

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 42, Issue 3, March 2005

Rub a dub dub

Right, 908AW Vice Commander Col. Norm Ham pulls the handle and opens the flood gates (far right) as the ongoing effort to upgrade unit facilities reaches another major milestone with the successful testing of the fire suppression system for the new Isochronal Maintenance Hangar. The \$13.1 M project to build an Isochronal Maintenance Hangar and a Fuel Cell Maintenance Facility is nearing completion. The next planned construction project; an aircraft parking ramp in front of the new hangars. Other future projects include a new aerial port facility and a logistics complex.



Photos by Jeff Melvin



Photo by Jeff Melvin

AFRC commander visits 908th

908AW Commander, Col. Heath Nuckolls, leads Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, on a walk thru of the wing headquarters building. After an office call with Colonel Nuckolls, General Bradley spoke to unit personnel during a special Commander's Call. The AFRC commander presented several decorations and praised the 908th for its stellar performance on a series of major inspections as well as the unit's outstanding deployment record.

Wing holds board to identify qualified First Sergeant candidates

To streamline the selection process and have a readily available pool of eligibles should vacancies occur unexpectedly, the 908AW will hold its inaugural First Sergeant Board. The first board convenes Saturday of the May UTA at 9 a.m. in the Command Chief's conference room.

"The purpose of this board is to have a pool of qualified applicants interested in becoming First Sergeants readily available. In the event a position becomes available, I will be able to offer the prospective commander names of the top three candidates from the most recent board for their consideration. This will reduce, by at least three UTAs, the amount of time it now takes to announce the vacancy, convene a board and schedule an interview with the prospective commander," said 908AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore.

Following the initial board, subsequent boards

will meet every May UTA until further notice.

If no vacancies exist for that year, or an applicant is not selected, he or she can reapply the next year. All applicants who meet the board must be in Service Dress uniform, Command Chief Moore said.

Unit members interested in becoming First Sergeants should submit a military resume, copies of their last three Enlisted Performance Appraisals, a current records review listing, and a letter of recommendation from their commander to Master Sgt. Cynthia Barker, 908 MPF, Building 1056, by 4 p.m., Sunday, April 3.

Chief Moore cautioned applicants to make sure they meet requirements before meeting the board.

"When we advertised the First Sergeant positions for the last board, quite a few people applied, but only six actually met the criteria set by Air Force regulations."

The command chief cited two references that applicants should consult; AFMAN 36-8001, Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures, and AFI 36-2113, The First Sergeant. Chapter 8, para 8.2.6 of AFMAN 36-8001 lists special instructions for retraining into the first sergeant special identifier 8F000. Chapter 11 of AFI 36-2113 explains the roles and responsibilities of AFRC first sergeants.

Another useful reference, AFMAN 36-2108, Airman Classification, describes the Duties and Responsibilities, along with special duty qualifications for the Special Duty Identifier 8F000, First Sergeant.

"The duties listed primarily pertain to Active Duty, but are very applicable during AEF rotations and other deployments supporting active duty; it also gives you a big picture of the role of the First Sergeant, Command Chief Moore said.

March has many memories for me

March 11, 2003! Tuck that date away in your mind, it is certainly permanently etched in my memory.

It was the Tuesday after the UTA. Whew, and what a weekend it had been. There I was, sitting at my computer at home, trying to

get some things finished up so that I could go camping at Dauphin Island that Thursday.

I felt this interesting tingling in my chest. It did not radiate down my arm; it did not feel like an elephant on my chest. (Perhaps because I'm so accustomed to elephants running over me, I wasn't paying attention.) Right there at 7:10 p.m., I was having a heart attack. I went into the bathroom and took a few aspirins to see if that would calm things down.

At 7:30 I asked my wife, Carol, to check me out. She said that we needed to go to the E.R. The doctor there told me that I had experienced a heart attack, and that he was keeping me. They sent me for a heart catheter, and then

said that I was going to have by-pass surgery on Thursday.

Boy, talk about messing up your camping trip. Boy, talk about putting a monkey wrench in my whole life. "Good grief," I could have screamed to God. "What are you doing to me here?"

I told the doctor that I had a camping trip planned, and the only thing he had to say was, "You're not camping anywhere but right here."

I remember wondering: "What is going to happen to my ministry at the wing? What is going to happen to my ministry at the church? What is going to happen to my ministry at the hospital? Oh, for crying out loud! Am I even going to make it through this surgery?"

Well, as you know, I made it through the surgery

and have been taking care of myself for the last two years. Sometimes things come along in life to help us learn some lessons.

I don't know all the lessons that I am supposed to have learned from this situation, but I do know this: God was with me through it all. He lifted me up and kept me alive. He strengthened me and healed me. He gave me a sweet wife who sat and slept in the chair across the room and never took her eyes off of me for a solid week. He gave me you, my family who cared for me and carried me in prayer.

While memories of March 11, 2003 may eventually fade, your love and concern will always remain strong. Thank you for that support.



By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders

The last ride

Public affairs officer chronicles last mission of deployed 908 crew

By Maj. David Simons
386AEW/PA

They are going home tomorrow but much like the crew of the "Memphis Belle," they have to fly one more mission.

The good news is that they arrived safely though they had to dispense a few flares along the way when onboard sensors alerted them to a potential ground threat.

These men of the 908th Airlift Wing, Air Force

Reserve Command, out of Maxwell AFB, Ala. have completed their rotation. They now head home for time with loved ones, a chance to fly Coronet Oak (the Air Force's military airlift mission to Central and South America, which operates out of San Juan, Puerto Rico) and a possible return to the combat zone either in Iraq or Afghanistan. After that, they return to their civilian lives knowing

that they have served their two-year activation with pride and esprit de corps.

This crew flew together before and will fly together again before the activation ends. They have been there for each other during Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. But for these reservists, whose mantra used to be "one weekend a month and two weeks a year," the Reserve has been a fulltime

job for the past 15 months. Fortunately for some and unfortunately for others, that's the deal they signed up for and they would gladly do it again.

The places where they flew weren't routine either. They landed at places like Baghdad International Airport and Balad, in Iraq. They even have flown into Uzbekistan to an air base at

Continued on page 3



Above, Loadmaster Tech. Sgt. Sergeant Pat Timms and Airman Stanley Hall strain to place a load of baggage belonging to members



of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Right, Co-pilot Capt. Luke Bentley in the cockpit while on the ground in Iraq.



Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

Col. Heath J. Nuckolls

Editorial Staff

Chief, Public Affairs

Maj. Jerry W. Lobb

Deputy Chief/Editor

Jeffery Melvin

Writer

Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Address

Editor, "Southern Flyer"
401 W. Maxwell Blvd.
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

Phone Number

(334) 953-6804
or DSN 493-6804

Fax Number

(334) 953-2202
or DSN 493-2202

E-mail

southern.flyer@maxwell.af.mil

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Editorial policy

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We solicit articles, drawings 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 UTA. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Wednesday two weeks prior to the UTA.

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

Last ride

Con't from Page 2

Karsi-Khanabad, commonly referred to as K2. The mission is cargo, troops, more troops and more troops. Heading in, heading out, and heading home. Many of the Soldiers and Marines they ferry are "first-timers." Many are anxious about what lies ahead for them.

Today the 908th crew has to fly a testy flight pattern into the heart of Iraq, Baghdad International Airport. Their cargo, first-timers from the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Aircraft Commander, Maj. David Chunn, will return to World Airways, a charter jet service headquartered out of Atlanta. Navigator, Maj. Mark Harrison, returns to the corporate structure of a computer marketing team for Sun Microsystems. One of the loadmasters, Tech. Sgt. Pat Timms, returns to his corporate employer, Lockheed-Martin, where he teaches the military loadmasters how to do their jobs. The trio all live in the Atlanta area.

Sergeant Timms is grateful to his employer for their support of him and his family during his activation. Lockheed-Martin has been paying Sergeant Timms a differential, the amount of money between his corporate salary and his reserve pay. Major Chunn looks forward to returning to a company he enjoys working for. He lauds their support of his service especially the letter of thanks he received



Aircraft commander, Maj. David Chunn prepares for takeoff, flying a load of Louisiana Army National Guard troops into Baghdad.

for Veteran's Day from the World Airways CEO Randy Martinez.

Co-pilot Capt. Luke Bentley, flight engineer, Tech. Sgt. Harmon Lampella, and the other loadmaster, Tech. Sgt. Jamie Ray, return to doing what they love -- being a "Professional Reservist," or one of those people who make a good living serving the military as road warriors.

Today is bittersweet; it's the crew last flight for this AEF. Assigned to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at a forward deployed location in Southwest Asia, the crew has performed admirably during their tour of duty. Most of the time they acknowledge a job well done. Sometimes, like all members of the military, they grin and bear with the minutia. But, at the

end of the day, they serve proudly in an institution that they love. They haven't given a second thought to service to their country. They all have served for many years, most notably, Sergeant Timms who has served for 27 years.

They all cherish their country in a time of war. "Getting into the area of operation, after seeing so much on television and in the news, has been an eye-opener," said Sergeant Lampella. But after two years on active duty, Captain Bentley is ready to return to his wife and 6-month old son. Even Sergeant Timms, the "old-timer" on the crew, is ready to go back to work at Lockheed-Martin. And their last flight? All is well that ends well. Next stop, "Sweet Home Alabama."



Loadmaster, Tech. Sgt. Sergeant Jamie Ray, helps load a pallet of baggage belonging to the 2nd Infantry Division at Baghdad International Airport.



Navigator, Maj. Mark Harrison, prepares for a flight into Iraq.

Courtesy photos



Lt. Col. William Forshey



Lt. Col. Kerry Kohler

Four to pin on eagles

Lt. Cols. (Dr.) James Bedsole, optometrist, 908ASTS; Bill Forshey Jr., commander, 908MSG; Kerry Kohler, commander, 908MXG; and (Dr.) Keith Kulow, chief, Squadron Medical Element, 357AS, were selected for promotion to the grade of Colonel from last October's FY 05 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Colonel Promotion Board. "Pin-on" dates will be announced following Presidential Approval and Senate Confirmation.

Reservists switch to MyPay; LES becomes paperless

ROBINS AFB, Ga. – Reservists who failed to sign up for MyPay by Jan. 1 may find it difficult to know how much they are getting paid.

The Feb. 1 leave and earning statement is the last paper copy reservists will receive through the mail. The change for Air Force Reserve Command civilian employees depends on local bargaining obligations at their units, but eventually they too are to use myPay.

Under the MyPay program, people view their LES online. If they don't have access to the Web at home or at work, they should contact their respective reserve or civilian pay offices.

If reservists don't have a PIN or need a new one, they can obtain a temporary PIN through their reserve pay office or the local Air Force finance office, said Mike Bilbrey, chief of the management and finance branch at Headquarters AFRC.

Another way to obtain a temporary PIN is by going to the myPay Website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and selecting the "new pin" button on the homepage. It may take 10 business days from the date of the request for mail delivery of the new PIN.

In addition, reservists can ask for a new PIN by fax or mail. They need to sign their request and give their full

name, social security account number, a copy of their military photo identification and a daytime telephone number.

The fax number is (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800. The mailing address is:

DFAS-Cleveland/Code PMMCCA, Attn: myPay, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland OH 44199-2055.

The new temporary PIN will contain the last five digits of the person's social security account number.

People should wait at least two business days before using their PIN if they got it by fax and four days if by mail. They won't receive confirmation their PIN has changed. (AFRC News Service)

Wing names 2004 annual award winners

Congratulations are in order for the enlisted, officer and civilian personnel recently named the wing's top performers for the preceding year.

Named the wing's best for 2004 were (clockwise from right): 1st Lt. Anthony Hall, 908OSF Intel, Company Grade Officer of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy, 908MPF, Senior NCO of the Year; Tech. Sgt Daryl Waters, 908CES, NCO of the Year; Senior Airman Richard Valerezo, 908OSF Intel; Airman of the Year; Master Sgt. David Henry, 908AMXS, First Sergeant of the Year; and Leon Alexander Jr., 908 AMXS, Civilian of the Year (GS/WS/WL 7-11 Category).



1st Lt. Anthony Hall, Company Grade Officer of the Year

Photo by Jeff Melvin



Then-Master Sgt. Martha Roy, Senior NCO of the Year

Photo by S



Leon Alexander, Civilian of the Year (GS/WS/WL 7-11 Category).

Photo by Jeff Melvin



Master Sgt. David Henry, First Sergeant of the Year

Courtesy



Tech. Sgt. Daryl Waters, NCO of the Year

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Odom

BANGALORE, India -- Former 357AS Commander Col. Michael Underkofler (right) leads the tour of a C-130J Hercules during the Aero India International Air Show here Feb. 9. The display included Navy P-3C Orions, KC-135 Stratotankers and F-15 Eagles. Colonel Underkofler is the commander of the 403rd Operations Group.

Reservists shine at Aero India

By Lt. Col. Mike Odom,
403rd Wing Public Affairs

BANGALORE, India (AFPN) -- Pacific Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Naval aircraft and people were well received at the 2005 Aero India International Air Show at nearby Yelahanka Air Station here.

Gleaming under sunny Indian sky and surrounded by Indian air force and other international aircraft, C-130 Hercules, Navy P-3C Orions, KC-135 Stratotankers and F-15 Eagles and their crews from bases in Japan and the

United States were real crowd-pleasers, officials said.

As thousands of Indian and international flying enthusiasts greeted and smiled at the Americans, Indian air force demonstration teams, helicopters and fighter aircraft filled the sky. Aircraft with plumes of multicolored smoke, paratroopers and death-defying aerobatics were also on display.

It has been nine years since the United States has participated in Aero India.

The C-130J Hercules crew arrived at Aero India after visiting the Czech Republic

and is scheduled to stop in Brunei on its way home to Keesler AFB, Miss.

They are scheduled to meet the Sultan of Brunei, who is interested in the C-130J.

"This is a huge opportunity to demonstrate rapid, global mobilization to our international friends," said Colonel Michael Underkofler, 403rd Operations Group commander. "Our people will never forget this trip and are working hard to show what this new generation of Hercules can do."



Senior Airman Richard Valarezo, Airman of the Year

Courtesy Photo

Citizen Airman, boss award competition begins

WASHINGTON -- April 1 is the deadline to nominate reservists and their employers for Air Force Reserve Command's Citizen Airman Award and Employer of the Year Award.

The awards recognize both an enlisted person and an officer who deployed in support of current operations in 2004. The employer award honors the person who strongly supported the activation and deployment of one or more Citizen Airmen.

Nominees submit a one-page narrative of the reservist's contribution, a

one-page narrative of how the employer helped his or her reservist and the Air Force Reserve, and a biography on the reservist or employer.

Nominations should be mailed to Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, 12313 Manchester Way, Woodbridge, VA 22192; faxed to DSN 227-9103 or commercial 703-697-9103; or e-mailed to Troy.McIntosh@pentagon.af.mil to arrive no later than April 1.

After a panel reviews the nominations, AFRC Com-

mander, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, will select the winning entries.

The Air Force Association will recognize the selected reservists and employers at its annual convention in Washington in September. The reservists will receive a command plaque, and the employers will get an AFRC eagle trophy.

The awards program will pay the travel expenses of the employers and their spouses. Units will fund the selected reservists' trips. (AFRC News Service)

B-ballers cruise to base title

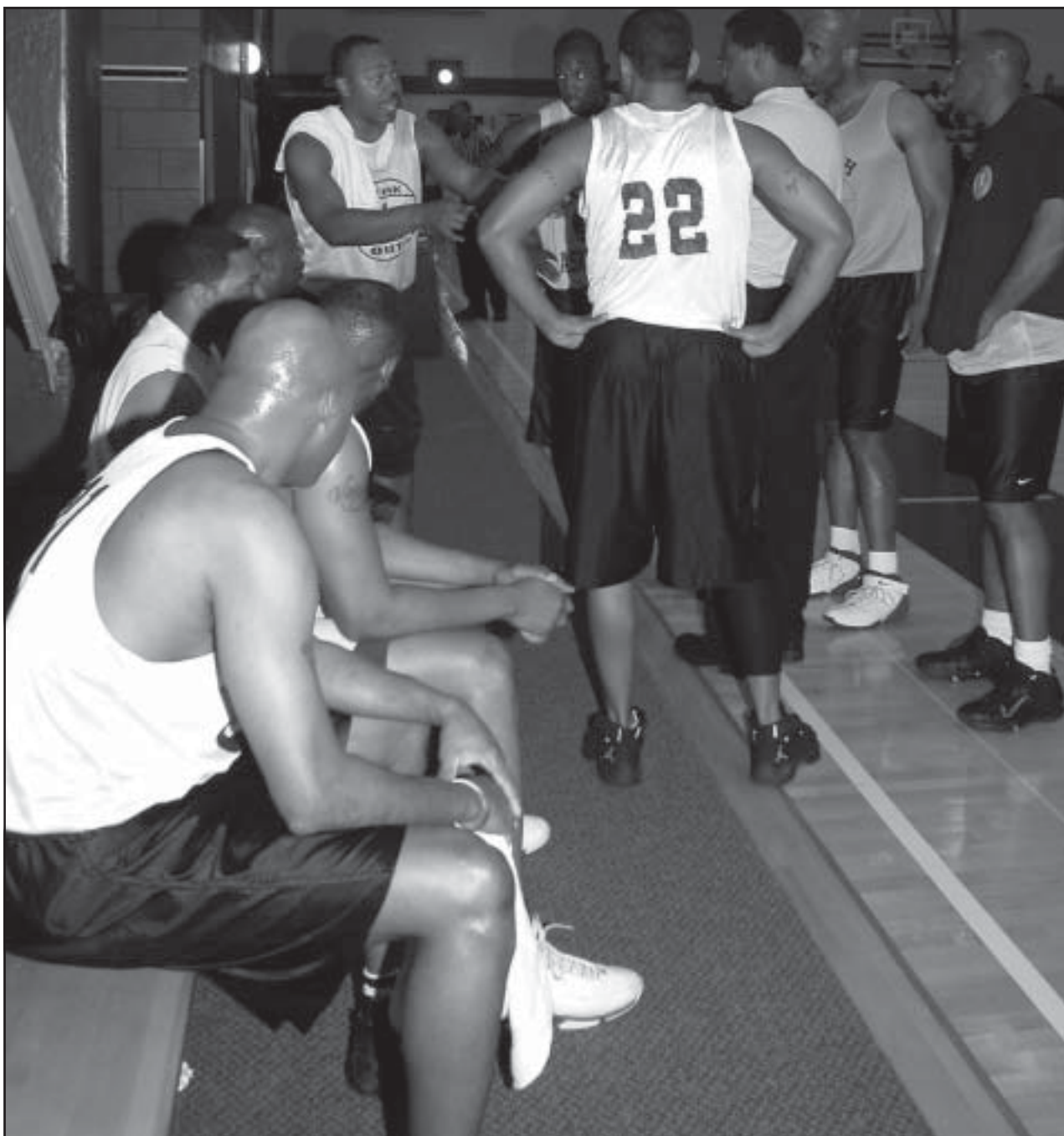
Thanks to an infusion of youth, the 908th men's intramural basketball team extinguished the Fire Department 68-48 to win the base title in a romp. After a tightly-contested first half, the 908th regrouped and erased the memories of three straight 1-point losses in the base finals with a convincing win. Newcomer Willie Johnson was game high scorer with 17 pts. The hoopsters posted a final record of 13-2. First year Head Coach, Chris Rush, attributed the victory to a combination of solid play by veterans and standout play by newcomers like Johnson. Veterans Clarence Thomas and Prentice Tucker got lots of help this year from younger players like Nick Townsend, Robert Stone and Corey Baker and the timely return from deployment of Sammie Gipson. Thomas and Tucker praised the young guys for stepping up and even hinted at hanging it up after the satisfying victory and promising play of the newcomers.



The vet, Thomas, with the ball, and the rookie Johnson



Nick Townsend gets ready to sink a free throw.



Thomas and teammates talk strategy during time-out.

Photos by Jeff Melvin



Front left to right: (kneeling) Nick Townsend, Clarence Thomas, Prentice Tucker, John Jackson, (rear) Chris Rush (coach), Corey Baker, Robert Green, Rondi

Patterson, Quintin Rudolph, Gregory Nipper, Joseph Stone, Willie Johnson, Sammy Gipson.

Take Note

Secretary: Master Sgt. Nancy Butler, 908CES
Treasurer: Master Sgt. Jonathan Gray, 908FM

Former Vice heads to AF Safety

Former 908AW Vice Commander, Col. Charles W. "CW" Fox, has been named mobilization assistant to the Air Force Chief of Safety.

In his new position, Colonel Fox directly supports the Air Force Chief of Safety on all safety issues interfacing directly with DOD leadership. He represents the Chief of Safety at headquarters, interservice, interagency and government-industry briefings and conferences. He manages the Air Force Safety Center-Air Staff cross flow of information and correspondence and interacts directly with Legislative Liaison and Public Affairs personnel. He also acts as the Chief of Safety during his absence at the Pentagon and D.C. area.

Colonel Fox remains an Air Force Academy Liaison Officer assigned to the Northern Colorado District.

AFAS scholarship deadline nears

The Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) plans to award up to 4,500 grants to dependents of Air Force members for their college education through the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Applications for these \$1,500 need-based grants are still available from the Society's web site, www.afas.org, but the submission deadline is rapidly approaching. Completed forms must be received by AFAS no later than March 11, 2005.

The grant program is open to dependent children of active duty, active guard/reserve, retired and deceased Air Force members. Spouses of active duty members and surviving spouses of deceased personnel are also eligible.

All applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year, and are re-

quired to maintain a minimum 2.0 Grade Point Average. Selection is heavily based on cost of attendance, family income, and is dependent on the number of eligible applicants competing. Final need assessment will be determined by an independent agency.

All interested students are encouraged to review full eligibility requirements, procedures and application instructions on the Society's website or call 1(800) 429-9475 for an application brochure.

Eligible students are encouraged to apply now for college cash through a program with an average selection rate of better than 50 percent.

The AFAS, a non-profit organization, is the official charity of the U.S. Air Force and has been providing emergency and education assistance to Air Force families for more than 63 years.

Family members may get gate passes

The Transportation Security Administration has issued a directive pertaining to military passengers at U.S. airports. Families of military members may be granted access to sterile concourse areas to escort the military passenger to the gate or to meet a military passenger's inbound arrival at the gate.

The family member can go to the airline that the military member is flying on and receive a pass to go to the gate. They will be required to have a pass and a photo ID to get through the security checkpoint. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to stay with the departing military member longer before they depart, or to be able to greet them at the gate upon their arrival.

For more info go to <http://www.defenselink.mil/mapcentral/airtickets.html>

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

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: 908th AW/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:



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

To the Family of: