

**APS COMMANDER DEPARTS AFTER FOUR DECADES PGS. 4-5**

# SOUTHERN FLYER

# Capitol



# Outing



SOUTHERN  
FLYER

Vol. 47 Issue 10  
November 2010

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*  
Col. Robert H. Shepherd
- 03 Chaplain  
Flu season is upon us
- 04-05 25 APS commander  
leaves wing after 41 years
- 06-07 Wing members acquire  
'capitol' gains in D.C.
- 08 Yellow Ribbon welcomes  
Airmen to Sandestin
- 09 908th schedules units for  
influenza vaccinations
- 10 News briefs  
Promotions
- 11 UTA schedule/  
General info
- 12 Back Page

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PA Officer: Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb  
Editor: Gene H. Hughes  
Writer: VACANT

## Caring for fellow Airmen

“Our mission is to “Provide unrivaled theater airlift and flexible

combat support across the spectrum of military operations.” This generates tension between mission focus and people focus. I’d suggest that they are so tightly linked that getting the mission done requires that we deliberately care for our Airmen. But how do we do make that happen in the real world?

AF Priority: Develop and care for Airmen and their families

USAFR Priority: Preserve the viability of the Reserve triad

Each of us — yes, even the ARTs — has to balance our Reserve duty with family and civilian employment commitments. We are individually responsible for this balance, but the organization can help or hinder in these efforts. That’s what “Caring for Airmen” is all about.

We do this within the military structure by ensuring our Reservists get paid correctly, recognizing high performers with awards and decorations, and highlighting accomplishments in performance reports. If you touch one

of these areas, you are a caregiver.

Commanders play a particularly crucial role in this endeavor. General Stenner urges us to

“foster open communication.” This means clearly articulating participation expectations to our Reservists, staying in touch with families to find out what they’re thinking, and letting the employers know that



COL. ROBERT H. SHEPHERD  
Wing Commander

their employees are making an important contribution to

the nation’s defense. We can all help by keeping our own lines of communication open.

We also help our members rebalance through events like Yellow Ribbon. Families not only learn about programs and benefits, but our agenda intentionally provides plenty of free time for families to spend time together in a relaxing environment.

Finally, we monitor our metrics (SORTS, retention, volunteer rates, etc.) to see how well these corporate efforts are working. Just like our Reservists, the wing is continuously balancing competing interests to make sure we take care of our Airmen... they make the mission happen!

A MOMENT WITH THE  
CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

Thanksgiving is just around the corner — and many of us will sit around the table to more food than we could hope to eat. We will probably watch football, catch up with relatives, and eat way too much. The event that this day recognizes is far different from the way we celebrate today.

According to the colonist Edward Winslow in a letter to a friend in late 1621 — the three day festival was held in October as a celebration of harvest — and the fact the Wampanoag Indian tribe taught them how to grow and catch food in the “new world”. The menu did not include turkey and all the fixings — but included: wild fowl, pumpkin, squash, fish, lobsters, eel, mussels, oysters, corn, parsnips, collards, turnips, spinach, onions, dried beans, dried blueberries, grapes, and nuts.

We might look at this and say that the pilgrims had a lot for which to be thankful. However, the pilgrims were coming away from a very harsh first winter. After the 66-day trip to get to the New World, over half had perished.

There are many lessons those first pilgrims can teach us — one lesson is the importance of a spirit of gratitude or thankfulness.

This Thanksgiving take a few moments before the feast and list the things for which you are most thankful. Take time and focus on blessings you have received. Then if you are inclined, lift a word of prayer and give thanks.

## Under the influenza?

WING TO PROVIDE FLU  
VACCINATIONS DURING  
NOVEMBER UTA

By Lt. Col. N. DeShore-Osbourne  
908th ASTS

Why is winter the season for colds, flu, etc.?

Seems like a reasonable question, doesn’t it? Too bad there isn’t a reasonable answer. All the research of the past three decades has succeeded in doing is undermining old wives’ tales about wet feet causing colds and such without putting anything in their place. Flu season starts in October, so here is some basic information on this viral pest.

We have scheduled a mass flu

## 2010-2011 Seasonal Flu Basics

Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It spreads from person-to-person and can cause mild to severe illness; and in some cases, can lead to death.

In the United States, yearly outbreaks of seasonal flu usually happen during the fall through early spring.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year.

Flu viruses can cause illness in people of any age group. Children are most likely to get sick because their immune systems aren’t strong enough to fight off the infection.

Some groups are more likely to have complications from the seasonal flu. These include:

- those age 65 and older
- children younger than 2 years old
- people of any age who have chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, asthma, congestive heart



Illustration of an influenza virus attaching to a cell membrane.

vaccination event for the November UTA. Information on this event can be found on page 9.

failure, lung disease)

Complications from the flu can include:

- bacterial pneumonia
- ear or sinus infections
- dehydration
- worsening of chronic medical conditions

Every year in the United States, on average:

- 5 to 20 percent of the population get the flu
- More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications
- About 36,000 people die from flu-related causes

## Flu Viruses

There are three types of flu viruses: A, B and C. The A and B viruses cause epidemics (widespread outbreaks in a country) of infection

FLU, PAGE 9

## SOUTHERN FLYER

## COVER PHOTO:

Members of the 908th Airlift Wing, outfitted with special headphonest-hat give an audio tour, look about the rotunda of the capitol building in Washington, D.C.



U.S. Air Force Photo/  
Master Sgt. James Rone

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.



# A man for all seasons

## Departing after four decades, 25 APS commander has seen changes in attitudes, changes in altitudes

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

It was February of 1969, and The 908th Troop Carrier Group at Brookley Air Force Base in Mobile, Ala. was hosting a shrimp boil to commemorate its moving north to Montgomery. Present at the festivities was a young high school student from Birmingham who, over the next four decades, would be an important part of the unit and witness a number of changes, not only in aircraft and equipment, but the attitude of the men and women with whom he would serve.

That young man was Paul Baird, until recently commander of the 25 Aerial Port Squadron of the 908th Airlift Wing.

It all began when his father told him to pack an overnight bag, for he was going to join the Air Force Reserve.

"My dad's motivation was that he did not want me to go to Vietnam. Personally, I never even thought about it. The funny thing is, they had a lottery back then. When they drew my birthday, it turned out I never would have been drafted. By that time, I was already in and loving it."

The next day, Harold Payne, a chief in the unit, picked him up and the two went to the Birmingham Airport and boarded a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" and flew to Mobile.

After a two-day visit, he returned home and completed school. He was instructed to report to Gunter in July to take the physical and the oath of enlistment, and within a month he was in San Antonio for basic

training at Lackland AFB.

The first major change the young Airman experienced was a change in plans. It was almost time for graduation, when Hurricane Camille, one of the deadliest storms in history, hit Biloxi, Miss., where he was supposed to report. For a two-week period it was unknown whether the cadets would be kept at Lackland, or to send them on to Keesler AFB. The cadets were sent east.

"When we got into Louisiana, you could see where the storm had cut paths through the pine trees, like a lawn mower had just gone through and cut these trees down in a 200-yard swathe," Colonel Baird said. "We spent approximately three or four weeks helping clean up Biloxi and Keesler. I was down on the beach for the first few days, picking up gas pumps and toilets and putting them on trucks. They used us in base housing, too. I pulled out old sheetrock."

When he arrived at the 908th and began drilling, it was a time of change. The group was beginning to phase out the C-119, and replacing them with the U-3H, known as the "Blue Canoe." Several years passed, and then the group began operating the O-2A Skymaster. After a couple of years, the unit received word that it would transition to the A-37 Dragonfly, which would change the

unit's mission from airlift to attack.

The group actually received two Dragonfly attack aircraft before Maxwell's then-base commander objected to the idea of keeping ordinance at Maxwell. After much discussion, it was decided that the group would keep its mission, and was designated as the 908th Tactical Airlift Group.

As a result, the group would begin operating the C-7 Caribou.

At that time, Colonel Baird was about to be trained in fire control/radar, but when the "Bous" began to arrive, he moved to electronic nav aids, where he was when the C-130s began to arrive in the early '80s.

In 1984 he was commissioned as an aircraft maintenance officer, took a position at Warner Robins as an IMA, and stayed there until February 1986 when a position opened up at 25 APS.

"I interviewed and got the job, but I fully intended not to stay in that career field," he said. "I didn't think I really wanted to be an aerial porter because it just didn't look like something I wanted to do, but I did it to get my foot in the door. After about three months, I never wanted to do anything else."

After two years, he moved into air terminal operations and stayed there for almost six years. In 2004, he took command of the 25th APS, where he remained until last month.

Over the years, Colonel Baird has seen a transition in American military training, deployment and spirit.

"When the Gulf War happened, we started training for small-scale wars, and the training got more intense," he said. "That's the biggest change. The training has intensified. Also the ops tempo has changed dramatically since 2001. It's gone through the roof."

"The eye-opener is, and we tell people when they join, 'you're going to be deployed. There's no doubt about it.' When they come in, they know what's going on and I think they train better than we did. I think their attitude is better. I think they're smarter than we were back in '69."

With four decades full of memories of his time with the 908th, it's hard for Colonel Baird to pin down when he was proudest of the wing or his squadron.

"There's not been an instance where we've had to move equipment and personnel and supplies that we did not do an exemplary job. I'm very proud of everyone in the squadron."

"The 908th has been part of my life for 41 years. It's hard to move and I hate to leave, but it's time."



**BAIRD**

From the day he joined the 908th Troop Carrier Group in 1969, Lt. Col. Paul Baird has seen the unit a multitude of aircraft, from above, the C-119 Flying Boxcar, U-3A Blue Canoe, O-2 Skymaster, C-7A Caribou and the C-130 Hercules.



# Taking wing to Washington

## Airmen learn new aspects of Reserve during capitol trip

By Maj. Jamie Danford  
908th AW Chaplains Office

Have you ever wondered how the Reserves fit within the total Air Force picture and within the overall Department of Defense? How are we funded? How is policy made? How do we influence those decisions?

Thirty-four members of the 908th Airlift Wing recently found the answer to those questions. As part of a program sponsored through the Wing HRDC council and through coordination with HQ/RE, wing members spent three days at the Pentagon learning about the inner workings of the Reserve.

"I thought going to Washington to attend the RE Orientation was an incredible opportunity to better understand the process of funding, and how the decisions made impact us performing our duties on the wing level," said Capt. Tonia Stephens. "Personally, I appreciated the civics refresher afforded to me and surprisingly, the facilitators' presentations were not a challenge to follow."

Although somewhat familiar with the appropriations process, Maj. Marla Powell thought it very interesting that AFRC as a command only received four percent of the Air Force budget.

"I'd never heard of National Guard and Reserve Appropriations before," she said. "Now I'm aware of how we're funded for receiving the necessary equipment to support mission readiness needs, although it's a lengthy process to receive equipment, it's nice to know we have someone in our corner fighting for us."

Major Marla Powell also found the briefing on military construction interesting, and didn't realize there was a dollar threshold and that some of the small repairs could be accomplished with O&M funds.

"I was glad to hear that the flightline repair made the cut, but it's planned for Fiscal Year 13," she said. "It's better to be on the list than not. It's a process and it's one continuous fight, and I now have a greater appreciation for the folks that are working for us on Capitol Hill."

In addition to the scheduled class and lecture time, I also wanted our people to have the chance to spend as much time enjoying and appreciating



the nation's capital city and surroundings as time would allow. One evening was scheduled to see the monuments at the National Mall, and a trip to Arlington National Cemetery to experience the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Wing Historian Master Sgt. Barbara Hamann enjoyed having the opportunity to walk the historic sites in Washington D.C. with fellow airmen.

"We ventured off as strangers with a common interest to see everything between the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and returned with a sense of camaraderie and true appreciation of and for each other," she said.



Above, members of the 908th Airlift Wing pose for a group photo during their recent trip to Washington, D.C. Below left, Tech. Sgt. Debra Lazenby and Chief Master Sgt. Jesse Scott listen to an audio tour of the capitol rotunda. Below right, Airmen make their way around the National Mall. Lower left, Master Sgt. Barbara Hamann enjoys the skyline. Lower center, Command Master Chief Cameron Kirksey strikes a pose before the Lincoln Memorial. Lower right, Reservists take a breather at the base of the Washington Memorial. Opposite, Members also got a chance to visit Arlington National Cemetery, where they witnessed a changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.





# Yellow Ribbon repatriates wing warfighters

By Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb  
908th AW Public Affairs

Newly arrived from their four-month deployment to Southwest Asia, more than 100 Airmen and approximately 150 of their family members attended the post-deployment Yellow Ribbon Program Oct. 16-17 hosted by the 908th Airlift Wing at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Fla.

The program provides National Guard and Reserve members and their families a variety of support and reintegration programs to try to alleviate the stresses of deployment and separation that come with military service.

The first day of the event kicked off with a commander's welcome at the resort's conference center. The second day continued with breakouts, resource-provider introductions and information tables. Some of the programs represented included Military One Source, Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Veteran's Administration. The wing chaplain, financial management, personnel flight and education and training offices also provided information.

Major Christopher Harris, a navigator with the 357th



Airlift Squadron said the event was very well planned and the weekend was very relaxing.

"I also really liked the resort and will keep it in mind to stay there again," he said, adding that it was great to have all the supporting organizations there made for "one stop shopping" for about any type of support anyone might need. He said his wife Tracy particularly enjoyed Chaplain (Major) Jamie Danford's marriage workshop.

Major John Jordan, 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, agreed.

"My wife Amy thoroughly enjoyed the marriage workshop. The way Chaplain Danford described our routine while deployed vs. life at home really clicked with her. His comments helped her understand why I acted the way I did when I first got home."

Master Sgt. Felicia Cunningham, the wing's Yellow Ribbon Program coordinator, said several families came up to her during the three-day event, telling her that they appreciate all the information that the program provides.

"I see the Yellow Ribbon events as offering two main benefits." Chaplain (Maj.) Danford said. "One, it is a chance for us to let the service member and their family know we are proud and thankful for their service and dedication, and second, we have the helping agencies, benefit agencies, and other groups in the same room to answer any questions that might come up."



## FLU, FROM PAGE 3

in people every year in the United States.

- Type C infections cause mild respiratory illness and are not thought to cause epidemics.
- Type A viruses are divided into subtypes. Subtypes of type A that have been found in people worldwide include H1N1, H1N2, and H3N2 viruses.
- Flu viruses are constantly changing. A global flu pandemic (worldwide outbreak) can happen if three conditions are met:
  - A new subtype of type A virus is introduced into the human population.
  - The virus causes serious illness in humans.
  - The virus can spread easily from person-to-person in a sustained manner.
  - The H1N1 Flu met all three conditions and caused a worldwide outbreak. In late spring 2009, the WHO declared that a H1N1 flu pandemic was underway.

## Flu Symptoms

- fever (usually high) • tiredness (can be extreme) • headache • dry cough • sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose • muscle aches

The following symptoms may occur, but are more likely in children than adults:

- nausea • vomiting • diarrhea

## Is it a Cold or the Flu?

Flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Flu and the cold have similar symptoms (e.g. fever, sore throat). It can be difficult to tell the difference between them. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold.

Your doctor can give you a flu test within the first few days of your illness to determine whether you have the flu.

Symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough are more common and intense with the flu. Colds are usually milder than the flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose.

Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations.

## 2010-2011 FLU VACCINATIONS November 7, 2010

The Mass Flu vaccination will be Sunday of the November UTA, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 908th ASTS/42 MDG lobby. Squadrons have each been assigned an hour for its personnel to report for vaccine. Mobile Immunization team will administer vaccines to APS and MXS at Bldg. 845.

If you have received a flu vaccine, you must provide documentation. These documents will be entered into your vaccine record. You will not receive another flu vaccine.

All personnel receiving a vaccine will complete the following process:

Sign in - Name, rank, last four of SSN, unit

Complete Flu vaccination documentation form and receive a copy of the information sheet prior to receipt of vaccination.

Member will be vaccinated and will depart area.

Squadron UHM will be provided a copy of all vaccinated members 2766 NLT December UTA.

## Unit Immunization Schedule

Personal should report to mass immunization location at assigned times to prevent prolonged waiting times. Personnel should arrive within the assigned time block, but will be seen if they arrive outside of the assigned time block. The average processing time from arrival to departure is estimated at 15 minutes.

8 - 9 a.m.: 357th AS, 908th OSF  
9 - 10 a.m.: 908th AES, 908th OG  
10 - 11 a.m.: 908th CE, 908th MSG  
11 a.m. - noon: 908th COMM, 908th LRF  
noon - 1 p.m.: 908th SFS, Wing Staff  
1 - 2 p.m.: 908th SVS  
2 - 3 p.m.: 908th MS

25 APS and 908th MXS, Bldg. 845

7:45 - 9 a.m.: Maintenance Squadrons

1. 908th AMXS

2. 908th Maintenance Squadron

3. 908th Main OPS Flt

9 - 11 a.m.: 25th APS



# Welcome Newcomers!

SMSgt. Theresa Hunt  
SSgt. Bradley Akins, MXS  
SSgt. Christine U. Johnson, 25 APS  
SrA Clairborn Sherman, 25 ASTS  
SrA Cortrell S. Mandosia, 25, APS

A1C Matthew Worthy, MXS  
A1C Brittney Proffit, 25 APS  
A1C Rachel Rach, 357 AS  
Amn Tyeshia Payton, MXS  
AB Timothy Bennett, AW

## DID YOU KNOW?



Wearing your ribbons is an honor. It's a recognition reflecting your accomplishments in the Armed Forces.

You should check your awards and decorations annually. When is the last time you checked yours? Airmen can view and print their federal awards and decorations via the virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) web site.

You can access the vMPF by clicking on the "Secure Apps" link on the upper right hand corner of

this page. Once you are logged into the vMPF, click on "Personal Data" and "Awards and Decoration."

Whether everything is correct or incorrect, please print out your awards and decorations, and turn it into the Career Enhancement Office.

If you have any questions regarding your awards and decorations, please contact Staff Sgt. Quiana Carter, (334) 953-5584, who will gladly assist you with updating your records.

## Retirement Requests 2010-11

Lt. Col. Allison Marshall  
t. Col. Donna Roberts  
Maj. David N. Hyre  
Chief Master Sgt. Kimberly Devore  
Chief Master Sgt. Thrasher Jones Jr.  
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Lanton  
Master Sgt. Donna Bursley

Master Sgt. William Frost Jr.  
Master Sgt. Karen T. Morgan  
Master Sgt. Denise L. Thrailkill  
Master Sgt. Richard G. Windham  
Master Sgt. Joseph L. Smith  
Tech. Sgt. William C. Ennis  
Tech. Sgt. Harry Mitchell

Tech. Sgt. Marcus Martin  
Tech. Sgt. Michael Smithers  
Tech. Sgt. Tanya Spell  
Tech. Sgt. Michael D. Ralph  
Tech. Sgt. George W. Carter Jr.  
Tech. Sgt. Winston L. Williams

LOOK FOR THE 908TH ONLINE! [WWW.908AW.AFRC.AF.MIL](http://WWW.908AW.AFRC.AF.MIL)

facebook



## ENLISTED

### Senior Master Sergeant



Marshall C. Sims

### Master Sergeant



Quincey M. Hester  
Yvonne C. Johnson  
Sean H. Kassebaum  
John W. Mitchell Jr.  
Donnie J. Spears Jr.

### Technical Sergeant



Jason M. Carmack  
Anthony W. Haslip  
Gordon E. Lowtharp  
Clinton E. Wade  
David W. Williams

### Staff Sergeant



Sherri D. Burton  
James E. Toney

### Senior Airman



Thomas A. Carlton  
Christina A. Dryden  
Billy W. Kidd Jr.  
Nakesany T. McMillian  
Frederick J. Smith

### Airman First Class



Justin C. Nettles  
Janelle K. Shines  
Travis L. Thomas

### Airman



Britney M. Cassedy  
Chistopher J. Franks  
Trayunnne A. Lucas

*Congratulations!*

908th Airlift Wing  
401 W. Maxwell Blvd.  
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6501

Presorted  
First Class  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #700  
Montgomery, AL

TO THE FAMILY OF:

THE  
MANY  
FACES  
OF

MUMFORD



During his time with the 908th Airlift Wing, Mission Support Group Vice Comander Lt. Col. Lee Mumford was a leader, a motivator, a teacher, and a man of a thousand faces and voices who kept the entire wing laughing. He will be sorely missed.