

June 2014

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

Future
brighter
for 513th, E-3s
(page 4)



+ MXS bests AMXS on the field // Airshow organizers planning 'incredible' event

RABBIT TALES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Citizen Airmen: ready, willing and able	3
Future brighter for 513th, E-3s	4
MX squadrons' rivalry settled on the field	6
Organizers planning 'incredible' Star Spangled Salute	8
In the spotlight	10
Presidential commission seeks service members' compensation preferences	11
Where are they now?	12
Fight to Fight hall of fame	12



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

Citizen Airmen: ready, willing and able



by Maj. Gia Wilson-Mackey
513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Commander

As we go through our career in the Reserve, we often forget just how important we are to our nation as Citizen Airmen. The phrase I have heard so many times in my 24 years is, "I am just a Reservist," and the insertion of the word "just" denotes a lesser value of what we contribute to our nation's defense.

We have to remember as a Citizen Airman we are doing double duty—to our nation's defense and to the community in which we work in our civilian lives.

We have to remember how indispensable we are and take pride in being who we are—Airmen in Reserve, ready, willing and able to answer our nation's call at a moment's notice.

The Citizen Airman

- A person who chooses to serve his or her country in addition to the responsibilities of a civilian life.
- A person who sacrifices personal time with family and friends to serve his or her country.
- A person who is willing to answer the call when his or her country is in need at a moment's notice.

The Air Reserve Technician

- A person who takes a solemn responsibility to train and make ready our Citizen Airmen.
- A person willing to work tirelessly to provide the Citizen Airman the necessary resources to achieve.
- A person who prepares, readies and ensures the Reserve force is able to answer the call of our nation.

Working Together

- The Citizen Airman and the Air Reserve Technician combine to provide their country a willing, able and trained force at a moment's notice.

Future brighter for 513th, E-3s

House spending bill passes defense appropriations subcommittee that requires keeping Reserve AWACS Airmen, E-3 Sentry aircraft.

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

The futures of the 513th Air Control Group and the seven E-3 Sentry AWACS planes slated for retirement are one step closer to being ensured after Rep. Tom Cole of Moore secured more than \$90 million for operations and maintenance, parts and personnel in a House defense spending bill May 30 in Washington.

The bill, which prohibits the Air Force from retiring any of the E-3 AWACS aircraft or deactivating any units associated with the airframe, passed an appropriations subcommittee and is on its way to the House Appropriations Committee. If the committee approves the bill, it will be sent to the full House for a vote.

“While there is still much work ahead, including similar consideration and action by the Senate Appropriations Committee, we are on the right track in preserving these critical assets that keep both our nation and world safe,” Cole said in a statement.

The spending bill follows a House authorization bill that passed

February 25



Defense secretary Chuck Hagel announces a \$495.6 billion budget request.

March 10



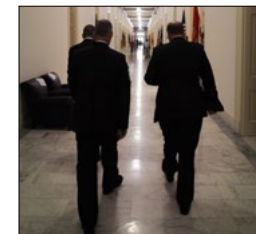
Air Force presents budget that retires seven E-3 Sentry AWACS and the 513th.

April 18



Rep. Tom Cole, R-Moore, visits the 513th to hear about the mission and accomplishments of the unit.

May 1



513th commander visits Capitol Hill and meets with four members of Congress from Oklahoma, talks about budget issues and the future of the unit.

May 13



Rep. Jim Bridenstine, R-Tulsa, visits the 513th after pushing amendments in the House Armed Services Committee to save the 513th and three out of seven E-3s.

May 22



The Senate Armed Services Committee completed markup of the budget including language to prevent the deactivation of the 513th or the retirement of any E-3s.

May 30



Cole pushes amendment to spending bill in House Appropriations Committee to save 513th and all seven E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft.

May 22, saving the Reserve’s only AWACS unit and three out of the seven aircraft slated for retirement. Rep. Jim Bridenstine of Tulsa, who visited the 513th May 13, pushed the amendment in the authorization bill.

“I fought to keep the 513th alive, and I won in the committee,” Bridenstine said during his visit to the unit. “We cannot get rid of the only Reserve command and control in the Air Force.”

The House bill also shifted funds within the budget to keep the A-10

fleet, maintain all 11 of the Navy’s aircraft carriers and upgrade Army M-1 Abrams tanks, all line items that were not budgeted in the administration’s 2015 spending request.

On May 22, the Senate Armed Services Committee completed markups of the Senate’s version of the budget, which requires the Air Force to keep all seven E-3 AWACS aircraft and Airmen at Tinker. Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking member of the committee, led the charge to preserve the Airmen

and aircraft.

“I am proud that we stayed within budget caps and fully funded military readiness,” Inhofe said in a press release. “As we face an increasingly dangerous world, I am also pleased that we were able to increase funding for our nation’s missile defense and ensured full funding for AWACS, an essential airplane for detecting enemy aircraft.”

In February, the Department of Defense proposed a budget of \$495.6 billion with the Air Force requesting \$109.3 billion. The Air

Force also announced a reduction of 3,300 Reservists, 400 Air National Guardsmen and 16,700 active-duty Airmen and the retirement of the U-2 Dragon Lady and A-10 Thunderbolt II fleets.

In a hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III said the current fiscal situation has forced the Air Force into some very difficult decisions.

“No one takes this lightly, but we feel it’s necessary to at least try and create some savings,” Welsh said.

Col. David W. Robertson, the 513th Air Control Group commander, said he understands the challenging situation that Airmen of the 513th have found themselves in.

“I know this has been a very difficult time for the men and women of the 513th ACG,” Robertson said. “However, I would encourage patience as the budgeting process continues and changes are made. Stay optimistic and continue to do the mission with the usual 513th excellence.”

Maintenance squadrons' rivalry settled on the field

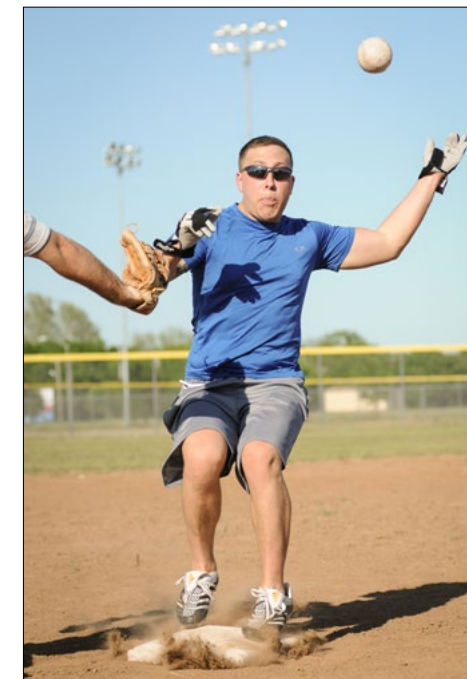
Photos by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer
513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

The 513th Maintenance Squadron took on the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in a friendly face off at the Tinker softball fields after duty

hours Saturday of the May Unit Training Assembly.

Although the MXS team undoubtedly won the match, the final score was a topic of debate with some claiming a final 30-19 while others remembered 29-20.

▼ Staff Sgt. Andrew Watts, on loan to the 513th Maintenance Squadron from the 552nd Maintenance Group, attempts to tag out Tech. Sgt. Curtis Clowdus with the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at third base.



▲ MXS commander Maj. Justin Franklin waits for a throw at first base while Senior Airman Michael Carpenter with the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron reaches first after leading off.

▶ Maintenance Squadron outfielder Senior Airman Christopher Anderson launches a ball to the infield after a solid hit by the Aircraft Maintenance team.

◀ Senior Airman Bradley Jensen with the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron reaches third base just before the ball.



Organizers planning 'incredible' Star Spangled Salute

The skies over Tinker Air Force Base will be filled with the "sounds of freedom" June 21-22 as the United States Air Force Thunderbirds headline the 2014 Star Spangled Salute Air Show and Open House.

This performance is one of 38 in America for the Thunderbirds this year. The free event is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and co-hosted by Team Tinker, the Eastern Oklahoma Tourism Council, Aerospace America and the city of Midwest City.

"Our event organizers are planning an incredible air show with the generous help from private sectors and community partners," said Tinker AFB airshow director, Maj. Zach McKissick. "During our current fiscally-challenged climate, support from our partners is crucial to making this Air Show a success."

In addition to the Thunderbirds, the following will perform:

Randy Ball and the MiG-17 will make an appearance. He performs throughout North America, from Canada to Mexico. He has flown more than 1,000 performances.

The Commemorative Air Force's Lady Liberty A-26 will also make an appearance. Lady Liberty is owned by the American Airpower Heritage Museum. The group is totally dependent on the volunteer efforts of its members, donations from generous donors and sponsors



as well as proceeds from air show appearances.

Pilot Justin Lewis of Lewis and Clark Performance will show the crowd the US Fleet Tracking Microjet. Since its conception in the 1970s, the "World's Smallest Jet" has been performing for airshow audiences all over the world.

Oklahoma City's own airshow pilot Justin Baker will also perform. "The thing I enjoy most about flying air shows is the look on the kids face when I ask them if I can give them a

The Air Force Thunderbirds will headline Tinker's Star Spangled Salute Air Show and Open House June 21-22. Including the always-popular tours of the E-3 Sentry, visitors will be able to see many other aircraft. (Air Force photo by Dave Faytinger)

signed post card to send to a friend. I didn't grow up with aviation, but after my first flight in 2005 I knew what I needed to do for the rest of my life," Mr. Baker says on his blog.

Greg Koontz, flying a J-3 Piper Cub, will demonstrate that comedy isn't just for the stage. Mr. Koontz

has been performing in airshows since 1974, when he joined Colonel Moser's Flying Circus and learned his trademark maneuvers.

The T-33 Heritage foundation will fly Lockheed's "Shooting Star." The foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission to share aviation history with younger generations by highlighting America's Korean War-era aircraft, honoring the brave young Airmen who flew the first generation of jet aircraft.

The Trojan Phlyers (sic) will

bring the T-28 Trojan. The Phlyers are a group of aviation professionals dedicated to preserving the rich history of the North American Aviation Company's T-28 Trojan. The pilots of Trojan Phlyers perform formation and solo aerobatics, and appear each year at air shows and events across the nation.

The Oklahoma Museum of Flying, based in Bethany, will fly the P-51 Mustang fighter and the B-25 Mitchell bomber. The group is dedicated to maintenance and operation of its aircraft, keeping them airborne so future generations can continue to enjoy these historical aircraft.

This year's show will feature the largest collection of static (ground) displays in Star Spangled Salute history, including the B-1B Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress, C-17 Globemaster, CV-22 Osprey, E-6B Mercury, KC-135 Stratotanker, T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan, T-38 Talon and more. Tours of the E-3 Sentry AWACS are always a big draw. Residents who see the "plane with a big disk on top" flying over Oklahoma City will have a chance to learn about the Sentry's vital national defense mission.

There will also be flybys, formations and demonstrations from other current and historical military aircraft like the E-3 Sentry, KC-135, E-6B, T-38.

In addition there will be several

activities and attractions geared toward a younger audience, including a "Kid Zone" with inflatables and activities available all day with the purchase of a wrist band. Organizers always want to make the Star Spangled Salute a wonderful event for the entire family.

Food and drink concessions will be available at various locations throughout the show areas. Free water will also be available to the public at clearly marked stations.

Live music will be included in this year's event. Oklahoma's own "Lower 40" will perform on the Land Run Records stage near the entrance to the airshow and the static displays. Jake Bowers will open the day of music followed by "Lower 40."

The show, parking and shuttle service from the parking areas is free. Drivers will be able to follow signs from Interstate 40 and Interstate 240, directing them to base entry points. Base access and parking will be through the Lancer Gate on Douglas Blvd and the Piazza Gate off of S.E. 74th Street. Security checks will be conducted prior to visitors loading the shuttles and may be conducted at any time on the installation.

Demonstrations and entertainment subject to schedule change. For more information visit www.tinker.af.mil/airshow.



Senior Airman James Lopez

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: AGE Journeyman

Hometown: Oklahoma City

Cowboys or Sooners: Sooners

Favorite part of your job: Being challenged both physically and mentally on a daily basis.

Biggest pet peeve: When people smack their lips.

Little known fact about you: I'm of Guatemalan descent, not Mexican.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: Completing my first inspection alone and finally feeling somewhat competent at my job.

If you had superhero ability, it would be: Lightning speed.



Major Andrew Popoola

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Air Weapons Officer/Air Battle Manager

Hometown: Tampa, Florida

Civilian Job: Restaurateur/Sales

Cowboys or Sooners: Sooners!

Biggest pet peeve: Computers that don't work like they should.

What did you want to be when you grew up?: Automobile Engineer

Little known fact about you: I collect fragrances.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: First cow bell after everyone came back from the deployment.

If you had superhero ability, it would be: Ability to disappear.

Presidential commission seeks service members' compensation preferences

Group will survey active duty, Air National Guard, Reserve Airmen during the next few months

WASHINGTON -- The commission tasked by President Barack Obama and Congress to modernize military compensation and benefits programs is seeking input from service members on their preferences.

Alphonso Maldon Jr., chairman of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, said understanding service members' compensation preferences is central to the commission's effort to craft modernization recommendations.

"Our primary goal is to ensure the uniformed services can maintain the most professional all-volunteer force, provide for a high quality of life for the members of the uniformed services and their families, and ensure that compensation and retirement systems are financially sustainable," he said. "Our fundamental objective is to craft an integrated compensation and personnel system that will continue to be valued by service members, provide flexibility for the uniformed services, and be cost effective."

To obtain these preferences, the commission will survey a number of active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members during the next few months, with plans to survey retired service members as well. The survey will ask participants to



value individual elements of their compensation package in relation to each other, Maldon said.

"If you receive this survey, please take it," he added. "However, the survey is not the only way to let us know your preferences." People can provide input on the commission's public website, <http://www.mcrmc.gov>, and written comments may be mailed to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, Post Office Box 13170, Arlington, VA 22209.

"These tools are powerful ways to ensure we are aware of your preferences and concerns," Maldon said.

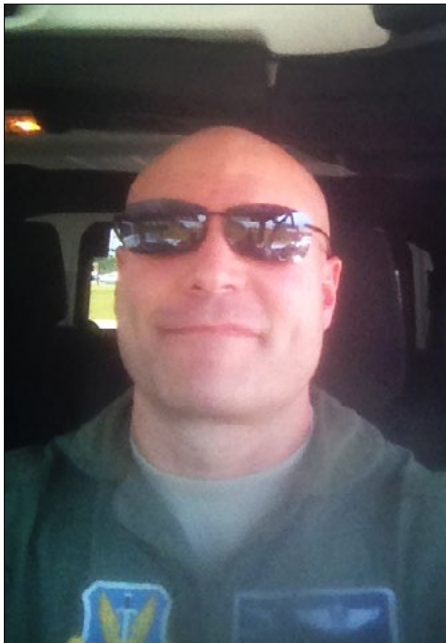
Over the past year, he noted, the commission has benefitted from

meetings with service members, veterans, retirees and their family members. "Additionally," he said, "representatives of the uniformed services, military and veterans service organizations, and other subject-matter experts have greatly added to our understanding of the breadth of current military compensation and benefit systems. These engagements have reinforced what we've always known: Our people are the strength of our uniformed services."

Maldon added, "We honor your service and ask for your continued input and support as we move forward with this important endeavor." *(American Forces Press Service)*

Where are they now?

Maj. Dan Brownell (2003-2007)



– **What years and in what positions did you serve at the 513th?**

From January 2003 to April 2007. I started as an AST and commissioned in September 2003. I then served as an AWO.

– **What is your current job?**

I'm currently Chief of Integrated Air Defense Systems AFNORTH, Tyndall AFB. I assist in the program management of Data Link equipment and Data Link architecture as it pertains to our Homeland Defense mission.

– **What was one of the biggest challenges you faced while assigned to the 513th?**

Being away from my family during my 10-month controller school.

– **What is your favorite memory of the 513th?**

The camaraderie among the members...having fun while still accomplishing the mission successfully.

– **Do you have any advice for current members?**

Always carry an overnight bag.

– **Where do you live now?**

Panama City Beach, Florida.

Promotions for June

Congratulations to this month's promotee!

Senior Master Sgt. David A. Lemke
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

Officers selected for promotion this past month:

Maj. Philip Schredl
(970th AACCS)

Maj. Tim Trautman
(970th AACCS)

Maj. Frank Urbanic III
(970th AACCS)

Fit to Fight MVP's from May

Staff Sgt. Shane Upton
Unit: 513th MXS
Score: 92.4%

Lt. Col. Brent Vander Pol
Unit: 970th AACCS
Score: 91.5%

Fit to Fight hall of fame



513th ACG



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	48	Women: 2nd Lt. Lily Rollins

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