

908TH MSG SENIOR SNCO GIVES GIFT OF LIFE, PG. 4-5

SOUTHERN FLYER

Ride *full of* Pride

908TH FLIGHT MEDIC
ADORNS POV WITH
NATIVE AMERICAN,
MILITARY THEMES

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

PATRIOT DEFENDER TESTS SECURITY FORCES

E-FINANCING: WHERE'S MY STUFF?

AIRLIFTERS' ROLL OF HONOR

AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

AUGUST 2011

SOUTHERN
FLYER

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Our shared experiences

"First, let me say I am honored to serve you and your families as your new 908th Airlift Wing Command Chief. After the initial shock wore off I began to ask myself, "What first?" Well, that was easy; my first "official act" as your new Command Chief was to speak at the recent Yellow Ribbon event in Orlando, Fla.

Colonel Clark gave commander's coins to those who had not received them... it seemed to start the event on the right note.

I saw lots of familiar faces and a few new ones as well.

As military members we understand what we are getting into when we sign the dotted line; ours is a dangerous business. We get the training, the practice, the equipment and the opportunity to deploy. There is no training for our families. As someone already said, "families do not receive uniforms, medals, flags, or have parades in their honor; yet they serve. It is the family who keeps a candle burning in the window so their warrior can always find their way home." Yes, our families serve.



CHIEF MSGT. OWEN DUKE
908th AW Command Chief

As most of you know, Col. Clark recently returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. Imagine that, volunteering to leave the wing commander's seat for a place in the "sandbox"... talk about a tough guy! During my time in Security Forces I was deployed to Baghdad in 2006, and Kirkuk in 2008. I tell you this not as a point of bravado, but to make two points.

First, your senior leadership has been where you have been. We understand what you have experienced,

what you are experiencing and what you will experience. You are not alone. Second, in the future as in the past, your senior leadership will continue to look after your families in your absence.

They will not be left alone.

The 908th Airlift Wing is a large family with great people and, many shared experiences both at home and abroad. Our travels together will continue as will our focus on the well-being of warriors and family.

Again, I am honored to serve each of you and your families.

C143 IWSYS-OHAO



CH. (MAJ.) DERSCH/DANFORD

One of the most common problems every person faces is fighting the demons of bitterness and vengeance.

When we are hurt, we naturally want to strike back, not just to defend ourselves, but to "repay" the one who hurt us. When things don't go our way, we get angry and sullen. If we're not able to lash out at the person, we internalize our feelings, thinking that by staying bitter, we'll somehow get back at our enemy.

The truth is, the only person repressed anger (bitterness) hurts is the one harboring it. Vengeance may appear to be a sweet fruit, but it does not bring long-term satisfaction.

The best way to deal with bitterness and vengeance is to forgive and let it go. For some, this means committing into God's hands the one who wronged you. After all, God says "vengeance is mine; I will repay."

We can be certain that a just God will make it right, if not in this life, then in the next.

If you are struggling with anger or bitterness, whether it be at a co-worker, family member, or maybe even at God Himself, the chaplain office is here to help you. Pay us a visit, and let us pray with you as you work through the difficult process of forgiveness.

If anger and bitterness is slowly killing you, let us help you learn how to forgive and live!

Money Matters\$

Where's my stuff?

E-FINANCE CAN ANSWER VOUCHER QUESTIONS

By Major Kirsten James
908th FM

Have you ever wondered at which step in the administrative process your voucher was, when your Citibank bill was going to be paid, and more importantly, when you were going to get any residual from the voucher?

Well, wonder no more. Now there's E-Finance voucher processing, which you can use to process your voucher. It's simple and you can see where your paperwork is throughout the process.

You can access E-Finance via the AF Portal and input your voucher online. It can be accessed on the portal in the left-hand column under Personnel/Finance and reads PIPS/e-finance.

While this may seem initially intimidating, once you've done it a few times we believe you will like it. Also, it's one of the Air Force initiatives to save time and money. It's not as sophisticated as Intuit Consumer Tax Group's commercially available Turbo Tax software, but is similar in the way it helps to move you from screen to screen.

The system prompts you all the way through, so you shouldn't miss any potential claims/reimbursable items from your trip. All required fields are marked with an "*", so there's no guessing which fields you need to complete on the voucher.

There's also an "Ask the Expert"

link if you need assistance.

You can use E-Finance to file Final Settlement, Supplemental and Accrual Vouchers. If you are going on a deployment you can file monthly accrual vouchers to pay your Citibank bill and your monthly entitlements. E-finance will keep track of these accruals, which makes filing your settlement voucher easier than it has been in the past.

Once you have entered all your information into the voucher you will have to fax/upload your receipts (again, the system will prompt you for this). When faxing the receipts to your voucher you will have to first create a fax cover which will be created by the system and will be specific to that voucher.

When you click the "submit" button your voucher will be digitally signed and the complete package will be processing/routing in the system for payment. Voila!

You will then receive an e-mail as your voucher moves thru the processing system; this way you know where your voucher is (whether your supervisor or approving official has it, if it's at Maxwell finance, and so on, until it's paid).

If you have any questions or want other information about processing your voucher via E-Finance, please contact the 908th FM at 953-6722, or Senior Airman Jonathan Mollison of the 42nd Air Base Wing at 953-8115.

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Master Sgt. Caterina Durham of the 908th AES sits behind the wheel of her 2008 HUMMER HT3, which is custom painted with artwork honoring her Native American heritage and Air Force service.



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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.



American Red Cross Collections Specialist Sophia Parker, right, checks on Senior Master Sgt. Connie Rollins during a recent platelet donation. The 908th Airman has been giving the badly needed coagulant cells since 1989.

A Little Something Extra

908th Airman makes live-saving platelet donations

By Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

Whenever members of the 908th have to go somewhere, Senior Master Sgt. Connie Rollins is there, tirelessly working to make sure they have what they need. Outside the office, she's doing her part to help those in desperate need of medical treatment get what they need.

Rollins donates platelets, which according to the *Oxford Companion to the Body*, platelets are necessary "for the process of clotting when blood vessels are damaged, both by

providing necessary hormones and proteins for coagulation."

Patients who have a bone marrow disease, such as leukemia, often experience excessive bleeding due to a decreased number of platelets.

She began donating in 1989 while stationed at Barksdale AFB.

"I didn't know what it was, but I was on the bloodmobile donating whole blood and the lady asked me if I'd ever considered donating platelets," she said. "She gave some brochures. I read them, tried it and been doing it ever since.



Platelets, bonding red blood cells together above, are crucial to leukemia patients.

Almost anyone able to donate blood and not taking anti-coagulants such as aspirin can donate platelets. Blood is drawn and placed in

DONATING PLATELETS

- ◆ Platelet donations are collected at select American Red Cross donor centers only.
- ◆ Donors should not take any aspirin or products containing aspirin 48 hours before donation.
- ◆ Most healthy people who weigh at least 110 pounds and are age 17 or older are eligible to donate.
- ◆ The donation takes approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and may be a single or dual arm procedure depend-

ing on the device used.

◆ To pass the time while you donate, you may listen to music or simply relax during the process. Most donation centers offer TVs or DVD players

◆ Before donating please be sure to eat foods rich in calcium and iron and drink plenty of fluids.

◆ Call (800) 374-4272 for information or to make an appointment to donate in Montgomery.

a centrifuge, where the platelets are separated from other blood products. The platelets are checked to ensure certain factors meet the standard.

"If they're not high enough, you can't donate," Rollins said. "I've been turned away at times when my count would be too low. If you're eating really good it's high, if you're dieting, it'll be low."

The rest of the blood is returned to the body, instead of being collected as it would be in a regular blood donation. The procedure takes from about 90 minutes to two hours.

Once collected, platelets only have a shelf life of about five days, and one donation provides only a sixth of a platelet transfusion. Since bone marrow transplant patients often require up to 120 units of platelets, new donations are required each and every day.

"After three visits, the machine will take the count average of the three donations and calculate the necessary time, and will recalculate after a few minutes," Rollins said. "It'll usually go down a few minutes, but mine's usually between 70-90 minutes. It was only 70-something last time. My count's been really high the last three times.

It hasn't always been that way. She stopped donating for almost a

year in 1996, when her iron factors were too low during a couple of visits, so Rollins asked the nurse why.

"Stress," the nurse replied. "Do you have anything stressful in your life right now?"

"I'm in the middle of building a house," Rollins answered. "Do you think that has anything to do with it? She said, 'Probably.' So I quit while we were doing the house.

While it takes less time to harvest whole blood, platelets can be donated more frequently. Rollins currently makes a donation at least once every month, as opposed to the eight she would make if giving whole blood.

She also gives twice the standard amount. She said a contributing factor is she doesn't experience the drained feeling often resulting from giving whole blood, and she's getting most of the material back right away.

Making donations runs in the family. Rollins' father got the family started, signing permissions for her and her sister to donate until they were old enough. Since they lived in the country,

donations couldn't be made unless a bloodmobile came by.

Rollins is also on the list to donate bone marrow also, as is her husband (Master Sgt. Tim Rollins of the 908th Maintenance Squadron). But unlike whole blood and platelets, bone marrow is very hard to match.

"My husband had matched with someone in D.C. one time," Rollins said. "He was going to go, and then they called him the next day and said they found an even better match than him, which is amazing when it's hard enough to match anybody in the first place."

Although she's been told of certain persons in need of her donation, she's never met anyone on the receiving end of her gift. She said she'd like to if given the chance, not as a "attaboy," but just to have personal contact with the end result of her donation.

She'll keep donating as long as she can, and would like to help recruit more donors. The satisfaction of helping others is her reward.

"It doesn't cost me anything except time," Rollins said. "It's not a very big part of your day to help somebody. Your body produces it naturally, and there's nowhere else they can get it. I just like helping people like that. I can make somebody's day."



Master Sgt. Caterina Durham's 2009 HUMMER pays tribute to her heritage and service, such as "The Airman's Creed" on the tailgate.



Pride ON Wheels

Flight medic shows her colors every time she hits the road

Story and photos by Gene H. Hughes
908th AW Public Affairs

A person's choice of transportation says a lot about them. The make, model, color and accessories; even the choice of bumper sticker lets you know what type of individual is behind the wheel. While some cars might keep you guessing, there are others that leave absolutely nothing to the imagination.

Master Sgt. Caterina Durham of the 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has just such a vehicle.

If you drive around Maxwell Air Force Base with any frequency, chances are you've seen her, even if you don't know her by sight. But you'd recognize the car; a sleek, black and gold 2009 HUMMER H3T, custom painted with scenes honoring her heritage and military service.

She purchased the vehicle right off the assembly line and she knew she wanted to have it custom painted. So she contacted Bo Pittman of Wetumpka and started to save her pennies. When she started thinking of a possible mural design that would bring together both her Native American (Cherokee and Iroquois) and military connections, the ideas just started to flow.

"I went to Pittman and told him my vision of incorporating these two aspects and portraying it in ghostly images," she said. "He was excited to get started. We sat down a couple of times to brainstorm, I brought him some personal pictures and he researched native ideas ... and this is the finished product. How exciting."

But why a black-and-gold color scheme? It might have something to do with the fact that Durham is a die-

hard Pittsburgh Steeler fan.

Durham joined the 908th AES in 2001, 11 days after her 32nd birthday. She has deployed three times in her capacity as a flight medic, picking up and caring for wounded personnel while they were transported to more advanced treatment centers or home to their units. She said it's the best job she's ever had.

"It was very humbling, very rewarding and very hard at times," she said. "It's an honor and a privilege to take care of those who are fighting for the cause and getting them home to recover."

When she came off deployment, she heard the Financial Management Office was looking for some help and wanting to take a break from her medical duties, she went to work in FM as a customer service and travel voucher specialist, helping with research assistance and special projects. She said it entailed knowing the regulations well enough to know where to look for information, having good people skills and "a lot of patience."

"The similarities are that I'm working with people and being familiar with the regulations," she said. "The mentality is different because you're working with a different type of client."

The driver side door (front cover) is an actual depiction of Durham, watched over by her guardian angel, a medicine man. Other artwork includes at right, top to bottom:

Left passenger door: A C-130 Hercules releasing its flares. "I love the C-130. My first deployment, I felt the flares go off a couple of times."

Right front door: Soldiers treating and protecting a fallen comrade while a medicine man watches over them.

Right rear door: A spectral horse, a universal sign of strength, power, freedom and loyalty. "Before I go on a mission, the Good Lord/Great Spirit and I have a moment with each other and I ask for these things so I can do my job to the best of my abilities."

Tailgate right side: Taken from an old photograph, it depicts Durham, her horse, Hardtime Buck, and her dog, Loachapoka. "That pic says it all about me. If you really look at it you will see what I mean."

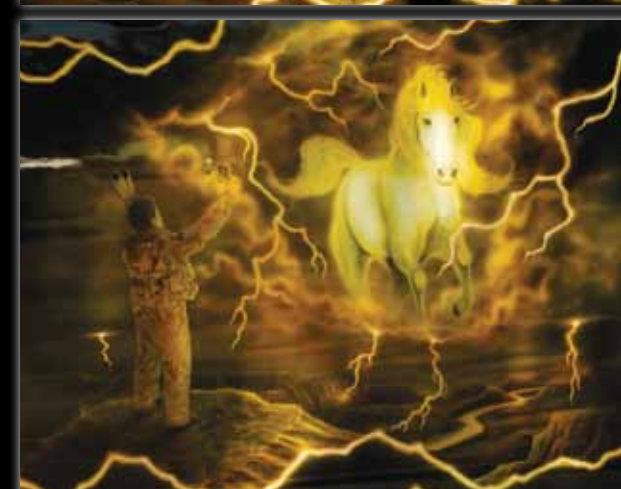
Tailgate left side: The Airman's Creed. "That's self-explanatory."

Durham has received many "thumbs up" from pedestrians and other drivers, some even nudging closer to get a better look at the decorative pictures. The most common reaction, she said, is "Hey, I love your truck."

"Several pictures have been taken while people pass by, she said. "They will get as close as they can to snap a shot, and sometimes they get real close. In parking lots I have had several requests for pictures, and then have been thanked for my service."

Now that she's reached all of her goals as a flight medic, she's moving into the health administrative department as part of the ground support team. But whatever lies on the road ahead, she's definitely got the wheels to get her where she's going.

"I want to learn every aspect of AES I can," she said. "I'm looking forward to the systems knowledge and challenges heading my way."



One-stop cop shop

PATRIOT DEFENDER GIVES SFS AIRMEN VALUABLE SKILLS IN UNIQUE LOCALE

By Tech. Sgt. James Harrell
908th SFS

More than 30 members of the 908th Security Forces Squadron recently returned from the Lone Star State after completing the 16 days of Patriot Defender at Fort Wolters Army Training Center near Mineral Wells, Texas.

The training, designed to provide security personnel the necessary skills to maintain combat readiness with facilities and environments not readily available at home station. This training is required by the Air Force Security Forces Center, the agency responsible for the effectiveness of all security forces.

Together with Airmen from four other Reserve SF units from around the country, 908th SFS members covered a wide array of subjects, including force escalation, land navigation, urban combat, counter insurgency, surveillance, target acquisition, and night observation, combat first aid, convoy tactics and mounted and dismounted patrol operations.

The Airmen also increased their proficiency with equipment such as GPS receivers, handheld radios and night vision scopes, became familiar with the operations of the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle and the Up-Armored HMMWV and engaged a variety of targets in tactical situations with the M-4 rifle and M-9 pistol.

In a rare change from the regular Patriot Defender training, unit leaders were allowed to train alongside their troops, giving commanders like the 908th's Capt. John Brooks the ability monitor his people's performance,



Members of the 908th Security Forces Squadron take action after discovering an "IED."

evaluate supervisors and personnel placed in specific positions, and ensure members understood his intent. The course also allowed supervisors to make evaluations not possible due to the limited time available during Unit Training Assemblies.

Particular attention was placed on the squadron's newest members who have been in the unit less than a year and have never deployed to a combat zone. For each, several NCOs were tasked to provide necessary guidance and mentorship so that no portion of training went without discussion or review.

"This is our future that we must take care of," said Chief Master Sgt. Owen Duke.

Emphasis on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan drove most of the training. Feedback taken directly from the field was used to refine training in order to better provide 'defenders' skills needed to successfully conduct operations in those operational areas.



SFS personnel become familiar with night-vision gear.

The course finale was a three-day round-robin exercise encompassing all the covered tasks.

During graduation, Airman Justin Sasser was selected as one of three outstanding performers of the class, impressing both peers and leaders with his determination, motivation, and drive to accomplish the mission.

The training was hosted by the 610th SFS located at NAS JRB Ft Worth, Texas. Also attending were teams from the 349th SFS at Travis AFB, Calif., the 910th SFS at Youngstown-Warren Air Reserve Station, Ohio and the 452nd SFS at March ARB, Calif.



Comm Check:

Do you want to take the call?

Information provided by
908th Comm Flight

Can pressing 9-0-# allow scammers to make long-distance phone calls on your phone bill? Upon contacting the telephone company we were informed by using 90# you end up giving the individual that called you full access to your phone to make long distance calls -- and yes -- bill it to your account.

The red flag is when a scammer claiming to be from the phone company calls and asks your help in testing the line by requesting you to dial 90#. Once you do, the scammer can use your telephone to make long distance calls which will be charged to your number.

The Truth:

AT&T says most residential phone customers don't have to worry about this particular issue.

It affects electronic phone systems that are almost exclusively used by businesses, and not all the business systems are vulnerable.

AT&T also wants everybody to know that its techni-

cians do not ask customers to participate in repairing or testing the phones, so anybody who makes this kind of request should be suspect.

Most of us are aware that many business phone systems require a "9" to be dialed in order to access an outside line. What the scammer is doing in making the "90#" request is having you transfer his call outside of your business phone system, then the "0" connects with the operator. The "#" sign completes the procedure, depending on what kind of system you're using.

After that, the scammer can ask the operator to dial whatever numbers he wants and it'll all be charged to your business.

AT&T says this is a variation on a variety of ways thieves would trick employees at businesses into connecting them to outside lines.

As previously mentioned, this doesn't apply to all electronic telephone systems and even some of the systems that require dialing "9" to get an outside line have been configured to prevent this and other frauds.

Safety Sense: Cyclist was first traffic accident victim



Information provided by
908th Safety Office

NOTE: This article is a continuation of our "101 Critical Days of Summer" series.

Summer's a great time to tour on a bike. Bike riding is a lot of fun, but accidents happen. As a matter of fact, the first automobile crash in the United States occurred in New York City in 1896, when a vehicle collided with a bicyclist.

According to the Safe America Foundation, 550,000 people require medical treatment due to bicycle crashes each year, and approximately 950 people die. Of these, 600 are children. Approximately 80 percent of deaths result from a brain injury.

Here are some simple safety rules to follow:

◆ Obey all applicable traffic regulations, signs, signals, and markings. The same laws apply for motor vehicles.

◆ Observe local ordinances pertaining to bicycle operation.

◆ Keep right; drive with the traffic, not against it. Ride single file.

◆ Watch for drain gates, soft shoulders, and road hazards.

◆ Watch for car door openings, or cars pulling into traffic. Scan the rear windows of vehicles ahead to see if anyone is inside.

◆ Don't carry passengers or packages that interfere with your vision or control. Carry books and packages only in seat or handlebar

bags, in backpacks, or strapped to properly mounted racks.

◆ Never hitch a ride on a truck or other vehicle.

◆ Be extremely careful at all intersections, particularly when making a left turn.

◆ Use hand signals to indicate turning or stopping.

◆ Protect yourself at night with the required reflectors and lights.

◆ Have your bike inspected to ensure good mechanical condition. Make sure the bike is properly sized and adjusted.

◆ Drive defensively; watch out for the other guy.

◆ Wear an approved helmet.

◆ Leave entertainment equipment at home. Wearing headphones blocks out sounds you need to hear.

Retirement Requests 2010-11

Col. Robert H. Shepherd
Lt. Col. Scott Davis
Senior Master Sgt. Theresa L. Hunt
Senior Master Sgt. James P. Williams
Master Sgt. Loyce A. Byrd
Master Sgt. Terry W. Calhoun
Master Sgt. John P. Thompson
Master Sgt. Larry G. Parker

Master Sgt. Sonya Y. Wallace
Master Sgt. Woodrow Washington III
Tech. Sgt. Rickey Martin
Tech. Sgt. Erich J. Halbert
Tech. Sgt. David W. Barber
** The next Reserves Retirement Briefing is set to take place on Sept. 10 at 9 a.m. at Building 677, the Family & Airman Readiness Center. **

BRIEFS

Enlisted board to convene

The CY12 Senior Enlisted Developmental Education Board (SEDEB) will convene Oct. 31 through Nov. 4 at Headquarters, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver.

The board convenes to identify the best qualified enlisted members for placement in select, short academic courses. Board members will evaluate applicants based on depth/breadth of military experience/responsibilities, potential for a specific follow-on assignment that capitalizes on the member's attendance at a specified course, and professional qualities such as leadership and achievements.

Selections will be based on needs of the Reserve.

In order to be considered, all applications must comply with the following instructions:

Application Process: Applicants must submit completed package via chain of command.

Course Selection: If identifying more than one course option, select courses in order of preference. Pay particular attention to rank specific courses in order to ensure eligibility

requirements are met.

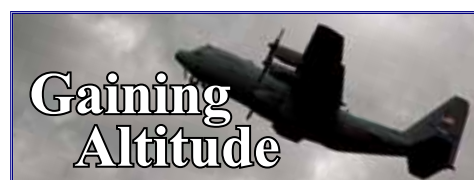
Funding: Courses are centrally funded as Reserve Personnel Appropriation (RPA) for Traditional Reservists, IMAs, and PIRR. Air Reserve Technicians (ARTs), attending in civilian status, and Active Guard Reserve (AGR) members will be funded by unit O&M. After central funding has been allocated, member must have their respective units (PM for IMAs/PIRRs) request orders by normal methods.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted to the Wing Formal Schools office no later than Sept. 5. Final suspense to ARPC is Oct. 5.

Personnel Records: It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the accuracy of their personnel record and any updates needed must be made prior to submission of the application.

Waivers: Airmen requesting eligibility waivers must submit a properly endorsed letter of justification with their application.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Aaron Knight, 908th AW Formal Schools Program Manager, at (334) 953-6771.



Gaining Altitude

Technical Sergeant



Christopher L. Wild

Staff Sergeant



Wesley S. Prater
Tekima V. Howard

Senior Airman



Lindsee R. Beasley
Christopher T. Adams
James F. Mayo III
Justin C. Nettles

Airman First Class



Sierra A. Chiz
Kevin A. Clark Jr.
Justin M. Sasser

SOUTHERN FLYER CAPTION CONTEST



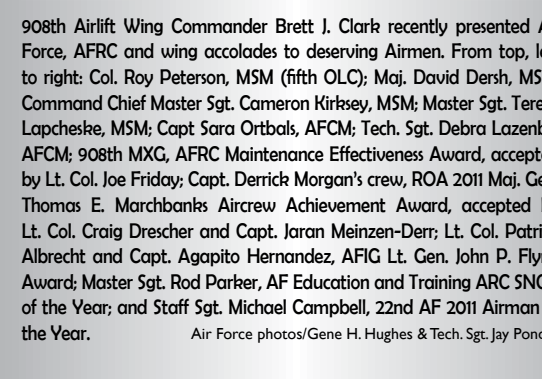
This month, Second goes to Lt. Col. Stanley Jesionowski for "Rocky Mountain Oysters anyone?" First place goes to Master Sgt. Angela Solomon for "Don't worry... these peppers aren't as hot as the 357th." No third place was awarded this month. The contest will resume next issue.

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TO THE FAMILY OF:



908th Airlift Wing Commander Brett J. Clark recently presented Air Force, AFRC and wing accolades to deserving Airmen. From top, left to right: Col. Roy Peterson, MSM (fifth OLC); Maj. David Dersh, MSM; Command Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, MSM; Master Sgt. Teresa Lapcheske, MSM; Capt. Sara Ortbals, AFM; Tech. Sgt. Debra Lazenby, AFM; 908th MXG, AFRC Maintenance Effectiveness Award, accepted by Lt. Col. Joe Friday; Capt. Derrick Morgan's crew, ROA 2011 Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Marchbanks Aircrew Achievement Award, accepted by Lt. Col. Craig Drescher and Capt. Jaran Meinen-Derr; Lt. Col. Patrick Albrecht and Capt. Agapito Hernandez, AFM; Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn Award; Master Sgt. Rod Parker, AF Education and Training ARC SNCO of the Year; and Staff Sgt. Michael Campbell, 22nd AF 2011 Airman of the Year.

Air Force photos/Gene H. Hughes & Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder