

RABBIT TALES



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Upcoming Events

Recurring Events:
 Monday Nights – 1700 – Monday Night Volleyball
 Tuesday Nights – 1700 – Spring Flag Football League
 Thursday Nights – 1700 – CoEd Softball League

6 May – TBD – MX Wingman Day

7 Jun – TBD – Intramural Softball begins

This UTA in History

May 5, 1961 – From Cape Canaveral, Florida, Navy Commander Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr. is launched into space aboard the Freedom 7 space capsule, becoming the first American astronaut to travel into space. The suborbital flight, which lasted 15 minutes and reached a height of 116 miles into the atmosphere, was a major triumph for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NASA was established in 1958 to keep U.S. space efforts abreast of recent Soviet achievements, such as the launching of the world's first artificial satellite--Sputnik 1--in 1957. On April 12, 1961, the Soviet space program won the race when cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was launched into space, put in orbit around the planet, and safely returned to Earth. One month later, Shepard's suborbital flight restored faith in the U.S. space program.

May 6, 1942 – On this day in 1942, U.S. Lieutenant General Jonathan Wainwright surrenders all U.S. troops in the Philippines to the Japanese.

The island of Corregidor remained the last Allied stronghold in the Philippines after the Japanese victory at Bataan. Constant artillery shelling and aerial bombardment attacks ate away at the American and Filipino defenders. Although still managing to sink many Japanese barges as they approached the northern shores of the island, the Allied troops could hold the invader off no longer. Wainwright had little choice given the odds against him and the poor physical condition of his troops. He surrendered at midnight. All 11,500 surviving Allied troops were evacuated to a prison stockade in Manila.

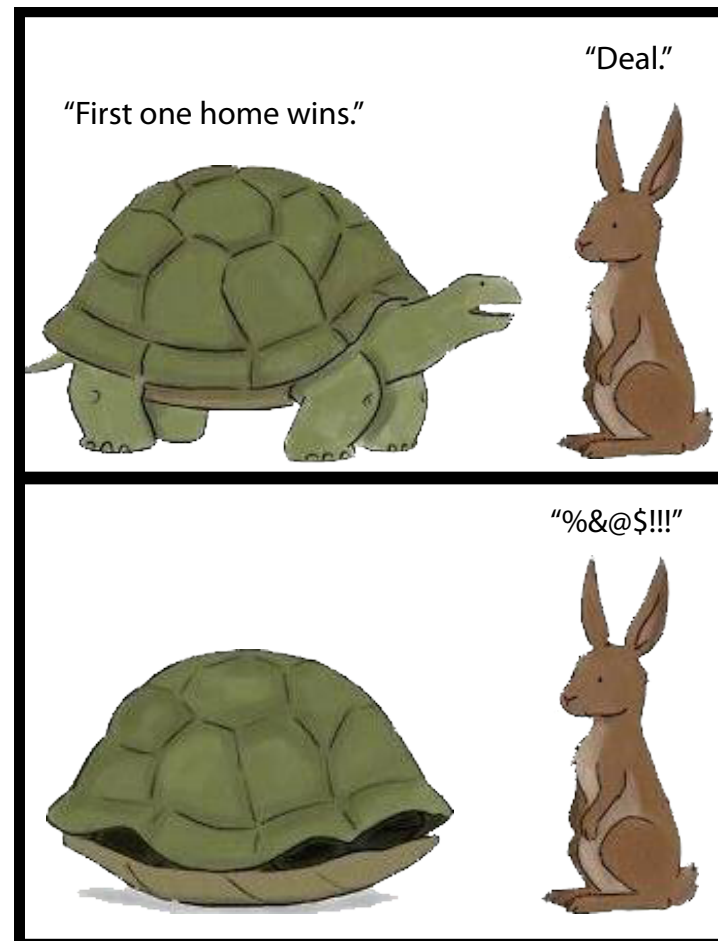
In The News

Associated Press – MOSCOW – Russia's top military officer has threatened to deal a preemptive strike on U.S.-led NATO missile defense facilities in Eastern Europe if Washington goes ahead with its controversial missile defense plan.

Associated Press – DUBAI – The Air Force says one of its F-15E fighter jets has crashed on a routine training mission in the Middle East. Both crew members ejected safely. The crash happened late Thursday morning in Southwest Asia.

Marvel's 'The Avengers' opened on Friday, earning a 93% approval rating on the popular movie rating site rottentomatoes.com. Avengers hauled in an astounding \$281.1M from 39 markets in its first eight days, and the U.S. opening weekend is expected to surpass the \$150M mark.

First One Home



From the Top

by Col. Jeffrey McGalliard
Commander, 513 ACG



Wow! It's been an incredibly busy 2 months since we learned of our mobilization and the muscle movements required to get "The 89" out the door a week from now have been nothing short of amazing. Your squadrons' leadership has burned the candle at both ends, singularly focused on the dual goals of providing superb spin-up training, while at the same time organizing it in a manner that provides our flyers and maintainers the opportunity to prepare the "home fires" ahead of a long night out on the hunt.

A few days ago, we deployed the leadership advon element, literally hours after LtC Conrad received the mission certs from his crews. He was thoroughly pleased with your commitment and preparation, as am I. Last week, he briefed the deployment to the combined 552 ACW/513 ACG leadership team and the comments from our TFI partners were quite impressive. By the time this goes to print, our boss Gen "Blaze" Binger will be on campus to send off the deployers and tour his world-class airborne C2/battle management ops & maintenance for the first time. As he's out and about this UTA, don't hesitate to talk to him about your concerns and show him what makes you proud about your job here in the 513th. Gen Binger is extremely approachable and always tied to his roots in the unit program.

If you missed the Officers' Call last week hosted by the 970th, the main topics of discussion were the command's very deliberate officer development process and how you interact with it at various points of your career. Contact me for a copy of the briefing or corner me for a one-on-one discussion of the "way ahead" for your career goals. On the enlisted side, we're very fortunate to have the 10AF Command Chief also visiting this weekend and he'll be conducting an Enlisted Call on Sunday morning, hosted by 513th AMXS and MXS. Make it a point to attend and ask questions about where the command is headed in deliberately managing our enlisted force--timely in that the E-8 and E-9 DTs are coming up this summer. Next UTA, we'll interview candidates

from both ops & mx for our upcoming Group Superintendent vacancy, a TR Chief billet that will provide a great leadership opportunity for the "best athlete" we can put forward.

This week marks the 13-year anniversary of the deadly 1999 tornado outbreak that claimed 48 lives and caused over \$1B in damages, including Tinker AFB. MSgt Angel Cervantes has an incredible story to tell about that day, as do many more of you that were here and stepped into first-responder roles. We have another storm season at hand, so remain vigilant and stay safe. You are our most valuable asset.

The US Senate has confirmed Maj Gen JJ Jackson (of former Tinker fame) as the next AFRC Commander, and Lt Gen Stenner will address the Senate Appropriations Committee later this month (currently scheduled for 23 May, and broadcast on C-SPAN) to articulate our message regarding the future of the Air Force Reserve. This is a topic of critical importance to all of us as the budget picture takes shape this year and next.

Some administrivia that's timely this month: please relay the following web tools to your families if you're among "The 89." For many of your dependents, military healthcare may be a new and strange event; Tricare.com can provide a useful link to them when medical questions or appointments come up. The other is militaryhomefront.dod.mil and has a wealth of support information. That said, don't let them forget that behind your families and friends is the third echelon of your support network, "The Left Behind" members of the 513th who proudly await your return and stand ready to help when called upon. God speed and get home to us quickly.

Sentry in Reserve,

Col McG



Where Are They Now?

Lieutenant Colonel Laurie Dickson



How long did you serve with the 513th?
November 1995 – June 1999. I was the first MCC qualified for the 970th and then became an ART and was in the ADOM position until I left for 10AF.

What is your current position?
10 AF/CCO, Management and Program Analyst.

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

Starting a new Air Force Reserve unit.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

Hands down.....It was the first AWACS Reserve Sortie to showcase the new weapons system to AFRC, and I was a brand new MCC. There I am, signing a hand receipt from the cops at Robins AFB for the responsibility of the entire weapons section because they had stolen a General Officer's flag from the Officers Club!

Do you have any advice for current members?

As soon as I got off active duty, I transitioned to a technician position in the ANG. The commander at the time was very influential throughout my career. He told me that a big part of my new position as a technician was to ensure that my Guardsmen were taken care of. He used the analogy that I was like an innkeeper and the Guardsmen were my guests every UTA. It was my job to make sure they had everything they needed to ensure their UTA was a success. I never forgot the analogy, and I think it continues to apply to our reservists and ARTs today.

Where are you now?

Argyle, Texas, with LtCol Bryan Dickson (513 AMXS/CC), Hannah, 13, and Halley, 12.



Former Thumpers Jim Matthey, Jerry Beard and Tony Elavsky in a recent photo. Thanks, Facebook!

In The Spotlight



Master Sergeant Angel Cervantes

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: 1A4 Assistant Chief

Hometown: Wherever my wife and kids are.

Civilian job: 1A4 Chief ART

Place I'd like to visit: Montana

Favorite part of my job: The people

Biggest pet peeve: Dallas Cowboy Fans

Little known fact about me: I speak Japanese

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: May 3, 1999.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: To fly. Then I would truly be an Angel.



Staff Sergeant Nafisah Favors

Unit: 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Job title: CCQ (ART)

Hometown: Long Branch, New Jersey

Place I'd like to visit: Africa, Europe and Australia.

Favorite part of my job: Taking care of the members' needs!

Little known fact about me: I am from the 'Jersey Shore' but I love the southern states!

Biggest pet peeve: Being on the road with bad drivers.

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

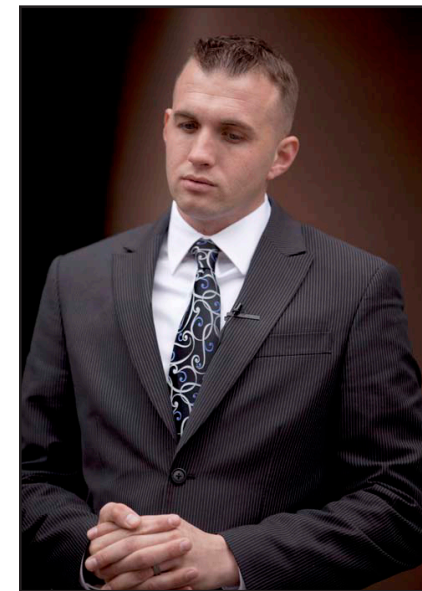
Marines Discharge Sergeant for Facebook Posts

by Elliot Spagat
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A sergeant will be discharged for criticizing President Obama on Facebook in a case that called into question the Pentagon's policies about social media and its limits on the speech of active duty military personnel, the Marine Corps said Wednesday.

Sgt. Gary Stein will get an other-than-honorable discharge and lose most of his benefits for violating the policies, the Corps said.

The San Diego-area Marine who has served nine years in the Corps said he was disappointed by the decision. He argued that he was exercising his constitutional rights to free speech.



Marine Sgt. Gary Stein speaks with reporters April 13 in front of the federal court building in San Diego. The Marine Corps has decided to discharge the sergeant for criticizing President Obama on Facebook. (Gregory Bull/AP)

Gary Kreed, an attorney for Stein, said he would pursue administrative appeals within the Marine Corps but anticipates the effort will fail. He said he planned to file an amended complaint in federal court.

"As long as he wants to pursue this, we will be supporting him," said Kreed, who is executive director of the United States Justice Foundation, an advocacy group.

The Marines acted after saying Stein stated March 1 on a Facebook page used by Marine meteorologists,

"Screw Obama and I will not follow all orders from him." Stein later clarified that statement, saying he would not follow unlawful orders.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Yoo, the commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, said in a brief statement Wednesday that evidence supported an administrative board's recommendation to discharge Stein.

Tom Umberg, a former Army colonel and military prosecutor, believes the decision to discharge Stein will have limited impact because the vast majority of Marines would never consider such postings.

"I think 99 percent of the soldiers and Marines currently on duty understand the duties of supporting the chain of command and understand their rights of free speech are limited," he said. "To that 1 percent who don't know their rights to free speech are limited once they take the oath, this is a loud and clear message."

During a hearing, a military prosecutor submitted screen grabs of Stein's postings on one Facebook page he created called Armed Forces Tea Party, which the prosecutor said included the image of Obama on a "Jackass" movie poster. Stein also superimposed Obama's image on a poster for "The Incredibles" movie that he changed to "The Horribles," military prosecutor Capt. John Torresala said.

At the hearing this month at Camp Pendleton, Torresala argued that Stein's behavior repeatedly violated Pentagon policy and he should be dismissed after ignoring warnings from his superiors about his postings.

The military has had a policy since the Civil War limiting the free speech of service members, including criticism of the commander in chief.

Pentagon directives say military personnel in uniform cannot sponsor a political club; participate in any TV or radio program or group discussion that advocates for or against a political party, candidate or cause; or speak at any event promoting a political movement.

Commissioned officers also may not use contemptuous words against senior officials.