

SOUTHERN FLYER



PIE *in the* SKY

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP HOSTS FUN-RAISER

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

HARPERS' FAMILY AFFAIR

MAINTAINERS ARE AFRC BENCHMARK

ACE CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR



AIR FORCE RESERVE

908TH AIRLIFT WING, MAXWELL AFB

APRIL 2013

SOUTHERN
FLYERVol. 50 Issue 04
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Budget cuts: Never say never

Sequestration is upon us. It was NEVER supposed to happen. Just the threat of sequestration was supposed to encourage our leaders to make tough decisions regarding broad budget cuts. Members of congress and the president reiterated over and over that sequestration cuts must not, and would not be allowed to happen. However, they did not reach an agreement, and subsequently, across-the-board military spending cuts are taking effect.

I am not happy with the impacts these cuts are having on our wing. Unless a new agreement is reached before the week of April 20, the full-time ART and civilian staff will be furloughed one day a week. This will result in a 20 percent pay cut through the end of the fiscal year. 908 AW personnel should know this — I will do whatever is possible to reduce the negative impacts on 908th civilians, reservists, and on the Wing's mission readiness.

Additionally, If 20 percent of the full-time staff were absent every day of the week, we should expect dys-

function within the wing. Critically needed civilian employee synergy would be lost. Instead of dealing with that frustrating exercise, we have decided to have Friday as a wing-wide

furlough day. That way our wing remains effective Monday through Thursday; minimizing the negative impacts of the furlough to only one day a week. If there is a mission need for the staff to be here on Friday, I

expect squadron and group commanders to identify those requirements in advance and to make arrangements to conduct those activities through military pay statuses.

In addition to the furlough, our flying hours will be reduced by 18 percent for the whole year. Effectively, that is nearly a 25 percent reduction in our remaining flying hours through the end of September. We'll have to use our remaining flying hours as efficiently as possible to maintain our flying qualifications and currencies to the best of our abilities.

On a much brighter note... I extend a huge THANK YOU to the ASTS, the other group and squadron

SEQUESTER, NEXT PAGE



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

A MOMENT WITH THE
CHAPLAIN

CH. (MAJ.) JAMIE DANFORD

I wrote this article more than a month before you're seeing it. As I am writing it is unseasonably cold and overcast. However, since this is for the April Southern Flyer — I am almost certain that when it appears in my mailbox the weather will probably be clear and warm, hopefully a beautiful spring day.

This is not the reality now, but I have hope (knowing the seasons of the year) that this will occur. I am able to look forward and know even though I am cold today, the season will change.

You may think that this is not exactly divine revelation.

I agree with you, but sometimes in our lives we forget to look ahead. We may be experiencing things and our eyes become downcast and our vision becomes short. We may forget that while it is cold and overcast right now, the seasons will change and better days are ahead.

In a nutshell this is called hope. Hope is not wishful thinking, but the ability to look in the past and apply that vision to the future. So with the weather I look in the past and know that the seasons change.

We need to see this in our life as well. Look in your past and see the blessings that have come your way. They may be hard to see, but I am sure they are there. It lets us know they will come in the future as well. It may be overcast now — but spring is around the corner.

May God continue to bless us as we do the work of our nation.



Deployed entitlements

By Debbie Smith
908th FM

The 908th has had several of our members deploy recently, and in the near future will have more. Below are some of the entitlements our Reservists can be entitled to when they deploy. They will receive a pre-deployment briefing which will discuss in detail all of these entitlements.

HARDSHIP DUTY PAY
- LOCATION (HDP-L)

Must serve in a designated location to receive rate for the deployed location (\$50 to \$100 per month, depending on location)

Accrues immediately for members in PCS

Accrues after 30 consecutive days for members in TDY

Initial 30-day period is paid retroactively

Definition of Combat Zone (CZ)

A combat zone is any area the President of the United States designates by Executive Order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat.

Eligibility for CZ entitlement:

Must perform duty in a combat zone (CZ) to receive, or

Enlisted — All compensation earned in the month during which any time is served in a CZ is excluded from Federal and, when applicable, state income tax withholding

Officers — Amount of compensation earned in the month during which any time is served in a CZ is excluded from Federal and, when applicable, state income tax withholding not to exceed \$5,882 in a tax year.

Must be qualified to receive HFP or IDP and perform duty outside the

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leadership, health monitors and each individual for the great leap upwards in our Readiness stats. We've gone from near the bottom in that category to the upper percentile when compared with the rest of the wings in AFRC.

Well Done!

However, I'd like to increase our score by another five percent or so and then maintain that mission readiness focus to ensure we remain the top unit within 22 AF. I really

appreciate the effort everyone put into boosting this key metric.

Our DoD, the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, and the 908th Airlift Wing face some extremely difficult times. But let me assure you, take comfort in the steadfast determination and fighting spirit of this great organization. As always, I expect us to find a way to excel amidst all the turbulence and turmoil. After all, we are like no others and will remain, 'Ready... Always.'

SOUTHERN FLYER

COVER PHOTO:

Master Sgt. Samuel Ferrell cleans up after getting a pie to the mug during the 908th FSS' recent fundraiser. The event served as Ferrell's farewell to the unit and the wing.



U.S. Air Force Photo/
Tech Sgt. Jay Ponder

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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.

Logistics duo makes awards list

908th officer, NCO tops in readiness for Air Force Reserve Command in 2012

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

Two members of the 908th Mission Support Group's Logistics Readiness Squadron have been selected by Air Force Reserve Command as recipients of the 2012 Logistics Readiness Award.

Capt. Raymond M. Klinger was selected as the Logistics Readiness CGO and TSgt. Mona L. Villalobos as the Logistics Readiness NCO. According to AFRC, "individual awards recognize individuals who excelled in performance and made outstanding contributions to the Air Force or Dept. of Defense Logistics Readiness mission."

"It feels good," said Klinger when asked how he felt about winning the award. "It's nice to be recognized especially at the AFRC level."

The squadron is in charge of deployments, and a lot of details come into play, from cargo movement to transportation of personnel. Klinger said that some of the preliminary groundwork, when LRS receiving a grade of outstanding on the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program, (LCAP) back in June, set the foundation for the awards. In making its decision, AFRC looked at how many people LRS has processed, and how well.

"Our Quality Assurance was the first to pass in the AFRC," he said. "When we had our LCAP, the inspectors said we really had a great outlook. They were really pleased with how we responded. For 2012, we were the top unit."

Villalobos was thankful for the opportunity to be selected saying, "Receiving this award makes me want to try harder." "The Los Angeles native, who works in



Capt. Raymond M. Klinger, above, was selected as the AFRC 2012 Logistics Readiness CGO and TSgt. Mona L. Villalobos, below left, as the Logistics Readiness NCO.

Quality Assurance, evaluates all the different sections in logistics. "We evaluate all of the sections in supply to ensure compliance and they're doing the job the way they're supposed to," said Villalobos.

Explaining the things she she did to compete and excel above the other AFRC units that participated, Villalobos said she focused mainly on the basics, first by going back and reading through the regulations, and then following them one by one and ensuring LRS was compliant with each one.

"I would encourage my subordinates and those I work around, and even those outside my shop, to look at their potential," said Villalobos, relaying advice on what she considers the biggest part of her success. "It all starts within your section."

"If you keep doing good things and keep showing your work off, you'll eventually be recognized for it," Klinger said in closing. "Accomplishments are self-driven, if you want to be recognized, you have to do the work."



Joint training keeps 908th medics in top form

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

An important mission of the 908th Airlift Wing is medical evacuation. Working in this field is both exhausting, with often long hours, and rewarding seeing injured patients arrive safely to their destination.

These elements operate efficiently and competently and continue to do so through training.

The Air Evacuation Operations Team (AEOT), often unheralded, plays a crucial role in the makeup of a successful mission.

Maj. Kevin Baugh, a 908th AES nurse and serving as the exercise's AEOT officer explained how the air evacuation operations team works the ground side of medical evacuation missions. "The AEOT is made up of nurses and med-techs, logistics specialists and administration," Baugh explained. An AEOT will have five to seven members. It basically consists of a nurse, a medical service officer, at least one administrator, a logistics person and a med-tech.

Baugh indicated a portion of the manpower pool is on the admin side. "When they're deployed, even though they work in orderly rooms and sections where they're performing much of the clerical work, admin goes out with the AEOT to help prep the aircraft to get ready to receive patients."

Baugh, who also works as an emergency room nurse at Baptist Hospital in Montgomery, Ala. explained that in a deployed location, there would be a CASF receiving patients, an aircraft and an AES crew. The AEOT would oversee these three areas. "The nurses function there to regulate the AES crews for crew rest and alert status. The crew will come into the AEOT when coming in-country and go see the nurse, (crew manager). The crew manager

arranges for the AES crew to have a room, bed and maintains their equipment keeping it powered up and replaces any supplies used up in the previous mission."

While this is happening, the AEOT is monitoring the aircraft for arrival time, when it will be fueled and made ready. The AEOT is also communicating with the CASF

to determine when patients will arrive and what types of patients are coming.

The training enhances the expertise of ASTS members preparing patients for air medical evacuation. "Its great training for mobility," said TSgt. Kat Hamblin, 908th AES Mission Management, "because it is preparing them down-range to load and unload the aircraft and to be flexible in knowing how to load the aircraft,"

The scenario would work along the lines as it would in a real-world situation, first a message would come over the '9-line, a secure line requesting medivac, then the medivac of a patient to a medical treatment facility and finally, arrival at the CASF. 72 hours is the maximum amount of time a

patient may remain there before transit.

Maj. Mark Sprague, 908th ASTS nurse and OIC explained how a CASF works, "We prep the patients while they're in transit, say from a down-range hospital back to the states. There's stops in Germany, or other locations," he said, "We're the ones who take the patients from AES, maintains the patient overnight, providing medical care on the ground and transporting them back to the plane where they're flown to receive the care they need."

Everyone agreed it had been good training and as the AES and ASTS training exercise came to an end, said Lt. Col. Bonnie Gary, 908th ASTS Assistant Chief Nurse. "We have a really good working relationship and this has been a very smooth operation for our first time in a couple of years doing this."





Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper (left) and his son, Capt. Michael J. Harper, are deployed for the third time together with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. This is the chief's final deployment, as he will retire in August after 36 years.

Like Airman, like son

Family business trips nothing new for the Harpers

By Senior Airman Joel Mease
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs Unit

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Father and son, Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper and Capt. Michael J. Harper, are serving their third deployment together, or fourth depending on a person's definition of deploying together.

In 2004, when Captain Harper was a staff sergeant deployed to Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, his deployment was cut short because he was selected for undergraduate pilot

training and needed to return to the United States to begin officer training school.

"As my C-130 was taking off from Manas, my dad was within radio range on an inbound rotator as he was arriving to start a deployment at Manas," Captain Harper said. They were hoping to get a little ground time together but weren't able to; however, a fellow Airmen was able to relay a message to the chief from his son's C-130.

"As my plane was landing I heard on the rotator full of 400 people,

"Staff Sgt. Harper wanted to tell chief to be safe and your son is on the airplane leaving," the chief said. "It meant a lot for me to hear that."

When they are not deploying, they are Reservists deployed from the 908th Airlift Wing, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. While deployed together, the mission still comes first. As they are on opposite shifts, time spent together is still at a premium.

"Being deployed with the chief is bittersweet, because I know how much service to our great nation means to him," said Capt. Harper.

"This is his last opportunity to serve with the men and women he so proudly calls his friends."

For the chief, this marks his 36th year as an Airman, and his final deployment before he retires in August.

"Being a father and son (in the same unit) while on active duty happens fairly rarely, if any at all," the chief said. "You have the business of life while at home. While you're deployed you have the opportunity to sit down, and a lot of time its shop talk, but it's still that moment you can see your son across the table and you're proud as a dad. We always want our children to do better than we did, and, he's definitely done that in his career."

While Airmanship is family business for the father and son team, deploying still isn't easy for them.

"We almost deployed together in 2010 - he deployed and I didn't - I stayed behind to help out with the granddaughters," the chief said. "So this is my last time. We both deployed together knowing this was my last rodeo."

The chief, known as 'Grandy' to the captain's daughters, is known to really favor his grandchildren, said the captain.

"They are not enthused their 'Grandy' and their dad are deployed at the same time," the captain said. "They miss us both."

As the captain grew up in an Air Force household, enlisting and then commissioning, his father has taught him much about core values. It's something the younger Harper said he believes is so important about his dad, and a reason why he is proud to be with him on his final deployment.

"I have seen him pick himself up on numerous occasions after major setbacks, and I've also witnessed the influence he has on his Airmen," the captain said. "He provides Airmen an excellent example of the character a senior NCO should embody."

For the chief the honor is mutual, if not even more, to share these last few months of service with his son.

"To me as a chief and as a dad, it's an honor for your son to follow in your footsteps," the chief said. "He may choose a different career path, but he still wears a uniform like I do. It's an honor to know you've passed on down a legacy"



Senior Airmen Hakeem Skipwith and Irvin Wright perform tasks as part of an isochronal inspection on one of the 908th Airlift Wing's C-130 aircraft. The wing's maintainers were recognized by AFRC for their excellence, ranking highest in the 2012 LCAP.

AFRC recognizes 908th MXG as command's benchmark

By Staff Sgt. Sandi Percival
908th Public Affairs

The 908th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group has been recognized by Air Force Reserve Command as the benchmark for C-130 maintainers after ranking highest in the command on the 2012 Logistics Compliance Assessment Program.

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Friday, commander of the 908th Maintenance Group, said the recognition belongs to the Airmen in the aircraft maintenance hangar for going above and beyond.

"As leaders, we can pat ourselves on the back all we want, but in reality these guys at the working level make it happen. We don't do the job for them, we just provide the tools. They are the ones out there getting the job done," he said.

These aircraft maintenance Airmen have just started the isochronal inspection for one of the wing's C-130s. The ISO inspection is a routine but thorough examination of the aircraft and all its parts where the maintainers find and repair issues in all systems throughout the entire aircraft.

"We just had our LCAP inspection, and the 908th had the fastest turnaround time for our ISO inspections," said Lt. Col. James Hartle, deputy commander of the 908th Maintenance Group.

While some units require more than 45 days to complete this thorough inspection process, the 908th MXG Airmen will have this aircraft back on the flight line in just 11 days, said Hartle.

E-group ends 1st year with banquet

ACE helps Airmen, community through service projects

By Tech. Sgt. Jay Ponder
908th AW Public Affairs

Airmen Committed to Excellence recently took time to commemorate its first year during the March UTA. Comprised of wing members E-1 through E-4, the group celebrated at a local restaurant recognizing those



Left, Senior Airman Shaniqua Rogers, ACE group president, speaks at the organization's end-of-year banquet. Right, Senior Airman Christina Dryden, Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Butterbaugh and Maj. (Ch.) Jamie Danford enjoy the evening. Next page, upper left, Chief Master Sgt. Leon Alexander gives a motivational speech to the gathering.



"I want to see someone in this room become the AFRC Command Chief. I pledge to you, I will do whatever I can to help you get there."

— CMSgt. Leon Alexander

who have helped make ACE's first year a success.

Among some of the highlights of the year was the organization's successful participation in two Habitat for Humanity projects and charitable fundraisers like the Children's Center School of Montgomery. Members also volunteered for various projects such as working with the Sunshine Camp for Boys and the 'Hero's Welcome Military Appreciation Picnic.

Speaker Chief Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, 908th MXS superintendent, described how he began his Air Force career and shared some mana-

gerial wisdom by explaining the Pygmalion theory. It's when current behavior is displayed by the individual because of a future expectation. The future expectation becomes reality because of the current behavior. "It's commonly known as a self-fulfilling prophecy," he said, as he explained how the theory works. Supervisors, parents and teachers set forth what expectations they have for their students, children, or workers and then, that's how the latter perform."

Speaking directly to the group in regard to success, Alexander said, "ACE group members have gained enough self-confidence and self-esteem to set your own expectations." He concluded by presenting the enlisted members with this challenge. "I want to see someone in this room become the Air Force Reserve Com-



mand Chief," he said, "I pledge to you, I will do whatever I can to help you get there."

Chief Master Sgt. James Solomon, 357th AS/DOE, told the ACE group how exciting it has been to watch the energy, excitement and leadership that's been displayed by the ACE group this past year. Solomon reminisced, how he spoke to the ACE members at their first meeting.

"I reminded them they were our future Air Force leaders," said Solomon, "Within a couple of months, I realized I had to go back to talk to them and let them know, they're not only our future leaders, they were leading the way right now by everything they're doing on the base and in the community."

The 5-6's were represented by Tech. Sgt. Aaron L. Knight, 908th Training Systems Manager. Knight said he wished there had been an organization like ACE when he was coming up through the ranks.

"To have the opportunity to work with other Airmen to give back to the community... you're doing an awesome, awesome job," he said.

Senior Airman Shaniqua Rogers, ACE group president, expressed her appreciation for all the support ACE received this past year.

"It feels awesome to be part of change and to know you're all there behind us, it made us push even harder," she said.

ENTITLEMENTS, FROM PAGE 3

CZ or a qualified hazardous duty area in support of military operations in those locations

Taxes will be collected in the month performed, but reimbursed the following month.

Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP)

This is a prorated entitlement. Members will be paid based off the number of actual days entitled at a particular location/incident.

Prior regulation entitled member, in addition to all other pays or allowances, to the full amount without being prorated or reduced, for each month, during any part of which a member qualifies. Active and Reserve Component members who qualified, at any time during a month, received the full amount regardless of the actual period of time served on active or inactive duty during that month.

Entitlement. Members performing active duty in an area designated in the DoDFMR, Volume 7A, chapter 10, who meet the conditions of entitlement outlined in that chapter, are entitled to HFP or IDP. Members in a non-designated area who are involved in a hostile fire incident can receive HFP. Unit or air commanders must authorize entitlement to HFP based on knowledge of a specific incident in a non-designated area, or knowledge of a member's duty in a designated area.

Family Separation Allowance (FSA)

Provides compensation for added expenses incurred because of an enforced family separation under one of the following conditions:

◆ Transportation of dependents is not authorized at government expense, and the dependents do not live in the vicinity of your permanent duty station.

◆ Transportation of dependents is authorized at government expense, but you have elected an unaccompanied tour of duty because a dependent cannot accompany you to the permanent station due to certified medical reasons.

◆ You are on duty aboard a ship, and the ship is away from the homeport continuously for more than 30 days.

◆ You are on temporary duty (TDY) (or temporary additional duty) away from the permanent station continuously for more than 30 days, and your dependents are not residing at or near the TDY station.

In addition, you may be entitled to FSA when your dependents are evacuated from a danger area and they temporarily occupy government quarters at a safe haven area. A safe haven location may be anywhere in the world named in the evacuation order, or subsequent modification to that order, to which a dependent is directed to relocate on a temporary basis to await a decision by competent authority to either return to the OCONUS permanent duty station or proceed to a designated place. (Reference DoDFMR Vol. 7A chapter 27)

FSA is payable at the rate of \$250 per month (pro-rated to \$8.33 per day for periods less than a month).

To apply, you should submit a completed DD Form 1561, Statement to Substantiate Payment of Family Separation Allowance.

BRIEFS

Tuition assistance suspended

In accordance with FY13 Sequestration Guidance, Change No. 1, Military Tuition Assistance (TA) was suspended March 11. This suspension applies to all Regular Air Force and Reserve Airmen and will remain in effect during the current fiscal situation.

Airmen will no longer be permitted to submit new requests for TA through the AF Virtual Education Center (AFVEC) nor the AF Automated Education Management System (AFAEMS). Airmen currently enrolled with an approved TA form are not affected and will be allowed to complete current course enrollment(s).

For Reserve Airmen, a TA form

is established as approved upon acceptance by the Wing Training Office/ARPC TA staff, according to the student's individual education plan in AFAEMS, when executed prior to March 11.

In lieu of TA, Reserve Airmen can access their GI Bill benefits, either the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) or the Post 9/11 GI Bill, as applicable, or use another funding source (i.e., grants, scholarships, etc.).

Updated information will be on the AFVEC website located on the AF Portal.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Roderick Parker at 953-6771.

New to the 908th

2nd Lt. Melinda Ford, AES
Tech. Sgt. Christopher P. Potter, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Amanda S. Converse, 25 APS
Staff Sgt. Ian Jones, OSS
Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Bowen, SFS

Staff Sgt. Collins S. Starkey, 357 AS
Senior Airman Ashley R. Turnage, 25 APS
Airman 1st Class Emily M. Griffey, AW
Airman 1st Class Jeffery L. Smith, CES
Basic Airman Tajh D. Fletcher, 25 APS

Preparing to Disembark

Lt. Col. Noreen A. Burke, ASTS
Lt. Col. Kevin D. Fuqua, CES
Lt. Col. Marcus L. Puccini, OSS
Maj. Travis Shults, MXS
Chief Master Sgt. Michael E. Harper, 357AS
Senior Master Sgt. Gary D. Brooks, FSS
Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Canada, 25 APS
Senior Master Sgt. Clarafrancie D. Cromer, ASTS
Senior Master Sgt. Shiela K. Mitchell, ASTS
Senior Master Sgt. Andres E. Soler, 25 APS
Master Sgt. Roger L. Butler, OSS

Master Sgt. Karen L. Collins, LRS
Master Sgt. Samuel M. Ferrell, FSS
Master Sgt. Michael J. Guerin, FSS
Master Sgt. Rose L. Hall, OG
Master. Sgt. Charles E. Hammond, 25 APS
Master. Sgt. Ralph E. Hood, 25 APS
Master Sgt. Sharon D. Jackson, AW
Master Sgt. Monnica A. Reed, MXS
Master. Sgt. Michael Talley, SFS
Master Sgt. Peggy S. Thomas, CES
Tech. Sgt. Davild S. Daniel, MXS

* The next Reserve Retirement Briefing is set to take place April 6 at 9 a.m. at Building 903, the MSG Conference Room.*

Gaining Altitude

Major Selects



John T. Brooks
Daniel Griffin
Shelli J. Hunter
Michael S. McDonald
Jaran K. Meizenderr
Lewis K. Whitehead
James S. Williamson

Senior Master Sergeant



William P. Rupinen

Technical Sergeant



Erik M. Darden
Demarrick Q. Evans
Victor Nguyen
Adam C. Raymond
Stephin C. Smith

Staff Sergeant



Jon T. Feazell
Michael A. Sullivan

Senior Airman



Carmelita L. Burns
Harold F. Floyd
Ridge L. Hollis
Wesley T. Ingram
Cody J. James
Bryan M. Renforth
Logan M. Spendlove
Elicia Y. Young

Airman First Class



Keith K. Smith
Robert L. Tremble
Isschecar L. Windham

Airman



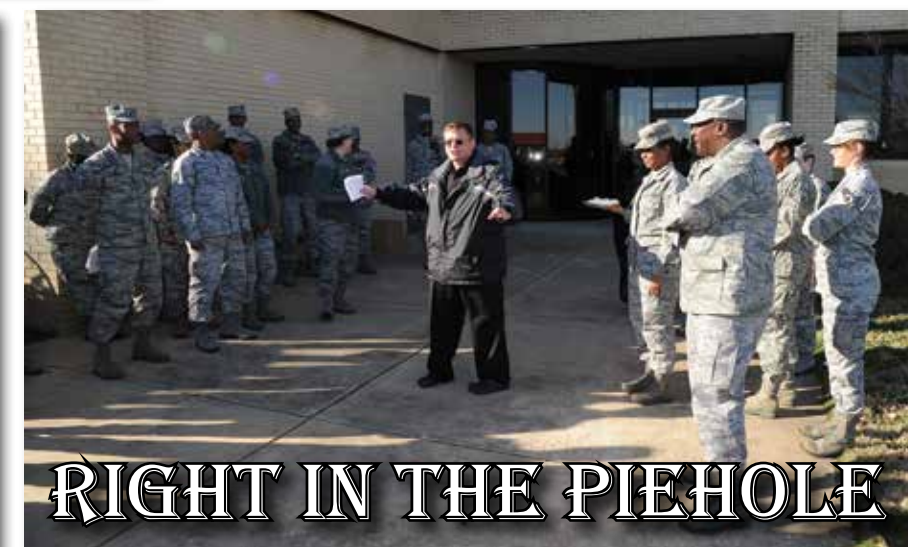
Alexandria B. Davenport



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TO THE FAMILY OF:



RIGHT IN THE PIEHOLE

The 908th Mission Support Group recently hosted a Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser. Members bought votes to place their favorite Airmen in the line of fire during the March UTA. The four selected were Senior Master Sgt. Cynthia Mullock, left, Senior Master Sgt. Trey Godwin, below, Master Sgt. Samuel Ferrell, lower left, and 908th MSG Commander Pete Peterson, right.

