



## NEW OPS GROUP COMMANDER MAKES HISTORY



# "Readiness in Strength" More Than a Wing

## Motto

I recently became aware that our Wing Motto is "Readiness in Strength". I've added the motto to my e-mail signature block and will add it to our briefings and other products to serve as another reminder of why we do what we do.

When I first saw "Readiness in Strength" I immediately thought of "Strength in numbers." It's certainly been my experience in life that if you are in synch with your teammates, a good team is hard to beat. Plus, it's just more fun! I also think that if we are all trained and strong, we will always be ready for anything.

When I had a minute, I went back to read the description and significance of our wing emblem. The three aircraft represent strength in numbers of our airmen. The sword depicts the unit's assault landing capability and the globe represents worldwide deployment (we've certainly been around the world A LOT since 2003!) We've been living out all of the ideals behind our emblem, it's nice to see the written description that goes with the graphics.

Our wing historian, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Scales, found the documents for me and he has information he is working to post so anyone interested can learn more

about the 908th Airlift Wing and our history. If you have historical information about our wing, please forward it to Tech. Sgt. Scales so he can catalogue the information.

Also, if you have other ideas of a phrase like "908th Proud" or something else that you think describes our wing and who we are, please share those with Tech. Sgt. Scales. Another example is 22nd Air Force uses "Second to none." We ultimately would like to create a graphic for posters or shirts that would represent the 908th Airlift Wing, our brand if you will. I bet several of you talented airmen have a great ideas, we look forward to hearing about them.



COL. CRAIG DRESCHER  
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

## 908th Airlift Wing Emblem

**Description** - On a blue shield edged with yellow border, a globe at the base; three stylized silver aircraft in formation and a silver sword in the center of the globe.

**Significance** - The emblem is symbolic of the unit and the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow are used. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations and yellow to the sun and the excellence of assigned personnel. The emblem contains three stylized aircraft representing strength in numbers. The sword depicts the unit's assault landing capability. The globe at the bottom of the emblem is symbolic of the unit's capability for worldwide deployment.



# "Readiness in Strength"

# Relationships are Vital to Mission Success

One year ago I was being interviewed to be your next Command Chief. One topic we discussed was relationships. At that time I told the interview board that relationships are very important to me and everything begins and ends with a relationship, or the lack thereof. Relationships are the foundation to which all other actions are based on.

I believe relationships are a key ingredient to anything we do in life, whether it be a small personal project to working as a team to develop and complete a mission. Without a proper relationship, we are lone individuals going our own separate ways, doing things our own way, with a single approach on how to come to a conclusion. However, if we take time to build relationships with one another, we all can come together as a team, be totally open and honest, collaborate, and come to the best conclusion in order to be more effective while ensuring mission success. I believe how we approach and interact with others will almost always, determine the success or failure of the outcome.

Relationships aren't always easy. Oftentimes they are difficult to navigate and can take a lot of effort to maintain. When I arrived to the 908th Airlift Wing, I discussed with both the Chief's Group and the First Sergeant's Council about why relationships are very important to me and how they are vital to mission success. I also reminded them that there may be times in life where we should simply cut off relationships with one another and walk away, but those should be very few and far between. Just because we can cut off a relationship doesn't mean we should

do it! If you choose to take this route, ensure that it's the last and only option left on the table, and it's what's best for you, the enterprise, and the mission.

By saying we shouldn't cut off a relationship doesn't mean we cannot have spirited debate and diversity in thoughts and opinions. We can do all that and still preserve our relationships. In fact, I would submit that diversity in thoughts and points of view are healthy, and they help in preserving relationships. It allows us to stop and consider another person's point of view in which we may learn something new about them. That's where the true relationship building really begins, when we pause and consider another's point of view.

Having a relationship with someone gets us beyond the doorway of general discussion. It gets us closer to the issue that needs addressing. It also gets us to more open and honest dialogue, opinions, and feelings. If we take time to build relationships, we develop trust and credibility with one another, which are the tenants of my leadership style. Developing our relationships and building that trust and credibility with one another allows us to diversify the team and be all-inclusive in our efforts. This gets us to a more positive result for ourselves and the mission we have been entrusted to carry out.

In conclusion, I would like for you to consider the relationships you have with your fellow Airmen. Think about where those relationships are right now, where they should be, and where you would like for them to be. What have you done to build the relationship that you currently have with each other?



CMSGT. TRACY CORNETT  
Command Chief, 908th Airlift Wing

What are some potential roadblocks to building on those relationships? How do you build upon those relationships into the future? Take a few moments and reflect on how you manage each and every relationship you have. You may be surprised at what you can accomplish when we all work together and build our relationships with one another. I look forward to hearing from you and how you are building those relationships. Aim High, Fly, Fight, and Win!



# "Readiness in Strength"



# SOUTHERN FLYER

Sept - Oct 2020  
Vol. 57 Issue 6



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 05 An Honor to Serve
- 06 908th AES: Angels in the Bama Sky
- 08 908th AMXS Welcomes New CC
- 09 908th's New OG CC Makes History
- 10 Big Trucks, Aircraft, Bigger Mission
- 13 ASTS CC Closes 30 Year Career
- 14 Tools for Life: Embracing Change
- 16 Key Spouse
- 17 Airman & Family Readiness
- 18 Promotions
- 19 UTA Schedule

## LEADERSHIP

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee  
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

Maj. Gen. John Healy  
Commander, 22nd Air Force

Col. Craig Drescher  
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

Vacant  
Chief of Public Affairs  
908th Airlift Wing

## SOUTHERN FLYER STAFF

Bradley J. Clark  
Editor/Deputy Chief, Public Affairs  
908th Airlift Wing

Senior Airman Maximillian Goldberg  
Senior Writer/Photographer, Public Affairs  
908th Airlift Wing

Senior Airman Shelby Thurman  
Lead Writer/Photographer, Public Affairs  
908th Airlift Wing

Vacant  
Writer/Photographer, Public Affairs  
908th Airlift Wing

*"The 908th is made up of service members who are Capable, Innovative Citizen Airmen ... Ready Today, Leading Tomorrow who Provide Combat Capability Anytime...Anywhere."*

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 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 and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to Southern Flyer editorial policies. Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the unit training assembly. The submission deadline is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA.

Address: 908TH/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

E-mail: 908aw.pa@us.af.mil  
Phone: (334) 953-6804/7874 or DSN 493-6804/7874;  
Fax: (334) 953-6355

# An Honor to Serve, a Farewell Message

By Col. Christine Barber

**Commander 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron**

During my 30-year career, many times friends and acquaintances have thanked me for my service. When I was younger, I would usually respond with "You're Welcome". As I matured, I expressed what was closer to my heart, "It's an Honor to Serve".

We all serve and have taken an oath that unites us all to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic and that we will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. Although this unity binds us, we have all joined for different reasons. Some have a patriotic heart and felt the call to serve while others were seeking an adventure. Still others joined to learn new skills, take advantage of the great tuition reimbursement or the retirement pay and benefits. Others joined because they were seeking a positive change in their lives. Lastly, many joined because they have leadership in their DNA and are driven to lead us into the future.

Although we joined for different reasons, we serve for one at the 908 AW: Provide Combat Capability—Anytime...Anywhere. We can only accomplish the mission set before the 908 AW by the unity of our Oath and the synergy of our unique differences. The task set before us can't be accomplished by a Wing of 1200 Individual Airmen but by the 908 Airlift Wing composed of 1200 exceptional Airmen.

I take my service to my fellow Airmen and Citizens very sincerely. Our Core values are our guiding foundation in all that we do. Although much is asked of each of us, Integrity, Service and Excellence is the only way to excel and to meet what our Country has asked of us.

## THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

I AM A WARRIOR.

I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN. I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE, A TRADITION OF HONOR,

AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN, GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, MY NATION'S



**SWORD AND SHIELD, ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.**

**I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.**

**I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN: WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.**

**I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND, I WILL NEVER FALTER, AND I WILL NOT FAIL.**

It has been an honor to serve with you and for you. **I AM AN AIRMAN.**

Col Christine Barber



## COVER PHOTO:

Commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, Col. Craig Drescher, hands the 908th Operations Group colors to Lt. Col. Diane Patton during her Assumption of Command ceremony August 2, at Maxwell Air Force Base. Patton was not only the first female director of operations for the 357th Airlift Squadron, but she is also the first female commander of the 908th OG. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley J. Clark)



# 908th AES: Angels in the Bama Sky

By Senior Airman Shelby Thurman  
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – The patient says his chest is tight,” Capt. Shavonne Smith signaled to the flight nurses and technicians aboard the C-130 Hercules July 10, 2020, in the air above Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Thankfully, the alert that the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical clinical coordinator was relaying was for a training exercise. Multiple times a month, 908th AES members take to the Alabama skies for more readiness training. Each flight has an Aeromedical Evacuation Crew of five members, two flight nurses and three medical technicians, who provide in-flight medical care, said Master Sgt. Malia Butler, 908th AES flight instructor and currently an instructor upgrade candidate.

“We ensure that we are always ready to answer our nation’s call, no matter if it’s operational, humanitarian or peacetime,” said Butler.

Having the 908th AES be a part of the 908th Airlift Wing is vital to its overall mission readiness and success. The other members of the aircraft’s functionality are more than happy to partake in the 908th AES’s mission.

“It’s great to fly with AES because when they get to train, we get to train,” said Capt. Shawn Riches, 357th Airlift Squadron navigator. “At the end of the day, it’s one team, one fight.”

There are many others aboard the Hercules and all across the wing that share the same sentiments.

“We are necessary because we are committed to our promise of bringing our troops back,” said Senior Airman Olivia Oxford, 908th AES technician.

This promise of caring for other service members and civilians by treating them while taking them away from conflict, and potential tragedy, is a great source of pride for many of the 908th AES members and the other crew members involved.

“Every day, somebody’s mother, daughter, or father signs that sacrificial line and we are committed to bringing them home,” said Oxford. “That’s the joy in our job.”

Being able to save lives by whisking victims from danger and taking care of them during transit is a necessary skill and passion that the 908th AES strives to hone, in both themselves and others, for generations to come.

This vitality is why it is essential to train future service members who dream of joining 908th AES.

“I enjoy being an instructor and training cohorts who will one day replace me,” admitted Butler. “I desire for them to be even better than I am by continuing the culture of standing true to our core values of, Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do.”





## 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Welcomes New Commander



By Senior Airman Max Goldberg  
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** – The commander of the 908th Airlift Wing's Maintenance Group, Col. Gregory Halen, transferred command of the 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to Lt. Col. Michael Allen during an Assumption of Command ceremony August 1, at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Allen's previous assignment was as the Deputy Chief of the Operations Division at Headquarters Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

During the ceremony Halen highlighted some of the challenges of taking command.

"Being a commander is not a nine to five job, it never has been and in a maintenance organization it never will be," Halen explained. "You have help as a commander, a lot of great help but ultimately the decisions and the responsibility are yours."

Halen then reassured all that Allen was the best choice to lead the squadron.

"Finding a commander is not an easy task," he said. "You've got to find the right person at the right time for the right things. I think in this case we got really lucky."

During his comments, Allen addressed his expectations of the manner in which the wing will perform.

"We're facing a lot of challenges, we're nine months away from a deployment," Allen stated. "Despite these challenges my vow to you is to always focus on the wing's priorities, enhancing our combat capabilities and developing our Airmen. We still have a real enemy and we still have a real mission."

Allen also emphasized the great responsibility that leaders have to their Airmen.

The new commander introduced his first supervisor, retired Master Sgt. Gilbert Beavers, saying that an Airman's first supervisor specifically plays a major role in shaping the rest of their career.

"First time supervisors have the largest impact on an Airman's life and where they progress from there," said Allen. "You can be the difference between whether or not that person chooses to re-enlist, you can be that motivating factor."

This is Allen's third squadron command, bringing a wealth of experience, which will help prepare the squadron's ability to answer the nations call and deploy in support of her National Defense Strategy.



"Readiness in Strength"



## 908th's New Operations Group Commander Makes History

By Senior Airman Max Goldberg  
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** – The commander of the 908th Airlift Wing, Col. Craig Drescher, transferred command of the 908th Operations Group to Lt. Col. Diane Patton during an Assumption of Command Ceremony August 2 at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Patton's previous assignment was as the Director of Operations for the 908th's 357th Airlift Squadron from August 2018 to April 2020, at which point she informally took command of the 908th Operations Group.

Drescher lauded Patton for her remarkable career so far.

"She is the first officer in the wing to move from the Director of Operations to the Operations Group commander," asserted Drescher. "To the best of my knowledge, she is the first Lt. Col. to be the 908th Operations Group commander."

During the ceremony Drescher highlighted some of the trials and expectations the wing and the operations group are preparing to face.

"We are demanding that we get various Airmen from across our wing ready for deployment," explained Drescher. He continued with, "We are going to train hard, while working under significant operating restrictions during this pandemic, but we will have them ready."

During her comments, Patton addressed her expectations of the group.

"We have a team of officers and enlisted members with phenomenal experience and talent to ensure we meet the mission of delivering combat capabilities anytime, anywhere" said Patton.

"From senior enlisted mentors to junior officers and Airmen bringing fresh perspectives, it's the people that make the mission happen and they do it with excellence each and every time."

Patton then expressed the honor and pride she has in the group.

"None of this is possible without the people of the 908th, I am honored to be part of this wing and to represent the operations group faithfully on their behalf" she said.



Patton further showed her appreciation by saying, "I've always felt a leader is a reflection of the people they lead and there is no finer group which represents the best of the Air Force than the 908th Operations Group."

Patton first enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in November 1997 as an Airman 1st Class and an Aerospace Medical Technician with the 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. She received her degree at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania in 2002. After earning the rank of Tech. Sgt., she earned her commission from Officer Training School and completed Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

She has deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Lieutenant Colonel Patton is a senior pilot, having flown more than 2,700 hours, including over 400 combat hours in the C-130H.



# BIG TRUCKS, BIG AIRCRAFT, EVEN BIGGER MISSION



By Senior Airman Shelby Thurman  
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – The caravan of bundle-laden forklifts led the way to the flight line, en route to a C-130 Hercules that was scheduled for an air drop training mission, July 11, 2020, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

These forklifts were being piloted by none other than the air transportation specialists of the 25th Aerial Port Squadron. The purpose of this mission was for the 908th Operations Group to have an exercise in airdropping one heavy equipment platform and one Container Delivery

System bundle. But it could not be done unless they enlisted the help of the 25th APS.

An air transportation specialist with the 25th APS, Tech. Sgt. Heath Ezelle, described his job as being pretty involved in the 908th Airlift Wing's entire mission. Their job focuses on using large trucks or other equipment to transport troops, equipment or personnel to their destination.

"From weapons to life support, we ship it all," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Jahnsen, 25th APS air transportation specialist.

Once the air transportation specialists delivered their cargo they then assisted the 357th Airlift Squadron loadmasters in strapping it down in the aircraft, said Tech.

Sgt. Eric McKenzie, 357th Airlift Squadron loadmaster.

After their delivery is secured, they head off to their next task: getting ready for recovery.

The air transportation specialists zoomed away in their forklift brigade to switch out for trucks, tractor trailers. Once acquired, their caravan set off for Buzz Drop Zone near Autaugaville, Alabama.

After kicking up plenty of dust on the dirt road to the drop zone they waded through the thigh-high grass in wait for their delivery.

Ezell said that seeing the aircraft take off, drop their bundles and then land safely made the job feel rewarding.

It is this hard work that the members of the 25th APS provide that is vital for the 908th AW's mission as well as all other DoD missions.

*See 25th APS, Page 12*





## 25th APS

### Continued from Page 11

Jahnsen said that their job is “incredibly important” and that without them, nothing would be loaded on or off an aircraft.

“If we didn’t do this then the aircrews couldn’t get their training done and they wouldn’t be able to get qualified for their missions”, said Tech. Sgt. Ethan Smith, 25th APS air transportation specialist.

This one mission is a reminder that it takes a wing full of Airmen for just one mission to be accomplished. Without Airmen that are dedicated to their craft and inspired by the importance of their job then there would be no 908th AW.

An air transportation specialist with the 25th APS, Tech. Sgt. Courtney Murphy said, “It’s really nice to see that your hard work actually goes to something.”



“Readiness in Strength”



## ASTS Commander Closes Career Spanning more than 30 Years



By Senior Airman Max Goldberg  
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** – After more than 30 years of service to the nation, Col. Christine Barber retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve during a ceremony held August 1, at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Barber was most recently assigned as the commander of the 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, 908th Airlift Wing. Barber took command of the ASTS in May, 2018, marking the third command position of her career.

Throughout her military service Barber has also held various positions at The Pentagon. There she acted as an evaluator in the Office of the Inspector General and as the assistant director for safety and occupational health policy in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

During the ceremony Barber’s career was highlighted by Col. Craig Drescher, commander of the 908th Airlift Wing.

“When you are working at the Pentagon, you have to think in terms of policy and strategic initiatives that affect the whole DoD,” said Drescher. “[Barber] decided to do that even though it took her out of her comfort zone and once again we see her living out Service Before Self.”

Drescher also noted Barber’s commitment to the Airmen under her command.

“Her dedication to the Airmen and the mission is certainly second to none,” said Drescher. “Nobody, and I mean nobody, advocates for their Airmen like Colonel Barber.”

Barber took some time to address the audience and express her appreciation for her fellow Airmen.

“Being an Airman is like no other job,” said Barber. “It’s bigger than an individual. We’re united to defend The United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. My Air Force family has supported me, guided me and mentored me. It has been my honor.”



## Tools for Life: Embracing Change

By Amy Kemp-Wellmeier: MSW, LCSW-C  
908th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health, DPH

Change. It has always been an inevitable part of the human condition. We change houses, jobs, relationships, routines and seasons. Most of us have come to accept that changes continue to happen throughout our lives. We have come to peace with the idea of change, and have developed ways of coping with the “expected” life adjustments that we all must face. However, the rapidly changing conditions of our modern world have created a new reality that we didn’t expect, leaving many feeling that the ways that we have handled change in the past are no longer working for us.

In learning to deal with the changing world we now find ourselves in, it is helpful to remember that there are many benefits to change, and that we can still benefit from change if we learn to look at it from a positive perspective.

### Change helps us grow

One thing that change will often do is push us out of our comfort zone. Some people love to be pushed and to try new things, but others find a lot of “comfort” in our comfort zone. We would rather not leave our safe space. However, when we have to adapt to something new, we can experience personal and professional growth. We often learn strengths and abilities we didn’t know we had.

### Change makes us more resilient

While not all change is welcome or planned in our lives, when we meet change with a positive attitude, we learn to let go of our set ways and become more flexible. We learn to

adapt to new people, new environments, new roles and new situations. In the long run, being flexible leads to more happiness and less stress.

### Change brings opportunities for personal growth

Every change, big and small, brings opportunities to our lives for growth. When change comes we have the opportunity to learn something new, become someone new or feel something new. We have the opportunity to set goals for a new chapter of our lives. If we learn to appreciate these opportunities and look for them in the midst of change, we can turn the situation into something positive.

### Ways to shape your perspective on change

#### 1. Expect change

Try to be less resistant to change. When we change our attitude and expect change, we are less thrown off by it. Expect the unexpected and see it as an opportunity for growth.

*“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.”*  
John Kennedy

#### 2. Build upon past experiences

When we look back on the experiences we have had in life and see the positive effects of changes in our lives, we can see our ability to cope effectively with change. We can use these past transitions as templates and learning experiences. If we view life as a process of learning that we have the power to refine by how we define them, we can learn we can handle whatever life throws at us.

#### 3. Resist fear

The unknown of how will be changed or how we will feel on the

other side of transitions leave many fearful of change. But the truth is that fear can keep us from experiencing positive new opportunities. The negative thoughts of the unknown can paralyze us and keep us from gaining the growth we want in life. We should try to resist the fear of the unknown and take comfort that it provides us the opportunity of moving forward to a richer and more satisfying life.

#### 4. Embrace change.

Instead of focusing on all that is different and resisting change in our lives, look for the positives. Change brings new opportunities to reassess our values, our relationships, and how we spend the precious time we have in life. Change provides us an opportunity to refine the quality of our lives if we choose to use it for our own development instead of letting it hinder our growth by focusing only on the possible negative outcomes.

Change is inevitable and it is up to us to decide how we handle the change. I believe the answer is to look at the positive side of change, see the good that can come from it, and start taking the action steps we need to create our futures. There are numerous good electronic, hard copy, and human resources to help you chart your course as you adjust to the ever changing demands of life. Please feel free to contact me at 334-953-5980 or stop by my office in 908th HQ BLDG rm.# 203 if I can provide you with any these resources or support. Take care of yourself and your love ones and embrace the change.

## SJA Provides Deployment Legal Readiness

By Lt. Col. Todd Shugart  
908th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate

As most are surely aware, our wing is scheduled to deploy next year. This will have a substantial impact on our unit.

For those of you that are deploying, we urge you to take assessment of your individual “legal” readiness and ensure that you and your family members are prepared and equipped to handle your affairs during the entirety of the deployment.

For many, this may be as simple as obtaining an appropriate power of attorney authorizing a trusted friend or family member to handle certain responsibilities.

If you are married, your spouse should be equipped to handle most things without the need for a power of attorney, to include caring for your children.

However, if you are single, a single parent, or in a blended family, you may need to legally designate an agent to handle important responsibilities such as this.

And, if you have encountered any significant life changes, such as a marriage, or the addition of children, it may be prudent to have a will.

Beyond this, you may have legal issues that need attention prior to your deployment.

Please undertake this assessment early and well in advance of the deployment.

For those of you that require legal assistance, whether in the form of a power of attorney, will, or sound legal advice, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

We welcome the opportunity to serve each of you.

## GIVE A SHOUT TO YOUR FELLOW AIRMEN! ...

...by nominating them to be featured in  
“I am the 908th”

“I am the 908th” is a weekly publication which aims to highlight members of the wing who go above and beyond to achieve our mission of providing combat capability anytime, anywhere.

Send the name and unit of your nominee to 908th Affairs at [908aw.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:908aw.pa@us.af.mil) and get your wingmen recognized for all their hard work



“READINESS IN STRENGTH”



# Key Spouses Care for Deployed Service Members, Families

By Senior Airman Shelby Thurman  
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** — Sarah Darden is the 908th Maintenance Squadron Key Spouse. As a Key Spouse, she assists Key Spouse Mentor, Tina Harstad, with distributing information about events and other opportunities that may appeal to service members and their families. Most of the events she coordinates are geared towards writing letters or creating care packages for those who are currently deployed.

“It’s important for the deployed members to feel remembered while also including their loved ones,” said Darden.

She elaborated by adding that her efforts are all for the purpose of being approachable and familiar to the 908th community and their families year-round.

Darden has been a Key Spouse for three years. She was the 908th Airlift Wing Key Spouse of Year for 2016. Before these accomplishments, she worked with an active duty squadron for multiple years.

“I believe there should be effective communication and opportunities shared with reserve members and their families throughout the year and not just before or during a deployment,” said Darden.

She said her desire to take care of families is why she is always trying to share upcoming opportunities for the unit’s members through the unit’s social media pages as well as through one-on-one communications.

Darden wanted to become a Key Spouse because she felt that every unit should have one.

“Whether you’re a new Airman to the 908th or a young spouse, there can be questions on how to navigate the River Region areas and the installation,” said Darden. “Key Spouses are a vital resource in their own rights for service members or their family to reach out to if they need assistance.”

Even though Darden does not see herself as being in a servant leadership position, she takes her role very seriously because of those she is choosing to serve.

During the coronavirus pandemic, she has taken extra efforts to share relevant information about base events, activity closures and other opportunities, she said.

“I hope that a 908th member or a relative would be



comfortable reaching out to me for assistance if there was a need,” said Darden. “While I might not know the answer to every question, the Key Spouse members allow me a chance to find the correct response.”

Darden is married to Tech. Sgt. Erik Darden of the 908th MXS. Darden became aware of the Key Spouse Program through her mother, a Civil Service employee for over 30 years. When her husband was active duty, her mother was the commander’s secretary. Both were instrumental in pushing her to becoming a Key Spouse, she said. The Montgomery-native and her husband live in Prattville, Alabama with their 12-year-old daughter and 1-year-old twins.

She highly recommends that those interested in becoming more involved with the unit and community should look into becoming a Key Spouse. She added that their current members are a melting pot of personalities and backgrounds. She said the diversity of their members and what they bring to the table has made the program great and looks forward to more joining.

“As someone who works full time and has three children, Key Spouses have allowed me to bring my daughters to meetings with open arms,” said Darden. “We are always looking for spouses, siblings and parents of unit members who have the same goal in mind in providing service members support.”

If interested in becoming a Key Spouse volunteer, contact 908th Airlift Wing Key Spouse Mentor, Tina Harstad, at 908awksm@gmail.com.

## Why you should consider becoming a KEY SPOUSE!

### What is a Key Spouse?

- Key Spouses are appointed by the unit commander to perform a vital communication role between the unit and its families.
- Key Spouses are a conduit for base and community information and programs that help families deal with military life cycle challenges.



### What will it do for you?

- Helps you meet new people and make friends
- Gives you the opportunity to serve your community in an official capacity
- Gives you an avenue to make changes that help your own family as well as military families
- Allows you to advocate for your community

### What will you do for your community?

- Support spouses and families by increasing awareness of information and resources
- Give your community an official communication link to Air Force leadership
- Give spouses and families an official unit advocate

If you would like information on how to become a Key Spouse, please call your local Airman and Family Readiness Center at 334-953-9018.



# New to the 908th

- Capt. William Staub, AMXS

1st Lt. Camron Lowery, 357 AS

1st Lt. Austin Windham, 357 AS

Staff Sgt. Sheldon Curry, AMXS

Staff Sgt. Lacy Klutts, ASTS

Staff Sgt. Arthur Mcdowell, MXS

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Phillippi, 25 APS

Senior Airman Alfred Allen, AMXS

Senior Airman Gabor Levai, 357 AS

Senior Airman Patrick Lively, AMXS

Airman 1st Class Tyson Eggleston, AES

Airman 1st Class Nancy Martinez, ASTS
- Airman 1st Class Nigel Moss, MXS

Airman 1st Class Thalia Sutherland, AW

Airman Akayla Dotson, ASTS

Airman Basic Armonnie Bryant, LRS

Airman Basic Amorri Jackson, FSS

Airman Basic Stephanie Miller, LRS

Airman Basic Malaika Mullings, LRS

Airman Basic Jamahna Nelson, SFS

Airman Basic Chad North, 25 APS

Airman Basic Jelicia Sellers, MXS

Airman Basic Jonathan Sirois, MXS

Airman Basic Rickia Taylor, FSS

## GAINING ALTITUDE

Congratulations!



Otis Luke



Maila Butler  
David Stinson



Joseph Jahnsen  
Daniel Johnson  
Courtney Murphy



Brianna Clay  
Airielle Edwards  
Austen Howell  
Travis Jackson  
Shanteya Leverettewilson  
Janie Murray

## Gaining Altitude



Tyson Eggleston  
Freddy Florian  
Kenya Frye  
Kniya Hancock  
Bonnie Hardy  
Lacey Jackson  
Davontia Johnson  
Logan Mclin  
Kiwane Pinard  
Jakiya Randall  
Eric Robinson  
Michael Schriver  
Colton Stone  
Isaiah Walker  
Elijah Webster  
Evynn Wilson



Jared Anderson  
Akayla Dotson  
Chelsea Evans  
Christopher Golston  
Kailyn Griffin Foy  
Tykeria Grissom  
Dylan Hanna  
Dejon Harris  
Dru Hitt  
Kevontrae Holley  
Adrian Lavant  
Azariah Saxton  
Romany Smith  
Teare Streeter  
Helena Urban



Justin Cook  
Hadrian Mcneil  
Stephanie Miller  
Azaria Robinson



## UTA Lodging

- \* Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 48 hours 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](mailto: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.**

**A** UTAs FY20 **B**  
Sept. 12-13 Sept. 19-20  
**UTAs FY21**

Oct. 3-4 (17-18) April 10-11 (17-18)  
Nov. 7-8 (21-22) May 1-2 (15-16)  
Dec. 5-6 (19-20) June 5-6 (26-27)  
Jan. 9-10 (23-24) July 10-11 (24-25)  
Feb. 6-7 (20-21) Aug. 7-8 (21-22)  
March 6-7 (20-21) Sept. 11-12 (18-19)

Parentheses indicate  
**Bravo UTA**

## 908TH UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

# September

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
-------	-----	-------	--------------

### Friday, September 11, 2020

1500	TBD	Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 1050/357th Conf Rm
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Bldg 845/AMXS Conf Rm

### Saturday, September 12, 2020

0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	1530	Clothing Issue	Bldg 1154/Rm 131
0730	0815	Mask Issue for Weapons Qual	Bldg 1154
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
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1600	1630	Sign Out	Orderly Room

### Sunday, September 13, 2020

0700	0730	Sign In	Orderly Room
0700	1100	CBRNE	Bldg 1154/Room 119
1200	1600	CBRNE	Bldg 1154/Room 119
1230	1300	Readiness Reporting/DRRS/ART Briefing	Bldg 1055/908 CAT
1400	1600	AFSC SPECIFIC TRAINING	Designated Workcenter
1600	-	Sign Out	Orderly Room

### Support functions' schedule

Activity	Dates & hours of operation	Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Trg Flt	Sat 0700-1600	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		Bldg 682 /240-5600
Photo Lab	M-F 0730-1600	Bldg 926/3-7981
Comm Help Desk		Bldg 848/3-9703



Air transportation specialist, Tech. Sgt. Gary Broaden with the 908th Airlift Wing's 25th Aerial Port Squadron, helps Tech. Sgt. Courtney Murphy, another air transportation specialist with 25th APS, recover a parachute after the 908th's 357th Airlift Squadron conducted a training exercise airdropping one heavy equipment platform and one Container Delivery System bundle onto Buzz Drop Zone near Maxwell Air Force Base July 11. Members of the 25th APS are responsible for for all management and movement of cargo and transported on a 908th aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley J. Clark)

**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:

