

RESERVIST HELPS PUT KNOWLEDGE IN DEPLOYERS' POCKETS, PG. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER



Welcome Home!

SOUTHERN FLYER



Vol. 47 Issue 09
October 2010

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Where Do I Fit in Today's Fight?

Most of us are aware that Secretary Donley and General Schwartz have established five priorities to guide the Air Force's future. General Stenner has shaped the Air Force Reserve priorities as supporting pillars upon which we can focus our efforts.

I'd like to further highlight our wing's role in sustaining our combat capability where the rubber meets the road.

AF Priority: Partner with the Joint and Coalition team to win today's fight

USAFR Priority: Provide an operational, combat-ready force while maintaining a strategic reserve

908 AW Mission: Provide unrivaled theater airlift and flexible combat support across the spectrum of military operations

No one can doubt that winning today's fight is an immediate concern and we are meeting the challenge. We have just welcomed back a large group of ops and maintenance personnel — mostly volunteers — who supported the AEF in Southwest Asia,

but we also deploy our wing members to fill individual requirements.

For instance, Col Clark is currently performing a critical function in support of the ground component commander in Southwest Asia as part of a joint force. These discrete taskings give our Airmen a chance to participate as their schedules permit and often in areas outside their specific skill.

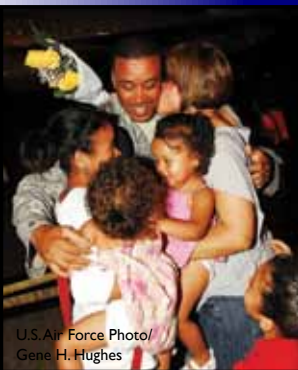
We must also retain the capability of responding to emerging threats. As members of the Selected Reserve, we represent the first layer of that capability through voluntary service and involuntary mobilization. We offer a place for trained Airmen to continue their service after leaving the active force, as well as providing a starting point for some folks.

Our ability to organize, train and equip — our UTA focus points — at the same readiness level as our active component counterparts gives us this ability to join the fight at a moment's notice.

We're in the fight every day and stand ready to answer our nation's call tomorrow, too.



COL. ROBERT H. SHEPHERD
908th Wing Commander



SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Friends and family members of the 908th Airlift Wing gathered at Maxwell AFB to welcome home approximately 150 members after their four-month deployment.

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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.



CH. (MAJ.) DAVID DERSCH

"Welcome Home."

These are some of the most beautiful words in the English language. They have taken on added meaning since I've come back "home" to the 908th recently after 18 months. It's great to be back in time to welcome home our Airmen who have spent the last four months superbly doing what they have trained to do. And now they're home. What a feeling!

It's important to realize that the warm glow of reunion will somewhat fade as we face the cold reality of fitting back in. Like it or not, things aren't exactly the same after a long absence. There may be drastic differences, like the arrival of a new family member or pet. There may be small ones, such as new procedures in the shop. Whatever the case, those who return and those who receive them both have to re-adjust.

The process of finding a new normal after a long absence is called "re-integration." Don't let this word scare you or make it sound difficult. Re-integration is simply getting comfortable and adjusting to the changes that occurred while away.

It's getting you back into the flow of your family or unit.

Sometimes there are bumps in the road as we re-integrate. This is normal. Accept the bumps and don't get bent out of shape. However, if the bumps continue, or become mountains, don't be afraid to seek some help with the re-integration. Our chapel section is always available to help. We can help keep the warmth in the "welcome home."

Step into the future

By SSgt Mary Evelyn Baxter
908th AW/FM

Step into the future by using the new electronic system of filing your travel voucher — e-Finance.

E-Finance is used for multi-status orders such as IDT, ADT, ADSW, school, AT, MPA, civilian, etc. Once a voucher is submitted it electronically routes from you the member, to your supervisor, to the FSO, then to Ellsworth where it should process in seven to 10 business days.

Filing your travel voucher through e-Finance allows you to cut out the middle man and the opportunity to view the status of your voucher at any time.

e-Finance cannot be used for supplementals, accruals, partial vouchers, or when performing military/civilian conversions or MPA to RPA conversions. When you have a voucher of this nature, you will fill

out your paperwork and turn it in to your squadron-appointed travel voucher examiner. By the way, if you don't know who your examiner is, check the list below.

To close the loop on filing your voucher with e-Finance, submit a copy of the tracking sheet submission from e-Finance to the wing finance office when you turn in your Pay Document. Either way you file your vouchers or take care of your travel, we are here to help.

For more information you can access the e-Finance website via the AF Portal, or directly via their web address at <https://www.my.af.mil/efinanceprod/GovWarning.aspx>.

To access user guides, FAQ's, and to find other helpful information about e-Finance visit the e-Finance Workspace CoP at <https://www.afkm.wpafb.af.mil/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=AF-FM-FH-03>.

Unit Travel Voucher Examiners

AES	Ms. Cook	LRS	SMSgt Rollins
AES	Maj Hilyard	MOF	CMSgt Dearth
AMX	CMSgt Alexander	MOF	MSgt Watts
AMX	MSgt Sims	MSF	Ms Hails
APS	MSgt Ballentine	MSF	SMSgt Roy
APS	TSgt Owens	MXG	CMSgt Corporon
APS	CMSgt Whited	MXG	TSgt Lazenby
AS	SSgt Livingston	MXS	SMSgt Eubanks
AS	SMSgt Molloy	MXS	CMSgt Scott
ASTS	TSgt Dunning	OG	SSgt Livingston
ASTS	Maj Woodsmall	OG	SMSgt Molloy
AW	TSgt Mitchell	OSF	SSgt Livingston
AW	Ms Ray	OSF	SMSgt Molloy
CES	SMSgt Fenn	SVF	SMSgt Godwin
CES	MSgt Pfeiffer	SVF	TSgt Mason
CF	MSgt O'Connor	SFS	TSgt Foote
CF	SMSgt Williams	SFS	MSgt Oliver
LRS	MSgt Geiselman	SFS	TSgt Williams

CLIMATIZING ACROSS CULTURES

Reservist helps produce expeditionary field guides to aid Airmen acclimate to strange surroundings

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

When servicemembers deploy, it's not uncommon for them to receive a variety of classes on the geography, history, people, customs and courtesies of the area of operations to which they'll be sent. In the War on Terror, these countries are thousands of years



CARVER

old and are extremely complex. With this kind of information, American military personnel can avoid cultural clashes and giving offense in extremely sensitive

areas, like religion. A major problem with classes is that there's not enough information, or far too much, and lessons are often dismissed or forgotten. The military has been developing easy-carry manuals, for decades, but the concept still hasn't been perfected yet. Major Charles Carver, commander of the 908th Logistics Readiness Squadron, has been part of an Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) project here at Maxwell that might have the answer.

"Our overall task is to deliver culture training to over 507,000 Airmen across the total force, and more specifically to 100,000 deployers across all ranks and career fields, although we also help enhance the training of our special ops and other specialized career fields," he said.

Aside from culture-general and

specific classes on Iraq and Afghanistan and computer-based training, the Expeditionary Airmen Field Guides for Iraq and Afghanistan has been making a successful splash since they first came out.

"The question was how to train a total force of 507,000 Airmen, and specifically, more than 100,000 deployers, in an Air Force way," Maj. Carver said. "But Dr. Dan Henk and Mr. Hank Finn at the AFCLC had a vision of what was needed, and the result was the formation of the center's Expeditionary Skills Training."

The first issue was getting some sort of "instant training" that could be provided to everyone quickly. The next problem dealt with putting training aids into Airmen's hands, something that could be easily referenced and referred to when needed. That's really where the Expeditionary Airmen Field Guide concept came into being.

Air Force expeditionary skills training is broken into four tiers. The field guides fall into Tier Two: area-specific general knowledge needed by deployers.

"You have a meeting scheduled at 10 a.m., but your native opposite doesn't arrive until noon," he said. "Due to your schedule, you no longer have time, but to simply bow out and leave might be taken as an insult. As an Airman, you're under pressure to get your mission accomplished, but if you transfer the pressure to your host nation counterparts, you'll probably

get nothing accomplished."

When Carver came aboard the field guide project, the information for the Iraq guide and most for the Afghanistan guide had already been accumulated in Word-version text. The first task was to pass the text around through the anthropologists and cultural experts, to make sure facts were not only correct, but carefully worded.

"You have to be very wary, especially in religion," he said. "Everything has to be presented from a neutral point of view. We just wanted to present the facts. A lot of people who may have spent time in Iraq, and are now deploying to Afghanistan for the first time, might make assumptions that everything's the same. And it's not. It's very different.

"One example of a topic we wrangled with was how to say that in Islam, Muslims believe that the Jewish and Christian scriptures have been corrupted and the Koran is the only perfect word of God. How do you explain that Muslims believe they, Jews and Christians all worship the same God, but Jews and Christians don't? We had to work hard to make sure it was worded right so it wouldn't be offensive to anyone who read it.

"My concern is that Airmen who have strong views would flip through the guide and get the impression that it endorses Islam, and dismiss the guide altogether, thereby losing the benefits."

Carver's main task was to edit

information, select photographs, design pages and produce the guides on time and within budget. Starting with \$850,000, Carver provided the initial 250,000 guides printed for a cost of \$400,000, or less than \$2 per guide. The guides were printed in March and are currently being distributed. Approximately one-third of the guides have been passed out so far, including one for each graduate of an AU school.

"So far the only responses we've gotten on them have been 'These are great, Send us more.'"

Following meetings with the 17th Air Force at Ramstien AB, the USAF component of AFRICOM, the CLC and Carver are about to expand the "library" to include six African countries. Major Carver recently returned from Botswana, not only to work on the guide, but also to produce the Visual Expeditionary Skills Training, (VEST) the Tier Three-level, for that country.

"I took a lot of pictures and video. The (U.S.) embassy had community relations people, and I met with the Botswana Defense Force's public affairs officer," He said. I got to play tourist and see some things, but with the goal of being able to read a script and decide whether a scenario is relevant for an Airman deployed to Botswana or not.

"I also sat down with some of 17th Air Force's people who have been there and listened to their stories."

He said the African guides are



Courtesy photo/357 AS

Recently deployed members of the 908th Airlift Wing, including Master Sgt. Pam Rhodes and Lt. Col. Ken Ostrat, were some of the first Airmen to make use of the Expeditionary Airmen Field Guides in Southwest Asia.

slated for production by the end of the fiscal year.

While CLC is focused on the guides as a strictly Air Force tool, Carver said requests from other organizations, such as the Defense Language Institute, have been received. In fact, Maj. Carver just filled a request for 50,000 Afghanistan field guides from the US Forces-Afghanistan staff.

"Since they're the Cadillac of culture guides in the DoD, General Paretreaus wants all his Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen in the FOBs to have one," he said.

There might be a possibility that the guide project might expand even

further.

As a follow on to the field guides, the AFCLC has been working to produce a scenario-based "choose-your-own-ending" video training tool. The VEST episodes for Iraq and Afghanistan are slated to be released in FY11.

"As a logistics specialist, I've typically dealt with supporting a whole unit to deploy to a combat environment. Now it's the fact that I've been able to have an effect across the entire Air Force in a mission-focused, yet non-combat way, has been pretty neat. Hopefully, this will help us avoid the combat environment."

Sweet Home Alabama

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Approximately 150 members of the 908th Airlift Wing returned to their home base recently after a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. The main body arrived via a commercial airliner late Oct. 17, while the unit's C-130 Hercules transports and aircrews arrived during the next two days.

The Reservists, aircrews and maintenance personnel, departed in May. Their departure was held for several days due to the huge cloud of ash spewing from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland. The cloud covered

a large section of the North Atlantic and disrupted a huge volume of trans-Atlantic and European air traffic.

The Reservists provided airlift in support of United States Central Command for Operation Iraqi Freedom, recently renamed New Dawn. During the deployment, the wing's aircraft and crews transported people and cargo in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, recently renamed as Operation New Dawn. One aircrew was recognized by its parent deployed command, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, for safety awards for the months of May and June.

In addition to its duties as part of the war on terror, two aircrews of the 908th also took part in humanitarian relief missions to Pakistan after that country was struck by devastating floods in late July. The Alabama Reservists participated in the delivery of more than 60,000 pounds of food and supplies.

It has been an active year for the 908th. After being graded as deployment ready by Air Mobility Command at its Operational Readiness Inspection in December, the unit worked furiously to prepare for duty overseas. Several members of the unit, mostly

medical and aerial port Airmen, departed for a four-month tour in Southwest Asia during January.

The wing also provided rapid humanitarian response when earthquakes struck the island nation of Haiti.

"We're very proud of the sacrifices made by our warriors and their families," said Col. Robert H. Shepherd, wing commander. "Their efforts during the deployment, to include forward deploying to support a significant humanitarian relief operation, were vital to our nation's defense and in keeping with our traditions of service."



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS/
LT. COL. JERRY LOBB
& GENE H. HUGHES



908th AW to host first Dining Out in a decade

TIX AVAILABLE THROUGH SQUADRON 1ST SHIRTS

By Lt. Col. Donna Roberts
908 ASTS

The 908th Airlift Wing is planning a Dining Out for the evening of Nov. 6 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 300 Tallapoosa St. in Montgomery. It will honor our wing members for their dedicated service and welcome home our deployed members.

The event will begin with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner at 7.

A Dining Out represents the most formal aspects of Air Force social life, bringing together unit members of all ranks in an atmosphere of camaraderie, good fellowship, and social rapport. Formal military dinners are a tradition in all branches of the US Armed services.

The Army refers to it as the regimental dinner; while the Marines and Coast Guard describe it as Mess Night. The Navy and Air Force traditionally call it Dining In. When spouses and guests are invited, it is referred to as "Dining Out."

The origin of formal military dinners can be traced to the continental army of General George Washington, with Air Force customs enhanced by General Hap Arnold during World War II. Most military units plan this event every ten years. The 908 Airlift Wing's last Dining Out was in 2000.

The theme of this year's Dining Out is "The Airmen's Creed". There are plans for a band with dancing,

good food and beverages, beautiful decorations, and a guest speaker. All wing members are encouraged to attend and bring a guest. The attire for the evening is Mess Dress for officers. Enlisted personnel's attire is mess dress or military semi-formal.

Refer to AFI 36-2903 for pictures and details of attire. Civilian attire is formal or semi-formal.

Rules of the Mess:

1. Thou shalt arrive within 10 minutes of the appointed hour.
2. Thou shalt make every effort to meet all guests.
3. Thou shalt move to the mess when thou hear the chimes and remain standing until seated by the President.
4. Thou shalt not bring cocktails or lighted smoking material into the mess.
5. Thou shalt not leave the mess whilst convened. Military protocol overrides all calls of nature.
6. Thou shalt participate in all toasts unless thyself or thy group is honored with a toast.
7. Thou shalt ensure that thy glass is always charged when toasting.
8. Thou shalt keep toasts and comments within the limits of good taste and mutual respect. Degrading or insulting remarks will be frowned upon by the membership. However, good natured needling is encouraged.
9. Thou shalt not murder the Queen's English.
10. Thou shalt not open the hangar doors (talk shop)
11. Thou shalt always use the proper toasting procedures.



Tickets are available in each squadron with First Sergeants as the point of contact. Ticket prices are as follows:

E1 - E4 and guest:	\$35 each
E5 - E6 and guest:	\$45 each
E7 and above:	\$55 each
Alumni:	\$55 each

12. Thou shalt fall into disrepute with thy peers if the pleas of thy cummerbund are not properly faced.
13. Thou shalt also be painfully regarded if thy clip-on bow tie rides at an obvious list. Thou shalt be forgiven, however, if thou also ride at a comparable list.
14. Thou shalt consume thy meal in a manner becoming gentlepersons.
15. Thou shalt not laugh at ridiculously funny comments unless the President first shows approval by laughing.
16. Thou shalt express thy approval by tapping thy spoon on the table, clapping of thy hands will not be tolerated.
17. Thou shalt not question the decisions of the President.
18. When the mess adjourns, thou shalt rise and wait for the President and guests to leave.
19. Thou shalt enjoy thyself to thy fullest.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

BEFORE HALLOWEEN:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.
- Secure emergency ID (name, address, phone number) discreetly within the costume or on a bracelet.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories, look for and purchase only those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Plan to use only battery powered lanterns or chemical lightsticks in place of candles in decorations and costumes.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free at any payphone.
- Review with your children the principle of "Stop-Drop-Roll", should their clothes catch on fire.
- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.
- Consider purchasing individually packaged healthy food alternatives (or safe non-food treats) for those who visit your home.

- Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkway. Check around your property for low limbs, wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.

PRE-HALLOWEEN NIGHT:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Consider fire safety when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects.
- Always keep Jack O' Lanterns and hot electric lamps away from drapes, decorations, flammable materials or areas where children will be standing or walking.
- Plan and review with your children the route and behavior which is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when revelers must return home.
- Along with flashlights for all, older children and escorts should wear a wristwatch and carry coins for non-emergency phone calls.
- Confine, segregate or otherwise prepare household pets for an evening of frightful sights and sounds. Be sure that all dogs and cats are wearing collars and proper ID tags.
- Remind all household drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community.
- Adult partygoers should establish a designated driver.

WHEN TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their rounds.

REMIND TRICK-or-TREATERS:

- By using a flashlight, they can see and be seen by others.
- Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
- Only go to porch-lit homes.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
- Never run across a street.
- Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom).
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway or alley.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
- Never consume food items or drinks that may be offered.
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by a parent.
- Law Enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

AFTER TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats.
- Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.

Welcome Newcomers!

- Maj. Gregory W. Slayton, 25 APS

TSgt. Cladie L. May, SVF

SSgt. Erick J. Anderson, MXS

SSgt. Christopher Gardner, LRS

SSgt. Ashley Guerro, 25 APS

SSgt. Shiera B. Irving, ASTS

SSgt. Christopher M. Peterson, CES

SrA Kashif Z. Chowhan, ASTS
- SrA Cynthia J. Fogelman, AW

SrA Jeffrey Gnann, AW

SrA Jeremiah McGough, 25 APS

SrA Samantha M. Shipley, 25 APS

A1C Kisha K. Irvins, 25 APS

AB Amber A. Alexander, ASTS

AB Theresa Eatmon, LRS

AB Mekesha J. Leavell, 25 APS

DID YOU KNOW?

Health records are the property of the United States Government, not the individual.

Maintenance of health records at the MTF is required IAW AFI 41-210. Patients may request a copy of their medical records by

filling out a release form located at the 908 ASTS front desk.

Do you have your original medical and/or dental records? If so, please turn them over to 908th ASTS personnel as soon as possible.

Employer Day Nominations

Employer's name/title:

Company/organization:

Company mailing address:

Employer's phone number:

Nominating Reservist name:

Your civilian job title:

Thanks to everyone who nominated their pastors and ministers for this year's Oct. 1 Clergy Day, but we still need nominations for the Nov. 5 Employer Day. This events will provide your supervisors and managers a firsthand look at what you do, including a local area orientation flight.

Employers will 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, and your activities over the past year.

Employers Day is planned for Nov. 5, the Friday before the November UTA.



- ENLISTED
- Master Sergeant

Prentice D. Tucker
- Technical Sergeant

Melissa L. Bayer

Christopher S. Moore

Jeffrey K. Paul

Joshua W. Phillips
- Staff Sergeant

Chad S. Braunschweig

William T. Garrison

Amber T. Jackson
- Senior Airman

Christopher B. Bridges

Claudia A. Caldwell

Kelvin L. Kendrick

Brittany N. Kramer

Matthew R. Mulligan
- Airman First Class

Christopher T. Adams
- Airman

Anna P. Corban

Dominique L. Montgomery

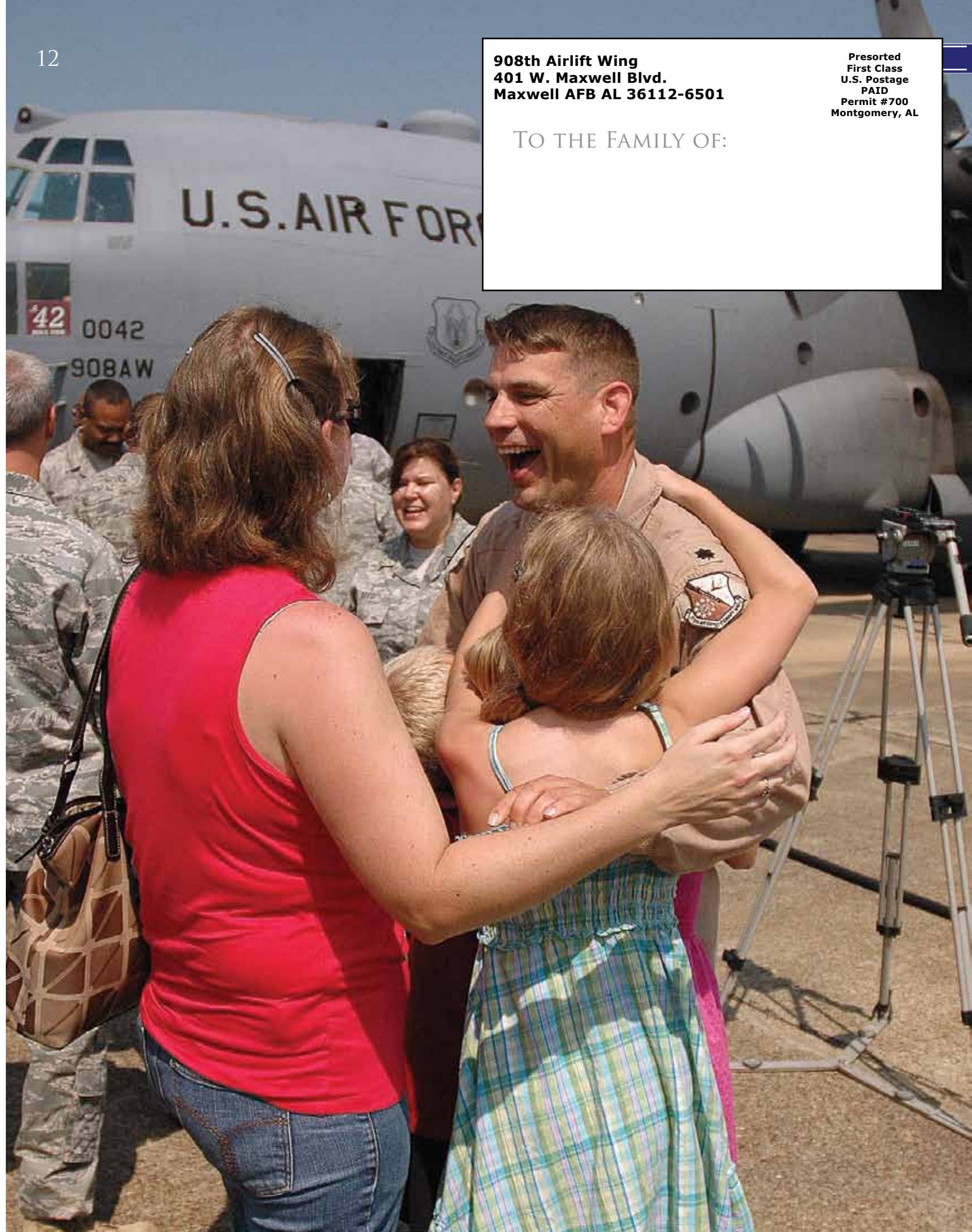
Dustin C. Smith

Brian K. Tice

Gregory S. Vandiver

Congratulations!

Nominations close Oct. 8! Fill out the form above and return it to the Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1056, room 100 or fax it to (334) 953-6355. Due to the time factor, the information also can be E-mailed to 908aw.pa2@maxwell.af.mil. For more information, call the PA office at (334) 953-6804/7874.



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