

# RABBIT TALES



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the 513 ACG Commander	2
Americans win fourth CanAm title	3
Airmen must revalidate dependents	4
Fit to Fight hall of fame	4
Air Force leaders lay out budget priorities	5
Staying safe in hazardous weather	6
In the spotlight	7



*Rabbit Tales is a production of the 513th Air Control Group Public Affairs office.*

*This Air Force Reserve online magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services, family, and friends of the 513th Air Control Group and its subordinate units. Contents of and the views expressed in the Rabbit Tales newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.*

*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

## COMMENTARY

# From the top

by Col. David Robertson  
513th Air Control Group Commander

This past month, basketball fans have been afflicted with “March Madness,” college basketball’s unpredictable play-off season. The 513th Air Control Group has experienced its own form of March Madness with the announcement of the proposed FY 15/ FY 16 defense budget. I know we as a team were shocked and frustrated with the proposal to deactivate the 513 ACG and reduce the number of E-3 tails here at Tinker AFB. It’s hard to read in black and white that, during these difficult fiscal times, the 513th team may suffer the axe of budgetary necessity.

There are some important things to note as we face the uncertainty of the next several months. First and foremost is that the budget at this point is still just a proposal; the final product will certainly be different than what is proposed. We are still in the “dust settling” phase of the budgeting process, as Congress has yet to fully weigh in on the proposal. Indeed, some of Oklahoma’s congressional delegation have publicly expressed disagreement with the proposals that will affect both the active-duty and reserve AWACS communities. Also, the timeline that has been published shows a proposal to inactivate the 513 ACG in FY 2016. We are unsure when during FY 2016, but this should give us plenty of cushion should the budget

proposal become law.

If the proposal should become reality, rest assured that it will be my number one priority to ensure everyone – ARTs, TRs and civilians alike – in the 513 ACG is given the opportunity to continue their service in the Air Force and/or civil service. AFRC and civilian personnel who find themselves displaced by unit closure have many programs available to assist them.

**There is something I ask of each of you – continue to do the mission safely and with the excellence that is the hallmark of the 513 ACG.**

– Col. Robertson

Master Sgt. Michelle Paperini has put together a thorough slideshow of options that you should have received via email. We will continue to communicate with you via email and town halls as information becomes available. It’s my pledge to you that we will communicate new information as it becomes available.



There is something I ask of each of you – continue to do the mission safely and with the excellence that is the hallmark of the 513 ACG. Perhaps there will come a time when the 513th is unable to perform its mission, but that time is NOT now. As I mentioned in the last town hall meeting, if we stop doing our job well, then we are guaranteed to fail. Press on with vigor and determination during these trying times and ensure the mission is done safely and effectively.

Finally, as I also mentioned in the last town hall, I am optimistic about the future. These are surely uncertain times for our 513th family; however, I’m hopeful for what lies ahead even as we lay the groundwork for the possibility of deactivation. Take care of each other, be good wingmen and stay optimistic as we navigate the future together.

## Americans edge out Canadians in Tinker AWACS hockey match

by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer  
513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

Two reservists from the 513th Air Control Group helped the American AWACS team defeat the Canadian Component AWACS team on March 28.

Maj. Trevor Anderson and Master Sgt. Joe Brown, both of the 513th Operations Support Squadron, played in the annual CanAm Cup at the Blazers Ice Center in Oklahoma City.

The Americans tallied seven goals while the Canadians failed to score, giving the Americans their fourth victory in a row. The CanAm is in its seventh year.

Brown was the only American player to be penalized during the game. He spent two minutes in the box for hooking just before the end of the second period.

Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, the 513th's executive officer, said the events bus tailgated at the game, playing host to many 513th, 507th, 552nd and 137th Airmen before, during and after the game.

"A good time was had by all," Hawkins said.

The events bus, a joint 513th and 507th venture, served as the mobile tailgating location for CanAm fans and players.

▼ (Courtesy photo)



▲ American player Master Sgt. Joe Brown serves his two-minute penalty on March 28 in the penalty box during the game at the Blazers Ice Center in Oklahoma City. (Courtesy photo)



## Airmen must revalidate dependents by Dec. 31

by Capt. Erika Yepsen  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- By December 31, every Airman will be required to provide their servicing finance office with documentation for all dependents as part of Air Force audit readiness efforts.

This one-time, Air Force-wide recertification process will allow the Air Force to validate Airmen's basic allowance for housing entitlements, ensuring every dollar of the \$5.4 billion the Air Force spends annually on BAH is fully auditable.

"When we say the Air Force is not audit compliant, that doesn't mean that money is missing or being mispent," said Doug Bennett, the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial operations. "Generally, it means that we lack the required documentation for our spending to be considered auditable. In the case of BAH, we need Airmen's marriage certificates, birth certificates for children and divorce decrees that require child support properly documented by our finance offices to ensure we can audit \$5.4 billion in Air Force spending."

Beginning this month and continuing through December, Air Force finance offices will contact Airmen across the total force by email to notify them of their responsibility to provide dependent documentation. Their finance office will tell them exactly which documents are required. Additionally, Airmen who recently provided documentation may not be required to do so again. Airmen should wait to be notified by their finance offices rather than bringing in documentation unsolicited, Bennett said. Waiting to receive notification will eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort for some Airmen.

Once notified, Airmen will have 30 days to provide the required documents to their servicing finance office or have their housing allowance status reduced to single-rate. Deployed Airmen and those on extended leave or temporary duty will be given special consideration in meeting the 30-day deadline.

## Upcoming events

April 6 – 3 p.m. – Group Commander's Call (552 OG Auditorium)

April 7 – 5 p.m. – Monday Night Volleyball (see Lt. Col. Hawkins for info)

## Fit to Fight hall of fame



Team Tinker

513 ACG



### 1.5-Mile Run

Men:	<b>7:51</b>	<b>8:57</b>	Men: TSgt Daniel McDonald
Women:	<b>9:44</b>	<b>12:07</b>	Women: TSgt Krystal Stalder



### Pushups

Men:	<b>110</b>	<b>82</b>	Men: SrA Robert Duncan
Women:	<b>65</b>	<b>48</b>	Women: 2nd Lt. Lily Rollins



### Situps

Men:	<b>109</b>	<b>82</b>	Men: 2nd Lt. Michael Doughty
Women:	<b>84</b>	<b>60</b>	Women: 2nd Lt. Amie Deal

### 1-Mile Walk

Men & Women:	<b>9:15</b>	<b>11:22</b>	Men: MSgt Darrell Freel
		<b>13:57</b>	Women: MSgt Elizabeth Staff

## Fit to Fight MVPs from March

SSgt Jesse Pentecost  
Unit: 513 MXS  
Score: 94.7%

2nd Lt. Lily Rollins  
Unit: 970 AACs  
Score: 92.8%

## Air Force leaders lay out budget priorities

Reserve chief: 'There are no easy choices left'

by Lt. Col. Kim Ponders  
Air Force Reserve Public Affairs

WASHINGTON -- Senior Air Force leaders testified April 2 on Capitol Hill about funding priorities and fleet reductions announced in early March as part of the FY15 Air Force budget request.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) led the hearing at the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. They questioned Air Force and Reserve Component leaders about modernization strategies, divestment, and unit relocation plans in light of the \$109.3 billion FY15 Air Force budget request.

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James began the testimony, praising the "superb total force teamwork" she has seen in her first months on the job. She cited the "challenging times" of today's fiscal environment, and stressed that there will be "more reliance on the Guard and Reserve as we go forward."

The FY15 Air Force budget request, which meets funding levels laid out in the Bipartisan Budget Act, would cut the A-10 Thunderbolt II and U-2 fleets in order to continue the Air Force's top recapitalization priorities: the KC-46A Pegasus, F-35A Lightning II and the Long Range Strike Bomber.

Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III addressed concerns about the A-10 divestment, stating that in the bigger picture, it made sense for other multi-role fighters to absorb the close air support mission.

"It's about balance," he said. "There are no easy choices left."

Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, Chief of Air Force Reserve, took questions about the movement of 10 C-130J aircraft from Keesler AFB, Miss. to Little Rock AFB, Ark. He explained that moving the Reserve's C-130J squad-



Gen. James "JJ" Jackson, the chief of the Air Force Reserve, testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Defense on April 2 in Washington, D.C. Also testifying were Secretary of the Air Force, the Air Force Chief of Staff, the National Guard bureau chief and the National Guard director. (Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

ron to Little Rock, with the two active duty squadrons and schoolhouse, would allow the Reserve to maintain its current capability while decreasing costs.

James also praised the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force for its recommendations, citing only "a couple of areas of disagreement."

In his written statement, Jackson also praised the report but addressed concerns about two recommendations to disestablish Air Force Reserve Command and eliminate its organizational structure.

He stated, "The notion of disestablishing Air Force Reserve Command and inactivating the Numbered Air Forces, wings, groups and squadrons would, in my opinion, undo six decades of lessons learned and result in an unsustainable Air Force Reserve."

He stressed the importance of professional force development in growing leaders for the Air Force, adding that the commission's recommendation "would eliminate leadership pathways to develop our Citizen Airmen, especially for our Air Reserve Technicians and Traditional Reservists."

He touted the Reserve's retention rate--close to 90 percent over the past seven years--and highlighted the Reserve's unique ability to attract "Airmen for Life."

## Staying safe in hazardous weather

Know the difference between a tornado watch and warning and the necessary actions for each

### What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?

A tornado watch is issued by NOAA Storm Prediction Center meteorologists who watch the weather constantly across the entire U.S. for weather conditions that are favorable for tornadoes. A watch can cover parts of a state or several states. Watch and prepare for severe weather and stay tuned to local radio or TV news broadcasts to know when warnings are issued.

A tornado warning is issued by your local NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 over a designated area. This means a tornado has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar and there is a serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the tornado. Act immediately to find safe shelter. A warning can cover parts of counties or several counties in the path of danger.

### How is tornado strength rated?

The most common and practical way to determine the strength of a tornado is to look at the damage it caused. From the damage, we can estimate the wind speeds. An "Enhanced Fujita Scale" was implemented by the National Weather Service in 2007 to rate tornadoes in a more consistent and accurate manner. The EF-Scale takes into account more variables than the original Fujita Scale (F-Scale) when assigning a wind speed rating.

### TOP 3 DEADLIEST TORNADOES

#### #1

Date:  
**March 18, 1925**  
Intensity:  
**EF-5**  
Location:  
**MO, IL, IN**  
Injuries / Deaths:  
**2,027 / 695**

#### #2

Date:  
**May 6, 1840**  
Intensity:  
**Unknown**  
Location:  
**LA, MS**  
Injuries / Deaths:  
**109 / 317**

#### #3

Date:  
**May 27, 1896**  
Intensity:  
**EF-4**  
Location:  
**MO, IL**  
Injuries / Deaths:  
**1,000 / 255**

Courtesy of:  
NOAA and  
513 ACG Safety

### What precautions should you take when a tornado watch is issued?

When a tornado watch is in effect, you can take certain precautions to lessen danger. If possible, move cars inside a garage or carport to avoid damage from hail, which often accompanies severe storms. Keep your car keys and house keys with you.

Account for family members at home. Have your emergency kit ready, and keep your radio or TV tuned to weather reports.

### What actions should you take when a tornado warning is issued?

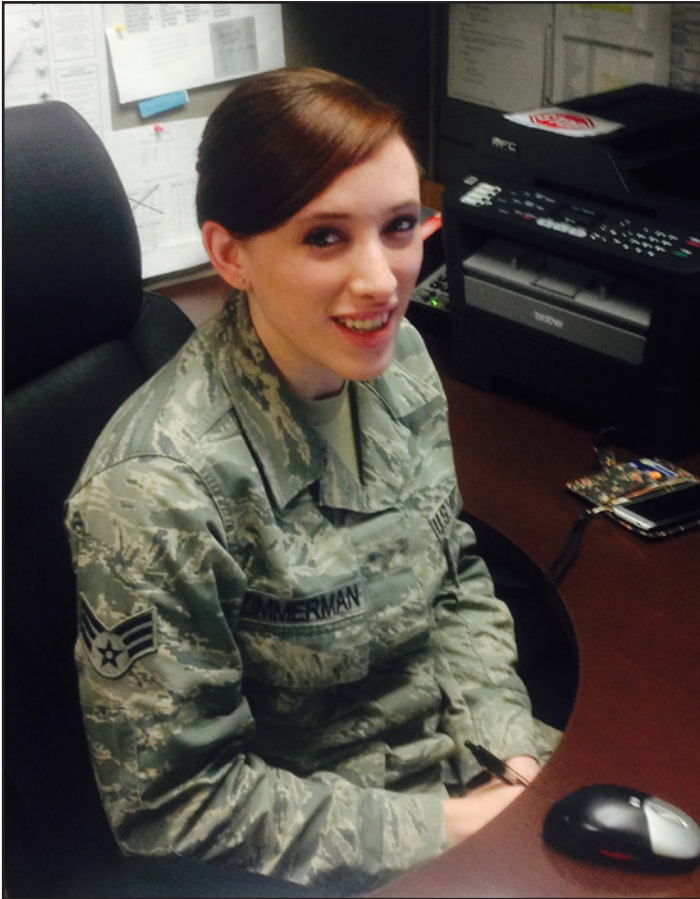
At home: take cover in the basement under something sturdy. If there is no basement, a small room in the middle of the house is best, like a closet or bathroom. Always stay away from outside walls and windows.

At work or school: find a designated shelter area. Stay away from large open rooms like auditoriums and gymnasiums.

In a car: leave the vehicle. Seek a safe structure or lie down in a low area with your hands covering the back of your head and neck. Keep alert for flash floods that often accompany severe storms.

Remember:  
**SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!**

513ACG.Safety@us.af.mil



**Senior Airman Shelby Zimmerman**

**Unit:** 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

**Job title:** Knowledge Operations Management

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Civilian Job:** None, working mandays at the 970th.

**Place you'd like to visit:** Australia

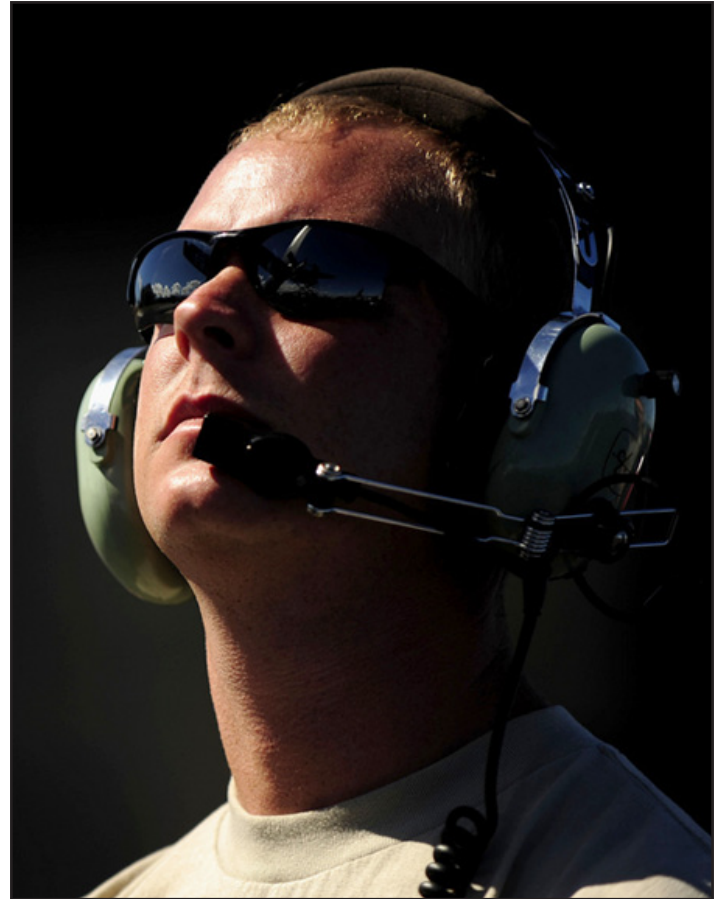
**Favorite part of your job:** There's always something new to learn.

**Biggest pet peeve:** When I can hear people eating crunchy food...so gross!

**Little known fact about you:** I hate seafood.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th:** When I got the opportunity to join the 513th instead of going over to the 507th.

**If you had superhero ability, it would be:** Super speed/strength. PT tests would be no problem!



**Technical Sergeant Tj Milliken**

**Unit:** 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

**Job title:** AST: "Air Surveillance Technician"

**Hometown:** Midwest City, Okla.

**Civilian job:** Industrial Engineer Tech for the B-1 bomber

**Place you'd like to visit:** Australia

**Favorite part of my job:** SENIOR HALL story time on the weekend... "Still waiting for Tech school."

**Biggest pet peeve:** "Why did you pull me over?" (I'm a Deputy with Oklahoma County.)

**Little known fact about me:** I always have a smile.

**Favorite memory from your time in the Air Force:** My career in the Air Force Reserve, from being in the 507th to cross-training with the 970th. The people I have met and will get to meet down the road.

**If you had a superhero ability, it would be:** The ability to fly whenever and wherever. (Superman.)