

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 43, Issue 10, October 2006



A specially modified C-130 Hercules takes off from Lackland AFB, Texas, Sept. 19, for its initial test flight. The Hercules was modified under the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program which included a comprehensive upgrade of the avionics system that increases

situational awareness for the warfighter tenfold over old analog cockpits, dramatically increasing information available to aircrews at a glance, simplifying tasks and decreasing workload.

C-130 completes 1st flight after cockpit makeover

By Lt. Col. Jerry W. Lobb
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A 908th Airlift Wing C-130H2 aircraft completed its first flight after going through the Avionics Modernization Program. The aircraft took off and returned to Lackland AFB, Texas. The aircraft had a successful flight lasting approximately three hours, officials at Boeing, defense contractor for the conversion, said.

Aircraft 99101, now dubbed AMP aircraft H2, is the first of approximately 350 C-130s slated for conversion. The 908th is programmed to be the

first wing equipped with the new variant. The aircraft left Maxwell in January 2005 to enter the AMP program. Six digital displays and the flight management system Boeing developed for its newest version of the 737 commercial airliner replace the analog instrumentation familiar to generations of pilots.

The Air Force initiated the C-130 AMP program to reduce the number of C-130 configurations in the fleet. Currently, the Air Force has 14 variants of five different models of the C-130: E's, H1s, H2s,

H3s and the J model. When the AMP program is completed there will only be two major models; the AMP modified aircraft and the J models.

908th AW commander Col. Michael J. Underkoffler, a veteran pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours in multiple versions of the C-130 including the newest, the J model, said the conversion will offer many tangible benefits.

"Based on my experience flying the C-130 J equipped with Heads Up Displays and the APN 241 color weather radar, installing this technology on

our aircraft as a part of the Avionics Modernization Program will reduce pilot fatigue while improving situational awareness, safety and combat capability," the colonel said.

The AMP conversion holds promise to make life easier for both fliers and maintainers.

"Currently when we deploy we often find ourselves in a mix of different models of the aircraft," said Col. John Jones, 908th Operations Group commander. "This creates a real nightmare for opera-

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Don't forget true heroes, POWs/MIAs

By Col. John A. "JJ" Jones
908th Operations Group
commander

Most people, especially when they were younger, had a hero. It may have been an athlete or entertainment personality. As we grew older we probably applied the term hero to someone we looked up to or respected; possibly a parent, relative, teacher or political figure. As military members it may be a supervisor or commander.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a POW/MIA luncheon at the Maxwell Officers Club in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition day. In attendance were numerous former POWs and their spouses. They are all members of the local Montgomery POW Chapter.

I had the pleasure and honor of sitting with one of those former POWs during lunch. He was an aerial gunner assigned to a B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft during World War II. His aircraft was shot down over the North Sea during a mission. Several crew members perished in the crash and the remainder of the crew bailed out over the sea. The surviving members of his crew were rescued from their life raft by the German Navy. He spent the remainder of war as a POW in a German POW camp. Talking with him and other POWs, reminded me of the true meaning of hero.



Col. John "JJ" Jones

The media and our society use the word hero to define almost any act above the norm. Watch any sporting event and you'll hear, "He's the hero that saved the game" or news programs describing a political figure that "was a hero defending a cause."

While both are honorable achievements, they don't come close to describing the ordeals of the POW/MIAs. Webster's Dictionary defines a hero as, "a man noted for his courageous acts or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his life." The POWs certainly fit that definition.

While the POWs receive their justified recognition, we can't forget about the MIAs. While former POWs have returned to their country, families and loved ones; the status of MIAs remains unknown. Their families and friends still live with the unknown fate of their loved ones. They are remembered in thoughts and prayers, but have not been formally recognized in person due to their status. The federal government has been working diligently with foreign countries to resolve their status and

bring closure to their cases. Solving the fates of MIAs is a long and difficult process. It's a journey that must, and will continue.

In the course of military careers, all military members are subject to deployments to hostile territories and combat operations. The Military Code of Conduct is a guide for the proper behavior during combat or as a captive in a prisoner of war facility. AFMAN 10-100, Airman's Manual, contains the six articles of the Code of Conduct. As stated in the manual, this code is the result of the heroic lives, experiences, and deeds of Americans from the Revolutionary War through our more recent conflicts. We should all know the articles contained in the code and be prepared to follow those guidelines.

Maj. Michael O'Donnell wrote the following statement during his tour at Dak To, Vietnam, in January 1970. O'Donnell, a helicopter pilot, went Missing in Action March 24, 1970, during a rescue attempt. His remains were returned in 1995 and identified in 2001.

"If you are able, save for them a place inside of you and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go. Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not have always. Take what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own. And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."

As we enjoy the freedoms we hold dearly, take a moment to remember those who have served before us and especially the POW/MIAs.



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



Chaplain retires next month, wishes wing well

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders
908th Airlift Wing chaplain

Well, here it is time to talk about Ecclesiastes again. I have occasionally referred to Chapter 3 of this book at a change of command or some point of divergence in the events that come along for our wing. Some of you have taken note of this over the years. But this month brings a whole new meaning to this chapter for me. This will be the last column that I write for the "Southern Flyer."

This October UTA will be my last full UTA with the 908th. I will be doing my last annual tour this month. This month's chapel services will be the last time I preach from the 908th pulpit. I will hang my uniforms in the spare closet Nov. 5.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders

Many things could be said about my years here at the 908th Airlift Wing. When I came, I had brown hair and was a major. Now my hair is gray, and I'm a lieutenant colonel.

There have been lots of picnics, potlucks and deployments over the years. I have prayed for you many times... and you have prayed for me many times

as well. We have laughed and rejoiced at weddings and we have hugged and cried at funerals. Through all of these events and through all of these years, I have tried to do the best that I could. None of it would have come to pass without your support, and for that I shall forever be grateful.

Let me encourage you to be strong in the Lord and remain faithful in his service. Remember some of the devotions and sermons that you have heard over the years, and let their principles continue to be the guide posts in your life.

May God's blessings and safety continue with all of you, and may his grace continue to fall on this wing.

Week shines light on infection prevention

International Infection Prevention Week is Oct. 16 - 22. This annual event shines a spotlight on educating healthcare workers, healthcare administrators, and consumers about the importance of reducing the risk of infections.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the third week in October as National Infection Prevention Week and called all federal, state, local government agencies and health organizations to take part in educational activities during this time. Since its inception, the annual commemoration has continued.

Public health experts say hospital associated (nosocomial) infections directly cause more than 20,000 deaths annually; additionally, they contribute indirectly to 60,000 more deaths each year. Approximately one-third of all such infections are preventable, public health experts say.

Scientific evidence has shown that improved health practices, such as proper handwashing in health care and educational facilities, can significantly reduce the spread of infections, especially staphylococcal infections which can be contracted in day care centers that neglect proper hygienic practices.

In conjunction with International Infection Prevention Week Maxwell AFB health officials will erect a display with a variety of educational pamphlets for distribution in the lobby of the Maxwell Clinic during October and November. Tips on international travel, infection control with pets, and disease information will be offered.

For further information, contact Maj. Donna Roberts, Infection Control Officer, 908th ASTS, at (334) 953-5404.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Maxwell chief's name Reservist Sharp Troop winner

908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief Tech. Sgt. William "Bubba" Lyndall was recognized the Maxwell AFB Chief's Group as a Sharp Troop winner for September 2006. 357th Airlift Squadron loadmaster supervisor Chief Master Sgt. Mike Harper nominated the sergeant based on his exceptional job performance, military bearing and personal appearance.

Center offers services via web or phone

Many unit Reservists who routinely accomplish a myriad of tasks online such as banking, ordering takeout, taking college classes and shopping are still unaware that they can use the web to accomplish many military personnel-related tasks online as well.

Thanks to Air Reserve Personnel Center initiatives like ARPC's virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve, and 24-hour Reserve Personnel Contact Center, members can cut down, and, in many cases, eliminate trips to the Military Personnel Flight with a simple click of a mouse or a telephone call.

After creating a virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve, or vPC-GR account, Reservists can submit retirement applications, correct duty history, and complete other actions such as obtain their 20-Year Letter (reissue), send a letter to the promotion board, receive board counseling, acquire a mortgage letter and correct points history. Members can also get current awards and decorations information, make a personnel data update and find out about current points. They can make a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Election, request a copy of a finalized DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, get retired pay assistance, request copies of previous EPRs/OPRs and sign up for TRICARE Reserve Select. This account lets ARC personnel conduct a

variety of personnel transactions from anywhere in the world with internet connections. Whether deployed, working at home station or at home, all personnel should be able to access secure personnel service.

Members can go to the ARPC web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil> and click on the vPC-GR logo to create a new account. They can stay informed about the latest vPC-GR information by electing to receive the vPC-GR Online subscription based e-mail.

Similarly, Reservists are able to speak to an ARPC customer service representative the first weekend of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (MST). Members may reach the Contact Center 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at DSN 926-6528 or Toll Free @ 1-800-525-0102.

This enhanced customer service step gives drilling Reservists the flexibility and opportunity to speak with a customer service representative to help resolve personnel issues during their primary Unit Training Assembly, which typically occurs the first weekend of every month.

Reservists who still aren't able to call ARPC can get help by logging on to the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve. ARPC and the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas, continue to work hard to centralize and automate many personnel functions and processes throughout the entire Air Force. (ARPC/PA press releases)

Services Flight lends a hand

Services Flight fitness specialist Willie Johnson, left, and Staff Sgt. Bakir Mason, NCOIC of Fitness, staff Maxwell AFB Base Gym during the early opening hours for 908th personnel last UTA. The gym is now open from 6 to 8 a.m. on Saturday and 5 to 8 a.m. on Sunday of the UTAs to accommodate 908th AW members. Base officials stress that the early opening hours are for wing members only.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Pay office explains travel accruals process

Reservists placed on active duty orders for more than 30 days are required to report to the 908th AW Reserve Pay Office so they can be advised of their pay entitlements during this tour and complete a travel accrual payment worksheet.

Travel accruals may be set up to make interim payments to the member's Bank of America (BOA), Government Travel Card account. This will ensure BOA accounts do not become delinquent while the member is serving on a long tour.

"If members cannot physically come to the pay office, they may call the customer service number at (334) 953-6722 or DSN 493-6722 and speak with one of our military pay technicians regarding pay entitlements and travel accrual payments. Travelers are responsible for informing the Reserve pay office of any changes to their status during a long tour, to include cancellation of travel if an accrual has been requested. This will prevent overpayments that may result in a debt after the final travel voucher settlement is completed," said Linda Roberts, 908th AW financial analysis officer.

Members who do not have a government travel card may submit a letter to their supervisor, approved by their commander, requesting a travel advance, Ms. Roberts said. The travel advance payment will be sent to the member's financial institution by electronic fund transfer.

Other requirements include: Requests for travel advances must be completed 10 to 12 duty days prior to the report date on the active duty order, and requesters must submit a copy of the approved letter and the AF Form 938, Active Duty Order, to the 908th AW Reserve Pay Office.



908th AW Red Flag participants gather for a group photo in front of a unit C-130.

Courtesy photo

Wing contingent help aircrews sharpen combat skills

Forty 908th personnel completed a successful deployment to Nellis AFB, Nev., supporting the Red Flag exercise from mid-August to early September.

Red Flag, an Air Combat Command-run exercise, provides advanced combat training for U.S. and Allied aircrews in a highly realistic threat environment. This includes the use of "enemy" hardware and live ammunition for bombing exercises within the Nellis complex.

357th Airlift Squadron tactics officer Maj. Paul Schultz, who served as mission commander for the deployment, said participation in an exercise of this size and caliber requires the entire wing's help.

"This was in all aspects a deployment and required the coordinated effort of the entire wing to provide the support and assets required to participate in this large scale Mock War. We had great support from the 908th Operations, Mission Support and Maintenance Groups, our wing finance people, and our Tybrin System Support Rep."

The 40-member contingent included aircrew, maintenance, aerial port, operations administration, and intelligence personnel, and a first sergeant. All the participants deserve recognition, Schultz said, because this valuable training would not have been accomplished without their efforts.

"Our overall training objectives for the exercise included high density altitude day and night vision goggle low-level routes in mountainous terrain, day/night NVG landings on unfamiliar tactical runways, day/night NVG airdrop of personnel and container delivery system bundles, in-flight re-tasking of aircraft to "unplanned" drop zones, 2 to 5-ship formation flights with different model C-130s, coordination/deconfliction with fighter aircraft, radio communication training with fighter and AWACS, threat recognition and avoidance training, and mission planning. The successful completion of all these objectives was wholly dependent on the aviation and risk management skills of each crew. They

made the right decisions at the right time ensuring they accomplished every training mission safely.

Words spoken by Capt. Kayce Weakley, the 357th AS's newest aircraft commander, on his second mission at Red Flag, describe the exercise in a nutshell, Major Schultz said.

"This mission was probably the most challenging of my C-130 career...Overall, it was a great success. I was impressed with the fact that the crew worked together perfectly using excellent crew resource management throughout," Captain Weakley said.

Major Schultz said all those who participated echoed the captain's sentiments.

"This exercise stretched our individual abilities and forced us all to work together as a cohesive team to accomplish all our training. Everyone who went learned valuable skills not attainable in our local training environment. I am glad I had the opportunity to serve as the mission commander for this exercise," Schultz said.

Fanning selected as new 908th command chief

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Rick Fanning is the 908th Airlift Wing's new command chief master sergeant. He was the 908th Mission Support Flight's First Sergeant before his selection to fill the wing's top enlisted position.

He replaces Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore who will remain administratively assigned to the 908th while performing special duties for the Headquarters AFRC Human Resources Development Council.

As the command chief, Chief Fanning will advise the 908th Airlift Wing commander on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective employment of the wing's enlisted Reservists and serve as the commander's representative to committees, councils, boards, and military and civilian functions.

"The competition was remarkably keen. Selecting a command chief was a difficult decision among all the talented people who submitted packages," said Col. Michael J. Underkofler, 908th Airlift Wing commander.

"Our wing," Col. Underkofler added, "is fortunate to have several talented and dedicated senior enlisted members that could step immediately into the roll of command chief, but from my perspective, what rounded out the package was the career path Chief Fanning took to command chief. He served as first sergeant of four different squadrons."

The commander cautioned wing personnel to remember that Chief Fanning is no longer a first sergeant. Airmen wishing to resolve issues should pursue them through their chains-of-command, the colonel advised.

The command chief position is not part of the chain-of-command. The command chief is an advisor to the commander."

"Some of the challenges facing Chief Fanning next year are helping the squadron commanders and me in the recovery period after coming off the activation," said Colonel Underkofler, "and helping us maintain combat readiness."

Commenting on his selection, Chief Fanning said, "I am humbled and extremely honored to have been chosen. I am so lucky to have followed Chief Amos Moore as com-

mand chief. He has implemented so many worthwhile programs within the unit."

He said he intends to continue those programs, especially the wing quarterly awards program which he described as "up to the active-duty level with the chief's coin, prizes, mementos, and free lunch plus limousine ride."

He added that his selection as command chief is bittersweet because his dad did not live to see him attain his new position. His father, a retired Air Force colonel, passed away Memorial Day and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Along with continuing the programs of his predecessor, the wing's new command chief wants to work on programs that allow 908th members to see the overall Air Force picture.

"When we get activated, we go overseas or we do our job here at home. The term we use is unrivaled wingman. We are absolutely the unrivaled wingman to our active-duty Air Force. They need us, we need them. We have to be on the same level as they are. We have to support the mission together."

He used the recent move by the host base to open the gym earlier during UTAs using 908th Services Flight personnel as staff as an example of working together to support the mission.

Commenting on the 'state of the wing', Chief Fanning said, "We're at an excellent level. We passed the ORI, UCI and the IGX. Our wing just returned from a two-year deployment, and everyone came back safe."

Like most traditional Reservists, the chief has a civilian job. He works in the information technology department at Colonial Bank in Montgomery. He doesn't foresee any conflicts at work arising from his selection as the 908th command chief.

"My civilian employer supports the Air Force. My co-workers are thrilled that I have been selected as the command chief here," he said.

Being the wing's top enlisted Airman "places a great responsibility upon my shoulders. I am accountable for all the members of our wing," the chief said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Chief Master Sgt. Rick Fanning and his wife, Judy

He sees similarities between his previous job as first sergeant and command chief, but the biggest change is the wider scope. "I am still responsible for taking care of the airmen, but now it is 1200 airmen."

The command chief, he said, is more exposed to the overall Air Force-wide mission. "Understanding how all of the squadrons and flights with their own unique mission and responsibilities come together to perform the wing's mission is amazing," he said.

Just as his responsibilities have increased, so have the responsibilities of unit members. "It is up to individual members to maintain their readiness because there's a war going on and we may be called upon to deploy again. Right now, we have 96 people deployed around the world. My job is to ensure members of our wing have what they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities."

Expanding on his goals further, Chief Fanning said, "Physical training is a big part of the Air Force now. Each individual is responsible for his or her own PT fitness test."

Chief Fanning leads by example. "I like to run. A personal goal is to complete a marathon in each of the 50 states. I've completed 11 so far. It is a great way to stay in shape and have a little vacation with my family."

His PT goal is a lofty one, too. He wants to achieve an excellent on his PT score. "I've been getting a 'good' for the last three years and I'm closing in on the 'excellent.' Granted, moving up in age categories helps a little, but I still have some work to do."

Chief Fanning began his Air Force career way before he ever thought about enlisting. His dad was a career Air Force officer. The chief was born at England AFB, La. He attended schools throughout the United States and overseas, graduating from Aviano American High School at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

"And then my dad gave me a choice, go to college or join the Air Force." He joined the Air Force in January 1980. "I knew I was not ready for college. I was lucky enough to grow up all over the world and wanted that to continue."

Since joining the Air Force, the chief has earned four Community College of the Air Force degrees and a bachelor's degree plus he's only three classes away earning a masters degree in business administration.

The new command chief is qualified in four Air Force specialties. During his military career, he earned a seven-level in command and control while he served at Travis AFB where his C5 unit was activated during Desert Storm; a seven-level in manpower and personnel, eventually serving as a career advisor; a nine-level as a transportation specialist; and first sergeant for four different squadrons.

Chief Fanning works in Montgomery and lives in Prattville with wife, Judy, and several dogs. Their son, Scott, is pursuing his dreams as a traveling photo journalist, traveling around the country in his 71 VW van. Mrs. Fanning also hails from an Air Force family. Her father retired as a chief master sergeant.

"I grew up in a military family. My father is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant and I feel comfortable in the military. I feel so proud to

share this with my husband who has always been dedicated to his military career. I support him 100 percent," said Mrs. Fanning commenting on her husband's selection as command chief.

Mrs. Fanning, a former school teacher with a master's degree in education who shifted from teaching children to teaching dogs to assist the disabled, said her flexible schedule will allow her to assist her husband.

"I am happy to support him and stand beside him," she said. "If he's not home, it's because he's performing his command chief duties. I think that's just awesome!"

The Fannings also enjoy volunteering together and Mrs. Fanning is looking forward to volunteering her time to help her

husband. Among volunteer work they have performed, the couple has worked together in association with the chaplain packing goody bags and handing them out to 908th members deploying to Joint Forge.

For that young Airman or junior NCO out there wondering how he or she can duplicate his feat and become the command chief, Chief Fanning said, "Integrity. Do your job to the best of you ability, and complete your PME. You can also volunteer to help out your unit. Each unit requires people to make things happen. From the ART's and civilians during the month, to supervisors and first sergeants who show up early for each UTA. There are always opportunities waiting to be found. Some are not

always so obvious, check with your supervisor or first sergeant and they will gladly help you."

Speaking of additional goals, Chief Fanning said, "This position requires a lot of time and energy. I am up for that and look forward to getting out and recognizing and interacting with the Airmen who are making this wing the best in the Air Force!"

"I am especially impressed with his enthusiasm and energetic approach. I feel Chief Fanning will be available and involved in all mission activities that directly affect our enlisted men and women in the wing. I am certain he will be remembered as one of the best command chiefs, the wing has ever had," Colonel Underkofler said.

New command chief completes Air Force marathon, sets personal record

The 908th Airlift Wing's new command chief completed the Air Force Marathon Sept. 16, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Rick Fanning completed his 11th 26.2-mile race and posted his fastest with a time of 4:36 minutes. His previous fastest marathon was the Marine Corps Marathon at 4:43 minutes.

"Everything was going well. Sometimes you just feel like everything is okay and you can keep running. When I got to the half-way point I was feeling great. When I passed miles 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, I was still okay. When I was at mile 22, I thought I might be able to break my current personal record. I was still feeling good and thought, 'I want my Air Force Marathon time to be better than my Marine Corps time.'"

His time was nowhere near the first-place finisher Lt. Col. Mark

Cucuzzella's time of 2:31 minutes but that didn't lessen his joy.

"I just enjoy running," said Fanning, "it is a great way to stay fit, reduce stress, and gives my wife and I a great excuse to travel and see the country."

Anyone with enough determination can complete a marathon, the avid runner said.

"I've seen every body type and running style imaginable in these races, and they've all been ahead of me!"

Fanning has set a personal goal of completing one marathon in each of the 50 states; this marathon represents his 11th state completed.

Right, Rick Fanning gets in a work out at the Maxwell AFB Base Gym.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Road takes another turn but doesn't end for former

Moore continues support of equal opportunity and diversity

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore has turned another page in his 24-year military career.

Chief Moore, who just completed his four-year assignment as 908th Airlift Wing command chief, will remain administratively assigned to the 908th performing special duties for the Headquarters AFRC Human Resources Development Council, where he will also perform his UTAs and his annual tour.

He will also assist Col. Jon Andre, 908th AW vice commander, reenergize the 908th HRDC Program.

Chief Moore grew up in rural Dallas County near Selma, Ala., in the 1950's and 60's in the segregated south before the dawning of the Civil Rights era in which he played a key role during the 1965 Voter Rights Movement.

"While a senior in high school, I was a member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee headed by Stokely Carmichael. The SNCC was a political organization staffed by college and high school students who would participate using the nonviolent tactic of protest called 'sit-ins'. We would sit at segregated lunch counters and other eateries and ask to be served," Chief Moore recounted.

The chief never envisioned the heights that he's attained over his

military and civilian careers. In addition to attaining the position of command chief, the highest enlisted position in the wing, the chief was also the first African American to hold the position of package delivery manager for United Parcel Service in West Long Island District, an area encompassing Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties in New York City.

"I am blessed and highly favored to have accomplished what I have achieved in my lifetime," said Chief Moore. "I realize I could not have accomplished what I have on my own and attribute it only to my strong faith in God. Looking back, I can see where I had been placed in certain places at certain times in my life through no plan of mine in order to accomplish certain tasks to assist certain people to attain certain results, which include my previous position as program director for an AmeriCorps Program in Selma, Ala., and my present position as community projects coordinator for the City of Selma, both outreach positions."

Apparently, the word has spread about the chief's work in equal opportunity.

After hearing that Chief Moore was soon to complete his assignment as 908th command chief, Maj. Gen. Peter K. Sullivan, the mobilization assistant to the assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and

reserve affairs, asked the 908th AW commander if Chief Moore could assist the command HRDC at Robins AFB, Ga.

He has been asked to assist with the planning and execution of several outreach programs including the League of United Latin American Citizens, Tuskegee Airmen International, Women in Aviation International, NAACP, and other projects. General Sullivan serves as head of the AFRC HRDC. His areas of responsibility include equal opportunity and diversity.

Asked how being handpicked for his new responsibilities made him feel, Chief Moore replied, "It feels good to know that my sincere concern for people and my efforts to assure all Airmen had equal access to whatever opportunities our Air Force has to offer did not go unnoticed. I really have to thank Brig. Gen. Ed Crowell and Col. C. W. Fox for opening the door and providing the opportunity for me to get involved in HRDC at the command level. I also want to thank General Sullivan and Maj. Gen. Linda Hemminger (vice-chair for the command HRDC) for the trust they placed in my ability to help make a difference in such a vital program. As command chief, I had an opportunity to help people with personal issues and to mentor people and groom people for greater responsibility. With this new position, my work is not yet done."

Chief Moore said he would work to ensure that people across the Air Force Reserve have equal access to all opportunities that the Air Force has to offer including the programs offered through the AFRC Professional Development Center, a little known and underutilized department that offers several development courses for officer and enlisted reservists.

The chief has a soft spot in his heart for one program they offer, the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Development Program. He served as a course facilitator for 11 years as an additional duty, teaching over 3,200 students at over 30 bases where Reservists are located and earning honors as the



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Outgoing 908th AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Amos E. Moore

command chief

command's top facilitator in 1995 and first runner up in 1996. He was also a trainer and evaluator for the instructors and selected to attend two International Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminars, one in Germany and the other in the Netherlands as a result of his involvement in that program.

His new position at AFRC, Chief Moore said, allows him to "to continue to serve and help make a difference in the lives of our Airmen. I have always been more of a people person than a program person and am excited to be able to continue to serve and wear the uniform." In addition, Chief Moore says this position allows me be home more. "I worked a lot more days as command chief than I foresee working in this position."

Chief Moore wanted to remind the NCOs and Senior NCOs that mentoring is important for all Airmen. "Shortly after I was selected command chief, three people came into my office and asked what they needed to do to become a command chief," They asked if I would be their mentor; I consented and spent the next three years working with them. Two were senior master sergeants at the time and one was a master sergeant. The two senior master sergeants are now command chiefs and the master sergeant is now a senior master sergeant and first sergeant working directly for AFRC Command Chief Jack Winsett and the CMSAF on a four-year tour serving as curriculum development and course director at the First Sergeant Academy.

The final message from the chief, "I challenge all of us in senior leadership, both officer and enlisted, to be mentors for our young Airmen and ensure those young Airmen have access to the tools and opportunities they need to become successful in their Air Force Reserve careers. This is our only assurance we will leave our Air Force better than we found it."

Chief Moore concluded, "I could not be more proud to have served as the command chief for the best tactical C-130 wing in the Air Force and especially during the period of our mobilization."

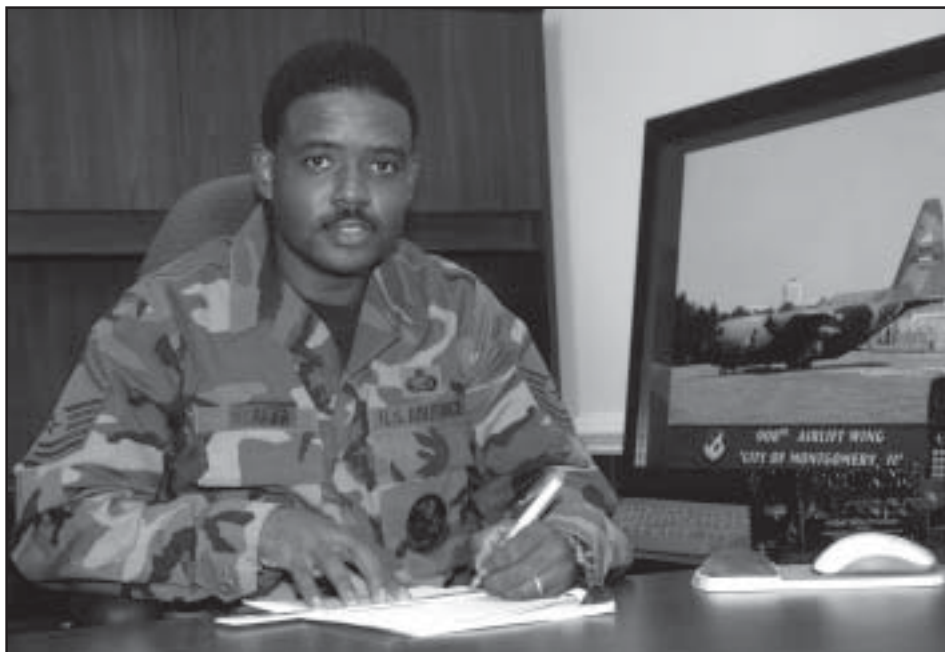


Photo by Jeff Melvin

Ace Troop Award recipient Master Sgt. Rod Parker, 908th Maintenance Operations Flight's training manager,

Maintenance Group creates award to recognize 'Ace' performers

By Lt. Col. Cauley Von Hoffman
908th Maintenance Group deputy commander

For years, Air Force unit climate assessment results indicate we need to improve how we recognize the significant achievements of our Airmen. The traditional recognition paths immediately come to mind, but recognition for outstanding performance doesn't have to come in the form of a decoration or performance report.

Toward that end, the 908th Maintenance Group established the "Ace Troop Award" earlier this year to recognize superior maintenance performance beyond the call of duty by a member of the group.

The award may be presented for a single event or sustained performance, for an aircraft or non-aircraft related event. Any supervisor may nominate a member for the award, but it must be forwarded by the squadron commander and approved by the deputy group commander.

The Ace Troop award gives the maintenance group another avenue to recognize members who put 110 percent effort into their service with the unit. It is normally presented at the MXG/CC's call at sign out on Sunday.

During the Aug UTA, we awarded two Ace Troop Awards. Senior Air-

man Aaron Knight was recognized for his superb administrative support to nearly 300 personnel, his great attitude and willingness to accept any challenge presented him. He provides exceptional computer support and troubleshoots problems on a daily basis with great success. He volunteered to become a physical fitness program manager and has subsequently deployed voluntarily.

Master Sgt. Rod Parker earned an "Ace Troop Award," also. 22nd Air Force handpicked him to augment the AFRC Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Program inspection team. He supplied expert assistance and brought a unique insight back to home station. 22nd AF rated his training section "Outstanding" during our 2006 MSEP inspection. HQ USAF aircraft maintenance functional managers selected him as AFRC representative to manage the user acceptance test of the Integrated Maintenance Data System Training Business Area which will result in a field tested, worldwide accessible, automated maintenance training record. In addition, Sergeant Parker volunteered to be the unit's sexual assault prevention and response victim advocate and scheduled personnel for SAPR training, resulting in 100 percent compliance of assigned participating personnel.

Rules, personal responsibility require family care plan

AFI 36-2908, Family Care Program, requires a wide range of Air Force members to develop a formal plan to take care of their families. The member then provides a copy of the plan to his or her unit first sergeant who creates a folder containing the plan and keeps it in his office or the unit orderly room.

The Family Care Program is designed for single parents, dual military couples and members who have civilian spouses with unique family situations like an illness, disability, handicap or marital separation.

"With Operation Iraqi

Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom going strong along with other contingency operations overseas, unit members should have a Family Care Plan because deploying is almost a certainty in today's Air Force Reserve," said Staff Sgt. Tifarah Boyd, 908th Military Personnel Flight NCOIC of customer service.

AFI 36-2908 states that all Air Force members with families will have family care arrangements that reasonably cover all situations, both short and long-term.

Family circumstances requiring a plan include:

birth or adoption of a child; loss of spouse through death, separation or divorce; becoming a dual military couple; providing sole care for an elderly or disabled family member; and absence of the spouse due to career, job commitments or other personal reasons.

"Developing a Family Care Plan is very important, especially when you are leaving your loved ones. As an Air Force member, it's your responsibility to ensure that adequate care arrangements are made for your family members in the event you are on temporary duty

(TDY) including short notice and no-notice deployment, alert, recall, extended tour of duty, shift work or other similar military obligations," Sergeant Boyd said.

Failure to make such arrangements, the sergeant added, may not only cause unnecessary problems for the member's family, but could result in disciplinary action under the UCMJ, involuntary separation, or both.

To get started creating a Family Care plan, 908th AW members should visit their first sergeant or the MPF.



Photo by Col. Susan Strednansky

Capturing smart ideas

Former 908th AW vice commander Col. Charles "CW" Fox records inputs at a breakout session during a three-day meeting of U.S. Air Forces in Europe leaders designed to help USAFE-wide implementation of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century. AFSO 21

focuses on the identification and elimination of activities that do not contribute to efficient Air Force operations. Colonel Fox is a reservist who serves as the USAFE mobilization assistant to the director of air and space operations.

Take Note

: 1st C-130 AMP flight

Continued from page 1

tors who try to build a flying schedule several days in advance. If I've got an H1 lined up to fly and it breaks, the spare may be an E model. So now I've got to send the H1 crew home and call in an E crew. The effects of one change can disrupt the plans for several days of flying. When this conversion is complete, it will make scheduling and operations in a deployed environment much easier."

Training will also be simplified, Jones said, since there will be two schoolhouses -- one for the AMP'd model and another for the J.

"When pilots complete training and go to a squadron, he or she won't need additional training to qualify on a cockpit significantly different from the one they flew at the schoolhouse.

The conversion will also offer benefits for those who maintain the aircraft. "There will only be two types of C-130 parts to maintain, instead of the present five. The AMP parts will also be shared with those with the newest 737, so there will be a bigger pipeline and inventory of parts, said Col. Kerry Kohler, 908th Maintenance Group commander.

C-130 AMP also has the potential



A photo of the C-130 avionics modernization program modified flight deck. Six digital displays and the flight management system Boeing developed for its newest

version of the 737 commercial airliner replace the analog instrumentation of the older C-130s in the Air Force inventory.

for significant cost savings. AMP provides upgrades for C-130s at one-seventh the cost of a new, basic C-130J aircraft, Boeing officials said.

Aircraft 99101 will remain with Boeing for Operational Test and Evaluation for the next two to three years.

Recruiter joins Century Club; 3 new recruiters on board

Congratulation are in order for 908th AW Recruiting's Master Sgt. Demetra Nickerson. The inservice recruiter has become a member of the Century Club, denoting the accumulation of 100 accession points during a single fiscal year. Century Club is a coveted award in Recruiting and less than 10 percent of recruiters receive it.

In other Recruiting news, three new recruiters have been assigned to the 908th.

They are: Tech. Sgt. Grady Driver, Montgomery office, (334) 395-5456; Tech. Sgt. Rich Houston, Huntsville office, (256) 722-0558 and Staff Sgt. Justin Coe, Birmingham office, (205) 591-8581.

O'Call, ROA mtg set for Oct.

908th AW officers should make plans to attend two meetings at the end of Saturday's UTA, Oct. 14.

An Officers Call with wing commander Col. Michael J. Underkofler is set for 4:30 p.m. at the Maxwell AFB Officers Club immediately followed by a Reserve Officers Association meeting.

GI Bill rates increase Oct. 1

The GI Bill rates will increased by

an average of 4 percent effective Oct. 1., Veterans Administration officials said. Unit members can find the new rates on the VA web site at http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm.

Members without internet access can get rate information from the wing education and training office.

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