

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing
(Air Force Reserve Command),
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.,
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Cop Rocks

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Michael

908th Security Forces Squadron's Staff Sgt. Eva Roberts practices subduing a suspect played by a co-worker. Go to Page 14 to read more about her offduty pursuit of rock and roll dreams.

Southern Flyer

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Editorial policy

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

Unit members should be aware, know how sexual assault reporting program works

And respect are the foundation of our Wingman culture, a culture in which we look out for each other and take care of each other. Incidents of sexual assault corrode the very fabric of our Wingman culture; therefore, we must strive for an environment where this type of behavior is not tolerated and where all Airmen are respected. Commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, victims and friends alike need to know about the Sexual Assault Prevention and Reporting Program and how it works.

Restricted reporting is an essential component of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Reporting Program. Restricted reporting is intended to give victims additional time and increased control over their situation; empowering them to make informed decisions about participating in the criminal process.

WHO CAN MAKE A RESTRICTED REPORT: Restricted reporting is available

only to military personnel of the Armed Forces and Coast Guard when attached to DOD. Military personnel include members on active duty, and members of the Reserve, provided they are performing federal duty (active or inactive duty training) and National Guard members performing Title 10 duties (such as those performing border patrol). Reserve members not performing federal duty are not eligible; retired members, dependents and Air Force civilian employees are not eligible.

WHO CAN TAKE A RESTRICTED REPORT:

Only sexual assault response coordinators and health-care providers may receive restricted reports of sexual assault at any time. A report may be made to a chaplain, but a report to a chaplain is not restricted under this policy but rather by the privileged communication due to their status. Any report to the chaplain or other privileged person must be reported to the SARC or healthcare provider. Victims Advocates may only receive a restricted report after they have been appointed by the SARC.

Con't on Page 3

Sexual assault prevention and reporting program key personnel

Maxwell Gunter AFB sexual assault response coordinator, LaNesa Howard, 42nd ABW/CVK, 3-4416

Maxwell Gunter AFB deputy SARCs, Capts, Helen Warner and Marashia McCormick, 42nd ABW/CVKD, 3-7116

908th AW victims advocate, Maj Kirsten James, 908th MSG/CCE, 3-8545

Reserve liaison to MAFB SARC, Master Sgt. Valeria Knight, 908th ASTS/SGP, 3-5714

Religious faith and military service

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Phillip Armstrong
908th AW Chaplain

The Chaplain Service and/or pastors have been a vital part of our nation's armed forces since the Revolutionary War. George Washington commissioned a painting of himself kneeling in the snow next to his horse to pray. Imagine his soldiers looking at that painting, and seeing their leader in full military dress kneeling in the snow praying for them as they prepared to enter combat.

George Washington, in his decision-making capacity as general, had to put people he admired, respected and in some instances loved in harm's way. That is a weighty

task. When we are chosen to be front and center in the defense of our nation, it helps to know that our leaders consider our lives precious, and that it is with great deliberation and a grave heart that leadership, anticipating losses, commits Citizen Airmen to war. It also helps to know our leaders are praying with someone who is close to God.

Chaplain Service personnel celebrate life when a new born comes into the world, fresh and full of potential. We grieve when a loved one leaves us. It doesn't matter how old they are or how sick they might have been. It hurts to lose someone we love.

Military service is a sacrifice. We know we risk injury or the loss of life. Yet we serve

for the greater good, a cause more important to us than our life. We wear our uniform and salute one another with great pride and patriotism. The Chaplain Service is available for you to celebrate the joys of life and comfort you when deeply painful events occur and wound your hearts.

As noncombatants, chaplains neither carry nor fire weapons. If captured, we are not considered prisoners of war. Yet we will be in the prison camp with you, seeking to boost your morale and pointing you to a higher power. Chaplain Service personnel are willing to go to the fight with you, stand beside you, and pray with you until the dust has cleared and it is time to recover. We are your chaplains.

: Assault

Con't from Page 2

Healthcare providers will provide appropriate emergency medical care and immediately notify the SARC to initiate the restricted report process.

The only place a victim can go for medical treatment and have the option of restricted reporting is a military medical facility. If the victim goes to an off base facility, the report automatically turns into an unrestricted report.

If commanders,



first sergeants, supervisors or victims advocates feel someone is about to divulge a sexual assault, they must stop the person immediately and put the person in touch with the SARC. The SARC will work with the victim and assign a VA to the case; while VAs are there for victims, the victims advocate initially encountered might not be the one assigned by the SARC due to relationships. Please be sure to stop them if you feel someone might be about to tell you about a sexual assault so they don't lose their restricted reporting privileges.

NOTIFICATION TO COMMANDER OF

A RESTRICTED REPORT.

Within 24 hours of a report, the SARC must notify the vice wing commander that a restricted report has been filed. The SARC will provide the following info: date and time (day/night), general location info, number of alleged assailants (multiple abusers), number of victims and nature of the assault (rape, forcible sodomy, indecent assault, etc).

The Air Force is committed to ensuring that victims of sexual assault are protected, treated with dignity and respect and provided support, advocacy and care. All members of the Air Force family should be aware of the sexual assault prevention and reporting program and how to handle potential reports.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

☐ - Contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)--24/7

- 953-8696 Direct Line
- 953-7333 Command Post – ask to be connected to the SARC
- 0 on base or 953-1110 off base – ask to be connected to the SARC

☐ - Take Care of the Victim's Needs

- Ensure the SARC speaks with the victim (allow privacy to protect confidentiality)
- Do not question the victim
- Remind the victim not to eat, drink, use the restroom or do anything that may disrupt evidence collection

☐ - Remember

- No two people respond to or cope with sexual assault in the same way. How a person presents to you is not an indication of whether or not a sexual assault has occurred.
- Be aware of your own moral/personal biases and keep them in check. Comments related to victim's style of dress, drinking activities or personal choices are irrelevant and may severely impair the healing process.
- What you say/how you act may make the difference in whether or not the victim proceeds with the case and may have a significant impact on how the victim continues with recovery.

SIDE ONE

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Communication Guidelines for Dealing with Victims of Sexual Assault

If you are approached by someone who falls under your direct line of supervision, here are some guidelines to help you assist that person:

If you believe someone is about to disclose a sexual assault to you, it's okay to stop them and make them aware of the options available to them. For example, you can say something along these lines:

Let me stop you for a moment. I want you to know I'm here for you and ready to listen if you need help, but I don't want you to lose any options that may be available to you by disclosing too much information to me at this time. If you think you might like to speak with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator before we continue this discussion, I can put you in touch with him/her immediately. Just know that if you disclose a sexual assault to me, I will have to report that assault to law enforcement.

Please remember the medical well-being and safety of the victim are top priorities. A victim can get medical treatment and still maintain their confidential options.

**If you receive a report of sexual assault from someone who does not fall under your direct line of supervision, restricted reporting is still an option.
Call the SARC!**

"Do's" and "Don'ts" for Unrestricted Reports of Sexual Assault

Do's

1. Do ensure there are no immediate medical needs
2. Do ensure the person is safe
3. Do contact the SARC
4. Do find out if they want to speak with someone of the same gender
5. Do make yourself accessible
6. Do make good eye contact and be aware of your body language
7. Do be aware of the person's need for personal space
8. Do ensure a "need to know basis" is being upheld
9. Do ensure personnel in your unit are aware of how to handle sexual assault situations
10. Do say, "I'm sorry this happened to you."

Don'ts

1. Do not touch or reach for the victim
2. Do not let the victim eat/drink anything
3. Do not let the victim go off by themselves for long periods of time
4. Do not question the victim or press for details surrounding the assault

SIDE TWO

UCI UTA "To Do" List!

By Lt. Col. Troy Vonada
Chief, Performance Planning

Renowned football coach and motivational speaker Lou Holtz led the "Fighting Irish" of Notre Dame to nine bowl games and a national championship. His record of 216-95-7 stands as one of the finest in college football. Holtz success can be attributed to adherence to a simple personal philosophy. Here's Holtz philosophy in his own words.

"It's not really complicated; you can do marvelous things if you just follow three simple rules. These are rules I believe in. Rule no. 1: do right. Do what's right, avoid what's wrong. Rule No. 2: always do the very best you can. Not because somebody's looking or because somebody's going to find out...but because that's just the way you live. And the third rule is, always show people you care.

"Why are those three rules so important? Because everyone you meet, every coach, every person, every teacher, every spouse asks these three questions. The first question everybody asks is, 'Can I trust you?' Without trust, there can be no relationship. The second question is, 'Are you committed to excellence? Do you want to be good? And the last question everybody wants to ask is, 'Hey, do you care about me? Do you care about me as a person?'"

No doubt the UCI is a report card. It's a report card that grades how well we're doing as a wing, or, in simpler terms as a team. So, my questions are, "Do you care? And, are you committed to excellence?" No doubt your boss wants to know... This report card will give us an indication. I ask that you commit to doing all you can to make this yet another successful venture in the history of the 908th Airlift Wing.

For this UTA, please accomplish the following:

- **Complete Semi-annual Self-inspection**
- **Finish running all applicable checklists (Some Overdue!)**
- **Focus on closing all "Open" findings from the 22nd Air Force SAV**
- **Deployers, pack bags, get mentally/physically ready for Joint Enterprise**
- **MSF members and trainees, get pumped up about MPF block training**
- **Safety, do final preparations for the Safety Program Evaluation**
- **Pull out your Gas Mask Inspection card and perform an inspection**
- **If need a Family Care plan, see your First Sergeant**
- **If a supervisor, annotate OJT records appropriately (see DPMT if questions)**
- **If a mentor, conduct your mentoring and document (see MPF if questions)**
- **Get your uniforms in shape, get new AFRC patch, replace old, worn out patches**

Healthy Airmen know their numbers

By Lt. Col. Carol Anders
908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Have you heard the latest numbers buzzing around the wing? They are our IMR stats. What are they and why all the concern. IMR stands for individual medical readiness.

Looking at it from a statistical point of view, we (being everyone in command) are examining how ready we are to deploy from a medical stand point. Stats show unit members status on medical and dental exams, dental classification (3 or 4 is not good), immunizations, laboratory requirements, gas mask inserts, and occupational health clearance. You are

graded on being green, yellow, gray, or red. Do you know your color grade?

Green means that you are medically OK to deploy.

Yellow means a quick fix (something easily correctable) is needed to make you medically OK to deploy.

Continued on Page 5

Are you interested in serving people?

By Chief Master Sgt. Rick Fanning
908th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant.

We will hold a First Sergeant Selection Board during the August UTA.

The first sergeant's role in the Air Force is one that is time honored and rich in custom and tradition. First sergeants exercise general supervision over assigned enlisted personnel and are the focal point within the unit for all matters concerning enlisted members. In today's rapidly deployable Air Force, the first sergeant is a critical link in providing the commander a mission-ready enlisted force to execute the unit mission. This requires the first sergeant to be credible, perceptive, the epitome of integrity, and to exemplify Air Force Core Values at all times. First sergeants must communicate effectively and have a high level of competency, energy, and motivation.

To apply for First Sergeant Duty, applicants must:

- possess a 7 skill level in his/her control AFSC;
- have minimum ASVAB scores of 45 administrative and 62 general;
- have a minimum physical profile of P3 U2 L2 H2 E2 S1 (on AF Form 422 in applicant's orderly room);
- meet the Air Force standard of good physical health (must have scored 75 or above on the Air Force Fitness Test during

the previous three UTA's from the date of the board).

In addition, applicant's physical appearance and military image must meet the highest standards expected only of the most dedicated senior NCOs. You must have completed the NCO Academy Course prior to application and if accepted, must complete the three-week First Sergeant Academy within one year and the Senior NCO Academy within 11 months upon graduation from the First Sergeant Academy.

Interested applicants must be in the grade of master sergeant or a technical sergeant immediately promotable to master sergeant. Those technical sergeants selected for the position must be immediately eligible for promotion to master sergeant under the provisions found in AFMAN 36-8001, Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures. Also, technical sergeants can only be placed into a master sergeant first sergeant vacancy.

Interested applicants who meet the above criteria should submit their military resume, copies of their last three EPR's, a current records review listing, and a letter of recommendation from their commander including your PT score to Master Sgt. Cynthia Barker, 908th MPF, Building 1056, not later than 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

For more information see your First Sergeant or the Command Chief.

Annual alumni reunion dinner set for Sept.

All past and present unit members are invited to the 908th AW Alumni Association Reunion Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Falcon's Nest on Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

The buffet starts at 7 p.m. and includes sliced roast beef, chicken breast, salad and various vegetables, desserts and tea or coffee.

Noting that people are the key to a successful reunion, Alumni Association committee member Gene Beasley, said the reunions are successful because of "good food and the good company of all that attend, whether it is their first time or they've attended many times." He added the reunion isn't merely an old-timers' club but "an ideal opportunity for those of us still here to listen and learn from those that were here before us."

He asked that people share the information about the reunion since the news doesn't always reach everyone. "If you know any current or former member who hasn't received a letter about the reunion, please give him or her a copy or pass his or her address on to me."

Beasley added that those unable to attend should still respond back so they can remain on the alumni association mailing list.

"Photos have been a big hit. If you would like to share photos you have of unit personnel or aircraft, please put your name on the back so we can return them to you," Beasley said, also noting that all the photos on display last year were destroyed when his house burned down last October.

If you need further information, please contact Gene Beasley at (334) 365-4721 (home) or (334) 399-5198 (cell) or e-mail Gene Beasley at: beas1259@bellsouth.net (home) or gene.beasley.ctr@csd.disa.mil (work) or call or e-mail Harold Taylor at (334) 365-5529 Taylorsh3@aol.com.

Please complete and return ASAP:

Name: _____
E-MAIL: _____

Dinner: \$19 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

in Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check or money order payable to:
908th AW Reunion Alumni Association

Send to: Harold Taylor, 1448 Upper Kingston Road,
Prattville, AL 36067

PH: (334) 365-5529, E-MAIL: taylorsh3@aol.com

: Healthy Airmen

Con't from Page 4

Gray means that your medical or dental status is unknown or that you have an overdue dental or other exam.

Red is classified as "hard broke" or you have been identified as having a disqualifying condition.

Your unit health monitor can help you determine your color grade and what is needed to move you into the green zone.

The 908th Physical Exam section is here to help keep you ready for deployment. Remember HRA's and dental 2813's are due on annual basis in relationship to your birthday. You may complete either of these in a six-month window prior to your birth month. Immunization clinic hours have been extended, check the wing newsletter for the extended hours.

Currently, nearly one third of the wing remains in that gray zone. For the most part, that is because of overdue dental and other exams. Help make our wing the best in the Air Force Reserve by being medically ready for deployment. Know your IMR stats and what you need to improve them.

Flightline "shack" gets make over

Aircraft maintenance workers' home gets major upgrade

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

In case 908th AW members have noticed how excited aircraft maintenance members have been lately, it could be because the squadron has a new building.

"It was called 'the shack' by everyone in the 908th and it certainly lived up to its name, because it resembled an old shack that you might see while driving along in the country," said Maj. Joe Friday, commander, 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "The only thing we were missing was an old broken down car sitting out front."

Thankfully, "the shack" is no longer an appropriate name. After a \$718,000 renovation, the single-story building looks new and efficient, and the AMXS members are happy with their new digs.

The project was awarded in September 2006 and the completed building was accepted in April 2007, said 908th Civil Engineers operations superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Donald Fenn. "The project completely gutted and refurbished the original structure, updating all utilities from heat and air conditioning to communications. The floor plan was changed to accommodate new restrooms, mechanical space, and a more effective office and workspace layout. An addition was built onto the building which increased the overall space by almost one third. The roof, windows, and exterior finishes were also renovated," Sergeant Fenn said.

The renovated building provides the commander and first sergeant their own office space. Before the renovation they shared an office with the traditional reservist superintendent that was smaller than one of the new offices.

The old building went from a structure with two offices to the newly renovated one with an additional seven offices for a total of nine offices available for use, said AMXS flight chief Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Taylor. "And we're proud of our tool room. The guys have done an outstanding job of putting it all together."

Access to the tool crib, break area, and additional office space allows the current air reserve technician and TR leadership to hold private meetings, a capability they lacked before, said 908th Maintenance Group commander Col. Kerry Kohler.

Following a ribbon cutting in May, the June UTA was the first UTA in the new building.



The gang's all here. AMXS's renovated building has one-third more space than "the flightline shack."

"We're still in the process of moving, the tools are in place, and we are finishing up with the organizing," said Sergeant Taylor, referring to the squared-away look of the facility.

They had worked out of a temporary hangar. Now, the squadron is conveniently located nearer to the aircraft where they work, Taylor added.

Though the addition to the building may have taken up a parking place or two, he said more parking spaces are available across the street.

The building construction that took close to six months to complete is a center of hustle and bustle as AMXS personnel complete the final touches.

"People here feel it's a great facility to operate out of now," said Sergeant Taylor, reflecting on the old World War II-era structure's facelift.

Colonel Kohler won't miss the old building, either. When he gave tours of the old building to VIPs, he would point out, "This condemned building has some of the best heat in the summer and best air conditioning in the winter!"

"We did have the auto hobby shop just next door so you could say we had it all," Major Friday said a bit facetiously, "that environment had its affect on everyone including me. A dimly lit building with ineffective ventilation and poor space allocation certainly affects morale. After the renovation, we now have a new building."

Sergeant Fenn, the CE operations superintendent, said the building had been on the host base demolition list for

many years. Being on the demolition list, prohibited the unit from investing substantially in renovating, he said. "Our maintenance folks, through a lot of self-help work, managed to do a great job of keeping the shack minimally operational. When we were finally able to program this project in 2003, the work was long overdue to say the least. Every system in the building was failing repeatedly and the building was literally rotting away both inside and out," Sergeant Fenn said.

Flight chief Taylor said he appreciates having a new facility. "It's nice to have the command structure all in one place from first sergeant to commander."

Sergeant Fenn said several factors contributed to the successful renovation. "First, our maintainers provided excellent input on operational needs and preferences during the design process.



Tech. Sgt. Roy Hart cuts foam

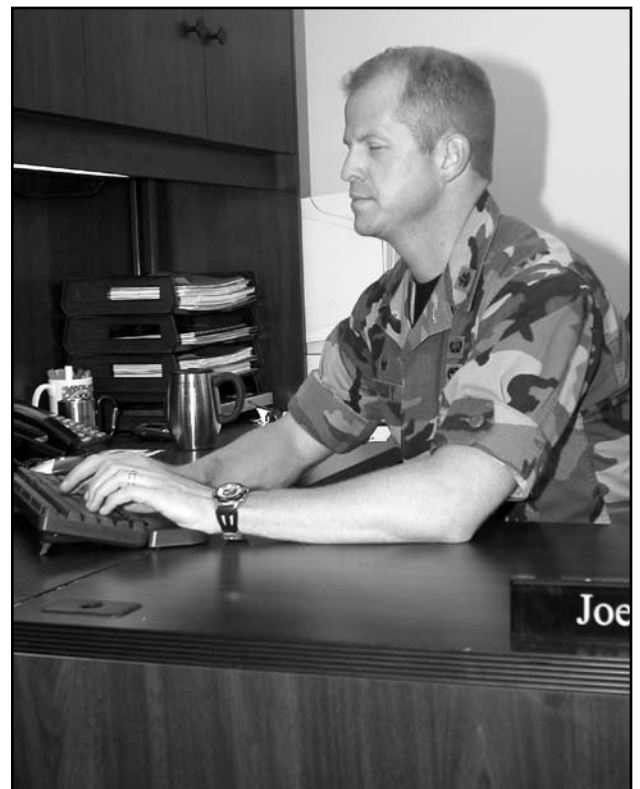


Photos by Staff Sgt Jay Ponder

The tool room incorporates worker feedback and suggestions and is a model of efficiency.



placement inside a toolbox.



Maj. Joe Friday settles in to his new office.

They continued to respond as issues occurred and were being resolved during construction. Second, the contractor and the contract management team from Maxwell Support Division/CE did

a great job of executing the project for us. They turned out a great product that we desperately needed."

Major Friday summed it up, "I had a retiree visit, who had worked in this

building for over 20 years and he framed it very well when he said, 'We worked like dogs and lived like pigs. I'm glad you guys got this, it's nice.'"

Feature



Photos by Jeff Melvin

Tech. Sgt. Hoyt Tidwell connects an auxiliary power unit to Avionics Modernization Program modified C-130H aircraft 9101 after it arrives Maxwell AFB May 31.

Back to the future

C-130 flying unit gets glimpse of its future when upgraded aircraft returns home for inspection

By Jeff Melvin
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. — The 908th Airlift Wing got a glimpse of its future May 31st when the first Avionics Modernization Program upgraded C-130 returned here to undergo an isochronal inspection. Aircraft 9101's makeover began in January 2006, with a successful first flight last September at Lackland AFB, Texas, followed by additional testing at Edwards AFB, Calif.

The 908th AW will be the first wing equipped with AMP upgraded aircraft. Approximately 230 Air Force C-130s are slated for conversion under a contract with the Boeing Company. Currently, the Air Force has 14 variants of five different models of the C-130: F, H1, H2, H3 and the J model.

The upgraded C130s look the same on the outside but the cockpit looks dramatically different. The analog instrumentation familiar to generations of pilots is gone, replaced by six liquid crystal flat screen monitors under two plastic "heads up" displays that allow pilots to get the information they need while maintaining their focus outside the cockpit.

The AMP upgraded aircraft "isn't your father's C-130," said 908th AW commander Col. Michael Underkofler, alluding to the fact that the C-130 has been in continuous production for more than 50 years.

Colonel Underkofler is a veteran pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours in multiple versions of the C-130 including the newest, the J model. The colonel said the upgraded C-130s will offer tangible benefits such as lower maintenance costs and hours as well as improved safety resulting from Global Positioning System technology and the heads up displays that eliminate the need for pilots to look down to read instruments while flying.

Another consideration is the ease that newer generations of pilots should make the transition to the revamped C-130. As the colonel sees it, these computer-savvy young men and women familiar with video games, flat panel displays, touch screens, and fast evolving technology will help maintain America's air and space prominence.

"It's easy for them to transition themselves into these new upgrades. They can quickly punch data into computers because that's all they know," Colonel Underkofler said.

Additional costs savings will result from the appropriate use of commercial, off-the-shelf components.

Continued on Page 10



Boeing test pilot Mike Leone, and



The cockpit of the AMP upgraded C-130, above, C-130s. The analog instrumentation familiar to pilots is gone, replaced by six liquid crystal flat screen monitors under two plastic "heads up" displays that allow pilots to get the information they need while maintaining their focus outside the cockpit.

Feature



and Capt. Breanna Lankford sit at the controls of the AMP modified aircraft after touching down at Maxwell AFB.



Boeing photo by Ron Bookout

looks dramatically different from the cockpit of older model generations of pilots is gone, replaced by six liquid crystal flat displays that allow pilots to get the information they need without



The cockpit of current 908th AW/C-130H aircraft

: Back to the future



Senior Airman Shane Prater prepares to install a safety chain in the main landing gear wheel well as part of aircraft 9101's isochronal inspection.

Continued from Page 8

Boeing test pilot Mike Leone and Capt. Breanna Lankford guided the aircraft to its touchdown at Maxwell. Leone is a retired Air Force flier; Lankford is assigned to Air Mobility Command's Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards AFB, Calif., where the upgraded aircraft has been undergoing additional flight test since its first successful flight last September.

Leone and co-pilot Captain Lankford gave the aircraft high marks, saying it was "a joy to fly."

Leone who helped design the system for Boeing said it has many of the same features as commercial airliners. The upgraded system, he said, has a "much larger brain" to guide the big cargo planes, giving the venerable aircraft a new life.

"A lot of National Guard and Reserve pilots also fly commercial aircraft and when they see what's being added to the C-130, they say 'wow.'"

The upgrade costs about \$10 million for each plane, considerably less than the \$60 million price tag for a new C-130.

Underkofler said he was pleased that reservists will be the first in the Air Force to receive the upgraded aircraft.

"It's great that citizen airmen are the first people to fly this airplane and our unit is the first in the nation to do it," the colonel said. "It means a lot to us."



Photos by Jeff Melvin

From left, Staff Sgt. Jason French, Senior Airman Robert Bing and Staff Sgt Joseph Stone install a nose landing gear tow fitting. The fitting is used for handling the aircraft on the ground.



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

An AFA Chapter 102 member checks out the aircraft's heads up display.



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

Chamber of Commerce member "Skip" Dothrow takes a turn at the controls.

Locals get peek at AMP aircraft

As a way of saying thanks for their support as well letting them know what's going on within the wing, the 908th opened AMP aircraft 9101 up for viewing on two occasions in June. The wing hosted an executive board meeting of the Air Force Association Chapter 102 June 13 and a Montgomery Chamber of Commerce monthly coffee June 20. Ever the good neighbor, the wing invited a host of Maxwell-Gunter officials to the coffee

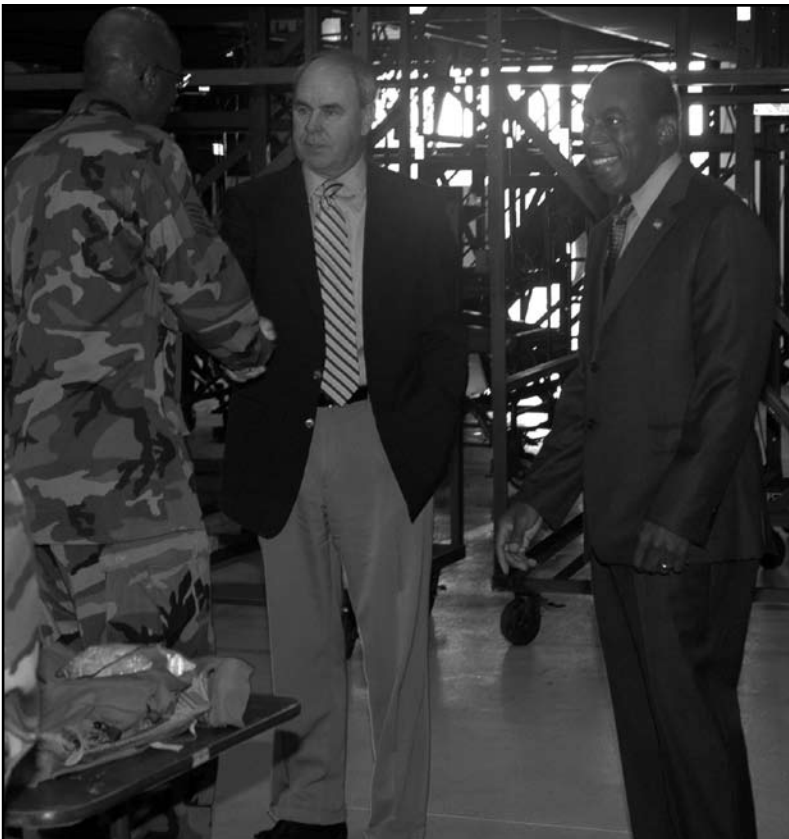


Photo by Jeff Melvin

Master Sgt. Ken Wright greets Tom Dickson, 908th AW commander Michael Underkofler's Maxwell-Gunter Partners counterpart, center, and Edward Crowell, chairman of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. Crowell is an Air Force Reserve brigadier general and former longtime 908th AW member.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Capt. Jeffrey Randall, aircrew life support officer, answers questions about life support equipment.

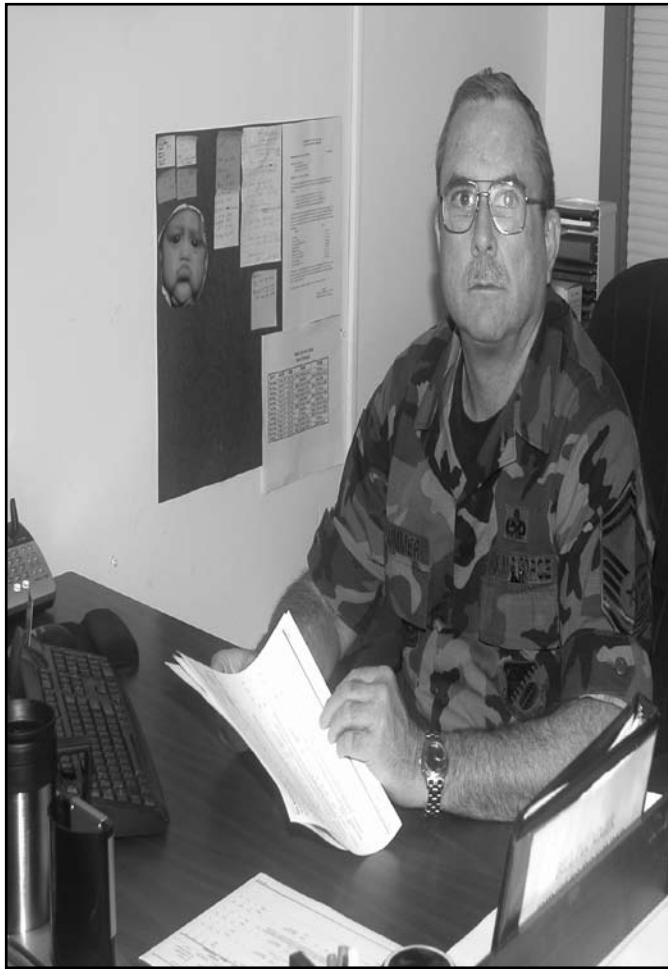


Photo by Jeff Melvin

Tom Dickson takes a look at the aeromedical evacuation station staffed by Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Weir and Capt. Steven Jordan

Wing snapshots

Congratulations are in order for two of the wing's longest serving members, 908th MXS's Senior Master Sgt. Bill Plummer and Chief Master Sgt. Donald Smith. Sergeant Plummer, MXS's quality assurance superintendent, retired from military service July 1, serving 34 years, 27 here with the 908th. He will retire as an air reserve technician July 29. He thanked God for his career and quipped, "I'll miss the people I work with every day though not the ORIs." Chief Smith, who last served as maintenance superintendent, retired June 1 after 36 years of service, 32 here at the 908th. The chief, Plummer said, "was always there when there was a need. He was always first to volunteer and the last to leave. He ensured his Airmen were taken care of before he considered his own needs. His service was invaluable and he can't be replaced, but the unit will go forward because of his leadership example."



Senior Master Sgt. Bill Plummer

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



Chief Master Sgt. Donald Smith

In Memoriam

Maj. Charles Stresino

Maj. Charles L Stresino, a member of the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, passed away June 24 at Baptist South Hospital in Montgomery.

Major Stresino recently became director of operations in the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron after serving nearly 10 years in the Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Prior to joining the 908th, he was a member of the 928th Airlift Wing in Chicago. Major Stresino had recently returned from a tour in Iraq.

He was involved in a traffic accident in Opelika, Ala., June 23. He was treated and released from a hospital in that area following the accident. Later that evening he wasn't feeling well so he was transported to another local hospital for treatment. He was then transferred to Baptist South where he died early the next morning.

The major was 47. He is survived by his father, Edgar Francis, mother, Mary Lou, brothers Peter and Robert, and sisters, Catherine, and Josephine A. Cully.

At press time, funeral services were being planned to be held near his parent's hometown of Speedway, Ind., June 30



Courtesy photo

Maj. Charles Stresino greets Sheik Saad outside Balad Air Base, Iraq, during his recent deployment. The major served as patient liaison, special medical operation and support for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group.



Photo by Jeff Melvin



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Wing members find time to work physical training into their busy schedules.



Photo by Jeff Melvin



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Above, Capt. Richard Pope, and left, Maj. Bruce Coole address well-wishers at their change of command ceremonies June 2. Captain Pope, formerly 908th SFS's operation officer, took charge of the squadron, replacing Maj. Christopher Simpson, who PCS'd to Patrick AFB, Fla. Major Coole moved from the command post, replacing Maj. Patrick Albrecht as comm flight commander.

Rock on

Rocker cop shoots for dreams on, off stage

By Tech. Sgt. James Harrell Jr.,
908th Security Forces Squadron, and Staff Sgt.
Christian Michael, 908th AW Public Affairs

You can't tell it just by looking at her, but the heart of a bohemian beats underneath the skin of 908th Security Forces Squadron's Staff Sgt. Eva Roberts.

The 24-year old Montgomery native first joined the Air Force in 2000. Initially stationed here at Maxwell, she served as a desk sergeant with the 42nd Security Forces Squadron. During her active enlistment, she deployed several times in operations as Phoenix Raven support for Operation Enduring Freedom and base defense controller at Seeb North Air Base, Oman. Joining the 908th Security Forces Squadron in 2006, she is the unit's emergency management representative.

An experienced, professional Airman, she is also a dedicated bass player for the band, 'The Living Outnumber the Dead.'

Formed in July 2005, the band started as a studio project for S.H.C. (an industrial rock group composed of members of Nine Inch Nails, Meat Beat Manifesto, and producer Danny Saber), with vocalist Cope Till and guitarist Chris Collins to work on songs outside of other projects. As they worked out ideas, Till introduced Collins to Roberts, who was recording an album of her own in the same studio. The three agreed the band was more than a side project and began auditioning drummers. The search ended when drummer Glenn Grant (formerly of Ed Kemper Trio) was brought on board in 2006.

The group has played several venues and will start touring this summer after completing their self-titled debut album.

Roberts's position as a member of the band comes as a matter of skill, honed from years of musical experience and her own personal dedication to the craft.

Finding an innate skill for music at a young age, she developed sharply by attending several musical academies and, at the age of 14, began touring with the cover band, 'BODAN.' Touring with the band for two years is where she grew to love music, Roberts said.

Her journey to heavy metal came from a place few would ex-

pect – classical music and guitar.

"I started playing when I was 6," she said. "My mom sang opera, my dad was a percussionist and I really just caught on."

Due to her mother's classical leanings, Roberts professes a love for classical music – the incubator of all her music growth – and singles out Bach not only as her favorite composer, but also as one of her favorite artists of all time.

From her love of classical music and guitar, she made a jump to heavy metal – while an odd pair, she said they're not that different.

"There are technical, complicated similarities between" the two, she said, but, "heavy metal was actually an easy jump from classical guitar."

Roberts, a black female, is not the first image that jumps to the minds of many people when they think of a bass guitarist.

"[People] think I'm a groupie when I go to shows," she said.

The image of black women in general, as perpetuated by the entertainment media, is an issue she takes very seriously. She aspires to change the stereotypes black women are often labeled with. She said many black women are often portrayed as too proud, riding high horses with no need for men – she wants to "be a strong black woman without being antagonistic." The other stereotype is one of constant victimization. She's even writing a book on those negative stereotypes.

"I won't use the black thing, or the woman thing, as a crutch," she said, instead believing in just living her dream for exactly what her skills drive her to be.

In keeping with her beliefs, she boldly loves and plays heavy metal when the mainstream media typically shows black women as sexual objects or completely arrogant in their independence.

Roberts found solace in heavy metal after her mother found her rap CD's when she was younger and forced her to throw them out.

"She hated the messages they were sending," she said. And when her mother heard her doing heavy metal, she still called her on "no cusswords." Roberts lists bands like "Queen Adreana," "Tool" and "Rush" as her inspirations, and strives to meld the grunge rock of her youth with the classic rock of other members of her band.

Today, she works as a Veterans Affairs police officer, providing security for VA facilities in Montgomery. Holding down that job, she spends most of the rest of her time traveling around state and other areas of the Southeast with "Outnumber."

Roberts describes her work with the military and her band as similar and fulfilling. Both take teamwork with long hours of practice and rehearsal to perform as a cohesive unit.

The end result is a product viewable as a masterpiece for the masses.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Harrell Jr.

"The Living Outnumber the Dead" bass guitarist Eva Roberts

Take Note



Leaders want your AF 60th birthday ideas

The Air Force celebrates its 60th anniversary, Sept. 18, 2008, and wing leaders want your feedback about a suitable local commemorative activity. Several ideas under consideration include having Family Day 2008 double as an AF 60th birthday celebration, or having a combat dining in or a formal dining out. Tell your commander, first sergeant or any senior staff member how you feel about any of these or better yet, tell them about your idea.

For more information about the Air Force's anniversary commemoration, and for a complete list of events around the nation, visit the 60th Anniversary link at <http://www.af.mil/library/usaf60.asp>.

Sanitizers can pose risks for toddlers

A father was called to school one day to pick up his four-year old daughter, Halle, after a school secretary found her lethargic and incoherent, curled up in a chair.

The father rushed her to the nearest emergency room where every blood test imaginable was done. The tests didn't find anything out of the ordinary. As the family prepared to depart the ER, Halle's teacher arrived on the scene to report what she had learned from questioning Halle's classmates. Apparently, Halle had licked the hand sanitizer off her hands. Hand sanitizer, of all things. But it makes sense.

There are all kinds of different scents these days, and curious children put all kinds of things in their mouths. Halle's blood alcohol level was 85 percent six hours after she licked her arm. Imagine what it would have been if the test had been performed when she first went to the ER. Three squirts of hand sanitizer can be fatal to a toddler. The level of alcohol in Halle's blood was equivalent to drinking something 120 proof.

Hand sanitizers are wonderful infection control tools that replace ordinary handwashing. However, it is imperative to keep them out of reach of young children and incoherent adults because of their high alcohol content. Sanitizers should also be kept away from open flames.

Contact your wing infection control officer, Maj. Donna Roberts, 908th ASTS, at (334) 953-5404 for more information.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Too hot for his flightsuit?

No, 357th AS C-130 pilot Maj. Gary "GoG" Gomez isn't taking extreme measures to beat the Alabama heat, he's being hosed down by his son as he completes his fini flight June 2. Major

Gomez, a 908th member for nearly 10 years, is retiring from the military but he'll continue to fly in civilian life as a Delta Airlines pilot.

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