

WINGMEN GET REAL-WORLD WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING, PG. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER



THE LONG GOODBYE

FIFTH TIME'S A CHARM FOR 908 DEPLOYERS



Also In This Issue:

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCES

CIVIL AIR PATROL VISITS 908

908 SOFTBALL ROLLING TOWARDS TRIFECTA

AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

JUNE 2010

SOUTHERN FLYER



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02 *Commentary*
Col. Brett J. Clark
- 03 Reservists have ability to take financial control
- 04-05 908 SERE specialist puts wingmen in the water
- 06-07 Hiring an ART
- 08 Civil Air Patrol program brings students to wing
- 09 Meet wing's EO Officer
Safety Sense: Lawn Mowers
- 10 908 Softball Season
Join Key Spouses
- 11 UTA schedule/
General info
- 12 Final Page

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Deployment: a team effort

“Due to a cloud of volcanic ash, it took three “practice” sessions to get our most recent group of deployers out of town, but they finally made it to their destination in South-west Asia. A big “THANK YOU” to all involved in the planning and preparations to make it happen. Additionally, I would like to pass on my sincere appreciation to those deployed and their families for their willingness to serve and their patience with the delays in the departure. Finally, kudos to all those who demonstrated the finest in southern hospitality to the soldiers of the 540th Quartermaster Corps while they were stranded with us waiting for the volcanic ash cloud to clear.

And speaking of the ash cloud, this was a constant and significant problem to deal with for all of us on the deployment support chase plane mission. Like everything else, the airmen tackling this mission brilliantly dealt with this issue and every other problem they encountered.

It was a real privilege to be in command of these professionals. Teamwork was evident in everything they did. Whether fixing bus switching relays, repairing Self-Contained Navigation System, changing a main gear tire, or exploring the history of Seville Spain, they accomplished all these things as a team; a team with an incredible sense of humour.

It was certainly my honour to work with each of them.

The chase plane provided mission critical enroute support for our 908th airmen and aircraft deploying to the CENTCOM area of responsibility. This

recent deployment involved a little over 200 of us with more to follow over the next few months. In total over 400 members or roughly 33 percent of our wing will be deployed sometime this year. Our members continue to step up and meet the nation's requirements for citizen airmen and warfighters while the operations tempo of the 908th Airlift Wing runs at near peak capacity.

Since Desert Storm in 1991, members of the 908th, other AFRC reservists, and ANG guardsmen have been actively engaged in daily operations around the world. It has been argued that the old

view of what it meant to be a reservist, “one weekend a month and two weeks a year,” died at the start of Desert Storm.

Today, the participation demands for the typical reservist have increased at least three fold and seem to be growing. With this steady state demand for increase participation comes the requirement to provide mutually support for both airmen and our families. From top to bottom, the 908th Airlift Wing is totally committed to this team concept and the wingman culture. Families helping families and airmen assisting airmen are not new concepts in this organization. It has been our tradition from the beginning.

I expect this current deployment surge will be a challenge that our members will brilliantly tackle as a highly effective team. Like all challenges, we meet them head on, as a team, and together we will tackle this deployment surge, like everything else, with the highest degree of excellence and professionalism.



COL. BRETT J. CLARK
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

By the time you read this summer will have begun. In the military we see this start as the 101 Critical Days of Summer, the awareness program that reminds us to be safe during the summer.

But there is another date that sets the beginning of summer – Memorial Day, which should be special to all of us who wear and support those who wear the uniform. On this day we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the service to our country and for our freedom. This is not just a day for barbeque, swimming, or taking time off. This is a day to remember.

Memorial Day goes back to the close of the Civil War. The first celebration occurred May 1, 1865, when newly freed slaves reburied Union soldiers at Hampton Park in Charleston, S.C., from a mass grave. Thousands of people attended, graves were decorated, speeches were given, and celebrants enjoyed picnics.

While the hostilities between North and South remained – eventually the name was changed and the day came to encompass both sides. As our nation and our men and women were called upon to fight in other wars the day has come to encompass all who have given their life for our country.

Take time to remember those who have given the “last full measure of devotion.” Pray for them and their families. Say a prayer of thanks to God that some love freedom even more than life.

Money Matters

Whose money is it anyway?

Reservists have the ability to control finances

By SSgt Nannie R. Brilliant
& SSgt Evelyn Baxter
908 AW/FM



The wing's Financial Management would like to remind Reservists that they have the power to control their personal finances. Several self-service tools and applications are available to empower members when it comes to managing their pay.

One of the most useful applications available to members is myPay. As most members know, through myPay you can view and change personal data, view your LES, verify banking information and adjust TSP contributions.

MyPay recently changed login ID and password requirements, but if you are experiencing any difficulties, centralized customer support is available from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, and can be reached at (888) 332-7411.

Press the pound sign plus 5 for myPay.

There is another useful tool that reduces paperwork and processes accrual payments quickly, accessed via vMPF (virtual Military Personnel Flight). If you are a TDY/deployed member with access to a computer, you can log into vMPF and request

travel accrual payments on-line at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Requests are automatically forwarded to the member's home station finance office for processing. The process is secure and the first accrual payment is made five to seven days after submission.

Afterward, personnel should request payments every 30 days.

Air Force Reserve Command implemented a travel voucher checklist, dated Jan. 9 of this year, to be completed and submitted with all travel vouchers. In an effort to better guide you, the customer, in filing your voucher, the checklist is an attempt to ensure vouchers are completed correctly and pay is processed in a timely manner.

The online resources are at your fingertips! By accessing available resources and using the provided checklists you are empowering yourself. You cannot afford to let someone else take control of your pay.

After all, whose money is it?

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Major Delvin Genenbacher shares a moment with daughter Keira during one of the many assemblies prior to the final deployment of the 908th Airlift Wing's main body.

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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

OUT OF THE CLASS & Into the grass

SERE specialist puts Wingmen in the water for real-world training

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

As a fully qualified Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion (SERE) specialist, Senior Airman Chad Braunschweig has one goal -- to make survival training for the 908th Airlift Wing as realistic as possible.

It didn't get much more realistic than on Sunday, May 2 at the Alabama River in Millbrook, where about 20 members of the operations group and life support received mandated water survival training.

"The majority of them are type-A personalities," he said. "When you tell them you're going to hoist them up in a helicopter, every single one of them is like, 'Heck yeah, let's do it!' There's not a lot of selling involved."

According to AFI 16-1301, water survival training has to be conducted every three years, and seven requirements have to be met. But Airman Braunschweig didn't want to stop there. Having been hoisted up in a helicopter and blasted by rotor wash, he wanted his people to experience it. He called the Army, Coast Guard and the PJs at Hulbert Field, Fla. without success.

"You don't say no to me," he said. "You just don't do it."

A couple of coworkers at his civilian job, former Montgomery police officers, put him in touch with Lee Hamilton, the Alabama Department of Public Safety's chief pilot, who was enthusiastic about the joint training opportunity.

The Alabama State Troopers of the marine, aviation and crisis response team divisions gladly shared their expertise with the wingmen. The state's Fish and Wildlife department and 42nd Airbase Wing Security Forces also lent support to the exercise.

The Reservists, along with two members of Air University, practised donning survival suits and carrying out emergency procedures for 20-man and one-man rafts. After a break, each in turn was hoisted out of the water and deposited safely ashore.

But getting wet wasn't the only challenge. There was also the combination of a 35-knot wind and a four-knot current -- enough to carry the swimmers about 150 yards within a matter of moments and separate rescue rafts from four 50-pound cinder blocks.

"Usually, it's a refresher course in a classroom or by the poolside," said Capt. John Moody. "To actually get in the water and experience the helicopter and watch the state troopers get involved was the best training I've seen in the last eight years. I think we walked away with a lot better experience than just looking at a slide show."

For Airman Braunschweig, feedback is the best part. It allows him to make program adjustments in real time. He'll make a few changes, such as anchoring the rafts, but he's satisfied with the day's results.

"I walked away thinking that if they ever had to do that in a real-world environment, they could," he said.

"I think we walked away with a lot better experience than just looking at a slide show."

-- Capt. John Moody



Survivalist

Name: Chad Braunschweig
Rank: Senior Airman
Status: Traditional Reservist
Hometown: Park Rapids, Minn.
Hometown Facts: It's the source of the Mississippi River.
Service: Four years active duty, then entered Reserves.
Joined 908 AW: August 2009.

SERE Career Field Attrition Rate: 70-plus percent.
Location of SERE Indoc Course: Lacklud AFB, Tex.
Location of SERE School: Fairchild AFB, Wash.
Number of Students When Braunschweig's SERE Class Began: 187.
Number of Students When Braunschweig's SERE Class Graduated: 33.

School Highlight: Braunschweig tread water for 14 hours.

Clockwise from upper left, Capt. Samuel Manno gets a lift. Bill Bevan of the Alabama DPS Aviation Unit gives 908 Reservists a tip. Senior Airman Chad Braunschweig gives the thumbs up. Capt. Jaran Meinzen-Derr takes the plunge. Lt. Col. Geoffrey Gibbs of Air University get hoisted from the river. A trainee signals ready while experiencing some rotor wash. Craig Pruett of the Alabama DPS CRT shows Maj. David Kirby of CAP-USAF a couple of tricks. Staff Sgt. Ashley Hill of operation support flight assists 'survivors.' Operators help each other into the 20-man raft. Trainees fight against the current to reach a raft.



~~ARE WE THERE YET?~~ HAVE WE LEFT YET?



After several delays, 908th Airlift Wing deployers finally take to the sky

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Military logistics planners spend long hours putting available assets where they're needed most. It's an ongoing game of supply and demand, and even carefully prepared details are subject to change. No matter how detailed the plan, when it comes to moving military might, Mother Nature reserves the right to put her two cents in, and sometimes, more than once.

Such was the case as members of the 908th Airlift Wing deployed to Southwest Asia.

The April 14 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which at press time was still occurring, created a massive cloud of volcanic ash three to six miles into the air. The cloud brought air traffic in Europe to a standstill, and forced the cancellation of trans-Atlantic flights for more than a week. According to industry reports, more than 100,000 flights were canceled and airlines are on track to lose more than \$2 billion.



In all, it took five delays within a four-day window before the main body could get off the ground. But the Airmen weren't alone. They were joined by approximately 100 members of the 540th Quartermaster Company, who began their journey at their home base of Schofield Barracks Hawaii two days earlier.

The deployments began May 2, when the advance party and several C-130 Hercules aircraft departed Maxwell. The earlier departures went off on schedule, but on Mothers' Day, when the main body was prepared to depart, the cloud of volcanic ash caused the first of five delays. Over the next few days, each time the flight was scheduled, members

bid emotional goodbyes to their families. Each time it was postponed, those who live in the immediate area were released, while Reservists from outside the area, along with the Hawaii contingent, had to be billeted.

The frustration was evident on the faces of the deployers as they spent hours waiting in a hangar each day, boarded and disembarked the 767 aircraft and anxiously listened to numerous announcements, hoping that each one would be the one to send them on their way.

Finally, the Airmen and soldiers boarded the plane for the final time, and members remaining behind waved farewell as the aircraft took to the sky and turned north.



Air Force photos/
Gene H. Hughes
& Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb



Dreams take wing

Civil Air Patrol program visits 908th

About 200 fourth- and fifth-grade students from Flowers Elementary and the Bear Exploration Center took part in Aerospace Adventures Day April 29, getting an up-close look at life at Maxwell Air Force Base.

The event was organized by the Montgomery chapter of the Air Force Association and the Civil Air Patrol and was designed to promote math and science education through exposure to the aerospace industry. The youngsters took part in a scavenger hunt at the air park, a tour of the air traffic control tower, a presentation by "Orville and Wilbur Wright," given by Officer Training School candidates, and a tour of a C-130 Hercules at the 908th Airlift Wing. The students also engaged in games such as shooting "thumb rockets" and crafts, constructing "fun shuttles" from paper, balsa wood, a propeller and a rubber band.



Clockwise from upper left: Flowers Elementary Students make their way towards a C-130H. A visiting class lets their newly made 'fun shuttles.' Senior Master Sgt. Lee Mercer gives a tour of the flight deck. Mitchell Wilson puts a 'thumb rocket' through the center of a target. A Flowers class tries to locate clues during a scavenger hunt. 'Pilot' Donovan York expresses his delight. 'Orville and Wilbur Wright' give a presentation on the Wright Flyer.

Air Force photos/Gene H. Hughes



EO office does more than refer complaints

My name is Capt. Derick L. Newton. I work on the Wing Commander's staff as the Chief of the Equal Opportunity Office (EO).

It is Air Force policy to provide equal opportunity for all members and to maintain a work environment that is free from unlawful discrimination.

The office is responsible for processing complaints of discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender, and national origin. In my position as Chief, I ensure that all complaints are processed in a prompt, fair, impartial manner. I accomplish this task using the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process and/or the Military EO Infor-

mal/Formal Complaint Process.

In addition to processing EO complaints, the office serves as a referral agency. Members who feel that they are being mistreated in any way or who have concerns and don't know who to talk with are encouraged to visit the EO Office. If we are unable to resolve the matter, we will listen to the member and refer them to the appropriate staff or agency.

If you have any questions, or wish to make an appointment, call 953-6673.



NEWTON

Be careful with sling blades this summer

"Summer is a wonderful time for get-togethers, sports, and family time. In this Year of the Air Force Family, the safety of all Airmen and their loved ones is our number one priority. Throughout the coming months it is important for us to watch out for each other as we enjoy summer activities. To highlight this effort, the annual Critical Days of Summer Campaign runs from 28 May 2010 through 7 September 2010."

Air Force Safety Center

Each spring and summer, hospitals treat numerous injuries caused by power mowers. Many of these incidents result in painful injuries, loss of fingers, toes and even eyes. We want to protect children and their parents with a few reminders that could prevent these tragedies from happening.

Proper lawn mower maintenance coupled with proper operator safety can ensure that the grass is the only thing that gets cut.

- ◆ Children should not be allowed on or near the lawn when the mower is in use. They should never be permitted to walk along side of, in front of, or behind a moving mower. They could be hit with debris or run over by the mower.
- ◆ Children under five years of age



Safety Sense

should be kept indoors during mowing. They can behave unpredictably and might run into the mower's path.

◆ Don't allow children to play on or around the mower, even when it's not in use -- they need to learn early that lawn mowers aren't toys.

◆ Inspect the area to be mowed for large stones, tree branches, nails, and wires -- these objects can be picked up by the mower and expelled at bullet-like speeds, causing serious injury to the operator or bystanders.

◆ Power mowers should be operated on dry grass.

◆ Always push the mower forward; never pull it back. A sloping lawn should be mowed across, never up and down. When the mower is pushed from the bottom of the hill, it could roll back on the operator's feet. When the mower is being pulled from the top of the hill, the operator's feet could slip underneath.

◆ Never drink alcoholic beverages and operate a lawn mower.

◆ Work clothes such as steel-toed shoes with sure-grip soles and long pants should be worn to minimize injury.

◆ When using an electric lawn mower, make sure the extension cord is not cut or frayed and is the right gauge for the electrical current. A ground fault circuit interrupter cord is helpful as well.

◆ Riding mowers were not meant for passengers; carrying children or other adults invites the potential for falling under the mower and sustaining serious injuries.

◆ Carts are not meant for passengers, either. A cart can easily tip over, and riders can be seriously hurt.

◆ When mowing in reverse, remember to look behind you for potential danger or bystanders.

◆ A sloping lawn should be mowed up and down when using a riding mower, to prevent tipping.

◆ Not all mowers operate the same way. Read the owner's manual and familiarize yourself with your model before operating your lawn mower.

◆ Perform routine maintenance at the beginning of each season and before each use. Go over the entire mower, especially the blades.

◆ Check safety features often, and repair or replace if needed. Happy mowing!

908TH AIRLIFT WING SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

The 2010 Softball Season is rounding third and headed for home! The 908 AW invites everyone to come out and show their support as the team makes a play for its third straight championship.

The record so far, is as follows:

- April 27: 908th 18, DISA 16
- April 29: 908th 23, HQAU 13
- May 4: 908th 11, Holm Center 5
- May 6: 908th 13, MDOS 1
- May 11: **ELSG#1 3, 908th 1**
- May 13: 908th 1, ELSG#2 0 (F)
- May 18: 908th 10, 26 NOS 9
- May 20: **DISA 19, 908th 8**

By presstime, the team had not yet played its scheduled games

against HQAU (May 25) and Holm Center (May 27). The rest of the schedule is listed below.

- Tuesday, June 1
908th vs MDOS
6:30 p.m., Field #3
- Thursday, June 3
908th vs ELSG 1
6:30 p.m., Field #5
- Tuesday, June 8
908th vs ELSG 2
5:30 p.m., Field #5
- Thursday, June 10
908th vs 26 NOS
6:30 p.m., Field #3

Retirement Requests 2010

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lt. Col. Allison Marshall | Senior Master Sgt. Mark Lanton | Master Sgt. Matthew Higgins |
| Maj. Brian Vaughn | Master Sgt. Anthony Crosman | Master Sgt. Donna Bursley |
| Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Coleman | Master Sgt. Gaston Cannon III | Tech. Sgt. Sharon Leadford |
| Chief Master Sgt. Kimberly Devore | Master Sgt. Terry Grobels | Tech. Sgt. Michael Lowman |
| Chief Master Sgt. Thrasher Jones Jr. | Master Sgt. Michael Simmons | Tech. Sgt. Harry Mitchell |
| Senior Master Sgt. Marlin Brandon | Master Sgt. Joe Houston | Tech. Sgt. Marcus Martin |
| | Master Sgt. Joel Stanfield | Tech. Sgt. Dennis Williams |



908 AW Key Spouse: Ms Teresa Dearth
334-399-7535
deartht@knology.net



Key Spouse program exists to provide peer-to-peer support to family members, especially during deployments. If your loved one is deployed and you have any questions, concerns, or would like to be placed on a contact list to receive family support e-mails, please let me know. Also, if you would like to participate in our family support group as a unit point of contact, deployed family sponsor, or deployment and homecoming events we would love for you to join us.

Teresa



OFFICER

Major



- Jameson Durham
- Bryan Finefrock
- Cinnamon Kellenberger
- Jeffry Kochik
- Timothy McCollum
- George McKinney
- Jeffrey Randall

ENLISTED

Master Sergeant



- Michael D. Brown
- Shatanya M. Cook
- Michael Talley

Technical Sergeant



- Joshua C. Green
- James J. McKenzie
- Frank Q. Mitchell III
- David J. Oliver
- Natalie E. Parnell
- Megan R. Payne
- Roman T. Warwick
- Denise L. Wesley

Staff Sergeant



- Daniel J. Gregory
- Elissa H. Helms
- Jessica L. McKinney
- Terrance Merriweather
- Delricus A. Pittman
- Keondrick T. Johnson
- Alvarez B. Kennedy

Senior Airman



- Steven D. Harris
- Corey D. Holt
- Eugene M. Mays
- Lecareous C. Niles

Airman



- Shaquoyah D. Brazzley
- Anthony C. Cooper

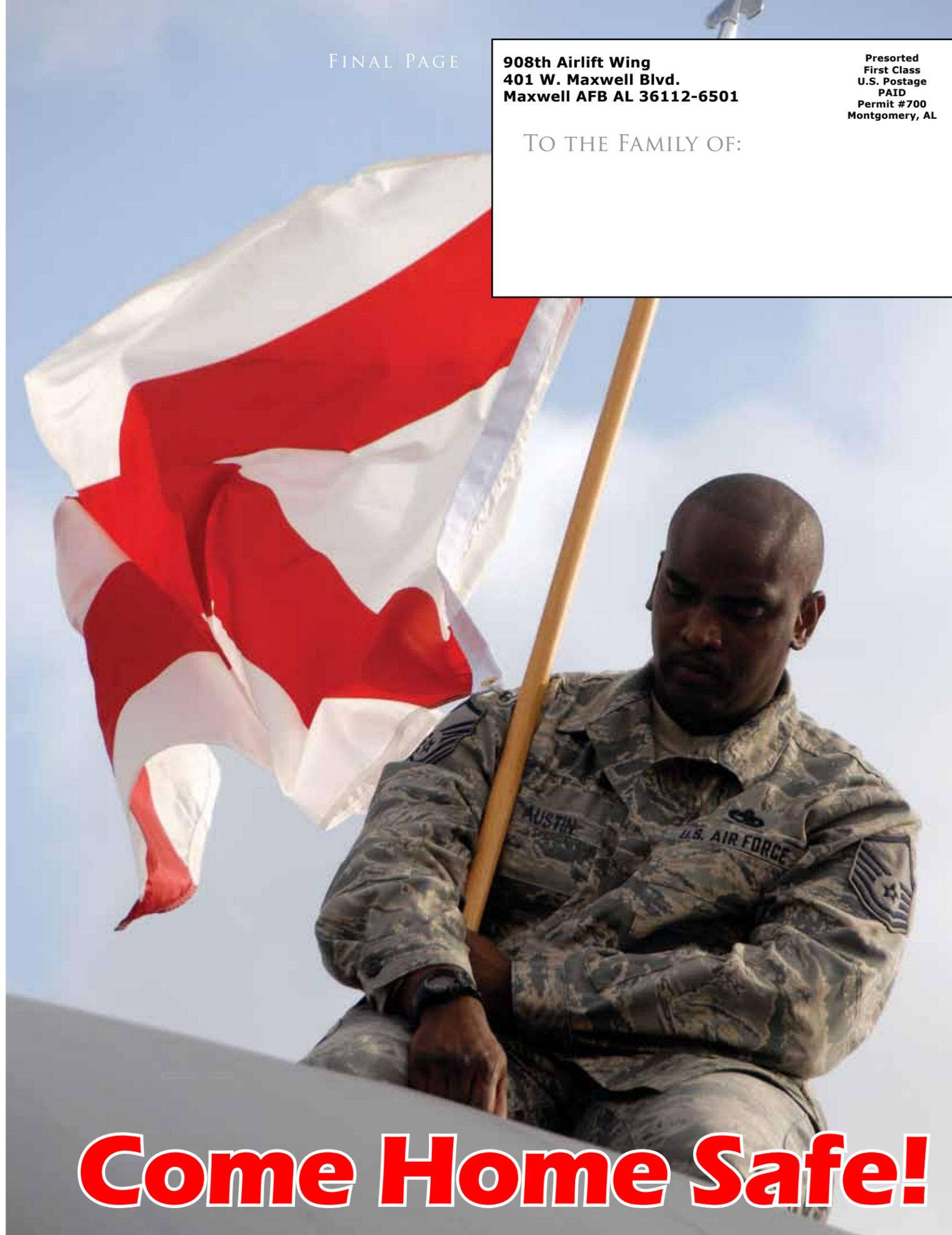
Congratulations!

FINAL PAGE

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



Come Home Safe!