

December 2014

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

More than just a steak:
The other side of Operation Holiday Spirit
(Page 8)

INSIDE:

513th Update // From the Top // November UTA highlights

RABBIT TALES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

513th update	3
In the spotlight	4
From the top: family and reflection	5
Tool to safeguard PII scheduled for AF-wide December rollout	6
NORAD prepares to track Santa’s flight	7
16 years and counting: OHS still going strong, helping local Airmen in need	8
November UTA highlights	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.

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming events

Saturday – 1800 – Christmas Party
(Noah’s Event Venue)

Sunday – 0830 – Down Day Activities
(552 OG Auditorium)

Sunday – 1400 – Group photo
(E-3 Birdcage)

513th Christmas Party

It’s that time of the year! The 513th’s Christmas Celebration is set for Saturday at 6 p.m. in a brand-new venue. Find your unit POC to get details and buy tickets.

Sugar Plum Fairy Contest

There’s not much time left to vote for this year’s Sugar Plum Fairy at the Christmas party. Have someone you think would love to share their holiday spirit? Vote them to the top!

- \$1 per vote
- \$5 for 6 votes
- \$10 for 13 votes
- \$20 for 27 votes

Promotions for December

Congrats to this month’s promotees!

Tech. Sgt. David Martin
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Master Sgt. Nina Wright
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Davis
(513th Air Control Group)

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gibson
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Lt. Col. Robert Zeese
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Fit to Fight MVP’s

TSgt Lloyd Braden
Unit: 513th AMXS
Score: 100%



Maj. Jose Rodriguez
Unit: 970th AACS
Score: 100%

Fit to Fight hall of fame



Team Tinker

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 Baker

Situps

Men: **109** **92** Men: 2nd Lt. Michael Doughty
Women: **84** **63** Women: 2nd Lt. Amie Inman

1-Mile Walk

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



Senior Airman Courtney Redmond

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Administrative Support Assistant

Hometown: Whittier, California

Favorite part of your job? Working with and getting to meet new people.

Biggest pet peeve: When I'm wearing sandals and someone steps on the back of them.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
An astronaut.

Little-known fact about you: I absolutely love hockey. Cannot live without it!

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th? My favorite memory would have to be being placed in the dunk tank on family day. Wouldn't trade that for the world!

If you had superhero ability, it would be: The ability to read minds. It would make my life so much easier!



1st Lieutenant Lily Baker

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Air Battle Manager

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

Favorite part of your job? Learning new and useful techniques from others in the simulator to bring more success to the flying missions. There's always something new to learn.

Biggest pet peeve: Asking a question when you know the answer.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
A doctor.

Little-known fact about you: I'm starting a career in real estate.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: During the RIMPAC TDY, climbing Koko Head in Hawaii with other members of the squadron.

If you had superhero ability, it would be: Invisibility; the possibilities!

A time for family and reflection

by Col. David W. Robertson
513th Air Control Group Commander

2014 has been a challenging year for the 513th family. Budget uncertainties have unfortunately cast a shadow over our unit for most of the year. The good news is that the future of the 513th is looking very bright. Congressional leaders have expressed their support for our unit and have offered budget amendments to put their support into action. AFRC has expressed confidence in our future by giving the go-ahead for the new 513th building with construction beginning either at the end of 2015 or the beginning of 2016. Overall, it looks like the 513th is on its way to being a viable partner with the 552nd for the foreseeable future.

However, this doesn't mean the stress we've felt over the past year hasn't had an effect along with the regular stressors of mission accomplishment and civilian work commitments. Stress has real impacts on our health and well-being, both on a personal level and as a unit. So I want to encourage you this holiday season to find time to relax and decompress. Focus on the most important people in your lives—your family and friends. Recharge your batteries. Next year will have its own set of challenges and we need each member of the 513th team mentally, physically and spiritually ready for what lies ahead.



I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for the sacrifices you make for your country and for the Air Force. Turning wrenches in the Oklahoma freezing wind or flying late-night sorties requires a good deal of perseverance from our 513th team and I appreciate each one of you and your commitment to the AWACS mission. Balancing the Air Force, a civilian job and most importantly our family life can be a haul....and no other AWACS unit in the inventory does it as well as the 513th ACG team. Thank you for being part of the Air Force Reserve and the 513th family.

Tool to safeguard PII scheduled for AF-wide December rollout

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) -- The Digital Signature Enforcement Tool is scheduled for Air Force-wide integration Dec. 5, providing Microsoft Outlook email users with an interactive, automated virtual assistant to help ensure the security of personally identifiable information.

"I can't overstate the operational importance of preventing PII breaches," said Maj. Gen. B. Edwin Wilson, the commander of 24th Air Force and Air Forces Cyber. "It's not an IT problem, it's a total-force problem, and DSET is an effective tool the total force can use, right now, to help reduce inadvertent PII breaches."

Beyond potential identity theft, PII breaches can lead to significant compromises in operational security. For example, a well-meaning member working to meet an operational deadline sends an unencrypted email, containing PII on several unit members, to a "non .mil" email account.

The sender could be attempting to get ahead on a project or be providing a status update to unit members on pending unit movements.

Unknown to the sender, hackers have compromised email transport infrastructure between the sender's desktop and one of the destination,

"non .mil" desktops. Hackers intercepting this unencrypted email traffic can utilize the newly acquired personal information to form specifically targeted attacks, known as spear phishing, to acquire additional information such as account numbers or passwords.

Unfortunately, the attack does not stop there. Once an attacker has acquired enough information, he can simulate user accounts or even pass off communications on behalf of the service member, who is likely still unaware that his information has been compromised. Those false communications could be leveraged to gain digital access to Air Force systems, or even physical access to installations and personnel. Obviously, the negative implications caused by PII breaches are severe, and equipping the force with tools to mitigate the risk is paramount.

DSET version 1.6.1, an updated version of the DSET 1.6.0 software already in use by the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and Air Force Space Command, contains fixes for some previously identified software bugs as well as enhancements to make the digital tool more effective.

"DSET 1.6.0 launched back in July to three major commands," said Alonzo Pugh, a cyber business system analyst for 24th Air Force.

"Feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable for the use of the tool, and version 1.6.1 is definitely ready for Air Force-wide usage."

DSET is regarded as a short-term fix to help all Air Force network users protect PII, specifically if that information is to be included in an email communication. DSET 1.6.1 still only scans for PII in the form of social security numbers, leaving overall responsibility on the user to safeguard the sensitive information in all of its forms.

"First, the user should ask him or herself if the PII in the email is truly necessary," Pugh said. "DSET scans the email draft before transmission. If PII is identified, DSET will notify the user through a series of pop-up windows. This interactivity allows the user to make a conscious decision of how to proceed with the information in question."

According to Pugh, if the information must be transmitted, encrypting the PII is all that is necessary to protect the data during transmission. DSET will trigger when it detects potential PII in an email, giving the user the opportunity to delete the information if not necessary to the communication, encrypt the information, or override and transmit the email as originally written.

(Courtesy of 24th AF public affairs)

NORAD prepares to track Santa's flight



(U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Luis Loza Gutierrez)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- The North American Aerospace Defense Command's NORAD Tracks Santa website, <http://www.noradsanta.org>, launched Dec. 1, featuring a mobile version, a holiday countdown, new games and daily activities and more.

The website is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Chinese.

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's launch on their smart phones and tablets. Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+. Santa followers can go to any of these sites and search for "@noradsanta" to get

started.

Also new this year, the website features Santa's elves in the North Pole Village. NORAD Tracks Santa is introducing the newest elf and asking the public to help choose the perfect name for him. Details can be found via NORAD Tracks Santa social media or in the "Name the Elf" video in Santa's North Pole Movie Theater.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. MST on Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will stream videos on the website as Santa makes his way over various locations.

Then, at 4 a.m. MST (6 a.m. EST), trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-

NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com. Any time on Dec. 24, Windows Phone users can ask Cortana for Santa's location, and OnStar subscribers can press the OnStar button in their vehicles to find Santa.

NORAD Tracks Santa started in 1955 when a local media advertisement directed children to call Santa direct -- only the number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center. Thus began the tradition, which NORAD has carried on since it was created in 1958.

(Information courtesy of North American Aerospace Defense Command. No federal endorsement is intended or implied.)

16 years and counting

Operation Holiday Spirit still going strong, helping local Airmen in need

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

In December 2011, Christmas gifts were the last thing on Ashley Osborn's mind. Her nine-month old son Devry had been hospitalized most of that year and was diagnosed with meningitis.

"At that time I was working at a hospital, so they were pretty understanding when I had to take care of my son," Osborn said. Despite her employer's flexibility, she wasn't getting paid for the time required to care for Devry.

Osborn, a flight medic with the 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, got a call from her first sergeant around the holidays to see how she was doing.

"I didn't know that it had to do with Operation Holiday Spirit," she said. "I thought he was just doing a wingman check. He just asked how

the holidays were going to be. I told him I was trying to figure out how I was going to pay for all the medical bills."

It wasn't long after the call that Osborn received a Christmas card from OHS that held more than a season's greetings.

"My dad pretty much had to catch me from hitting the floor," Osborn said of when she opened the envelope. "I broke down into tears."

With the support she received from Holiday Spirit, Osborn was able to not only give her son gifts for Christmas but also pay for his medication and other medical bills.

"He had a very good Christmas for such a little boy," she said. "If OHS hadn't helped out, I was going to have to borrow from my family or take out a loan just to pay the bills."



Staff Sgt. Ashley Osborn, right, a flight medic with the 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, receives a standing ovation on November 1 after sharing her story at the 16th annual Operation Holiday Spirit fundraiser at the Del City American Legion. Osborn received support from the organization three years ago when her son was hospitalized and diagnosed with meningitis.

With the support she received from Holiday Spirit, Osborn was able to not only give her son gifts for Christmas, but pay for his medication and other medical bills.



Last month, Osborn stood before nearly 400 people at the 16th annual Operation Holiday Spirit fundraiser to share her story.

"Keep up the good work," Osborn said to the crowd. "OHS is an awesome program and there's a huge need for it in Airman's lives."

OHS supporters responded by donating a record-breaking \$34,816 to the organization so far this year. The non-profit organization is helping at least 38 Guard and Reserve

members in need this holiday season.

"Osborn is just one example of the many lives touched through Operation Holiday Spirit," said Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, the executive officer for the 513th Air Control Group based at Tinker Air Force Base.

Operation Holiday Spirit, founded in 1999, has helped more than 321 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen and their

families by providing food and other necessities.

The organization began when Hawkins, then an executive officer at the 507th Air Refueling Wing also at Tinker, overheard co-workers talking about how to help an Airman in need.

"As a good executive officer, of course I eavesdropped in on the conversation taking place in the Senior Enlisted Advisor's office," Hawkins recounted during the din-

ner fundraiser. "I thought, 'there's got to be a way we can help this guy.'"

Hawkins and other reservists with the 507th put together a small steak dinner fundraiser and raised enough money to support a total of 18 local Airmen that first Christmas. Since its humble beginnings, Holiday Spirit has grown steadily to become an annual fundraiser attended by more than 300 people and helping more than 30

families a year.

"No one gets turned away," Hawkins said. "A committee looks at each request to decide how to split up the donations, but everyone who is nominated at least gets something."

Airmen in need are nominated by their first sergeant or commander, most of the time without the person's knowledge. The nomination process ensures that the donations go to the families who need

it most.

"Some of the requests almost bring tears to my eyes," Hawkins said. "Some people have serious medical issues, job losses, or other things that make it difficult to provide for their children. I'm just glad we're there to help."

For more information or to donate, find Operation Holiday Spirit on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Operation-HolidaySpirit.

Highlights from the November UTA

Master Sgt. Paula Pate poses with Lt. Col. Brent Vander Pol on November 1 after her retirement ceremony at the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron auditorium.

Pate last served as the 970th first sergeant.



Lt. Col. Steven England, the director of operations for the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, cools off a spoonful of chili during the annual 513th Chili Cook-off. The judges named 2nd Lt. Brian Van Curen from the 970th the chili champion for 2014.

Have photos or a story you want to share with the unit? Message us on Facebook at facebook.com/513thAirControlGroup or email 513ACG.PublicAffairs@us.af.mil.