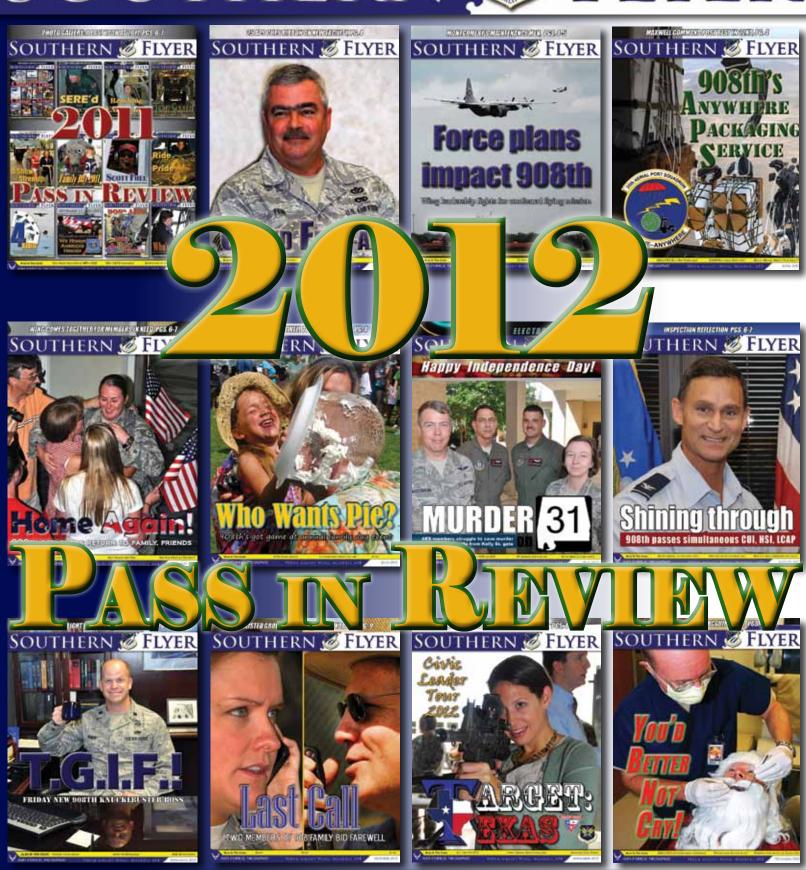
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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: THE CHALLENGES OF 2013

Prepping for ORI

FOND FAREWELLS

Vol. 51 Issue 01 January 2013

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2013: Getting back to basics

Thope all had a nice Christmas holiday and are ready to face the Lachallenge of a new year! As we

start 2013, I want each of you to remember back to when you signed up to serve in the military.

That may require some dusting out the cobwebs for some of us! Of course there are many different reasons why we joined, but we all were taught the basics of service in the service in the

military Those fundamentals form the all those are meaningless without foundation on which we went on to learn our individual skill sets. They bind us together and allow us to excel as a squadron, wing and service.

It is time we go back to basics! Why, you may ask? Because this Wing heads into 2013 with one goal in mind – begin preparations for the ORI. In order to adequately prepare, we all must know the fundamentals.

Just like a sports team cannot compete on the highest level without each individual being an expert in the fundamentals, we cannot excel in the ORI without each of you being an expert in the fundamentals of readiness.

Now is the time to go back and refresh yourself on the basics: re-

view your Airman's Manual, attend an ORI prep class, pay attention to details in the exercises that are begin-

> ning to take place on a recurring basis. These are just a few of the things you can do regardless of your rank.

> Some of us have already started, but if you have not, it is imperative that you start now.

Wing leadership is LT. COL. PATRICK ALBRECHT preparing goals, time-Deputy Commander, 908th MSG lines and training, but

> you knowing the basics. If you have not been through an ORI before, find someone that has and gain some understanding. If you are a supervisor, seek out the experts and set up training classes for your Airmen.

> The Maintenance Group has already started with ORI 101. Utilize the expertise of the EM personnel in the 908 CES. Be proactive if you are the expert and set up the training.

We are tied together as a wing, groups, squadrons and Airmen by fundamentals. That is what allowed us to overcome some big hurdles this past year, so let us see what we can accomplish in 2013 by getting back to basics!



As the calendar turns over, each New Year brings with it new opportunities, new challenges, and a fresh start. Life is dynamic and constantly moving along. While we should "enjoy the moment" when we succeed and are on top, we need to be careful lest our enjoyment turns into pride, laziness, or a sense of entitlement.

The next year (or season) rolls around, and if we don't constantly improve and continue to work hard, success will pass us by.

On the flip side, if 2012 was a disappointment, whether personally or professionally, now is the time to pick yourself and your unit up. Renew your faith in God. Believe that 2013 will be different; then do what it takes to make it different! Set some new goals, put a plan in place, determine to work hard, and then go for it.

Although we started 2012 with some disheartening news, we achieved great success in the recent inspections, and we're going out on a high. But we can't let down, as 2013 will demand the highest efforts from each of us.

Our prayers and support are with all our deployers and their loved ones, whether it be Ops and Maintenance this month, the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in spring, or Security Forces in fall. We don't dare rest on the laurels, or dwell on the failures, of 2012.

By God's grace, let's make 2013 the greatest year in the history of the 908th!



Reserve Pay: What should you do with it?

By Staff Sgt. Tony Keith 908th FM

One of the many benefits of being a Reservist is the opportunity to earn significant part-time income for one weekend a month and an additional fifteen days per year of work. In fact, depending on your rank, you can earn between \$4,000 and \$15,000 annually from being in the Air Force Reserve.

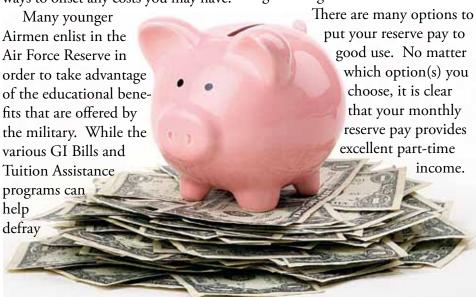
So, what can you do with this money? Although a numbered Swiss account is probably a stretch, there are options you should consider.

One use for this pay is to supplement the pay you receive from your civilian occupation. You can use it to buy additional food, gas or groceries for you and your family, contribute to your car payment, pay your power bill, or use it in a number of other ways to offset any costs you may have.

the ever-increasing costs of tuition, room and board, and books, it is an often-overlooked fact that your monthly drill pay can help offset living expenses, such as food, gas and entertainment all students incur.

Another option many take advantage of is investing a portion of their monthly Reserve pay in the Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP. This plan is helping veterans save for retirement, particularly those Airmen that do not have access to a 401(K) or similar account through their civilian employers. It should be noted that the average airman that opens a TSP account upon entering the service and contributes 10 percent of their annual pay for 20 years could accumulate over \$50,000 to help supplement their retirement savings.

This proves it's never too early to begin saving for retirement!







COVER PHOTO:

A collection of cover shots of the 2012 Southern Flyers adorn this month's cover.

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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

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

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BY COMBINING THE RIGHT ELEMENTS. WING PREPS FOR READINESS INSPECTION

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder 908th AW Public Affairs

Although the 908th's next Operational Readiness Inspection won't take place until 2015, there's a great deal to accomplish, and the wing is beginning the training that will help it pass the ORI with flying colors.

The training also helps Airmen prepare for real-world events.

"These deployment exercises ensure 908th members are prepared in case a real-world deployment comes up," said Master Sgt. John Mitchell, NCOIC, Commanders Support Staff, "the training keeps us sharp and ready to go on a moments notice."



Every unit had a two-hour time block scheduled for the exercise Sunday of the November UTA.

Lt. Col. Doran Gillie led the exercise and was seen almost everywhere monitoring and advising participants.

"We have an annual requirement to do certain exercises," said Gillie, "This exercise satisfied the requirement for an annual ORE and a periodic deployment exercise which is supposed to be

done every 24 months."

Units used the exercise to conduct recall exercises and detailed review of the mobility folders. Airmen practiced donning chemical gear, going through deployment lines and received briefs on what to expect while preparing for a deployment.

Senior Master Sgt. Martha Roy of the 908th FSS monitored deployment lines as well as portions of the chemical suit training said she was pleased with the outcome of the exercise.

"We are always looking at ways to make the process more efficient," she

Besides the primary objective of conducting the exercise, Gillie also noted a secondary objective. "The activities we decided to focus on, help us identify all of the equipment we have by inventorying it," he said, "so we are ready for our ORI preparation which will begin in earnest as soon as our deployment comes back."

Two years may seem to be a long time, but training needs to start now as Gillie explained how the squadrons in the wing will begin preparations for the ORI. "We want to identify who will be the probable participants in the ORI," said Gillie, "so we can give the appropriate training to folks particularly those who will be facility managers

and members of PAR teams." Gillie said training would probably begin after the New Year so unit participants would be ready for the Reserve Assistant visit September, 2013.

"It will be special team training for PAR teams and individual training for ATSO and Self-Aid and Buddy Care," said Gillie.

The exercises being conducted and those taking place in the future will keep the wing deployment ready.

"These types of exercises ensure deployers maintain a readiness posture at all times to meet the ongoing and contingency operation requirements," said Roy, "The more we practice, the better we get."



SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS:

What are you willing to do?

By Chief Master Sergeant Leon Alexander 908th AMXS

Despite living in college football country, most Alabamans have heard of Wayne Gretzky. He was an average-sized player with average speed; nonetheless, he is considered to be the greatest hockey player of all time. He was a master of watching the game, anticipating changes, and preparing for future outcomes.

In an interview, he was asked what contributed to his highly successful career.

"A good hockey player plays to where the puck is," he replied. "A great hockey player plays to where the puck is going to be." Because of its visionary nature, his quote is a hallmark in many leadership courses throughout the corporate world regarding both self development and organizational mission success.

The military, like its civilian counterparts, realizes today's mission is fast-paced, fiscally constrained, and steadily unsteady. In order to quickly adapt to this everchanging mission and be able to skate where the puck will be, senior leadership needs a well-developed, prepared workforce of professional Airmen. Hence lays the premise behind enlisted force development. Development is more than doing what is needed to get your next

It's about learning a new skill, self confidence, or better aptitude to become partners with senior leadership in order to assist them in building a superior organization. Personal career success will ultimately come to those individuals committed to developing themselves, their teammates, and their organizations.

The archaic mindset where enlisted personnel were promoted for doing a good job was commonplace when they were viewed simply as a subordinate, blue-collar workforce. Today promotions are based on the whole Wingman concept. After all, AFI 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure, mandates all ranks must continue to "develop institutional competencies in preparation for increased responsibilities while continuing to broaden technical skills and pursuing professional development through on- and off-duty education."

That being said, how can a person say he or she is

more deserving of a promotion when a contemporary sitting next to them has a master's degree, completed all the required PME, and is mentoring his or her trainees to do the same? The analytical skill sets and initiative of the latter rival those of many commanders and bring far more to the organization as a whole than somebody who simply does a good job.

People often procrastinate completing mandatory PME under the false pretense they are stuck in a slot with no room for advancement. As a result, they take on a "skate-to-the- puck" mentality. As many know, the game is subject to swift and frequent changes, so good employees often lose to the Airmen who stay ahead of the game -- like Gretzky.

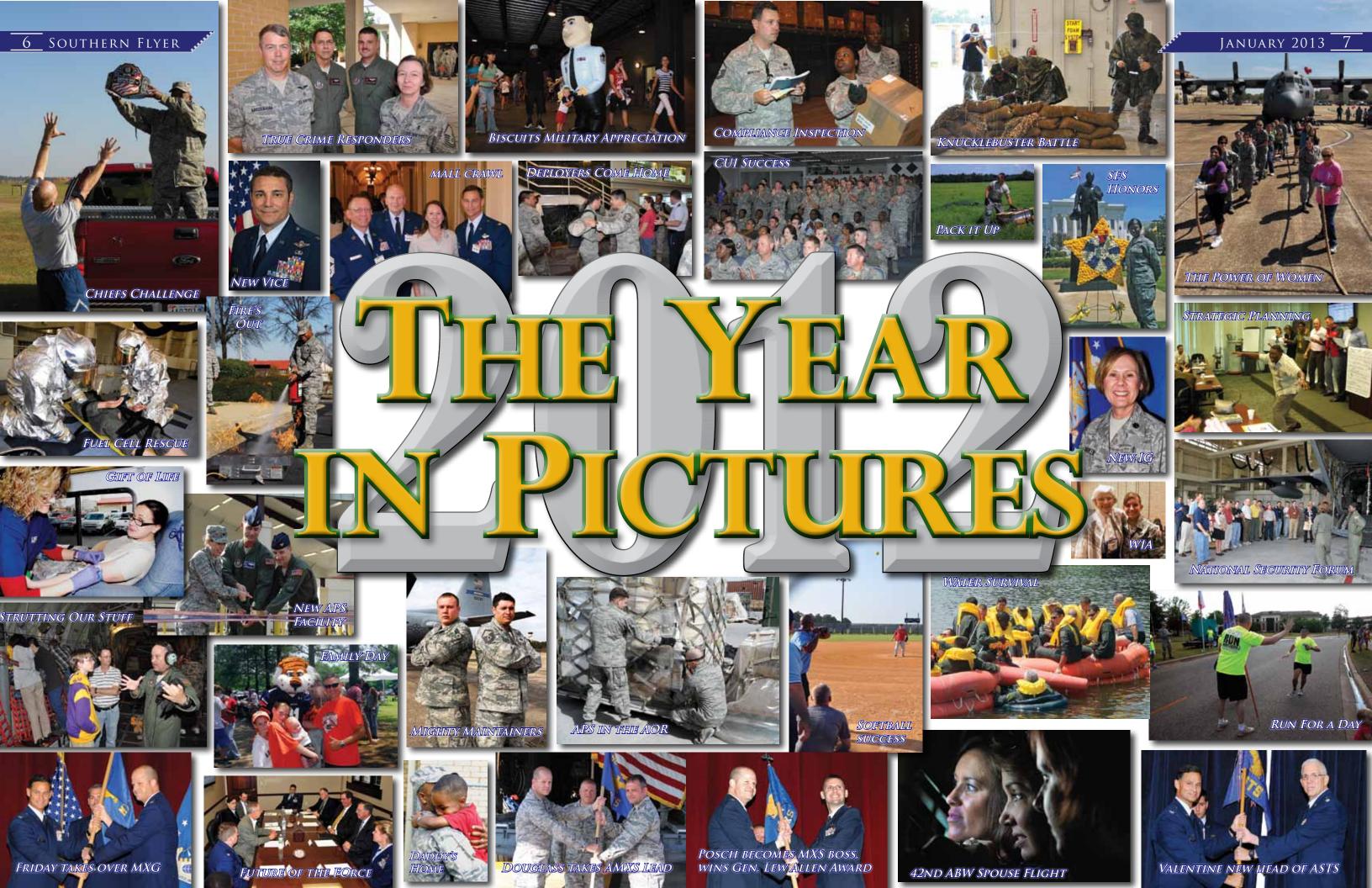
What is the key to successful enlisted advancement? First and foremost, complete your PME and earn your CCAF. Active duty mandates a CCAF for promotion to SMSgt and is looking to make it mandatory for MSgt as well. Why would the Reserve Component lower this standard?

Second, become engaged in perpetual learning. Try earning your Professional Manger Certification, complete Joint SNCO PME, or apply for other leadership courses. Complete the NCOLDP or SNCOLC. Above all, mentor your fellow Airmen to do the same.

Remember, mentoring in the military is both an obligation and a privilege. It provides the foundation to bring culture change to an organization by developing competent future leaders. One of the ongoing themes during the SMSgt and CMSgt PEP boards is what has the person done for other Airmen.

Caring for the Airmen is the foremost principle to enlisted development. Part of this comes in taking a tough stance on leadership enforcing issues. To establish a culture of excellence, caring for the Airmen must include setting and high standards. Taking a coddling approach to leadership, overlooking substandard performances, does not benefit anybody and eventually results in marginal results.

Developing future leaders for the 908th is not an easy task, but as Nick Saban asked his team, "how good do you want to be? How hard are you willing to work at it?"















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Council provides ways to improve workforce The purpose of the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) is to advise and make recommendations to the wing commander, on any and all matters pertaining to human resources within the wing.

Essentially, HRDC provides a direct line to get ideas to the wing commander for consideration to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of wing operations.

Our vision is to create a dynamic organization of equal opportunity that successfully attracts, develops, and retains a diverse and effective workforce. There are three working groups that guide the thoughts and actions of our HRDC Council.

The Inreach Working Group is responsible for developing initiatives that facilitate the development of all assigned wing personnel. This includes retention, recognition, mentoring, personal and professional development, and advancement. It is also the responsibility of the group to promote and maintain the Wingman Resource Center.

"I attended the HRDC meeting because I was curi-

ous. I knew It had to do with helping others and I wanted to see what it was all about and how it worked. Now that I have attended the meeting, I understand that it not only has to do with the 908th, but also the community outside the 908th."

- Airman 1st Class Corey Hall

The Outreach Working Group is responsible for facilitating activities and projects related to community outreach. Its primary objective is to reach out to the people of Alabama, with special emphasis on the Central Alabama/River Region, to tell the story of Maxwell AFB's citizen airmen, and to facilitate the recruitment of qualified and/or potential candidates for the Air Force Reserve

The Diversity Awareness working group will develop initiatives that facilitate celebrating the diversity

within our wing. This includes but is not limited to planning special events that coincide with annual observances and ensuring such observances are publicized. Working group coordination with the base regarding special events and observances will be critical to the success of diversity awareness.

This group also works to ensure the 908th mirrors the community we serve. This group publicizes and encourages attendance to HRDC-related conferences such as Women In Aviation, LULAC, Tuskegee Airmen, and others.

In a nutshell, HRDC works in the community through our outreach efforts; we provide guidance and discussion about future opportunities such as education and training, to make yourself ready for the next step in your career.

You are invited to attend HRDC meetings, held each UTA Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Wing Conference Room. Learn more about how to broaden your career; how to share what you know with fellow airmen; and how to recruit for the 908th.

25 APS BIDS SUPER GOODBYE



The 25th Aerial Port Squadron recently bid farewell to Chief Master Sgt. Adriel D. Carr, unit superintendent. Carr retired from the Air Force Reserve after 21 years of service. Carr spent his entire career as a "port dawg," and said he wouldn't trade it for anything else.

"I have had a wonderful career at the 908th, specifically within the 25 Aerial Port Squadron," he said. "I've deployed with these people and they know what they're doing."

"He overcame incredible adversity, he always reached back and looked forward," said Lt. Col. Vanessa Dornhoefer, 25 APS commander. "He did an incredible job balancing his priorities between his family, his military career, and his civilian career."

Carr said he looks forward to spending more time with his family in the future, plans to remain in the local area, and is only a phone call away. "I'm not dead, I'm just retired," he said.



On Dec. 17, members and supporters of Airman Committed to Excellence volunteered at the Montgomery Zoo. Members assisted with loading and unloading train passengers. ACE members were Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Curtis, LRS; Senior Airmen Jeremiah McGough, 25 APS; Robert Booker, CES; and Shaniqua Rogers, FSS.

New to the 908th

Lt. Col. James L. Hartle, MXG Capt. Kevin M. Johnson, ASTS Capt. Wendy P. Lovelace, AES Staff Sgt. Tina M. Ashley, LRS Staff Sgt. Enrique M. Carrillo Jr., MXS Staff Sgt. Briana L. Collins, CES Staff Sgt. Alvarez B. Kennedy, OSS Staff Sgt. Quenteric Reed, FSS Senior Airman Kenneth E. Andrews, MXS Senior Airman Christopher M. Schaub, MXG Senior Airman Santana M. Williams, 357 AS

Airman 1st Class Samaletta B. Collins, MXS Airman 1st Class Ericka D. Sanders, 25 APS Airman 1st Class O.Z. Sullivan, CES Airman Ravon Levy, CES Airman Yasir J. Reynolds, ASTS Airman James A. Robbins, CES Airman Robert L. Tremble, MXS Basic Airman Kayla A. Harris, ASTS Basic Airman Ashley M. Harris, MXS Basic Airman Rian D. Lewis, OSS

Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. Kevin D. Fugua Maj. Travis L. Shults Chief Master Sgt. Godfrey Hutto, ASTS Senior Master Sgt. Andres E. Soler, 25 APS Master Sgt. Roger L. Butler, OSS Master Sgt. George H. Campbell, LRS Master Sgt. Samuel M. Ferrell, FSS Master Sgt. Michael J. Guerin, FSS Master Sgt. Rose L. Hall, OG

Master Sgt. Charles E. Hammond, 25 APS Master Sgt. Ralph E. Hood, 25 APS Master Sgt. John T. O'Connor, FSS Master Sgt. Michael Talley, SFS Master Sgt. Peggy S. Thomas, CES Tech. Sgt. Christopher J. Foley, CES Tech. Sgt. Christy Houston, OSS Tech. Sgt. Tdera Jarman, LRS

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place April 6 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*



Master Sergeant



Jeffery L. James Loretta V. Moore

Staff Sergeant



Jacoby L. Cotton Adam C. Wood

Senior Airman



Doran E. Allen

Airman



James M. Starns Brandon K. Thomas Steven D. Ward







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