

908TH DEPLOYERS LEAVE OVERSEAS FOOTPRINT, PGS. 6-7

SOUTHERN FLYER



A 'CHIEF' MENT

FSS Superintendant overcomes adversities to attain goal

The Need to Reblue

25 APS Gets New Lead "Dawg"

American Holiday, American Airman



AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

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SOUTHERN
FLYER

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Repurposing your 'blue'

Bluing, named for its blue-black appearance, is a process most commonly used by gun manufacturers, gunsmiths, and gun owners. It's used to improve cosmetic appearance and provide a measure of corrosion resistance to firearms. Bluing also helps to maintain the finish by providing resistance to superficial scratching and also to reduce glare to the eyes of the shooter when looking down the barrel of the gun. Bluing, being a chemical coating, is not as resistant to wear and corrosion as plated coatings.

Our Air Force blue represents the sky above the earth and the domain of our primary responsibility. The blue in our uniforms, our shield and our official symbol, is commonly associated with loyalty, trust and faith. Airmen have shown these qualities in every significant conflict since the dawn of flight and continue doing so today.

Air Force blue enters our lives in basic training, where we become Airmen. We share common experiences, learn attention to detail and become dedicated to the mission. We

are forged in this furnace before we proceed to technical training, where instructors teach us skills and professional standards needed to succeed in our specific career fields. Here, we are shaped and polished, and when we report to our first assignment, we are "blue."

Our blue is strong, straight and true. We have become weapons of our nation; weapons of the highest quality and accuracy.

As we go about our daily lives, on and off duty, in and out of uniform, we face challenges, weather storms, experience occasional failures and other kinds of adversity. We listen to others complain, and we grow tired of facing the same obstacles at every turn. Sometimes we run across situations we haven't been trained to handle, and get discouraged.

All these things can wear away at our blue and make us dull. As with any weapon, constant use without periodic maintenance can lower effectiveness. Airmen are no different. Like the bluing process used with weapons, professional military

BLUE, PAGE 10



CMSGT. HAROLD WHITED
25th APS Superintendant

COVER PHOTO:

Recently promoted Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy, 908th FSS Superintendant, reacts to a joke made during her recent promotion ceremony. See story, page 4.



"Providing combat-ready support across the spectrum of operations"



U.S. Air Force Photo/
Gene H. Hughes

A MOMENT WITH THE
CHAPLAIN

CH. (CAPT.) MATTHEW HOSHOR

Thanksgiving, deeply rooted in our heritage, holds a special place in American hearts. Between the shopping, preparation, family and feast, Thanksgiving, like the football games we watch after stuffing ourselves, is all-American.

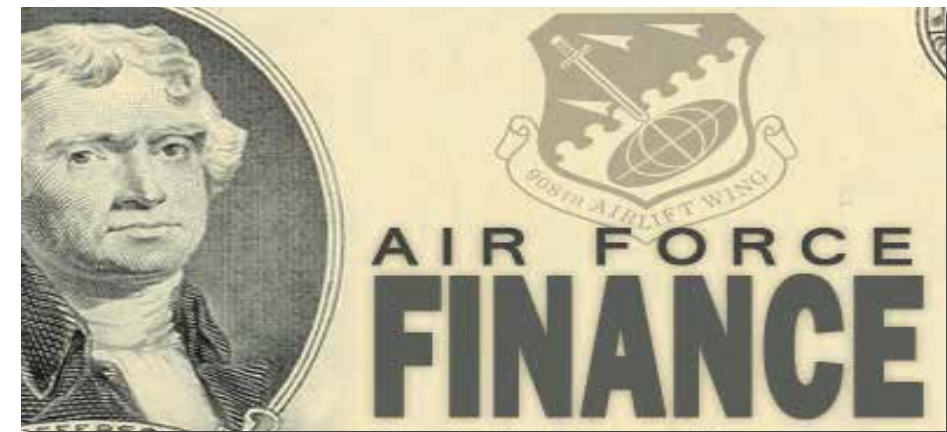
In some ways, Thanksgiving reminds me of the Airman's Creed, which says, "I am an American Airman." Thanksgiving is distinctly American, as much a part of our character as apple pie and baseball.

Our creed goes on to say, "I am faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor." Valor is a solid, meaningful word. It conveys heroism, bravery and courage. I am (and it's easy to be) thankful for those who display valor and are willing to sacrifice. Many Airmen are away from their families this Thanksgiving. They are dedicated to service before self.

The Creed also says, "I will never leave an Airman behind." During Thanksgiving, many Airmen are sadly forgotten, but they don't have to be.

See if an "Operation Home-cooking" opportunity exists in the area. This program encourages families to invite Airmen who are "flying solo" into their homes for Thanksgiving, giving both host and visitor another reason to be thankful.

It only takes a simple act to show thankfulness. Invite a wingman who's alone this holiday to celebrate with you. After all, they are just as much a part of America as Thanksgiving itself.



TRAVEL VOUCHERS:

Did you make the
FM naughty list?

By Angie Rankins-West
908th FM

Each month, the 42nd CPTS/FM sends a list of military personnel that have not filed travel vouchers. This report is called the GOO, and there are a variety of reasons for you to make the list.

For example, you:

- have filed your voucher via E-finance and are awaiting final processing.
- have not corrected a returned voucher (whether DTS or e-Finance).
- have not filed your travel voucher at all.

As members of the 908th, military or civilian, we all enjoy the perks of the job — especially when it comes to traveling. It gets even better when you file your travel voucher, be it DTS or E-finance, and you "cash out."

Anytime an order is cut and there are travel funds obligated, you must file a travel voucher — even if you did not use your GTC. The only

exception to this rule is if you traveled 12 hours or less and there were no entitlements on your order. These orders can either be cancelled or zeroed out by your Orders Specialist upon your return.

If this doesn't happen, your name will appear on the list. If you have been erroneously notified that you have an outstanding voucher and did not travel, please inform your orders specialist to have the order canceled.

In the month of October alone, there were a total of 630 orders (unfiled or incomplete vouchers) on the GOO, with 209 being more than 60 days. Unfiled vouchers are frowned upon and are forwarded to commanders each month.

During these tight financial times, it's very important to process your voucher, regardless of whether you have a GTC bill to pay, or if you are not expecting money back into your pocket. In order to decrease this number of vouchers on the GOO, we need your help.



Surrounded by her family and members of the 908th Airlift Wing Chief's Group, newly pinned Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy, 908th FSS Superintendent, receives a standing ovation from members of the wing after donning her new stripes.

The Pride of Saint Jo

Support squadron superintendent faces challenges, obstacles to achieve top enlisted rank

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Good things are worth waiting for, and Chief Master Sgt. Martha Roy knows it better than most.

Roy, superintendent of the 908th Force Support Squadron, was promoted to her present rank in a well-attended ceremony during the October drill assembly. In her journey to join the Air Force's most senior enlisted rank, she has faced several challenges and made many sacrifices.

And some definitely fall into the "above-and-beyond" category.

Originally from Saint Jo, Texas, Martha Roy grew up with a strong desire to serve others. Her family's strong sense of service and patri-



tism helped guide her steps toward the path she would eventually take.

"When I was a child I always wanted to be a nurse," she said, "but my father and three great uncles had served

in World War II. My oldest brother enlisted in the Navy, so I gradually changed my mind from nursing to the military. My family has always looked at serving in the military as an honor and privilege. It was a way of giving back to America, defending our way of life and enjoying its freedom.

Roy took the opportunity to serve and achieve her education and travel goals by joining the Air Force in November of 1981. As someone with a strong desire to help others, she decided on the personnel field as her occupational specialty.

"I have always been a 'people' person and working in personnel was a way for me to continue doing something that I enjoy," she said.

ROY, PAGE 12

Reserve runners represent

Wing members travel to Wright-Patterson to compete in Air Force distance event

Would you drive nine hours to run for three? After months of preparation and training, denying themselves all manner of tasty foods and participating in warm-up events, that's exactly what several members of the 908th did recently.

Technical Sgt. Billy Kidd (FM) and Senior Master Sgt. Terry Shook (Safety), drove to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio to compete in the Air Force Half-Marathon, annually run in conjunction with the full marathon and 10K races.

According to Kidd, the pair used a run-two-mile-walk-one technique. He said the course started flat for a few miles, then came a series of hills, before going flat for the finish.

"As Billy and I rounded the last turn, I could see the finish-line banner and, out of nowhere, I was able to muster up some energy (don't ask me how), pick-up speed and together, Billy and I crossed the finish line at a full sprint. It was awesome!" said Shook.

At the finish, another memorable moment occurred when Lt. Gen. James Jackson, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, saw the pair's 908th Run Club shirts.

"He approached Billy and asked if he could present our medals," Shook said. "He did, and it, too, was awesome!"

Also taking part in the event were 908th members Maj. Amy Sanderson and Master Sgt. Caterina Durham, AES; and Senior Airman Sarah Shea and Chief Master Sgt. Alexander Pelaez, CES.



Tech. Sgt. Billy Kidd, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Terry Shook compete in the Air Force Half-Marathon. Insert: the start. Below, Kidd and Shook cross the finish line.



ALABAMA AIRMEN IN THE AOR

For C-130 maintainers looking for parts, 908th Airlift Wing's 'Angel' is heaven sent

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — The Afghan Air Force has four C-130 Hercules aircraft. Technical Sgt. Angel Gonzalez has a singular role as the C-130 maintenance supply liaison at Train, Advise, Assist Command – Air: to order supplies and inventory parts and keep the Afghan “Herks” flying in support of the Afghan National Army’s operations across Afghanistan.

Gonzalez is assigned to the 440th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron and is deployed from the 908th Airlift Wing. He hit the ground running on day one.

“I go to Bagram a couple times a week to speed-up the delivery of aircraft parts,” Gonzalez said. “We’ve all got limited resources with equipment, tools and building space, so a quicker timeline to get the maintenance teams their tools and parts is just good customer service because that’s what my job is ... it’s working for the customer.”

He said his biggest accomplishment has been working out a schedule and system so he can get parts in an expedient manner to support the maintenance crews.

“We don’t have a [Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory] at Kabul, so I need to get parts calibrated at Bagram, such as torque wrenches, gauges, tension wires, scales and various tools,” Gonzalez said. “I also check to see if any of my parts I ordered arrived. I do this at least twice a week to make the processes go faster.”

His maintenance teammates have seen his extra effort, and appreciate his quickness in supplying equipment. Thanks to him, they can complete their maintenance tasks in a timely manner.

“He’s done some miracle work here,” said Master Sgt. Mark Klein, 440th AEAS metal fabrication section. “He doesn’t have to fly up to Bagram to get our parts, but he does because it cuts about 10 days off of the shipping process. That’s been great and we can get our work done without waiting around.”

Gonzalez and eight personnel from Bagram’s Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, or ELRS, came to TAAC-Air to conduct a four-day inventory of the war readiness maintenance spare parts, kits Gonzalez has in



Tech. Sgt. Angel Gonzalez has made a strong impact, cutting part delivery times and returning almost \$2 million in lost/missing inventory.

his inventory.

“Those kits are about \$5.5 million and inventory hadn’t been done in a while,” Gonzalez said. “We found \$1.7 million worth of parts that were technically lost or missing, and we put them back in the Air Force inventory. I’m happy to say it checked out 100 percent.”



A P-19 Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting vehicle is parked and ready to be loaded onto a C-130H Hercules assigned to the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes)

Beasts of Burden: ‘Mad Mules’ carry the load in support of deployed operations

AL UDEID AIR BASE, QATAR — Under cargo lights on an otherwise pitch-black flightline, a C-130H Hercules was loaded with a 23,000 pound Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting vehicle in less than 20 minutes, with dozens of Airmen making it happen. How, exactly? Airmen from the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and aerial porters assigned to the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base combined efforts to make this seemingly difficult task look easy.

Al Udeid Air Base contains a vast array of mission sets, many of which support coalition forces deployed throughout the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. The air mobility assets deployed here ensure that critical mission support equipment is delivered to various airfields swiftly and effectively. The 746th EAS uses C-130H’s to execute their mission with the help of other support agencies on the installation.

“The 746th EAS supports the Combatant Commander, Combined Forces Air Component Commander, and Director of Mobility Forces by providing airlift throughout the theater,” said Lt. Col. Stephen ‘Stretch’ Catchings, 746th EAS Director of Operations. “We currently support missions for Operations INHERENT

RESOLVE and FREEDOM’S SENTINEL. We have the capability to carry out air-land and airdrop missions with any of our aircrew.”

‘Mad Mules’ is the squadron mascot, and these Airmen are proud of the footprint they create to support OIR. Their mantra is simple: constant air support, no matter when, where, or what. Their mighty ‘Herk’ is a fascinating aircraft with an ability to transform to the mission at hand. Catchings said both aircrew and aircraft are very flexible to the mission and every mission is different.

“When the crews show up to fly they have to be ready for anything. The mission can change completely from one sortie to another,” said Catchings. “Because of this, the entire crew sometimes has to jump in and reconfigure the aircraft and assist with the loading and unloading process.”

Once airborne, the 746th will reach a Forward Operating Base at an undisclosed location, where they unload or load their assets. Cargo, medical patients and supplies are just a few of the options they provide when supporting coalition forces and helping save lives.

Catchings mentioned that, if it were not for the ‘Mad Mules,’ ground commanders and their units would have to rely more on vulnerable convoys in order to get their personnel and supplies. Without the C-130H’s aeromedical capability, injured combatants would wait days to receive critical care instead of the rapid aeromedical evacuation response of the 746th.



Staff Sgt. Ricky Davis and Tech Sgt. Wyatt Lewis, 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron crew chiefs, complete final calculations prior to loading the 23,000 pound fire fighting vehicle.

Aerial Port has new lead 'dawg'

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

As he stood before the men and women of his not-so-new command, Lt. Col. Greg Slayton shared his goal for the 25th Aerial Port Squadron: to make it the best such outfit in Air Force Reserve Command.

Slayton assumed command of the same squadron he first joined in 2010 during an October drill change of command ceremony, taking over from outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Jon Flanders.

The Prospect, Tenn. native never had any doubts about the career path he was going to take.

"There was never any question what I was doing after college," he said. "No other options even entered my mind. Family, sense of duty, you name it. I was always around Air Force personnel (his father is a retired senior master sergeant) and never really knew anything else."

His father had a great influence on his life; he said, "because of the way he executed his Air Force career. I haven't met a single individual from his past who has had anything negative to say about him."

He originally wanted to be a pilot but was disqualified by the vision requirements. He then considered following in his father's footsteps as a combat controller, but said he wasn't in good enough shape for it.

Slayton found his calling in the logistics career field. He spent almost nine years on active duty, serving as an aircraft maintenance officer, acquisition logistics officer, and program manager. He's held assignments in test and evaluation at Edwards AFB, special operations at Fort Bragg, and acquisitions at Wright-Patterson AFB.

He originally came to the 25th APS in 2010 as the squadron's operations officer, departing in 2012 to work for Headquarters Defense Logistics Agency.

In his civilian job, Slayton works in aviation systems



Lt. Col. Greg Slayton, receives the 25th Aerial Port Squadron guidon from 908th MSG Commander Col. Patricia Brewer as First Sgt. Eric Shaman stands by. Below left, Slayton addresses guests at the change of command ceremony.

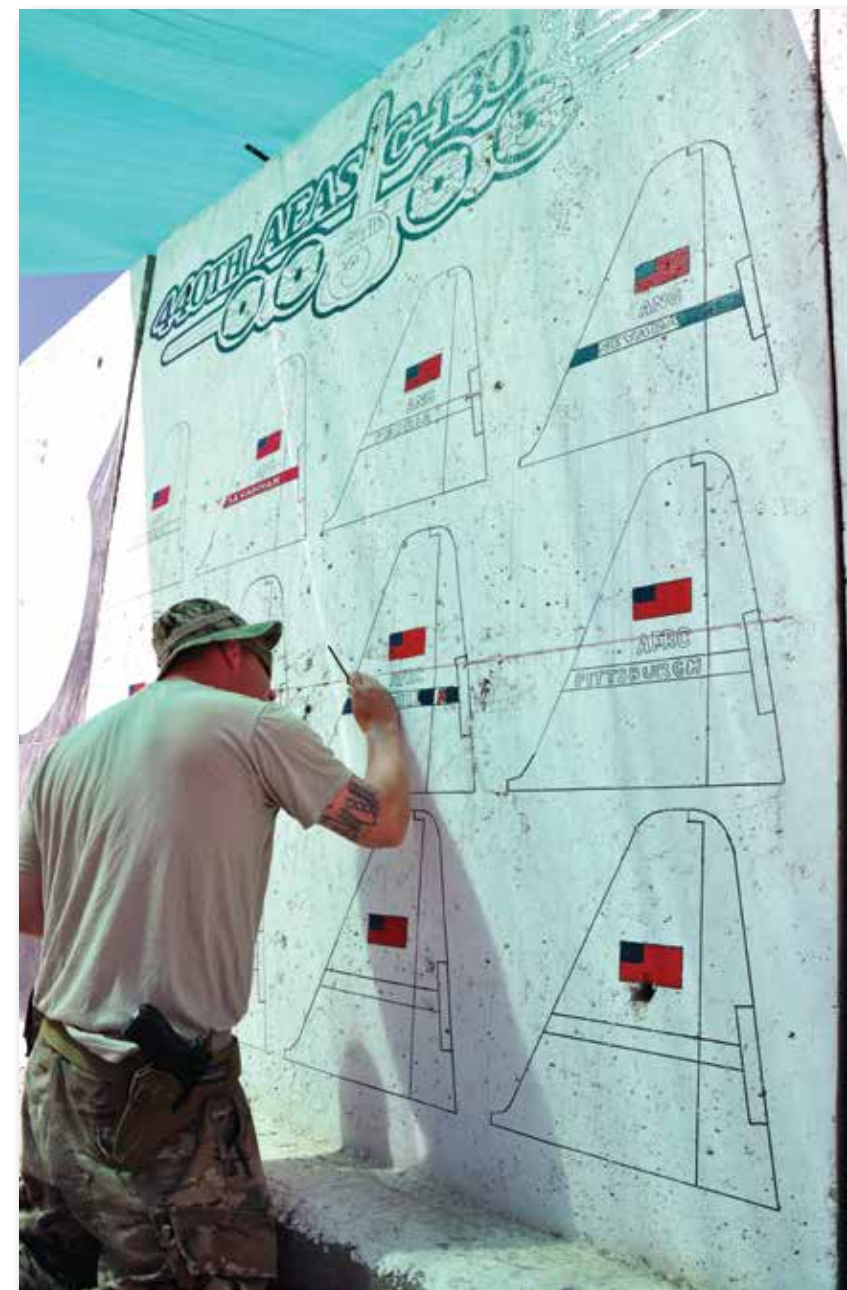
for the U.S. Army. He said getting the work came about as a result of landing a contractor job supporting foreign military sales programs for the Apache helicopter. After having bounced around among contractors for six years, he was hired as a Department of the Army civilian.

"My civilian job provides me with a deep understanding of geopolitical affairs, and the customs and courtesies of several foreign nations," he said. "This could prove beneficial if I'm ever deployed. My military job affords the opportunity to work with motivated, intelligent individuals dedicated to the mission. It also allows me to experience different leadership styles from supervisors and subordinates."

Slayton describes his leadership style as "engaging and empowering," encouraging his Airmen, NCOs, SNCOs and officers to own their functions and make strides toward improvement every day.

"I look forward to interaction with Airmen the most in this position," he said. "I embrace the opportunity to help others grow to their full potential."

"I've worked for all kinds of leaders, managers, and supervisors — some good, and many not so good," he said. "However, all of them have had a hand in shaping who I am. I've taken the good, learned how not to do it from the bad, and formed what I hope is a solid foundation. I believe this will be a stabilizing experience for 25th APS, and my goal is to make the squadron the place where everyone wants to work!"



All in All It's Just Another Tail on the Wall

Tech. Sgt. Richard Day, 440th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron fuel systems craftsman, volunteers his time and paints T-walls on Forward Operating Base Oqab, Kabul, Afghanistan. The T-walls at FOB Oqab have been painted by coalition service members over the years with squadron patches and imagery to promote esprit de corps in support of the Train, Advise, Assist Command – Air mission. Day is a U.S. Air Force Reservist with the 908th Airlift Wing. (U.S. Air Force photos by Capt. Eydie Sakura/Released)



HE'S COMING, NEEDS ELVES



Santa Claus wants families of the 908th to know he's going to visit us Dec. 5, at approximately 10 a.m. Gather in the 357th AS briefing room. Santa still needs elves, as seen above, to help him. Call 953-6804 to volunteer.

New to the 908th

Senior Airman Justin A. Green, AMXS
Airman 1st Class Andrew C. Edwards, AMXS
Airman 1st Class Dylan C. Hisson, 25 APS
Airman 1st Class Kyle E. Smith, 25 APS
Airman 1st Class Christian J. Neidhamer, 25 APS

Airman Cameron J. Doss, CES
Airman Leon C. Mullin, LRS
Airman Basic Leonard S. Mullin, CES
Airman Basic Marcus W. Turpeau, MXS

Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. Kevin Greeley, OSS
Lt. Col. Gwendolyn Hill, ASTS
Master Sgt. George Brawley, LRS

Master Sgt. Dennis Ellis, CES
Master Sgt. Jeffery Speigner, CES
Tech. Sgt. Rafael Sarmiento, 25 APS

BLUE, FROM PAGE 2

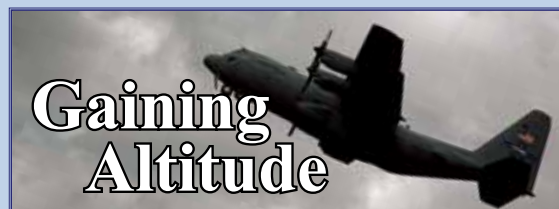
education is a way of re-bluing our Airmen.

Through our service studies, activities, and social events, we improve our cosmetic appearance, reminding one another about the proper wear of the uniform and the importance of a professional image. Through discussions about our core values and NCO and senior NCO responsibilities, we obtain corrosion resistance, and reaffirm our dedication to professional standards. This defends us from

cynicism, negativity and griping.

Just as it does with firearms, our re-bluing process returns us to our highest quality and accuracy. In Air Force deployments, annual tours and PME, re-bluing serves exactly the same purpose as with any worn weapon. It improves cosmetic appearance, prevents corrosion and improves functionality.

When America takes up arms to defend herself against those who would destroy our way of life, her aim is straight and true because, as Airmen, we remain blue.



Master Sergeant



Adam D. Weber
Cedrea S. Young

Technical Sergeant



Joseph A. Clinkscales
Dwayne J. Corker
Alex J. Rodgers
Isabella Lander

Staff Sergeant



Gabrielle K. Bates
Robert I. Booker Jr.
Kenneth M. Brizendine
Luke A. Green
Brandon W. Knight
Tiana Y. McLean
Charles E. Raby

Senior Airman



Larry B. Ellis II
Lane L. Ellisor
Devuntae M. Finley
Alana P. McClain
Anthony M. McGill



ROY, FROM PAGE 4

She served four years on active duty as an Enlisted Performance Report Specialist at England Air Force Base, La., then entered the Reserve four years later at Charleston AFB, S.C. After 10 years there, she spent six at McGuire AFB, N.J. Along the way, she worked in most every section of the personnel field, making rank steadily until she was promoted to senior master sergeant in 1998.

Shortly after that, she made a decision that would affect the arc of her career when her active-duty husband received orders to Maxwell in 2002.

"When my husband got orders, I was informed that I would have to join the 908th as a master sergeant," she said. "It was imperative for me to make myself more competitive to advance, because I was starting over and knew that few bases have chief slots."

Roy used the time to her advantage, obtaining her Master's degree, getting involved with community service, taking stateside temporary duty assignments, and participating in Toastmasters. It required time away from her family, but she said it was a road that had to be traveled. She also had help.

"In my situation I was blessed and fortunate to have a family who understood my goals," she said. "My husband and daughter have always been the greatest influences on me. As a team, we have always worked together. They understood when I had to go TDY from one location to another; that it was all about the mission. They are always there for me."

But she was also facing another challenge more formidable than promotion issues and separation from family. In May of 2007, she was diagnosed with cancer, which had already taken the lives of two siblings. The surgery was performed in June, followed by eight chemotherapy treatments over a 16-week period.

"The treatments left me so sick I could only work the week after the treatment," she said. "Sometimes I could not work the entire week. My husband was by my side for every doctor visit and treatment. He is my rock."

Roy's husband, Andrew (a retired master sergeant who's well known to members of the 908th), and daughter Elizabeth were on hand to celebrate her career milestone.

"Elizabeth and I are extremely proud of Martha's accomplishments," he said. "She has encountered many obstacles since we've been married, but by the grace of God, she has overcome them all."

"If life handed her lemons, she made lemonade." That December, she was declared cancer free, and

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



In one of her first acts as a new chief master sergeant, CMSgt. Martha Roy 'coins' her husband, Andrew, in public recognition of his support of her career.

she has remained so ever since.

"As a breast cancer survivor, I have always lived by faith and taken it one day at a time, maintaining a positive attitude about everything and making the most of each day that is given to me," she said. "I had already lost a sister and a brother to cancer, and knew that it was not going to be an easy road, but with the support of friends, family and church, I was able to overcome it."

"Looking back, what I learned from all of this is to maintain your faith, even when you are going through the valleys."

Command Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke said Roy is someone all Airmen can look to as an example of what hard work and perseverance can achieve.

"Everyone in the wing has had some kind of positive contact with Chief Roy," he said. "They know who she is, what she can do and it's fitting that she be rewarded, because she has certainly earned her position."

An eternal optimist with a smile as big as Texas, Roy looks forward to opportunities to serve the wing to the best of her ability, from managing processes and mentoring, to helping FSS Airmen prove their abilities in service, personnel and communications awards competitions.

"It is my job to prepare my team for leadership roles that will come," she said. "It's imperative for me to be the best mentor I can, and to lead by action and not words alone. To be able to serve the 908th Wing effectively, we have to become better leaders."