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An Air Force Reserve Newspaper

Tinker AFB, Ok

May

1985

RESERVISTS GET NEW GI BILL

The Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program, better known as the GI Bill, is a major milestone in congressional support of the reserve forces. This legislation provides college benefits for reservists.

The program was signed into law last October and takes effect July 1. All current members of the selected reserve and those members entering the reserve through June 30, 1988, are eligible to benefit.

In order to qualify for educational assistance, a reservist must have a high school diploma or equivalent, but not a bachelor's or higher degree; have taken the Armed Forces Qualification Test; have completed initial active duty training; and have been a member of the selected reserve for at least 180 days, with

a record of satisfactory participation.

Members must be able to enlist, extend or immediately reenlist on or after July 1, for a period which, when added to the member's current obligation service, equals or exceeds six years of reserve service from or after July 1. Participation in the GI Bill program does not keep members from receiving enlistment/reenlistment bonuses.

With the inception of the new GI Bill program on July 1, the current Educational Assistance Bonus Program will end on June 30. Reservists currently enrolled in that program, however, may continue receiving payments. Provided they meet the eligibility requirements of the GI Bill, they may also draw benefits under the new program.

Learning to rappel off the walls at Crossroads Mall during a recent recruiting effort by the 507th WSSF is Ms Sandi Barr. Teaching her the ropes is TSgt. Eddie Bork.



COLONEL'S JOURNAL

WHY I AM IN THE UNIFORM OF MY COUNTRY

A guest editorial for
Armed Forces Day by
Lt. Col. Bernard Wray, USAFR
Submitted by TSgt. Rick Navarro,
507 CAMS

I am in the uniform of my country because I've been taught, at home and in school, that I owe a debt to my country I must repay by service. In my profession as a lawyer, I've learned from long experience a man's word is far more important than all the long, single spaced contract clauses ever devised. My word to my late dad was, come what may, no matter how busy with my young family; no matter how tied up with professional commitments, I would continue to fulfill my obligation to country. I'm doing that in the most direct way that I can -- serving in the Air Force Reserve.

As a native New Yorker living in a strange "jet set" age, it's not easy to explain to many of my colleagues why I take service to my country so seriously. Almost every day I swim at a "Y" where many young school teachers work out. It may seem a coincidence, but not one of these young men ever served a day in uniform. Many of them are openly derisive of my service, and support enemies of our Nation. Many have expressed to me their selfish view they don't owe anything to anybody, either to their family or to their country. And to those individuals every day are entrusted young formative minds!

I'm doing everything in my power to counteract this senseless, hedonistic philosophy, so wide-spread today in our urban centers, which says, "Take care of number one. -- Do your own thing. Instant pleasure is what counts. To hell with everybody else!"

One way for me to confound these false prophets with their pathetic lifestyle is to wear my uniform publicly and with pride. Although I'm assigned to a rural area, I take every opportunity to appear in uniform on the sidewalks of New York, and to walk tall with pride.

This I know: Every asset I own, I owe to my country.

This I know: Many young people in other nations, Israel for one, are serving their country with their backs to the wall, without question.

This I know: All young doubters who howl "Hell no -- I won't go," would have nothing if they weren't lucky, by birth, to have been delivered in the United States of America.

This I know: I will serve my country in uniform just as long as I can.

Finally, I pledge to bring up my children to love and to serve their country in the same way. So help me God.

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YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS ARE SOLICITED AND WELCOMED BY OUR STAFF. PLEASE SEND ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO THE

507 TFG/PA, TINKER AFB, OK 73145-5000 OR
CALL US IN THE GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
AT 734-3078.

LT COL JERRY A. WRUCHA
STAFF

COMMANDER

MR WHITIE BLANSHAN CIVILIAN PAO/EDITOR
MAJ JEFF THOMPSON RESERVE PAO/ASSOC. EDITOR
TSgt RICH CURRY NCOIC/REPORTER

MILITARY RETIREMENT: WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT ISN'T

Comparing military and civilian retirement systems is like mixing apples and oranges. That's what the deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel and force management says to those who call the military retirement system a lemon.

The controversy centers on the defense dollars paid to service members who retire after 20 years.

Critics say this retirement system is too generous, especially when compared to non-military pension plans. Lt. Gen. Edgar A. Chavarrie, USAF, however, insists the systems can't be compared because they serve different purposes.

Chavarrie said the military system is designed to retain experienced service members — not to serve as an old age pension plan.

He pointed out the military retirement plan offers no capital accumulation or deferred income provisions, no thrift plan or matching saving supplemental plans.

"The military system doesn't look anything like a normal retirement plan—and doesn't for a very good reason. It is not an old age retirement plan," he said.

Outside the military, retirement usually represents a severing of obligation between a retiree and employer. By contrast, military retirees retain their military status all their lives and remain subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Military retirees form a ready pool of experience and are likely to be recalled to active duty during a national emergency. Defense mobilization plans depend on the use of this pool.

Chavarrie said the retirement system further protects the military's personnel pool by encouraging trained, experienced service members to continue service.

"As one of our major manpower management tools, it ensures that a smooth promotion flow continues; it operates to keep the force young with the skill and experience mix we need; and it forms an integral part of the military compensation system," he said.

"In sum, the retirement system exists for one purpose and for one purpose only — to help us meet the ready force during both peace and combat."

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE



May 18

Saturday, May 18, is the Midwest City parade to celebrate Armed Forces Day. The parade begins at Regional Park, the corner of Douglas Blvd. and East Reno, and ends at Rose State College.

The parade includes floats, Shriners, military units, marching bands, round-up clubs, and aircraft. Several 507th units will participate, to aid recruiting.

F-61 PILOT'S HELMET OF THE FUTURE

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFNS)-- Air Force researchers here are working on a revolutionary visual system within a pilot's helmet that is suitable for flight simulators and future high-performance aircraft.

The helmet's miniaturized electronics project onto its lenslike "eyes" a view of what's outside the cockpit, with flight data superimposed over the scene. Using that display, the pilot activates aircraft systems with eye and hand movements and voice commands rather than by pushing knobs and buttons.

By contrast, the VCASS helmet is a self-contained visual system made possible by computer-generated graphics projected onto a 1-inch diameter television screen. The image, in turn, passes through optics until it becomes, from the pilot's point of view, three-dimensional and panoramic.

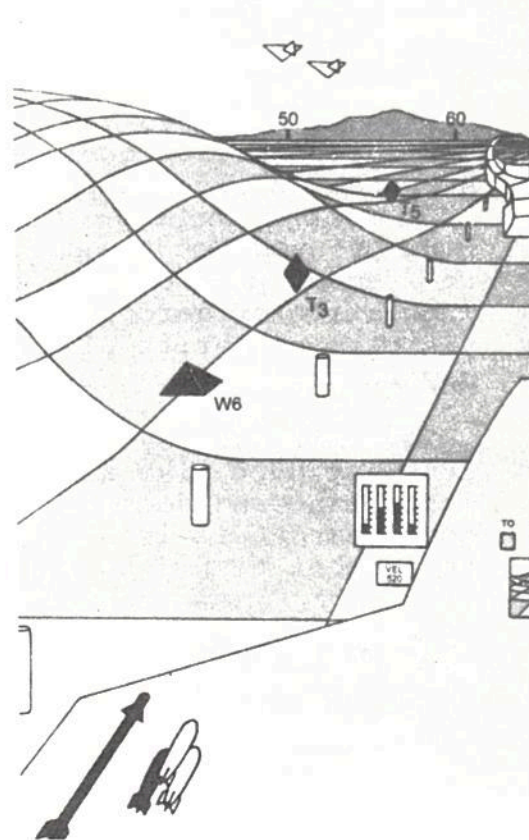
In addition, Dr. Furness envisions the system in real cockpits. "The trend of future supersonic aircraft," he said, "is to have smaller cockpits and reclining seats to allow pilots to tolerate high G forces. Since a pilot in a reclining position cannot see his cockpit instruments, we have to have another way to give the pilot information he needs to fly the aircraft," he said. "VCASS can do that."

The fidelity of VCASS is so pure, Dr. Furness said, that when a pilot wearing the helmet looks up or down, to the right or left, the computer will display whatever terrain is in that direction.

Dr. Furness noted that VCASS control of aircraft and weapons subsystems also considers the limitations during high G's on the pilot's hands as they normally perform switching functions.

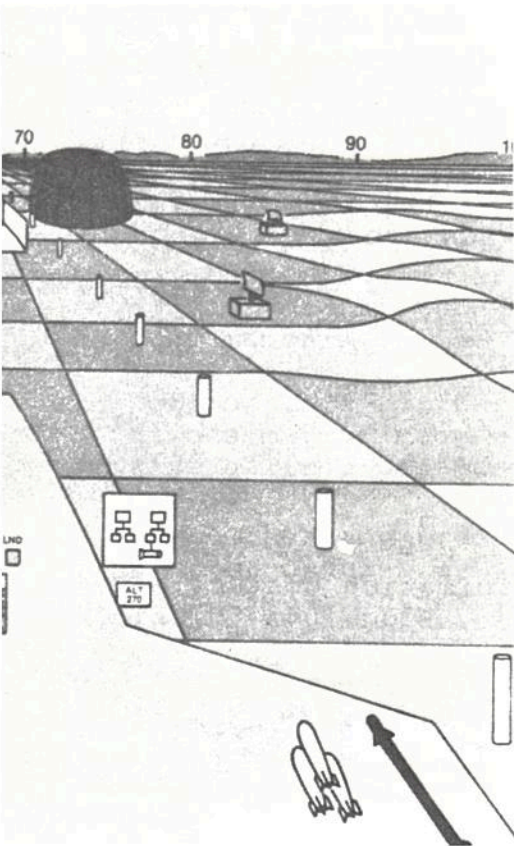
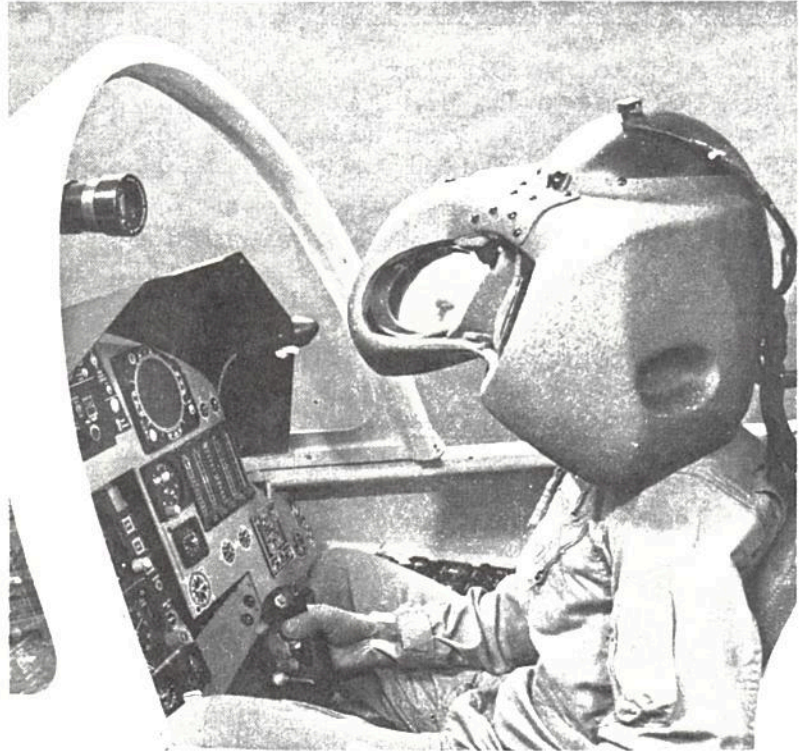
A pilot of the future, using VCASS, simply might look at a weapon he wants to activate, say the word "select," and then look away. When the pilot sees the desired target and is ready to fire, he will orally command the radar system to "lock on" and then pull the trigger to fire.

Hand-pointing involves the pilot placing his gloved hand, with sensors sewn into the glove, in certain spaces of the cockpit. Switches are automatically activated because his hand is there, Dr. Furness said.



This is what an Air Force sees while wearing the Visual Simulator helmet. Colored symbols hostile air targets, and ground information, including avian aircraft speed and altitude played on the pilot's helmet with the display by looking and giving voice commands.

Air Force 1st Lt. Lee R. Penick wears a helmet that's a laboratory version of a revolutionary visual system for pilots of futuristic aircraft. The Visually-Coupled Airborne Systems Simulator helmet contains lens-like eyes that show the pilot what's outside the cockpit with flight data superimposed over the scene. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Another unique feature of VCASS, as explained by SSgt. Vernon Wells, VCASS facilities manager, is its ability, via use of aircraft sensors, to display to the pilot the safest route away from a hostile environment. The computer system also can lay out target locations and display "way points" to let the flier know his exact location at all times.

If the pilot needs to know the distance to a point of interest -- such as a mountain -- he simply looks at it through the helmet-mounted display and says "range," and within a fraction of a second the distance between him and the object will be displayed, Dr. Furness said.

He added, "Now that the basic engineering work on VCASS is complete, we want to perfect it for operational use."

lot of the future might
-Coupled Airborne Systems
ols are used to show
d and air threats. Vital
le weapons, mode selectors,
dicators, will be dis-
The pilot will interact
or pointing toward objects
S. Air Force photo)

AWARDS

Air Force Commendation Medal

1Lt. Michael A. Miller (1 OLC)	507	CSS
MSgt. Clarence R. Lindell	507	CES
MSgt. Kenneth W. Marshall	507	ISS
MSgt. Doyal G. Pickel	507	CSS

PROMOTIONS

To Airman

Clark Christopher	507	CAMS
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To Airman First Class

Tammy M. Roberts	507	MSF
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To Senior Airman

Donna J. Harrell	403	CLSS
Gregory A. Lee	72	APS
Tracy M. Phelon	507	CAMS
Donna L. Shoemaker	507	ISS
Saundra J. Walker	507	TFG
Roydan B. Soder	507	CAMS

To Staff Sergeant

Spencer L. Bradley	507	CES
Robert Breznitsky	507	CAMS
Shelia R. Childers	507	CES
Clifford N. Demers	507	CES
Cynthia R. Edwards	507	ISS
Lisa Gamero	507	CAMS
Kendrick J. Gibson	403	CLSS
Danny R. Heilaman	507	CAMS
Margaret S. Johnson	507	CES
Veronica M. Jordan	403	CLSS
Jessie L. Mackin	507	Clinic
Jimmy R. Nixon	507	CAMS
Melinda K. Pretzman	403	CLSS
David A. Rouser	507	WSSF
David R. Sears	507	WSSF
Jesse C. Trillo	403	CLSS

To Technical Sergeant

William E.W. Armstrong	403	CLSS
Debra R. Arnold	403	CLSS
Gary F. Brown	507	CES
Ronald A. Moths	507	CES

To Master Sergeant

Lymon L. Hendricks	507	CES
John T. Swindle	507	CES

REENLISTMENTS

	Years
MSGT Luther D. Goodman	6
MSGT John E. Lones	6
MSGT Richard A. Massey	6
MSGT Guadalupe Ozuna Jr.	2
TSGT William W. Carr	6
TSGT Rufus J. Cleveland	6
TSGT Gary L. French	2
TSGT James V. Gonzales	2
TSGT Kenneth L. Gramstrom	6
TSGT Lewis S. Hathorn	2
TSGT Stephen L. Haynes	6
TSGT Norman L. Stevens	6
SSGT Debra R. Arnold	2
SSGT David W. Canary	3
SSGT Barbara A. Foster	6
SSGT Leroy E. Schilke	2
SSGT Marvin L. Stone	2
SGT Clifford N. Demers	6
SGT Gary R. Garretson	6

Reenlistment/Retraining incentives are available for members who will have less than nine years service on date of reenlistment. The following AFSCs are now eligible:

A112X0	423X3	462X0	902X2**
113X0C	426X2	551X0	907X0
114X0	427X1	555X0	914X0
391X0	427X5	622X0	915X0
392X0	431X3*	631X0	926X0
423X2	461X0	A902X0	99502

*C-5

**Except A, B, D

For more information contact MSgt Betty Pottier, Bldg 1043, Pm 210, Phone 734-7491



ACTION LINE (IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTIONS)

QUES: Before I go to an Air Force school, must I have an official weight check?

ANS: Recently, two reservists were sent home from formal schools because they were overweight. These individuals did not receive their training, travel money was wasted and AFRES had to pay for the vacant school slot.

The 507th policy is to weigh all

personnel prior to attending formal schools. During TDY processing if the member appears to be borderline, a certified weight check may be preferred from the 507 TAC Clinic prior to departure (normally within 5 days).

Much emphasis is now put on compliance with weight and fitness standards, and the 507th goal is to support both the letter and spirit of Air Force policy.

DONATION OF EYEGLASSES ASKED

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Gloria Almaraz, now with the U.S. Department of Labor, formerly was with the Consolidated Base Personnel Office in the 433rd Tactical Airlift Wing, Kelly AFB, Tex. She says she submitted the following article because she knew of the giving nature of many members of the Reserve, and felt they might be interested in supporting this worthwhile project. Donations may be made to the public affairs office, basement of bldg. 1043.)

If you have any prescription glasses or regular sunglasses which you don't wear anymore, why not give them to a group which can put them to good use!

The Medical Group Missions, a non-profit organization, sponsors 10 to 12 medical projects a year to treat the needy in such countries as Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Jamaica, Africa and India. The organization is the overseas arm of the Christian Medical Society headquartered in Richardson, Texas. Approximately 5,000 doctors, dentists, allied health personnel, and other volunteers participate in the program, paying their own expenses.

About 250,000 pairs of glasses are needed annually to meet the demands of these people. Used eyeglasses are collected and sent to the Dominican Republic where they are repaired, and the prescription of the glasses is read. The glasses are then sent to various countries.

Because the medical missions operate on donations, worn eyeglasses are solicited and then fitted as close as possible to the patient's needs. Patients are happy to receive even ill-fitting glasses because many cannot see at all without them.

PAR OF THE YEAR

MSGT. Thomas Clapper is the 507 TFG Public Affairs Rep of the year, 1985.

He was selected for enthusiastic support of public affairs duties which he excelled in on top of his demanding full time job, first sergeant of the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron.

As a civilian, Sergeant Clapper works for the state of Oklahoma as a researcher at the state senate, and publishes a weekly newsletter, "The Federal Action Monitor."

NCO/AIRMAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The April agenda of the council included planning Reserve Fair Day, handling complaints on the dining hall and issue of uniforms from IEMO, plus announcing the new "Stripes Swap Box." Council members want feedback, both complaints and compliments. Be sure to give them any items before Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

NEW STRIPE SWAP BOX IN CBPO

On the welcome counter in CBPO, third floor of bldg. 1043, is the stripes "Swap Box". Just throw in your old stripes when you get promoted, and pull out your new stripes -- free!

AFA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON

The Air Force Association member drive continues through May. If application blanks are gone from squadron display racks, contact Mr. Dave Mugg, 507th TFG executive office, ext. 45101.

UTA SCHEDULE

18 - 19 MAY;

29 - 30 JUN; 20 - 21 JUL;
10 - 11 AUG; 14 - 15 SEP.

ANNUAL TOUR 17 - 31 AUG

1,076 NEW JOBS TO OPEN AT LUKE AFB

Luke AFB, Ariz., is home to the 302 Special Operations Squadron, which flies helicopter rescue missions. Soon that will change.

Starting in 1987 the unit becomes the 944 TFG, assigned to the 419 TFW, Hill AFB, Utah. The 419 is also the 507 TFG parent wing.

The biggest news, however is the conversion from helicopters to F-16 fighters, 24 factory fresh F-16s to be exact. And with the conversion come 835 new reservist spaces and 241 more ART and civilian slots.

COMM FLIGHT RENAMED

As of April 1, the 507th Comm Flight is redesignated the 507th Information Systems Squadron (ISS). The name change reflects the fact data automation and communications are moving closer together, using almost the same technology.

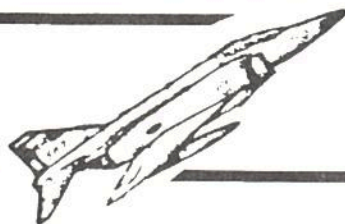
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