

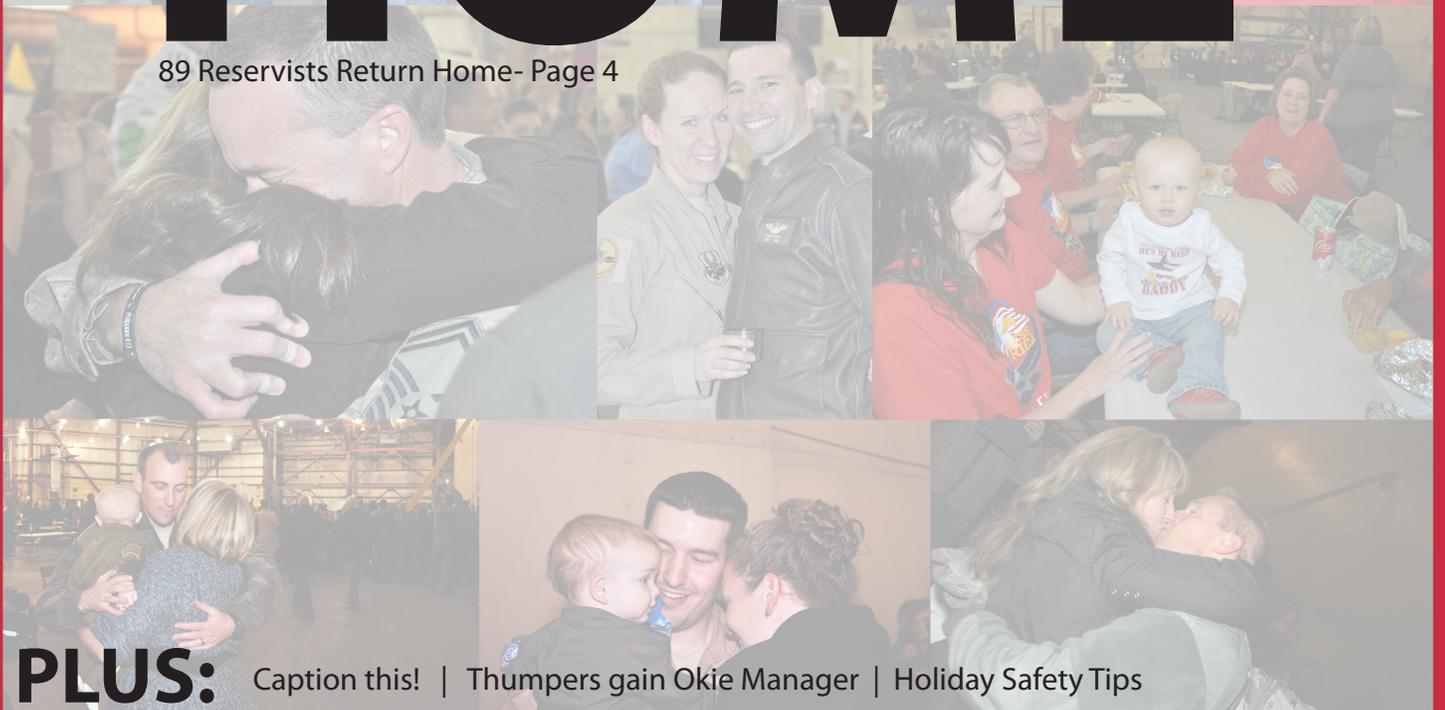
RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

WELCOME HOME

89 Reservists Return Home- Page 4



PLUS: Caption this! | Thumpers gain Okie Manager | Holiday Safety Tips

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

This UTA in History

December 1, 1862 – On this day in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln addresses the U.S. Congress and speaks some of his most memorable words as he discusses the Northern war effort.

Lincoln used the address to present a moderate message concerning his policy towards slavery. Just 10 weeks before, he had issued his Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that slaves in territories still in rebellion as of January 1, 1863, would be free. The measure was not welcomed by everyone in the North—it met with considerable resistance from conservative Democrats who did not want to fight a war to free slaves.

SPORTS: Thumpers gain Okie Manager

by Lt. Col. Ralph “Hawk” Hawkins
Sports Contributor

December 30th 2012 - a day which will live in infamy. ESPN is reporting the THUMPERS have agreed to Free Agent contract terms with long-time OKIES Owner, General Manager, Head Coach and veteran player “Flyin” Brian Finley beginning on 30 December of this year. Sources close to the situation have confirmed that Finley has accepted the offer and will report to winter training camp the day before New Year’s Eve.

“We’ve been after Finley for quite some time,” said THUMPER G.M. Joe “M.F.” Brown. “He’s come close a couple of times but always pulled out of negotiations before we could get a deal done.” Jim Gasaway added. “We knew if we could steal Brian away from the 507th, their softball organization would collapse. Cut the head off of the snake and the body dies shortly thereafter.”

When reached for comment, Finley had little to say as he fought back the tears. “Most players and fans will put me in the same category as LeBron James - leaving my home for more money. It was the most difficult decision of my life. I could really use a beer.”

While the terms of the multi-year contract are still being hammered out, some of the incentives have been leaked to the media - including Finley receiving two t-shirts each spring (that he’ll have to pay for) and full-time employment within the 513th organization to include a pay raise.

Caption This!

Top response from last month:
~ MSgt Brown taking his own picture during an incentive flight, “I can’t want to post this on Facebook!”
–TSgt Daniel Gibb



December’s Caption This! Photo.

To submit a caption for this month’s photo, email TSgt Sandra Hatton (sandra.hatton@tinker.af.mil).



January’s Caption This! Photo.

Operation HOLIDAY SPIRIT Stats

As of 2130 last night, more than \$27,000 had been raised in support of Operation HOLIDAY SPIRIT at the fundraiser dinner held at the Del City American Legion. This year’s numbers exceed the previous year by more than three thousand dollars. Approximately 311 people attended the dinner.

Tinker AWACS unit ends 6-month activation

Eighty-nine Reservists from the 513th Air Control Group returned here Nov. 11 from a six month deployment to Southwest Asia supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hundreds of family members, friends, coworkers, base leadership and even a high-school marching band awaited them as they cleared customs and entered an aircraft hangar.

“I’ve never had a welcoming like this,” Staff Sgt. Nicole Singh said. This is her third deployment as an Air Surveillance Technician assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron. “We were all shocked at how many people were out there to support us.”

This is the third time the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System unit has been activated since the group was formed in 1996. As reservists, the transition back to civilian life after a deployment can be a little tricky according to Sergeant Singh. “We loved the chance to serve next to our active duty partners. Now we are looking forward to getting back to our families and our civilian employers.”

Friends and families, some who waited hours to see their Airmen, rushed in for hugs as the reservists stepped into the hangar on Sunday night. One family held a larger-than-life photo of a returning Airman above the crowd. The high school marching band from Carl Albert High School supported the event with patriotic music.

One mother of a six-month-old baby held another sign that read, ‘I’ve been waiting my whole life to meet you daddy.’ Candice Richardson, from Ardmore, Okla., gave birth to her son five days after her husband left on the deployment.

“I could see him and I was shaking like a leaf,” Mrs. Richardson said after spotting her husband, Master Sgt. Gabriel Richardson, in the line of Airmen getting off the jet.

Richardson was able to keep in contact with his wife and newborn son through video chat while he was deployed overseas. “She sent numerous, thousands of pictures over,” he said. “Skype is a beautiful thing.”

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The commander for the 970th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, Lt. Col. Matthew Conrad was very pleased with the Airmen's job during their deployment.

"Everyone did a fantastic job, and we all did it together," Conrad said. The 970th EAACS, traditionally an Air Force Reserve squadron, contained a mix of active-duty and reserve Airmen.

"We know what we can do, we know what our capabilities are, and if we're ever called upon we know how to do it again," he said when asked what the unit learned during their deployment,

The reservists were a part of about 150 personnel returning to home station at Tinker. The rest of the Airmen are assigned to the 552nd Air Control Wing.

The 513th Air Control Group is an associate unit of the 552nd ACW, providing flight crews and maintenance personnel to help fly and maintain the E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft owned by the active-duty wing.

The Reservists, members of the 513th Air Control Group, were assigned to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing and supported the AWACS command and control mission as a part of OEF.



In The Spotlight



Master Sergeant Sean Kracke

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Evaluator Senior Surveillance Technician

Hometown: Newberg, OR

Place I'd like to visit: The historical sites of the USA. I'd also like to visit Jerusalem one day.

Favorite part of my job: Being able to accomplish the mission, no matter what obstacles were in our way. That we get it done as a team and come home safe.

Biggest pet peeve: When people give up and say 'I can't.'

Little known fact about me: My wife and I have seven children. Yes, I know what causes that!

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: After 9/11 our unit took over northern watch in Turkey. We worked as a team getting the mission done.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: The Jedi mind trick!



Technical Sergeant Randy Taylor

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Hydraulic Mechanic

Hometown: Dresden, TN

Civilian Job: F-15 Equipment Specialist

Place I'd like to visit: St. Lucia

Favorite part of my job: Hanging out with the guys.

Little known fact about me: I have a Master's degree in Aerospace Logistics.

Biggest pet peeve: Laziness.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: Watching Bob Begay fall down the stairs in N.H.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: I am a superhero!

Safety Corner:

Top 10 Holiday Safety Tips

1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

2. Do not overload electrical outlets. Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.

3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights. More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.

4. Keep tree fresh by watering daily. Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

5. Use battery-operated candles. Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).

6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources. A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations. (NFPA).

7. Protect cords from damage. To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.

8. Check decorations for certification label. Decorations not bearing a label from an Independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.

9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking. Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).

10. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house. Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (NFPA).

Remember:

SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!

513ACG.Safety@tinker.af.mil



Where Are They Now?

Lieutenant Colonel Kurt Klewin

How long did you serve with the 513th?

I joined the 970th in 1998 and left in 2010 (12 years). Enjoyed the activations of 99' and 01'. (SD the entire time)

What is your current position?

I just finished my 21st year of service and am currently an Admissions Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy and ROTC for the State of Montana.

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

My biggest challenges in the 970th were keeping Ronbo awake, Otis out of the bars, and Frosty away from the alter. I don't think I was successful in any instance.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

My favorite memory of the 970th was our 14 day continuous inspection of the pubs in Cambridge, England before flying our first OIF missions. Cambridge will never be the same.

Do you have any advice for current members?

The best advice I can give you all is to enjoy time with



your family, keep your focus on “important” things, and lots of humor never hurts. If there is anything I miss about the 970th, it's the many laughs and “verbal smackdowns” in the weapons section. The people and the environment made for some great memories.

Where are you now?

I'm currently living in Bozeman, Montana where I went to High School and College. I'm still flying for Southwest Airlines in Las Vegas but spend my time off hiking, hunting, running, camping, skiing, and basically doing anything outdoors with my boys who are now 9 and 11. I'm coaching middle school cross country and involved with some community organizations through my church. I sincerely miss

all of my 970th family. It was and will always be a big part of my life. I also want to thank all of you for your continued service and especially for all of those 970th members who have put aside their lives during this latest deployment. You are all in my thoughts and prayers!

Major commands can ditch Blues Mondays

by Jeff Schogol
AF Times Staff Writer

Blues Mondays are dead — if your major command wants them to be.

Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh has decided not to renew the servicewide requirement that airmen wear their dress blue uniforms on Monday, sources confirm.

Accordingly, both Air Force Space Command and Air Force Special Operations Command have ended Blues Mondays. Other major commands, when contacted by Air Force Times, had not yet heard of the change. But it will be up to commanders of each major command to decide whether to continue or rescind the policy.

Former Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz ordered Blues Mondays in September 2008. At the time, Schwartz said the decision came from a leadership summit convened by Schwartz and Secretary Michael Donley.

“Post-9/11, we've moved away from our blue uniforms almost altogether and have transformed into an Air Force that wears our utility uniform on a daily basis,” Schwartz said in a memo. “We all agreed that part of our image, culture and professionalism is instilled in our blues.”

That was a reversal of his predecessor's policy. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, who became chief of staff in late 2005, believed airmen should dress like they fight so he ordered them to wear camouflage uniforms as part of his effort to instill “a war-fighting ethos” in the Air Force Culture.