

# RABBIT TALES



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

## Annual award winners announced for 513th

Award winners will be honored at the March UTA commander's call at 3 p.m. on March 2 at the base theater.

**Airman of the Year**  
Senior Airman Ryan J. Carranco  
513th Maintenance Squadron

**Noncommissioned Officer of the Year**  
Tech. Sgt. John C. Rumbaugh  
513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

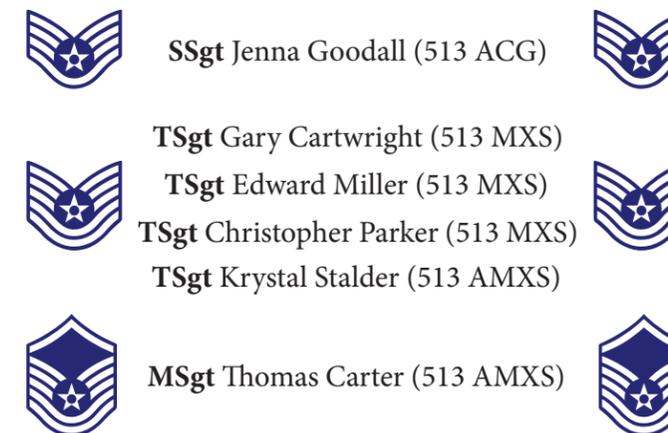
**Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year**  
Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy M. Allen  
513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**1st Sergeant of the Year**  
Master Sgt. Jane M. Ward  
513th Operations Support Squadron

**Company Grade Officer of the Year**  
1st Lt. Brett A. Dula  
513th Operations Support Squadron

## Promotions

Congratulations to this month's promotees!



## Removable media still not allowed on AF network

- NOT authorized:
- Thumb drives
  - Personal external hard drives
  - Cell phones
  - Cameras
  - MP3 players (i.e., iPods)
  - Tablets (i.e., iPad, Kindle)



## Upcoming events

- March 1 – 6 p.m. – Group Party (OKC Zoo)
- March 2 – 3 p.m. – Group Commander's Call (base theater)
- March 28 – 6 p.m. – USA vs. Canada Hockey (see Lt. Col. Hawkins for info)

## Fit to Fight Hall of Fame



### 1.5-Mile Run

Men: **7:51** **8:57** Men: TSgt Daniel McDonald  
Women: **9:44** **12:07** Women: TSgt Krystal Stalder



### Pushups

Men: **110** **82** Men: SrA Robert Duncan  
Women: **65** **47** Women: TSgt Krystal Stalder



### Situps

Men: **109** **82** Men: 2nd Lt. Michael Doughty  
Women: **84** **60** Women: 2nd Lt. Amie Deal

### 1-Mile Walk

Men & Women: **9:15** **11:22** Men: MSgt Darrell Freel  
**13:57** Women: MSgt Elizabeth Staff

## Fit to Fight MVPs from Feb.

Maj. Graham Kepfer  
Unit: 970 AACCS  
Score: **96.6%**

TSgt Gary Cartwright  
Unit: 513 MXS  
Score: **95.7%**





DOD photo/U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Aaron Hostutler

## 2015 budget reduces troops, force structure

Plan reduces Army to pre-World War II levels, cuts A-10 Thunderbolt II, U-2 Dragon Lady

by Nick Simeone  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has proposed cuts in military spending that include further reductions in troop strength and force structure in every military service in the coming year as part of an effort to prioritize U.S. strategic interests in the face of reduced resources after more than a decade of war.

At a Pentagon news conference today detailing President Barack Obama's proposed Pentagon budget for fiscal year 2015, Hagel called the

reductions -- including shrinking the Army to its smallest size since before World War II and eliminating an entire fleet of Air Force fighter planes -- "difficult choices" that will change defense institutions for years to come, but are designed to leave the military capable of fulfilling U.S. defense strategy and defending the homeland against strategic threats.

Under a Pentagon budget that will shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years -- with deeper cuts expected if sequestra-

tion returns in fiscal year 2016 -- Hagel and other senior defense and military officials acknowledged that some of the budget choices will create additional risks in certain areas.

Some of that risk, Hagel said, is associated with a sharp draw down in the size of the Army, which the proposed budget calls for reducing to as low as 440,000 active duty soldiers from the current size of 520,000, while ensuring the force remains well trained and equipped.

The cuts assume the United States no longer becomes involved in large, prolonged stability operations overseas on the scale of Iraq and Afghanistan. "An Army of this size is larger than required to meet the demands of our defense strategy," Hagel said. "It is also larger than

we can afford to modernize and keep ready." But he said the smaller force still would be capable of decisively defeating aggression in one major war "while also defending the homeland and supporting air and naval forces engaged in another theater against an adversary."

The budget request calls for special operations forces to grow by nearly 4,000 personnel, bringing the total to 69,700, a reflection of the asymmetrical threats the nation is likely to face in the future, Hagel said.

The restructuring and downsizing are in line with a two-year budget agreement that the president and Congress worked out in December, which limits defense spending to \$496 billion. But Hagel warned today that if the budget for fiscal year 2016 returns to the steep, automatic spending cuts imposed by sequestration, "we would be gambling that our military will not be required to respond to multiple major contingencies at the same time."

Asked to define that increased risk, a senior Defense Department official expressed it simply. "If the force is smaller, there's less margin for error," the official said. "Let's face it -- things are pretty uncertain out there."

The proposed budget also envisions a 5-percent reduction in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. "While it is true that reserve units are less expensive when they are not mobilized, our analysis shows that a reserve unit is roughly the same cost as an active duty unit when mobilized and deployed," Ha-

gel said.

In addition, the Army Guard's Apache attack helicopters would be transferred to the active force, while Black Hawk helicopters would be transferred to the National Guard, part of a broader realignment of Army aviation designed to modernize the fleet and increase capability.

### Hagel warned that much deeper cuts in Air Force structure and modernization will be necessary if sequestration is not avoided in 2016.

Within the Air Force, the defense budget calls for saving \$3.5 billion by retiring the A-10 fleet and replacing it with the F-35 by the early 2020s.

"The A-10 is a 40-year old, single-purpose airplane originally designed to kill enemy tanks on a Cold War battlefield," Hagel said. "It cannot survive or operate effectively where there are more advanced aircraft or air defenses." In addition, the service also will retire the 50 year-old U-2 surveillance plane in favor of the unmanned Global Hawk.

Hagel warned that much deeper cuts in Air Force structure and modernization will be necessary if sequestration is not avoided in 2016.

Among other proposals in the budget request:

- The Army will cancel the Ground Combat Vehicle program;
- The Navy would be able to maintain 11 carrier strike groups,

but any steep future cuts could require mothballing the aircraft carrier USS George Washington;

– Half of the Navy's cruiser fleet, 11 ships, will be placed in reduced operating status while they are modernized and given a longer lifespan;

– The Navy will continue buying two destroyers and attack submarines per year;

– The Marine Corps will draw down from about 190,000 to 182,000, but would have to shrink further if sequestration returns;

– An additional 900 Marines will be devoted to securing U.S. embassies; and

– The Defense Department is asking Congress for another round of base closings and realignments in 2017.

Hagel said most of the recommendations in the budget were accepted by senior military officers. Addressing reporters alongside him, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the spending plan reflects a balancing of the military while ensuring it remains the world's finest.

"It reflects in real terms how we're reducing our cost and making sure the force is in the right balance," Dempsey said.

Dempsey and Hagel will testify on the budget before Congress next week. Lawmakers will have the final say on spending decisions.

"This is the first time in 13 years we will be presenting a budget to Congress that is not a war footing budget," Hagel noted.

# COMMENTARY

## More than a mustache; it's our heritage

by Maj. Jon Quinlan

*507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- So, it's March. What's the first thing you think about in this glorious month? Mustache March, of course! Maybe not, but this year Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh issued a challenge to the force for this March.

"I don't think we've ever had an all-in Mustache March, have we?" Welsh said during his speech at the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium. "I'm putting the smackdown on you guys. Air Force-wide Mustache March, MAJCOM competitions."

What's the deal with Mustache March and the Air Force? As some

of you may know, it's about tradition, heritage and honoring those Airmen who fought before us.

Three-time ace pilot Brig. Gen. Robin Olds was one of those legendary Airmen, and he sported an equally legendary mustache. He was a "triple ace" with a combined total of 16 victories in World War II and the Vietnam War. Every March, I see his picture with his handlebar "bulletproof" mustache which he flagrantly wore against military regulations.

This brings us to today and to us. Sure, there is plenty of frustrating news about lowered budgets, draw downs and Air Force reduc-

tions in force; but we, as professional Airmen, should stay away from that noise. One way for me, and maybe you, is to grow and be proud of your mustache, be proud to be an Airman and be proud of our heritage.

Yes, your wives, significant others, co-workers and bosses may ridicule your sorry excuse for a mustache. That is what makes Mustache March so great. We know mustaches are generally at a low point of acceptance in America, but we can keep it real and proudly grow our disturbing facial hair in the name of tradition, and in accordance with AFI 36-2903, of course. Maybe some of our units can even set up fund raisers to raise money for a good cause while having some fun. Fight's on. Let's grow some mustaches.

# SAFETY

## E-cigarettes an unknown risk to Airmen

Electronic cigarette use is becoming a popular alternative to traditional cigarettes, but the upward trend is becoming a concern for Air Force health care providers.

The battery-operated products, known as e-cigarettes, are designed to deliver nicotine, flavor and other chemicals as a vapor that is inhaled by the user.

"Airmen are using e-cigarettes at a level comparable to the civilian adult population," said Col. (Dr.) John Oh, the chief of health promotion at the Air Force Medical Support Agency.

While e-cigarettes have been advertised as a safer alternative to conventional cigarettes, studies have

found potentially harmful ingredients are contained in the product, including nitrosamines, diethylene glycol and animal carcinogens.

"Not enough is known about the long-term safety of e-cigarettes to definitely state that they are safe," he said.

The Food and Drug Administration categorizes e-cigarettes as a tobacco product, but regulatory guidance is pending, so e-cigarettes are marketed without any of the restrictions of conventional cigarettes.

Air Force regulations establish tobacco policy in the Air Force and explicitly include e-cigarettes under the definition of tobacco, subjecting the product to all the restrictions

implemented for cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco. The Air Force is the first service to establish an e-cigarette policy.

The Air Force's position is to treat e-cigarettes as any other tobacco product, Oh said. Future changes to policy will be made based on scientific evidence and in consultation with subject matter experts, both within and outside the DOD.

*(Courtesy of the Air Force Medical Support Agency Health Promotions)*

Remember:  
**SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!**

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