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908th Officer Dedicated to Building Legacy of Mentorship

Long time 908th Member takes Helm of Alabama's only AFRC Wing

SOUTHERN FLYER

Vol. 56 Issue 4

Dec 2019/Jan 2020

Table of Contents 02 CC Editorial

- 03 CCC Editorial
- 04-05 908th Officer Dedicated to Building Legacy of Mentorship
- 06-07 Long time 908th Member takes Helm of Alabama's only U.S. Air Force Reserve Command Wing
- 08 908th CATM Instructors Ensure the Wing is Always
- 09 908th Security Forces Combat Arms Instructor Loves Teaching, Inspiring Others
- 10 Newcomers & Promotions
- 11 UTA Schedule
- 12 Airmen & Family Readiness

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From The Commander

I was very humbled and at the same time very proud that Maj Gen Healy selected me to be your commander. Humbled, because I know very well the scale and scope of the responsibilities I have serving you. Proud, because having spent 2004-2015 in the 908th and the previous year as your wing vice-commander, I know first-hand what a great wing we have and the awesome people in the wing that make the mission happen. My primary job is to serve you; and I will dedicate all of my energy in that pursuit.

Col Ostrat and all of his leadership team did a great job of preparing the wing for the future. During his first strategic planning event the wing concluded they had two top priorities: enhancing combat capability and developing our Airmen. The UEI team this past May concluded the wing was highly effective in executing our top two priorities! Developing Airmen through training, professional development, promotion, etc. will continue to be a top priority. Col Ostrat reports from his deployed area of responsibility that our Airmen are doing great things but circumstances dictate that we have to continue evolving to answer the ever changing threat. We need to be agile, we need to move out quickly, we need to adapt and innovate to stay steps ahead of



our advisories. In short, we need to be thoughtful, deliberate and BOLD as we increase our readiness and our ability to provide our combat capability.

We have received feedback from many sources (surveys, reports and conversations) that much of the wing is full of hope as we enter into the new calendar year. Many people have said that they are excited about serving their country in an environment where ALL are welcome and EVERY-ONE is afforded the opportunity to compete on a level playing field. Please take time during the holidays to be thankful for all you have and I encourage you to find a way to give to those who are in need.

From our family to yours we wish you a fulfilling holiday season -- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Cover photo:

357th Airlift Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Jamey Wright and his Family pose for a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus after a 908th C-130 picked Santa up from the North Pole to vist with the Wing Dec 7, 2019.



"Provide Combat Capability Anyhere... Anytime"

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solicit articles and photographs and reserve the right to edit ials to conform to Southern Flyer editorial policies. Because of rinting and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on , two weeks prior to the unit training assembly. The submission ne is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA.

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From The Command Chief

Hello Team 908th! As most of you already know, I was hired to be your new command chief in September. Since that time I have been able to integrate seamlessly, with the assistance of many of you, into the 908th Airlift Wing. It has been a fulfilling and busy two months.

In my short time here we have done some amazing work such as recognize our team members through quarterly awards, overcome obstacles, worked together to solve issues, and brought warriors home from deployments. All while meeting the high ops tempo of maintaining our qualifications and readiness. This doesn't happen by accident. It occurs because of your bold thinking and the professionalism that you display every day. Kudos to all of you for making this happen!

Although we have done some amazing work over the last few months, there is still more to do. As the New Year approaches, we will have other challenges facing us. Some of those challenges are annual awards packages, annual awards banquet, block training, and exercises. All of these events will be in the first four months and will require us to be on our game in order to be successful. I have no doubts that Team 908th will exceed all expectations as we move forward.

Before we dive into the New Year, we have another

holiday coming up in a few weeks. Take this time to slow down and reenergize, reflect on all the blessings in your lives, spend time with family and friends, and take care of one another. I would ask you to look, listen, and feel as



we go throughout the next few weeks. Look for opportunities to help one another, listen as we interact with one another, and feel for one another as one big family.

As we close out 2019 and enter 2020, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be your Command Chief. I would also like to thank you and your families for what you sacrifice for our nation each and every day. I look forward to seeing all of you back here in January 2020 ready to continue the mission of the 908th Airlift Wing. Now, let's get after it!!

On behalf of the 908th Airlift Wing's First Sergeants Council

We invite you to join us at

The 908th Airlift Wing's 2019 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Awards Banquet Date: Saturday, February 1, 2020

> Time: Cocktail Hour from 1800-1900 Banquet from 1900-TBD

Location: The Maxwell Club, Maxwell AFB, AL

Attire: Mess Dress/Semi-Formal

Cost: E-6 and below - \$30 E-7 & E-8 - \$35 E-9 to O-4 - \$40 O-5 and up - \$50 Civilian guests - \$30

Members can purchase tickets From their First Sergeants

908th Officer Dedicated to Building Legacy of Mentorship

By Airman 1st Class Shelby Thurman 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – When 2nd Lt. Briana Nelson is not busy with her current job as a 908th Operational Support Squadron intelligence officer, she is assisting Tech. Sgt. Trayunne Lucas, Development and Training Flight chief, with training the soonto-be-Airmen of the 908th's DTF program.

Assisting the DTF program is one of the many ways that Nelson is always trying to inspire leadership and discipline in others by demonstrating it first. She has had many influencers in her life, so she tries to give back by being the mentor that others need as well.

Her reasoning for acting like this is because she was first influenced by how her father, a Marine and then Airman, carried himself.

"He's just always so calm," said Nelson. "We were be in the middle of an accident and he was like OnStar before OnStar was invented."

Her father being in the service was another large reason for wanting to join the military, but she wanted to go to college first.

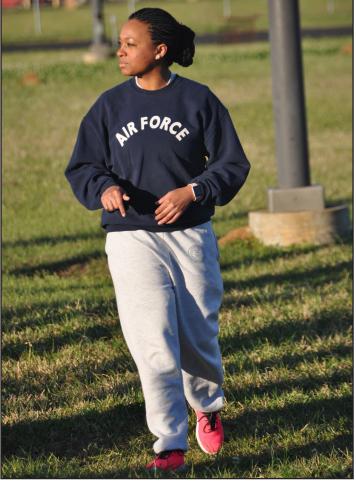
The Montgomery-native, actually born on Maxwell AFB, graduated from Auburn University with her Psychology degree and then enlisted in the Air Force July 29, 2011.

Nelson's first job in the Air Force was as a medical technician at the 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

After a couple of years as a medical technician, she was able to make Staff Sergeant. She then went on to be selected as the assistant flight chief for the DTF program. After seven months she was selected as the primary training flight chief.

Nelson was proud to have been with the DTF program and to have had an impact on so many that were





taking their first steps into becoming Airmen, she said.

"I observed her with the trainees and it was clear that she was doing an awesome job," said Col. Craig Drescher, the 908th Airlift Wing commander.

After being the DTF flight chief for years, Nelson was still driven to accomplish more.

"To whom much is given, much is required," she said, "I felt like I would have a bigger impact the more I was willing to grow in the Air Force by becoming an officer."

The DTF Flight Chief position was only available for three years but if she became an officer then she could stay for as long as she wished.

"You can have three years of impact or you can have 20 years of impact," she said.

Thus, began her journey on trying to commission and complete Officer Training School at Maxwell.

She applied for OTS in July 2016, was selected September 2016 and left home for OTS in March 2019.

The main quality that stood out to Nelson about OTS was the shared comradery between others.

"There were 312 people in my whole class and 60 were female," said Nelson. "With that scarcity of females we really stuck together and pushed each other to get to the finish line. With there being so few, you really want to see every female beside you succeed."

Having the other female cadets encouraging each other made it easier for her to push towards graduation day, she said.

After months of being away from her family, they were right there to cheer her on at her graduation on May 23. Her son, Grayson, had come to her graduation with a giant poster that had a timeline on it that listed back to when she graduated college, to having him, to joining the Air Force and then her commissioning day, she said.

"He even made sure that when we got home that I had a surprise party," said Nelson. "He made sure that it was really special for me."

Nelson not being around for two months was a big adjustment for Grayson, but he stayed strong. Because of how much her son did to support her goals she does what she can to celebrate him in return, she said.

Drescher recalled when he first asked Nelson about her family. He remembers how important she said that family is to her, especially her son.

"She calls him her 'why," he said.

Having her son as another one of her main influencers, along with her father and countless others, is why Nelson maintains her new leadership position by continuing inspiring others to aspire for more.

This dedication to leading others is why Nelson has returned to the DTF program to assist Lucas in preparing these new recruits for Basic Military Training, she said.

She hopes that her story of transitioning from enlisted to officer will be a great example to lead others down the same path.





Having others pave the way makes goals seem much more realistic, said Nelson.

"In order to see yourself somewhere, you need to see someone else be able to obtain it," she said.

She believes that it is important for others to take steps to becoming officers in order to lead others, even if it seems intimidating.

"Somebody has to make the sacrifice," said Nelson. "If not you, then who?"

Nelson's opinion on leadership has not changed since she first felt inspired to enlist and this is why she does not feel a big difference between being an officer and enlisted.

"If you're a leader, you're always a leader, no matter what your rank is," said Nelson.

Part of being a leader is also being a mentor, she said.

Having others mentor her since she was young and continuing to have people still be her motivators to this day is why she believes it is necessary for her to choose to mentor. She hopes that her decision to be that cornerstone of instruction for others will inspire individuals to be driven to want to mentor others as well.

"She said that when she came back, one of her goals was going to be to help mentor people through this long process that she went through of getting selected and earning her commission," said Drescher. "I have no doubt that she is doing that."

Nelson's ability to show consistent mentorship, loyalty and care towards others is why they know that she will always look after them.

"They know I'll stand by them," said Nelson.

The 908th and the Air Force are greatly benefited by having leaders like Nelson who are willing to go through trials to become an officer. Her devotion to inspiring mentorship in others is vital in cultivating a community of servant-leadership here at the 908th.



IME 908TH MEMBER TAKES F ALABAMA'S ONLY U.S. AIR RESERVE COMMAND WING



As we look back on 2019, one of the most significant events for the 908th Airlift Wing took place in October when Col. Craig Drescher assumed command of Alabama's only U.S. Air Force Reserve Command Wing. Drescher had already been a member of the 908th Family for more than 12 years, having first joined the unit in July 2004 as a navigator and executive officer of the 357th Airlift Squadron.

Drescher was with the 908th until April 2015 having served in various roles in the Operations Group. When he left the 908th it was to command the 913th Airlift Group at Little Rock and then he also served in key positions at Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters and on the staff at 22nd Air Force, the 908th's

parent command.

Drescher's last assignment was as the vice commander of the 908th, when we welcomed him back to our home in October 2018.

908th CATM Instructors Ensure the Wing is Always Ready

Story&Photos by Airman 1st Class Shelby Thurman 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- The sun will not be up for hours but the 908th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms instructors are already at Maxwell's Firing Range, preparing for their class' arrival Nov. 2, 2019, for the 908th SFS' annual qualifying test.

During the November Unit Training Assembly, all 908th SFS had to conduct their annual qualifications course and the junior enlisted had to receive additional training.

Everything is pre-set the night before so in the morning they can, "Hit the ground running," said Master Sgt. Henry Relf, 908th SFS CA instructor.

Even though the students have a full day of training and qualifying, the instructors' days are even longer, said Tech Sgt. James Kuehne, 908th SFS CA instructor.

The instructors prove their dedication both in front of and behind the scenes by working long after everyone else has come and gone for the day.

"[We] go out at [3 a.m.] or [4 a.m.] and we're out there until [5 p.m.] or [6 p.m.]," said Relf.

Regardless of there being a lot of work to do, it is all accomplished by the seven-person team.

Since the team is this size and spending long days together, they have become close, said Staff Sgt. James Pilgrim, 908th SFS CA instructor.

"We are a little family," said Relf.

Working with other instructors that care about each other and their students makes the long hours feel worth it to them.

"Proficiently training these airmen is our reward," said Pilgrim.

It is necessary for them to stay focused every time they teach because of the job's demands.

"You have to have that passion and dedication or else you'll become an ineffective instructor," said Pilgrim.

Knowing that they are doing their part as instructors helps keep them motivated to continue to work hard for these Airmen.

Relf describes their role as crucial due to them wanting everyone to be trained and certified because, "They may be the person that saves somebody you love."



The CA instructors' desire for teaching is obvious in how they conduct themselves every day. They are a vital part of the 908th who ensure Alabama's only reserve citizen Airmen are ready to fight anywhere at a moment's notice.

908th Security Forces Combat Arms Instructor Loves Teaching, Inspiring Others



Story & Photos by Airman 1st Class Shelby Thurman 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE. Ala. -- Inside one of Maxwell Air Force Base's firing range classrooms is Tech Sgt. James Kuehne, 908th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms instructor, demonstrating how to hold an M4 carbine.

Kuehne heads to the operating tower to begin giving instructions over the microphone. The other redhat clad CA instructors take their positions on the line to direct the Airmen to put Kuehne's words into action.

The other instructors are quick to follow Kuehne's orders, since he has been working there the longest; along with Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pilgrim, 908th SFS CA instructor.

Pilgrim first met Kuehne when they went to CA school together in San Antonio, Texas, in 2012, said Pilgrim.

When describing Kuehne, Pilgrim said, "Tech Sgt. Kuehne is a prime example of a great Airman and outstanding NCO and supervisor."

Other instructors share the same sentiments, including Master Sgt. Henry Relf, 908th SFS CA instructor, who has been a combat arms instructor since he first enlisted in the Air Force in 2005.

Relf first met

Kuehne when they started to work together when Relf joined the 908th CA instructing team in 2013.

Relf described Kuehne as being, "Class A" and "hard-working."

Another instructor that feels the same way is Senior Airman Emilio San Miguel, 908th SFS CA instructor. He is one of the newest members to the instructing team who joined in May 2019.

As one of the newest members, Kuehne was quick to become his mentor, said San Miguel.

"[Kuehne] took me under his wing and taught me everything I know about combat arms," said San Miguel. "He has been my greatest mentor when it comes to combat arms and has inspired me to be the

best instructor I can be."

There are many more inspiring stories about Kuehne's leadership and they all stem from how dedicated he is to his teaching career.

"I love being here," exclaimed Kuehne. So much so that, "I re-enlisted on Flag Day in 2016, right out on the firing line."

He could not imagine having a job doing anything else.

The 908th thrives on having dedicated servant leaders like Kuehne and his team to inspire Airmen every day to be the best they can be. Having Airmen like the CA instructors on the 908th's side demonstrate just how dedicated and well-prepared Alabama's reserve citizen Airmen are to fight anywhere at a moment's notice.

New to the 908th

Maj. Jarius Wallace, AMXS Capt. Micha Hudgins, OSS Capt. Donald Waltman, ASTS Senior Master Sgt. Robert Byrd, 25 APS Tech. Sgt. Alan Hardy, 25 APS Tech. Sgt. Edward Melendez, MXS Staff Sgt. Jason Bailey, MXS Staff Sgt. Omaridarnell Ferguson, SFS Staff Sgt. Tristan Hordge, FSS Staff Sgt. Dylan Moore, AMXS Senior Airman Darrell Humphrey, LRS Airman 1st Class Justin Bashe, SFS Airman 1st Class Jasmine Brinson, AMXS Airman 1st Class Cameron Brock, AMXS Airman 1st Class Kaylain Carter, AES Airman 1st Class Maria Chang Cruz, LRS Airman 1st Class Jarrad Cox, MXS Airman 1st Class Seung Han, CES Airman 1st Class Grace Holmes, 357 AS

Airman 1st Class Jasmine Jones, SFS Airman 1st Class Desiree Monroe, ASTS Airman 1st Class Janae Reynolds, AES Airman 1st Class Kenneth Ricks, AMXS Airman 1st Class Nester Rivera, MXG Airman 1st Class Shelby Thurman, AW Airman Basic Joshua Bacon, AMXS Airman Basic Khobi Brown, AMXS Airman Basic Coryan Carter, CES Airman Basic Dylan Earnest, MXS Airman Basic Tykeria Grissom, SFS Airman Basic Dejon Harris, CES Airman Basic Lexus James, SFS Airman Basic Christopher Nunez, MXS Airman Basic Azariah Saxton, ASTS Airman Basic Makayla Silas, 25 APS Airman Basic Armani Smith, SFS Airman Basic Genovese Winbrone, SFS

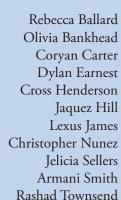




Demarcus Cade Dalandon Callens Taylor Clark Amanda Crumley Thomas Greiner Brandi Laster Kyle Smith Carolette Thompson

Conrad Atkins **Justin Bashe** Treasher Britt Alexander Dorrego Walter Hernandez Grace Holmes Marias Lee Devon Middleton Sophia Morris Kaeleib Patterson Symone Porter Jerin Price Jonathan Robinson Wyatt Slayton Samuel Smith Aaron Thomas Dawson Varner Cassie Waldrop Chantelle Williams Ryan Williams Andrew Wise





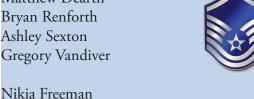
GAINING ALTITUDE

Roland Benitez Caterina Durham



Michael Conner

Lindsee Beasley Matthew Dearth Bryan Renforth Ashley Sexton



Enrique Carrillo Ulysess Grant Barry Scott Vicki Slick



Johnathon Hall Jamie Hicks Ykeona Kelly Johnna Linthicum Alana Mcclain Kyle Nagamatsu Deloise Reeder Vincent Senegar **James Starns**



Christopher Halbert Christopher Hardin Nicholas Johnson James Kuehne Saleumsack Manivong Justin Morris Lacey Pinkney Page Joshua Schofield Robert Shufford Brandon Williams



UTA Lodging

- * Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least <u>48 hours</u> prior to your arrival.
- * Maxwell Toll-Free **1 (800) 673-9356**Direct **(334) 953-8557/8558**
- * Input your unit authorization code (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?

Contact Master Sgt. Cedrea Young (334) 953-1690, option 1 Emer cell: (254) 258-1884

DSN: 493-7332 cedrea.young@us.af.mil

Checkout time:

No time to go to the front desk, or phone charge? Drop the keys in the drop box in Bldg 682 (Main Lodging) for your convenience.

DO NOT USE this box if you have charges on your bill.

In accordance with AFI 34-246 smoking is prohibited in lodging rooms. You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

UTAs FY20

	<u> </u>	, .	
Oct. 5-6			April 4-5
Nov. 2-3			May 2-3
Dec. 7-8			June 6-7
Jan. 11-12			July 11-12
Feb. 1-2			Aug. 1-2
March 7-	8		Sept. 12-13

908TH Unit Training Assembly



Start	End	Event	Location/OPR		
Friday, January 10, 2020					
1200	1700	Wing Wide Training	Polifka Auditorium		
1500	TBD	Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 1050/357th Conf Rm		
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Bldg 845/AMXS Conf Rm		
		8	8		
		Saturday, January 11, 2020			
0600	1000	Fit To Fight Testing	HAWC		
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room		
0730	1530	Clothing Issue	Bldg 1154/Rm 131		
0730	0815	Mask Issue for Weapons Qual	Bldg1154		
0800	1100	Lab work/DNA/HĪV/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		
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE		
1600	1630	Sign Out	Orderly Room		
6 . 1 . 1 12 2020					
0700	0720	Sunday, January 12, 2020	Onderder Deere		
0700	0730 1100	Sign In CBRNE	Orderly Room		
1200	1600	CBRNE	Bldg1154/Room119		
			Bldg1154/Room119		
1230 1400	1300 1600	Readiness Reporting/DRRS/ART Briefing AFSC SPECIFIC TRAINING	Bldg 1055/908 CAT Designated Workcenter		
1400	1000				
1000	-	Sign Out	Orderly Room		

Support functions' schedule					
Activity Newcomers' Trg Flt	<u>Dates & hours of operation</u> Sat 0700-1600	<u>Location/Ext.</u> Bldg 1056/Rm 101			
MPS Customer Svc	Sat 1300-1600 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 Sat 0900-1500 Sun 1200-1500	Bldg 1056/3-6722			
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 Lunch: 1100-1300 Dinner: 1600-1830	Bldg 668/3-6450			
Lodging Office Photo Lab Comm Help Desk	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 682 /240-5600 Bldg 926/3-7981 Bldg 848/3-9703			

AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS INFO



Taking care of families is an important part of the quality of life for Airmen with programs intended to enhance morale and quality of life for Airmen and their families.

908th Airlift Wing 401 W. Maxwell Blvd. Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6501 Presorted First Class U.S. Postage PAID Permit #700 Montgomery, AL

TO THE FAMILY OF:



Emergency assistance provided for reservist on Title 10 orders more than 15 days.



Commanders program promoting cohesion between unit leadership and family members.





Stop by your 908th Airman & Family Readiness office to learn more about all the programs available.





Mandated for ALL reservist on Title 10 Orders



HHC program providing child care for the UTA weekends.

Military Family Life Counseling (334) 559-0702 or (334) 744-0418 Personal Financial Counselor (334) 618-6991

\$\$\$\$\$ Financial Readiness = Mission Readiness \$\$\$\$\$



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Emergency Financial First Aid Kit Strengthen your Financial Preparedness for Disasters and emergencies www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness and www.operationhope.org



Misadventures in Money Management

An interactive graphic novel teaching financial skills. Start your mission at MiMM.GOV

Is your Family ready for your Deployment?
Stop by and find out!
All of Maxwell Air Force Base is standing by to support our Reserve Families too!