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AERObridge Receives ASAE AAA Summit Award for Haitian Relief Efforts

For immediate release: Washington, DC - 29 September 2010. AERObridge (formerly known as C.A.R.E., or Corporate Aviation Responding in Emergencies) was among six organizations awarded the Summit Award by the American Society of Association Executives at the association's 11th annual awards dinner. During the presentation, held at the National Building Museum, AERObridge was recognized, along with the NBAA, for their efforts to provide critical transportation and logistics assistance in support of relief work during the aftermath of the devastating Haitian earthquake.

AERObridge, an independent group of volunteers from the business aviation community, was formed the day after Hurricane Katrina and reactivated again on January 13, 2010. AEROBRIDGE coordinated donated aircraft, supplies, volunteer pilots, and other assets, helping to ensure that assistance found its way directly to people in need. AERObridge efforts generated more than 800 flights, transported more than 3800 people and delivered 1.4 million pounds of food, water, medical equipment and supplies to the Haitian people in the first 90 days following the earthquake. The first flights coordinated and dispatched by AERObridge arrived into Haiti within two days after the earthquake struck. Passengers included medical personnel, relief workers, newly adopted children, injured patients and missionaries.

The initiative was most noteworthy for the effectiveness in getting relief to earthquake victims outside the Haitian capital of Port au Prince. Because, in many cases, the roads leading to those towns and cities were utterly destroyed in the earthquake, AEROBRIDGE missions were the only means to provide relief for over two months. All told, AERObridge and the many others involved in this all-volunteer general aviation "airlift" showed the nation's compassion to a people in their hour of greatest need, and the American can-do spirit to the world. In the time since the Haitian airlift took place, AEROBRIDGE has built on its success and has incorporated to become a 501(c)(3) organization. Their standing mission is to assist in times of catastrophic emergency by coordinating donated aircraft to provide a powerful, immediate response to disaster. By matching aircraft with emergency response teams and critical supplies in future disaster response efforts, AERObridge will be able to provide a vital window of assistance to save lives and aid those in need.

For more information, visit the AERObridge website at www.aerobridge.org, or contact AERObridge President Marianne Stevenson at mstevenson@erobridge.org ; via telephone to 951.491.9827.

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Editor's note: Photographs of the ASAE Summit Awards ceremony are available upon request.