

SOUTHERN FLYER



FIRST SERGEANTS: MORE THAN A POSITION

A CALLING THAT REQUIRES HAVING A
HEART AS STRONG AS A DIAMOND



Let Our Core Values be Your Polaris

Almost two years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Air Force Academy with many of the leaders of 22nd Air Force where I found a beautiful base and campus full of rich history and traditions. One of the highlights was a tour of one of the newest buildings, Polaris Hall. Polaris (another name for the North Star) is a very modern building designed to foster collaborative, innovative problem solving with teams of airmen.

The other purpose of the building is to house the cadet honor court. Before sophisticated navigation systems were developed, people navigated by using the North Star. The concept of the building is if a cadet has done something to stray off course and appear in front of the honor court they can look up through the specially designed roof to see the North Star so they can find their way back on course.

As I examine the many, many challenges that our wing faces I sometimes wonder what direction to take, what's the best course of action and what's best for our Airmen? Like Polaris showing the way, I find that no matter the challenge or the circumstance, guidance can be found in our Core Values. *Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do* will apply regardless of the current crises we find ourselves in. Woven into each of the three values is respect; respect for yourself, respect for the organization and respect for each other. We all have the responsibility to hold each other accountable to respecting the Core Values and each other, it's integral to the success of each team and the organization at large.

Last August, September and October, I personally went to each squadron to deliver Diversity and Inclusion training. If you recall, I stipulated that we will be much better as an organization if we include everyone; we will have a great mix of diverse thought which will yield the best solutions. If we respect everyone, we ALL will have the same opportunity to compete on a level playing field. Chief and I consistently ask you to let us know if there are barriers in your way (do you remember the one lane on the track that had a higher hurdle to get over?).

We kicked off two initiatives last August. The first was to gain approval to have an Alabama State University plane complete with nose art and an outreach event to celebrate the official unveiling. We have made a lot of progress and are on track for an early September unveiling, perhaps even a fly-over before the Labor Day Classic on September 5th against Tuskegee. The second initia-

tive was to better understand the demographics of our wing; we are making progress there as well.

Over the last 15 months we have increased our diversity in the gender and race demographics. Unfortunately, we aren't very diverse when it comes to our more senior ranks and

leadership positions. I'm committed to digging into the data so we can better understand our demographics throughout all ranks. We recently obtained data that will help us analyze our demographics in each rank in each squadron. We don't fully understand the situation yet but we are enlisting the help of a small group to help us analyze the data and look for positive actions we can take to ensure ALL Airmen have the same opportunities to progress and develop. So far, the one thing we all can agree on is we ALL can do a better job of mentoring each other so all Airmen understand career paths and requirements for promotion and career development.

In closing, as we navigate our way through the plethora of immensely complicated challenges (preparing 270 airmen for deployment, COVID-19 response, the possibility of re-missioning, the dynamics of race discussions in our community and in our wing) we can always find our way by respecting each other and leaning on our Air Force Core Values for guidance. You all make me proud to serve you each and every day, keep aiming high 908th!



COL. CRAIG DRESCHER
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing



CMSGT. TRACY CORNETT
Command Chief, 908th Airlift Wing

Equality; How Do We Get There?

There's been a lot of discussion lately on equality. In fact, I've engaged with several of you over the last few weeks discussing this topic, among many others. Equality is a word with many different meanings, depending on who you talk to. My belief is that equality gets to the point that we all are afforded the same rights and opportunities. How each one of us interprets equality depends greatly on a few things; our experiences, culture, and how we were raised. Equality is something that no one should have to earn or pay for. It should be a right that everyone enjoys. Throughout our history we have seen many good and bad examples of how equality has been provided, abused, and hijacked for many varied reasons. How do we ensure equality is guaranteed in our Force? Let me give you a few suggestions.

I'll lay out two examples of how I ensure equality is provided to every member of Team 908th. One is the Air Force Core Values and what they mean to me and the other are some personal values I try to apply in my everyday life to each one of our teammates.

First, I would refer you back to the Air Force Core Values, Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. Think for a moment about what those core values mean to you. To me, Integrity First is doing the right thing when no one else is looking, and standing on your personal and professional convictions to do what is right, even when the rest of the world is against you. That's where you make your money as a leader, through integrity. When I think about Service Before Self, I

think about what I can do for the enterprise, and those who make it up, before I do things for myself. In other words, am I always looking out for number one or am I continually looking for ways to ensure that I am serving others and the Air Force? It's a fine line to have to manage, but it can be done with a little mentorship and experience. Lastly, I see Excellence in all we do as a standard that has to be met in order for the mission to be successful. If we only give minimum effort of what we are capable of doing, we are not living up to that last core value. It reminds me of the old saying, doing something the easy way isn't always the right way. However, if we give everything we have, the results will be both equality for everyone and mission success. If these core values are truly taken seriously, equality comes easy to the individual.

Secondly, I would like to remind you of a few additional standards I apply to my life to ensure everyone is treated equally. I first look to my four pillars of personal beliefs. These are the beliefs I remind myself of every day. In fact, every new basic trainee we send off to basic training hears these words from me. With every word you speak and every action you take, be moral, be ethical, be legal, and be professional. If you can uphold these four pillars of personal beliefs, you will do great things during your career and ensure that equality is provided to everyone you serve with. Sounds easy, right?

Sometimes it is and sometimes it isn't. If you'll notice, each one of those words deals with you, the individual, and how you interact with your teammates. Routinely include

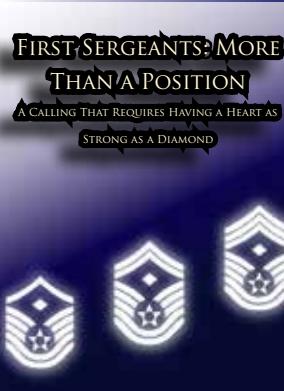


SOUTHERN FLYER July-August 2020

 Vol. 57 Issue 5

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COVER PHOTO:

First Sergeants: More Than a Position
A Calling That Requires Having A Heart As Strong As A Diamond is a graphic illustration using imagery of the Master Sgt., Senior Master Sgt., and Chief Master Sgt. rank insignias that also include the diamond that is used a first sergeant designator. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Senior Airman Shelby Thurman)

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"The 908th is made up of service members who are Capable, Innovative Citizen Airmen ... Ready Today, Leading Tomorrow that Provide Combat Capability Anytime...Anywhere."

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.

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First Sergeants: More Than a Position

A Calling That Requires Having a Heart as Strong as a Diamond

By Senior Airman Shelby Thurman
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- "Excuse me, Shirt, do you have a minute to talk?" pleaded the Airman.

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Cornett, 908th Airlift Wing command chief, recalled when he assisted two airmen who were contemplating suicide during his time as a first sergeant from 2010 to 2017.

"It would have been easy to walk away and tell them to come back," said Cornett. "But I saw the need immediately and was able to get them the assistance they needed so as to result in a positive outcome so that they could preserve life and continue with their careers to this day."

Many other first sergeants have experiences just like Cornett's.

The Air Force first recognized the outcry for a career field that focused on the health and well-being of Airmen and the overall unit by establishing the first sergeant position in 1961. This move was then followed by the

Strategic Air Command's 15th Air Force opening their own first sergeant school in 1967 at March Air Force Base, California.

It is vital for units to have first sergeants that have their finger on the pulse of a command. By getting service members at every level the chance to be taken care of fosters an environment of open communication. This transparency allows for both junior enlisted and top leadership to succeed in their mission.

But how will a first sergeant know what is going on in someone's life?

Trust. That's how.

"A first sergeant's job is to know their people, and that can be hard when there are walls to break through so that the team can trust you," said Master Sgt. Lelia Collins, 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron first sergeant. "When I am given the honor to listen to an Airmen's story, it means that they trust me and they trust my guidance; that to me, is the most rewarding part of this career field."





Another part of being a first sergeant that extends outside the squadron and group level is expectations.

Cornett, the Wing functional area manager for the First Sergeants, said that servant leaders who want to become first sergeants or are currently first sergeants are expected to have integrity, compassion, empathy and trustworthiness.

Putting these characteristics on display can be a bit daunting for individuals that might feel timid towards public speaking or confrontation.

Master Sgt. Ashley Sexton, 25th Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant, said that having empathy, transparency and level-headedness come in handy when she must have some difficult conversations. This is especially true when she has to hold someone accountable for their actions.

"You will have to be a servant leader for every Airman, even if you believe the behavior or decision that Airman made goes against your values and the Air Forces values," said Sexton. "You are there to help lead Airman, sometimes that is to help mentor and navigate them through their Air Force Career, and sometimes it is helping

them prepare for a life outside of the military."

Regardless of if an Airmen needs assistance or discipline, the first sergeants are there for the Airman's benefit.

This is why many first sergeants feel that the part of the first sergeant's creed that impacts them the most besides "everyone is my business" is the line, "My job is people...their health, morale, discipline and welfare."

"When [an Airman's] individual or family's health, morale, discipline and welfare aren't in a good place then our overall mission suffers," said Collins.

Collins also said that first sergeants are expected to protect sensitive information and to still be an unbiased leader in their organization.

Another reality of being a first sergeant in the Air Force Reserve is that they are held to the same standards as active duty first sergeants in that they are on-call 24/7.

One first sergeant that is constantly reminded of the weight of his role is Senior Master Sgt. Eric Sharman, 908th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

"My wife and children know that sometimes I can't make certain events, or I have to work late, but they are very understanding," said Sharman. "They know that dad's job is to help people."

These expectations coupled with the reality of the gravity of the information they must keep tucked away can leave a heavy weight on a first sergeant's shoulders.

But they are not alone.

According to Sharman, first sergeants lean on one another.

"Having a strong team of first sergeants allows us to work together and to lean on each other in times of need," said Collins.

Sharman said that being able to depend on one another is essential when another first sergeant could potentially live hours away from an Airman in need.

"My job doesn't stop at the doors of the AES squadron; it extends to the Group and to the Wing," said Collins. "It also doesn't stop there either because it extends to the families of those in my Squadron, Group and Wing."

This devotion to others, regardless of what unit they are with, is the physical manifestation of the line in the first sergeant's creed that reads, "We take care of our own."

This hope and self-service brought by the comradery of fellow Airmen and first sergeants shows how rewarding being a first sergeant can be. This same feeling of

a job well done is why many first sergeants said that regardless of the exhausting days they have had, it was all worth it.

"I don't care what the issue is, I'll find you the resource, be the ear, the shoulder and the support needed to get through whatever it is," said Senior Master Sgt. Eva Appiah, 908th Operations Group and 357th Airlift Squadron first sergeant.

Appiah said that she feels so strongly about being there for others, no matter how challenging the issue, is because she knows that those she cares for are worth this effort.

Knowing that a first sergeant did everything in their power to help a single Airman feels like a major accomplishment to them, said Sharman.

"When you see your people thriving in their professional and personal lives, and you know that you've helped them through good times and bad; it's very fulfilling," he added.

One does not have to be a first sergeant to be a positive figure for another Airman or an entire unit; but it helps.

When asked what she would say to someone that was considering to be a first sergeant, Collins said, "It'll be the most rewarding job you've ever had, and it will

change your life, and hopefully the lives of those around you as well."

As well as helping others, the first sergeant position has numerous career benefits. It is a good thing that there are always opportunities to become a first sergeant, said Cornett.

"It's very rare to see a unit without a commander, and it should be the same with the first sergeant position," said Sharman.

He also added that becoming a first sergeant can be one of the most rewarding career moves a person can make.

Being a first sergeant looks good on paper, but it cannot be forgotten that the first sergeants chose to come into their role because of where their heart was.

"This career field allows you to give back to your service in the form of helping those that need it most," said Collins. "It gives perspective because you see our service members at their greatest and at their lowest. Being a first sergeant gives me the drive to do better every day, it helps me want to be a better Airman for our members and it pushes me to be better in every aspect of my life."

If interested in becoming a First Sergeant, speak with a current or former first sergeant, supervisor, commander or command chief.



Air Force Delays Mandatory Wear-Date for 2PFDU, OCP Items

By Staff Sgt. Sahara L. Fales
Air Force's Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH,

Texas -- In an effort to reduce unnecessary stress on Airmen and Space professionals during COVID-19 restrictions, several uniform changes scheduled to become mandatory for the Operational Camouflage Pattern and Two-Piece Flight Duty Uniform on June 1, 2020, have been delayed to Sept. 1, 2020.

The changes for each uniform are detailed in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel. Mandatory wear of the Operational Camouflage Pattern Uniform remains April 2021.

The changes that become mandatory in September for the OCP include:

Officer rank insignia will be Spice Brown (exception: First Lieutenant and Lieutenant Colonel rank insignia will be Black).

See Uniform, Page 14

Final Changes to Air Force Song Announced

By Charles Pope
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- All stanzas of the Air Force song have been updated to better capture and represent the valor and heritage of the 73-year-old service while also recognizing the diversity and contributions of today's Total Force regardless of gender.

The announcement by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, completes a two-step process in which male-only references were revised to capture the distinguished service, the high standards, and central role that women play in every facet of the modern United States Air Force.

The first step focused on changing the song's third verse, which also serves as the official song of the

United States Air Force Academy. Goldfein unveiled those new lyrics in March and suggested that additional changes to remove the remaining male-only references would be made at a later date and after further review.

The updated lyrics include subtle but important changes that more accurately illustrate the role women have played for decades.

"These new lyrics speak more accurately to all we do, all that we are and all that we strive to be as a profession of arms," Goldfein said. "They add proper respect and recognition to everyone who serves and who has served."

At the same time, Goldfein re-emphasized the careful consideration that went into the decision for whether, and how, to change the lyrics.

"I also know with absolute certainty and clarity that these changes are about adding to, not subtracting from, who we are," he said. "Changing the lyrics in no way diminishes the history and accomplishments of men or dilutes our eternal gratitude for their sacrifice and bravery."

The complete new lyrics are:
The U.S. Air Force Song (Adapted)

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in

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Air Force Song Continued from Page 12

flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!
(Verse II)
Brilliant minds fashioned a crate of thunder,
Sent it high into the blue;
Valiant hands blasted the world asunder;
How they lived God only knew!
Boundless souls dreaming of skies to conquer

Gave us wings, ever to soar!
With scouts before and bombers galore. Hey!

Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!
(Verse III)

Here's a toast to the host
Of those who love the vastness of the sky,

To a friend we send a message of the **brave who serve on high.**

We drink to those who gave their all of old,
Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold.

A toast to the host of those we boast, the U.S. Air Force!

(Verse IV)
Off we go into the wild sky yonder,

Keep the wings level and true;
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder

Keep the nose out of the blue!
Fly to fight, guarding the nation's border,

We'll be there, followed by more!
In echelon we carry on.
Oh, nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Fitness Testing Suspended Until Oct. 1

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- In an effort to reduce exposure to Airmen and to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19, Air Force officials announced May 22 all official fitness testing is suspended until Oct. 1.

The change, which is an update from the original June 1 resume date, is effective immediately.

Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, said in a signed memo, "Airmen remain our top priority, and we will ensure their health and safety as we maintain our force readiness posture."

"When testing resumes, the Air Force will take a systematic approach to reintegrating official physical fitness assessments," Kelly said in the memo. "All policies and procedures should reinforce physical distancing, use of personal protective equipment, Airmen health and personal hygiene, and cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting work spaces and common areas."

In March, officials canceled fitness assessments until June 1. Airmen who were scheduled to test in March, April and May received new test dates that were delayed by six months.

The latest change, which is subject to local health conditions and states, "Commanders shall begin assessing Airmen's fitness on Oct. 1, 2020 contingent upon base fitness centers being reopened and local state/country travel and movement restrictions being lifted."

Additionally:
• If fitness centers remain closed and local movement

restrictions remain in place, commanders may choose to delay physical fitness assessment resumption beyond Oct. 1, 2020 until safe conditions are available.

- An Airmen's next scheduled fitness assessment will be based on the date of their last official assessment and fitness category.

- In order to maintain the health and safety of the force as testing resumes, the abdominal circumference component will be temporarily suspended through Oct. 1, 2021 or until further notice. During this period, all Airmen will receive a temporary, one-year abdominal circumference component exemption, and the next scheduled test date will be based on the overall fitness score. This one-year temporary abdominal circumference exemption will take precedence over any other shorter term temporary abdominal circumference exemptions.

- The annual height and weight measurements taken in conjunction with the fitness assessment will be temporarily suspended until further notice in order to preserve the health and safety of the force.

- Physical training leaders augmenting the Fitness Assessment Cell may test members from within their same unit to help provide commanders with capacity options.

- Commanders should use the four-month delay to purchase appropriate equipment (e.g., toe bars) to aid in physical distancing and administration of official physical fitness assessments in a safe and healthy environment.

For more information, Airmen should visit MyPers and/or contact their chain of command.

908th Gains Experience with New Vice

Col. Casey Burril brings nearly 4,400 C-130 flight hours as a Loadmaster, Navigator and Pilot to the Wing.

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. –

The 908th Airlift Wing added an extremely large amount of C-130 experience to its team when Col. Casey J. Burril joined as the wing's new vice commander.

Burril enlisted in the Air Force in 1991, and his first assignment was as a loadmaster with the famed "Flying Jennies" of the 815th Tactical Airlift Squadron. After earning the rank of Staff Sgt., Burril left the 711th Special Operations Squadron to attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base. Once commissioned, he returned to Eglin Air Force Base spending his first 4 years as a MC-130E navigator before becoming a pilot on the same aircraft.

Since then, he has been a pilot, aircraft commander, instructor,

evaluator, and the 919th Special Operations Wing's Chief of Standardization and Evaluation. During that time frame he graduated Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and earned his Masters degree in Business Administration from California Coast University.

After serving as the assistant Director of Operations for the 711th SOS Burril then spent time in two key leadership positions, first as the 711th ESOS commander and then as the commander of the 919th Special Operations Support Squadron, while also completing Air War College during that time frame.

More recently he was promoted to Colonel and served as the wing reserve coordinator for the Civil Air Patrol and prior to joining the 908th

he was an emergency preparedness liaison officer.

"The chief and I are very happy to have Col. Burril as our new wing vice commander," explained Col. Craig Drescher, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing. "Col. Burril lives nearby in Alabama and has thousands of C-130 hours as a Load Master, Navigator and Pilot. That's a lot of valuable experience coming to this wing."

Drescher is correct as Burril has more than 6,600 total flying hours, having flown more than 1,500 combat and combat support hours providing direct support of operations in multiple areas of responsibility including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Uniform Continued from Page 12

The changes that become mandatory in September for the 2PFU include:

All mandatory wear badges must be in place.

The cloth U.S. flag will be the Spice Brown color only.

The authorized socks will be DLA-issued Green socks or Coyote Brown only.

The authorized boot color will be Coyote Brown only.

The only authorized color for thermal undergarments will be Coyote Brown.

For more information, please review Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel, or visit our website at <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Dress-and-Appearance/>.



Air Force Removes Initial Height Requirement for Officer Aviators

By Dan Hawkins
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) --

As part of the Air Force's on-going effort to encourage a more diverse pool of applicants to pursue careers in aviation, the minimum height requirement for officer applicants who wish to fly has been removed as of May 13.

While still preserving safety of flight, the policy adjustment prevents initial applicants who are below 64 inches or above 77 inches in height from requiring an accessions waiver.

"We're really focused on identifying and eliminating barriers to serve in the Air Force," said Gwendolyn DeFilippi, assistant deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. DeFilippi, who chairs the Department of the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group, explained, "This is a huge win, especially for women and minorities of smaller stature who previously may have assumed they weren't qualified to join our team."

With the removal of the blanket height standard, the medical and operations communities will apply an anthropometric screening process to individual applicants for placement in an aircraft they can safely fly as they pursue a rated track.

"Studies have shown that women's perceptions about being fully qualified for a job makes them less likely to apply, even though there is a waiver option," said Lt. Col. Jessica Ruttenber, Air Force mobility

planner and programmer and team leader on the Women's Initiative Team who led the height standards adjustment effort. "Modifying the height standard allows the Air Force to accommodate a larger and more diverse rated applicant pool within existing aircraft constraints."

Under the previous Medical Standards Directory requirement, the height requirement to become an Air Force pilot was a standing height of 64 inches to 77 inches (5'4" to 6'5") and a sitting height of 34 to 40 inches. Although most height waivers were approved, the previous restriction eliminated approximately 44% of the U.S. female population between the ages 20 to 29.

"Historically, most of our aircraft were engineered around the height of an average male, not females," Ruttenber said.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services Anthropometric Reference Data for Adults, United States, 2007–2010, the average height for U.S. females aged 20 and over is 63.8 inches across all ethnic groups. In contrast, the average height for U.S. males aged 20 and over, across all ethnic groups, is 69.3 inches.

"While most height waivers were approved under the old system, feedback indicated the entire waiver process served as a barrier, which negatively impacted female rated accessions," said Lt. Col. Christianne Opresko, branch chief on the Air

Force's Air Crew Task Force and an aerospace physiologist. "It's hard to determine how many women did not previously apply due to their perception of not being fully qualified or having to pursue a waiver."

The Women's Initiative Team is an all-volunteer team, serving as influential advocates on topics that influence women's propensity to serve in the Air Force. WIT members work toward creating a Total Force where all Airmen can advance to their maximum potential, regardless of gender.

"This doesn't happen without the hard work and dedication of Maj. Chandra Fleming, Maj. Andrea Harrington and Capt. Lauren Daly, who played major roles in studying the engineering factors that might present barriers to rated accessions applicants," Ruttenber said. "Our medical and training teams with the Surgeon General, as well as Air Education and Training Command and Nineteenth Air Force helped make this adjustment possible."

The Women's Initiative Team is one of five teams within the Department of the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group, which was created for the purpose of analyzing anomalies found in civilian and military workplace policies, procedures and practices. Department of the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group teams are dedicated to identifying and removing potential barriers to equal opportunity.

Key Spouses Serve Airmen, Families by Providing Community Outreach Opportunities

By Senior Airman Shelby Thurman
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- Garrysa Caffey is the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Key Spouse. As a Key Spouse, she attends continuing education and support education training sessions to distribute information to 908th Airlift Wing service members and their families. She is responsible for providing referral information about base and community resources as needed and serving as a support system to families during deployments. The team behind the Key Spouse Program has organized and promoted family events at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., such as the Santa Letter Writing, pool parties and more.

Caffey has been a Key Spouse volunteer for four years, since her spouse asked her to represent their squadron. She said that she considers it an honor to be a part of the Key Spouse Program and will continue to be a Key Spouse volunteer because she "enjoy[s] working with my fellow Key Spouses and introducing families to the available resources no matter their stage of [the] military life cycle."

Caffey demonstrates that she has had the heart and mind of a servant leader since she was young.

"I've always considered myself a servant leader because it was instilled in me as a child to always be of service to mankind," said Caffey.

Besides being a Key Spouse volunteer, she works as a contractor that supports military spouses and volunteers at the River Region United Way, March for Babies and many more organizations outside of Maxwell AFB.

"[Caffey] truly cares about the Airmen of her unit and their families," said Tina Harstad, 908th AW Key Spouse Mentor. "She is there to listen and make sure they have access to information anytime they should have a hardship in life and need a little extra help."

Caffey is married to Maj. Arthur Caffey, 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron director of operations. They currently live in Tuskegee, AL, with their young son, Aidan, and dog, Daisy.

Caffey says that because of the nature of the job, it is important for Key Spouse volunteers to possess an empathetic ear and great instincts.



"You have to be willing to ask questions, listen for the response and act accordingly," said Caffey. "As a Key Spouse, we may be privy to sensitive information regarding our families, therefore, it is imperative that [you're] trustworthy [and have] high moral character."

The Key Spouse volunteer position is open to any spouse or partner of a service member. They must be willing to volunteer and serve military families by becoming a resource and support system in conjunction with the Airman and Family Readiness Department.

The 908th currently has a few vacancies in the Key Spouse Program, if interested in becoming a Key Spouse volunteer, contact 908th AW Key Spouse Mentor, Tina Harstad, at 908awksm@gmail.com.

COVID-19 has been a challenging time for us all. FORTUNATELY, THERE IS SOME COVID-19 RELIEF!

Financial Resources

<https://finred.usalearning.gov/News/COVID19-Resources>

www.dol.gov/coronavirus

www.penfedfoundation.org

United Way 1-866-211-9966

RedCross 1-800-766-8680 or 1-877-272-7337

On Title 10 orders and need financial assistance? Contact the 42nd A&FRC at 334-953-2353.

Personal Financial Counselor: Ms. Tonya Kimball (334) 618-6991 or PFC.Maxwell.USAF@Zeiders.com. Virtual appointments are available.

Mental, Emotional, and Physical Support

Military OneSource available 24/7/365 for personalized support. Call us at 1-800-342-9647 or live chat (<https://livechat.militaryonesourceconnect.org/chat>) through our website.

Military Family Life Counselors:

Mr. Craig Bynum, MaxwellAdultMFLC-02@SRIMFLCTeam.com, or
Ms. LaJessie Williams, MaxwellAdultMFLC-03@SRIMFLCTeam.com or 334-559-0702 and 334-744-0418

DPH: Ms. Amy Kemp 334-782-9809

Domestic Violence Crisis Line is (334) 310-2597 or call 911.

Stay current on information and resources through 908th Airman and Family Readiness FaceBook page, 908 AW Key Spouses FaceBook group, and the 908th Airlift Wing AFRC FaceBook page.



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AFRC YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

The purpose of the Yellow Ribbon Program Event is to inform, educate, assist and honor the Airmen and their families.

What You Should Know:

- Not all reservists that deploy are qualified to participate in a YR event.
- Airmen qualify if they will be, or have been, called to active duty in support of a contingency for 75 days or more during a 12-month period, CONUS/OCONUS
- There are three different types of YRP events:
 - Pre-Deployment, 2-day event away from home station
 - 1st Post-Deployment, 2-day event away from home station
 - 2nd Post-Deployment, 2-day event away from home station
- DEERS Eligible family members will be allowed to attend these events
- Single members will be allowed to take a Designated Individual, Parent, or Grandparent. Contact me for more specifics.
- JTR Reimbursement for member plus two guests (Contact me for more specifics)
- Approved childcare is provided for 0-12 year olds (Registration is required) 13-17 year olds participate in Teen Workshops

What To Expect At The Event:

- Keynote speakers and various break-out sessions to attend with spouse/guest
- Purposefully designed agenda to meet specific deployment needs (pre/post)
- Resource information tables from a variety of supporters (VA, ESGR/GI Bill, etc)
- Private counseling rooms for 'per request' sessions to speak to a Chaplain/JAG
- On-site meals provided for airmen & families free of charge (4 meals total)

908 AW Yellow Ribbon Program Manager

Capt Samantha Blaine

(samantha.blaine.1@us.af.mil)

DSN: 493-4695 / Mobile: 334-530-0761

Office Located In
Bldg 1052, Rm 2
Maxwell AFB, AL



GAINING ALTITUDE



Demarrick Evans
Nikada Jordan
Wendell Oliver
Richard Valarezo



Emily Bryant
Austin Coar
Tyler Dowland
Robert Moon
Demonte Powell
Kiet Trinh



Brandon King
Emilio San Miguel
Antesia Taylor



Andrew Burnett
Jeffery Harris
Nicolas Maschas
Nigel Moss
Tanna Norris
Tiara Peoples
Christian Pettus
Kyler Salter
Weston Salter
Armani Smith



Kristopher Amos
Rebecca Ballard
Olivia Bankhead
Dylan Earnest
Jaquez Hill
Lexus James
Christopher Nunez
Jelicia Sellers
Rashad Townsend



Amorri Jackson
Malaika Mullings
Jamahna Nelson
Candace Ross
Rickia Taylor



Gaining Altitude!

UTA Lodging

* Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 48 hours prior to your arrival.

* Maxwell Toll-Free **1 (800) 673-9356**
Direct **(334) 953-8557/8558**

* Input your unit authorization code
(Given by unit's First Sergeant)

* Dial **953-8557 or 953-8558**

* Upon request, input USER ID

* Upon request, input PIN number, then "#."
PIN is assigned during Newcomers. If not known, contact your Squadron Lodging Rep.

* Make, change, cancel, check reservation
Reservation: input arrival date followed by departure date, then type [ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA). UTA is IDT.]

> ADT only? Call Lodging: **(334) 953-6133**

* If a scheduled UTA weekend, system will tell you where you will be staying

Questions?

Contact Master Sgt. Cedrea Young
(334) 953-1690, option 1

Emer cell: (254) 258-1884

DSN: 493-7332 cedrea.young@us.af.mil

Checkout time:

No time to go to the front desk, or phone charge? Drop the keys in the drop box in Bldg 682 (Main Lodging) for your convenience.

DO NOT USE this box if you have charges on your bill.

In accordance with AFI 34-246 smoking is prohibited in lodging rooms. You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

UTAs FY20

A

July 11-12
Aug. 1-2
Sept. 12-13

B

July 25-26
Aug. 22-23
Sept. 19-20

908TH UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

July

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
Friday, July 10, 2020			
1500	TBD	Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 1050/357th Conf Rm
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Bldg 845/AMXS Conf Rm
Saturday, July 11, 2020			
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	1530	Clothing Issue	Bldg 1154/Rm 131
0730	0815	Mask Issue for Weapons Qual	Bldg 1154
0800	1100	Lab work/DNA/HIV/Blood testing	Bldg 760/Lab
0800	1530	Physicals	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0830	1530	Immunizations	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0900	1100	Newcomer's MPS Inprocessing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0900	0930	SAPM Training	Bldg 1056/CC Conf
0900	1000	UDM Meeting	Bldg 848/CF Classrm
0900	1000	Fitness for Duty (DD 689)	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0900	1000	First Duty Station Briefing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1600	1630	Sign Out	Orderly Room
Sunday, July 12, 2020			
0700	0730	Sign In	Orderly Room
0700	1100	CBRNE	Bldg 1154/Room 119
1200	1600	CBRNE	Bldg 1154/Room 119
1230	1300	Readiness Reporting/DRRS/ART Briefing	Bldg 1055/908 CAT
1400	1600	AFSC SPECIFIC TRAINING	Designated Workcenter
1600	-	Sign Out	Orderly Room

Support functions' schedule

Activity	Dates & hours of operation	Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Trg Flt	Sat 0700-1600	Bldg 1056/Rm 101
MPS Customer Svc	Sat 1300-1600 Sun 0700-1300 M-F 0900-1600 (Closed 1300-1600 every Wed except drill week)	Bldg 1056/3-5522
Reserve Pay	MTTHF 0800-1600 / Wed 0800-1200 Sat 0900-1500 Sun 1200-1500	Bldg 1056/3-6722
Medical Records	Sat 0800-1500	Bldg 760 2nd Floor/ 3-5714
Individual Equipment		Bldg 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat 0900-1500	Bldg 851/3-7505
Restricted Area Badge	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Geneva Conv Cards	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Breakfast: 0600-0800 Lunch: 1100-1300 Dinner: 1600-1830	Bldg 668/3-6450
Lodging Office Photo Lab Comm Help Desk	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 682 /240-5600 Bldg 926/3-7981 Bldg 848/3-9703

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

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



Huntsville native, Tech. Sgt. Tyler Dowland, a Crew Chief in the 908th Maintenance Group inspects the righthand aileron bellframe of a C-130 H2 aircraft to see if it need to be replaced during an Isocaronal Inspection cunducted in June at Maxwell Air Force Base. Dowland and the dozens of other Airmen that are part of the ISO process know how vital their job is for wing success. "We are charged with maintaining and providing combat capable aircraft," explained Dowland. "It's our job to keep them misson ready."