail: 908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil  
Phone: (334) 953-6804/7874 or DSN 493-6804; Fax: (334) 953-6355

# For training, LRS willing to go the distance

## Logistics tour makes two-week Lewis-McChord stop

By Maj. Jean Thong  
908th LRS

To receive on-the-job training or to maintain proficiency on key core tasks, Reservists often have to find other locations that offer training not available at their home base. On Aug. 3, thirty-five members of the 908th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) departed Maxwell for their two-week annual tour, hosted by the 627th LRS at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The Pacific Northwest location was selected because it is one of the few bases that still staffs and manages LRS functions with military members.

Transportation was graciously provided by the 916th Air Refueling Wing, with the crew representing the 77th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. It was the first time many of the LRS Reservists had flown in a KC-135, and two had the chance to ride in the jump seat during the flight. Airman First Class Jarrius Richardson,

the lowest ranking Airman, and Senior Airman Heather Wheeler, the youngest, were given the unique opportunity.

Once they had arrived, the Alabama-based Airmen took advantage of the unique opportunities offered by their host unit. Logistics Planners received briefs on the Installation Deployment Plan (IDP), Base Support Plan, and Support Agreements.

They also received table-top exercises and training on how the 627th utilizes a wide variety of logistics capabilities in the performance of its mission. These included using technology to provide maximum visibility and near real-time status of supply movement, transportation assets, and aggregated reporting of cargo and passenger movements.

Other capabilities included assets used to plan and execute the strategic movement of forces from one region to another, as well as managing a database containing logistics equipment and supplies.

Logistics planners received training in all components of the career field, to include a walking tour of the cargo deployment function.

"This training was crucial

**Staff Sgt. Shaquita Bonner, works with a member of the 627th LRS.**



**Staff Sgt. Derecus Matthews reviews received household goods information.**

in completing upgrade training for our Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. Connie Rollins. "The active-duty unit was very eager to provide training, as they have not had Reservists visit them in many years. We were included in all daily functions to compare the difference between active and Reserve logistics plans functions."

"This was one of the best annual tour experiences for Logistics-Plans since I have been in the office."

In the Traffic Management Office, logisticians assisted with 20 mission-capable shipments, resulting in a total of 780 line items being processed. They helped 30 members with the mode of travel, foreign clearance guide navigation, and special-order requirements for



different countries. They also had to determine member entitlements, find the cheapest lodging rates and understand the proper use of the Government Travel Card.

Additionally, 50 active-duty members transferring to another base for assignment received processing for Personally Procured Movements via the Defense Personal Property System.

The 627th Material Management Flight provided training on the Air Force Equipment Management System, the Mobility Inventory Control and Accountability System, weapons-vault management, and Due-In From Maintenance (DIFM) actions.

Training received at JBLM allowed Petroleum, Oils and Lubricant personnel to complete all 5-Level core task requirements, enabling

all fuels personnel to reach 100 percent on the fuels Training Visibility Ledger.

Vehicle Operations received roll-over training and completed requirements for refresher and on-the-job training.

Once the daily duties were completed, 908th members spent their free time sight-seeing, exploring Seattle, hiking Mount Rainier, and taking part in 627th physical training activities.

"The LRS benefited by getting hands-on training from the 627th," said LRS Commander Lt. Col. Barry Crane. "Besides being an obvious retention tool, this type of annual tour allows us to get quality AFSC train-



**Senior Airman Jairius Simpkins uses software to track real-time cargo movements.**

ing, ensures the squadron's mission readiness, and allows us to perform at a higher level."

McChord was an excellent training location. Overall, it was a great experience for our members to be working with active-duty members, getting a snapshot of their lifestyle and experiencing how respective sections are being managed elsewhere.



Staff Sgt. Kresston Davis, second from left, was officially recognized as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2015 by the Air Force Association at its annual conference in Washington D.C. Sept. 14. Above, Davis and her parents are joined on the receiving line by AFRC Command Chief and former 908th Airlift Wing Command Chief Cameron Kirksey and AFRC Commander Lt. Gen. 'J.J.' Jackson.

## Big day for Davis

### SFS Airman attends D.C. event as one of Air Force's 12 best

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

The Air Force Association (AFA) formally recognized Staff Sgt. Kresston Davis as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2015. Davis, a member of the 908th Security Forces Squadron, received her plaque at a special reception and dinner held Sept. 14 during the association's annual conference at the Gaylord Hotel in Washington D.C.

Davis' parents, Leroy and Angela Davis, were on hand for the event. Mrs. Davis also participated in all

OAY activities as her daughter's escort.

The 12 Airmen and their escorts greeted a long line of dignitaries at the pre-dinner reception. These included Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and many general officers, including Lt. Gen. James "J.J." Jackson, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

When the dinner began, an honor guard entered, carrying the flags of all 50 states, followed by the honorees and their escorts. Then, before a crowd of approximately 700 people, each Airman was introduced and their accomplishments detailed as they stood center stage.



Davis and her parents meet with Air Force Secretary Deborah James and her husband before the event.

As Davis took her place on stage, she represented not only her squadron and the 908th Airlift Wing, but approximately 53,000 enlisted Airmen currently serving in Air Force Reserve Command.

Later in the program, each honoree received a plaque recognizing their status as an Outstanding Airman, and a certificate bestowing a lifetime membership in AFA.

Davis was selected for her many accomplishments since joining the Air Force in 2011. In four short years, she has completed her 5-skill level as a Security Forces



Davis' journey began with her January 2014 Airman of the Quarter nomination.

Journeyman, Airman Leadership School and a Community College of the Air Force degree in Criminal Justice. She has also provided security during a deployment to Manas, Kyrgyzstan. Most recently, she earned a bachelor's degree in Information Systems from AUM.

She was also recognized for civic engagement and community service through her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. A Traditional Reservist, she serves as a help-desk analyst for a large defense contractor in her civilian job.

After seeing his Airman accept her award, Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Counce, superintendent of the 908th SFS, recalled how then-Senior Airman Davis' journey began with an overseas phone call. "Davis called me from the other side of the world to ask what she needed to do to win Airman of the Quarter," he said. "I told her she was already doing what it took, we just had to put it in writing. After that, every time I opened my e-mail I was getting bullets from her supervisor. The best part of this whole process is that

Staff Sgt. Davis has never lost sight that this award and everything we do as defenders takes a team. She is always thanking her fellow SFS members and supervisors for getting her to this point in her career."

"I appreciate this level of recognition given by AFA, Secretary James and Air Force leaders for enlisted accomplishments," said 908th Command Master Chief Owen Duke. "When the call goes out for nominations for quarterly awards, take the time and effort to recognize your folks. If you saw this event, you'd want your best performers to be here!"

"This has been a spectacular experience," her mother said, describing her first time in the nation's capitol. "We've been able to visit a lot of historical sights, Arlington National Cemetery, the memorials, and tour the Pentagon. It's been a phenomenal opportunity to be with her, to go through this experience of her being one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen."

"My daughter continues to amaze me with all she has done to get this award," her father said. "To see her and my wife walk out on that stage was exciting and overwhelming. This event was amazing! It was so well organized and totally professional; you would have thought it was a Hollywood production."

"This whole experience has been exceptional," Davis said after the dinner. "I'm really grateful to be here. I've been able to do a lot of different things and meet a lot of people I probably wouldn't have otherwise. I'm excited, humbled and glad my family has been here to enjoy it with me."



Davis and her parents pose with members of the 908th contingent attending the event. From left, are: MSG Commander Col. Patricia Brewer, Command Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke, Vice Commander Col. Pat Brooks and SFS Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Counce.

# By any other name

New SFS commander brings global, real-world experience to 908th

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

Since its founding in 1963, thousands of people have claimed membership in the 908th Airlift Wing. But it's unlikely there's ever been a member with a name more challenging to pronounce than the new 908th Security Forces Squadron commander.

Major Sounthavone Von Thiphavong, also known as "Major T," assumed command during the September UTA, receiving the guidon from 908th Mission Support Group Commander Col. Patricia Brewer.

Originally hailing from Fitchburg, Mass., and currently residing in South Carolina, Thiphavong comes to the 908th from Kunsan Air Base, where he was the security forces deputy commander. He said he looks forward to the opportunity to lead and mentor his fellow security forces defenders and prepare them for any deployments the squadron might get tasked to support.

"My main goal is to ensure all members of the 908th SFS are fully prepared to deploy and provide effective combat forces competent in the abilities to perform their duties," he said. "I believe my experience as an officer on active duty will enhance our training as security forces members, and will ensure we are all prepared to deploy."

He said his motivation in joining the service was to serve and defend the United States of America. His active experience includes tours of duty with security forces units from South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana, to the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and South Korea. His duties are just as diverse as his duty stations. Besides being a flight leader and operations officer, he has also worked as an antiterrorism officer, a director of technical support and an Air Force ROTC instructor.



Major Sounthavone Von Thiphavong is the new commander of the 908th Security Forces Squadron.

Thiphavong said his favorite deployment was a 2005 tour in Iraq, because "we conducted operations for which we were trained. I led off-base combat patrols responsible for securing the airfield against rocket and mortar attacks."

As the leader primarily responsible for the care, training and leading of the 908th Security Forces Squadron, Thiphavong said his main leadership style incorporates input from the unit into any final decision he makes.

"Although my main leadership style is democratic, I believe there are times that I have to be autocratic and make decisions quickly," he said.

As a police officer in military life, it's ironic his civilian profession centers around a product consumed by police officers the world over, in awe-inspiring quantities. Thiphavong is Production Supervisor for the Starbucks Sandy Run Roasting Plant in Gaston, S.C. His personal goal is to have a successful career as a Starbucks Coffee Company partner and to progress up through the ranks to eventually become plant director.

"My military job benefits my civilian job by providing me the tools and knowledge to lead and manage a team effectively to accomplish our production goals," he said. "In return, my civilian job enhances my interpersonal skills and ability to deal and interact with various personalities within the military."

He said the greatest influence on his life was his father, the source of his determination to succeed.

"I learned from him the importance of hard work," he said. "To succeed you need to be determined and willing to put in the extra work to get what you want out of life."

It might take a little time to pronounce the name easily, but it won't take long for Thiphavong to make an impact on the 908th.



By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

According to Tech. Sgt. Matthew H. Scales, wing historian for the 908th Airlift Wing, most people think his job is to share facts about Air Force history or collect old squadron softball team trophies.

In reality, it's to tell the 908th Airlift Wing story.

He said that often confuses people who think that's a Public Affairs function, and although the jobs are similar, his focus is on the future. While he keeps PA publications on file, the history he writes is aimed more towards decision makers rather than a general audience.

Take sequestration, for example.

"In the 2013 history, I wrote about sequestration and so did PA," he said. "However, in the wing history report, I included the budget provided by finance and included facts on how the wing dealt with the consequences of it, such as reduced flight hours."

"One day the wing, or even the Air Force as a whole, might face a similar situation. If so, they can look back at the history and say, 'What

did we do last time? What worked and what didn't?' The history is a lessons-learned type of report."

Scales said history is often used as a tool or a weapon, such as helping a unit to keep its aircraft and mission.

"If I've documented the 357th Airlift Squadron's support of airborne students at Fort Benning, someone could pull that up. Someone could argue, 'If you shut us down, you're shutting down a unit that's not only the closest to Benning but, since 2000, has helped to qualify X number of qualified paratroopers.'"

The wing historian's annual report covers the 908th for the entire year. Scales said the only way he can do that is if people know he's here and, more importantly, share information with him. And he can never have too much information.

It seems many people think their squadron's activities aren't important, or PA has already covered it, which leads to a problem: Scales can't use PA articles. The AFRC regulations require Scales to write his history from the original documents.

"They want to see that my information came from memos, reports,

## Historian using the wing past to ensure its legacy

Archivist seeks variety of information to document, build, preserve 908th legacy

PowerPoint slides, interviews, and emails," he said. "I'm sure it frustrates or confuses people, because if I can't use the PA articles, I'll probably be asking the same questions when I come to research an event."

Even if it's what some might consider as "just another exercise," Scales said he wants to know all about it, getting any stats, briefing slides or after-action reports he can.

"The bottom line as I see it is this: I'm here to tell the story of the wing," he said. "But the only way I can is if people help me by providing information. I don't expect everyone to give me exactly what I want the second I ask for it, but I can't write about something I don't know. I've seen so many Air Force historians just cover the basics, and that was it. I don't want the 908th history to be that way."

"As Air Force units go, the 908th is a very young unit and, therefore, it doesn't have a very long history," he said. "I say that to emphasize anything we do we must document, both to build on our short history, and arguably more important, to show why the wing is important to the Air Force."

## PROMOTION ENHANCEMENT

Congratulations to the new 908th PEP recipients: Tech. Sgts. Natasha Henderson and Brian Law, below left; Senior Master Sgt. William Mayfield, not pictured; and Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy, below right with husband, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Andrew Roy.



## New to the 908th

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Maj. Mark Jones, AW                    | Staff Sgt. Christopher Wright, FSS    |
| Maj. Reginald Horton, AW               | Staff Sgt. Dwayne Corker, CES         |
| Capt. Ryan Hardeman, MSG               | Staff Sgt. Eugene Mays, FSS           |
| 1st Lt. Tracy Badger, AES              | Staff Sgt. Richard Fulcher, FSS       |
| Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Vanzandt, CES | Airman 1st Class Trevian Moss, 25 APS |
| Tech. Sgt. Toni Doss, CES              | Airman Basic Latianna Hicks, 357 AS   |
|  | Airman Basic Jerin Price, ASTS        |

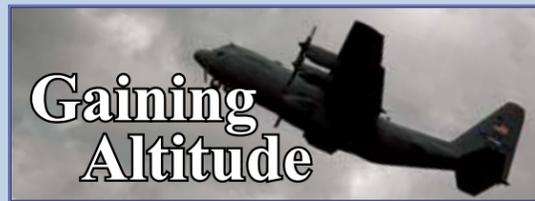
## Preparing to Disembark

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lt. Col. Kevin Greeley, OSS          | Master Sgt. Dennis Ellis, CES       |
| Lt. Col. Gwendolyn Hill, ASTS        | Master Sgt. Jeffery Speigner, CES   |
| Senior Master Sgt. Jamie Womack, MXS | Tech. Sgt. Michael Epps, OSS        |
| Master Sgt. George Brawley, LRS      | Tech. Sgt. Rafael Sarmiento, 25 APS |



### Want in on a secret?

Send us an e-mail to join the wing's private Facebook page. Send Lt. Col Jerry Lobb or Gene Hughes at the Public Affairs Office an e-mail from the account you have listed on your Facebook page, and we'll invite/give you access.



## Gaining Altitude

### Senior Master Sergeant



Aubrey Walters

### Master Sergeant



Scott Feraris  
Cynthia Smith

### Technical Sergeant



Miranda Boswell  
Darryl Good  
Anthony Keith  
Anthony Knizel

### Staff Sergeant



Matthew Chandler  
Corey Hall  
Patrick Harrington  
Kyle Lutsic  
Amber McKenzie  
Christopher Morgan  
Christina Valdes

### Senior Airman



Tyler Dowland  
Louis Fields  
Andrew Hampton  
Howard Morris  
Justen Sims  
Dustin Smith  
Kiet Trinh

### Airman First Class



Jennifer Murphy

### Airman



Charles Steward

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP



The 908th hosted promotion ceremonies for several officers over the September UTA. Among those celebrating their rise in rank with their families were, from top: Col. Ben Smith, MSG; Lt. Col. Carmel Weed, CCO; and Lt. Col. Michael Meyer, JA. Also promoted were Lt. Cols. Darris Edge, FSS; and George Hilyard, AES. Selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel were Emory Dueitt, 357th AS; Susan Hillhouse, AES; and Yolanda Woodsmall, ASTS.



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:



The 908th 56'ers are sponsoring the First Annual Kickball Tournament, Saturday, Oct. 3. The event will take place at the Maxwell Softball Complex at 5 p.m. The cost is \$40 per team. Call Tech. Sgt. Earl Dickerson at 953-0543 for more details.



## WHICH LIST ARE YOU ON?

Santa Claus wants families of the 908th to know he's going to visit us Dec. 5, at approximately 10 a.m. He needs elves to help him. Call 953-6804 to volunteer, and be good, for goodness sake.

## CFC, FROM PAGE 3

I ask that you find something you're passionate about or perhaps have had some interaction with (maybe you or your family have been helped by one of these organizations), and make a donation. There's a family somewhere out there right now that doesn't realize they might soon need help. When they receive it, they will be extremely thankful, and your donation will continue to impact others.

Today the CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 campaigns throughout the country and overseas, raising millions of dollars each year for an estimated 20,000 charitable organizations worldwide. The choices of CFC organizations span a broad range. If you can, please help CFC organizations assist those in need. Thank you.

## 908th CFC POCs

**Wing/MXG:** Maj. Rob McNulty, 953-5608

**OG:** 1st Lt. Jason Towery, 953-6963

**MSG:** Capt. Ryan Hardeman, 953-8545; CMSgt. Harold Whited, 953-7791

**ASTS:** SrA L. Crowley, 953-5714

**Wing Staff:** Ms. Angie Rankins-West, 953-5541

## Important Dates

Sept. 1 – Dec. 15: Combined Federal Campaign dates



MCNULTY