

**'THE DUKE' IS 908TH'S NEW COMMAND CHIEF PGS. 4-5**

# SOUTHERN FLYER



No flops as 908th turns winning hand during River Region ops



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FOUR-SHIP PHOTO GALLERY

GOING MOBILE WITH MyPay

AFRICAN AIRMEN VISIT 357TH AS

AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

SEPTEMBER 2011



SOUTHERN  
FLYER

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PA Officer: Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb  
Editor: Gene H. Hughes  
Writer: Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder

## Key Spouse is here to stay

“Two years ago, it was determined that there was a need for a Key Spouse Program to help commanders and first sergeants provide assistance to loved ones left behind during deployments. The Family Readiness office manages the program and provides training and recourses.

In addition, Key Spouses work with the Family Readiness office to make sure that their member families have all the benefits they are entitled to.

Key Spouse is a voluntary position that helps our families by providing information on benefits, entitlements and programs to ensure our extended members make the most of what the military has to offer. The program serves as a vital link between families and the programs offered on base. The Key Spouse will work hand-in-hand with the unit leadership, accessing needs of the unit.

To help jump start this program, there will be a spouse indoctrination held during the November UTA. At this time we will offer Key Spouse Training for anyone who would like to learn about the program. There

is no limit to the number of Key Spouses assigned per unit; of course the more you have working within a unit, the easier it is to dispense information. One example, The Herk (Helping Every Reservist though Contingencies) Group, consisted of several wives who got together in 2007 to help each other whenever their husbands were deployed. They began providing breakfast at the staging area before our Airman deployed.



SMSGT. MARTHA ROY  
Superintendent, 908th MPF

In the 908th, there will be one Wing Key Spouse, Lori Sims, who will oversee the program and the unit volunteers will coordinate with her. She will be attending Spouse Indoctrination during the November UTA.

You don't have to be a wife to be a Key Spouse; just an extended member who wants to keep informed and would like to help others in their unit or group. It takes a village to raise a unit of well informed members. We hope that you will join us and be part of this amazing program which will benefit so many.

Anyone interested in this program is encouraged to call me at (334) 953-5441.

A MOMENT WITH THE  
CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) DAVID DERSCH

Ten years ago, the call went out all over the country, and a new greatest generation responded. During the decade we've seen the Air Force Reserve transformed from "weekend warriors" to Fully Operational Capable Airmen. New citizen-airmen have enlisted, many have deployed (some multiple times), and our efficiency has improved dramatically.

In addition to successfully prosecuting major combat operations and two guerilla wars, Reservists have deployed worldwide and locally to respond to floods, earthquakes, fires, tornados, hurricanes and tsunamis.

While one might disagree with the strategy, you can't question the resolve or results. Though attempted, the dreaded "other shoe" has not dropped, and there have not been any further successful terrorist attacks on our home soil.

One reason undoubtedly is that we have taken the fight to the enemy and kept their fighters busy defending their own homelands and sanctuaries.

As we reflect on those horrific events of 10 years ago, let us also remember God's grace in uniting our country and protecting us from other homeland attacks. Let us renew our dedication to the principle that these dead will not be forgotten--that they shall not have died in vain.

And let us pray that there will be a new birth of freedom in oppressed nations around the world.

## Money Matters\$

## Multipurpose MyPay

Now Airmen can update profiles at work, home or on the move

By Staff Sgt. Evelyn Baxter  
908th FM

myPay



Guess what? MyPay has finally caught up with many other Air Force systems and enabled the Common Access Card (CAC) login option.

Members can access MyPay with their CAC s by going to:

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

and clicking the CAC logon logo. The first time you use the CAC login you will have to enter your Social Security Number two times to register your card. Once you have, select "MAIN" option at the top right hand of the screen.

Congratulations! You've entered MyPay and can now access your LES. It's as simple as that!

A couple of things to note: the CAC option is only for computers that are CAC enabled. You will still need to use your Username/Pass-

word option to access MyPay from home. Another benefit you might find helpful is that MyPay has gone mobile. If you use a cell phone with an operating system like a iPhone, Droid, or Blackberry, you can use the username and password just as if you were using a home computer.

If you've recently moved or changed your personal email address, it's important to ensure both are updated in the MyPay system.

To update your physical address, simply log on to the MyPay system and click "CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS" under "Pay Changes." For your email address, click "EMAIL ADDRESS" and update your primary and secondary email addresses.

It pays (YOU) to keep your personal information current!

## SOUTHERN FLYER CAPTION CONTEST



Airmen, alums and friends of the 908th AW, what does this photo say to you? If you think you can devise a clever caption, send your submission to the Public Affairs Office at [908aw.pa2@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:908aw.pa2@maxwell.af.mil)

The winner will be published in next month's issue

## SOUTHERN FLYER

## COVER PHOTO:

A pair of 908th C-130 Hercules make an airdrop run during the August Unit Training Assembly. For more, see the photo gallery, pages 6-7.



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

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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.pa2@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:908aw.pa2@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.



# The Name Says It All

DUKE MEANS "TO LEAD," AND THE 908TH'S NEW SENIOR ENLISTED PLANS TO DO JUST THAT... FROM THE FRONT.

By Gene H. Hughes  
908th AW Public Affairs

When the 908th's command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, recently departed for the fighter community at Homestead Air Force Base, everyone began to speculate on a possible replacement. Would that person come from within the 908th, or would a new face sit in the center office on the second floor of Building 1056?

After an intensive interview process, comprising of five highly qualified candidates, from both inside and outside the unit, Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark selected Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke Sr., of the 908th Security Forces Squadron.

And it didn't take long for the wing's new senior enlisted to hit the ground running. His first plan of battle; to make sure 908th Airmen get the accolades they deserve, from receiving a coin to recognition for making a significantly healthy lifestyle change.

"We have great Airmen doing great things around the globe," he said. "Most people simply want to be noticed and appreciated for what they do, and public acknowledgement is a huge plus! It may be a coin or a unit quarterly award, or even a simple pat on the back and a 'thank you.' It's amazing how positive, human contact can self-fix some problems/behaviors."

Colonel Clark has made it a priority that the 908th be recognized



Enlisted Airmen have to be able to trust their senior enlisted leadership, and that starts with him, says Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke Sr., the 908th's new command chief.



as an elite unite; one to which both current and potential members will be proud to belong. Chief Duke said his plan to help achieve that goal will be braced by four pillars.

"First comes that recognition we talked about," he said. "Next comes the Fit-to-Fight Program. This is about a lifestyle change so we can enjoy our families and retirement."

"Then comes promotions. Advancements to staff sergeant and master sergeant will be highly scruti-

nized. We are developing a transparent process that will ensure only the cream of the crop will be considered. These are the immediate and future leaders of the 908th Airlift Wing.

The fourth pillar will be Enlisted Performance Reports (EPRs).

"They must be a true reflection of the individual and what has been accomplished during the rating period. EPRs are a critical part of any promotion/award/assignment package."

Duke said that for the plan to work and for enlisted personnel to "buy-in," they have to trust their senior enlisted leadership... and that starts with him.

Members of the 908th have already begun to experience some of those attributes that Duke's background in armor (as a former Soldier) and military law enforcement brings to the table, such as discipline.

"By its very nature, security forces is a deadly business," he said. "(There's) no second guessing, no hesitation. You learn to do what you are told, when you are told and like you are told, because it's the best way to survive another mission."

As the new command chief, the responsibility of taking care of the wing's main strength -- its people and their families, both immediate and extended -- is a duty Duke does not take lightly.

"We must continue to look after our Airmen, during UTAs, annual tours, and before, during and after deployments," he said. "Good Lord

willing and the creek don't rise, I will meet every Airman and their family before they go into harm's way. It is important they know they have a direct link to someone who's been there.

Duke can appreciate the strengths that family ties provide, for like many others in the wing, he has family serving here in the 908th. His son is a loadmaster with the 357th Airlift Squadron.

"We are both prior Army," he said. "It is especially hard for us to deploy because we have to have "that conversation" each time. No, it does not get easier after five deployments. It does make you appreciate the time together, no matter how short.

"We do not say good-bye."

The wing, as such, has no apparent weakness, according to Duke, but an important mission for him will be combatting any lack of proper supervision/leadership. And that begins when Airmen arrive from Basic/Tech school.

"They lose that discipline after they get here," said Duke, whose name itself means leader. "They get caught up with the 10-percent-poison crowd because we do not lead, we manage. You lead people, you manage processes. We are going to lead our Airmen by example; by getting our hands dirty and getting back to the basics."

To explain the importance he places on his wife, Cheryl, he told about the time in 2007 when, after recently returning from Iraq, he got a call from the then-mission support group commander asking if he would take the 908th SFS to Iraq. He replied that it was up to his wife.

After some discussion, the Duke house commander said, "If you feel like you should go then be careful, and tell (name omitted for obvious



Newly selected 908th Command Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke congratulates newly promoted Master Sgt. Michael Freeman of the 908th Command Post. Promotions to staff and master sergeant will be 'highly scrutinized' to ensure advancement of quality personnel.

reasons) not to call here anymore." "I simply cannot put into words what a blessing Cheryl is, Duke said. "She married a crazy man, and yet, she sticks around. She is much stronger than me."

His operations background is tactical rather than aerial, but as the owner of "some old cars and trucks," he knows a thing or two about the benefits of performance and a finely tuned engine, like that of his restored 1964 1/2 convertible Ford Mustang.

"I drive it in parades, weddings, car shows, etc.," he said. "It's a fun car



Chief Master Sgt. Duke with his son, Tech Sgt. Owen Duke Jr., a loadmaster with the 357th Airlift Squadron.

and initiates a lot of conversations."

He also enjoys working in the yard (he recently laid three tons of grass by himself). He also swims three times a day in his pool "to keep these old bones working," and likes to travel with the family.

For Duke, life is good, and he considers himself blessed to serve the greatest family in the world; the 908th Airlift Wing.

"I will promise you this: I will always do one more for you than you expect," he said. "I will always treat you and your family with the utmost respect and I will always do my best to bring honor to our family, the 908th."

Asked for an anecdote that illuminates his love of service, he simply said, "When I returned from Iraq, a father walked up to me in the airport, shook my hand and with tears in his eyes he said, 'Thank you for bringing my boy home.'

"Damn right I take this serious. I love what I do!"



Airmen from the 908th Operations, Maintenance and Mission Support Groups combined to make August's four-ship airdrop a total success.

# All Four One...

U.S. Air Force Photos/  
Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb  
Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder  
Staff Sgt. Sandra Percival  
Gene H. Hughes





## SPOUSE FLIGHT



Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb

During the November Unit Training Assembly, the 908th Airlift Wing will host a special Spouse Flight, giving the 'better halves' of its members a chance to take a ride on a C-130 Hercules. If you haven't yet signed your spouse up for this Nov. 5 event, contact your squadron by sign-out time at the end of the October UTA.

## WANTED



## NEW UNIFORM

Effective Nov. 1, The following articles will no longer be authorized for wear: BDUs, tan boots with ABUs, black/brown t-shirts and black boots.. For information, consult AFI36-2903.

## Employer Day Nomination Form

The 908th will be hosting a joint employer event on Nov. 7 in cooperation with the Alabama Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Nominate your civilian employer/supervisor to attend "Breakfast with the Boss" using the form below. The event will start at the Officer's Club at 7:30 a.m. Those who wish to stay will be offered the chance to fly over central Alabama in one of our C-130s. Nominate your boss today! All nominations must be received by COB Sept. 25.

## Employer Information

Title (Mr. Mrs. etc) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Driver's license number (needed to meet base entry security requirements) \_\_\_\_\_  
 State issued by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Participate in C-130 Flight Yes/No?

## Reserve Member Information

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Military Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## African partners visit 357th Airlift Squadron

Special to the Southern Flyer

The 357 Airlift Squadron recently hosted a visit from some special guests.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy sponsored a Senior Enlisted Summit at Maxwell Aug. 5, which included Chief Michael Grimm, Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 17th Air Force, who brought four senior enlisted members from African partner nations to see the squadron.

After giving them a tour of the flight engineer section and the squadron, the visitors were escorted out to the flightline for a tour of a C-130.

In addition to the tour, the guests were also able to visit with maintainers about their jobs and how they keep the aircraft flying. The maintainers had a lot to discuss with Master Air Warrant Officer Anthony Abokwen, the Chief C-130 Flight Engineer for the Nigerian Air Force.



Courtesy photo/Master Sgt. Shawn Lisle

From left, top row: Master Air Warrant Officer Adetsu Samuel, Ghana; Master Air Warrant Officer Anthony Abokwen, Nigeria; CMSgt. Brent Solomon, 357th AS Flight Engineer Superintendent; Command Sgt. Maj. Mogakolodi Sebego, Botswana; Regimental Sgt. Maj. K. J. Papole, South Africa; Chief Master Sgt. Michael Grimm, Command Chief, 17th Air Force. Bottom Row: A1C Brian Walters, 908 MXS; SSgt. Amber Jackson, 908 MXS; SrA Corey Breedlove, 908 MXS. Not pictured are MSgt. Shawn Lisle, 908 OGV and MSgt. Keith Rollins, 908 MXS.

"I was excited to have them over and for the chance to discuss what our mission is and what we do," said Chief

Master Sgt. Brent Solomon. "We had a great time talking with our African partners and sharing stories."

## MEET THE ROYS



Courtesy photo/SMSgt. Martha Roy

SMSgt. Roy represented the Maxwell AFB Community Action Information Board at the Caring for People forum in Washington, D.C., July 18-21. There, she was able to meet Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force CMSgt. James Roy and his wife Paula.

## II QUARTERLY AWARD WINNERS

COMPANY GRADE OFFICER:

Capt. Kristin Hill, MXG

SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER:

SMSgt. Brian McNutt, 25 APS

NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER:

TSgt. Jonathan Butterbaugh, AMXS

AIRMAN:

SrA Jake Yakes, AMXS



## Welcome Newcomers!

Lt. Col. Christopher M. Dress, ASTS  
Maj. Andrew D. Howard, AES  
Maj. Jonathan F. Flanders, 25 APS  
Capt. Brian D. Reece, ASTS  
Capt. Raymond M. Klinger, LRS  
TSgt. Richard J. Perry, 357 AS  
TSgt. George M. Brawley, LRS  
TSgt. Lori F. McInerney, OSS  
SSgt. Nathan W. Brown, AW  
SSgt. Nadia D. Nettles, MOF  
SrA Eva M. Sisson, 357 AS  
SrA Octavia D. Wood, ASTS

A1C Elizabeth M. Gay, 25 APS  
A1C Jeremy O. Miller, SFS  
AB Corey L. Dupre, MXS  
AB Tyler R. Cancel, 25 APS  
AB Christopher Myska, AES  
AB Patrick H. Ezelle, 25 APS  
AB Jamal M. Matthews, SFS  
Amn Gary Tanks, AES  
Amn Michael D. Chalkey, AMXS  
Amn Amanda L. Reeves, ASTS  
Amn John P. Stephenson, AMXS

## Retirement Requests 2010-11

Col. Robert H. Shepherd  
Lt. Col. R. Scott Davis  
Lt. Col. Billy R. Tabor Jr.  
Senior Master Sgt. Theresa L. Hunt  
Senior Master Sgt. James P. Williams  
Master Sgt. Loyce A. Byrd  
Master Sgt. Terry W. Calhoun  
Master Sgt. Terry J. Elmore II

Master Sgt. John P. Thompson  
Master Sgt. Larry G. Parker  
Master Sgt. Sonya Y. Wallace  
Tech. Sgt. Rickey Martin  
Tech. Sgt. David W. Barber  
\* The next Reserves Retirement Briefing is set to take place on Sept. 10 at 9 a.m. at Building 677, the Family & Airman Readiness Center.\*

## BRIEFS

### Legal Assistance Website

The 908th JAG would like to call your attention to the Air Force's web site for legal assistance to accommodate members needing Powers of Attorneys and Wills and provides general information.

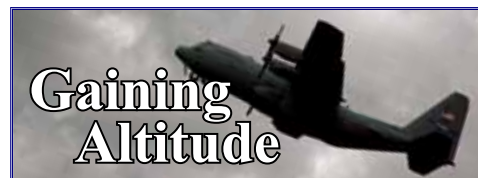
The site can be found at:  
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

It's user friendly and gives you the opportunity to explore services to which you are entitled.

### That's Government Property!

Health records are property of the U.S. Government, not the individual. Maintenance of health records at the MTF is required IAW AFI 41-210. Patients may request a copy by filling out a release form located at the 908 ASTS front desk.

Do you have your original medical and/or dental records? If so, please turn them over to 908 ASTS personnel as soon as possible.



## ENLISTED

### Master Sergeant



Michael D. Freeman  
Joel E. Clark

### Technical Sergeant



Zola A. Barbour

### Staff Sergeant



Justin M. Bryson  
Tyler B. Kelly  
John C. Rigsby  
Kevin L. Summersill  
Christopher S. Stewart

### Senior Airman



Matthew A. Laminack  
Thersa L. Eatmon

### Airman First Class



Robert E. Johnson  
Brain E. Walters  
Clifford J. Strawder

### Airman



Corey L. Dupre

*Congratulations!*

# 908th gives Army weapons project much-needed lift

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

A few months ago a wing C-130 Hercules and its aircrew, in cooperation with the U.S. Army and Lockheed Martin, participated in a Hot Panel operational event for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). The event was the culmination of years of development and marking the transition from a developmental program to a field-ready, operational system.

The 908th crew consisted of Lt. Col. Travis Zimmer, aircraft commander; First Lt. Bryan Powell, mission pilot; Lt. Col. Gary Pore, navigator; Master Sgt. Adam Childers, flight engineer; Staff Sgt. Chris Wild and Airman First Class Marcus Puccini, loadmasters.

Crew chiefs for the flight were Tech. Sgt. Harless Bassett and Senior Airman Marlin Kennedy.

The Hot Panel system ties the HIMARS's guidance system into the C-130 and C-17's Global Positioning Systems, which allows the launcher to arrive at their firing locations ready to offload, fire its missiles and be airborne within minutes.

The aircraft picked up three HIMARS launchers from Fort Sill, Okla. and transported them to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The C-130 carried one launcher, while a C-17 Globemaster, from the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus AFB, Okla., carried two. The C-17 landed first, and its launchers drove off the Globemaster a short distance before setting up, firing and returning to the aircraft and departing. Next, the 908th C-130 landed and its HIMARS repeated the process.

Lt. Col. Travis Zimmer of the 357th Airlift Squadron, a former Army helicopter pilot, organized much of the effort and served as the mission's aircraft commander. He said it was a privilege to be part of the demonstration of a major Army weapon system that offers Joint Force Commanders a potent battlefield option.

He said the HIMARS team and Army Field Artillery unit valued the 908th's contribution to the joint effort as critical players in the "Total Force."

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Background courtesy photo/U.S. Army.

