

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 42, Issue 4, April 2005

ATOC rocks

Air terminal operators
keep OEF beans, bullets,
passengers on the move

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
416th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan - Airmen in the Air Terminal Operations Center here are working around the clock every day to shuttle troops and cargo for Operation Enduring Freedom.

On any given day, the 28 people in the ATOC greet a C-130 loaded with Soldiers and Airmen headed for Afghanistan, a civilian plane brimming with mail for deployed troops or a C-17 carrying supplies for the base.

"The ATOC moves beans, bullets and personnel to fight the Global War on Terrorism, as well as moving hundreds of thousands of pounds of humanitarian aid," said Senior Master Sgt. John Rawls, ATOC superintendent.

Sergeant Rawls is one of many Air Force reservists working at K-2 who are from Air Force Reserve Command's 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He oversees all four functional areas of the 416th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron ATOC - passenger terminal, ramp operations, special handling and information control.

In February ATOC members worked 138 outbound C-130 and 36 C-17 missions along with missions for six other aircraft and welcomed more than 175 inbound flights. In all, they processed more than 1,700 outbound and 1,800 inbound passengers, plus more than 200 transient passengers.

"We process anywhere between 400 to 450 outbound

passengers and 450 to 500 inbound passengers per any seven-day period," said Tech. Sgt. Nicole Stiger, another reservist from Maxwell AFB. The NCO in charge of the passenger terminal operations for the night shift said the ATOC handles 10 to 15 baggage pallets per week.

In a month's time, those pallets of baggage amount to a lot of freight moved. In February alone, Sergeant Rawls said his people moved more than 335,000 pounds of inbound, outbound and transient passenger baggage. On top of that, in February, they moved more than 2.5 million pounds of cargo.

"Basically, we move everything that needs to get on an aircraft, whether it's supplies, equipment or people," said Airman James Bowler, an air transportation specialist from Maxwell AFB working in the ATOC's ramp operations section.

This is Airman Bowler's first deployment.

"I've barely been in the Air Force for a year now," he said. "It is a great opportunity for me as an Air Force reservist to get in a lot of quality training in my career. I see that I have a direct impact on the Global War on Terrorism."

Like other people in the ATOC from Maxwell AFB; Robins AFB, Ga.; Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; and Yokota Air Base, Japan, Airman Bowler is qualified to operate the center's various pieces of equipment. That equipment includes 10,000-pound capable adverse terrain forklifts and Halvorson and Conn-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Deployed 25 Aerial Port Squadron members Senior Airmen Michael Smith, left, and Fred Koehl watch over the movement of a pallet of cargo while Air Terminal Operations Center personnel unload a plane during airfield operations at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan March 6.

Diesel 25,000-pound aircraft loaders.

"We are all under the same career field - 2T2X1 - and we're all trained in any of the functions of the ATOC," Sergeant Rawls said.

Tech. Sgt. Charles Hammond, a ramp services supervisor for the ATOC,

said it takes everyone to get cargo and people into the fight in Afghanistan.

"What we do is crucial," said the Maxwell AFB reservist. "Supporting troops down range with vital cargo and food is no small task so our ATOC people do whatever it takes to get that done."

Sergeant Hammond added that some of the challenges with loading and off-loading planes with cargo, for example, involves "short notices for uploads when aircraft are rescheduled due to weather or maintenance.

Continued on page 4

February a banner month for deployed Reservists

EDITORS NOTE: The following article contains excerpts from a letter sent to 908th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Heath Nuckolls from 357th Airlift Squadron Commander Lt. Col. John Stokes detailing the accomplishment of Air Reserve Component personnel in the Global War on Terror. Colonel Stokes is the deployed commander of an air expeditionary squadron.



By Lt. Col. John Stokes
deployed 357th Airlift Squadron commander

February was a historic month for our Air Reserve Component C-130 Squadron. The Air Force's newest expeditionary airlift squadron contributed greatly to war efforts and we can all take great pride in our accomplishments.

These accomplishments occurred during our first month at full staffing after assuming command in January. We saw several firsts in February, along with a significant surge as a

result of the E/H model restrictions. Several areas of interest are highlighted below.

Assumption of Command/Objective Manning. AFRC assumed command of the 746EAS Jan. 11. In February, we achieved our objective aircraft and manning numbers following realignment of E and H model C-130s in theater. Our squadron completed setup of new facilities and infrastructure and is manned with around 175 talented personnel from five Reserve Airlift Wings and three Air National Guard bases.

Response to E/H Model Restrictions. Air Reserve Component assets delivered nearly three quarters of all tactical airlift from our undisclosed deployed location when the restrictions hit early last month.

During a critical 17-day period, we flew 98 percent of our assigned missions. Our squadron transported 1423 tons of cargo and 6231 passengers, accounting for more than 75 percent of C-130 hours flown from our location.

Our operations group commander commented on one particular day, "...100 percent mission effectiveness...again. You and your folks are doing great work and I want you to know your efforts are being noticed at every level."

The deputy director for mobility forces further commented, "You people stepped up to the plate and flew a full schedule with less aircraft than full complement. Thank you for the mission accomplishment and the can do attitude."

Convoy Mitigation. **Convoy mitigation is a huge success story here.** The threat to ground convoys due to insurgent use of improvised explosive devices and rocket propelled grenades is increasing monthly. This threat is the primary reason that mitigation by airlift is receiving high interest from Gen. Casey, Commanding General, Multi-National Force - Iraq, on down. Our Hercs contributed to a near one-third decrease on convoy requirements in Iraq.

More specifically, our C-130 airlift eliminated the need for over 2500 soldiers to be exposed to the threats faced by convoys. A major contribution.

First Personnel Airdrop in Theater. Two AFRC aircrews flew personnel airdrops in February. To my knowledge, this mission is a first for AFRC in theater. Detailed planning guaranteed success as we dropped several hundred U.S. and foreign jumpers.

The first drop on each date was an NVG drop to an unfamiliar DZ. Great job all around by the aircrews from Youngstown and

Maxwell that made this happen.

J-Model C-130. We have been fortunate to have several C-130Js here for our deployment.

This aircraft is a force multiplier. The "Stretch" J-model carries a 50 percent greater troop load in normal configurations than the H2 (75 pax/3 pallets vs. 50/2). This "force multiplier" allows us to expose fewer aircraft and crewmembers to the threat while moving the same amount of critical assets. During our February surge, one aircraft flew 19 consecutive days for 135 hours and 100 percent mission success.

The combat environment is a tough place to keep our crews leaning forward. Every day they face myriad challenges with weather, maintenance, duty day extensions, and the threat.

Despite these challenges, our aircrews continue to get the mission done!

They don't quit, they don't take a knee, they don't fall out. Instead, they complete long, tough missions, hit the rack, then go out and do it again. I am extremely proud of them and would ask that you share this with your fellow Commanders in 22d AF. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in this position and to be associated with such a fine group of Airmen.

Mission First!



Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

I see God's work in the decisions I have made, so can you



Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford
908AW staff chaplain

One of the people that I am accountable to in my denomination requested that I send them a brief

biography. Have you ever tried to write a brief bio of your life?

It is a very interesting experience; here you are putting your life experience on paper. What I have found amazing is the number of times I can see God working in the decisions that I have made - I could not see the whole picture then - but now years removed it is clear.

The trick is that hardly ever at those moments is the way lighted completely. Rarely do we see a sign that says this is what God wants you to do.

What do we do in those times? How do we make those decisions? I do not believe that God leaves us at those moments but he continues to guide us through scripture, prayer, and Godly counsel.

Scripture and prayer are easy for us to find. Most of us have copies of the scriptures in our homes - if not you can find them in chapel literature racks placed all around the wing. Prayer is easy to do as well - all you have to do is - well - say a prayer.

Godly counsel is important as well. We need

to listen to others. We can find these people in our church, Sunday School groups, work area, or friends. They are people who will listen and pray with us over decisions we need to make.

If you are facing a decision and you do not know which way to turn - I know God has not left you. Look to the avenues he has given us. Listen as he speaks through scripture, prayer, and other people.

May we continue to say a prayer for all of our friends who are activated and deployed. Say a prayer for their families as well.

From viewpoint of deployed air transporters, supporting war on terror is about success

By Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
416th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan – For many in the Air Terminal Operations Center, or ATOC, here, coming to Uzbekistan is their first time deploying and the first time they are supporting a war effort from a remote location.

There are some also, who have supported in the past – including Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, but now with the Global War on Terrorism these air transporters say they only want to do their job successfully helping get troops, cargo, and other things like humanitarian aid on to the C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III planes that transit this base to the people who need it.

“I fully support the global war on terrorism and understand K-2 is a hub for the movement of cargo and personnel to fight the war,” said Senior Master Sgt. John Rawls, superintendent for the 416th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron ATOC deployed from Maxwell AFB, Ala. “I, like the nearly 30 others I’m deployed here with in the ATOC, am sure glad to be here to do my part.”

Their forklifts and aircraft loaders aren’t painted red,

white and blue – they don’t have to be. The sense of belonging for the military mission here has been enough for these Airmen of military transport.

“I thoroughly support the efforts for the Global War on Terrorism from the K-2 standpoint, and with all the efforts of the military men and women around the area of responsibility,” said Senior Airman Anna Veach, air transportation journeyman who works the night shift here as a passenger service representative in the passenger terminal.

Deployed here from Maxwell AFB as well, Airman Veach said she has deployed before and knows the significance of what they do – getting people and cargo to the fight.

“I deployed with the 11th Marines Regiment in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Airman Veach said. “This time it is much different and a different operation, but what I have to do is no different than before. I still get people booked for flights, drop people off at the plane and pick people up from the planes, and I build baggage pallets. It’s my way of making the mission successful.”

Airman James Bowler, an air transportation apprentice from Maxwell on his first

deployment, said he is also proud to be doing his part knowing that the supplies that he uploads and downloads on aircraft is needed down range “to help us to win this war.”

“I have never deployed,” Airman Bowler said. “I have barely been in the Air Force for a year now. It is a great opportunity for me as an Air Force Reservist to get in a lot of quality training in my career. I see that I have a direct impact on the Global War on Terrorism.”

Another Maxwell Reservist, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Crosman, a cargo processor and the special handling section night supervisor for the ATOC said he last deployed for Operation Desert Shield in 1990. This time around, he said with the Global War on Terrorism he has a different world view about why he’s deployed.

“I think this is something that should have been done a long time ago,” Sergeant Crosman said. “We’re here now to help stop terrorism and the personnel at K2 seem to be focused on getting the mission done in a

quick and safe manner, and with pride.”

For Tech. Sgt. Brigham Norman, an air transportation craftsman and Air Force Reservist deployed from Robins AFB, Ga., being in Uzbekistan is a new experience.

“I am proud to do my part of supporting the effort here,” Sergeant Norman said. “This is my first deployment. I think it has been a good experience, but it has taken some getting used to.”

Senior Airman Frederick Koehl, an air transportation apprentice deployed from Maxwell AFB, said he’s here because that was what he signed up to do.

“I joined the military to serve my country,” Airman Koehl said. “What better way then to support the GWOT then to actually play an integral role in direct support of the troops on the ground with the ATOC.”

“It makes me feel honored to follow in the footsteps of all the previous veterans who fought for the freedoms our country and others have,” Airman Koehl said. “September 11, 2001, was unprovoked, and now it is our time to show the world what a great, strong, giving nation we are and how strong our beliefs and resolve are.”

As the assistant NCO in charge for the ATOC’s passenger terminal, Maxwell Reservist Tech. Sgt. Kevin Tarver said the role he plays in the K-2 passenger terminal to help personnel and their equipment get to forward operating bases in Afghanistan is a part he is glad to play.

“This deployment has been a completely different experience for me,” Sergeant Tarver said. “I miss my family dearly, but I understand the big picture. This deployment is about ensuring the future of America and the freedoms we enjoy.”

Master Sgt. Robert H. White Jr., an air transportation craftsman also from Maxwell, said when he is working every day in the ramp services section of the ATOC loading and off-loading cargo, or container delivery system bundles for a C-130 airdrop mission, he knows that somehow he is making a difference.

“I have been deployed before, and in my experience, this deployment has been one of the most mission-oriented and gratifying trips I’ve been on,” Sergeant White said. “The people I work with are some of the hardest working troops I’ve ever had the opportunity to serve with. Our small group, the ATOC, plays a major role in the in the K-2 community and for the Global War on Terrorism. That is all that matters to any of us. We want to win this war too and we will do what we have to make sure that happens, one pallet and one person at a time.”

Maxwell Reservist Senior Master Sgt. Steven Muller, night shift supervisor for the ATOC, added, “I would hope that everyone feels the way I do about the deployment. What an honor to be able to physically contribute to the mission. I feel I have truly completed my military career with this deployment.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Airman 1st Class Cristel Carlisle, an air transportation apprentice deployed to Karshi-Khanabad AB from Maxwell AFB, operates an aircraft loader capable of holding more than 25,000 pounds of cargo during airfield cargo moving operations March 6.

Ala. Congressman visits 908th

Congressman Terry Everett, right, chats with loadmaster Senior Master Sgt. Ben Kemp during his Feb. 28 visit here to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for two new hangars, critical for maintaining the readiness of the wing's eight C-130 Hercules aircraft. Bear Brothers Construction, a Montgomery firm, executed the \$13.1 million contract. The new hangars are the next step in a long-term facilities plan, developed in the mid-1980s, to provide modern facilities for the state's only Air Force Reserve unit. When complete, implementation of the plan will offer two major benefits: an efficient, consolidated operations and maintenance complex for the 908th and valuable real estate for the expansion of Air University. Air University Commander Lt. Gen. John Regni, Montgomery City Council President Charles Jinright and Bears Bros. partner Mr. Joe Bear took part in the ceremony.



U.S. Air Force Photo



U.S. Soldiers follow an Airman of the 416th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron's air terminal operations center as they walk across the flightline on their way to a C-130 Hercules to fly to a forward-deployed location supporting Operation

Enduring Freedom. Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, provides a launch point for troop movement into and out of Afghanistan.

ATOC rocks

Con't from page 1

"We also deal with manpower shortages when multiple aircraft take off and land during the same time period," Sergeant Hammond said. "It's a challenge, but we always get it done, and done safely."

In the information control function, Tech. Sgt. Scott Johnson, also from Maxwell AFB, works as a controller monitoring where people and cargo are going. He said his function is responsible for gathering, processing, and disseminating all information pertaining to air terminal operations.

"It's a team effort," he said. "We work with command post, base operations, maintenance operations control, and many other base agencies here as well as an aircraft's previous station's and next station's ATOC Information Control Centers. The Information Control Center gives each terminal work center the necessary information to effectively accomplish the mission on movements of cargo and passengers."

Airman Michael Bianchette, an air transportation apprentice who works here as a passenger terminal representative on his first deployment from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., said he

loves what he does here, but around every turn there is something new to learn.

"Take for instance the passenger terminal," Airman Bianchette said. "A challenge I've learned more about in the terminal operations is about flights when they are changed or delayed and I have to inform passengers about the changes. Some times the passengers take in the information okay, and sometimes not okay, but no matter what the reaction I do it because I want my customers to have the most up-to-date information."

All of the members of the ATOC know the main reason they are here though – to successfully support the war effort. As Airman 1st Class Cristel Carlisle, an air transportation apprentice deployed here from Maxwell AFB, said, without the ATOC and its cargo and people moving abilities, deployed life just wouldn't be the same.

"If we were not here to get the stuff on and off the planes, there would be problems," Airman Carlisle said. "I think Karshi-Khanabad plays a crucial part in supporting the war to stop terrorism and I am proud to say that I am a part of this great endeavor. I will continue to do my job to the best of my abilities."



U.S. Army Soldiers heading to a forward deployed location are helped by Airmen from the Air Terminal Operations Center during airfield operations March 9.



Senior Airman Fred Koehl, an air transportation journeyman with the 416EMSS ATOC, provides directions to the driver of an aircraft loader during airfield operations March 6.

Maxwell
forklift



Two 416EMSS ATOC members drive extreme terrain forklifts along the flightline after loading a plane with cargo.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

AFB Reservist Airman 1st Class Cristel Carlisle, an Air Force Reserve air transportation apprentice, operates a forklift at Karshi-Khanabad AB.

Congress grills General Moseley on C-130 fleet, readiness

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Representatives questioned the condition of the C-130 Hercules fleet during a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee subcommittee on readiness March 3.

It was just one of the areas Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley discussed as he testified on the readiness of the force and to what extent the president's fiscal 2006 budget request supports future readiness levels.

"We're facing readiness challenges in a number of platforms," General Moseley said in his opening statement. "Our No. 1 challenge is to recapitalize aging systems."

General Moseley first answered questions about the status of the unmanned aerial vehicle fleet and about improvements being made to the A-10 Thunderbolt II. But questions focused mainly on the aging aircraft.

"We've got about 6,100 airplanes," General Moseley said, "and we've got about 2,200 airplanes that are either grounded or operating under some flight restriction."

"That flight restriction could be something very minimal. But, it could be something very significant, like the C-130Es, where we can't carry the fuel, or we can't carry the weight, or we can't maneuver the airplane because of the wing box or the spar assembly."

Rep. Robin Hayes said the Air Force needed to raise the volume level of its concerns about the C-130 fleet.

"A lot of us in Congress and many of the general public do not know the seriousness of this problem," Congressman Hayes said. "I'm asking you all to bring this to a much

higher level of attention, because it is one of the worst crises that we face. We are spending millions and billions of dollars trying to fix and repair airplanes that are getting more and more expensive and less and less available," he said.

Rep. Jim Marshall said, "(Secretary of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld in earlier testimony ... specifically said that air mobility is a critical thing we need to be focused on. And yet the budget cuts (funding to the) C-130J."

Congressman Marshall said ongoing mobility capability studies say that cutting the C-130J program at the same time C-130E models are being grounded in Iraq did not make sense.

"I also think that cutting (the) C-130J, the way it's structured, is going to wind up being extremely foolish economically," he said.

General Moseley said he believes the two studies, to be released soon, may call for reconsideration.

One study is the 2005 Mobility Capability Study, and the other is by the Joint Staff, that the Air Force requested, to look at intratheater lift," he said.

"I think both of those will suggest we take another look at the C-130J opportunity and the C-130J multiyear," General Moseley said.

He said the Air Force more than 500 C-130s. Two hundred are E models, more than 30 of which are grounded.

"And we're looking at having to ground another 50 or so because of wing spar and wing box issues," General Moseley said.

On the other hand, the general said, the C-130Js now in the field have a proven mission-capability rate of more than 95 percent.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Colette Bennett

General Jumper commends CENTAF Airmen

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper speaks with Tech. Sgts. Kenneth Canada (left) and Ricky Drinkwater and Senior Airman Tiffany Luff at a forward-deployed location here recently. Sergeants Canada and Drinkwater are deployed from Maxwell AFB, Ala., and Airman Luff is deployed from Robins AFB, Ga. The reservists are assigned to the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Hearing it from the top

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray speaks to a group of 908AW enlisted personnel during his Feb. 25 visit to the wing. A special enlisted call was held in the OPS briefing room, providing an opportunity for Reservists to meet and talk with the Air Force's top enlisted leader. 908AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore described the meeting as a chance "to get answers directly from the top."

Calling all Motorcyclists!

We are going to have a motorcycle show in conjunction with Family Day. For a small entrance fee you can showcase your bike and help raise money for the Wing. This will be a people's choice award – and awards will be given in three classifications: touring, cruiser, and sport. More information to follow.

Family Day is next month

Family Day is scheduled to take place Saturday, May 14. There will be no cost to the member or to family members.

The activities will take place at the softball fields near the BX, said Master Sgt. Kenneth Wright, president of the first sergeant's council and chairman of the Family Day committee.

Food served will include grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans and potato salad.

"We're also going to try a case of vegetarian burgers," Sergeant Wright said.

"Families are encouraged to play on the fields and if they have a favorite bat or glove, to bring it," Wright added.

Booths offering things such as popcorn, t-shirts, sodas, and beer will be set up. Additionally, there will also be an optional child seat safety check station for those who wish to ensure their little one's safety.

The committee needs many more volunteers for food prep as well as other things like pickup truck drivers, tow motor drivers and cooks. The committee will accept as many volunteers as step forward.

Ninety percent of rooms available on base have private bathrooms. Some have fold-out couches for those members also bringing their children, related Senior Master Sgt. Byron Godwin, billeting liaison.

Various groups are accepting charitable donations to offset costs of the celebration.

Family Day, organizers stress, will not be a day for members and their families to have IDs in order to let everyone enjoy the festivities. Sunday will be a regular drill UTA for members and IDs can be made then.

Wing members should note that since Sunday is a regular UTA, they should make plans for their family's Sunday activities while they are drilling.

Air Force Portal allows reduced sign-on to myPay

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Airmen have one less password to remember thanks to a new link between the Air Force Portal and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay Web site.

With much of the Air Force transitioning from face-to-face customer service to online self-help Web sites, many Airmen are left with several passwords, login names and Web addresses to remember.

For Airmen, the Air Force Portal has eliminated much of the trouble of remembering all those passwords and login names. And recently, designers of the portal and DFAS maintainers teamed up to enable Airmen to remember one less password.

Airmen can now have the portal remember their login name and password for myPay, the DFAS online site for pay information, leave and earnings statements, tax forms and allotments. The change makes it easier for Airmen to access their information online, and is another example of how the portal is making life easier for Airmen to get the information they need, said Richard Gustafson, Air Force financial management chief information officer.

To take advantage of the new feature, portal users must already have an active myPay account.

After logging on to the portal, users can click "Applications" on the right side of the screen and then scroll down to "myPay (E/MSS)." When they click the myPay link, the portal will create a dialogue box to help guide them through the setup process.

Setup requires entering the user's login ID and PIN for myPay. Once set up, users need only log into the portal and click the myPay link to get instant access to their pay information.

Visit the Air Force Portal at <http://my.af.mil>.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Sharp troop

908MXG/MOF's Tech. Sgt. Connie Rollins is the most recent winner of the 908AW Chiefs Group's "Sharp Troop" Award. "Sergeant Rollins distinguished herself by outstanding achievement as a Plans and Scheduling and Documentation Technician while at Manas AB, Kyrgyz Republic," said her nominator Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Morrisette. Chief Morrisette lauded Sergeant Rollins' performance while deployed as well as at home station where he said she's a "dual-hatter tackling the duties and responsibilities of a two-deep section while her co-worker is deployed. Sergeant Rollins is active in her church, her squadron and her community.

Wing charters Top 3 Group

The first ever 908AW Top Three Association has been chartered and the following officers have been elected for two years.

Applications for membership can be obtained from one of the officers or 908AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore.

908AW Top Three Association 2004-2005 Officers
President: Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Watkins, 908CES
Vice President: Master Sgt. David Henry, 908AMXS
Secretary: Master Sgt. Nancy Butler, 908CES
Treasurer: Master Sgt. Jonathan Gray, 908FM

Help fight against birth defects

908AW members, families and friends will help fight against birth defects through their participation in the March of Dimes "WalkAmerica 2005" event, Saturday April 30, at 9 a.m. at the Union Station Train Shed in downtown Montgomery.

Those interested in participating, either as a walker or a sponsor, should contact Mary Stinson at 953-6943, Jasmine Hails at 953-6673 or Belinda Stoudemire at 953-5522.

Troops deployed in combat areas get tax credit Options

Servicemembers receiving federal tax exemptions for some or all of their military pay may now elect to apply for certain tax credit options. Troops deployed to combat zones can now apply for tax refunds based on earned income tax credits, as well as additional child tax credits.

Servicemembers who want to apply for the credit refunds are required to fill out and file a federal tax return. Enlisted troops serving in combat areas already have all of their military pay excluded from federal taxes, while officers in combat

zones can exclude as much as \$6,529 of their monthly pay. Troops deployed to noncombat overseas areas have until June 15 to file their income taxes. Troops serving in a combat zone have up to 180 days to file their taxes after departing the area. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009850>.

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

....to Senior Master Sgt.
Michael Renda, MXG
....to Tech. Sgt.
Samuel Cutright, AMS
Mary Keenan, 357AS
....to Airman

Justin Proctor, AMS

Retirements

Senior Master Sgt. Harold Chavers, MXS
Master Sgt. Michelle R. Fitzhenry, AES
Tech. Sgt. William Price, 908AW
Tech. Sgt. James Parker, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Harold B. Smith, CES

Spring CCAF graduates

Master Sgt. Edward Alexander, LRS, Transportation
Master Sgt. David Henry,

AMXS, Human Resource Management
Tech. Sgt. Jujuana Alexander, ASTS, Health Care Management
Tech. Sgt. Christy Henderson, MXS, Avionic Systems Technology
Tech. Sgt. Dimitri Jefferies, MSF, Human Resource Management
Tech. Sgt. Richard Neal, 357AS, Aviation Management
Tech. Sgt. Quadro Smith, AES, Allied Health Sciences
Staff Sgt. Tarissa Brown, ASTS, Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Dwayne Gore, AES, Avionic Systems Technology

Employer's Day Nominations

The 908th Airlift Wing will host an Employers Day during the week of May 16-20 (tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 20. This is a chance for your employer (both supervisor and president/ chief executive officer) to see the wing mission firsthand as well as learn all about the Air Force Reserve.

Please nominate your boss today by filling out the form below and returning it to the Public Affairs office, bldg. 1056, room 210 or mail to: 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL. 36112, or FAX: (334) 953-2202. For more information, call the PA office at (334) 953-6804.

Employer's name/title:

Company/organization:

Company mailing address:

Employer's phone number:

Nominating Reservist name:

Your civilian job title:

Unit duty phone:

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

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

To the Family of: