



On the fifth of October, Secretary of Defense Mattis sent out guidance that emphasized the continued development of challenges from North Korea, China, Russia, Iran and violent extremism. These actors present a varied challenge to global security from direct technologically advanced influence to low intensity asymmetric warfare. It presents a complex security environment that demands we be capable of defending the nation with broad skill sets.

To that end, he outlined three focus areas; Restore military readiness, strengthen alliances and attract new partners and bring business reforms to DoD. We take a direct part in the first two areas. We do them well, and our success in them has not been more important in the last twenty years than it is now.

We continue to train and find new ways to be more efficient in how we prepare to do our war time mission. I'm proud of the work we've done, and there is more to do. Right now, we have over a hundred of our members deployed to the fight, doing their jobs and doing them well. We all are only a phone call away from being abruptly thrown into that role. We intend to make every UTA productive so the wing can be ready. It's up to all of us to make sure we are taking full advantage of the time we have here.

We continue to work with NATO allies and strengthen our relationships. Our joint training will be critical should we find ourselves fighting alongside them. There are other opportunities to work with foreign and joint US partners over the course of the year. We need to take advantage of them. By the nature of what we do, we will never be out working without being a part of a team that will include other Guard, Active Duty, sister service and international partners. We need to train with them now to be prepared when it counts.

I'm proud of what we have achieved. The initiative and dedication it takes to be as good as we are while living full lives with families, civilian careers, schooling, and all of the other elements that make us different than the full time force is inspiring. Keep demanding excellence from yourself and your team. Know we are needed and know that when we are needed to go, we will be ready.

Keep grinding!  
KO



**908th Airlift Wing Commander  
Col. Kenneth J. Ostrat**

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## Find us on the Web

908th Airlift Wing Digital Site Links

Facebook: [facebook.com/908AW/](https://facebook.com/908AW/)

Website: [908aw.afrc.af.mil/](http://908aw.afrc.af.mil/)

DVIDS: [dvidshub.net/unit/908AW](https://dvidshub.net/unit/908AW)

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Web: [maxwell.af.mil/](http://maxwell.af.mil/)

DVIDS: [dvidshub.net/unit/MAFB](https://dvidshub.net/unit/MAFB)

## Key Events on the Horizon

### 50 METER TARGETS - NOVEMBER UTA

Time Change - Sunday, Nov 5 at 0200

Life South Blood Drive - Sunday, Nov 5 at 1000

### 100 METER TARGETS - BETWEEN NOV & DEC UTA

908th Alumni Breakfast - Tuesday, Nov 7 at 0830

AUM Business Breakfast - Thursday, Nov 9 at 0730

AFA Veteran's Days Luncheon - Thursday, Nov 9 at 1100

Governor's Salute to Veterans - Friday, Nov 10 at 1000

Montgomery Veteran's Day Celebration - Friday, Nov 10 at 1100

Birmingham Veteran's Day Dinner - Friday, Nov 10 at 1800

Veterans Day - Saturday, Nov 11

Thanksgiving - Thursday, Nov 23

### 200 METER TARGETS - DECEMBER UTA

Santa - Saturday, December 2 at 1000

# Key Spouse News

By Amy Brooks  
908th Key Spouse Leader

The Key Spouses have been working extremely hard this Fall to support the 908th Airlift Wing and our families. More than 50 people enjoyed our Pool Party that we plan to hold annually. Along with the fellowship and connections, they enjoyed not only swimming and water slides, but also a photo booth! We look forward to hosting another party in early to mid-summer 2018. Stay tuned for details!

Our community partner school, Morris Elementary, wants to thank you for the book drive donations. The Key Spouse organization collected more than 250 books to donate to the school. The principal, Ms. Easterling, and the students were so excited to receive their new books.

Hurray to our deployers and their families. The countdown to their homecoming has begun. Many families and friends send care packages to the members during the holidays. The United States Postal Service will provide free packing materials to send these care packages. To access these free materials, please see the link below:

[https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22349/html/cover\\_006.htm](https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22349/html/cover_006.htm)

Also, below are the mail by dates recommended for on time holiday delivery by the USPS.

Our Key Spouse Organization thanks all of our 908th Airlift Wing members and their families for their service and support to our wing and to the Air Force. The Key Spouses wish you abundant blessings, peace and happiness! Happy Thanksgiving to all of the 908th AW members and our families!

Military Mail Addressed To/From	First-Class Mail	Priority Mail	Priority Mail Express
AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 16
AE ZIP 093	Dec 4	Dec 4	N/A
AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 16
AA ZIP 340	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 16
AP Zips 962-966	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 16

