

RABBIT TAILS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR FORCE CONTROL GROUP

Threat from Within?

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PLUS:

AWACS Crew
Directs Real-World
Rescue

Politics And Your
Career

Top 10 Things
For 2012

How The New
Defense Act
Affects You



RABBIT TALES



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Upcoming Events

- 5 Feb – After UTA – Super Bowl party at Del City VFW
- 1 Mar – Intramural Coed Softball begins
- 6 Mar – Flag Football begins
- 2 Apr – Monday Night Volleyball begins
- 7 Jun – Intramural Softball begins

On the Job



Senior Airman Kelly Higgins, a CDMT with the 970 AACS, works to upgrade software on the E-3 Sentry in-flight on Dec. 14. (U.S. Air Force Photo//SrA Caleb Wanzer)

This UTA in History

Jan. 7, 1953 – In his final State of the Union address before Congress, President Harry S. Truman tells the world that the United States has developed a hydrogen bomb. It was just three years earlier on January 31, 1950, that Truman publicly announced that had directed the Atomic Energy Commission to proceed with the development of the hydrogen bomb. Truman's directive came in response to evidence of an atomic explosion occurring within the USSR in 1949.

Jan. 8, 2011 – Gabrielle Giffords, a U.S. congresswoman from Arizona, is critically injured when a man goes on a shooting spree during the congresswoman's meeting with constituents outside a supermarket. Six people died in the attack and another 13, including Giffords, were wounded. The alleged gunman, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, was taken into custody at the scene.

Defense Authorization Act

The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law on Dec. 31, 2011. It provides \$5.2 billion for the Air Force Reserve budget, and increases the Reserve's manning levels from 70,200 to 71,400. Here are a couple things in the Act that could affect members of the 513th:

- 1.6 percent pay raise for military members.
- TRICARE fees for retirees could rise in the near future, but not more than the annual pay increase.

A full article on the Act and its impact on the Air Force Reserve can be found at www.afrc.af.mil.



President Obama signs the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act at the White House on Dec. 31, 2011. (White House Photo)

Historical Photos

Photos dating back to 1998 are available in the PA Photos folder, located at the following link: <K:\513 ACG\Public Affairs\Photos>.

We are still collecting any photos from TDYs or events on base. If you have any photos to submit, email 513acg.publicaffairs@tinker.af.mil.

Got Super Bowl Plans?

Del City VFW Post 9969 will once again host a Super Bowl party for Air Force Reservists, their friends and family. With Sunday, Feb. 5, being a UTA for both the 513 ACG and 507 ARW, members can sign out and go directly to the VFW at 4400 VFW Drive - one block north of I-40 and Sunnyslane.

A \$10 donation will get you all you can eat from the grill, as volunteer cooks will prepare the food for serving at 5 pm - right before kickoff. A Texas Hold 'Em tournament begins at 1500 hours, with hand-pool and bean-bag-toss tournaments taking place during the game.

HOW POLITICS COULD HURT YOUR CAREER

by Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

A combat engineer assigned to the 416th Theater Engineer Company potentially violated DOD Directive 1344.10 Jan. 3 when he stepped onto a stage at Ron Paul's headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, during the Iowa Caucus to offer a personal endorsement. Although he was wearing his uniform, the soldier was not in an active status at the time, Army Maj. Angela Wallace, an Army Reserve spokeswoman, confirmed.

Wallace emphasized that the soldier "stands alone in his opinions regarding his political affiliation and beliefs, and his statements and beliefs in no way reflect that of the Army Reserve."

His chain of command is aware of the issue and is considering appropriate disciplinary action to take, she said.

Several sets of rules help to protect the integrity of the political process, DOD officials said. DOD Directive 1344.10 applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, as National Guard members in a nonfederal status, and military retirees.

These rules are designed to prevent military members' participation in political activities that imply -- or even appear to imply -- official sponsorship, approval or endorsement, officials said. The concern, they explained, is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession and department.

That's not to imply, however, that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. In fact, DOD has a

longstanding policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship, officials said. DOD encourages its military and civilian members to register to vote and vote as they choose, they said. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues.

However, officials emphasized, they can do so only if they don't act as -- or aren't perceived as -- representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

They also are barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform.

The bottom line, officials said, is that they should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DOD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that "is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent" of the rules described.



Cpl. Jesse Thorsen cheers at a Ron Paul rally on Jan. 3. Thorsen appeared in military uniform while sharing the stage with Ron Paul in Ankeny, Iowa. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

TOP 10 THINGS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR FOR 2012

by Lt. Col. Bryan Dickson
Commander, 513 AMXS

A new year with new promises and expectations. This year is shaping up to be a doozy, so here are some things to think about and "keep on your radar."

1 Dec. 21, 2012
End-of-the-World prediction: Relax. The world is not going to end. You heard it here first.



2 The Presidential Election: Voting is THE most important responsibility you have as a citizen. Just remember, you can't attend a rally, endorse a candidate, or be on television IN UNIFORM! Remember to wear civilian clothes.

3 Monthly TDYs: The 513th goes TDY every month. Everything else we do as reservists is to support this -- flying, fighting, and winning. For those of you who don't take advantage of the monthly TDYs, you're missing out.

4 Movies: The Hobbit comes out in December. For those of you who saw Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings movies and wondered how Bilbo initially found the Ring, well, here ya go.

5 Career Development: The Air Force Reserves is taking a greater interest in your career development, so talk to your supervisor about where you see yourself in 3 years, 5 years, and 10 years. If you want to stay in your current job/career field forever, that's fine. But if you would like to expand your horizons, there is a way to make that happen.

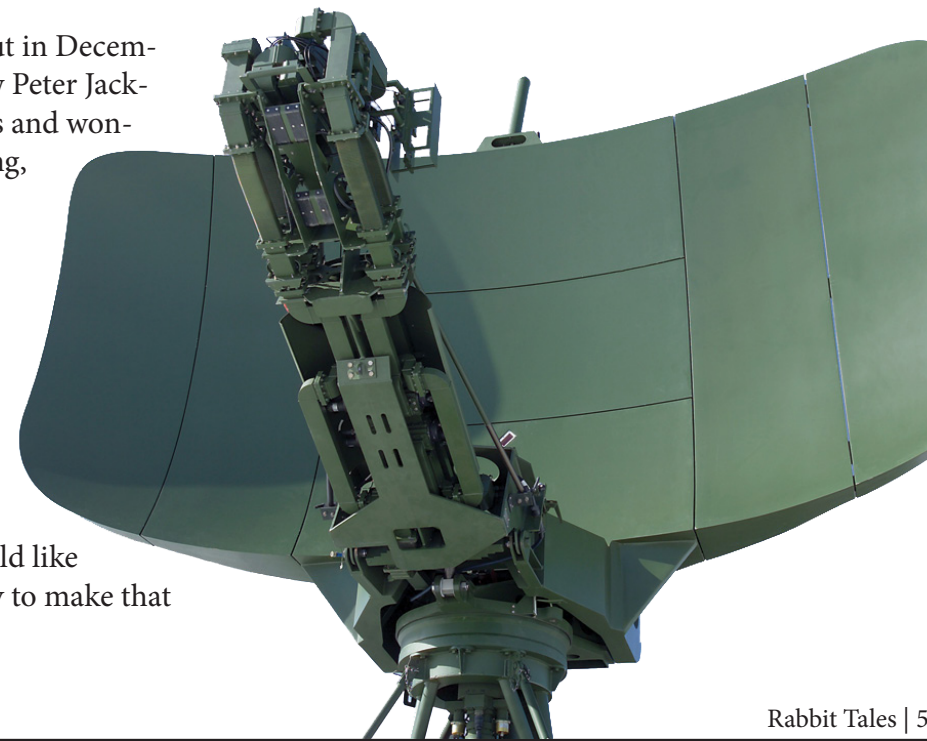
6 Your Family: It's easy to overlook our families. We get busy with school, work, reserves, and life in general and forget that each of us is where we are today because of our family. So do something nice for your _____ (fill in the blank -- mother, father, wife, husband, kids, etc.) and remind them that they are the most important thing "on your radar."

7 Develop a Zombie Plan: I just finished reading World War Z by Max Brooks. What's your zombie plan?

8 Physical Fitness Test: Just because the Air Force has gotten rid of the Fitness Assessment Cell dudes, doesn't mean you can blow off your PT test. The PT Test is still here. It will still be administered to the same standards so keep in shape.

9 2012 Olympic Games in London: It only happens once every four years so enjoy! (Somebody explain to me how curling is an Olympic sport...that's bull crap.)

10 100th Year Celebration: The 513th is proud that our own Lt. Col. Tim "Frosty" Frost will turn 100 years old in 2012. That's quite a milestone! Congrats Frosty!



Where Are They Now?

Maj. Gen. Jack Ramsaur (Ret.)



How long did you serve with the 513th?

I was at the 970th as the Squadron Commander from 1996 to 1999.

What is your current position?

Retired Major General (USAFR) and currently a standards/line check airman for the B-777 at Federal Express.

What was one of the biggest challenges you faced while assigned to the 513 ACG?

The biggest challenge was standing up a new unit with multiple problems of coordination with the active-duty wing and normal logistics of starting a new squadron/group.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

My favorite memory is the tremendous and talented people that I had the chance to lead and work with.

Do you have any advice for current members?

Work hard and always be prepared for any future endeavors.

Where are you now?

I live in Germantown, Tenn., which is a suburb of Memphis, Tenn.

Col. Gregory Philips (Ret.)

How long did you serve with the 513th?

Three months in 1997 as the Ops Officer and ART O&T and two years beginning in 2005 as the commander.

What is your current position?

Retired military, and currently a Civilian Simulator Instructor at Vance AFB teaching T-6s.

What was one of the biggest challenges you faced while assigned to the 513 ACG?

The reconstitution following the activation, the ORI, UCI, Stan/Eval Inspections, the period during our Katrina support, plus the decision and move of the Headquarters out of the 970th building and the repairing of our relationship to the 507th.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

All the great people. The unit always had a “can-do” attitude, but it was

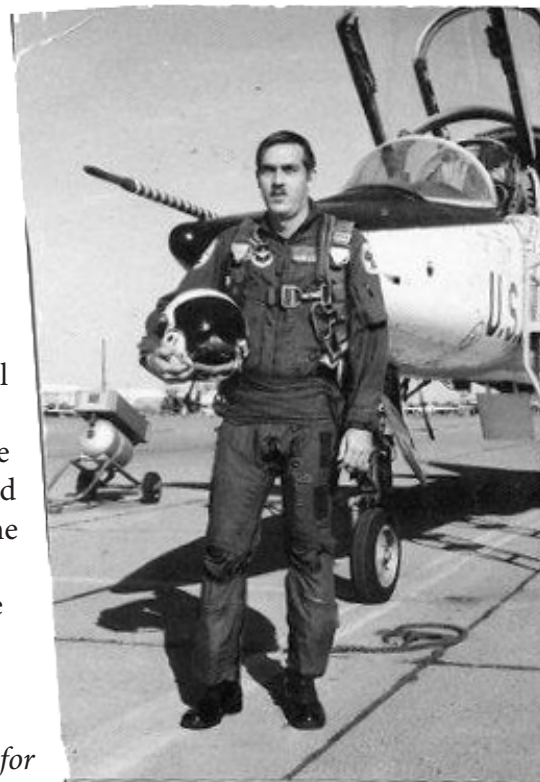
a “can-do” attitude that always came with nothing less than exceptional work. Both operations and maintenance led the way in everything we did to such an extent that the active duty relied on us to help define the future for the 552nd. We were the experts.

Do you have any advice for current members?

Continue to work hard and remember that you are Reservists first and Air Force members second. The 513th is a family and as such will take care of its family while the Air Force may not always do that. Be proud of the service you provide our nation because you do it so well.

Where do you live now?

Still living in Edmond, commuting to work in Enid.



News from the AOR

Airmen from the 964 EAACS direct real-world rescue of downed helicopter pilots

by Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski

380 AEW Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) -- Helping rescue downed pilots isn't something Airmen aboard an E-3 Sentry do regularly, but that's exactly what happened to one crew from the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Dec. 30.



A U.S. Air Force E-3 Sentry flown by members of the 964th EAACS takes off from an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Nov. 23, 2010. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

Two hours into the Sentry crew's planned mission, they received a mayday call, relayed through a KC-135 Stratotanker, from an AH-64 Apache. The Apache pilots' wingmen had crashed in northern Afghanistan. The two pilots were okay, but they were going to need help getting back to base.

That's when the E-3 Airmen diverted from their scheduled flight plan. After all, lives were at stake, said Maj. Paul Lankes, the mission crew senior director.

According to Lankes, rescuing the Soldiers was going to take the combined effort from several elements, but command and control is what Sentry crews do best.

The E-3 is an airborne warning and control system, or AWACS, aircraft. With the advanced radar and computer systems aboard the plane, the crews are able to manage a battlespace of more than 250 miles around them.

The Sentry Airmen coordinated actions of several crews engaged in the rescue: the pilots on the ground, the Apache still airborne, senior leaders at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and even a pair of coalition F-16 Falcons nearby.

“We knew the guys on the ground were going to need armed overwatch, so we called in the F-16s, who were at the end of their patrol, but they flew out to look out

for the Soldiers,” said Lankes, who is assigned to the 964th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron. “They told us they were low on fuel, so that meant we'd need a tanker. Fortunately, there was one close and available.”

The Sentry team called the KC-135 crew who took the initial distress call to see if they were able to refuel the F-16s, officials said. Two other tankers from the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing took over refueling duties for other jets in the area, so the original crew was free to help the

F-16s. Once they were ready again, the F-16s helped the remaining Apache crew provide air cover until a convoy from a nearby outpost arrived to collect the crew. Additional helicopters landed and troops recovered the AH-64 wreckage.

“Eventually the F-16s had to return to base, so a pair of A-10s took their place, and then we needed an additional tanker, so another KC-135 joined in as well,” explained Capt. Joel Doss, the E-3 electronic combat officer. “Really it all came down to a team effort on everyone's part. We had all the components of our crew, the folks on the ground, the CAOC and all of the other aircrews flying in support. But that kind of orchestration is what we do.”

THREAT FROM WITHIN

by Shaun Waterman
The Washington Times

'Fort Hood attack was not anomaly,' lawmaker contends at Hill hearing

Al Qaeda and other terrorists are trying to infiltrate the U.S. armed forces, which makes military facilities in the U.S. dangerous for American troops, lawmakers said Wednesday.

"The Department of Defense considers the U.S. homeland the most dangerous place for a G.I. outside of foreign war zones — and the top threat they face here is from violent Islamist extremists," Rep. Peter T. King, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said during a special joint House-Senate hearing.

Military officials testified about the homegrown terrorist threat at U.S. military bases in the wake of several attacks, including the November 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas. Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, 41, has been charged in the killing of 13 people and wounding of 29 others in the worst shootings ever to take place on an American military base.

"The Fort Hood attack was not an anomaly," said Mr. King, New York Republican. "It was part of al Qaeda's two-decade success at infiltrating the U.S. military for terrorism — an effort that is increasing in scope and threat."

The Congressional Research Service has identified 54 homegrown terrorism plots and attacks since Sept. 11, 2001. Of those, 33 were directed against the U.S. military, said Sen. Joe Lieberman, chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs and Homeland Security Committee.

"The American service member is increasingly in the terrorists' scope and not just overseas in a traditional war setting," said Mr. Lieberman, Connecticut independent.

The publicly disclosed plots and attacks by military insiders "represent the leading edge of al Qaeda's ongoing effort to infiltrate the U.S. military and to recruit or radicalize vulnerable servicemen to commit future acts of terror," according to a report published Wednesday by Mr. King's staff.

There is "reason to believe that the actual number of radicalized troops is far more than publicly realized or acknowledged," the report states.



Rep. Peter T. King, New York Republican and chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, opens hearings into Islamic radicalization on Thursday, March 10, 2011, on Capitol Hill in Washington. King dismissed what he called the "rage and hysteria" surrounding the hearings. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

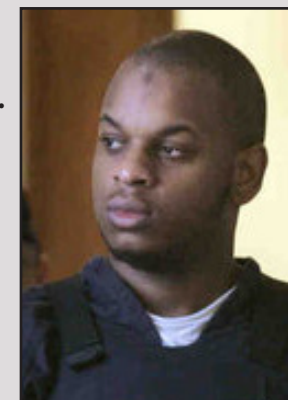


Date: Oct. 27, 1995

Name: William Dreutzer, Jr.

Where: Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Result: killed 1, injured 18



Date: June 1, 2009

Name: Abdulhakim Muhammad

Where: Army Recruiting Office Little Rock, Arkansas.

Result: killed 1, injured 1



Date: Nov. 5, 2009

Name: Nidal Malik Hasan

Where: Fort Hood, Texas

Result: killed 13, injured 29



Date: March 4, 2010

Name: John Patrick Bedell

Where: The Pentagon

Result: injured 2

Officials and lawmakers went into a closed session to discuss radicalized troops and other matters at the conclusion of the hearing.

After the Fort Hood shooting and a similar, attempted attack in 2010, the Pentagon has developed a series of "behavioral indicators" for radical motivations that troops will be encouraged to report if they detect them in their comrades, Paul N. Stockton, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, said at the joint hearing.

"Expressing sympathy or support for a violence-promoting organization, associating with terrorists, having a copy of [al Qaeda's] Inspire magazine on your desk — these are behavioral indicators that we apply to focus on the primary threat," he said.

Mr. Stockton denied charges from several Republican lawmakers that the military's approach is hamstrung by political correctness.

"We know who the adversary is. The primary threat is al Qaeda and its affiliates. And everything that we are doing in terms of primary focus of our efforts concentrates on that threat," he said.

Asked repeatedly by Rep. Daniel E. Lungren, California Republican, about his refusal to use the word "Islamic" or "Islamist" when describing al Qaeda, Mr. Stockton said branding terrorists as Muslims plays into their narrative that the United States is at war with Islam.

"Sir, with great respect, I don't believe it's helpful to frame our adversary as 'Islamic' with any set of qualifiers that we might add, because we are not at war with Islam," he said.

"The American service member is increasingly in the terrorists' scope and not just overseas in a traditional war setting,"

In The Spotlight



Technical Sergeant Joshua Ryan

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Aircraft Fuel System Mechanic

Hometown: Joplin, Mo.

Place I'd like to visit: Fiji

Favorite part of my job: Teaching younger Airmen about the aircraft's operation.

Biggest pet peeve: Sloppy work

Little known fact about me: I attended kindergarten in a one room school house in Nebraska. K-12 was taught in the same room.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: Being part of a retirement ceremony of a friend and colleague.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: I would like to have Mr. Fantactic's ability to stretch his body into any shape he desired.



Major David Cavazos

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Chief Pilot

Hometown: Port Isabel, Texas

Civilian job: Pilot for Southwest Airlines

Place I'd like to visit: Israel

Little known fact about me: I'm American made with Mexican parts, and I sometimes talk in my sleep.

Favorite part of my job: Working outside & changing scenery.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: The Reserve volleyball games & crew meals we had during our last deployment.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: Time travel

To suggest someone to be featured in the next issue, email 513acg.publicaffairs@tinker.af.mil.