

SOUTHERN FLYER



Keys to Success Ostrat Assumes Command Rival Universities Transfer Heritage FSS Competes for Hennessy Max Air Show



AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

SPRING 2017

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Three Keys to Success

As I look out at the world we operate in, two defining elements become clear. First, money is tight. Dollars available versus demand means we will always be underfunded. Second, conflict all over the globe is persistent. We are constantly in a cycle of training, deploying and resetting because America needs the Air Force to do its job every day, and the Air Force can't do it without us.

I have three guiding philosophies on how we will succeed:

Be mission ready.

We, at the core of our existence, provide combat forces to any combatant commander, anywhere in the world. There is nothing that we do more important than being ready to do our military jobs. We are unique within the reserve components in that our culture and tasking says we can be ready to deploy anywhere in the world in less than a week and seamlessly do our combat mission side by side with active component forces.

Work together to get to yes.

We never have enough manpower or expertise to have dedicated specialists to take care of issues. We compensate by asking everyone to do a little bit that's outside their AFSC. That's necessary, but it both conflicts with priority one above and frustrates everyone. We have to work together. If someone is asking for help, it's OK to say, "That's not my job," but only if you follow it up with "But let me help you find a solution." If it is your area of expertise, remember – they didn't go to your schools and get your training. We will only succeed by solving problems as a team.

Take care of each other.

What we do is hard. There is no other way to look at it. Not only do we have our



COL. KENNETH OSTRAT
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

regular jobs, but each of you have volunteered to devote free time you could spend relaxing with friends to serving your nation. Part of that service is we ask you to leave your family for weeks or months at a time to go overseas where you can be of no help back home. Families can feel lost and abandoned, and it can be the defining stressor in a relationship. We need to help each other out. There are support programs, both official and un-official within the wing. Talk to your first sergeants and commanders, find out what we can do to help. Then talk to your peers and help each other. When someone deploys to serve, there should be a thousand people back here ready and able to ease the strain on the families left behind.

I'm excited to be here, and proud to be a part of this wing again.



COVER PHOTO:

Aircraft number 9143, a C-130 Hercules belonging to the 908th Airlift Wing drops a Containerized Delivery System Bundle on Maxwell Air Force Base April 9 as a part of the Maxwell Air Show.



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

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Ostrat Assumes Command of the 908th

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – The 908th Airlift Wing has a familiar face rejoining its ranks, but this time in a new position.

The Commander of 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., Maj. Gen. John Stokes, transferred command of the 908th Airlift Wing to Col. Kenneth Ostrat during an Assumption of Command ceremony March 5, at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Ostrat had a previous stint with the 908th, serving as Director of Operations for the 357th Airlift Squadron from July 2008 until December 2012.

During the ceremony Stokes highlighted some of the demands and expectations the wing is preparing to face.

“This is a very special wing to me,” said Stokes, who also was a member of the 908th from 2001-2006. “This is a great place with special people. It’s also a busy place, and it’s that way because this wing is ready to get in the fight.”

“We have been going at a high pace for the last 26 years,” said Stokes. “And that takes a toll on our Airmen, equipment, and families. Let there be no mistake, we are about combat. We will continue to fight for this great

country as long as there is an enemy in front of us and our families are behind us.”

Stokes then lauded the wing for its readiness.

“I am very confident that you are well prepared for whatever comes your way,” said Stokes. “And under Col. Ostrat’s leadership, you are in very good hands.”

During his comments, Ostrat addressed his return to the 908th and his expectations of the manner in which the wing will perform.

“It feels really good to be home,” explained Ostrat. “What we do matters, so when we deploy we will do so with excellence.”

Ostrat then explained the honor and pride he feels for the 908th.

“It’s a privilege to be here again and to be in this position,” said Ostrat. “Thank you very much.”

Ostrat’s previous assignment was Chief of the Programs Division, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Ostrat replaces Col. David Condit, who commanded the 908th from May 2016 until December 2016. Col. Pat Brooks, Vice Commander of the wing has been in charge since Condit’s departure.



Big Al helps 908th Transfer Heritage and Retire 'Roll Tide'

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – The 908th Airlift Wing transferred the heritage of aircraft 85-0042 known as Roll Tide to aircraft number 89-1188 now formally known as Roll Tide Jan 20.

The transfer was completed by the University of Alabama mascot, Big Al, and Col. Don Richey commander of the 908th Operations Group

The transfer marks the departure and retirement of aircraft 42 after having flown more than 12,000 hours in the 31 years since it arrived at Maxwell. It has deployed in support of most/all of the named contingencies in the Middle East and Africa since then. It has also supported humanitarian and relief operations, following hurricanes and floods at home and abroad.

During the ceremony, Big Al carried a University of Alabama flag from 42 to 1188.

There was also a special message from Stuart R. Bell, the President of the University of Alabama, which said, “Thank you for your service, for your dedication and for your professionalism. The entire Crimson Tide

family is grateful for all that you do for Alabama and our nation.”

The message continued with, “It has been our tremendous privilege knowing the 908th has honored The University of Alabama with the distinction of naming one of your C-130 Hercules aircraft the ‘Roll Tide.’ While it is sad to learn the current aircraft will be retired next week, we are thrilled to participate in this ceremony to transfer the ‘Roll Tide’ heritage to this new member of your fleet.

The 908th is very proud of its community ties and takes great honor in being the only reserve unit in the state, it means a lot to the wing to have those same feelings reciprocated.

“As you know, The University of Alabama is where legends are made,” said Bell. “We know the 908th Airlift Wing is where heroes are cultivated, leaders are developed ... and legends are flown. We are extremely proud to help transfer the ‘Roll Tide’ legacy to aircraft 89-1188 today, and we again thank you for this great honor. ROLL TIDE!”

After the ceremony, Big Al met with members of the 908th for pictures and to talk about their shared love for the university.



Auburn helps 908th Transfer Heritage and Retire Purple Heart recipient 'War Eagle'



By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – The 908th Airlift Wing transferred the heritage of aircraft number 85-0040 known as War Eagle to aircraft number 91-9142 Feb 24, at Maxwell Air Force Base.

The transfer was completed by members of Auburn University, to include approximately 20 cadets from their Air Force ROTC detachment and Maj. Sam Manno, an Auburn ROTC alumnus, and navigator with the 908th Airlift Wing.

The transfer marks the departure and retirement of aircraft 40 after having flown more than 12,000 hours in the 31 years since it arrived at Maxwell. It has deployed in support of all of the named contingencies in the Middle East and Africa since then. It has also supported humanitarian and relief operations, following hurricanes and floods at home and abroad.

During the ceremony, Cadet Lowmiller and a group of Cadets in formation marched an Auburn University flag from 40 to 9142 symbolically moving the “War Eagle” name and legacy to the newer aircraft.

Auburn ROTC’s Detachment Commander, Lt. Col. Jeffery Welborn, read a special message from Jay Gogue, the President of Auburn University, to wing members which said, “Auburn is proud to work alongside Maxwell Air Force Base, and we are grateful for the service of the

men and women who work there. We are particularly honored that the ‘War Eagle’ has represented Auburn throughout its distinguished military career.”

His message continued with, “Over its storied 31 years in service, the ‘War Eagle’ has witnessed first-hand the dangers associated with defending our great nation. In 2005, while deployed in Iraq, the ‘War Eagle’ took a 107mm rocket through one of its engines. Despite the attack, the ‘War Eagle’ was still able to land safely with all 55 passengers aboard unharmed. It serves as a reminder of the dangers military personnel face in protecting our country.”

The 908th is proud of its community ties and takes great honor in being the only reserve unit in the state, it means a lot to the wing to have those feelings reciprocated.

“While we are sad to see this plane removed from service, we are honored to celebrate its history and see its replacement continue to defend our country with a big ‘War Eagle,’ and Auburn logo painted on the side,” explained Gogue. “As you know, Auburn has a long history of supporting the U.S. Military and all of the brave men and women who serve in it. We wish the new ‘War Eagle’ C-130 Hercules all the best, and we are confident it will have a career equally as honorable as its predecessor. On Behalf of the Auburn family, we wish a hearty ‘War Eagle’ to you and all of Maxwell Air Force Base.”

Serving up Smiles, 908th Force Support Squadron

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE

BASE, Ala. – There was an eerie silence as the sun continued to lift above the horizon. Temperatures were still brisk as they awaited the arrival of their pallet from the sky. This remote location was an all too familiar site for U. S. Air Force Airmen belonging to Force Support Squadrons. A tent city needing a combat kitchen to feed members assigned to that location.

Instead of a tent city at a deployed in location, the 908th Airlift Wing's Force Support Squadron was at the Blue Thunder training area on Maxwell Air Force Base Feb. 11, to once again compete in the Hennessy Competition.

Each year, the Air Force presents the John L. Hennessy Award to recognize the team who best excels in food service.

After a second place finish in the team portion of last year's competi-



tion, the 908th was hungry for the win this year.

"Honestly I don't feel that much pressure," said Staff Sgt. Octavius Ausbon, who won the individual Outstanding Performer award last year. "We do this as a team and we have a great team at that. Coming in second last year just gives us more motivation this year. We have a great set up and we are way better time wise than we were."

According to Chief Master Sgt. Dan Kelly, Air Force Reserve Command functional manager, one of three judges for the competition, the 908th is the first of four teams vying for the title this year.

"The other three teams to be judged between now and April are: the 512th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, Del.; the 419th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah; and the 934th Airlift Wing at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn.," explained Kelly. "The 908th should be proud, they are already in the top four out of 39 other eligible units."

Winning the Hennessy Competition isn't just about bragging rights to hold over other units, there are real world implications to being the best of the best.

"These guys get training with chefs," said Kelly. "They get to go to the food show in Chicago, and they can spend a week in Napa Valley, Calif., training and learning from the best of the best."

With so much on the line, the judges have to be extremely skilled and knowledgeable to be able to distinguish the best from the rest.

That's where the other two members of the judging team come in, Senior Master Sgt. Shakela McNeill, and Executive Chef David Richmond, member of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

McNeill, who is now in charge of readiness at the AFRC level, just left the school house after being an instructor for six years is in a perfect position to be one of the judges for the competition according to Kelly.

"I think my experiences make



Team Competes for John L. Hennessy Award

it easier for me to be able to judge the competition,” said McNeill. “I know what the standard is because I remember teaching them the standards. I know what to look for because I see this stuff in my sleep.”

Every team competing knows what those standards are as well, so something else has to become evident to stand out as the best.

“They have to think outside of the box,” explained McNeill. “I know it’s a food competition and while that is the biggest factor, it’s not all about the food.”

Thinking outside of the box is exactly what the team has done this year.

“We feel better about this year,” said Tech. Sgt. Sannu Cummings-Brooks, food team lead for the 908th’s team. “We have made some additions that should give us an edge. We have extra décor and we have improved on our time. Right now we are on time and on schedule.”

Time management can be a vital aspect to the competition, and if the 908th’s time management is any indication of where they stand overall, then things are looking good for the team.

“The standard amount of time to set up the kitchen is supposed to be an hour and a half,” said McNeill. “They did it in less than 45 minutes.”

Witnessing the 908th was Richmond’s first experience in seeing the Hennessy Competition, let alone judging it.

“It’s absolutely amazing to see a small pallet transformed into a kitchen that can produce a hot meal,” exclaimed Richmond. “To see

a group of individuals that are passionate about what they do and that are trained to be leaders and trained to put out a product in a timely manner is great.”

Even with a strong feeling of awe, Richmond knows what he is looking for as far as judging is concerned.

“They have to put out an amazing product,” explained Richmond. “I’m looking for organization, passion, people who know when to step up and be leaders while also knowing when to step back and be a team player following someone else’s lead. The winning team needs to have a hot, safe, and clean product.”

According to Richmond, the 908th did just that.

“They fed people in a safe way,” said Richmond. “They were organized, clean, and followed all the right rules and regulations.”

Just like McNeill, Richmond knows that it isn’t just about the food.

“They have to be hospitable,” said Richmond. “They have to remember that the customer is king.”

Once again, it seems the 908th has met that expectation and set the bar pretty high for other teams to follow.

“I saw a drive to serve,” proclaimed Richmond. “Every member of the team was engaged, genuine, and going the extra mile.”



908th Carries Maxwell Air Show to Success

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – The 908th Airlift Wing played a significant role in the Maxwell Air Show April 8 and 9 at Maxwell Air Force Base.

The 908th provided four C-130 Hercules aircraft for a demonstration on a four-ship air drop of containerized delivery system bundles, another aircraft was on static display, and a final aircraft was used as the jump platform for the U.S. Air Force Academy Parachute Team, the Wings of Blue.

The wing also assisted in other aspects needed to make the Air Show a success, including three key members of the Air Show Staff. Lt. Col. Terry O’Grady, Chief of Tactics for the 908th Operations Group served as the Heritage to Horizon Air Operations Officer. While, Capt. David Castillo and 1st Lt. James Gillie both with the 357th Airlift Squadron, served as the liaisons for the Air Force Thunderbirds and Patrouille de France demonstration teams.

O’Grady said that he was, “responsible for attracting and recruiting aerial performers, static civilian and military aircraft and coordination of all their requirements.” While Gillie was tasked with, “coordinating the logistics for hosting the 75 members of the Patrouille de France team.”

The planning for each of their roles took longer than some would think.

“I got the assignment back in July of last year,” said Gillie. “I really started communicating with the team in November. It became my primary assignment starting in February.” While O’Grady’s was even longer. “I started researching and contacting performers in May 2016,” said O’Grady. “The majority of work began in December 2016 during ICAS (International Council of Air Shows) Conference I attended air show workshops and began networking with air show performers.”

To pull off the first Air Show in more than seven years, these gentlemen had to overcome some difficult tasks.

“The most difficult part of the role is the coordination required to ensure all attendees have their requirements supported,” explained O’Grady. “Fuels and oils, aircraft parking, arrival/departure times, vehicles, and lodging are just a few of the requirements each performer needs addressed and each performer is a little differ-



ent. I had a tremendous team of coordinators (Thunderbirds, Patrouille de France, warbirds, civilian performers, military aircraft, US Army, and hospitality) that made sure all requirements were covered and the performers and static aircraft aircrews were pleased with their stay at Maxwell.”

While, Gillie didn't have to deal with every performer, one could argue he had to overcome one of the most difficult obstacles.

“The hardest part was the language barrier,” laughed Gillie. “They also spoke a fair amount of English, and I took a few years of French in school, but really only enough to be conversational. When they were trying to explain technical requirements to me we used a combination of hand gestures, pictures, and Google Translate to get the point across.”

Gillie's hard work paid off in the end.

“The most rewarding part was seeing the team put on a great show,” explained Gillie. “It was nice to have everything squared away for the team so they could put on a great performance with ease.”

O'Grady saw value in another aspect.

“Seeing the excitement on people's faces was, by far, the most rewarding part of being the Air Operations Officer,” said O'Grady. “Bringing all of these aircraft together to celebrate 100 years of aviation while demonstrating to the public our history and looking into the future of aviation certainly brought a tremendous amount of energy to Maxwell Air Force Base and the River Region.”

The 908th also provided three aircraft hangers for use by show performers and distinguished visitors and guests, office space for the Air Force Thunderbirds and Patrouille de France teams, and aircraft maintainers and security forces personnel.

“I truly enjoyed the people I worked with from the Air University, 42nd Air Base Wing and 908th Airlift Wing to help bring this event to the public,” said O'Grady. “The weather was outstanding and I can honestly say I haven't heard anything but positive responses from both our visitors and performers.”



New to the 908th

Lt. Col. Teri Spivey, AW
 Maj. Brandon Hemphill, ASTS
 Capt. Kevin Hutchinson, LRS
 2nd Lt. Lashonda Battaglia, ASTS
 2nd Lt. Ashley Langley, AES
 Master Sgt. David Owens, MXS
 Master Sgt. Jamie Truitt, AMXS
 Tech. Sgt. Samuel Green, ASTS
 Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Guice, MXS
 Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Harrison, FSS
 Tech. Sgt. Robert Lee, FSS
 Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Steube, CES
 Tech. Sgt. Kristen Travo, AW
 Tech. Sgt. Monica White, LRS
 Staff Sgt. Malia Belton, AW
 Staff Sgt. Jozelle Browne, MXS
 Staff Sgt. Darryl Bryant, MXS
 Staff Sgt. Lashonda Cole, ASTS
 Staff Sgt. Patrick Demesiner, AMXS
 Staff Sgt. Regina Giardini, AW
 Staff Sgt. Marcus Johnson, SFS
 Staff Sgt. Tinay Maddox, LRS
 Staff Sgt. Saleumsack Manivong, 25 APS
 Staff Sgt. Curtis Mims, LRS
 Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Morris, 25 APS
 Senior Airman Omar Abella, AW
 Senior Airman Joseph Abernathy, MXS

Senior Airman Webster Antwi, MXS
 Senior Airman Casey Ashley, CES
 Senior Airman Matthew Averitt, LRS
 Senior Airman Desmond Beulah, MXS
 Senior Airman Brian Healey, 25 APS
 Senior Airman Brandon Smith, SFS
 Senior Airman Joel Whitman, AMXS
 Senior Airman James Williams, MXS
 Senior Airman Jerrell Williams, SFS
 Airman 1st Class Krystal Dinkins, FSS
 Airman 1st Class Airielle Edwards, AMXS
 Airman 1st Class Whisper Etter, AMXS
 Airman 1st Class Porsche Gavin, ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Shamar Johnson, ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Deja Leroy, ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Narkita Morrow, ASTS
 Airman 1st Class Shervanae Scott, MXS
 Airman 1st Class Jerry Vasquez, MXS
 Airman 1st Class Meketa Webb, CES
 Airman 1st Class Ebony Williams-Wingard, CES
 Airman 1st Class Kanita Wright, SFS
 Airman Robert Rembert, MXS
 Airman Victoria Tarver, CES
 Airman Basic Ramone Lacey, CES
 Airman Basic Leslie Patton, LRS
 Airman Basic Jacob Wright, MXS



Gaining Altitude



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 Jamie T. Truitt

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 Kendall Williams

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*908th Airlift Wing
Wingman & Family
Day
Saturday, May 6, 2017*

TO THE FAMILY OF:

Wingman Day Information

Location: Wood Hall, Bldg 1402, ACSC

Time: MSG, ASTS, Wing Staff--0720

Time: DTF, OG, MG--0820

Attire: Uniform of the Day

Family Day

Location: Maxwell AFB Sports Complex

Time: 1130-1600

1130

*Wing Commander Opening Remarks
Honorary Commanders Initiation*

1150

*Lunch, Fields Open, Music Begins, Kids' Inflat-
ables, Face Painting, Kickball, Soccer, Cornhole,
Horseshoes, Information Booths, and a Dunk
Tank.*

1330

Shenandoah