MANTANERS MAKEFYB BEST EVER, PG.4





Wing commander leaves 908th for new horizons with 94th



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

AF FAMILY MAKES MODEL DONATION

SHUTDOWN GROUNDS 908TH

New Faces Taking Charge

Vol. 50 Issue 010 November 2012

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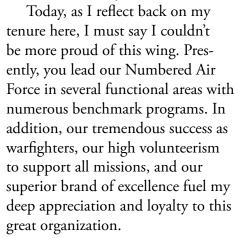
908AW: My source of pride

COL. BRETT CLARK

little over five years ago I moved to Montgomery, Ala., to take command

of the 908th Airlift Wing. In those initial days, I had a few pre-conceived notions and expectations about this wing.

In short, I assumed you might lack the drive and vigor to achieve at the highest standard. That impression quickly reversed after only a Commander 908th Airlift Wing few weeks on the job.



More importantly, my greatest source of pride is in the direction you are headed, as reinforced recently by our headquarters' recent commitment to support funding

for comprehensive facility improvements within the 908th.

> Clearly, your value continues to grow as time passes.

> > Today, the 908th enjoys unified support from our Maxwell AFB mission partners, federal and state political officials, and river region business leaders. Indeed, the environment for future success and growth

> > > shines bright for the 908th. And who wouldn't want to

rally around this wing? You are an organization absolutely determined to be the best.

Five years ago you set the following vision: To ensure that the 908th Airlift Wing is widely recognized as an elite unit where each member considers it a privilege to belong to an organization rich with pride and dedicated to a legacy of high achievement.

My question to you is: are we there yet? If not, you're damn close.

In closing, I'll just say stay on your path, and it was an honor and privilege to command the 908th Airlift Wing!



CH. (CAPT.) MATTHEW HOSHOR

The Yellow Ribbon Program is an opportunity for you and your family to spend a weekend together reconnecting after your deployment. Everyone who deploys in support of a contingency operation for more than 60 days has the opportunity to attend two post-deployment events.

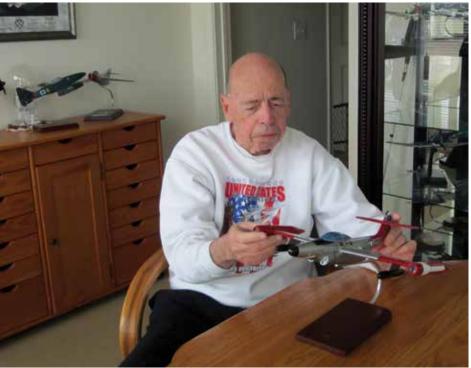
The Air Force Reserve Command sponsors these monthly events at resorts throughout the country. Your family members are encouraged to attend with you on invitational orders.

Over the past two years, Chaplain Dersch has done a great job coordinating this program for the 908th. Having accepted an exciting offer to serve at Yellow Ribbon HQ in Warner Robins, Ga., he will no longer be able to perform these duties.

Before his departure, Col. Clark appointed me to be the Wing's Yellow Ribbon Representative.

If you have questions about how to attend an event, when and where they are, or whether you qualify, please contact me by e-mail at Matthew. Hoshor@ US.AF.mil, or call his office: (334) 953-5272





Air Force Col. Bob Ditch (Ret.), displays one of the many aircraft models he and his son Rob, also a retired colonel, have donated to Maxwell Air force Base.

Model Citizens

Air Force family makes impressive donation to Maxwell

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

An Air Force family's impressive collection of aircraft models will be on display in various buildings across Maxwell.

In late September, 175 wooden, hand-painted aircraft models, collected over their careers by retired Air Force Cols. Bob and Rob Ditch, arrived at Maxwell.

"My father, Colonel Bob Ditch, was progressively going blind, which was one of the reasons he was medically retired from the Air Force," said Rob Ditch. "One day I was in the Bergstrom Air Force Base clothing sales store and saw a wooden F-106 model. I bought it for him, and he loved it. From then on for his birthdays, Father's Days, and Christmases, I would give him models associated with his past as well as

aircraft I was associated with during my career."

The elder Ditch also purchased models on his own for the collection.

"Collecting these aircraft was a way my father and I could share our experiences from one career officer to another; [between us there are] 66 years and seven combat tours of combined Air Force service from post-World War II Europe, to Vietnam and Thailand, and Korea, to Somalia, the Balkans, and later Southwest Asia," Rob Ditch said.

As time went by and Bob Ditch's eyesight deteriorated, he would open the boxes and feel the aircraft. Eventually, he became completely blind and now can no longer appreciate them as he once did. The father and son then decided it was time to find a place where the aircraft could be

Southern Flyer

COVER PHOTO:

Col. Brett Clark, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, receives a wet down in champagne after completing his final flight. He is now the wing commander of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins ARB Ga.

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

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 SOUTHERN FLYER MEWS FEATURE NOVEMBER 2013 5 NEWS FEATURE 🔏

Maintaining Altitude

908th MXG meets challenges to attain

> By Gene H. Hughes 908th AW Public Affairs







To most folks, being told they're "in a fix" would usually be grounds for concern.

For members of the 908th Mainteheights of excellence nance Group, it's a reason to celebrate.

> The past year has been a period of one benchmark after another for the ratchet turners of the 908th Airlift Wing; one in a long history of proven excellence.

> The 908th MXG attained a 90.4 MC rating for the year, among the highest ever for a C-130 wing. The rating is not only for the highest in the history of the 908th, but the 22nd Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command as well.

"Every member of the maintenance group bought into a vision to be the best at every endeavor," said Chief Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, superintendent, 908th Maintenance Squadron. "Management provided tools, recognition, autonomy, and protection, then empowered our phenomenal team to achieve the impossible."

The group also set a new record and personal best with a nine-day fly-to-fly Isochronal inspection for 2013, besting the AFRC standard by 12 days, as well as having its aircraft spending less down time in a non-mission capable status. The C-130H2 departed the hangar on 21 May, flew a local mission and returned with zero discrepancies.

According to Lt. Col. James Hartle, deputy commander of the 908th Maintenance Group, it is the people that make the Maxwell-based organization so successful.

"I've been a part of 10 different maintenance organizations in my career, so I've seen the good and the not so good, trust me when I say this...nobody does maintenance better than the 908th Maintenance Group, nobody!"

to meet mission requirements with three less aircraft than authorized. In addition there was an average of two aircraft in programmed depot maintenance for the year, and another on loan to the Flying Training Unit at Little Rock, making the accomplishment all that more impressive.

To add another challenge, the group had to deploy two aircraft and about 50 maintainers overseas for 120 days to support Operation Enduring Freedom. "This was a year wrought with challenges, but the MXG survived with shining colors," Hartle said.

In addition to its other accomplishments, the group completed its flying hour program two weeks early. By Sept. 18, the program had achieved 1,550 hours.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be leading the best maintainers in the history of the AFRC C-130 operations," said Lt. Col. Brad Douglass, commander of the 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "Our ability to sustain such a high level of aircraft readiness over the past year, even while deployed to OEF, is a testament to the dedication of each airman in the 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. This MC rate of 90.4 percent proves we are ready to meet our mission."

According to Senior Airmen Kendall Williams and Bryan Renforth, aircraft crew chiefs, the members "just come out and do our best to get the job done to put planes in the air safely."

And as the wing prepares to commemorate its 50th anniversary in December, maintainers aren't even taking time to look back on past achievements. After all, it's a new fiscal year, and there are still planes to maintain.

"We strive to be the best, so we expect In the past year, 908th maintainers had to be the best," said Master Sgt. Jody Keen.

Newest 908th commanders mix of fresh, familiar faces

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

As it is time for a change in the seasons, it is also a time for change at the 908th as the wing meets a new vice commander and two squadrons gain new commanders.

Not only a navigator, but a lawyer as well, Col. Jennie Johnson arrived as the new vice commander but found herself as acting commander as Col. Brett Clark moved on to Dobbins ARB to command the 94th Airlift Wing.

Johnson said it will a great opportunity to learn about the wing while getting to know the people in the Maxwell community.

"I like to really dig in like that at the beginning of my tenure in a new position," she said. "It's going to give me the chance to see where I can really make a difference."

Johnson earned her law degree from William and Mary. Now working out of her company's Denver office, she helps national companies file their taxes when she's not uniform.

Col. Johnson said wing members may expect leadership by example because she will not ask anyone to do something she's not willing to do.

"You should expect to work hard, because I expect a lot from you," she said. "We're not going to just sit here and stagnate while waiting for the new wing commander to show up."

Lt. Col. Barry H. Crane assumed command of the 908th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Crane brings considerable expertise to his new job



Above, Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark welcomes Col. Jennie R. Johnson as the 908th's new vice commander. Below left, Lt. Col. Patrick Albrecht assumes command of the 908th CES. Below right, Lt. Col. Barry Crane takes over the 908th LRS.

as the former operations officer for the 445th LRS at Wright-Patterson

AFB. A graduate of the Citadel in Charleston, S.C., he works as a contractor/consultant to the Air Force in changemanagement.

Crane explained he will be taking a more strategic approach with the unit. He said he is not a micro-manager, but likes to allow supervisors to lead. "It's a very successful squadron and nothing is broken," said Crane but added, "There's always ways to improve something."

The new commander described how he was going to focus on the strategic view for the squadron including training and mentoring.

"I'm excited," said Crane, "I think there's a lot of opportunity here. It's been a well-run squadron and I want to add value where I can."

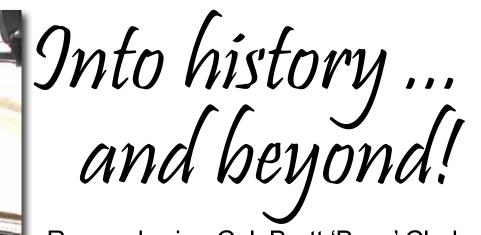
Lt. Col. Patrick Albrecht, the new

908th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, is an Air Force Academy grad with a history within the 908th, having served in several positions, such as the wing's IG, where he was awarded the Lt.



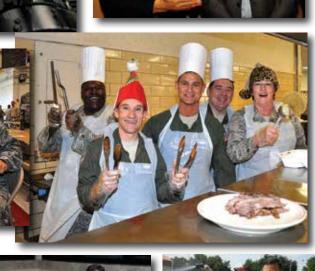
Gen. John P. Flynn IG Award.

"I am truly excited about this opportunity to be part of CE again," he said. "It was over 12 years ago that I last signed in to the squadron, but honestly, CE has never left my blood," said Albrecht.



Remembering Col. Brett 'Buzz' Clark Wing Commander, June 2008 - October 2013













Shutdown!

Wing experiences setbacks due to 16-day governement stoppage

By Gene H. Hughes 908th AW Public Affairs

Furloughed employees of the 908th Airlift Wing have been back on the job for some time, but several questions remain as the 16-day partial government shutdown ended.

Following the shutdown, which sent full-time employees home and grounded Alabama's only Air Force Reserve fleet of C-130s, things are finally returning to normal.

The impact was felt immediately by the wing, which was forced to cancel its October weekend drills, formally known as "Unit Training Assemblies." Reservists are required to continue training one weekend each month to maintain proficiency. The units also train an additional two weeks a year.

According to Col. Brett Clark, commander of the 908th, the weekend has been rescheduled for Nov. 16-17, two weeks after the regular

November UTA.

"Following the shutdown, our Airmen have been scheduled to resume training to maintain readiness," he said. "Many of you had to make alternate plans to complete two UTAs in a month... Unit commanders are continuously modifying training plans to make up for the lost opportunities brought about by this fiscal crisis."

"The bottom line: We will do what is necessary to ensure we maintain the highest level of combat readiness."

There are approximately 1,200

members of the Reserve unit, but only 207 are full-time reserve Airmen and civilians, those most affected by the partial shutdown, which began Oct. 1. Most civilian employees were recalled back to work the following week after the Pay Our Military Act was signed by the president.

"The pace of change has happened at such a rate that even the most ardent 'budgeteer' scrambles to pick a point in time to plan and execute that plan," said Greg Hardy, the wing's chief financial officer.

NOVEMBER 2013

The shutdown came soon after this year's sequestration, when the same-affected personnel had to go home without pay one day a week for a six-week period. Civilians and Air Reserve Technicians are receiving pay for the recent furlough time, but the peace of mind could be short lived, as another cessation of operations and training could occur within a few short weeks.

"As a single father of four, anything that affects my paycheck whether a cut in pay or a delay in pay has a ripple effect," said Tech. Sgt. David Stinson of the 908th Maintenance Squadron, "Sequestration this past summer, and now the

SHUTDOWN, NEXT PAGE

Col. Brett Clark, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, says a few words about the service of Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. David Dersch upon the latter's departure to take charge of AFRC's Yellow Ribbon program.



AROUND THE WING



Col. Clark purchaes the first two tickets for the wing's 50th Anniversary Celebration from Wing PAO Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb. The event will take place Dec. 7 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Montgomery.



Col. Edward Jennings, commander of the 908th Ops Group, presents a C-130 lithograph to Col. Clark during his farewell lunch. Clark is taking command of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins ARB.



Col. Clark coins Chief Master Sgt. Brent Solomon of the 357th Airlift Squadron for his receiving an "exceptionally qualified" rating during the Flight Evaluation by HQ AMC.

SHUTDOWN, FROM PAGE 7

government shutdown, hit hard this year. Sadly I make too much to get aid yet; not enough to get ahead.

Master Sgt. Barbara Owens of the 25th Aerial Port Squadron said that in the short term, she and her fiancé (both government employees) were severely strapped for money, and had to make some difficult choices.

"I had to defer payments on all of my bills that were due because I had to be certain that we had money for groceries and after-school care, school lunches and so on, " she said. "This caused us to incur late fees as well. We weren't sure how long the shutdown would last so this was an unfortunate necessity."

The hard-fought conflict over the budget, debt ceiling and the president's Affordable Care Act which led to the shutdown has been ended, but the recent deal only grants a reprieve until during January, at which time the continuing resolution expires.

Another crisis might arise if another agreement isn't reached, but for now, the sound of C-130 engines firing up on the Maxwell flightline is a welcome sound.

"This is yet another example of the sacrifices our people have endured and are prepared to make in the future," Clark said. "Obviously, I know these cuts cannot continue without significant implications. I can only hope that normal fiscal processes are restored soon!"

"Regardless of the hand we're dealt, we will find a way to succeed. Our wing has suffered through several days without a civilian workforce due to sequestration, but our mission hasn't changed and neither has our standard."

MODELS,

- FROM PAGE 3

displayed and appreciated by current and future Air Force officers.

The large collection includes the F-86 in which pilots flew "Zulu Patrols" over the Berlin corridors and B-36s and B-50s from the early Strategic Air Command days that Bob Ditch supported as an enlisted man and young officer.

The collection also includes the Arch Light B-52s and F-105s he supported later from Anderson and Takli Air Force bases during the Vietnam War.

Also included is the EC-121 Constellation and multiple gunships and transports the younger Ditch worked and crewed as a young noncommissioned officer aircraft mechanic in Southeast Asia, the C-9s and C-130s he flew on as an aeromedical evacuation crew member as a young officer, and the variety of airlift and tactical aircraft he worked with while planning and supporting operations in the Balkans, Southwest Asia and Africa.

In addition, the collection also includes a UH-60 Blackhawk model, an aircraft piloted by Bob Ditch's

grandson during his three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

All in all, the collection represents a family of three officers' experiences with 66 years of U.S. military aviation.

Since both Ditches spent time at Maxwell attending Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, the Academic Instructor's Course, as well as many other operations and wartime planning courses, they contacted Air University in March to ask if the Air University would accept and display their collection.

Over the next several months, Dr. Robert Kane, Air University historian, and John Kongable, of the Air University Judge Advocate General office, finalized the donation request. Then, transport of the models from Bob Ditch's home began. A team of seven Airmen from the Texas Air National Guard assembled at Ditch's house in Coppell, Texas, recovering and transporting the collection to Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.

On Sept. 24, the collection arrived aboard a Texas Air National Guard C-130 from the 136th Airlift Wing, Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. Colonel Edward Vaughn, the Air National Guard liaison to Air University, arranged for the Guard



unit to pick up the collection from the Ditch residence, temporarily store them in their facilities, and then fly them to Maxwell.

When the aircraft landed, members of the 908th Airlift Wing's 25th Aerial Port Squadron quickly performed an engine-running offload of the pallet of shipping containers. Within minutes, the plane was unloaded and once again airborne. The squadron members carried the pallet to the Air University historian's office, where Kane, aerial porters and a few extra hands helped unpack the models.

According to Kane, the models will be placed in displays in the Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center, Air Command and Staff College, Civil Air Patrol and Air War College buildings.

"On behalf of Air University, I'd like to thank the Ditches for donating the aircraft and the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units that made the display possible," Kane said. "Their collection will be enjoyed and appreciated by the students, staff and guests of Air University schools and research center for years to come."



New to the 908th

Col. Jennie R. Johnson, 908 AW Lt. Col. Barry H. Crane, LRS Lt. Col. Stephen A. Coppi, 357 AS Lt. Col. William L. Hoggatt, 908 AW Mai. David K. Bates, MXS Capt. Amanda L. Casconi, FSS Capt. Tye J. Dodson, 357 AS Tech. Sgt Robert E. Light, MXG Tech. Sgt. Leborius J. Williams, MXS Staff Sgt. Dante A. Davis, MXS Staff Sgt. Sannu P. Cummings Brooks, FSS Staff Sgt. Demetrius King, MXS Staff Sgt Matthew B. Mobley, CES

Senior Airman Jacqueline P. Doss, FSS Senior Airman Lataisha V. James, 357 AS Senior Airman Nathaniel A. Parrow, ASTS Senior Airman Maura D. Patillo, ASTS Senior Airman Marcus D. Penn. AMXS Senior Airman Ryanna R. Thames, ASTS Senior Airman Dustin G. Turner, 908 AW Airman 1st Class Jessie R. Lionberger, LRS Airman 1st Class Vincent D. Senegar, MXS Airman 1st Class Alicia T. Thompson, ASTS Airman Basic Louis L. Field, LRS Airman Basic Ykeona R. Kelley, OSS Airman Cody A. Kulp, 25 APS

Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. Noreen Burke, ASTS Master Sgt. Teresa J. Morgan, ASTS Staff Sgt. David G. Powell, ASTS

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. in Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Defining Moments Define Your Leadership

The choices we make in critical moments form us and inform others about our true nature. Defining moments put us in the spotlight. During crises, we don't have time to put a spin on our actions.

Whatever lies inside of us is revealed to everyone. Handled well, a defining moment can cement a relationship and bond leaders and followers together for life. Handled poorly, a defining moment can cost a leader her credibility and end her ability to lead.

Effective leaders must be intentional about their growth - repair

and prepare daily by reflecting on the day that was and the day to come.

Monthly Leadership Chal**lenge:** This month, reflect on

your past and future defining mo-

- 1. What did you reveal about your leadership ability during your last crisis?
- 2. What have you learned from other leaders during moments of crisis?
- 3. How will those lessons prepare you for future defining moments?



Senior Master Sergeant



Herbert K. Pfeiffer

Master Sergeant



Kimberly Pettway Ronald P. Quinton Joshua L. Simons

Technical Sergeant

Wesley S. Carnes Anthony R.J. Cunningham Charles W. Doucet Lee P. Phillips Christopher S. Stewart Lashunda M. Willis

Staff Sergeant



Marcus M. Black Christopher B. Bridges Joseph F. Peterson Alan S. Thompson

Delois D. Wilson

Senior Airman



Jody Armstrong Jr. James A. Robbins Carl Jr. Ross

Airman First Class



Michael J. Coleman Devin J. Hunter Rain D. Lewis

Airman



Soliel K. Albright Le Borius J. Williams



INAUGURAL 5K FUN RUN & SPORTS DAY

Who: 908th Airlift Wing When: Nov. 16, 2013 from 2 - 5 p.m. Where: Maxwell AFB Sports Field Why: To promote fitness and camaraderie!

Events to include: 5K fun run (Trophies to include Fastest Chief, Fastest First Sqt, Fastest CGO, Fastest SNCO, Fastest NCO, Fastest Amn) Kickball tourney Horseshoe Tourney 3-Point Basketball tourney

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

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Santa Claus will be arriving via a 908th C-130 at 10 a.m. Dec. 7 in the Half-Bay hangar. Make plans now to bring your little ones out to give Santa their Christmas wish lists and have their photo taken with him.