

Jumping into
the Night...

...908th Supports Basic
Airborne Course

SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 53 Issue 12
December 2016

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THE VALUE OF BALANCE

If you have been in the reserve for even a brief period, you've heard of the "reserve triad". This is the concept that we must appropriately balance our family, civilian employment and military duty. As a commander, I espouse the value of balance on a regular basis. As a commander, I violate the value on a regular basis. Over the past 27 years of service I calculate I have been away from my family over a third of the time. That's almost a decade. That's not the balance you should seek, and I owe you a better example.

I've thought about swinging the pendulum a long way in the other direction, but that's also not the example I want to set. Our "triad" represents sustainable balance, and that's what we should seek. To obtain that in my own life I have to stop talking and take action. I'm a dual status technician which means to obtain balance I am required to shift both civilian and military work. After much thought and prayer, that's what I'm going to do.

As most have heard, this December is my last drill weekend as your Wing Commander. I've taken a new civilian position that offers a reasonable balance and reunites me full time with my family. I hope to



COL. DAVID CONDIT
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

continue to serve my country as a traditional reserve officer in some capacity and find balance with the reserve triad.

While my tenure is shorter than the average Wing Command assignment, my attachment to this unit and community is stronger than any I have established in the preceding decades of service. Perhaps it's southern hospitality, a patriotic community or a strong combination of both. I'm proud to have been a part of the 908th family and fortunate to have formed close friendships in the community which will endure.



COVER PHOTO:

The 908th Airlift Wing supports the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga., by providing aircraft for soon to be paratroopers to jump out of during the night jump portion of the Basic Airborne Course on Nov. 2.



"Providing combat-ready support across the spectrum of operations"

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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.

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A MOMENT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

LT. COL. WILLIAM HOGGATT

The UTA is upon us and I like this UTA better than all the others because it falls in the month of December. December is the holiday month and includes such celebrations as the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. Across our wing many will celebrate with deeply held religious beliefs and traditions, family traditions that have lasted for several generations, gift giving, or office parties. However you celebrate December you cannot ignore the lights, sounds, smells, and traditions of the month.

The Winter Solstice, for example, marks the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and can easily be observed by the short day of sunlight and the increasingly longer days of sunlight that gradually follow.

Pagans celebrate at this time of year by meditating on the darkness and welcoming the sun with the lighting of candles and the singing of chants.

Kwanzaa is a celebration of African American heritage, 26 December thru 1 January that culminates in a feast and gift giving.

Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration that celebrates the rededication of the Temple and is celebrated with the lighting of a menorah.

Christians celebrate the birth of the son of God as signified by a star in the east that led the Wiseman and

an angelic chorus that led shepherds to the son of God. Max Lucado reminds us that, "Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts."

Many of us will also have a Christmas tree in our homes during the month of December. We will decorate our trees with lights, tinsel, and family ornaments. But no matter the traditions you hold dear in your hearts in the month of December, I challenge each of us to celebrate life, light, love and family.

I leave you with this thought: "If Christmas is not found in your heart, you won't find it under the tree" (Charlotte Carpenter, *Guidepost*, December 1997).

Be Mindful of the Season

By Orenthia C. Herren
908th ASTS

Welcome to the holiday season! While this time of year brings love and joy, the holiday season can often bring some unwanted guests as well, stress and depression.

Recent studies have shown that as many as 80 percent of adults find the holidays somewhat or very stressful.

Perhaps the best way to cope with stress is to prevent it from happening. Here are a few tips to help avoid the holiday blues.

Be realistic.

The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. For example, maybe adult children cannot come home or a spouse is deployed. Try to find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails or videos.

Plan ahead.

Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities.

Stick to a budget.

Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how

much money you can afford to spend. Then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness by overspending.

Don't abandon healthy habits.

Don't let the holiday cheat day become a cheat season. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Have a healthy snack before holiday meals and remember to exercise and get plenty of sleep.

Reach out.

If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events. Confide in a friend or family member. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.

Don't let the holidays become something you dread. Instead, take steps to prevent the stress and depression that can occur during the holidays.

Learn to recognize your personal holiday triggers, such as financial or personal demands, so you can avoid them before they lead to a meltdown. With a little planning and some positive thinking, you can find peace and joy during the holiday season.

Change is Coming

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Staff

The way you get your news about the 908th Airlift Wing will soon be changing.

Due to tight budgets, starting in January, the Southern Flyer will be printed quarterly instead of monthly.

To keep information flowing in a timely fashion, we'll be using the official web page, and Facebook pages to keep you up to date with the latest 908th news.

Every unit inside of the Department of Defense has the ability to use the Defense Imagery & Video Distribution System, DVIDS for short, which is the DoD equivalent to The Associated Press or Reuters wire services. By "subscribing" to the 908th Airlift Wing unit page and/or the pages of the members of the public affairs staff, you will be able to get real time notifications of when news articles and photos are released by the public affairs office.

Another asset that the 908th uses is our official U.S. Air Force website. There you can find all of our latest news and photos, along with other facts about the unit such as biographies on our current senior leaders and ways to contact us. You will also find links to various units in the Maxwell-Gunter area along with links to our higher headquarters at the Air Force Reserve Command.

From the official website you will see links to our social media sites, which feature the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter. The unit's Twitter feed and Facebook pages are modern, easy, and convenient ways to stay in touch and up to date with what's happening in the wing while you are on the go or away from a computer.

While the shift from a monthly publication to a quarterly publication will take some time to adjust to, have no fear as the staff of the 908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office is still committed to sharing the story of this amazing unit with all of you and your families.

Links to our sites:

<http://www.908aw.afrc.af.mil/>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/908AW>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/portfolio/1052476/jerry-lobb>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/portfolio/1387257/bradley-clark>

<http://archive.defense.gov/multimedia/multimedia.aspx>

<http://www.imagesoffreedom.com/>



FSS Change of Command



By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Colonel Patricia Brewer, commander of the 908th Mission Support Group, presided over a change of command ceremony for the 908th Force Support Squadron during the November Unit Training Assembly.

Outgoing commander, Lt. Col Darris S. Edge's relinquish of command of the FSS to Lt. Col. Jennifer M. Berry took place at Maxwell Air Force Base Nov. 5.

Edge had been the commander of the 908th FSS for almost three years, accomplishing countless tasks to keep the 908th Airlift Wing ready for anything that comes its way.

Berry's last assignment was as the Director of Staff/Chief of Protocol with the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope Army Airfield, N.C., where she helped oversee the shut-down of the 440th.

She was the senior administrative advisor to the wing commander on personnel issues and maintained oversight of the administrative functions of the wing staff agencies. She worked directly with the group commanders and staff to implement policy for the management, training, and deployment of combat airlifters who preform airlift, airdrop and aeromedical evacuation operations with 12 C-130 Hercules aircraft, and more than 1200 military and civilian personnel.



Partnership with Army he

By Bradley J. Clark, Photos by Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Airmen from the 908th Airlift Wing have an ongoing partnership with the 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade.

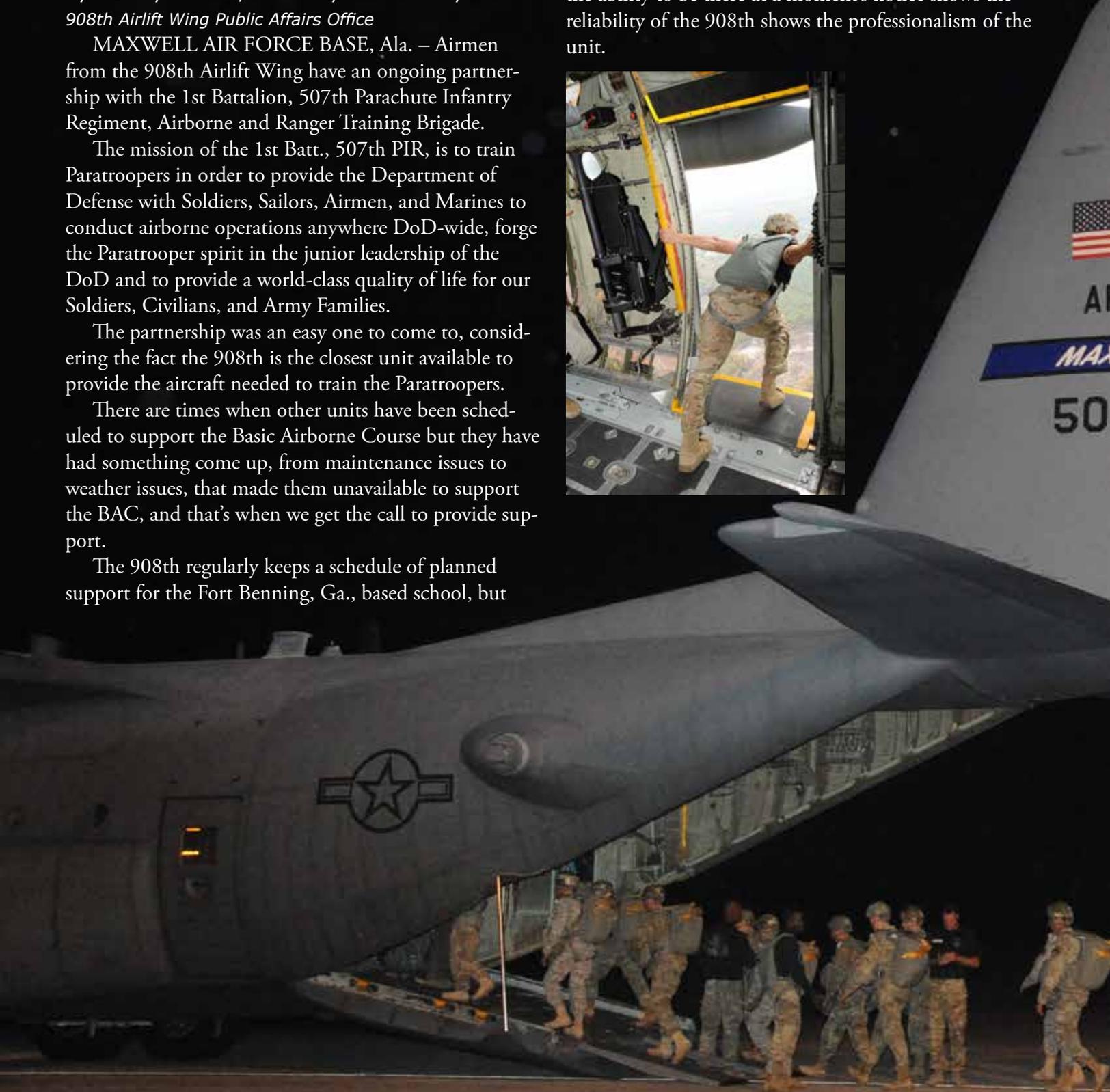
The mission of the 1st Batt., 507th PIR, is to train Paratroopers in order to provide the Department of Defense with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines to conduct airborne operations anywhere DoD-wide, forge the Paratrooper spirit in the junior leadership of the DoD and to provide a world-class quality of life for our Soldiers, Civilians, and Army Families.

The partnership was an easy one to come to, considering the fact the 908th is the closest unit available to provide the aircraft needed to train the Paratroopers.

There are times when other units have been scheduled to support the Basic Airborne Course but they have had something come up, from maintenance issues to weather issues, that made them unavailable to support the BAC, and that's when we get the call to provide support.

The 908th regularly keeps a schedule of planned support for the Fort Benning, Ga., based school, but

the ability to be there at a moment's notice shows the reliability of the 908th shows the professionalism of the unit.



Ips train Paratroopers



FSS and unit personal take time to accomplish wartime training

By Chief Master Sgt Martha Roy
908th Force Support Superintendent

Every Sunday afternoon, the Military Personnel Section closes to conduct in-house training and wartime mission training. The majority of the scheduled training focuses on PER-SCO (Personnel Support for Contingency Operations) Team reports,

processes and procedures; however, the November Unit Training Assembly was dedicated to accomplishing an area of training that requires them to work alongside our Services Element. Every 20 months, all Personnel and Services members must receive a refresher course on Force Beddown/Panning/Shelter Training. The instructor for this course was Staff Sgt. Keith Smith, who directed the unit to a successful tent-building event.



Marine Reserves bring passports to 908 FSS

By Chief Master Sgt Martha Roy
 908thFSS Superintendent

Friday, October 14, 2016, four members assigned to the 908th Force Support Squadron were requested to provide passport support to a local Marine Reserve unit as they prepared for a deployment to take place in 2017. Master Sgt. Gloria Smith, Tech. Sgt. Katrina Lee (DoD Passport Agents), Senior Airman Jeremy Slaughter and Staff Sgt. Latangerick Crowley ensured they received the needed documents in order to process the passport applications. Future visits are planned to accommodate the unit's 120 members.



Congratulations to Senior Airman Jodi Armstrong (Wing Staff) and Senior Airman Andrew Hampton (Force Support Squadron) upon their graduation from Maxwell Airman Leadership Class 16-7 on October 20, 2016. (U.S. Air Force Courtesy Photo)

New to the 908th

Lt. Col. Jennifer Berry, FSS

Maj. Lori Bartz, LRS

Capt. Donvier Labrew, FSS

Lt. Ellen Frisbie, AES

Senior Master Sgt. Eunice Stockdale, LRS

Staff Sgt. Isaiah Johnson, AMXS

Staff Sgt. Yahsmin Turner, SFS

Senior Airman Justin Johnson, CES

Senior Airman Kristina Oliver, LRS

Airman 1st Class Asia Douglass, OSS

Airman 1st Class Jerrold Hurston, 25 APS

Airman 1st Class Malcom Walker, MXS

Airman 1st Class Fletcher Windham, MXS

Airman Janie Murray, MXS

Airman Basic Jon Blaine, 25 APS

Airman Basic Zachary Chevalier, AMXS

Airman Basic Jeanne Pyo, ASTS

Gaining Altitude



Tina M. Ashley
Kevin W. Garrett
Joshua R. Jones
Toni L. Page
Rhonda D. Williams

BRIEFS

We need more officers, are you ready?

By Chief Master Sgt Martha Roy
Force Support Superintendent

A Deserving Airman Commissioning Board is scheduled for the March Unit Training Assembly to select new officers from the enlisted force.

To meet the board, you must have a Bachelors degree or be within six months of obtaining the degree. Minimum AFOQT scores for verbal must be 15, and 10 for quantitative. You will also need to be able to attend OTS and graduation prior to your 35th birthday.

Contact Wing Training for a scheduled test date if you have not taken your AFOQT. Appointments can be made by calling 953-6771, 953-6678 or 953-0249. Results will take about seven days to post. You are only authorized to be administered this test twice.

Look for the package requirement via email or you can contact TSgt Bibb at 953-5584 for the complete Deserving Airman Commissioning Package checklist. Completed packages are due to 908 MPS Career Development Office NLT COB February 2017 UTA.

908th Awards Banquet

Place: Embassy Suites in Downtown Montgomery

Time: 1900 to TBD

Social Hour: 1800-1900

Attire: Mess Dress or Semi-Formal

Prices: \$30 per person or \$50 per couple

Members can purchase tickets through their squadron rep or 1st Sergeant

DV Visit during Dec UTA

The Command Team of the 22nd Air Force, Maj. Gen. John Stokes and Command Chief Master Sgt. Clinton Ronan, will be visiting the 908th Airlift Wing during the December Unit Training Assembly. Let's be ready to show them we are the best wing under their command.

Santa's Arrival

Be sure to gather in the 357th Airlift Squadron Briefing Room by 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2016 to meet with Santa where he will be available for photos and wish list discussions.



Zaccheus D. Chames
Michael L. Gills
Lucius A. Green III
Steven D. Harris
David C. Lewis



Jacob T. Garner
Jashaun K. Hightower
Amber D. Howard
Antoine L. Tucker



Christopher L. Bryant
Justin L. Johnson
Kiara E. Moore
Cameron L. Rosenhoover



Joseph C. Blackmon
Jeremy T. Donaldson
Joshua J. Mahone



Rickey D. Samuel



Long...

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 908th Services.
- * 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 Tech. Sgt. Cedrea Young
(334) 953-1690, option 1

Emer cell: (254) 258-1884

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

Checkout time:

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

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

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

UTAs FY17

Oct. 1-2	April 1-2
Nov. 5-6	May 6-7
Dec. 3-4	June 3-4
Jan. 7-8	July 8-9
Feb. 11-12	Aug. 5-6
March 4-5	Sept. 9-10

908TH UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

December

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
Friday, December 2, 2016			
1500	TBD	Commander's Staff Meeting	Bldg 804/42ABW Conf Rm
1700	TBD	First Sergeants' Meeting	Holiday Inn Express, Prattville
Saturday, December 3, 2016			
0600	TBD	Fit to Fight Testing Session One	HAWC
0730	0800	** Sign In **	Orderly Room
0730	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session Two	HAWC
0800	1030	Newcomer's MPS Inprocessing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0800	1100	Lab work/DNA/HIV/Blood testing	Bldg 760/Lab
0800	1530	Physicals	Bldg 760/Floor 1
0830	1530	Immunizations	Bldg 760/Floor 1
0900	0930	SAPM Training	Bldg 1056/CC Conf Rm
0900	1000	UDM Meeting	Bldg 848/CF Classroom
0900	1000	Fitness for duty (DD 689 & Fitness Letter)	Bldg 760/Floor 1
0900	1000	First Duty Station Briefing	Bldg 1056/Classroom
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Outprocessing	Bldg 1056/Rm 111/DPMSA
1000	TBD	Santa Claus	357ASBriefingRoom
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg 903/FSDE
1300	1400	WING COMMANDERS CALL	POLIFKA AUDITORIUM
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (DD 689 & Fitness Letter)	Bldg 760/Floor 1
1700	1730	Sign Out	Orderly Room
Sunday, December 4, 2016			
0600	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session One	HAWC
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	TBD	Fit To Fight Testing Session Two	HAWC
0930	1030	HRDC Meeting	Bldg 1056/CC Conf Rm
1230	1300	SORTS/DRRS/ART Briefing	Bldg 1055/908CAT
1300	1500	AFSC SPECIFIC TRAINING	DesignatedWorkcenter
1600	-	Sign Out	Orderly Room

Support functions' schedule

Activity	Dates & hours of operation	Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Trg FLT	Sat 0730-1700	Bldg 1056/Rm 101
MPS Customer Svc	Sat 1300-1700 / 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 0900-1600 / Sun 1230-1500	Bldg 1056/3-6722
Fitness For Duty	Sat 0900-1000 ** Bring DD Form 689 **	Bldg 760 1st Floor/ 3-5714
Medical Records	Sat 0800-1500 / Closed Sun	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 Brunch: 1030-1300 Dinner: 1600-1800	Bldg 668/3-5127
Lodging Office		Bldg 682 /240-5600
Photo Lab	M-F 0730-1630 / Sun 1300-1500	Bldg 926/3-7981
Comm Help Desk	Sat 0800-1600 / Sun 1300-1500	

Local Business Support for 908th Recognized

By Bradley J. Clark
908th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

PRATTVILLE, Ala., – Members of the 908th Airlift Wing presented the Prattville Chick-fil-a with a flag flown in Afghanistan Nov. 8, in appreciation for support to the wing.

Over the last 18 months, Chick-fil-a provided food and drinks to the Airmen of the 908th and their Families when deploying to and while returning from southwest Asia.

Commander of the 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Lt. Col. Marla Powell, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael McGill, presented Daniel Grier, owner of the Prattville Chick-fil-A with a flag that had been flown in Afghanistan during the unit's recent deployment.

The restaurant didn't hesitate when the opportunity arose to help the 908th Airlift Wing.

"We have a lot of pride in our military," said Grier. "Maxwell Air Force Base is such a huge part of our community. We are all a family."

Grier only made up one part of the relationship; it was the family members of the 908th Maintenance Group that make up the organization known as Helping Every Reservist through Contingencies or HERC, who reached out to Grier to make this happen.

"I just called and explained that we had some people getting ready to deploy, (in May 2015)," said Cynthia McGill, member of HERC.

After reaching out, the 908th HERC was overwhelmed with the support from Grier.

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TO THE FAMILY OF:

"We want to do everything we can to take care of our Airmen and their Families," said Lori Sims, HERC member. "Chick-fil-A offered discounted products to help out and provide for the Airmen and their Families during their departures and returns."

This wasn't just a discount off of a certain sandwich or beverage though.

"It wasn't a small or limited menu," said Julie Stinson, HERC member. "They provided us with a wide variety of products from their menu."

Amazed at the gesture, the 908th HERC wanted to find a way to show their appreciation.

"We are really grateful for their support," said McGill who was echoed by Stinson and Sims.

As far as Grier is concerned, it was a way for him and his business to show how they feel about the Airmen and their Families.

"They are a part of our family," said Grier. "It's an easy choice to help out family any way you can."

