

July 2014

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 4TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



Thunderbirds headline 'Star Spangled Salute'

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+ Thumper softball starts strong // AWACS reservists to play part in RIMPAC

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

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming events

- July 12 – 0900-1400 – Blood Drive (next to 507th ARW headquarters)
- July 14 – 1700 – Monday Night Volleyball (38th CEIG)
- July 17 – 1930 – Thumper Softball (Tinker softball fields)
- August 2 – 1400 – Carla Barber Retirement (970th Auditorium)
- September 6 – 1100 – Family Day (38th CEIG)

Family day fundraiser

Make your voice heard!
Vote for the person of your choice to spend 10 minutes in the dunk tank. Top 10 nominees must take their turn in the tank unless they pay their way out by matching the total amount paid for them.
\$1 per vote, \$5 for 6 votes, \$10 for 13 votes or \$20 for 27 votes.
To vote, contact Tech. Sgt. Nichole Tubbs (513th AMXS/MXS), Staff Sgt. Jenna Goodall (513th ACG/OSS) or 2nd Lt. Amie Inman (970th AACS).
Donations will offset costs for family day, which is set for the Saturday of the September UTA.

This UTA in history

First World Cup
July 13, 1930 – France defeats Mexico 4-1 and the United States defeats Belgium 3-0 in the first-ever World Cup football matches, played simultaneously in host city Montevideo, Uruguay. The World Cup has since become the world's most watched sporting event.
After football (soccer, to Americans) was dropped from the program for the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, FIFA President Jules Rimet helped to organize an international tournament in 1930. Much to the dismay of European footballers, Uruguay, winner of back-to-back gold medals at the 1924 Paris Olympics and 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, was chosen to host the inaugural World Cup.

Promotions for July

Congratulations to this month's promotees!

- Airman** Mercedes Richie (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- Airman 1st Class** Sheena Ledbetter (513th Maintenance Squadron)
- Master Sergeant** Daniel Gibb (513th Operations Support Squadron)

Fit to Fight MVP's

Master Sgt. Ronald Micue	2nd Lt. Michael Doughty
Unit: 513th MXS	Unit: 970th AACS
Score: 99.3%	Score: 98.4%

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	48	Women: 2nd Lt. Lily Rollins

Situps

Men:	109	92	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



Tech. Sgt. Shamielka Jackson

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Materiel Management (a.k.a. Supply Tech)

Hometown: Jackson, Tennessee

Cowboys or Sooners: Neither, but I'd go with the Cowboys since they're orange like the Tennessee Vols.

Favorite part of your job: Being able to support customers in getting the job done.

Biggest pet peeve: Poor driving etiquette.

What did you want to be when you grew up?: An astronaut, until I realized I had to be good at math and science (the 2 subjects I hated in school).

Little known fact about you: I never changed my last name when I got married, so my last name should be Williams, not Jackson.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: Going TDY to Alaska and getting to know some of the people from the unit.



Master Sgt. Robert Doty

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: CSO/CT

Hometown: Tampa, Florida

Cowboys or Sooners: Uh neither... Gators and Bucs!

Favorite part of your job: TDY's and the camaraderie.

Biggest pet peeve: When people throw their office trash bags in the snack bar trash.....you know who you are.

What did you want to be when you grew up?: Professional baseball player

Little known fact about you: I have several level 90 characters in the World of Warcraft...hit me up if you wanna join my guild.....snort.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: Story time with Senior Hall in the Desert.

If you had superhero ability, it would be: Mindreading.

AWACS reservists to play part in RIMPAC 2014

Next week will mark the second time the 513th has taken part in the biannual exercise

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

About 60 reservists from the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron and the 513th Air Control Group are set to participate in the world's largest military naval exercise next week at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, is a joint-naval exercise held biannually that involves armed forces from countries around the world. This year's exercise involves more than 40 ships and submarines, 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel from 22 nations.

Next week will mark the second time that the reservists have flown missions in support of RIMPAC.

Lt. Col. Louis Fournier, the assistant director of operations for the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, said that their aircrews will represent the only Air Force airborne command and control.

"We'll be the only Air Force AWACS in the skies, but we look forward to integrating with the Navy E-2 Hawkeyes that will also be supporting the exercise," Fournier said.

The E-2 Hawkeye fulfills an airborne warning and control mission similar to the Air Force's E-3 Sen-



The guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) is docked in port during the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. Twenty-two nations, 42 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 29 to Aug. 3, in and around the Hawaiian Islands. (New Zealand Defence Force photo by LAC Amanda McErlich)

try and is capable of operating from a carrier.

According to Fournier, the 513th reservists will gain valuable experience deploying and operating with other U.S. and allied assets that is rare on a typical training mission. The aircrew members won't be the only ones to benefit, either.

"For us to be successful, it takes a team effort," he said. "We take our

own maintainers who will have to perform all of their normal tasks on the jet in a completely different environment."

The 513th AWACS Airmen will join reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing, who are currently flying refueling missions in support of RIMPAC. The 507th flies and maintains the KC-135 Stratotanker.



“The key is to have less rust than the other team until we are in full swing.”

- Thumper coach Joe Brown

Master Sgt. Randy Schell from the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron waits for a fly ball June 26 during the Thumper's first softball games of the season at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The Thumpers beat the 552nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Eagles in both double-header games.

Thumper softball season starts strong

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

The 513th Air Control Group Thumpers opened its summer season a week late with easy back-to-back wins against the 552nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Eagles June 26 at Tinker Air Force Base.

Neither of the double-header games lasted past the fifth inning, with the 513th's team racking up enough points to end both games because of a run rule. The final scores were 12-4 and 14-4.

The Thumpers almost went a second week without a game when the opposing team's players showed up at the last possible minute. The Eagles played most of the first game with only eight players, the mini-

mum amount allowed to play.

Thumper coach Master Sgt. Joe Brown said his players performed well despite the lack of time spent on the field.

“Although I wasn't there to see them play, the reports I got were that we were a little rusty, but that happens until we get a few league games under our belt,” Brown said. “The key is to have less rust than the other team until we are in full swing.”

The 513th's team on-base percentage was .655, with 40 successful at-bats out of 60 in the two games combined. Master Sgt. Thomas Carter, the 513th Maintenance (See **SOFTBALL**, next page)

(SOFTBALL, continued)

Squadron's first sergeant, was the top batter of the night with two home runs and a .833 on-base percentage.

Brown said his player's long history together as well as their personal commitment to practice added to the solid performance for the team's first game.

"Most of our guys try to keep their games polished as much as possible

throughout the year, which keeps us fairly ready to play," he said. "Since most of us have played together for over a decade, preparation isn't usually an issue."

Rain forced Tinker's softball league to cancel its opening night June 19, where the Thumpers were slated to take on the Okies from the 507th Air Refueling Wing. League officials have rescheduled the games to August 14. The 513th has faced

the Okies 93 times in the last 10 years, holding a 49-44 series advantage.

UPDATE

The next Thumper games are set for 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. on July 17 after being rained out last Thursday. The 513th Thumpers will take on the Mojo Sports, one of the major power teams in the base league.

(Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins contributed to this report.)



Thunderbirds headline 'Star Spangled Salute'

An estimated 160,000 people packed into Tinker Air Force Base June 21-22 during the 2014 Star Spangled Salute air show, which headlined the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, otherwise known as the Thunderbirds.

The show also featured a demonstration by a MiG-17, the Commemorative Air Force's Lady Liberty A-26, the world's smallest jet and other World War II-era aircraft.



Photo by Micah Garbarino



Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers



Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers



Photo by Micah Garbarino

Royal Saudi Air Force AWACS back in service



After nearly a year, a newly restored Royal Saudi Air Force AWACS prepares to leave to Tinker after work by a group from the 76th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (Air Force photo by Kelly White)

by John Parker
Tinker Public Affairs

A Royal Saudi Air Force AWACS aircraft recently left Tinker for duty in Saudi Arabia after a nearly year-long restoration by the 76th Maintenance Squadron.

Danny Simon, Middle East support chief located in the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, praised the 76th Aircraft Maintenance Group for taking on the additional work among its many other depot maintenance obligations.

The E-3 Sentry, which bears the words “God Bless You” in English on its fuselage, is one of five in the Royal Saudi Air Force. It was inactive for over three years after

overheating during flight causing catastrophic damage to the radar antenna located inside the rotodome, Mr. Simon said.

After aircraft arrival in May of last year, Tinker technicians removed and replaced the radar antenna much quicker than expected which allowed continued repair work on the aircraft’s radio systems, IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) radar and hydraulics systems.

“Collectively as a group, we have almost completely rebuilt the entire support structure that controls radar,” Mr. Simon said. “We had to replace what we call the big white parts -- all of your high-voltage section, high-power parts. That’s not a small task. In fact, it’s never been done before this airplane.”

More than 40 crewmembers that entailed Saudi pilots, radar operators and maintenance crews stayed in Oklahoma City recently to conduct the check flight before the plane was accepted and flown back to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Simon’s section coordinated all aspects for delivering the military aircraft to Tinker AFB and ultimately back home. “This was a monumental effort, which required multiple agencies involvement including daily interaction at the highest levels of the United States Air Force and Royal Saudi Air Force.”

Mr. Simon attributes the success of aircraft 1804’s return home to great teamwork amongst all of the players and a united front of support from senior leadership.