

OPS DIRECTOR IS NEW MCGUIRE HIRE, PGS. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER



**You'd
BETTER
NOT
CRY!**

Also In This Issue:

908TH CES DEPLOYERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

OFFICER FINDS APS FOR HIS ART

NOMINATE YOUR PASTOR FOR CLERGY DAY



AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

DECEMBER 2012

SOUTHERN FLYER



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Writer: Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival

Face 2013 in 908th fashion

Is it December again already? Wow, how time flies by! Reviewing the past year, undoubtedly the biggest news came Feb. 3

with the Force Structure Announcement proposing the possible loss of our aircraft. Fortunately, it now appears the excellence and value of the 908th has driven another look from the DoD and our political leaders.

Today, I can report that we are not out of the woods yet, but there have been some very hopeful indicators that our value has been recognized and the probability of our unit remaining in place has increased significantly.

The other major event for us this year was our Combined Unit Inspection. Our overall grades and stellar performance validated our commitment to excellence and reinforced our case to remain an active flying organization well into the future. To round out the year in review, I have to mention our successfully Coronet Oak deployment and our civil engineer war fighters' deployment to the Afghanistan Area of Responsibility.

As we look to 2013, we will be deploying aircraft, crews and maintainers to CENTCOM in January. Approximately 100 Airmen from ops and maintenance will be tying up loose ends in preparation for their upcoming de-

ployments. I ask both our deployers and those assisting them to ensure requirements are accomplished during the Dec and Jan UTAs. This will allow everyone

an opportunity to comfortably throttle back and enjoy the holidays instead of scrambling to complete out-processing checklists.

In the spring our AES is slated to deploy, and in September, we will have our first major exercise to prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection in January 2015. I know that event will be a crowd pleaser!

The coming year will surely present numerous challenges and unknowns due to budget crisis, force structure cuts, and the growing demand to do more with less. But you have consistently risen to every challenge with confidence, excellence and unquestioned success.

That is our greatest legacy -- to succeed at all cost.

In closing, I would just like to say enjoy your squadron Christmas parties and start the holiday season right with an eye on safety while flying top cover as good wingmen. I personally look forward to seeing you at the various events and sharing some holiday cheer.

I wish all of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!



COL. BRETT CLARK
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing



Help us help you

By Billy Kidd
908th Finance

Have you ever looked at your LES on myPay and noticed something out of place and went straight to finance? Although that's a great idea, help us help you by bringing a copy of your LES to assist you in finding out what is going on with your pay.

When filing a voucher remember that you want to turn in a copy of your orders for military pay. Also, you want to include all supporting documentation for your voucher which include your orders, any amendments, lodging receipts (if stayed over- night), airfare (if that was the mode of travel), and any other receipts that are \$75 or more.

Don't forget your cover checklist when you turn this in to your unit.

When working an order in DTS, please note it's a two-step process. You will complete your authorization first prior to your trip. Remember, you will need to turn in your orders for pay purposes. Upon return from your TDY you will log back into DTS and complete your voucher.

DTS is new to all of us and there are still some growing pains. We're here to work with you through this process. Make sure you register in DTS; utilize the tools that have been provided to each section that can assist you in filing your authorization/voucher. There are ODTAs appointed in each organization to assist you with your DTS conundrums.

Also, Finance is hosting a DTS

workshop in the Communications classroom every UTA Saturday through December to help anyone with their authorization/voucher.

Anytime you are on a set of orders that are 30 days or longer there are a few things that you want to keep in mind.

1. You need to out-process from the 908th prior to going TDY.

2. You will turn in a set of your orders upon arrival at your TDY location to start your military pay.

3. If an amendment to your order is generated, remember that you are responsible for turning it in. Failure to do so can create issues with your pay.

4. If you accrue leave, the leave should be taken during the order.

Leave paperwork has to be filled out and approved before turning it in to Finance for a leave number.

After leave is over, Copy 3 of the leave form needs to come back to finance, completed with any necessary changes, or marked with no changes. Please note, only in case of emergencies should a member take leave without obtaining a leave authorization number ahead of time.

Everything dealing with pay or travel that is turned into the finance office is kept. However, it is imperative that you the member also keep a copy of your orders, vouchers, and receipts. We are here to help and would like each and every member get paid timely and correctly but at times may need your help in getting this done.



SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Maj. Rory Frederick of the 908th ASTS gives a pre-deployment checkup to Santa Claus in preparation for his upcoming flight.

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, 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 unit training assembly.

The submission deadline for articles or information is the Monday two weeks prior to the UTA. Send inquiries and submissions to 908AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112 or e-mail them to 908aw.pa@maxwell.af.mil. Our phone number is (334) 953-6804 or DSN 493-6804; our fax number is (334) 953-2202 or DSN 493-2202. For information about this schedule, call this office at (334) 953-7874.

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

No Mo KODO

The 908th Director of Operations makes a move to McGuire, and a group command post.

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

The 357th Operations Group is saying goodbye to an old friend. After four years at Maxwell, Lt. Col. Kenneth Ostrat will become group commander for the 514th Operations Group at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., working with KC-10A Extenders and C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

Few people will really understand the impact he has had on the 908th in just four years. Lt. Col. Stephen Catchings, 908th OSS/DO explained when Ostrat arrived in 2008, aircrews had just returned from a deployment.

"We were spinning up for an ASEV in November of 2008 and the 2009 ORE/ORI," said Catchings, "After the ORI, he shifted the squadron focus to preparing for the 2010 Desert Deployment. On the heels of that we rolled into back-to-back OAK Deployments."

When asked about what impact he thought he had made while at the 357th, Ostrat thought he had made a positive impact on the squadron. "I made them start making good coffee and that's a pretty major achievement," he chuckled and then grew serious saying, "I helped guide the intellect and energy that was already here," he said, "I didn't inherently create anything. All I did was give them the opportunity to be themselves."

"KODO, (Ken Ostrat, Director of Operations) is an extremely intelligent person with a passion for the mission and a compassion for those carrying out the mission," added Catchings.

The San Francisco Bay area native described his take on airmen at the 357th. "One of the things that stick out to me here is how hard everyone in the operations group works to get things done without worry of who gets the credit," said Ostrat, "That's the key ingredient to success anywhere. The people here are people who can make great



things happen."

Ostrat passed some words of wisdom for 908th members.

"The biggest challenge for the 908th with all of the stuff going on with force structuring and finances is everyone needs to remember to keep faith in the organization," he said. "Don't get lost in worrying about things they can't control. The 908th is a great wing, it's a strong group of people who do an outstanding job and they can't afford to let themselves become distracted with chaffe."

Ostrat wanted to thank OG Commander Col. Edward Jennings, for giving him the freedom to operate without micromanagement.

"I have been given the opportunity to do things and make things happen and that has been the best management style for me to work under, give me the job and let me figure out how to do it and he's done a great job with that," he said.

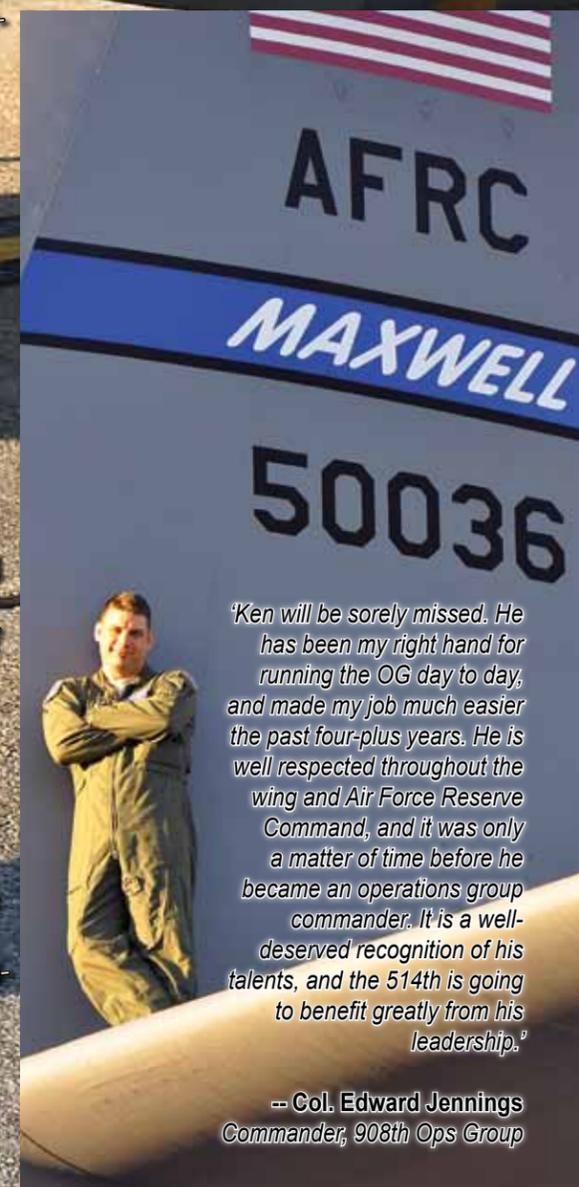
Ostrat also described how Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark has done an outstanding job showing wing members how to stand up for things that are right. "Those two guys in my chain of command have created an environment where I can succeed," he said.

But McGuire won't be without familiar faces. Ostrat will be working for Col. Michael J. Underkoffler, commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing and former commander of the 908th. Ostrat has also formerly worked for Underkoffler as chief of tactics while stationed at Keesler.

"It's going to be great to work with Ken again," Underkoffler said. "With his tactical and operations experience, he's going to add to the overall mission."

Looking forward to the McGuire move, Ostrat said there are a lot of things about New Jersey that will be cool. "There will be a different air frame though I love the C-130 and the tactical air lift mission, something new and different is always fun," he said, "My family has never lived in that part of the U.S. before, so it will be an opportunity to show the kids new things."

For members of the 908th, Ostrat concluded with some advice: "Focus on what really matters, to get the job done safely and accurately."



'Ken will be sorely missed. He has been my right hand for running the OG day to day, and made my job much easier the past four-plus years. He is well respected throughout the wing and Air Force Reserve Command, and it was only a matter of time before he became an operations group commander. It is a well-deserved recognition of his talents, and the 514th is going to benefit greatly from his leadership.'

-- Col. Edward Jennings
Commander, 908th Ops Group

908th Engineers return home

By Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival
908th Public Affairs

Members of the 908th Civil Engineer Squadron are home after a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

The 16 Airmen deployed as a squadron, but were split up upon arrival in theater. Stationed at various bases and tasked with unique missions, the deployment was anything but typical for these reservists.

"Some of the airmen traveled not only to Forward Operating Bases and Combat Outposts but also went outside the wire," said Chief Master Sgt. Geoffrey Percival. "They were doing convoys or flying in on a helicopter to meet a convoy and head out."

The civil engineers had to adapt to an integrated workforce made up of all branches of the U.S. military, allies and the Afghan National Army.

"Everything we did over there was new and different," said Master Sgt. John Farris. "You never knew exactly where you were going to be. I was one of the lucky ones. I was stationed at one place the entire time and only had to go outside the wire half a dozen times."

Working alongside ANA troops made this deployment especially challenging. With the recent rise in "green-on-blue" attacks, these airmen, typically associated with base maintenance, had to be armed and on alert at all times. Fortunately, their Afghan partners turned out to be friendly, but the civil engineers said the fear of an Afghan soldier turning on them was always there.

"When you were dealing with ANA you had to chamber up. You



Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Summersill of the 908th CES poses with an ANA member and an Afghan civilian. Deployed engineers provided a variety of skills and expertise to a number of construction projects during their deployment to Afghanistan.

can't go inside the ANA camp without a loaded weapon," said Farris. "For the most part, a lot of them were thankful we were there. Unfortunately you can never fully trust them... we had several Marines who got killed."

Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Summersill dealt with ANA soldiers on a daily basis. His missions involved convoying alongside Soldiers and Marines to remote locations outside the wire.

Aside from the obvious safety concerns, Summersill had to adapt to harsh living conditions while traveling to and from construction sites.

"It was impossible to travel to a construction site and make it back to the base in one day, so we had to stay at these remote locations for days at a time," he said. "We would sleep on the ground, and at one location there was no plumbing."

With less-than-ideal living conditions, our civil engineers kept a positive attitude and were willing to help

out where needed. Summersill said he was even able to help an injured child at one of the construction sites.

"These three kids kept following me around and I didn't realize why until I saw the one kid's arm was all bloody," he said. "I was able to get a first-aid kit and some water and bandage his arm. He thanked me and it was obvious he was very grateful."

Putting their own discomfort aside, 908th civil engineers were able to improve the living conditions for other military members.

Percival said the squadron completed more than 174 different construction projects, including construction on a much-needed dining facility at Shindand Air Base.

"That was significant because it improved their quality of life so much," he said. "They had been serving 1,500 to 2,000 meals a day out of a small tent so they were very happy to have another DFAC."

Farris said he volunteered to help

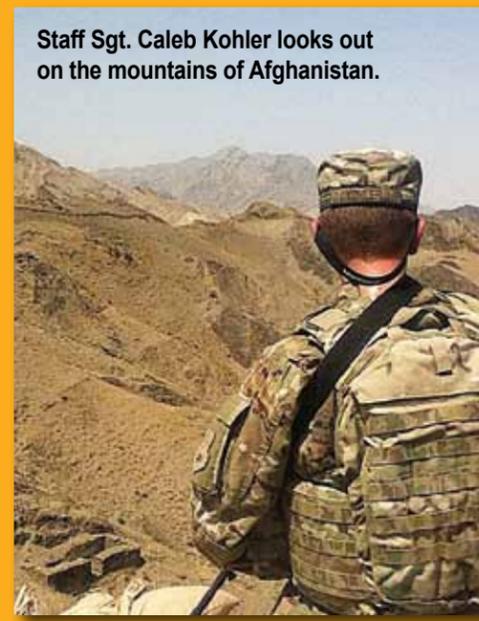
to set up an education center for the Marines and the Navy to teach classes at Camp Leath-erneck. For his work, Farris was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Overall, the Civil Engineers said they are glad to be home again and safe, but after months of working long hours and worrying about their safety, being home is a huge change.

"It's hard to adjust to being home. I'm still getting used to the idea that I can relax and let my guard down," said Summersill.

Tech. Sgt. Megan Fife said this experience has instilled in her a greater understanding of the Air Force role in the overall mission.

"It makes me more proud to be a part of the military," said Fife. "I saw members from every branch of the military come together, and was glad to be a part of the big picture."



Staff Sgt. Caleb Kohler looks out on the mountains of Afghanistan.

Is your mouth mobile?

By Maj. Rory Frederick
908th ASTS

"Deploying! Oh no, I've got to see the dentist."

This may be a thought as we find ourselves with a deployment checklist in our hands, or as a willing volunteer facing a challenging three-, six-, or 12-month deployment with the active-duty component.

In order to allay some fears and address some questions, we created a brief deployer's guide for dental.

The best way to ensure you are "dentally deployable" is to do your best to have good dental home care (i.e. brush, floss, fluoride mouth rinse, etc.), and avoid excess sticky sugary snacks and acidic sugary drinks.

You should also get to know your neighborhood dentist. Find a civilian dentist in your community for routine dental check-ups and professional dental cleanings. The Tricare dental insurance program is a great way for a reservist to get access to a local dentist.

You can find out about Tricare dental on the web at <https://mybenefits.metlife.com/tricare> or you can call them at 1-855-638-8371.

If you are seeing your local civilian dentist on a regular basis you should be in a Class 1 or 2 most of the time.

Reservists are also required to be dentally ready for deployment by having a "military" dental exam once every three years. These exams are scheduled with your unit health monitor and the 908th ASTS Dental Flight. The military exam is done to determine the most accurate dental classification for each Airman. If a member is found to be Class 3 at the military dental exam, action is taken to ensure you are given

R U Good 2 Go?

★ Must be dental Class 1 or 2 to deploy (**Class 1:** you have had a dental check-up and cleaning within the past 365 days with no dental work required. **Class 2:** you have had a check-up and have been found to need dental work but are not likely to have unbearable dental pain or swelling within a year).

★ Current exam must not expire (be 365 days old) while deployed.

★ Must have "Class 3" issues resolved before deployment (**Class 3:** you have a dental problem that is likely to cause unbearable pain or swelling within one year).

a time limit to get your issues resolved (regardless of deployment status). If a member goes past the time limit without getting Class 3 issues resolved, they can be put in a no-points/no-pay status.

If you find yourself in a situation where you have a major dental problem and you have a deployment coming up, there are ways to get you dentally ready in time. One is through the active-duty component. You are eligible for dental care through active duty 90 days prior to deployment.

You must have documentation of your immanent deployment to present for this care.

The ultimate decision on your deployability is left up to your commander. He or she has the ability to waive your dental exam findings if necessary to the mission. However, you're being Class 3 may open the door to someone else willing to deploy in your place.

For your country, your unit, your wingman and your health, take the time to be dentally ready for deployment.

ART FOR APS SAKE

Officer's craft beautifies, inspires

By Tech. Sgt. Tracey Piel
25th Aerial Port Squadron

Walk down the hall of the 25th Aerial Port Squadron and you're struck by the larger-than-life murals looming from the walls near the orderly room. One of the paintings is of the unit's logo. The other is of a ferocious "port dawg" with blood-shot eyes representing the grit and determination of the squadron's 143 Airmen.

Captain Scott Autry, commander of the 25th Aerial Port's Air Terminal Operations Flight, painted the murals just prior to June's LCAP inspection.

"Lieutenant Colonel Dornhoefer (25th APS commander) thought we needed a mural in the squadron and after she saw some of my artwork asked what I could do prior to the inspection," Autry said.

"We all wanted to make sure the absolute best of the 25 APS was represented during the inspection, and it was," claimed Dornhoefer. "His artwork became the driving force behind the beautification project and motivated the entire squadron, which I believe, contributed to the outstanding score we received on the LCAP!"

Autry's love of art began when he was a child. "Just like every kid, it started with a crayon then progressed to doodling in class," Autry candidly admits.

And while Autry claims that he minored in art in college to "boost his grade point average", he has never pursued art as a career. He mostly just paints and draws "for the heck of it," he says.

"Some people read to relax, well I draw," he said. "Time seems to fly once I pick up a pencil."



Autry presents a special work to Chief Master Sgt. Adriel Carr at his retirement.

With a penchant for drawing, Autry transforms photographs into art with a picture, a piece of paper and a pencil. "It can change the entire emotion of



Captain Scott Autry stands next to one of his creations, a ferocious 'port dawg' representing the grit and determination of the 25th APS.

a picture seeing it in black and white," he says. "I also like pencil because I can erase a mistake."

Earlier this year, Autry began drawing commissioned art and has found benefits beyond the intrinsic rewards that have driven him in the past.

"Since I have been drawing for other people, it is awesome to see the look on their faces when they see the picture of a loved one transformed to a drawing," Autry said. "That's a good feeling."



Autry earned his commission through the ROTC program at Mississippi State University and after some time in the IRR joined 25th APS in 2007. Married with three children, Autry is pursuing a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management in addition to performing his duties with the Air Force Reserve and working as a logistics manager at his full-time job. And then of course, there's his art.

"Drawing usually takes a back seat to everything else I have to do," Autry says. "I do now and will always do my best to make sure family is first."

See more of Autry's art on Facebook at AuTrys Art.

Uplifting airlift

908th 'port dawgs,' load for Denton project

By Senior Airman Allison Fulmer
908th Public Affairs Office

More than 14,000 pounds of winter clothing including beanies, gloves, undershirts, sweatpants, fleece jackets, socks, shoes, and boots, destined for Afghanistan, were recently packed and loaded for delivery by members of the 908th's 25th Aerial Port Squadron.



The cargo was prepped by Tech. Sgts.

Joshua Simons, James Beasley, Ian Murphy, Arman Weinrick, Antwoine Armor and Elaine Dearing; Staff Sgt. Robert Browning; and Senior Airmen Cory Brewster and Davey Atkins, before being loaded on C-130s that carried it to Charleston, S.C., transferred to C-17s and delivered to Afghanistan.

Chief Master Sgt. Harold Whited works with Lt. Gen. James Bradley, the relief administrator

for the Denton Program, based out of Charleston, S.C.

The Denton Program provides humanitarian relief to various locations throughout the world on military aircraft. The Denton program procures the aircraft and customs clearances. Donations for the program come from businesses, churches, and other humanitarian contributions.

"We use training flight hours to prepare traditional reservists for real-world training," Whited said.

Recently, more than 23,000 pounds of cargo went to the Dominican Republic from relief agency Global Impact. The cargo included more than 500 wheel chairs, tractors, plows and discs, bush hogs, 60 adjustable hospital beds, linens, CT scanners and X-ray machines.



SEA SERVICE SALUTE!



Commander of the 908th CES, Lt. Col. Kevin Fuqua presented the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Master Sgt. John A. Farris during the November UTA. Farris earned the medal while deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, from February through August 2012. Farris was recognized for his devotion to duty as he completed 50 design projects on 23 different camps throughout Southwest Afghanistan, improving security capabilities and preventing movement of insurgent forces in the area. "It's a proud feeling to get something like this," he said. "To be recognized by the Navy and the Marines for something I would normally do in the Air Force."

New to the 908th

- | | |
|---|--|
| Lt. Col. George L. Valentine, ASTS | Airman 1st Class Chance J. Webster, SFS |
| Capt. Kevin M. Johnson, ASTS | Airman Lashanta M. Buchanon, ASTS |
| Master Sgt. Roderick Jordan, FSS | Basic Airman Raven Brown, LRS |
| Senior Airman Darryl J. Allen, 25 APS | Basic Airman Christopher M. Isbell, 25 APS |
| Senior Airman Jagar T. Bryan, MXS | Basic Airman Bradley Lamontagne, SFS |
| Airman 1st Class Ricky R. Davison, 25 APS | Basic Airman Desiree, Seabrook, ASTS |

Preparing to Disembark

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Lt. Col. Laurie J. Parker, AES | Master Sgt. Rose L. Hall, OG |
| Maj. Travis L. Shults, MXS | Master Sgt. Pamela A. Rhodes, MSG |
| Chief Master Sgt. Adriel D. Carr, 25 APS | Master Sgt. Michael Talley, SFS |
| Senior Master Sgt. Andres E. Soler, 25 APS | Master Sgt. Peggy S. Thomas, CES |
| Master Sgt. Roger L. Butler, OSS | Tech. Sgt. Lynette A. Clayton, ASTS |
| Master Sgt. Lee E. Cobb, CES | Tech. Sgt. Alfred Deramus, Jr., CES |
| Master Sgt. Samuel M. Ferrell, FSS | Tech. Sgt. Christy Houston, OSS |
| Master Sgt. Michael J. Guerin, FSS | Tech. Sgt. Tdera Jarman, LRS |

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*

Gaining Altitude

Master Sergeant



Adam C. Nixon

Technical Sergeant



Angela J. Burton

Staff Sergeant



Jacob M. Kayl

Senior Airman



Charla T. Colbert
Justin C. Dennis
Latavious Montgomery
Kenneth L. Taylor
Larry D. Williams

Airman First Class



Calli A. Sautter
Ethan P. Smith



SOUTHERN FLYER CAPTION CONTEST

Airmen, alums and friends of the 908th AW, what does this photo say to you? If you think you can devise a clever caption, send your submission to the Public Affairs Office at

908aw.pa2@maxwell.af.mil

The winner will be published in next month's issue

908th Airlift Wing
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Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6501

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TO THE FAMILY OF:

POSTMASTER: DO NOT PLACE STICKERS OVER ADDRESS

Bells will be ringin' during the December UTA, as Santa Claus will make his annual visit to the 908th Airlift Wing on Dec. 1 at approximately 10 a.m. Make plans to bring your children to meet Santa and have their photo taken with him! Volunteers are needed to assist, so if you want to help out, call Public Affairs at 953-6804/7874.

Wing to host clergy in February

Clergy Day, an event designed to provide spiritual leaders of wing members a firsthand look at the wing mission, capped by a local area orientation flight is planned for February 2013.

This event provides a chance for your minister, reverend, priest or pastor to see your part of the wing

mission and how their support of your service helps accomplish that mission. They will also get an opportunity to learn about the Air Force Reserve, as well as take a ride aboard one of our C-130s.

Clergy Day is planned for Feb. 1, the Friday before the February UTA. Nominations must be received no

later than Dec. 20, 2012.

To make a nomination, fill out the form below and return it to the Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1056, room 100 or mail to: 908th AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112, or FAX: (334) 953-6355.

For more information, call the PA office at (334) 953-6804/7874.

Clergy Day Nominations

- Unit duty phone: _____
- Clergy Member's name/title: _____
- Denomination/affiliation: _____
- Nominating Reservist name/Unit duty phone: _____
- Clergy Member's phone number: _____
- Clergy Member's mailing address: _____