

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 41, Issue 9, September 2004

Pay raise shows America's commitment to troops

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The 3.5 percent pay raise provided for in the 2005 Defense Appropriations Bill shows the U.S. government and the American people are committed to supporting their military forces, DoD's top personnel official said today.

"It's a strong signal of the country's support for the men and women in uniform," David S. C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, said during an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

This year's appropriations bill also brings to zero the average out-of-pocket housing expenses paid by military members. Five years ago, officials estimated housing allowances paid to military members covered only 81 percent on average of what

most military members actually paid. In January 2000, then-Defense Secretary William Cohen pledged to reduce that percentage every year. Since then, officials have kept that pledge.

Mr. Chu explained that the housing allowances now cover 100 percent of the average housing costs for individuals, based on DoD estimates of rent rates in various areas and what size and type of housing individuals of various ranks and family situations should be entitled to.

"We're committed to keeping it that way," he said.

Mr. Chu also stressed that it's vital to recognize the sacrifices of National Guard and Reserve service members in the war on terrorism. "We shouldn't differentiate (between active and reserve troops)," he said. "If you're on active duty, you're on

active duty" regardless of how you got there.

Enhanced access to health care for reserve-component service members and their families and improved education benefits enacted or proposed since the war on terrorism began help highlight America's commitment to these forces, Mr. Chu said.

In particular, President Bush announced Aug. 18 that he supports improving G.I. Bill education benefits for reserve-component service members activated for an extended period of time. The change would make the benefit for activated reservists more on par with the benefit active-duty forces are entitled to, Mr. Chu said.

"I think the country is recognizing the importance of our Guard and Reserve force by these changes," he said. "We recognize that we're asking

them to do something difficult -- leaving their families, leaving their homes, often in inconvenient times, sometimes at a significant financial sacrifice.

"We appreciate that. And we want to be sure that we ease that transition and make it as seamless as possible for people."

The undersecretary also offered a personal message directly to the men and women in America's armed forces.

"You around the world are doing a superb job for this country, often under very difficult circumstances, often away from your loved ones," Mr. Chu said. "We appreciate the sacrifice you're making. We thank you for that service. We want to do our very best by you and provide the kind of support that makes this a superb career choice for you and your family."



Photo by Capt. Denise Boyd, 386AEW/PA

Different location, same mission

908MXS's Master Sgt. Sammy Gipson, a hydraulics specialist temporarily assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, sits in the cockpit of a C-130 performing an Ops check after replacing one of the brakes on the aircraft. Sergeant Gipson and other 908th personnel previously deployed to Kyrgyzstan have redeployed to a location in Southwest Asia. The mission switches from support of Operation Enduring Freedom to support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fellow 908er Chief Master Sgt. Mike Harper sends an early report from field. "Just when the tents at our prior location were getting more and more like home we received a notice to move. The 908MXS folks went first to prepare the way, moving from a location that was weather comfortable to a place that has one temperature, hot, hot, hot! The Ops folks came later and feel the same way. In this location the PT Gear has its perks, because the daily highs of 124 to 136 degrees will make them the uniform of choice. The shifts and flights are long and tiring. The drink of choice is water, a liter an hour or sometimes 2 to 3 liters depending on the workload or effort. We have adapted but the aircraft are struggling due to the heat conditions. The place we now call home has a Pizza Inn, a Subway and a pool. If you are heading this way please pack your bags with swimming trunks, suntan lotion or sunblock (80 uv rating if they make it) and sunglasses," Chief Harper said.

President and Mrs. Bush send best wishes to 908th

Signed Bible makes long trek to reach President

A Bible signed by the flight crew and soldiers of an U.S. aircraft about to embark on a mission in Southeast Asia, made its way from the war-ravaged region to the White House and in the process earned the 908th a personal dispatch from President Bush.

The Bible signing was the brainchild of the 357th Airlift Squadron's Chief Master Sgt. Mike Harper, loadmaster on the flight.

"The morning we left on the first rotator (Feb. 4, 2004) we had troops onboard that had been down range for almost two years in some cases. I had been deployed for only a short time but looking out that DC-10 window I felt that we were all connected and that the unifying force was the fight against terrorism. I prayed and asked God to reveal a unity or bond between us all on that aircraft -- the Bible was the common bond," said Chief Harper in describing how the Bible saga began.

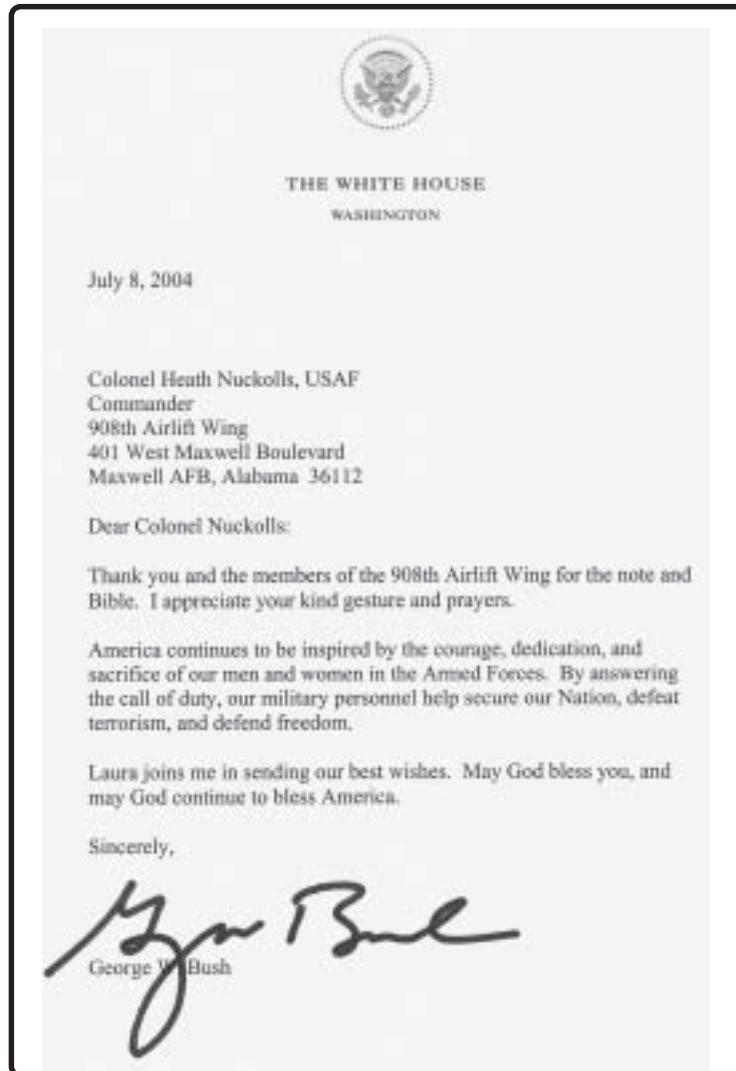
Harper said he had one of the camouflage Bibles and a

soldier seated beside him saw tears in his eyes and asked if everything was alright. "I shared what I was experiencing. We prayed together and said what a blessed nation we lived in and how our commander-in-chief loved our nation and our troops and had asked for prayer, so we prayed for him."

Harper and the soldier then asked everyone onboard the DC-10 including the flight crew to join them by signing the Bible. "I told them I would pray and hope that God would open the door to get the Bible to President Bush."

The chief said he shared the story with former 908AW commander Col. James Stewart and Chaplains Anders and Danford and "they did the rest."

Upon learning that the Bible had indeed reached its target, Chief Harper sent an e-mail from his deployed location stating, "I'm in tears from writing this because my heart is aglow knowing that it reached its target!"



SecDef message tells troops why we fight in Iraq

More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the President are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues - none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On September 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent people's heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries - South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others - hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The President issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start. But most importantly, your fight - and ultimate victory - against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic - and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

DONALD H. RUMSFELD



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This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Southern Flyer" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial policy

Editorial content of the "Southern Flyer" is edited, prepared and provided by the 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office.

All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

We solicit articles, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies.

Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the UTA. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Wednesday two weeks prior to the UTA.

For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.



Photo by Maj. Jerry Lobb

Reserve Command leader visits 908th

22nd Air Force commander Maj. Gen. John D. Bankers chats with deploying wing personnel before their departure from the Maxwell AFB flightline Aug 18. General Bankers spent most of the day touring wing facilities and talking with members. Several times during his visit he praised the performance of the wing and its support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. He also spoke of his concern and appreciation for family members, encouraging commanders and supervisors to particularly maintain their focus on caring for families of deployed members.

DoD people face limits on political activities; DoD directive, Hatch Act keep workplace neutral

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) - With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind service members and Defense Department civilians that they are subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DOD's general counsel's standards of conduct office, said intimidated many Southerners into not voting.

Today, two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DoD directive for active-duty service members and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral.

That is not to imply that they cannot participate in politics. Mr. Epstein said DoD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to urge others to vote. Both groups can sign nominating peti-

tions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues - but only if they do not do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of restrictions differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty service member, a rank-and-file civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career senior executive service, Mr. Epstein said.

Of all DoD employees, uniformed service members have the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most civil service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, service members as well as government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies. Service members can attend only as spectators and not in uniform. They are not permitted to make public politi-

cal speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Service people generally are not permitted to campaign for political office. Civilian employees are, if the election is a nonpartisan.

While the restrictions concerning political activity may vary, Mr. Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DoD workers. They cannot use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle or while wearing an official uniform.

More details about restrictions on DoD military and civilian employees' political activities are posted on the DoD Web site.

Sometimes we need struggles

Face them with courage, help each other

A man found the cocoon of an emperor moth. He took it home so that he could watch the moth come out of the cocoon. One day a small opening appeared. The man sat and watched the moth for several hours as the moth struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then the moth seemed to stop making progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it was going to get and it could go no further. It just seemed to be stuck.

Then the man, in his kindness, decided to help the moth, so he took a very small pair of scissors and made a small snip in the cocoon. There, he thought, now you can get free. The moth then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the moth because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would grow in time. Neither happened! In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly. What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny



By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders
908th Airlift Wing senior chaplain

opening, was the way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle. By depriving the moth of a struggle, he deprived the moth of health.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If we were to go through our life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Give every opportunity a chance. Face the struggles with courage, it could turn out that they were just what you needed.

These are days of great struggle for all of us in the 908th Family. Let us help each other in these times.

USAF approves humanitarian medal for OEF

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFPN) -- The Air Force has authorized the Humanitarian Service Medal for certain people who supported Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the operation, hundreds of Airmen participated in packaging and delivering nearly 2.5 million individual human daily rations to beleaguered Afghans.

The medal recognizes this and other humanitarian operations that took place Oct. 7, 2001, to May 31, 2002.

To qualify for the medal, Airmen must have been individually assigned or attached to a unit participating in the humanitarian efforts and must have directly participated in the relief actions. The actions must have affected locations within the land area, airspace, or waters of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Gulf of Oman, or the Arabian Sea, designated

as 20 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude.

Other Airmen, such as aircrews, who may be approved are those who were in direct support of OEF humanitarian operations from U.S. locations, or deployed overseas and were assigned to or working from one of the following locations: the Combined Air Operations Center, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; the Regional Air Movement Control Center, Al Udeid, Qatar; the 437th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron or 37th Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; the 351st Air Refueling Squadron, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England; the 2nd Space Operations Squadron, Falcon Air Force Base, Colo.; the 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.; or the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, McChord AFB, Wash.

She'll be back, we hope

Longtime unit member Colonel Betty Williams

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908AW Public Affairs

"Mom and dad always wanted an officer and a gentleman in the family and they got her," laughed Senior Master Sgt. John R. Rawls as he spoke glowingly of his younger 'older' sister, departing 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander Col. Elizabeth "Betty" Williams. "She will tell you in a heartbeat that I am older than her but that's not true," said Rawls.

Williams will be leaving the 908th to become the mobilization assistant to the Air Force Reserve Command Nurse at Robins AFB. Williams said she would be representing the reserve perspective dealing with training requirements and platforms.

"While working on General Batbie's (Air Force Reserve Command vice commander Maj. Gen. John Batbie) training initiative, we took all the training that applied to medical personnel," Colonel Williams said, "and we evaluated and reviewed that training."

"My first job there will be to finish that up," Williams continued. "I'm looking forward to the new job. I feel there are things that need to be done, things that need to be addressed like OJT and the documentation process."

Although she's looking forward to the job, leaving the area and the 908th has to be difficult for the woman who's stayed close to home for most of her 32-year career. Williams was born Troy, Ala. and grew up in Union Springs, Ala. where she was a high school drum majorette at Bullock High School.

It's probably not news to anyone that knows her well that even as a high schooler Williams, who would go off to the University of Alabama and earn a degree in nursing, dis-

played an early talent for "taking care of things." She was a statistician for her high school's basketball team, traveling with the team and keeping stats. And like many rural youngsters, she did her share of farm work.

"We were members of the 4-H and raised dairy calves and would take them to the dairy show," said Williams.

Williams also admitted to winning ribbons while in 4-H for her oatmeal cookies. Although she said, "There's not a bakery in Alabama that needs to worry about me taking over their business," she's still pretty handy in the kitchen. Last Easter she made cakes that Rawls, described as "unbelievable."

She recently discovered how to prepare Kiwi preserves. And is ready for her next culinary endeavor. "My next project is to figure out how to make cherry jelly," announced Williams, "it's on the radar screen, I thoroughly enjoy doing it."

Colonel Williams began her Air Force Reserve career as a flight nurse about a year after graduating in 1971.

While assigned to 908th for almost 20 years, Colonel Williams held such diverse positions as C-7 and C-130 flight instructor and evaluator; officer in charge of aircrew training,



Col. Elizabeth "Betty" Williams

assistant chief nurse and chief nurse. While serving as the senior Air Reserve Technician for the unit's 35th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Colonel Williams was activated in support of Operation DESERT STORM, and deployed to RAF Upper Heyford, United Kingdom.

Following her Desert Storm stint, she ended her 20-year association with the 908th to command Dobbins Air Reserve Base's 64th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Soon the lure of home, and career progression brought her back to Maxwell, this time as an Air War College student.

After completing War College, the colonel returned to Dobbins for 13 months as special assistant to the Operations Group commander and then as a staff officer at 22nd Air Force before once again returning to the 908th where she's spent the last eight years as 908th ASTS commander.

Perhaps it's her propensity for taking care of things and people that keeps pulling her back.

"Acquaintances make statements like 'your sister sure loves her

mother' and comment about how concerned she is for her," said Rawls. "Betty takes care of mother real well."

Taking care of friends, family and reservists is her forte.

"I first met her at Sheppard Field in 1997 where we have to go for training every three years," said Col. Benton L. Busbee, 908th ASTS deputy commander. "From a professional standpoint, her knowledge of Air Force Instructions is the best I have ever seen. She can quote requirements that as commanders and leaders, we are held accountable to."

Busby explained that Williams took care of her people by attending to the needs of her personnel.

"She goes the extra mile," said Busbee.

Master Sgt. Brandy Lindsey, a senior ART with the aeromedical staging squadron, has known Williams for nine years.

"She has a wonderful personality and is very knowledgeable," said Lindsey. "She's like another mother to me. We look up to her here because she is not only a female colonel, but a strong woman."

"I promised the people here they would get the training and I'm convinced that there is nowhere else you can get better medical care than in the U.S. military," said Williams. There are no enlisted vacancies within the squadron at this time and



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Above, Colonel Williams watches her med techs execute a patient off load during a training exercise. Right, the colonel 'performs' at the wing Christmas Party.



The colonel demonstrates she still wields a mean...

s says goodbye to 908th

there is only one person of 173 in the squadron waiting on a school date, she said.

"There are good people here who want to work and who want to stay here," said Williams.

"I don't have many heroes, but for me to say that woman is my hero is the second highest compliment that I could pay her," said Rawls about his sister.

Learning the difference between things that are important and things that are not is a pretty good milestone," reflected Williams. "I like what I do."

One event with the unit stands out in her mind, the activation last November and the preparation leading up to it. According to Williams, the squadron had built up much momentum getting ready.

"After getting ready for so long, we got the message we were activating." Williams related that the message felt like a surprise because of when it came.

"We had been ready to activate for so long," said Williams, "it's a big, emotional aspect for the families."

"I still have people deployed now, but they're all scheduled to come home in September," said Williams.

As she prepares to move on from a place where she spent nearly 30 years, humorous things become so personal looking back, said Williams, "like watching some of the people here grow up. There are also some very poignant times with commissioning outst and ing people and people retiring."

"I had someone come by the other day and tell me his child was starting kindergarten.

ten." She had watched the young man mature, marry, and start his family.

At the new job, Williams believes she will be in the position to address issues concerning the Air Force Reserve and declared she feels an obligation to the next generation.

"Can I fix it? I don't know, but I'll try," said Williams.

"Whatever it takes to make it better," Williams said. "Not easier, better!"

Williams is thankful for the opportunities she has had in the Air Force Reserve. "I was commissioned a second lieutenant here and I don't know anywhere else I'd rather be," she said.

"This has been so much fun, but no one does this by themselves," she continued.

Williams described how much of a difference that the squadron had made in the lives of many servicemembers. She pointed to the many thank you letters from patients who felt members of the Aeromedical Staging Squadron had made a difference.

"Professionalism, compassion, that's what it's all about," said Williams.

"The highest compliment I would give her is that I would go to war with her," said Rawls, "no doubt in my mind."

Williams' husband, 'H' is a retired lieutenant colonel and former 357th Airlift Squadron commander. They live with their son Gray in nearby Wetumpka, Ala.

And although her brother heaped praise on her, he couldn't help stirring the pot a little. "Questions still linger today over the damages done to a 1964 canary yellow Impala," Rawls said.

When asked about the '64 canary yellow Impala,' the usually talkative Williams reluctantly replied, "I borrowed my daddy's car and let someone else drive it and they wrecked it."

Although Colonel Williams didn't have much to say about the incident, it's obvious she learned a lesson. She's been taking good care of people and things for more than 30 years and with her new job that isn't likely to change.

Three earn quarterly wing honors

Three Airmen received recognition during the July UTA as the wing's top Airman, NCO and Senior NCO, for the April – June period.

Senior Airman Temeka Shingles, Tech. Sgt. Daryl Waters and Master Sgt. Martha Roy earned honors for their outstanding job performance.

Airman Shingles, a health services management technician for the 908AES, is in charge of the unit's passport security program.

"Senior Airman Shingles is a good troop. She knows her job which includes coordinating the training flights," said her supervisor Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Perryman. Master Sgt. Beverly Williams, 908AES's NCOIC of administration and operations, describes Shingles as "a quiet person who works diligently and takes pride in what she does." Williams praised her eagerness to learn and her work at self improvement.

Sergeant Waters works in 908CES's structures section. "Tech. Sgt. Waters is a leadership in the making because of his inner drive to excel," said Senior Master Sgt. Chad D. Heaton, structural superintendent. Waters, he said, takes work home and completes the work on his own time. "He can be assigned a job and there is no question it will be done," said Heaton.

Master Sergeant Roy is chief of the Mission Support Flight's career enhancement section.

"Master Sgt. Roy always goes above and beyond," said MSF commander Maj. Troy Vonada.

Often, you can find her working here after hours on her own time, Vonada said. Master Sgt. Roy just performed an audit of all the military personnel records in the wing.

Roy has also developed brochures recently for the Deserving Airman Program and the Promotion Enhancement Program which are available in the Customer Service area in Building 1056.

"She always has a professional attitude and appearance," said Vonada. "She's definitely a senior NCO to be emulated."



Senior Airman Temeka Shingles



Master Sgt. Martha Roy



Tech. Sgt. Daryl Waters

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder



Photo by Maj. Jerry Lobb

Multiple commands, bases, agencies respond to disaster

Total Force effort delivers relief for Florida's hurricane victims

Air Mobility and Air Force Reserve Commands combined forces to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing emergency relief to areas in Florida devastated by Hurricane Charley Aug. 13.

Shortly after receiving the tasking from U.S. Transportation Command, the AMC Tanker Airlift Control Center swung into action by moving 200 empty cargo pallets to Dobbins ARB so the aerial port personnel at Dobbins would be able to prepare relief supplies for airlift as they arrived on base.

Approximately 40 tractor trailers delivered the relief supplies to Dobbins ARB where the 17th Airlift Squadron from Charleston AFB, S.C. had set up stage operations with six C-17s.

"We had just landed at Davis-Monthan AFB, [Ariz.] and were notified that we needed to get to Dobbins for the FEMA support missions," said Lt. Col. Mark S.

Danigole, senior ranking officer for AMC stage operations out of Dobbins. "So we basically turned our aircraft and were ready within an hour to take off again."

He said that three aircraft were quick-turned on the ground at Davis-Monthan and two were diverted in route from Charleston AFB, where they were doing their own hurricane evacuation. The sixth aircraft was returning from a mission supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The team operating at Dobbins ARB comprised the 94th Airlift Wing, augmented by approximately 14 Airmen from Charleston AFB and six from the 908th's 25th Aerial Port Squadron.

The Maxwell group, Master Sgts. Tracey Jenkins, Robert Lawrence and Jimmy Williams, Tech Sgt. Derrick Hall, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Eaton and Senior Airmen Michael Smith and the

Charleston augmentees arrived at Dobbins the next morning and immediately began working with members of the 80th Aerial Port Squadron palletizing relief supplies trucked in by FEMA.

"We received calls from Senior Master Sgt. Lynn Whited late Friday afternoon asking if we could support. We left Maxwell about 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning and arrived at Dobbins around 9 and went to work for the next 12 hours, palletizing cargo, weighing the pallets and marking them. Sunday saw more of the same and we came home Monday," said Airman Smith.

Sergeant Lawrence said they off-loaded nearly 60 tractor trailers filled with bottled water, blankets, sleeping bags, foodstuff, and other essential items and processed the cargo for air shipment aboard C-17 aircraft. The total weight that day was nearly 100 tons.

The C-17s began delivering relief supplies Saturday and wrapped up the airlift portion of the relief mission with six more missions Sunday.

In addition to operations at Dobbins, AMC also delivered a Tanker Airlift Control Element to Lakeland Airfield, Fla., a location designated by FEMA. This mobile aerial port unit, an element of the 621st Air Mobility Operations Group stationed at McGuire AFB, N.J. received relief supplies and transferred them to FEMA personnel.

Since there were so many bases and units involved, all these moving parts had to be planned and coordinated by the TACC.

"All this pivotal planning happened in the middle of us evacuating out of AMC's East Coast bases," said Col. Jeff Franklin, TACC director of operations. "The trick was to get the planes out of the way of the storm and still use

them for the humanitarian support missions."

Brig. General Paul Selva, TACC commander, praised the Total Force effort. "It was really a team effort. It was all the Airmen from McChord, Charleston, Maxwell, and McGuire, as well as, the reserve wing at Dobbins that pull this all together. We simply did the coordination and put the missions out for the wings to execute. The real credit goes to them."

Credit isn't necessary Sergeant Eaton said. "It felt good to know we were doing our part to help people affected by the hurricane. We also got some hands on training we don't often get the chance to do," she said.

Sergeant Jenkins offered similar remarks and chimed in, "I enjoyed helping out and if the need arises I'd be glad to do it again...anytime-anywhere." (Adapted from an Air Mobility Command news release)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Allmon II

Above, 25APS's Master Sgt. Tracy Jenkins builds pallets at Dobbins ARB Aug. 14. Right, Master Sgt. Reginald Talley, 80th Aerial Port



Photo by Don Peck

Squadron, guides a 25K Halverson loader to dock with a 60K Tunnor loader to bridge cargo into one of Charleston AFB's C-17s.

Web page established to provide service people with voting information

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFP) -- With less than 80 days to the presidential election, Air Force officials have added another tool to their voting effort to ensure all Airmen can participate.

"Airmen Votes" is the name of a Web page designed to give Airmen, their family members and Air Force civilians all the

information they need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request and mail in an absentee ballot.

"Your vote counts. Since 1960 two different presidential elections have been decided by less than 1 percent of the popular vote," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said. "The absentee voting sys-

tem has traditionally been fraught with challenges, but we are working hard to make it easier for you to vote no matter where you're located."

The Web page is available at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes/. It can also be reached through Air Force Link and the Air Force Portal.

The page boils down the essential elements of the federal voting Web site to make registering to vote as simple as possible.

Department of Defense officials have teamed up with U.S. Postal Service officials to treat balloting materials as priority mail going to and from the

voter. A significant change for voters overseas is ballots will receive postal cancellation at the APO or FPO to give a more accurate measure of the date and time a ballot is received into the postal system.

For more information, Airmen can contact their unit voting assistance officer.

September Unit Training Assembly Schedule

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location/OPR</u>
Friday, Sept. 10, 2004			
1630	1900	Commanders' Staff Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conference Room
Saturday, Sept. 11, 2004			
0730	0800	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	0800	Newcomers' Flight Reception	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	0850	Newcomers' Intro/Orientation	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	1100	Lab Work/DNA/HIV/Blood Testing	Bldg. 760/Lab
0800	TBD	Self Aid and Buddy Care Instructor Training	Bldg. 1055/Classroom 3
0820	1500	Physicals (Bring Shot Record)	Bldg. 760/First Floor/Pharmacy Lobby
0830	0900	Pregnancy Profiles	Bldg. 711/Records Room
		Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	
0830	1030	Anthrax Briefings (30 min.)	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0830	1230	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
0830	TBD	Units at Range M-16 (Classroom)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
0900	1130	Shots (Yellow Fever, 1030-1130)	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0900	1000	Wing Mobility Out-Processing	Bldg. 848/West Side
0900	1100	Mask Fit Testing (as scheduled)	Bldg. 760/Second Floor
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Out-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 111, DPMSA
1000	1100	FSTR (Disaster Preparedness) Mtg	Bldg. 1055/CC Conf Room
1000	1100	Unit Deployment Managers' Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1030	1130	First Sergeants' Meeting	Golf Course Snack Bar
1130	1230	Top Three Association	Bldg. 1056/Command. Chief's Office
1200	1300	Company Grade Officers Mtg	Golf Course
1230	TBD	Units at Range M-16 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
1230	1530	CDC Testing (SNCOA Course 5&12 CD Rom Only)	Bldg. 903/DPMT
1300	1400	Chemical Mask Exchange	Bldg. 848/West Side
1300	1400	Human Resources Development Council	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1300	1500	Newcomers' MPF In-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 109/
1330	1730	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1400	1500	Unit Safety Representatives Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1500	1600	Gas Mask/A1 Bag Issue (Newcomers)	Bldg. 848/West Side
1600	TBD	9-11 Observance	TBD
1700	TBD	Sign Out	Orderly Room

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location/OPR</u>
0630	0700	Sign in	Orderly Room
0815	0900	MPF In-house Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Room
0830	1230	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
0830	TBD	Units at Range M-16 (Classroom)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
0830	1130	Hazardous Cargo Training	TBD
0830	1130	Pallet Build-up/Joint Inspection	25APS (Various locations)
0830	0900	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
0900	0930	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 846/Classroom 2/25APS
0900	1000	Self-Inspection Monitors' Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
0930	1030	Fitness Eval (Bring Referral Ltr)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1000	1030	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 848/Classroom/Com Flt
1100	1130	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPM
1100	1200	Wing Career Advisors' Meeting	Bldg. 1052
1130	1230	Chief's Group Meeting	Bldg. 1461
1130	1230	SORTS/Commander Meeting	Bldg. 1055/Command Post
0830	TBD	Units at Range M-16 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg. 903/DPMT Classroom
1300	1400	Honor Guard Meeting	Bldg. 1056/Command. Chief's Office
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1330	1430	UTA Bulletin Meeting	Bldg. 903/DPMT
1400	1430	AW/MSG Supervisors' Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1600	TBD	Sign-out	Orderly Room

Support functions' schedule

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates & hours of operation</u>	<u>Location/Ext.</u>
Newcomers' Training Flight	Sun, 0630-1600	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101
MPF Customer Service	Sat, 0800-1200	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
	Sun, 1200-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
	Sun, 0700-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
ID Cards	M-F, 0630-1600	
	Sat, 0800-1200	
	1500-1700	
Reserve Pay	M-F, 0700-1100;	Sat, 0800-1600
	1200-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-6722
Fitness For Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Sat, 0830-0900	Sun, 0730-0800
	1330-1400	Bldg. 711/3-5714
Medical Records	Sat, 0800-1500	Sun, 0800-1300
Individual Equipment	Sat, 0800-1530	Bldg. 711/3-5714
Clothing Sales	Sat, 0900-1500	Bldg. 1154/3-6020
Restricted Area Badges	M-F, 0630-1600	Bldg. 851/3-7505
Vehicle Registration	M-F, 0730-1600	Bldg. 502/3-4283
	Sat, 1300-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
	Sat, 1300-1500	Bldg. 1056/Rm 122C
Geneva Convention Cards	M-F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500
Dining Hall	Sat, 0600-0930	Sun, 0600-0930
	1100-1300	Bldg. 668/3-5127
	1600-1830	
Lodging office/reservations (lodging problems, contact 908th rep via lodging front desk)		Bldg. 1573/3-2401
Photo lab	M-F, 0730-1630	Sun, 1300-1500
		Bldg. 926/3-7981

September UTA Lodging

To access the Lodging Reservation System, please follow these instructions:

* Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 24 hours prior to arrival.

* Call Maxwell at 1-800-673-9356

* Input your unit's authorization code

* Dial the system at 3-8557 or 3-8558

* The system will ask for your SSAN, which you will input with the telephone keypad

* The system will ask for your personal ID number, followed by the "#" sign. (PIN is available through your First Sergeant or Services 3-7332)

* The system will ask if you would like to make, change, or cancel a reservation.

* To make a reservation, input arrival date and then departure date.

* You will be asked if the reservation is ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA)

* If this is a scheduled UTA weekend, the system will tell you where you will be staying

* If you cancel or change a reservation, you will be prompted for a phone number.

*** The confirmation number you receive is for 908th Services use only.**

Note: You can also call the system direct DSN or Commercial. The numbers are: DSN 493-8557/8558 or COMM: (334) 953-8557/8558.

If you have a question please contact Master Sgt. Byron Godwin at:

Commercial: (334) 953-7332

DSN: 493-7332

E-mail: byron.godwin@maxwell.af.mil

Emergency cell: (334) 657-1304

Notice! Checkout time at Maxwell Lodging for the September UTA is 0800 Sunday. If you do not have time to go to the front desk, and do not have a phone charge, there will be a key drop box located in Bldg. 157 (Main Lodging) for your convenience. Please do not use this box if you have any charges on your bill. In accordance with AFI 34-246 **smoking is not permitted in lodging rooms.** You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

Airlift will be lodged at the Hampton Inn, Prattville.

Aurora, Ill./Huntsville, Ala. Airlift Schedule

UTA pick-up schedule Friday:

Depart Maxwell at 1530 local

Arrive Aurora at 1800 local

Depart Aurora at 1830 local

Arrive Huntsville at 2030 local

Depart Huntsville at 2100 local

Maxwell at 2145 local

UTA return schedule Sunday:

Bus departs Bldg. 1056 at 1530

Depart Maxwell at 1600 local

Arrive Huntsville at 1645 local

Depart Huntsville at 1700 local

Arrive Aurora at 1900 local

Depart Aurora at 1915 local

Arrive Maxwell at 2115 local

FY 05 Unit Training Assembly Dates

Oct. 2-3; Nov. 6-7; Dec. 4-5;

Jan. 8-9; Feb. 5-6; March 5-6;

April 2-3; May 14-15; June 4-5;

July 9-10; Aug. 6-7; Sept. 10-11

Take Note

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

....to Airman

Decica Williamson, ASTS

Retirements

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Minor, CES

Master Sgt. Duane Lubbert, MSS

Five to advance to Lt Col

Five members of our 908th family have been selected to advance to the grade of lieutenant colonel. Please congratulate Maj. **Blaine Bateman, 357AS; George Baird III, 25APS; Raymond Davis III, 357AS; David Mirolli, 908OSF and James Reid, 908ASTS**, for this well-deserved recognition of their outstanding performance and potential.

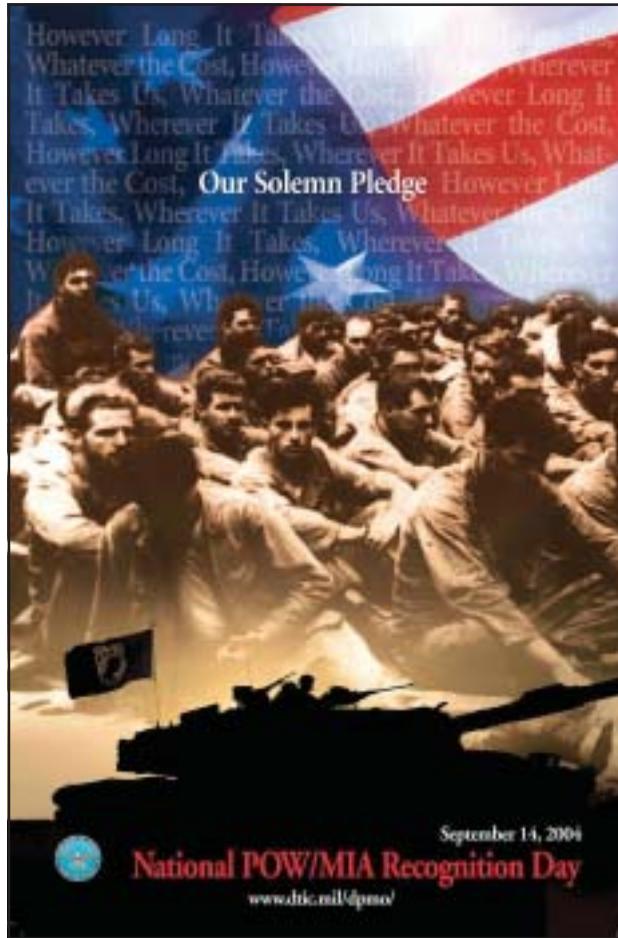
IG now tracks fitness programs

The Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General began evaluating units' implementation of the Air Force Fitness Program during unit compliance inspections in August.

Under the new fitness program, commanders assume more responsibility for validating their Airmen's physical conditioning.

AFRC began conducting fitness assessments on reservists in April. The standards for fitness include a waistline measurement, as well as push-ups, crunches and a 1.5-mile run.

A special interest item, the inspection of unit fitness programs emphasizes Air Force policies, directives, procedures and documentation requirements for the Chief of Staff of the Air force Fitness Program, which went into effect in January. In addition, the purpose of the inspection is to evaluate the unit's compliance with the program, identify problems and recommend corrections to ensure the Air Force provides an environment that supports fitness.



Don't forget POW/MIA Day

This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and the sacrifices made by this nation's Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action, as well as their families. In 2004, it will be observed on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004, out of respect for Rosh Hashanah. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.



Courtesy photo

Wing trio attend Hispanic confab

Master Sgt. Deborah Webb poses for a picture with Medal of Honor recipient Rudolpho Hernandez at the League of United Latin American Citizens national convention. Webb, Col. C.W. Fox, and Command Chief Amos Moore represented the 908th at the event. Sergeant Webb ran the military registration desk and Chief Moore assisted with military protocol, military command post, and the recruiting booth. The gathering, LULAC's 75th, was held in San Antonio July 6 - 11.

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908th Airlift Wing
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Maxwell AFB
Montgomery, AL. 36112-6501