

# SOUTHERN FLYER



908th Teams with Future of the Air Force

386th ESFS Trains for High Risk Response

Hope Boxes help Prevent Suicide



AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

WINTER 2017



# SOUTHERN FLYER



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# The Way Ahead



COL. KENNETH OSTRAT  
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing



## COVER PHOTO:

A C-130 Hercules belonging to the 908th Airlift Wing takis to a parking spot after Airlifting Santa to Maxwell Air Force Base December 3, 2017. Santa will be back at the 357th Saturday December 2nd.



"Provide Combat  
Capability Anywhere...  
Anytime"

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## 908th Teams with Future of the Air Force

By Bradley J. Clark  
*908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** – Twice in less than a month the 908th Airlift Wing and Troy University's Air Force ROTC Detachment 017 have helped each other out with some good will gestures to form a growing partnership between the two organizations.

The first gesture happened on Sept. 8 when two cadets hand delivered a box full of goodies and creature comforts to the 908th's headquarters on Maxwell Air Force Base to be shipped to wing members currently deployed to Southwest Asia as part of a service project representing the T.C. Marris Squadron of the Arnold Air Society.

"The care package contains hygiene items, some snacks, card games and some silly stuff they will hopefully enjoy," said Cadet 3rd Class Savannah Farris, a sophomore at Troy who is also the cadet wing supply officer for Detachment 017 and director of operations for the T.C. Marris Squadron. "It's an honor to be able to reach out to the 908th. With the wing being so close to home, yet us being able to try to do something for those members that aren't close to home at the moment."

The 908th returned the gesture Oct. 12, when four senior leaders from the 908th Operations Group drove south from Maxwell to visit with 63 cadets from Troy University's Air Force ROTC Detachment 017.

Commander of the 908th Operations Group, Col. Don Richey; 357th Airlift Squadron director of opera-

tions, Lt. Col. Steve Catchings; 357th AS chief pilot, Maj. Derek Shehee; and 357th AS chief navigator, Maj. Sammy Manno made the hour long trip to Troy's campus to spend a few hours with cadets during their Air Force specialty code Day, giving the cadets an opportunity to learn about the various jobs and career fields available to them in the Air Force.

After a brief tour, the ops group members had lunch with cadets in leadership positions, along with the detachment commander Lt. Col. Cheryl Deloughery and other service members from the Maxwell-Gunter community there for AFSC day.

Then came the question and answer portion of the visit, providing cadets an opportunity to speak with Airmen across various AFSCs and have some of their most pressing questions answered.

"We are here to help educate all of you on some of the options you have," explained Richey. "The Air Force is all about options, and you have a lot of them out there."

When asked to "Tell us what you know about the Reserves," most of the cadets had the same response, the old slogan of one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

Manno explained that while that might be true for some, there were opportunities available that allow reserve citizen airmen to serve almost full time if they

*See Troy, Page 8*







# 386th ESFS Trains for High Risk Response

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Hehnl  
*386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs*

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – At any given moment, the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron stands ready to protect, defend and fight against all threats to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing. Among those men and women who guard the wing's high valued assets and people, is a newly formed group of defenders who dedicate their time, on-duty and off, to train for high risk situations.

After an extensive selection process, the 386th ESFS High Risk Response Team was established in

August 2017. The team is a highly trained response force, much more than the typical first responder.

"We wanted to start the HRRT to have the flexibility and capability to better react to any critical response scenarios," said Capt. Cory Cook, the 386th ESFS operations officer. "If a situation arises that requires specially trained personnel, we will bring the HRRT. The teams are always on alert and there is always a team prepared to respond in a moment's notice."

The team focuses on close-quarters combat to effectively control any complex situations such as hostage situations, barricaded subjects,

buildings rigged with explosives, aircraft hijackings and active shooter scenarios, to name a few examples.

"The importance of a team that can neutralize a threat, dominate a structure, lock down and clear the buildings within minutes is phenomenal," said Tech. Sgt. Domenic Mash, the 386th ESFS training manager, deployed from the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station. "Limiting casualties in any situation is the number one goal."

"The HRRT is important for responding to scenarios that require

*See HRRT, Page 7*









## HRRT

### *Continued from Page 5*

a particular set of skills in order to neutralize threats while limiting the potential of serious injury or harm to innocent personnel,” said Cook.

Expanding on its skill sets, the HRRT recently incorporated military working dogs and Coalition partner forces into its training.

“The importance of having K-9 is

pretty obvious; they can detect people as well as explosives to keep the team as safe as possible,” said Mash. “Working with Coalition military police ups our manning, gets more guns into the fight, and with them integrating with us it allows them to know our movements and tactics, techniques and procedures.”

The total force team regularly trains together to improve its tactics, techniques and procedures with intentions of continuously expand-

ing its training to meet any type of threat that could be encountered.

This highly trained response force is comprised of defenders who have full-time duties other than the HRRT. These dedicated Airmen devote their free time, training around the clock to maintain their readiness to defend U.S., Coalition and host nation personnel, fight all adversaries during high risk operations and to preserve the ability to deliver decisive airpower.



## Reminders of Hope help Prevent Suicide

By Jamie Ellis  
908th Dir of Psychological Health

The first sergeants, vice wing commander, wing commander, director of psychological health and command chief are pictured here with hope boxes. September is suicide prevention month. One way to prevent suicide is to remind others how to have hope. These boxes were placed throughout the wing and members were given the opportunity to write down things that give them

hope or help them when in a crisis. Hope ties you to things that keep you grounded and will help you focus on the positive things in your life. Sometimes when others cannot find the hope in their life just being there with them helps them find hope. The 908th demonstrates having hope every day by being there for each other in good times and in crisis.



## Troy

### *Continued from Page 3*

wished to, and even full time positions as an Air Reserve Technician.

"I was unaware of all the options that the Air Force offers in terms of career opportunities," said Cadet Lt. Col. Richard Mejia, the cadet wing inspector general and a graduate student at Troy. "For instance, the ROTC program really does not advertise or teach much about the Air Force Reserve and all the jobs that are offered on that path."

Catchings also explained that being a traditional reservist doesn't mean this is just a hobby.

"You have to be ready all the time," said Catchings. "When we get a call to go, we have to be gone in a matter of days. The expectations for us are the same as the active duty. We have to be able to fly in their formations seamlessly, so because of that we have the exact same requirements and skills as they do."

Many of the cadets gained a clearer understanding of the multitude of positions in the Air Force.

"This visit was particularly eye opening to me as a cadet on the verge of commissioning," said Mejia, "Growing up as an Army brat I had basic knowledge of how the military operates, however actually joining the Air Force and learning the culture as a service member is completely different."

Farris echoed Mejia by saying, "This visit was extremely beneficial to me personally because I had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with officers about what their career in the Air Force specifically entailed. I learned a lot about careers within the Air Force that I originally did not know much about."

Furthering the clarification aspects of the visit, Mejia continued by explaining what stood out most him.

"Something particularly interesting to me is that some jobs that seem so simple and straight forward are the most complex," said Mejia. "For example, I was unaware exactly how diverse the duties of a personnel officer are."

What stood out most for Farris was the pride each speaker had in their own AFSC and how each contributes to the fight.

"From all of the officers that visited last week, I was able to learn some specifics within their AFSC that I did not know much about and how those specifics fit with the driving force of the Air Force team," explained Farris.



"One thing that really stood out to me was the personality that each officer brought along with the presentation of their AFSC. Their unique personality brought a different perspective towards an AFSC that I originally did not think was very interesting. I learned so much from each of the officers that visited our detachment. Their experiences and the duties they have within their specialty were very beneficial to understanding the bigger concept of interacting with airmen in those AFSCs in the future."

During the question and answer portion of the visit the 908th speakers continued to emphasize some of the differences between the Active and Reserve force.

"From a pilot standpoint, the Reserve component give you an option of stability that doesn't exist on the active duty side," explained Shehee. "I love Alabama, and I know I don't want to move away and not know if I'm ever going to be station back here again. Being in the 908th I know where home is."

The 908th members were able to highlight aspects of stability and flexibility in careers, while still tying the fact that members of the Reserve component are just as ready for the fight as any other Airmen.

When asked what the key was to passing flight schools and being a successful member of a crew, regardless of which component an Airmen is in, Manno had an answer everyone agreed with.





"It's about desire, said Manno. "It's tough, but you can get through it as long as you have a strong desire, to accomplish the task at hand, the mission, and to serve your country."

Deloughery already knows her cadets have the desire to serve and she is pleased with the support from all that came out.

"This type of exposure is great for the cadets," said Deloughery. "They were already motivated to join and have the desire to serve. They just didn't know how many options they had available to them. Now they are more informed and have had some options explained to them."

The cadets agree with their commander after gaining fresh knowledge.

"This visit was beneficial to not only myself, but to every cadet who had the opportunity to experience it," explained Mejia. "We have more than 40 first and second year cadets who are not familiar with the military in any way, shape, or form and this visit gave them just that. I want to say thank you to all of those men and women who donated their valuable time to come and speak to us and we all are looking forward to hosting another AFSC day in the future."

Farris echoed Mejia's comments by saying, "I am looking forward to learning new information about other Air Force specialties."

After the question and answer portion of the visit, the speakers were given some thank you items for participating in the day's events and then everyone took a group photo.

"I want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting such a great program," said Deloughery. "We can't wait to see you all again in the spring."

(Cadet 1st Lt. Robyn Watson, Air Force ROTC Detachment 017, Public Affairs Squadron Deputy Commander, and a junior at Troy University, contributed to this article)





There will be no UTA in July 2018! Instead, there will be a Super UTA in January taking place from Thursday, January 4, 2018 through Sunday January 7, 2018. This is in order to ensure our ability to deploy within our required time frame. This also means that we will have a nine week break between the June UTA and the August UTA.

## *New to the 908th*

Maj. Scott Graves, 357 AS  
Maj. Robert Schnell, 25 APS  
Maj. Caitlin Sweeney, FSS  
1st Lt. Crystal Grimbail, CES  
Master Sgt. Roxanne Ledesma, FSS  
Tech. Sgt. Antoine Rolle, CES  
Tech. Sgt. Ashley Sexton, ASTS  
Staff Sgt. David Gorham, MXS  
Senior Airman Jackson Kerby, AMXS  
Senior Airman Joshua Maynard, AMXS  
Senior Airman Kenneth Reinnger, AMXS  
Senior Airman Melissa Warren, AW  
Airman 1st Class Amerika Blair, FSS

Airman 1st Class Barrie Byrd, FSS  
Airman 1st Class Dainiel Deloach, OSS  
Airman 1st Class Princess Fails, ASTS  
Airman 1st Class Edgar Orona, MXS  
Airman 1st Class Tenisha Parker, OSS  
Airman 1st Class Chad Rigsby, AMXS  
Airman David Blackwell, AMXS  
Airman Ismail Edwards, AES  
Airman Amber Green, FSS  
Airman Austen Howell, FSS  
Airman Devon Middleton, ASTS  
Airman Keelen Miller, CES

## Gaining Altitude

Paul M. McGowan



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Todd A. Hines  
Anthony L. Keith  
David B. Stinson

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Lindsee R. Beasley  
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Enrique M. Carrillo Jr.  
Matthew R. Chandler  
Chase C. Cole  
Lashonda S. Cole  
James A. Crosno  
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David L. Gorham Jr.  
Patrick A. Harrington  
Andrew J. Jeter  
Brandon W. Knight  
Tiana Y. McLean  
Charles E. Raby  
Barry R. Scott  
Jimmy S. Smith



### GAINING ALTITUDE

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Jamarius M. Ragland  
Tykea J. Watkins



Jasper S. Fryer  
Malachi G. Norris  
Jeanne L. Pyo  
Jacob A. Trump  
Jacob L. Wilkins



Deandra T. Brooks  
Amber R. Green



Ismail M. Edwards  
Keelen S. Miller



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Timothy P. Ware

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Direct **(334) 953-8557/8558**
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(Given by unit's First Sergeant)
  - \* Dial **953-8557 or 953-8558**
  - \* Upon request, input USER ID
  - \* Upon request, input PIN number, then "#."  
PIN is assigned during Newcomers. **If not known, contact your Squadron Lodging Rep.**
  - \* Make, change, cancel, check reservation  
Reservation: input arrival date followed by departure date, then type [ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA). UTA is IDT.]  
> ADT only? Call Lodging: **(334) 953-6133**
  - \* If a scheduled UTA weekend, system will tell you where you will be staying
- Questions?  
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(334) 953-1690, option 1  
Emer cell: (254) 258-1884  
DSN: 493-7332 cedrea.young@us.af.mil

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## UTAs FY18

Oct. 14-15	April 7-8
Nov. 4-5	May 5-6
Dec. 2-3	June 2-3
Jan. 4-7	July No UTA
Feb. 3-4	Aug. 4-5
March 3-4	Sept. 8-9

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## 908<sup>TH</sup> UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

# December

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
<b>Friday, December 1, 2017</b>			
1500	TBD	Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 804/42ABW Conf Rm
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Holiday Inn Express, Prattville
<b>Saturday, December 2, 2017</b>			
0700	0730	Sign In	Orderly Room
0800	1100	Lab work/DNA/HIV/Blood testing	Bldg 760/Lab
0800	1530	Physicals	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0830	1530	Immunizations	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0900	1100	Newcomer's MPS Inprocessing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0900	0930	SAPM Training	Bldg 1056/CC Conf
0900	1000	UDM Meeting	Bldg 848/ CF Classrm
0900	1000	Fitness for Duty (DD 689)	Bldg 760/Flr 1
0900	1000	First Duty Station Briefing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Outprocessing	Bldg 1056/Rm 111/DPMSA
1000	TBD	First Sergeants Board	Bldg 1056/CC Conf
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (DD 689)	Bldg 760/Flr 1
1700	1730	Sign Out	Orderly Room
<b>Sunday, December 3, 2017</b>			
0530	1030	Fit To Fight Testing	HAWC
0700	0730	Sign In	Orderly Room
1000	TBD	DACP Board	Bldg 1056/CC Conf
1230	1300	SORTS/DRRS/ART Briefing	Bldg 1055/908 CAT
1300	1500	AFSC SPECIFIC TRAINING	Designated Workcenter
1600	-	Sign Out	Orderly Room

## Support functions' schedule

Activity	Dates & hours of operation	Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Trg Flt	Sun 0700-1600	Bldg 1056/Rm 101
MPS Customer Svc	Sun 0700-1300 M-F 0900-1600 (Closed 1300-1600 every Wed except drill week)	Bldg 1056/3-5522
Reserve Pay	MTTHF 0800-1600 / Wed 0800-1200 Sun 1230-1500	Bldg 1056/3-6722
Fitness For Duty	Sun 0900-1000 ** Bring DD Form 689 **	Bldg 760 1st Floor/ 3-5714
Medical Records	Sat 0800-1500	Bldg 760 2nd Floor/ 3-5714
Individual Equipment		Bldg 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat 0900-1500	Bldg 851/3-7505
Restricted Area Badge	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Geneva Conv Cards	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Breakfast: 0600-0800 Brunch: 1030-1300 Dinner: 1600-1800	Bldg 668/3-5127
Lodging Office		Bldg 682 /240-5600
Photo Lab	M-F 0730-1630	Bldg 926/3-7981
Comm Help Desk	Sun 1300-1500	



## A Word from A&FRC

The holidays are upon us! They can be both joyful and stressful at the same time. Learn about great ideas and tips on how to survive and enjoy your holiday season.



When you are single it can seem that the world caters to couples and families, especially during the holidays. Get some ideas to do in the local area that can make your holidays brighter!

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# Loved One Currently Deployed or Preparing to Deploy? Learn about all the resources available



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More Information can be found at our website: [www.908aw.afrc.af.mil/](http://www.908aw.afrc.af.mil/)

908th Airman & Family Readiness 866-351-8788  
And on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/908AW](http://www.facebook.com/908AW)