

YELLOW RIBBON EVENT PREPARES FAMILIES PG. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER



HERCS of THUNDER

908th Airlift Wing drops the hammer on Maxwell Air Show



Also In This Issue:

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AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

APRIL 2010

SOUTHERN
FLYER

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Together, Team 908 will succeed

The historical perspective of leading a unit into combat has been detailed repeatedly in journals and magazines, but I would like to offer my version nonetheless. Volunteering, preparing, interviewing, and ultimately accepting command is a daunting sequence of events for anyone, but additionally challenging when a combat deployment is included.

I am familiar with deployments overseas. I know the sun is hot and the walk to the Cadillac can be uncomfortable. I know that missing anniversaries, birthdays and graduations is heartbreaking. I especially know that watching your daughter's debut as Little Orphan Annie on a DVD will never replace the live version. I am not, however, familiar with the responsibility of a deployed combat command, and nothing in the books I have read, nor the classes I have attended, can really translate the overwhelming feeling of leading members of our 908th family into battle.

As I stand in the front at commander's calls, I can't help but notice

the young faces looking back at me, faces that did not do the "Kandahar Shuttle," the "Salerno Double" or the "K2 Kitchen Run" during our activation five years ago. As the "old heads" prepare to revisit the sandbox, we have to tailor our efforts to share our experiences with the "new kids" while we get back in the books to ensure the knowledge we share is accurate.



LT. COL. SCOTT HAYES
Commander, 357th Airlift Squadron

Diligent preparation will contribute to our success.

Furthermore, a successful deployment can never be attributed to one individual. We deploy, fight and return with honor as a team. And we need each and every one of us working as a team. I believe our greatest strength as a team is our relationships with each other. If we watch over each other and communicate with each other while we are deployed, we will enhance our ability to succeed.

As a team, we are second to none. Your pride and professionalism are without equal! I am humbled and honored to help lead another group of you proud airmen into battle and with God's help, we will represent you well.

A MOMENT WITH THE
CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

I join a large number of wing members who live out of town and drive a good distance to get to drill. The other day while on my way to drill, I had time to think about what we do. I asked myself a couple of questions I would like to ask you.

Why do you put on the uniform? Why do you take time away from work, family, leisure, and a host of other things to come to the 908th Airlift Wing? Why do you take time to deploy and go into harms way when our country asks?

Some may say it is a living, an extra paycheck, a chance to do something different. However, I believe it's something deeper – something more significant. We are called with a since of duty to protect and defend – not just to protect and defend our family and neighbors, but people whom we have never met, may never meet, and might not even like if we were to meet them.

We answer a common call – all of us who put on the uniform.

This call also unites us. We do not all practice the same faith, vote the same politically, like the same things, or live in the same area. However, our common ground is that we protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies. We can meet on that ground and work from there. That, I believe, is our high calling.

It is my prayer that as we continue to together, we will continue to realize our proud sense of duty and heritage.

Lower prenatal risks

By Maj. Noreen A. Burke
908th ASTS

This is the second of a two-part series on pregnancy and prenatal care.

Once the pregnancy is confirmed, notify your squadron immediately. The Unit Health Monitor will schedule you for an appointment in physical exams. Your visit will include a pregnancy interview and work place evaluation to establish and initiate the pregnancy profile. The standard pregnancy profile includes the restrictions on wear of the Chemical War Defense Ensemble and the exemption from fitness testing.

Although most pregnancies are uncomplicated and ordinary physical activities require little to no restrictions, it is the duty of the medical unit to review your workplace and minimize risk factors that could adversely affect your pregnancy. If any potential hazards are identified, the Bioenvironmental Engineering section will evaluate the workplace and make recommendations for specific restrictions that will be added to your profile.

In accordance with AFRI 41-104, you must present the medical unit with documentation of a positive pregnancy test and an expected date of delivery from your obstetrician at your initial visit. Thereafter you are required to present notes from your doctor that the pregnancy is progressing normally every 30 to 60 days. If at any time during the pregnancy your health changes you need to make an appointment to be seen in the clinic.

Be sure to bring in all information from your doctor identifying the problem so that changes in your



Airman First Class Brandy Fraher, in the final stages of her pregnancy, receives an examination from Major Noreen Burke during a unit training assembly.

profile may be made.

Non flying pregnant Reservists may participate in all UTAs and annual tours until the 34th week of the pregnancy with few restrictions. After the 34th week, if the member chooses to continue to drill on weekends, she must live within 50 miles of her UTA location, commute home during the UTA and be seen in the clinic 30 days prior to 34 weeks with written approval from her commander and her obstetrician to obtain a waiver from the flight surgeon to participate.

The pregnancy profile is in effect until six weeks after delivery, at which time the member should again return to the clinic with a written statement from her doctor indicating her current health and any physical restrictions. Upon review of this information, if there are no ongoing medical complications, the member will be returned to full duty and she will be removed from profile.

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

A C-130 Hercules belonging to the 908th Airlift Wing delivers four pallets of cargo during 'Thunder Over Alabama,' the Maxwell Air Force Base Air Show.

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We solicit articles, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies. Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the 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.



U.S. Air Force Photo/
Gene H. Hughes

Yellow Ribbon

The tie that binds deployed, domestic ends together

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Quality of life was the focus March 12-13, as the 908th Airlift Wing hosted a pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event. More than 100 Reservists preparing to deploy overseas and their families gathered in downtown Montgomery, Ala. to receive information from organizations and programs designed to make deployments, and the separation issues that accompany them, less stressful.

Activities began Friday evening with registration and an ice-breaker event, featuring refreshments and a large play area with toys for the kids. The main event kicked off Saturday morning with breakfast, followed by a welcome from 908th Airlift Wing commander Col. Brett Clark, who commended the civilian leaders who assist the wing.



U.S. Air Force photos/Gene H. Hughes

The 908th Airlift Wing recently hosted a pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event for more than 100 wing Reservists preparing to deploy overseas and their families. Above, Tech. Sgt. Everett Jones and his wife, Jane, talk to Veterans Administration social worker Penni Miller.

"I've been around the country in several different sectors, and I want to tell you that I don't think there is a more committed civil sector and

civil leaders than we have supporting us at the 908th Airlift Wing and Maxwell Air Force Base," he said.

Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange, a former member of the National Guard, thanked the Airmen for their service and commitment, and told the assembly everything would be done to help deployed members do their duty.

"We hope that through events like this, you will be comforted that your people back home will be getting the very best support and assistance possible," he said. "I know that while you're over there, you're worrying about home. We who represent the areas you come from will do all that we can to make that as

The event provided activities to engage the children while their parents took advantage of the informational programs. Above, Col. Camille Phillips, commander of the 908th ASTS, plays a game with Harrison Colthup, 6, left, and Anna Prempramot, 4.



easy as possible."

Mayor Strange then introduced Al Allenback, district director for U.S. Congressman Bobby Bright and former commander of the 42nd Air Base Wing. On behalf of the congressman, Mr. Allenback thanked the wingmen and their families and also applauded the wing on its successful operational readiness inspection, the humanitarian flights made in support of Operation Unified Response in Haiti and the upcoming deployments.

"What you're doing is very important," he said. "It's a very important deployment. The congressman has been downrange to Iraq and Afghanistan three times in the past year, so he knows where you're deploying to and exactly how important your mission is to our folks over there. He also knows how important it is to take care of your families, and families are an integral part of this deployment."

"I'm happy to see what Colonel Clark, Master Sgt. Cunningham and the rest of the Yellow Ribbon team have done here to make this a lot easier. Some of you remember the old days, when the only thing mom and the kids knew was what dad told them, and that wasn't very much. So this Yellow Ribbon event is a great thing to get everybody involved."

Showing their support, Joe Green from the Montgomery Chamber of

Commerce and Stephanie Godwin, representing the Millbrook chamber, were on hand, as was Chief Master Sgt. Steven Larwood, command chief master sergeant of the 22nd Air Force.

Programs and organizations providing support and information at the event included Alabama Governor Bob Riley's Operation Grateful Heart, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Veterans' Administration, Airman Family and Readiness, Military Life Consultants, Military OneSource, TriCare, Key Spouse, the American Red Cross and Sexual Assault Response.

Members also received information about coping with stress, financial assistance, educational benefits and the chaplain's office.

While parents attended the informative program, child care and activities were provided. Many members commented how much they enjoyed having activities for their children.

"They have never experienced anything like this before and it is something they won't forget," said Master Sgt. Felicia Cunningham, 908 Airlift Wing Yellow Ribbon Coordinator. "A lot of the members can't wait until the post deployment event in October."

According to 908th Maintenance

Group commander Col. McCauley von Hoffman, the event provided a welcoming environment for both deploying airmen and their families. She commended the Yellow Ribbon committee for arranging speakers to cover such a wide range of topics.

"As a commander, it was very reassuring to see all the support programs for the families, in all cycles of the deployment," she said. "Our Airman and their families left with a dozen 'how-to-prepare' checklists and at least 20 hotline numbers. But perhaps the most important outcome was the strong affirmation from the Air Force and local community leaders that our wing members' service is deeply appreciated."

"I think everyone should do this," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Miller, who attended with Laura, his wife of 18 months. "It definitely lessened my anxiety, and what I liked the most was the appreciation shown to the families. I couldn't do it without her, and it's so important to me that she knows that she's important, and that she'll be taken care of."

"We've been stressing about this for months, Mrs. Miller said. "Having this information in hand takes a lot of the worries away. I feel so much better knowing that I have all these available resources here at home while he's deployed."



Staff Sgt. Ryan Miller and wife, Laura, get pre-deployment information from 908th Yellow Ribbon Coordinator Master Sgt. Felicia Cunningham.

CIVIC BACKING SECOND TO NONE



The 908th's Reservists receive outstanding support from the surrounding communities and at the state and national levels. Above, Todd Strange, mayor of the City of Montgomery, left, and Al Allenback, district director for U.S. Representative Bobby Bright, thank wing members and their families for their service.



Left, Cason and Mari Alice Garner look on as Graves, 4, and Kayley, 7, check the 908 AES' mannequin.



Above, Senior Airmen Michael Campbell and Andrew Jeter have some fun in the newly assembled Wright Flyer. Below, air show visitors line up to see a 908 C-130.



Above, Staff Sgt. Jon Butterbaugh and William Lyndall, 5, watch the airdrop.



Maj. Sara Butler, left, and Master Sgt. Joshua Morasco, right, work at the wing's food booth.



Major Prince Hall, Master Sgt. Vickey Matthews, Senior Airman Robert Dennis and Tech. Sgt. Chales Schrichte prepare orders for customers.



Above, Airman First Class Billy Kidd and Senior Airman Jon Fezell cook up a mess of gyro meat. Below, Lt. Col. Troy Vonada and his family enjoy the air show on Saturday.



Maintenance group members helped assemble the Utah State University Wright Flyer for the air show. Among those who pitched in were, above, Master Sgt. Marty Ashley, Airman First Class Steven Harris, Tech. Sgt. Greg Justice, Staff Sgt. Tim Smith, Senior Airmen Michael Campbell and Andrew Jeter, Tech. Sgt. Ken Kimsey, Airman First Class Michael Micklow and Tech. Sgt. Joe Temple.



Above, the C-130s roll back to the barn as a ground crew member awaits.



Above, Senior Airman Marc Joyner, Staff Sgt. Sylvia Bibb, Tech. Sgt. Angela Dixon, Senior Airman Terrance Merriweather and Tech. Sgt. Jason Hughes man the lemonade stand.



Maintenance members help assemble the Wright Flyer, right.



One of the 908th Airlift Wing's C-130s drops its four Container Delivery System bundles.



Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Weir greets visitors to the static C-130 display, left.



Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy takes a soft drink order, right.

Thunder Over Alabama



Senior Master Sgt. Brent Hardie, left, is presented the 2009 Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award as the Outstanding Aircraft Maintenance Person of the Year – Civilian Manager Category by 908th Airlift Wing commander Colonel Brett Clark.

Service Call



10 years: Master Sgt. Michael Smith



10 years: Master Sgt. James Williamson



10 years: Master Sgt. Mark Klein



20 years: Master Sgt. Thomas Duke



20 Years: Tech. Sgt. Keith Rudolph



20 Years: Senior Master Sgt. James Solomon



20 years: Tech. Sgt. Gary Waldrons



20 years: Master Sgt. James Rone



30 years: Senior Master Sgt. Mark Williams

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

The 908th Airlift Wing hosted a Civilian Commander's Call March 4 to recognize civilian employees who distinguished themselves throughout the past year and several who have achieved benchmarks for performance of faithful service. Certificates were awarded not only for individual achievement, but team efforts as well.

Wing members were honored for 10, 20 and 30 years of service. Technical Sgts. Bishop Cochran and Spencer Meeks, 2nd Lt. Jamar Brooks and Master Sgts. Michael Smith, James Williamson and Mark Klein received 10-year certificates. Receiving 20-year certificates were Master Sgts. Thomas Duke and James Rone, Tech. Sgts. Bryan Wilson, Gary Waldron and Keith Rudolph, Senior Master Sgt. James Solomon and Chief Master Sgt. Harold Whited.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Williams was honored for three decades of service.

Also recognized was Senior Master Sgt. Brent Hardie, winner of the 2009 Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award as the Outstanding Aircraft Maintenance Person of the Year – Civilian Manager Category.

Taking an opportunity to honor exceptional work in charitable giving, Colonel Clark presented certificates to team leaders of the 2008 and 2009 Combined Federal Campaigns. The 2008 team raised \$10,766; 128 percent of goal, while 2009's team raised \$12,650; 140 percent of goal.

"It's an incredible experience to be shoulder to shoulder with people who think 'you can't stop me, and you can't stop my organization,' said Colonel Clark. "It's like being in a 1,200-member unit of nothing but fighter pilots. That kind of collective pride and strength is incredible."



At left, Colonel Sharon Andrews, outgoing AES commander, poses for a photo with incoming commander, Lt. Col. Jacqueline Jacobs. Above, Lt. Col. Allison Marshall, mission support group commander, presents the CF unit guidon to assuming commander, Capt. Diedre Randolph. Below, during his retirement ceremonies at CES, Chief Master Sgt. John Dennis, right, presents a commemorative gift to former CES commander, Lt. Col. Scott Fallon.



The wing recently hosted a strategic planning conference where unit leaders mapped out directions and goals for the year. Above, Maj. Joe Friday directs a maintenance discussion. Conference participants gather for a photo, bottom.



AVIATION CELEBRATION



Courtesy photo/Master Sgt. Barbara Hamann

Members of the 908th Airlift Wing recently attended the 21st Annual International Women in Aviation conference at Walt Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Women in Aviation, International members come from many areas in aviation, including mechanics, piloting, administration, literary and the military. 'The diversity in membership provides members with access to many areas of the industry that other organizations cannot,' said 908 Wing historian Master Sgt. Barbara Hamann. 'It's a great opportunity for both men and women in the military to meet people in the industry that are doing what you have always wanted to do or show you a different path to a new opportunity.' The conference offered attendees venues for seminars, workshops, training, and networking opportunities. Wing members above are, sitting: Master Sgt. Barbara Hamann, Major Danielle Stringer and Master Sgts. Maryk Hawkins and Denise Bouchard. Standing are: Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Rudolph and Major Lynn Hillhouse. Not pictured are Tech. Sgts. Yvonne Johnson and Stephanie Woods.

THANK YOU, YELLOW RIBBON TEAM



U.S. Air Force photo/
Gene H. Hughes

Front row: Tech Sgt. Linda Blakely, Senior Airman Kim Barnett, Staff Sgt. Karen Rhodes and Staff Sgt. Kristie Payne. Back row: Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Guice, Master Sgt. Felicia Cunningham and Tech. Sgt. Bishop Cochran.

PROMOTION ORDERS



ENLISTED

Master Sergeant



Darrel C. Geiselman
Grant W. McDaniel
Philip L. Odom
Jeffrey D. Holder
Roy W. Hart Jr.
Charles S. Britt

Staff Sergeant



Anthony W. Lewis

Airman 1st Class



Davey D. Atkins
Candice Rae Pierce
Lauren E. Young
Jon T. Feazell

Airman



Damon L. Rudish
Corey S. Breedlove
Janelle K. Shines
Justin C. Nettles
Travis L. Thomas

Congratulations!

BACK PAGE

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



Photos/Gene H. Hughes,
Major George Hilyard

