

Southern Flyer

908th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Maxwell AFB, Ala., Vol. 46, Issue 1, January 2009

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A new year, another deployment

By Chaplain (Maj.) David Dersch
908th AW Chaplain's Office

The Holiday season is coming to a close and we're getting into the new year. I'm particularly excited about this year because I get to do what I've been training for since coming into the reserve: to deploy!

Since coming to the 908th two and a half years ago, I've felt very at home except for one thing—I have never deployed! Many of you deployed during the mobilization back in '03-'05; others went during various AEF cycles since then, particularly this last year. I have volunteered twice, but the timing wasn't right and I wasn't selected. However, this month I leave for 120 days at Al Udeid in Qatar. As one old preacher said, "Be careful what you pray for—you might just get it!"

One of the reasons I want to deploy is that I believe it will help me be a better chaplain to you who have gone in the past and to you who will go in the future. Sharing experiences is a great way to develop friendship. In some ways, that is part of the meaning of Christmas, when Jesus "deployed" to the earth, to be a "friend of sinners." Jesus, the Son of God, came in

human form, and as the writer of Hebrews says (4:15-16), this enables him to "sympathize with our weaknesses." It also should encourage us to "approach his throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

During my personal devotional time today I read from Exodus 33:15. This verse is part of a conversation that Moses had with God before Israel left Mount Sinai to go to the Promised Land. He prayed: "Lord, if your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

This is my prayer, that God will go with me, and all of our deployers, for protection, direction, and victory. I would greatly appreciate your prayers for me and my family as we're separated, as well as for those at the "Deid" that I'll be ministering to. May



Chaplain (Maj.) David Dersch

God's Presence go with me, and while I'm gone, I'll be praying His Presence be with you as you prepare and execute ORI deployments this year!

Healthy Airmen --

Know what LODs are and how to receive care

by Lt. Col. Carol Anders
Nurse practitioner, 908th ASTS

LOD is the term used for Line of Duty. It refers to any acute injury or illness that occurs while an Airman is in military status. The illness or injury needs to be reported

to the ASTS in person within 24 hours. If the member is unable to come to the ASTS then the member or his/her supervisor should call the ASTS (953-5714) within 24 hours.

The ASTS is not a medical treatment facility. If the member requires immediate medical care due to life threat-

ening symptoms (such as chest pain, severe injury or shortness of breath) call 9-1-1, DO NOT bring to the ASTS.

The LOD requires the member to complete paperwork and provide copies of all medical documentation. If it occurs

Con't on Page 3

Money matters -- GTC switch affects split disbursements

: LODs

Con't from Page 2

on a UTA the member will need to stay over on Monday in a military status and be seen by the 42nd Medical Group at sick call (6:45-7:20 a.m.). The Airman must pick up his medical record from the ASTS and report to the 42nd Medical Group and tell them that this is a LOD case.

If referrals are needed to receive specialized care, the 42nd needs a copy of the LOD paperwork to set up those referrals. The Airman needs to make sure the referrals are set up properly so TRICARE covers the cost of the treatment. For tracking purposes and to provide assistance, if needed, the Airman must notify ASTS of any/all referrals being done by the 42nd.

If you live outside the commute area (51 miles or more), then you may be eligible to receive care closer to your home. You MUST contact the ASTS to get this set up for you.

While the ASTS helps you receive the health care you need, we do not determine the orders you will be on to receive that care. Orders are up to your commander and you need to work with your unit on those.

The key to successful care of the LOD with the costs being covered by TRICARE and receiving treatment in a timely fashion is to COMMUNICATE with the ASTS. We are here to assist you. If you are not receiving the care or referrals you need PLEASE do not hesitate to call us.

Last month the Government Travel Card was switched from Bank of America to Citibank. Unit members should be aware that due to system limitations and contract requirements, only one bank can be paid when you select split-disbursement on your travel voucher. Therefore, claims paid before Dec. 24, 2008 will go to Bank of America and claims paid after Dec. 24 will go to Citibank.

It may be necessary for you to pay one or both of the banks during this transition. For instance, vouchers paid prior to Dec. 24, with Citibank charges

will not be split-disbursed and you will be required to personally make a payment to Citibank for any outstanding charges. Likewise, any voucher with Bank of America charges that is paid after Dec. 24, 2008 will not split-disburse to Bank of America. Unit members will be required to personally make a payment to Bank of America. Any questions concerning travel claims should be referred to the Reserve Pay office. Cardholders can make payments to either bank by mail, phone or via internet (Bank of America: www.myeasypayment.com; Citibank internet instructions will be provided on your first Citibank statement).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Teams square off in bowling tourney

Teams and bowlers are still needed for the "9 Pin, No Tap" bowling tournament sponsored by the 908th Chief's Group, Jan. 10 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the new Gunter Annex Bowling Lanes. Ten teams are needed; cost for three games and shoes is \$8. Contact Chief Master Sgt. Lynn Whited, 25th APS, at 953-7791 to register.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Col. Brett J. Clark -- Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

Lt. Col. Jerry W. Lobb -- Chief, Public Affairs

Jeffery Melvin -- Deputy Chief/Editor

Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder -- Public Affairs Specialist

Cover photo:

25th APS members Master Sgt. John Moon and Staff Sgt. Tracy Piel along with 908th AW wing executive officer Lt. Col. Nancy Stephenson practice lifesaving skills on 'injured warrior' Maj. Mark Marus, 908th MSG, during self aid and buddy course training session Dec. 8. See Page 5 for more photos from the SABC session.

Southern Flyer

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Southern Flyer" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content of the "Southern Flyer" is edited, prepared and provided by the 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. We solicit articles, 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 unit training assembly. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA. Send inquiries and submissions to 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112 or e-mail them to 908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil. Our phone number is (334) 953-6804 or DSN 493-6804; our Fax number is (334) 953-2202 or DSN 493-2202. For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

Leap of faith

Chaplain's assistant wins mayoral race in troubled city

By Jeff Melvin
908th AW Public Affairs

Former 908th Airlift Wing senior chaplain retired Lt. Col. Bob Anders once described chaplain assistant Tech. Sgt. Tonya Peterson as having a unique combination of "superior administrative skills and spirituality." She will need both to succeed in her new job as mayor of Lithonia, Ga.

A tiny city of 2,300+ residents, 18 miles east of Atlanta, Lithonia is still mired in severe financial struggles following near bankruptcy in 2005 and worsening fiscal problems magnified by recent squabbling between the city council and the former mayor, resulting in the latter's recall and the city operating with no budget for nearly a year.

Sergeant Peterson, elected to the council in 2006, and subsequently tapped in January 2008 to serve as mayor pro tem, emerged as the leading vote getter in the special election held Nov. 18, following the ouster of the incumbent.

These are certainly uncharted waters for the relative political newcomer who admitted that much soul searching preceded her run for mayor much like it did before her initial foray into politics two years ago. Obligation more than ambition prompted her to give up her council seat and her mayor pro tem position to enter the mayoral race.

As mayor pro tem she virtually served as the city's top official for several months as the city council's dispute with the subsequently recalled mayor showed no signs of resolution. This baptism under fire removed any doubts in her mind about her ability but it also reinforced the magnitude of the challenges on the horizon should she seek the job permanently.

How would she find the time? Could she afford a part-time job with full-time responsibilities and continue her work as a property manager? And what about her Reserve commitments? Weighty questions for someone who still states with conviction, "I have no desire for a political career."

So why did she shelve those doubts and take a leap of faith so to speak.

"I didn't finish my first term; I had to resign both positions to officially run -- I told myself to just walk away," said Sergeant Peterson describing how she strug-

gled with her decision. "But between city employees and residents, I had so many people depending on me that I just couldn't."

Her first order of business, she said, is to "position the city to move forward in a positive direction." That means getting its finances in order and begins with an audit. "I plan to draw on everyone's input to move forward," she said. "Together we can develop a city people can be proud of."

Taking a leap of faith, who better than the chaplain's assistant who completed a master's in divinity this May and plans to enter the military chaplaincy program.



Newly elected Lithonia, Ga. Mayor Tonya Peterson

Courtesy Photo



Chaplain's assistant Tech. Sgt. Tonya Peterson



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



Above, Lt. Col. Allison Marshall, right, and Lt. Col. Lee Mumford, 908th MSG, examine their handiwork treating an eye injury on simulated injured warrior Capt. Keith Helmke, 908th CP. Left, Capt. Keith Helmke, CP, and Master Sgt. John Moon, 25th APS, start to get in position to execute a two-person carry on simulated injured warrior Staff Sgt. Ebony White, 25th APS.



Staff Sgt. Ebony White, Senior Airman Brandon Foster and Staff Sgt. Broderick Smith, 25th APS, simulate treating a head wound on fellow aerial porter Staff Sgt. Jamal Dewberry.

Airmen practice lifesaving skills

Dressing and bandaging wounds, splinting fractures and carrying techniques were just a few of the potentially life saving skills Airmen learned from instructors during a self aid and buddy care training class Dec. 7. SABC is commonly used by the military in deployed environments where there is a constant threat of serious bodily injury from improvised explosive devices, bombs and mortars.



'Injured Airmen' Master Sgt. Gloria Derico, 908th MEO, shows off the results of some simulated splinting by SABC classmates.

Nighttime is the right time

Aerial porters practice slingload training with Army

By Lt. Col. Kjäll Gopaul
LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education

In a first for Maxwell AFB, the 25th Aerial Port Squadron supported Soldiers from Fort Benning, Ga., in an ambitious nighttime helicopter slingload and passenger training exercise held here Dec. 1.

The evening event was a follow-up to the successful daytime slingload exercise conducted by the 25th APS back Aug. 19, in which the coordinated air and ground teams moved over 39,000 pounds of equipment by air. That day, the aerial porters trained with UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft from Ft. Benning's Flight Company, 2nd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment. Specially trained aerial porters used hand-and-arm signals to guide the aircraft over the loads, while another Airman attached the load to a cargo hook on the underside of the aircraft to have the slingload flown away.

"The training was awesome, I'd never done anything like that before," said Master Sgt. Jacqueline Rice, 25th APS first sergeant, who served as a member of the ground crew. "NCOs now know to use helicopters to recover airdropped items, and they can show the Airmen how to do it safely."

"When you are the signalman, you feel a lot of responsibility for the safety of hookup man attaching the load. And when you are the hookup man, you have to have confidence the signalman is going to keep the helicopter in the right position. There has to be a large sense of teamwork and faith in your wingman. Our pre-exercise training really prepared us before we got out there. Everyone knew their jobs, and it was very organized. At Maxwell AFB, training with a helicopter is not an everyday occurrence. If you get the opportunity, I encourage anyone to get the training and go out and do it."

The nighttime mission in December mirrored the August daytime events with a single passenger flight followed by 15 slingload sorties carrying 30,000 pounds. As twilight approached and landing zone became cloaked in dark-

ness, the ground crew prepared for night operations. Each touch-down point was marked with yellow chemical light markers. The direction of flight was re-verified for wind conditions. Ground crew members were provided nightvision goggles, the signalmen received light batons, and the evening came alive through the fine-grain green tint of NVGs.

The night had a different feeling -- as the din of daytime noises subsided. The howl of the dual turboshaft engines expanded to consume all other sounds and the only motion visible on the landing zone was the rhythmic waving blur of the signalman's light batons as he guided the aircraft.

With each sortie, the Fort Benning Soldiers hovered over the 2,000-pound A-22 bag, ensured a good hook-up, ferried the load for 10 minutes, and then returned the load to its original location.



Photo and Graphic illustration by Jamie Pitcher and Lt. Col. Kjäll Gopaul

Chief Master Sgt. Lynn Whited, 25th APS, rigs a 4,000 pound Type V pallet platform ejected from a C-130 for slingload back to Maxwell AFB Aug. 19.

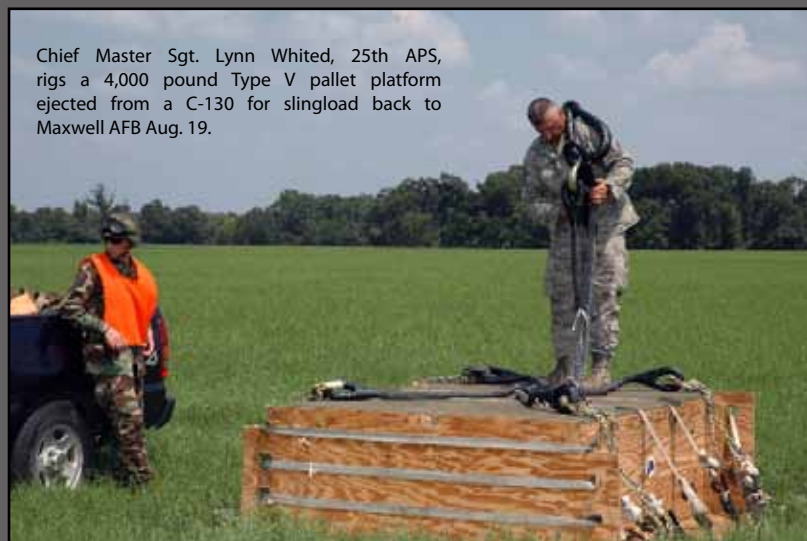


Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb



Photo by Capt. Scot Decker

Staff Sgt. Anthony Riley (left) and Master Sgt. Jacqueline Rice, 25th APS, rig a 1,500 pound A-22 cargo bag containerized delivery system on Landing Zone Alpha at Maxwell AFB for slingloading by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Flight Company, 2-29 IN, Fort Benning, Ga. Aug. 19.

"From my perspective, everything on the ground operated like clockwork," said Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Slone, the evening exercise's air mission commander and instructor-pilot. "The loads were ready, the signalmen knew the commands to give us, the hookup man was aggressive in attaching the load, and the landing zone was clearly marked. Each pilot was able to fly the slingload multiple times, which helps improve our proficiency. You can't ask for more than that."

Nighttime training is incredibly valuable training, CW3 Slone said. "We maintained NVG currency for three pilots today which is absolutely critical. Everybody benefits, and we look forward to a continuation of a great working relationship with Maxwell AFB."

Maj. Barton Johnke, commander, Flight Company, underscored the value of such multi-service exercises, stating, "We train our aircrew members to safely and effectively support the mission of the United States Army Infantry Center and School at Fort Benning. Our mutually beneficial training relationship with Maxwell Air Force Base helps us maintain our proficiency and achieve that goal."



The hookup man from the 25th APS slingload ground crew hooks up a Type V pallet platform to the cargo hook of a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matthew Higgins

Feature



Photo by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

908th AW Commander Col. Brett Clark greets Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz following the general's keynote address at the World Peace Luncheon Nov. 11 in Birmingham as part of the city's National Veterans Day activities.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

From left, Lt. Col. Steve Catchings, Senior Master Sgts. Brent Solomon and Lee Mercer, and Maj. Ken Ostrat and Robert Tucker are recognized at the December Wing Commander's Call for their contributions to the 908th Operations Group's high ratings on its Air Mobility Command Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit Nov. 13-20. Catchings and Solomon, stan eval chief and flight engineer respectively, and Mercer, NCOIC of 357th Airlift Squadron training section were named Top Performers. Ostrat is the 357th AS director of operations; Tucker is 357th AS chief of training.

Feature



Photo by Jeff Melvin

908th AW Command Chief Master Senior Master Sgt. Rick Fanning and unit first sergeants count the money donated by wing members to the Christmas Clearinghouse program. Proceeds help make the holiday brighter for wing families in need.

Wing snapshots



Photo by Lt. CVol. Jerry Lobb

908th AW Commander Col. Brett Clark drops in on the ASTS December Commander's Call and awards one of his wing commander's coins to unit members recognizing their superior performance during their 120-day deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq from May-September 2008.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

908th AW civilian employees and Air Reserve Technicians participate in a Civilian Call Nov. 20 that served the dual purpose of serving as a two-way communication forum between the wing commander and his civilian workforce and providing the occasion for a pre-Thanksgiving potluck luncheon.

DOD honors great employers

Guardsmen and Reservists can still nominate employers for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award at www.FreedomAward.mil. The 2009 nomination season ends Jan. 19, 2009.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR recognizes outstanding support, increase awareness of the law, and resolve conflicts through mediation.

Ready for a job change

The operations group is looking for qualified candidates to cross train to flight engineers. Qualifying AFSCs are 1A0, 1A2, 1A5, 2A3x1/3, 2A4x1/2, 2A5, 2A6x1/3/4/5/6, 2A7 and 2M0. Candidates with valid Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Engineer certificate, FAA private pilot license, or valid FAA aircraft and power plant license or Aircraft Maintenance Technician licenses also qualify.

Flight engineers typically monitor and adjust engine,

pressurization, fuel, environmental, hydraulic, and electrical systems during a flight. They may also be responsible for certain preflight and postflight aircraft inspections. If interested, contact Senior Master Sgt. Ken Eddy, 357th AS, at (334) 953-5924..

Wing sponsors blood drive

The 908th AW will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive Jan. 10, Saturday of the January UTA, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The bloodmobile will be parked in front of the wing headquarters building, Bldg 1056. All donors will receive a t-shirt and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a pair of Delta Air Lines domestic tickets. There is an urgent need for donors to maintain sufficient blood supplies to meet the many day-to-day needs. Your donation can save up to three lives, so give the gift of life.

If you have any questions about eligibility to donate, contact the American Red Cross at 260-3980, or Roxanne Ray at 953-9080. For appointments, contact Ms. Roxanne Ray, 908 AW/CCA, at 953-9080. Although not required, having an appointment will expedite the process when you arrive to give blood. A picture ID or Red Cross donor card is required to donate.



LRS commander Maj. Charles Carver and his wife, Gina

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Carver takes charge of readiness squadron

Maj. Charles Carver accepts the guidon symbolizing acceptance of command responsibility for the 908th Logistics Readiness Squadron from Mission Support Group Commander Lt. Col. Allison Marshall during a ceremony Dec. 6. The unit's operations officer since March 2008, the major served on active duty for nearly 14 years before transferring to the Air Force Reserve and brings a wealth of experience to his new position including experience as a command and control officer with more than

140 hours piloting Air Force training aircraft before becoming a logistics readiness officer in 1999. As an LRO, he was HQ U.S. Air Forces in Europe's 2002 Logistics Command Manager of the year. Since his arrival at Maxwell in October 2004, he has served as chief of strategic programs for the Spaatz Center for Officer Education, and operations officer for the 30th Student Squadron at Squadron Officer College.

Take Note



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Cheeburger, cheeburger! Top brass don hats, serve meals

Master Sgt. Bill Moore, MXS, and other dining facility patrons receive some heaping helpings from cheerful servers 908th AW Commander Col. Brett J. Clark and MPF Commander Maj. Sara Butler who continued a unit tradition of commanders and staff serving meals over the December UTA.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following people promoted to the grades indicated:

....to Chief Master Sgt. Kimberly Devore, ASTS

....to Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hines, AES
Rosalind Mosely, OSF
Christopher Parker, CF
Henry Rudolph, CF

....to Staff Sgt. Kimberly Pettway, OSF
Justin Proctor, AMXS

....to Senior Airman Charles Martin, MXS
Veronica Natal, 25th APS
Chemetaya McMillian, MSS

....to Airman 1st Class Jada Young, ASTS
Anthony Green, MSS

....to Airman Joshua Jones, MXS

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