

WING COMMANDER SETS CHALLENGES, PGS. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER

DELIVERANCE!

908th Reservists airlift aid
to Pakistan's flood victims



Also In This Issue:

MAXWELL GATE TRAFFIC FLOW CHANGES

908TH AIRCREW WINS SAFETY HONORS

NEW LTCs LISTED

AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

SEPTEMBER 2010

SOUTHERN FLYER



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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ID fitness concerns early

“With the latest changes to the fit-to-fight program, we’ve seen an increase in the number of people with questions about conditions that may limit their ability to perform portions of the fitness assessment.

If you have a condition you think may prevent you from taking any portion of the fitness assessment, you should mention the condition on your annual Health Assessment and on your Fitness Screening Questionnaire. You should also contact your Unit Fitness Program Manager or Unit Health Monitor, to arrange an appointment with the 908th ASTS.

During your appointment with a provider at the 908th ASTS they will collect data related to the illness, including the history, a physical examination, and documentation of any prior evaluation from a civilian medical provider. Documentation should include the initial history and physical examination report, any progress notes from subsequent visits, reports of laboratory tests, radiologic examinations, and ancillary provider evaluations such as physical therapy.

If you do not have the appropriate documentation at the time of the visit, you will be given one UTA to provide it. If the evaluation with

MAJ. STEPHEN M. MITCHELL
908th ASTS

the civilian provider is ongoing the member will be schedule for a return visit, usually within 30 to 60 days. At each return visit the member will be expected to present any new documentation. Upon completion of the evaluation the ARC provider will make a final determination on whether or not the condition needs a WWD or MEB evaluation.

If the condition is not disqualifying, the member will be returned to duty without restrictions. Otherwise a WWD or MEB evaluation will be initiated. Any medical condition that requires greater than one year of evaluation will be referred for a WWD evaluation. When requested, members must provide additional documentation to the provider by the date assigned. Those who fail to be prompt will be placed on a No-Pay No-Points status.

We have established our processes to comply with Air Force medical standards. We are working hard to provide high quality medical care, and hope to provide a more “Customer Service” oriented environment during medical evaluations. If you have questions, contact me via e-mail at mitchells@tampabay.rr.com.

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

In many ways it’s hard to imagine that 9/11 happened nine years ago. On one hand, it seems so far behind us. On the other, it seems like it just happened yesterday.

Many of us in the 908th were in the military then and we still have a vivid recollection of that day. We have steeled our reserve to defend our nation and to fight terror. Many of us have deployed many times in that cause.

Others joined the military after that day. They joined the military knowing the chances were good they would be called to serve in some capacity. Thanks to all who have stepped up to join the fight.

As the war in Iraq and Afghanistan continues, it is easy to wonder if it will ever end. It may seem like we are running a marathon with no end in sight. If we are not careful, we can begin to lose hope and become fearful of the future.

I have no idea what tomorrow will bring – but I have hope. I have hope that God will never leave us or forsake us. I have hope that even in the darkest days God will walk with us and lift us out of the mire.

In the ancient world the word “hope” conveys an indication of certainty. “Hope” meant “a strong and confident expectation.”

When we say we have hope – we are confident that as God has been faithful in the past he will continue to be faithful in the future.

It is my prayer that you will experience true hope for the future.



During the initial phase of construction, officers of the Montgomery Police Department will facilitate traffic movement off base, while Security Forces will take care of on-base issues. Security Forces personnel will monitor the situation and adjust traffic flow plan as needed.

Maxwell Boulevard traffic lanes reduced for next six months

OFFICIALS SUGGEST DAY, KELLY STREET GATES AS ALTERNATIVES

The project to widen and enhance Maxwell Boulevard, formerly known as Bell Street, leading to Maxwell Air Force Base, requires two of the four existing lanes to be closed, according to the Alabama Department of Transportation.

The project began Aug. 23 and the lane reduction continue for the remainder of 2010 and possibly into 2011. This will allow a safe zone for construction workers, a department news release states.

Construction crews will be working along the shoulders and in the closed lanes to provide new turn lanes, new sidewalks, decorative lighting and a landscaped median. Work has already been done to remove many dilapidated buildings and install a new security fence along the perimeter of the base, the release states.

Officials suggest that base traffic consider using the Kelly Street or Day Street gates to relieve congestion at the main gate on Maxwell Boulevard.

Downtown commuters might want to consider taking alternate

routes or adjusting their travel times.

“We’ll see brief congestion during the morning and afternoon commuter peaks, but getting the word out about alternate routes and what to expect will help commuters adjust,” Tony Harris, a Transportation Department spokesman, stated in the release.

Work to improve Maxwell Boulevard is expected to be completed about the middle of 2011. The project began in July 2009. The contract amount is \$6.8 million, the release states.

The work zone will have a 30 mph speed limit.



During construction, Maxwell Boulevard from Washington Ferry Road to railroad bridge will be reduced from four to two lanes.



U.S. Air Force Photos/
Staff Sgt. Andy Kin

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTOS:

Front: Airmen from the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron load aid supplies in support of humanitarian relief efforts in Pakistan at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Back: Flight Navigator 1st Lt. Jonathan Lipsey looks over maps during a relief mission to Pakistan.

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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.

From the wing commander

VICE COMMANDER TAKES THE STICK FOR THE 908TH, SETS EXPECTATIONS FOR UNIT MEMBERS

I am proud to serve you as your commander during Col. Clark's deployment. Together we can make this a smooth transition and this document will give you some insight into my principles and vision for where we are headed.

The focus of the 908th Airlift Wing is to be "Ready...Always!" We directly support our fellow warfighters and we all play a vital role in providing that service. I'll help each of you picture your particular position in accomplishing our mission. We face many challenges: an evolving Reserve identity, a very high operational tempo and continuing personnel changes to mention a few. We can meet these challenges as long as we are united as members of a team that seeks solutions, rather than as individuals seeking personal gratification. We owe our dedicated effort to our fellow Airmen, the Air Force and the American people.

First things first...what I believe

I am guided by principles, among

COL. ROBERT H. SHEPHERD
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

which is the set of Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do. These ideals are simple and timeless, providing us a framework for decision-making and personal conduct, both on duty and off.

Loyalty is a must for all of us. This means loyalty up the chain of command by keeping your boss in the loop as well as down the chain to those you supervise by providing guidance and support. Treat everyone with respect and find opportunities to mentor those around you.

I am a firm believer in personal responsibility. We will all make mistakes from time to time; this means we are trying to stretch ourselves. I have great respect for people who can admit they make them and learn from these episodes. I have little patience for those who cannot. There is also a difference between an honest mistake and a crime. My loyalty to you will end and due process will begin as soon as a crime is committed.

Strive to maintain balance in your life, including mental, physical and spiritual aspects.

◆ Stay mentally sharp by reading, both professionally and for enjoyment. Professional military education provides many opportunities for occupational growth and I would encourage everyone

to enroll in the appropriate level of PME as soon as you are eligible.

◆ Physical fitness is essential to our combat readiness and routine exercise helps us cope with the stresses that accompany our duties. Fit to Fight is just one measurement.

◆ As warriors, we can be called on to "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" on a moment's notice. We must be prepared to make that journey.

My expectations

We should not let this leadership change cause unnecessary turmoil. I expect to minimize the "sniffing" period and get down to business quickly. To that end, keep doing what you're doing until you hear otherwise from me. I will make no stealth policy changes.

Although I've been with you for over a year as the Vice Commander, my perspective has changed somewhat in the new position. You can help me shape my mental model by keeping me informed about your work projects. I have no desire to micromanage anyone, nor do I have the expertise required to do your job. However, I do want to know what I can do to make it easier for you to do your work. I stand ready to give you the additional horsepower or resources you may need, which is frankly the only thing I can really provide.

Along those same lines, I expect everyone to be experts in their areas of responsibility and function without

limitation within those areas. I want each of you to make decisions when they need to be made and keep me informed as appropriate. I'll make the call if you cannot, but don't ask me to do it because you choose not to do so.

I have a couple of pass/fail items: drinking and driving, the use of illegal drugs and sexual harassment. I will not tolerate violations of the Air Force policies regarding these topics.

What you can expect from me

I will serve you with all of my heart and strength. You are my focus and I will try to make your lives better whether on duty or not. I have no hidden agenda or overly ambitious career aspirations. I will lead at a fast pace with high standards, clear direction and honest appraisal.

In conclusion...

I am honored and humbled to be your commander. We all have been entrusted with critical responsibilities and have sworn a solemn oath to perform



our duties to the utmost of our abilities.

Together we will continue to improve our organization and become the best wing in the Air Force.

I look forward to getting to know each one of you.

ROBERT H. SHEPHERD
Colonel, USAFR
Commander

Bringing the world to Sukkur

Alabama Airmen deliver international relief supplies to flood victims

By Staff Sgt. Kali L. Gradishar
U.S. Air Force Central Combat Camera

Air Force Reserve Command C-130 aircrews and support personnel in the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing here are responding to Pakistan's call for assistance following the devastating floods that began July 29.

Two Reserve C-130s along with aircrew and support personnel from the 908th Airlift Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., currently deployed to Afghanistan, are delivering aid and food supplies to stricken regions of the country.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority, more than 1,500 people were killed and more than one million homes destroyed. An estimated one-fifth of the country is under water, displacing nearly 14 million people. The disaster has affected more people than the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2010 Haiti earthquake combined.

Master Sgt. John Metcalf, an Air Force Reserve C-130 loadmaster deployed to the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron was in "complete awe," when he first



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Andy M. Kin

Airmen from the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, above and lower right, load aid supplies onto a C-130, in support of humanitarian relief efforts in Pakistan at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

saw the devastation.

"I've seen the effects of Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi and Louisiana, and I'm not going to say that it topped that, but it gave me the same feeling... towns and farms and buildings just under water," said the Montgomery, Ala., native.

U.S. military cargo planes have delivered more than 60,000 pounds of food and relief supplies from Rawalpindi to Sukkur as part of the \$90 million in U.S. support relief efforts in Pakistan.

Lt. Col. Ken Ostrat, an Air Force Reserve C-130 pilot

deployed to the 746th EAS, was taken aback by the widespread devastation.

"As we left Islamabad, you could tell the rivers were a little bit high," said the Prattville, Ala., native. "As we flew south towards Sukkur, which is downriver, you could see the widening of the river as the floodwaters continued to go further over the banks of the normal river channel."

"By the time we got to Sukkur there were thousands of acres flooded, virtually the entire area. Farms, small villages and houses were completely inundated with water for miles in every direction," he said.

The crew from the 379th AEW is just one of many elements of support in the worldwide relief effort in Pakistan. The Pakistan-run flood relief center receives and dispatches relief supplies to include food, water

and shelter donated by numerous countries.

"It was rewarding to see the international power that is going in to bring relief to those people in Sukkur and all the other downstream regions in Pakistan that were affected," said Colonel Ostrat, describing the various country labels he's seen on relief supply packages. Other contributing nations include Korea, China, Russia, Australia and many others.

The United States is expanding pre-existing programs in flood-affected areas, providing temporary bridges and mobilizing significant U.S. military and civilian resources to rescue victims of the disaster and deliver needed supplies. There are currently 18 U.S. military and civilian aircraft in Pakistan and three aircraft based in Afghanistan in support of flood relief operations.



Lt. Col. Kenneth Ostrat co-pilots during a humanitarian relief mission to Pakistan.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Andy M. Kin



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Andy M. Kin

Senior Airman Shon Manning looks out at the devastation caused by recent flooding during a mission to Pakistan in support of humanitarian relief efforts.



Deployed 908th aircrew receives recognition for **KEEPING COOL**

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Members of the 908th Airlift Wing have been distinguishing themselves during the current deployment to Southwest Asia. Even before the call for help came from Pakistan, Alabama's Airmen were being recognized for superior job performance, and one aircrew in particular.

Captain Derrick Morgan, Senior Airman Shon Manning, 1st Lt. Josh Beltz, Master Sgt. Kevin Brackin, Capt. Jaran Meinzen-Derr, and Master Sgt. Scott Cathcart were honored as the 379th AEW Safety Award Winner for two consecutive months for two separate events.

First, the crew successfully recovered an aircraft with complete navigational system failure over the Gulf of Oman — with a critical care patient on board.

"We were about two hours out, and trying to finish up what was turning into an 18-hour crew day," said Lieutenant Beltz. "Suddenly, all the SCNS Control Panel Conditions Lights came on. It quickly sunk in that we have just lost our entire navigation system."

After the initial sense of shock wore off, the Reservists' instincts kicked in and each crew member did what they were trained to get the plane and cargo home safely, according to Master Sgt. Kevin Brackin.

"Myself and Airman Manning went around and made sure all the AE folks were informed and secured



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nakaya Livingston

Brigadier Gen. Stephen Wilson, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, congratulates Capt. Derrick Morgan, Senior Airman Shon Manning, 1st Lt. Josh Beltz, Master Sgt. Kevin Brackin, Capt. Jaran Meinzen-Derr and Master Sgt. Scott Cathcart upon winning the May 2010 379th AEW Safety Award for their quick thinking during a mid-air event over the Gulf of Oman.

any loose equipment."

During the second event, a life raft in the starboard wing suddenly deployed and came exploding out of its compartment, dangerously close to the engine.

"Something big just hit the aircraft, and both myself and Airman Manning were thrown up against the right side of the aircraft as the plane yawed to the right," said Sergeant Brackin.

All the cockpit crew could do was just try and keep it straight and level. After a few harrowing moments, the raft came loose, hitting the tail before disappearing from sight.

"When the life raft finally released from the aircraft and impacted the tail your first thought was, 'What kind of damage did the plane sustain,'" said Lieutenant Beltz.

"We had our heads stuck in the windows almost with our faces on the glass to try and see any damage and looking for the life raft as all this was going on," Sergeant Brackin said.

In both cases, the crew remained calm and worked the problem to ensure that the mission was completed safely.

"Everyone worked together closely to resolve the issues in the most professional and expedient manner, said aircraft commander Capt. James D. Morgan. "The life raft deploying inflight was, by far, the biggest surprise. The only time this has been remotely addressed is during simulator training.

"It was great to be able to work with true professionals in order to get the aircraft and its cargo safely on the ground."



HAIL & FAREWELL

U.S. Air Force photos/Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

During the September UTA, the 908th Airlift Wing bid farewell to two of its most familiar members. Above right, Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Coleman of Security Forces, the first chief in the squadron, accepts a commemorative badge from Capt. John T. Brooks.

Below, Lt. Col. Janey Worth, a combat nurse with the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron admires an eagle trophy she received as a gift during her retirement ceremony.



CLASS LEADERS



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

Designed for mid-level enlisted personnel, the Air Force Reserve Command NCO Leadership Development Course curriculum addresses theories and concepts of leadership and management. The practical sessions stress real-life situations. An integral component of the 80-hour course is the blending of personnel from different AFSCs. Additionally, team case studies and scenarios introduce the students to leadership concepts and provide an opportunity to interface with the wing's command chief.

This course includes 10 days of instruction covering two phases. Phases One and Two consist of three academic days conducted by a civilian college instructor and two days conducted by military facilitators. Each course uses college instructors for the theory portion and military facilitators for the practical-based portion.

Graduates of the June 2010 NCO Leadership Development Program

are, first row, left to right: Staff Sgt. Durwin Law (ASTS), Staff Sgt. Shante Lamb (357 AS), Staff Sgt. Kendra Jenkins (LRS), Tech Sgt. Catherine Coats (AW), Senior Airman Crystal Bickstaff (LRS), Tech Sgt. Vickey Gissendanner (ASTS), Staff Sgt. Courtney Tremmer (ASTS), Tech Sgt. Tonia Peterson (AW), Tech Sgt. Teshika Holmes (MXG), Staff Sgt. Delois Wilson (LRS), Staff Sgt. Nicole Plummer (AES), Staff Sgt. Monica Lorenzo (SVF) and Tech Sgt. Jennifer Wilson (CES).

Second row, left to right: Staff Sgt. Delricus Pittman (CES), Tech Sgt. Jason Kretzschmar (MXG), Staff Sgt. Ebony Besteda (ASTS), Senior Airman Robert Shufford (ASTS), Tech Sgt. Richard Smith (357 AS), Staff Sgt. Cedrea Young (SVF), Tech Sgt. Christy Henderson (357 AS), Staff Sgt. Keith Jeffries (MXS), Staff Sgt. Donald Bridges (AW), Staff Sgt. Janmichael Burkhalter (MXS) and Senior Airman Eugene Mays (MXS).

Safety office: Fire prevention is everybody's job

A fire caused by poor housekeeping, carelessness or failure to follow instructions can destroy your job, your income, and even your life. But the chance of a fire can be reduced if everyone makes an effort.

Follow these fire safety tips:

- Don't allow trash and litter to accumulate unnecessarily.
- Keep the office areas neat

and clean.

- Know where fire alarm boxes and extinguishers are located.
- Make sure you know the different types of fire extinguishers and how to use them; check monthly to see if they are charged and well marked.
- Keep exits free of obstructions.
- Make sure there are good connections and effective grounds in the wiring.

- Smoke only in authorized smoking areas.
- Handle flammable liquids with caution.
- Know the proper exits and procedures in case of an emergency.
- When a fire or emergency evacuation does occur, don't panic. Keep calm and follow instructions. Know the right fire extinguisher for each type of fire.

Welcome Newcomers!

Capt. Kristin E. Hill, MXG
Capt. Grace A. Mickles, AW
2nd Lt. David L. Castillo, 357 AS
TSgt. Russell Fields, LRS
SSgt. Antoine Armor, 25 APS
SSgt. Eric A. Baker, 25 APS
SSgt. Walter J. Ballard, AMXS
SSgt. Donald W. Long, OSF
SSgt. Jeffery Unger, ASTS
SrA Peter J. Golden, 25 APS
SrA Tammie L. Gorsuch, 25 APS
SrA Steele D. Myrick, 25 APS
SrA Eddie Sharp, MXS
A1C David A. Hamilton, CES

A1C Kamika L. Partlow
A1C Jerome Williams, Jr., MXS
AB Ashley Bailey
AB Shaquoyah D. Brazzley, ASTS
AB Britney M. Cassedy
AB Sierra A. Chiz
AB Christopher J. Franks, 25 APS
AB Antonio M. Kendrick, LRS
AB Tayunne A. Lucas, SVF
AB Demonte L. Powell, LRS
AB Joel A. Snyder, CES
AB Brian K. Tice, SFS
AB Gregory Vandiver, MXS

Retirement Requests 2010

Lt. Col. Allison Marshall	Senior Master Sgt. Mark Lanton	Tech. Sgt. Michael Lowman
Maj. Brian Vaughn	Master Sgt. Dominic White	Tech. Sgt. Harry Mitchell
	Master Sgt. Gaston Cannon III	Tech. Sgt. Marcus Martin
Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Coleman	Master Sgt. William Frost Jr.	Tech. Sgt. William Ennis
Chief Master Sgt. Kimberly Devore	Master Sgt. Matthew Higgins	Tech. Sgt. Michael Smithers
Chief Master Sgt. Thrasher Jones Jr.	Master Sgt. Donna Bursley	Tech. Sgt. Tanya Spell

BRIEFS

SOS course extension

The All Course 28 students have been granted an automatic two-month extension.

However, no further extensions will be granted that will extend beyond Dec. 31. That is, the course will close and will be unavailable as of midnight of that date. No exams can be taken after the 2010 calendar year ends.

Students who do not finish Course 28 during the 2010 calendar year and want to finish SOS by distance learning must enroll in Course 20.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Belinda Ray in the

Education and Training Office at 953-6771.

Retirement transition brief

On Saturday of the September UTA there will be a Reserve Retirement Transition Assistance Program for all retirees targeted for retirement from Sept. 1 to Dec. 30.

Anyone planning on retiring or who has already retired should attend.

It will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Sept. 11 in the Wing Conference Room, Bldg. 1056.

This briefing will held quarterly. The next event will be Dec. 4.



LT. COLONEL



Patrick W. Albrecht
Noreen A. Burke
William J. Friday Jr.
Kevin D. Fuqua
Madalyn M. Marlatt
Travis C. Zimmer

ENLISTED

Master Sergeant



Bishop T. Cochran
Bryan E. Nichols

Technical Sergeant



Michael R. Aniulli
Sandra D. Byrd
Joseph T. Scott Jr.

Staff Sergeant



Richard L. Demmon
Raymond E. Giadrosich Jr.
Dustin B. Weeks

Senior Airman



Rachel N. Andrews
Adanda J. Fondon
Kamika L. Partlow
Barry R. Scott
Travion D. Spell

Airman First Class



Elizabeth M. Darnell
Cory D. Ledesma
Demonte K. Malone
Daniel K. Mayben
Demonte L. Powell
Joshua T. Stolley

Airman



Joel A. Snyder
Antonio M. Kendrick
Jairius D. Simpkins

Congratulations!

BACK PAGE

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TO THE FAMILY OF:

