

HIRING AN ART SERIES CONTINUES, PGS. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER

**WHEN YOU'RE HOT,
YOU'RE HOT!**

Also In This Issue:

SWINE FLU SHOULD INVOKE CAUTION

YELLOW RIBBON EVENT PLANNED FOR 2010

WING READIES FOR ORI

AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

DECEMBER 2009

SOUTHERN
FLYERVol. 46 Issue 09
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Strive to be the best

As we move forward to our ORI, and after hours upon hours of CBTs, classroom training, exercises and meetings, I often wonder just how "PROFICIENT" we really are when it comes to our jobs and war-fighting skills.

The dictionary defines proficiency as having great knowledge and experience in a trade or profession. I tend to associate proficiency to what we do during UTAs and annual tours, which is to develop our skills and competence through training and practice. We are here to gain knowledge and skills that are unique to our Air Force's war-fighting capability. Every time we come together, we must make it our goal to master the techniques of modern warfighters and professional Airmen.

Every Airman should aspire to become proficient and be one who possesses more than basic or intermediate knowledge; they must have extraordinary knowledge. I often relate proficiency to a young prodigy considered one of the best musicians in the world, and when asked how he developed his incredible talent

he replied, "I just know more about my instrument than anyone else."

His reply stuck with me, and I truly believe knowledge is one of the cornerstones of proficiency. Proficiency includes the mastery of skills which requires warfighters to demonstrate their knowledge when training or performing their wartime mission. A final, key aspect of proficiency is ATTITUDE.



LT. COL. LEE MUMFORD
Deputy Commander, 908th MSG

You've heard the adages, "Winners Never Quit" and "No Pain, No Gain." No one can ever expect to become an expert at anything without a positive attitude. It is essential to success, and attitude can easily influence others.

As our wing is put to the test in this ORI, I implore every Airmen to give their best performance, and demonstrate their proficiency! We have spent months building our knowledge base, conducting training, and learning how much it takes to be proficient.

Now is the time to come together as a team and prove we possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude that reflect the proficiency of the 908th Airlift Wing.

A MOMENT WITH THE
CHAPLAIN

STAFF SGT. JARED LING

During World War I in the Christmas season of 1914, a miraculous event happened between opposing forces. At 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, firefights between the German and British forces began to die off. As silence engulfed the frost covered trenches the British wondered if their enemy was attempting some sort of strange attack.

British soldiers began to see lights appearing on the edges of the German trenches. These lights were makeshift Christmas trees. A lone German soldier climbed atop an entrenchment unarmed and waving his hands. He was pleading for his enemy to cease fire.

Through the cold night air, the German soldier yelled in broken English, "Please don't shoot, it is Christmas!" For several days afterwards, these sworn enemies met each other on the battlefield, exchanging gifts, singing songs and sharing meals.

Despite the different beliefs of these two opposing forces, the power of the holiday season was not overlooked as they enjoyed fellowship with one another. In our own lives, we have endured very stressful events in which we have all found disagreement with our friends, co-workers and family. The same spirit of peace that calmed World War I still exists today. May we find the bravery to climb atop the entrenchment and wave our hands.

Don't be
poked by
this pig

Swine flu assault on wing could dramatically affect capabilities, mission

By Gene Hughes
908 AW Public Affairs

Recently, a member of the 908th Airlift Wing came to the Mission Personnel Flight office to have his orders updated and entered in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. The staff noticed the Airman was sweating profusely.

He did state that he needed his orders updated in DEERs because he may be in the hospital by the weekend. The next day, it was reported that the Airman had indeed been hospitalized — with swine flu.

Shortly after the wing's return from the Operational Readiness Exercise in September, the daughter of Capt. Hope Norton, chief of the 908 Reserve Deployment Readiness Cell, came down with the sickness. One month later, both Captain Norton and her husband were stricken.

"It felt very similar to the regular flu," she said. "There were body aches, headaches, nausea and cold symptoms. The thing I would say was the

most significant difference was this sense of sheer exhaustion that I've not had with other illnesses. I felt like I could have slept all day, gotten up to eat, and then gone back to sleep.

"I was glad I got it after the ORE, because it would have been so miserable to feel that way at MOPP 4."

Captain Norton said a possible outbreak within the wing could have a dramatic effect.

"It could have a huge impact," she said. "It's very contagious, so if you deploy one infected person where everyone's in a closed, confined area, you could end up having a large number of folks out of play. A mass outbreak throughout the wing could impact our being able to meet the mission."

At press time, there was no H1N1 vaccine, but it was estimated that it would be on hand in early December. All members will be required to receive the vaccine. In response to the outbreak of

A microscopic
view of the
H1N1 virus



U.S. Air Force photo/
Gene Hughes

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Foley of the 908th Airlift Wing Civil Engineering Squadron prepares for a structural fire exercise in a chemical environment, wearing not only the usual protective suit, but MOPP 4 as well.

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 this office at (334) 953-7874.

Hiring an ART

THE PROCESS

By Tech. Sgt. Christian Michael
22nd Air Force Public Affairs

This is part 2 of 3 in a series on the Air Reserve Technician program and hiring process.

Hiring Air Reserve Technicians requires the cooperation of a number of agencies, including the Reserve unit with the vacant slot, the Special Examining Unit at Robins AFB, Ga., and with smaller coordinating agencies at Air Force Personnel Center and Air Force Reserve Command.

The Hiring Process

The ART hiring process begins with a supervisor who needs an ART position filled. The supervisor is regarded as the "selecting official." The SO initiates what's called a "Request for Personnel Action" with his or her local personnelist, depending on the size of the unit, which opens the vacant position and then submits all required paperwork regarding the request. The personnel-

ist then completes the RPA package and sends it to Air Force Personnel Center, who coordinates the request with the SEU. The job is then posted on www.usajobs.gov for applicants to search and apply for a given vacancy.

To apply, applicants complete a package: Resume or Optional Form 612, ATAFR 202, ATAFR 209 (if aircrew), Standard Form 15 (Vet's pref) and copy of Defense Department Form 214. Applicants must also be prepared to join or already be a member of the Air Force Reserve and send the package to the SEU by the 25th of each month.

The SEU tries to rate all packages within 30 days. Rated packages are then stacked in a register. The SEU then sends a notification of rating to the applicant, the register as a "Certificate" to the Selecting Official with the most qualified on top.

"The certificates are a bit like a weapon magazine with names ranked by qualification, determined by veteran's preference and prepared to fire with the most qualified round on top," said Ms. Pat Nichols, SEU

manager. "We rank each application based on their resume, military or federal civil service backgrounds and veteran's preference."

The selecting official must choose from the top three-qualified individuals. By-name requests do not allow the official to select below the top three choices, nor do they give any weight to one of the potential top three. Rather, they only ensure the package is reviewed thoroughly but nothing more.

Should one of the top three choices decline the offered position or be later disqualified, those below will shift upward to join whomever is left as a new top three.

The official makes a selection and sends back to the SEU, which sends the application, rating and selection from the certificate to the next stage, depending on whether the position is enlisted or officer.

All enlisted packages are routed directly to AFPC, who then staffs the issue, reviews the selection and processes the action. Upon completion and approval of selection, AFPC

sends the package back to the SEU, who extends the job offer to the applicant. If the applicant accepts the position, the hiring process finalizes, and the applicant assumes the job.

Officer packages are routed from the SEU through the Air Force Reserve Command ART Officer Career Management Program at Robins AFB. The AOCMP vets the selection, extends the job offer to the applicant themselves and sends the package to the SEU for final review, should the applicant accept the hire.

The Special Examining Unit

The SEU is the heart of the hiring process, certifying that applicants are even capable of becoming ARTs. It is the main source for recruiting, rating, ranking and maintaining candidate inventories for ART employment nationwide. Because of the nature of the ART program, the SEU maintains open continuous announcements and standing registers of qualified and available candidates. In addition, the SEU announces

WANT TO BECOME AN ART?

External applicants can submit a package:

1. Resume or OF 612
2. ATAFR 202
3. ATAFR 209 (if a Flyer)
4. SF 15 (Vet Pref 10 pts or more)
5. DD 214

By the 25th of the month.

Receive the rating from SEU

Receive the offer to hire from AFPC

Receive the notice of hire from AFPC

Visit <http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/jobs> for more information

one-time fill positions for a specific series, grade level/pay band or location. Now with a new emphasis on the ART program in the command, desks of rating officials are often covered with new applications.

Within the SEU, the process is a factory line of packages. First is the submission check: if a package fails to contain all necessary items, staffing specialists call the person twice and then e-mail them, hoping to avoid discarding a package when often only one small item is missing. After the submission check, a pre-sort occurs with all packages submitted by the monthly cutoff date.

If unable to rate all packages, specialists look specifically for needed positions and applicants whose packages line up for them. Lastly is the rating process in which trained specialists judge each package according to job-specific criteria and rate an applicant for the desired job.

Actually rating the packages isn't all they must do to keep the process flowing. They must also train those new to the process itself.

"Our staff specialists spend a large portion of their day training selecting officials and AFPC officials (on the ART selection process) because of high turnover," said Ms. Nichols. "In addition, we ensure our own employees stay abreast of changes in procedures and policies, as well as embrace new processes and/or technologies."

Ms. Nichols said educating SO's, personnelists and other members of the hiring process is one of the most important parts of her job. Keeping them educated helps make the process faster and easier for everyone. Their goal remains to provide management with the best possible candidates to meet the challenges of a diverse and evolving Reserve mission.

For more information on the SEU, call 1 (800) 223-1784, ext. 7-0113 or log on to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/jobs>.

To find out more about the ART hiring process, read part 2 of 3, Hiring an ART: Application

GOING TO EXTREMES

*908 CES FIREFIGHTERS ARE LIKE ONIONS;
PEEL THEM AND YOU'LL FIND A LOT OF LAYERS*

By Gene Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

It's 135 degrees outside, and the fire you're battling is burning close to 1,000, if not higher. There's imminent danger of a chemical attack, so you're wearing MOPP Level 4 in addition to the near-60-plus pounds of firefighting suit and gear you normally have on. You started sweating before you even arrived on scene.

Despite the visor, it's difficult to see. Despite the heavy tank of air strapped to your back, it's more difficult to breathe. Now add to this equation your discovery of a 200-pound victim who needs to be carried 100 yards to safety and medical treatment.

If you can't take this kind of heat, you'd best stay in the rear with the gear. For the firefighters of the 908th Civil Engineering Squadron, that's not an option.

"You never know. The call may

come through when you have to go from street clothes all the way up," said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Foley. "You just have to get use to it. This stuff isn't exactly firefighter friendly at all."

The CES firefighters wear the Joint Fire Integrated Response Ensemble, designed by Air Force civil engineers for the specific purpose of fighting fire in a chemical environment. A trained firefighter takes about a minute to get into the regular firefighting suit. According to Sergeant Foley, it should take no longer than five to six minutes to go from street clothes to MOPP Level 4. He added that the addition of adrenaline makes things go faster.

And he should know.

The 12-year member of the 908 CES has had to dress up to MOPP 4 in desert conditions before; twice in Kuwait and once in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of Operation Iraqi

Freedom, when a fighter aircraft that flew in underneath the belly of a commercial airliner and penetrated the no-fly zone.

Once they got a visual contact on it and alerted the base, it was a mad dash, 'because nobody knew what to expect. Luckily, the plane banked back once they got a lock on it, and there was no confrontation. But when you don't know what's coming at you, you'd be surprised how fast you can put this stuff on.

By the time a firefighter dons all the gear and equipment needed to do the job, fatigue has already started to take hold.

Sergeant Foley said that's where teamwork and training helps most.

"It definitely lets you know where your weaknesses are and what you need to work on. Communication usually ends up being the big thing, and making sure everyone's

Technical Sergeant Thomas Streeter mans a hose outside an open doorway during a recent structural facility fire training exercise. In addition to the flames, physical exertion and regular protective gear, firefighters of the 908th Combat Engineering Squadron also have to don MOPP Level 4 in preparation to battle fires in a chemical environment.

U.S. Air Force photos/Gene Hughes

FIREMEN, PAGE 11



Yellow Ribbon preps families for periods of separation

By Gene Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Deployments are one of the top sources of stress for members of the armed services. Time spent away from family affects not only the deployed member, but those remaining behind.

What affects one, affects all.



CUNNINGHAM

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, initiated by the Secretary of Defense, was created to address some of these hardships and provide support during periods of separation.

According to Master Sgt. Felicia K. Cunningham, 908 Airlift Wing Deployed Cycle Support Representative, the purpose of the program is to support reservists and their families throughout all phases of the deployment cycle.

Events will be hosted prior to deployment, and 30, 60 and 90 days post-deployment.

"The main challenge of overseeing this program is making members of the 908th Airlift Wing aware of the program," she said. "A lot of members do not know that it exists."

To qualify for events, members must be deployed and separated from their families for 90 days or more.

Pre-deployment events will focus on providing education about the benefits and ensuring the readiness of members, their unit, their families and employers.

These events will be held prior to the member deploying.

Post-deployment events will provide information about resources available to help them ease back to civilian life.

A pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon event will be hosted in March for those deploying in April. Anyone can attend, but only eligible members deploying during their deployment phase and their guest will be placed on orders. Those who qualify will be placed on RPA orders, and their dependents or guests (up to three) will be placed on ITA orders.

If more than three guests will be attending, arrangements must be made through Sergeant Cunningham's office.

Every time an eligible member attends a Yellow Ribbon event, the member and their guests will be placed on orders.

This event will accommodate children of all ages. Child care and lunch will also be provided.

"The only expense the member will incur is lodging and dinner which will be reimbursed by completing a travel voucher," she said.

Some of the health, education and employment resources that will be available at the events include TRICARE, colleges, personal finance assistance for dealing with money matters, the Veterans' Administration, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and Alabama Gov. Bob Riley's Operation Grateful Heart, just to name a few.

"I find it very rewarding because I feel that I'm not just helping the member, I'm also helping the family through these events," Sergeant Cunningham said. "There are a lot of available resources that a lot of members are not aware of."

She added that not knowing can negatively impact not only the member, but the family as well.

"I would love to see 100 percent support of these from the members of the 908th Airlift Wing, because deployment affects everyone," Sergeant Cunningham said.

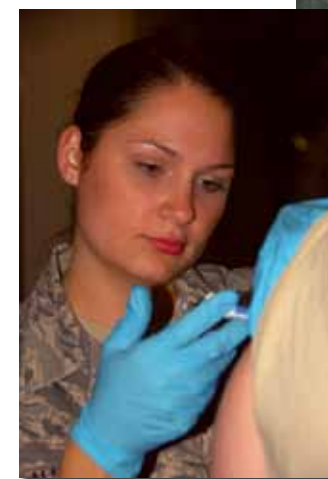
For more information, call Sergeant Cunningham at (334) 953-6718, DSN 493-671, or by e-mail at felicia.cunningham@maxwell.af.mil.



ORI: R U READY?

WING HOLDS FINAL UTA, HOT WASH BEFORE GULFPORT

The 908th Airlift Wing held its last Unit Training Assemblies prior to the Operational Readiness Inspection. Clockwise from right: Wing Vice Commander Col. Rob Shepherd, Lt. Col. Steve Catchings and Maj. Hope Powell man the Command Center; Operations Group Commander Col. Edward Jennings shows off his MOPP acumen during a floor show at the Commander's Call; Maj. Dawn Chard and Staff Sgt. Catherine Coates prepare a pallet net; Tech. Sgt. Lenn Gregory readies to 'deploy;' Tech. Sgt. Shatanya Cook inventories her gear; Senior Airman Brenna Allen administers a flu shot; a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Corps color detail posts the colors; Senior Airman Brandon Foster loads pallets; group members get their chalk instructions; Senior Airmen Kevin Summersil and Caleb Kohler take part in a litter-bearing exercise; Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark addresses the troops.





SPECIAL TIMES

Courtesy photo/Maj. Sara Butler

During the Labor Day weekend, active-duty, Reserve and Guard families gathered at Camp ASCCA (Alabama's Special Camp for Children and Adults) on Lake Martin to participate in Operation Military Kids festivities for military kids with special needs, including Alexis Butler, daughter of mission support flight commander Maj. Sara Butler, far right. Stricken with cerebral palsy and restricted to a wheelchair, Alexis enjoyed the wheelchair accessible water park and zip line. "We all also rode horses, went tubing and tried fishing," said Major Butler. "It was a very nice weekend!"

PROMOTION ORDERS

ENLISTED

Master Sergeant

Dennis D. Ellis
Michael L. Swims
William H. Tidwell II
Richard J. Valenzuela
Jamie L. Womack

Technical Sergeant

Jason S. Kretzschmar
Otis L. Luke

Staff Sergeant

Jennifer L. Anderson
Yasmin Miranda
Leigha A. Tucker
Vincent L. Giusta

Senior Airman

Henry M. Armstrong
Anthony D. Green
Michael B. Humphries
Marcus L. Puccini II
Veronica L. Walker

Airman 1st Class

Rachel N. Andrews

Airman

Guillermo A. Aguirre
James C. Barber Jr.
Generio R. Richardson

Congratulations!

CONTACT THE IG

908th FWA Hotline: 334-953-3353
AFRC FWA Hotline: (800) 223-1784
ext. 7-1513
SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline: (800) 538-8429
DoD FWA Hotline: (800) 424-9098



FIREMEN, FROM PAGE 6

looking out for one another. You have to go back and double check after one another and make sure everything's right. The one time you don't do something right in a real-world situation, you'll get burned."

And in this occupation, there's no margin for error. The slightest lapse in preparation or judgment could mean the difference between saving a victim and becoming one.

"There's not a lot of room for doubt in this job," said Chief Master Sgt. John Dennis, 908th CES Fire Chief and a member of the wing since 1978 and recent retiree from the City of Montgomery Fire Department. "You've got to have confidence in your buddy."

"It increases the body's stress level and the psychological stress level. You know what you've got to have on,

you know what you've got to do, but you've still got to do it. It shortens the amount of time they can actually fight fire, so they actually have to do what they need to do a little bit quicker because they know they won't be able to last as long. Eventually, no matter how good of a shape you're in, you're gonna pay a price. Your body's gonna shut down."

Aside from the regular Air Force training, most members come from such departments as Columbus, Ga., Tuscaloosa and Fort Rucker, Ala., which have their own PT regimens.

"The majority of the people we have here are all firefighters on the outside, and most of them have a PT program at work," Chief Dennis said. "They know the amount of work they have to put in to get ready for this, and they pretty much do it on their

own. You have to be physically fit and mentally fit. One enhances the other. If you're not physically fit, then that's gonna mess you up mentally because you're thinking, 'I'm not gonna be able to do the job, I'm gonna put my buddies at risk, I'm gonna let 'em down.' That affects a lot of people, so that's why they stay in good shape."

Teamwork and training will be tested during the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection in Gulfport, Miss.

"That's part of the game," said 908th Combat Engineer Squadron Commander Maj. Kevin Fuqua. "They want to put you through the worst possible conditions," he said. "It's going to put a great deal of physical and mental stress on them, but these guys really work well together as a team, and they're ready to go."

BRIEFS

Free Online College Course

The Air Force Culture and Language Center announces enrollment and start dates for its spring semester 2010 Introduction to Culture course (CLTR201). The course will offer two variations, the present interactive course featuring a discussion forum and a self-guided course. Both are facilitated by instructors. This course will require a commitment of three to five hours a week for 15 weeks. Students will have to complete four tests and a capstone project.

All current CCAF students are eligible for this free three-semester-hour course that fulfills CCAF's social science requirement, or three hours of program electives. Students will need a computer with a

browser and internet connectivity to take the course.

The self-guided version will be from Feb. 15 to July 7, and the interactive version from March 15 to June 27.

Enrollment is ongoing. Information can be obtained by emailing afclc.enroll@maxwell.af.mil.

Youth Shirt Design Contest

Air Force Airman and Family Services has announced a contest for youths ages 12-17 to design the official "Year of the Air Force Family" t-Shirt. The \$2,000 grand prize includes an Apple MacBook laptop and Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium Software. The deadline is Dec. 20. For information, go to www.MyAirForceLife.com.

SWINE FLU, FROM PAGE 3

swine flu, the Department of Defense has suspended the requirement that all TRICARE Prime enrollees must have a referral from their primary care manager to receive the H1N1 vaccine outside the military medical care system.

This suspension is valid through April 30.

According to Senior Airman Cortney Tremmer of the 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, the following information is required to receive credit for a regular flu shot (or any shot) given by a civilian provider: the vaccine manufacturer's name, lot number, expiration date and location the shot was given (i.e. left or right deltoid).

For information, call 953-5714.

Swine Flu Symptoms

According to the CDC, like seasonal flu, symptoms of swine flu infections can include:

- Fever, which is usually high, but unlike seasonal flu, is sometimes absent
- Cough
- Runny nose or stuffy nose
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Headache
- Chills
- Fatigue or tiredness, which can be extreme
- Diarrhea and vomiting, sometimes, but more commonly seen than with seasonal flu.

908 AW Swine Flu Contingency Plan

- Educate yourself of the symptoms. Knowing the symptoms will enable our members to react quickly and help to protect the rest of the workforce from contracting the virus
- Anyone diagnosed (self or by medical professional) with the virus will contact their unit immediately and STAY HOME
- Develop a swine flu code of conduct:
 1. I will get checked immediately by a physician if I have symptoms or come in contact with someone that may be contaminated.
 2. I will exercise proper hand hygiene at all times.
 3. I will cover my mouth when I cough.
 4. I will call in if I have signs of the symptoms.

COIN FOR 908TH WARFIGHTERS



U.S. Air Force photo/Gene Hughes

From January to May, Lt. Col. Jacqueline Jacobs, Senior Master Sgt. Quadro Smith, Master Sgt. Samantha Jones and Staff Sgt. Donald Washington, members of the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The four were honored at the November Commander's Call, receiving the Commander's Coin from Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark. Above, Colonel Clark congratulates Sergeant Washington as Sergeant Jones looks on.



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ATTENTION MSG SHOPPERS



U.S. Air Force photo/Gene Hughes

During the mission support group's recent training weekend, members took advantage of a special wing-only opening of the Maxwell Commissary, made possible by Store Director Ami Hernandez, who gave a brief introduction of the many benefits of using the facilities. Above, from left, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rudolph, Airman Jacob Harris, Staff Sgt. Randy Stephens and Staff Sgt. Christopher Powell check out at the register.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from all of us at the 908th Airlift Wing

Thank You
for your

SERVICE

