

908TH SFS TAKES PART IN PATRIOT DEFENDER, PG. 5

SOUTHERN FLYER



908TH CES: **POINTING THE WAY**

Also In This Issue:

SUMMER HEAT SAFETY

COMMUNICATING WITH 357TH'S NEW CHIEF

AF's INSPECTION CULTURE SHIFT

 **AIR FORCE RESERVE**

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

JULY 2014

SOUTHERN
FLYER

Vol. 51 Issue 7
July 2014

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Take charge, 'Beat the Heat'

As we get into the Alabama summer and the temperatures continue to rise, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat illnesses as members of the "Fit to Fight" culture.

Heat illness is caused by over exposure to hot environments. There are three types of heat illness: heat cramps (often caused by dehydration), heat exhaustion (also caused by dehydration), and heat stroke (shock, a medical emergency).

Symptoms of heat cramps are profuse sweating, fatigue, thirst and muscle cramps. If you notice someone experiencing any of these symptoms, move them to a cool place and apply cool cloths or cool water directly to their skin. A fan can also be used to help lower their body temperature. If left untreated, heat cramps can lead to heat exhaustion.

Heat exhaustion is characterized by more severe symptoms and needs to be treated immediately. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and possible

weakness. A person suffering from heat exhaustion needs to be treated immediately to avoid the possibility of the most severe heat illness, heat stroke.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency that, if left untreated, can lead to death. Symptoms of heat stroke include, fever of 104 degrees or greater, extreme confusion, rapid breathing, seizures, and loss of consciousness.

A call to 911 should be made as soon as possible for someone suffering from heat stroke.

Heat illnesses are easily preventable by taking precautions in hot weather such as wearing loose-fitting, lightweight clothing. Rest frequently and seek shade when possible. Avoid exercise or strenuous physical activity outside during hot or humid weather. Drink more fluids before, during, and after physical activity. Be careful of hot cars in the summer and allow the car to cool off before getting in.

By following these heat illness safety tips, you will be able to safely work and play during these hot summer months.



MSGT. ORENTIA HERREN
908th ASTS



CH. (LT. COL.) W. LANCE HOGGATT

July is a time when flags are unfurled, bands play, and backyard barbecues heat up. Citizen Airmen are examples of patriotism in their communities 365 days a year. Our nation respects their patriotism. Employers support them in fulfilling military commitments. Families support us when we are away from home for one weekend a month, multiple TDY days, or a six-month deployment.

We are blessed to live in a nation where patriotism is honored. Unfortunately, this has not always been true. There was a time, not too long ago, when military members were spat upon and called "baby killers." In those days, if a military member went through an airport they could not wear their uniform for fear of injury or insult.

Thankfully those days are behind us. Now we proudly wear our uniform as we transient airports. Many of us have been recipients of the generosity of others who have thanked us for our service, shook our hands to say how proud of us they are, bought us a cup of coffee, or even a meal.

President Kennedy said "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." These ideals are at the very heart of every Airman's patriotism. Today, our great nation faces many struggles but as Dwight Eisenhower said "there is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence, and energy of her citizens cannot cure."

Fellow Citizen Airmen we are up to this great task because "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."



The 411 on the GTC

By Debbie Smith
908th FM

It's that time of the year when many Reservists are going TDY for annual tour. When preparing for your TDY, you need to be prepared and proactive so when you get to your TDY location your GTC card is on and working with no issues.

Get your Citibank card out and check the expiration date. If card is nearing its expiration, Citibank should mail a new card to you within 30 days of the expiration. Make sure your home address is correct at Citibank. You can call the 800 number on the back of the card and verify your mailing address. If the address is incorrect they will change it over the phone.

There are three types of card limits for Reservists:

Reservists have either a standard, restricted or exempt card. Cards with restricted or exempt status are only turned on when a Reservist is in a TDY status. You will need to contact your unit to get your GTC card activated (turned on). Reservists with a standard card still need to make sure cards are in an active status as some units have a policy that all cards are inactive until you actually go TDY.

Before going TDY, make sure your card is on. You can do this one of two ways: Call Citibank (# is on the back of the card) or you can call your unit POC for the

GTC card.

If you see there are issues with your GTC card and require assistance call your unit POC or the 908th FM office and let us know what we can do to assist.

ARE YOU PROTECTED?

Summer is here and we all want to enjoy fun, sun and good times. Protect yourself — do not leave your GTC card or any Privacy Act information easily accessible to someone who could take advantage of you. Your Mypay password allows anyone to change your banking information and your Reserve Pay information could allow your identity to be stolen. If you have a Thrift Savings Account, make sure to keep this information in a safe location.

It has been noted that we are not changing our passwords enough on our phones and computers. Do not make it easy for someone to get into your phone or computer and take your hard-earned money. We get phone calls from Reservists on a weekly basis requesting help with changing their banking information because there are fraudulent charges on their debt card or they had their identity stolen. Be safe and do not give out your personal information to anyone that initiates a call, email, or text.

Validate and verify before you become a target to a thief. Remember, a con artist is usually one step ahead of us, so keep your guard up at all times.

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Staff Sgt. Kevin Summersill directs activity during the recent deployment of CES personnel to Ft. McCoy, Wis. for WARX 14.



U.S. Air Force Photo/
SRA Sarah Shea

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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.

New chief survives on satisfaction

Longtime loadmaster believes communication is key to success

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

An Airman who attended third grade at Maxwell Air Force Base is now one of the 908th Airlift Wing's newest senior enlisted members.

James M. Rickels, a member of the 357th Airlift Squadron, recently pinned on the rank of chief master sergeant. But Rickels is very modest in taking any credit on his own behalf, instead choosing to thank everyone who has been a part of his military career.

Born at Shaw AFB, S.C., Rickels is the son of a career Air Force air traffic controller who came to Maxwell in 1975, where he would eventually retire.

In 1988, Rickels walked off the streets and into the 908th, and has been here as a loadmaster ever since. His first senior enlisted advisor, prior to the creation of the command chief position, was J.B. Thompson. Rickels explained that Thompson was a loadmaster who came became enlisted advisor and later, a chief.

"That's when I realized that loadmasters have a chance," (to become chief), he said.

That moment when the new chief realized he had found his niche didn't take long. "I'd been a loadmaster for about a month when Chief Master Sgt. Michael Harper took me out on a Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training, a mission in California where we dropped Navy SEALs at 25,000 feet. I opened up the back of the airplane and I'm hanging out 25,000 feet looking around and that was it!"

He recounted a humanitarian mission undertaken

immediately after the massive Haiti earthquake in 2010.

"We carried several medical airlifts out of Port-au-Prince, Haiti into South Florida. That is the moment, I realized, what I'm doing is important."

He gives the now-retired Chief Harper credit for helping to set him on the road to becoming chief.

"Right after I got out of basic training, he was my supervisor here," Rickels said. "That's a big set of shoes to fill."

Other chiefs he has looked up to as mentors who have had a positive impact on his career include 908th command chiefs Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke, Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey and Chief Master Sgt. Linda Roberts. He also credits several officers and enlisted personnel he has worked with.

In that career, Rickels has learned the importance of improving lines of communication. As a new chief, he wants to work on ensuring that the lines between officer and enlisted are improved by leading from example.

"As great as things are, there

are always opportunities to enhance communication between people," he said.

As an example, he said one of the great things about being part of an aircrew is the use of resource management by members of any rank.

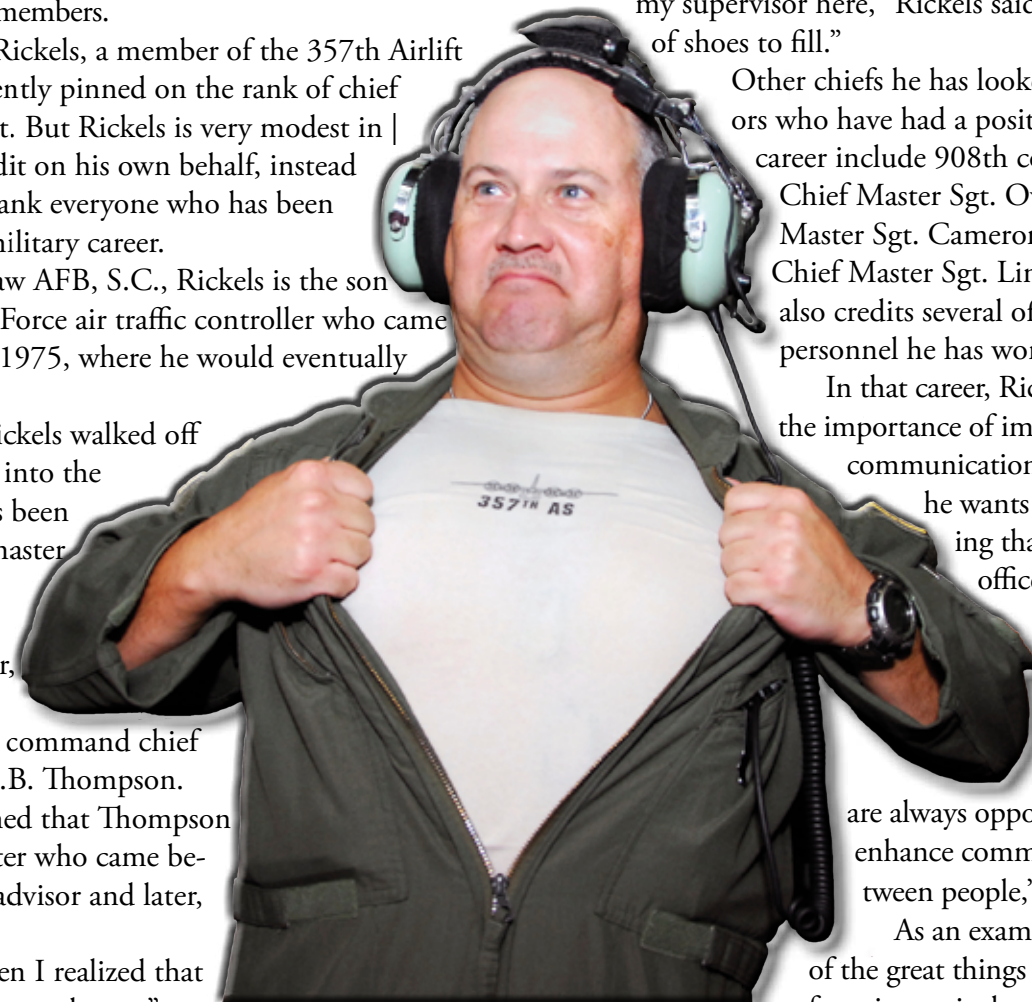
"If you see something that's unsafe, you bring it up right then. That mentality of knowing you have to do

the right thing."

Reflecting upon the career he's led, the 357th's newest chief said he's going to continue doing what he's done since his first mission many years ago, doing whatever it takes to get the mission done.

"You're not in it for the glory or the ribbons and medals. It's the satisfaction," he said.

A member of the 908th Airlift Wing since 1988, recently promoted Chief Master Sgt. James Rickels, loadmaster superintendant of the 357th Airlift Squadron, always keeps things lively on the Maxwell flightline.



Patriot Defender

908th SFS takes to Texas for specialized skills training

By Technical Sgt. Lisa Lancaster
908th SFS

Twenty-four members of the 908th Security Forces Squadron, led by Operations Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Bradley Counce, deployed to a simulated Air Base Ground Defense environment in Fort Worth, Texas for Base Security Operations Course Training.

The training was conducted by the 610th SFS at a recognized Air Force Reserve Command Security Forces Regional Training Center. Members were integrated with three other SFS units, with Counce acting as flight leader of all members. The training consisted of several courses with a practical exercise conducted afterwards. The course ended with a three-day BSO Field Training Exercise.

Courses included Mounted and
From top: Members of the 908th SFS practice weapons discipline during Patriot Defender. Airman First Class Denver Robles goes on foot patrol. Senior Airman Jamie Hicks prepares for a mounted patrol. Technical Sgt. Bowen gives a class on combat moves.

Dismounted Operations, Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations, Escalation of Force, Urban Operations, Squad Weapons Familiarization, Tactical Weapons Live Fire, Fire Control Measures, and Tactical Communications.

Instruction also covered topics such as Rules of Engagement, Vehicle Operations, Land Navigation, Counter Insurgency, Detainee Procedures and Tactical Convoy Operations.

Members were also trained and certified on the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, or Humvee, and the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, which will be added to all members' military driver's license.





Building on success

Combat engineers prepare for deployment contingencies

By Senior Airman Sarah Shea
908th CES

The 908th Civil Engineer Squadron recently deployed 41 members to Fort McCoy, Wis., where both engineers and firefighters participated in joint exercises and training to better prepare for contingency deployments.

The exercise included all aspects of contingency mission requirements, incorporating each specific AFSC.

Engineering personnel logged more than 5,000-plus man hours to build, maintain, supply, protect, and redeploy the entire 500 pax. Water Fuels Maintenance personnel purified raw lake water to provide fresh drinking water and water for showers and laundry facilities. Electricians engaged in many hours of tedious tent wiring and, together with Power Pro, provided electricity to the forward operations base (FOB).

Power pro performed site surveys

of the entire base camp, calculated power usage and maintained more than 30 generators.

Structures personnel set up tents and configured components, then supervised the tear down and packing of more than 50 tents during the base redeployment. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning technicians provided much-needed heat and air conditioning to the tent city as the weather was in the low 40's at night and upper 80's during the day. The heavy equipment operators graded the FOB, assisted with real world flooding issues, and corrected elevation/longevity of the road bed at the Ft. McCoy rock quarry.

The 908th firefighters were responsible for real-world base fire protection and took part in several training activities, to include night burns, a combat firefighter challenge, structure fire, modified crash burns, convoy operations and protecting C-

130s, C-17s and Black Hawks.

Each CE member who attended this exercise received invaluable hands-on training and many had their first opportunity to experience operations in a contingency environment.

"I was very impressed and proud of what our Airmen accomplished at the WARX," said Lt. Col. Patrick Albrecht, squadron commander. "The training and experience we received will go a long way to improving our mission capabilities and unit cohesion while moving us closer to our vision of 'Anytime, Anywhere.'"



Clockwise from left: Members of the 908th Civil Engineering Squadron, recently participated in WARX-14 at Ft. McCoy, Wis. Senior Airman Sarah Shea gets trained on the 5-ton truck. Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Ellis and Senior Airman Joshua Hall work to take down tent structures. Senior Airman Carl Ross worked with the Holloman group from Bear Base to operate and maintain the generators for the base camp. 908th Firefighters work together to perform strenuous duties putting out a roadside fire and proper procedures for handling a roadside bomb. Staff Sgt. Jon Feazell assists in putting up tents for the FOB.



Engineers get some exchange experience from Great White North

By Senior Airman Sarah Shea
908th CES

A member of the Canadian Air Force since 1986, Major Dave Jane is the Chief of Contingency Training for Civil Engineering.

Maj. Jane, who is prior enlisted, is not only a native to Canada but also a Canadian Exchange Officer.

The elite and select few who qualify to become exchange officers is considerably small. As such, Maj. Jane is one of 400 exchange officers across all branches of the service.

As part of his job, Maj. Jane helps to oversee Exercise SILVER FLAG, and ensures training across the spectrum is "standardized, modernized, and focuses on program management."

Maj. Jane was very impressed with the work of the 908th CES while at the exercise, and gave all Airmen who participated in the WARX credit for SILVER FLAG.

Safety Sense

How to Make Your Safety Inspection Work for You

By Senior Master Sgt. Terry Shook
908th Safety Office

Have you ever asked yourself the question “how come I always have to prepare for a safety inspection?” If you have, you are not alone. Many of us ask this same question at the onset of an inspection. It’s at this point we race to “run” our safety checklist while the whole time asking ourselves “why did I let myself get in this predicament again?” I know this can be overwhelming at times especially with your other responsibilities, so let me show you how to prepare & prevent instead of repair and repent.

First, take a deep breath and then exhale. Second, remember you are your AFSC subject matter expert so don’t sell yourself short. You can do this with your eyes closed. Lastly, follow these tips and you will be well on your way to a fully successful safety inspection.

◆ Know when you are scheduled for your inspection. See the approved inspection schedule found on the Safety SharePoint site (see link below) then make monthly outlook reminders so it stays on your forefront. Bottom line, don’t let it sneak up on you!

◆ Conduct your safety self-inspection using the same checklist the Safety Office will use during your inspection. Our checklist can be found on our SharePoint site. If you identify an area that requires further attention, identify the shortfall using a spot inspection form, also on our SharePoint site, then make monthly follow-up inspections until it has been corrected. If you are aware of it take care of it.

◆ Take advantage of all virtual inspection products and upload them onto our SharePoint site in your assigned folder. This will allow our office to conduct a virtual inspection before your annual assessment and

The 908th Safety Compliance Checklist is can be accessed at <https://maxpoint.maxwell.af.mil/sites/tenants/908/AW/SE%20Coin/default.aspx>

together we can make sure your uploaded documents are flawless. This in itself will reduce our “face-time” with you by up to three hours during your annual safety inspection. Be sure and check the status of your uploaded documents regularly by visiting the Virtual SharePoint Tracker located on our SharePoint site.

◆ Conduct and document monthly supervisor safety spot inspections.

◆ Don’t reinvent the wheel. If you are missing a program element check our “Benchmark Program” area on our SharePoint site. If we don’t have it, check with some of your counterparts.

◆ Ensure your JSTO is AFSC specific. Include your HAZCOM program and your Bio Survey (if applicable). Also include all applicable Risk Assessment Codes on hazards and any Job Safety Analysis applicable to your duties.

◆ If you are unsure on anything in the checklist or one of your required safety programs, ask your USR, counterpart, or Wing Safety Office. We are here to help and want to see you be successful.

◆ Check last year’s Annual Safety Assessment and ensure you don’t have any “repeats”.

By following these few simple steps you will not only pass your safety inspection but you will be in compliance all year around. Remember the door to Safety swings on the hinges of common sense.

<https://maxpoint.maxwell.af.mil/sites/tenants/908/AW/SE%20Coin/default.aspx>

Next in this series: Supervisor Safety – Know Your Role!

Air Force inspection culture undergoing sea change

By Maj. Carmel Weed
908th AW IGI

We have all heard of the new Air Force Inspection System (AFIS) but what does that mean to you personally as a member of the 908th?

Well, it means that the days of ORI’s and ORE’s are gone. The days of large inspection teams going through every piece of paper and program in your unit are gone. We will no longer “ramp up” or “get ready” for an inspection as the new AFIS eliminates that event. The UEI portion of the new AFIS encompasses a 24-month cycle in which inspections and evaluations will be completed “virtually” by AFRC culminating in a Capstone event.

The Capstone event will happen over an approximate six-day period. The 908th’s is scheduled for Jan. 8–14, 2015. The team will consist of 40 personnel from AFRC or the MAJCOM. The IG will conduct face-to-face interviews with a majority of our personnel to include taking surveys.

We no longer paint the grass green or put a bandage on an issue

- ◆ Air Force Reserve Command is hosting GB Training Sept. 8-12 and Dec. 8-12.
- ◆ The 908th is looking for NCO’s and above to attend. The training will be unit funded.
- ◆ If interested, get your commander’s approval and be ready and willing to help the wing in root-cause analysis and AFISO21 events.
- ◆ For information, contact Maj. Carmel Weed, 908th AW/IGI/CCIP Director, at 953-9702.

that really should be addressed and corrected. We are now living inside a continual process improvement environment. We need to reward our personnel for finding discrepancies in our programs as this only makes us better and more efficient.

The New Norm for operations is the Commander’s Inspection Program (CCIP). Now after all these years of complaining you at the squadron level control your own destiny. Here is what we can expect with our new inspection system.

Each wing, group and squadron

will have Wing Inspection Team (WIT) members. The WIT replaces the old Exercise Evaluation Team concept. You will still have your subject-matter experts (SME’s), but the WIT will lead the charge.

Each squadron will develop their 36-month inspection plan and the WIT will help them facilitate exercises and evaluations. MICT is still a major factor but now, it must be done on a continual basis.

Your Wing IGI will be here to assist all groups and squadrons build and maintain their programs. We will help de-conflict inspections to ensure we eliminate all duplication and provide you with clear guidance on how we are to conduct business.

This new cultural change will no doubt cause some bumps in the road, but we are well on our way to producing a world-class inspection system and culture within the 908th.

So jump on board and be a part of the solution to our challenges as we move forward.

NOTE: Look here each month for updated AFIS information.



Victim Advocates Needed

40 Hours of Training Required

Male and Female

Volunteer to help victims of sexual assault or help with training

RESPONSIBILITIES:

*Provide Crisis Intervention, Referrals, Non-clinical support, Training and other assistance as needed

Stand Up Against Sexual Assault...Make a Difference

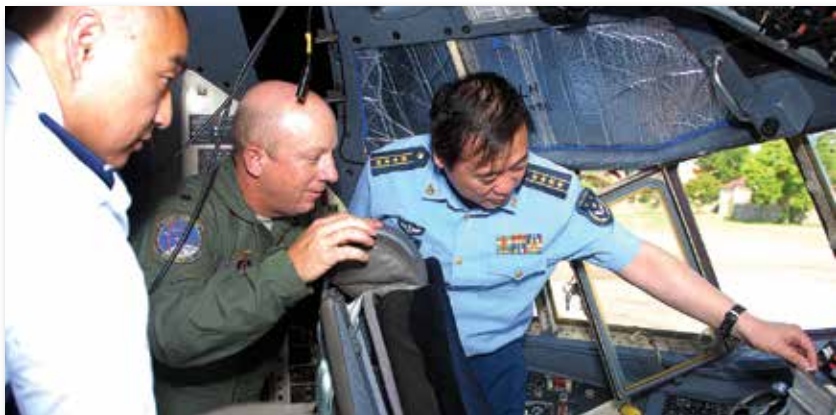
True Wingmen.....RESPECT... & PROTECT!!!! They Do Not Hurt Others

Call 953-4251/5558/4416 for more information or email 42abw.cvk@maxwell.af.mil

REGISTRATION and INTERVIEWS Required—Next class (all 40 hours required) **25-30 July 2014

**Classes will be held on Friday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (No Weekends)

PACIFIC FLYERS VISIT



Col. Steve Catchings of the 357th AS gives a flightdeck tour to a member of the Peoples Liberation Army Air Force from China during the recent visit.

New to the 908th

TSgt. Andrew K. Bogdahn, 25 APS
TSgt. Michelle C. Lovaas, 908 ASTS
SSgt. Randal W. McKinney, 25 APS
SSgt. , Alexisalfreda M. Scott, AW
SrA Jacqueline M. Hardiman, 908 ASTS
SrA Samantha R. Jenness, 357 AS

AIC Joshua Peterson, 357 AS
Amn Ashley S. Ware, 908 OSS
Amn Jacob Garner, 357 AS
Amn Johnna R. Davenport, 908 AES
AB Torrielle R. Gibbs, 357 AB
AB Rennell T. Pitts, 908 CES

Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. Joel C. Marsh, AW
Maj. Marley B. Crabtree, AES
Capt. Steven D. Hardin, AES
Chief Master Joseph Spraggins, CES
Senior Master Sgt. Don J. Johnson, AES

Senior Master Sgt. Daryl E. Waters, CES
Senior Master Sgt. Tyrone Williams, FSS
Master Sgt. Joseph L. Smith, ASTS
Master Sgt. Billy J. Wallace, CES
Tech. Sgt. Mark R. Simmons, SFS

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place Aug. 2 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*

BRIEFS

AFRC mental health program available for Citizen Airmen

The Air Force Reserve's Psychological Health Advocacy Program (PHAP) is available to assist Citizen Airmen and their families as "Your Bridge to Appropriate Care." PHAP offers a range of services for any life stressor, from family concerns and deployment support to suicide prevention and substance abuse.

Available 24/7, and at no cost, PHAP's Nurse Case Facilitators offer resource referrals to help Airmen locate appropriate resources and provide confidential support. PHAP's commitment to our Citizen Airmen is that "you and your family are not alone."

You can call 888-810-2400 or visit: AFRC PHAP Website: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/phap/index.asp>

Gaining Altitude

Staff Sergeant



Hess, Britney M.

Senior Airman



Coleman, Michael J.
Jacobs, Lloydstone L.
Roper, Sharonda D.
Smith, Cameron M.
Starns, James M.
Tutt, Kristyn D.

Airman First Class



Braden, Jerrett A.
Garner, Jacob T.
Jackson, Mercedes J.
McGill, Anthony M.
Ridgeway, Courtney T.

Airman



Moton, Alexandria E.
Murray, Julian A.
Smith, Corey B.
Todd, Terence L.



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