

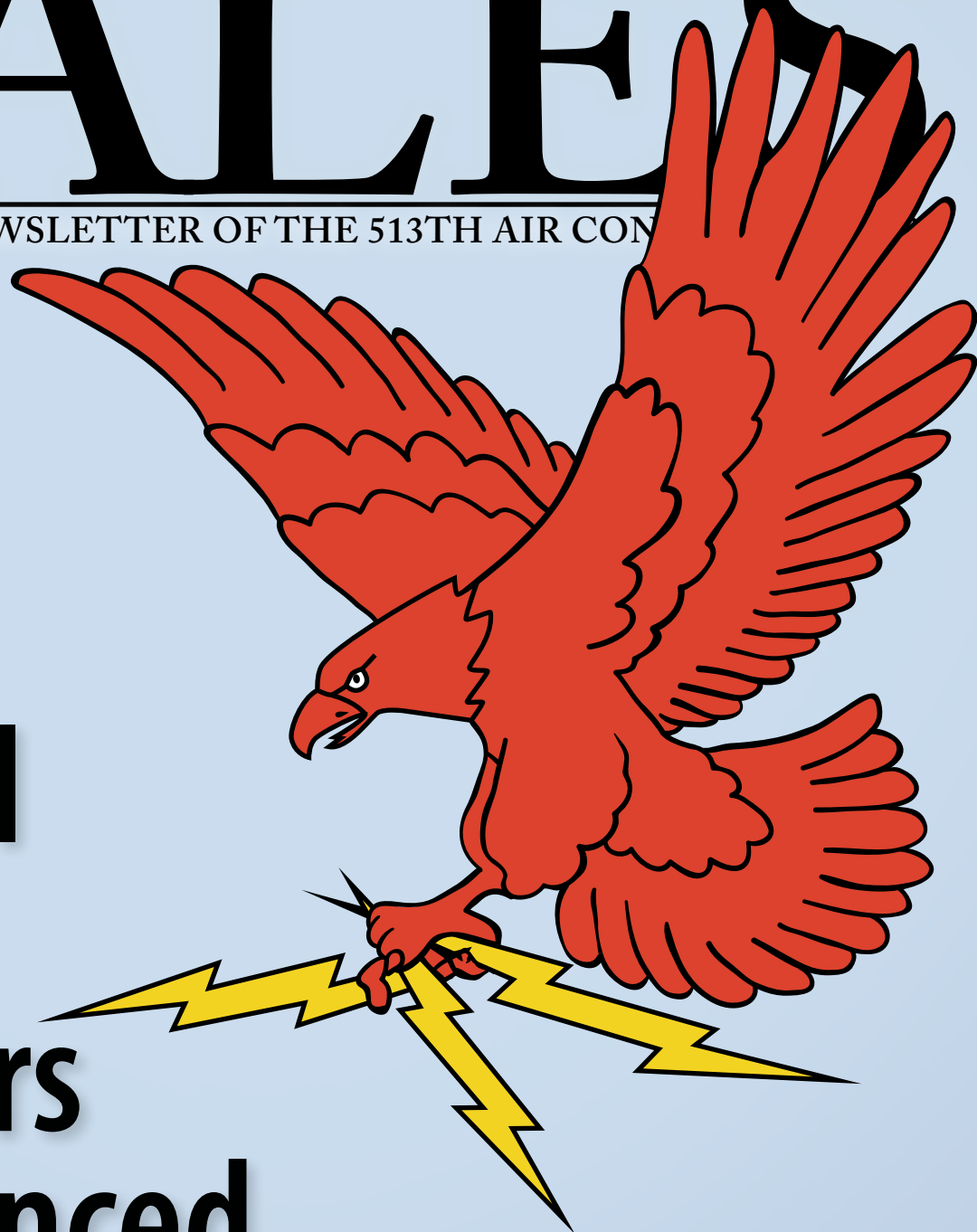
February 2015

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR COM

## 2014 Annual Award Winners Announced

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**INSIDE:**

**FY16 Budget Proposal // Key Spouse Program and the 513th**

# RABBIT TALES

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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

Saturday – 1300 – Wingman Stand Down  
(Tinker Auditorium a.k.a Base Theater)

March UTA – TBA – Key Spouse Luncheon  
(Invites will be mailed)

### Promotions for February

Congrats to this month's promotees!

**Tech. Sgt.** Robert Adams  
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

**Master Sgt.** Omar Torres  
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

### TRICARE and your taxes

You've seen the commercials on TV and heard the serious voice on the radio telling you how difficult



this tax season may be because of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Don't believe the hype; you can meet the health care coverage reporting requirement as easily as checking a box on your Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ.

Effective January 1, 2014, the ACA required most Americans, including TRICARE beneficiaries and DoD employees, have minimum essential health care coverage (MEC), or pay a tax penalty for each month that you and the other individuals listed on your tax form did not have coverage during 2014. The good news is if you, and your dependents, are entitled to TRICARE or purchased TRICARE or Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) Plan coverage, all you have to do to is "self-attest" you had coverage on your 2014 tax return.

### Fit to Fight MVP's

SrA Aric Mooney  
Unit: 513th AMXS  
Score: 98.75%



SrA Jeremy Seritt  
Unit: 513th AMXS  
Score: 98.75%

### 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

## Key spouses always there to lend a helping hand

*Editor's note: The 513th Air Control Group Key Spouse Program, now headed up by Chief Master Sergeant Jeff Davis' wife, Amy Davis, will host its first event during the March UTA. Keep an eye on your mailbox this month for invites.*

**By Bo Joyner**

*Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs*

"We leave no family behind." That's the motto for the Key Spouse Program at Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts, but it's a sentiment that is being expressed at Air Force Reserve locations all over the country as the program takes off throughout the command.

"We have awesome volunteers, and they do take that motto seriously," said Shanna King, a manager with the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Westover who helps oversee the Key Spouse Program there. "Whenever a family member needs anything, our key spouses are ready to step in and get that person the help he or she needs."

King said key spouses pay special attention to the family members of deployed Reservists, but they are available to help whenever the need may arise.

"You never know when the dog is going to run away on the same

day the washing machine overflows and you just need somebody who understands you," she said. "That's what the Key Spouse Program is all about."

DeAnne Biscoe has been a key spouse at Westover since 2006. She has helped countless people over the years and is always eager to pitch in and lend a hand. Her husband, Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, works in the base public affairs office, and Deanne sprang into action when someone in her husband's office had a heart attack during lunch a couple of years ago.

"Somebody had to take care of getting in touch with the family, getting them here and getting them to the hospital so they could be with their service member," she said. "There were a lot of people taking care of the service member, the paperwork and so forth, but my thoughts were focused on the family members and the help they would need. We made sure there was a room in lodging for them when they got here, and we had some food there for them and toothbrushes, toothpaste, those kinds of things. We just wanted to make sure there was less for them to think about when they got here so they could focus all of their attention on their service member.

"Key spouses have connections.

They know people on base and can help get things done. We never know what kind of call we are going to get, but we usually know where to go to get people the help they need."

Therese Sarnelli, wife of Master Sgt. Ronald Sarnelli assigned to the 337th Airlift Squadron, has also been a key spouse at Westover since 2006, when the program was known as the Key Family Member program. Like Biscoe, Sarnelli knows how to get things done on base. ... and off it. She recently drove a spouse to the airport in Hartford, Connecticut, to meet her husband who was returning home from a deployment.

"If you hold a military ID or are the children of someone in the military, you can get a gate pass at most airports," she said. "You have to go through security, but you can meet your military person at the gate. When they get off the plane, their family can be waiting there for them. This spouse didn't know that, so it was kind of cool to surprise her husband that way. It is little things like that that we try to do for our family members."

Karen Breazeale is the key spouse mentor for the 301st Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, and she is working hard to promote the program there. Her husband, Col. John Breazeale, is the wing commander.

"When I got here about a year ago, they had a good Key Spouse Program in place, but it was mainly focused on deployments," she said. "We want to make sure all 301st Fighter Wing family members know someone has their back -- not only during deployments, but all the time."

At Fort Worth, key spouses are known as STARS (an acronym for Spouses reaching out To Welcome and inform All Reserve/Integrated Active Spouses).

"Key spouse STARS are a lot like customer service reps for squadron spouses," Breazeale said. "They might not know the answers to all of the questions, but they do have the training and resources to connect you with the people who do have those answers."

She said about five new people per month are signing up to be key spouses at the 301st. Ultimately, Breazeale said she would like to have about one key spouse for every 25 wing members. That way, the key spouses wouldn't be stretched too thin and could always be there for the people within their extended family.

Breazeale is excited about how the program has grown at Fort Worth and is hoping a new web page will help push the program to the next level.

"The Reserve is a little different from the active duty in that our families are located all over the place, not all right here close to the base," Breazeale said. "The idea is to let the spouse in Waco who never

makes it to the base know that there are people in her area that can be there if she needs help."

"We have a lady who lives in New York who got her own little program started to help people in her area," Sarnelli said. "She decided on her own to get the spouses who live close to her together, and now they are having coffee dates and get-togethers with the kids. We have spouses who can't always make it here to the base, but they still want to help out."

Westover and Fort Worth both have exemplary Key Spouse Programs, and one thing they have in common is that spouses of military members of all ranks are involved.

"We have spouses of senior airmen all the way up to colonels and everything in between," King said of the program at Westover. "And we are lucky that we have some male key spouses as well. Sometimes it's better to have a guy help another guy who has a question or a problem."

"Military rank has absolutely nothing to do with the key spouse STARS," Breazeale said. "We are just a group of spouses connecting spouses. I think people sometimes confuse key spouses with an officers' wives club, and it's nothing like that at all. We just have a strong belief that no member of the 301st Fighter Wing family should ever feel alone."

Another thing that successful Key Spouse Programs have in common is support from senior leaders.

"Our program is a wing program," said Col. Frank Amodeo,

commander of the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. "We began with a wing vision for a successful program to take care of Airmen and families. Our first sergeants and commanders have buy-in. As the wing commander, I personally participated in the required key spouse training and explained my expectations. I attend every key spouse meeting.

"We have only one mentor so that we are centrally managed with execution at the squadron level. Our team of key spouses includes enlisted Airmen, spouses of officers and enlisted Airmen, and spouses of civilian employees. One of our Airmen, who was a key spouse, now works in our Airman and Family Readiness Center. This provides great understanding in AFRC of our key spouse challenges and needs."

The Key Spouse Program is an official unit/family program overseen by commanders designed to enhance readiness and establish a sense of unity within the Air Force community. The program was standardized across the Air Force in March 2006 to address the needs of all military families with special emphasis on support to families across the deployment cycle.

"I remember Mark's first deployment. It was scary, and we didn't know what to expect," said Betty Welsh, the wife of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, in a recent Air Force news article. "It was then that the spouses of the deployed got together and grew our own spouses group."

# 2014 Annual Award Winners



**SrA Samuel Hill**

**Major Accomplishments:**

Volunteered for 20 extra days of active duty, alleviating 552nd fuel shop's low manning during high maintenance tempo.

Flawlessly performed maintenance tasks during quality assurance evaluation, maintaining a 100 percent shop pass rate.

Instrumental in successful completion of two maintenance actions in four hours, making aircraft fully mission capable two hours early.

Completed 120 credit hours with a 3.0 GPA toward a bachelor's degree in History of War, Revolution and Diplomacy.

As a 1st Arkansas regiment volunteer, he re-enacted Civil War battles, bringing to life historic events for over 200,000 people.



**SSgt Caleb Wanzer**

**Major Accomplishments:**

Was selected as a finalist for two AFRC public affairs annual awards for best news story and graphic design.

Featured on Air Force-level social media with 513th mission to an audience of nearly 50K people, a first for the 513th.

Single-handedly maintained monthly publication that normally requires 2 full-time positions to update.

Provided public affairs support to 513th during two-week exercise in PACAF; coverage was picked up by multiple news agencies.

Helped in planning and executing unit morale and family events, donating more than 50 hours for fellow members.



**MSgt Elizabeth Staff**

**Major Accomplishments:**

Implemented cross unit training; trained 24 Airmen from the 507th LRS and 552 MOF, raising unit preparedness 100 percent.

Ensured global E-3 part deliveries, which was key to 128 sorties and 699 Reserve flying hours in fiscal year 2014.

Enrolled in college classes, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and progressing toward two CCAF degrees.

Orchestrated 2014 SAPR Stand Down for the 513th Air Control Group. She also trained 26 Airmen as facilitators.

Volunteered following the aftermath of the Moore tornado, assisting three families by removing two tons of debris.



**MSgt Emmitt Waskom**

**Major Accomplishments:**

Managed 12 family care plans, resulting in only Tinker unit with zero CUI discrepancies and an excellent rating.

Assisted in the planning and coordination of monthly squadron morale events, vastly improving unit esprit de corps.

Directly contributed to the group's excellent CUI rating, also sharing best practices with sister squadrons.

Promotes fitness and initiates group fitness activities. He also completed the 2014 Andy Payne Memorial half-marathon.

Donates time and money as a private pilot, providing free flights to children 8-17 years old for the Young Eagles Program.



**1st Lt Lily Baker**

**Major Accomplishments:**

Unparalleled work ethic and technical savvy that is central to the 513th's success and warfighting capabilities.

Controlled and assisted biggest large force exercise in PACAF region with 55 vessels and more than 200 aircraft from 22 nations.

Expert knowledge of complex and challenging tasks were influential to the release of E-3 software.

Accomplished Block 40/45 training, becoming the unit's third Air Weapons Officer certified on the new system.

Flawlessly planned, coordinated and executed the 513th ACG 2014 Christmas party, boosting unit moral.

# Tinker acquires land for KC-46A Pegasus maintenance

by Tinker Air Force Base Public Affairs

Tinker Air Force Base officials announced Feb. 2, the acquisition of 158 acres of land on the southwest side of the base to stand up a depot maintenance facility for the Air Force's next-generation aerial refueling aircraft, the KC-46A Pegasus.

The land purchase was made possible through a joint effort of the U.S. Air Force (\$8 million), the City of Oklahoma City (\$23.5 million) and Oklahoma County (\$12.5 million).

The land was formerly owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Co., where it operated a rail yard that primarily served the former General Motors manufacturing facility.

Prior to selecting the 158-acre property as the location for its KC-46A depot operations, the Air Force evaluated a number of potential sites both on and near Tinker AFB. After extensive review, the service determined that this property would be the best value for the taxpayer and would also increase the base's security by incorporating land between disconnected portions of the base, connecting all of the base's property.

"The property adjacent to Tinker Air Force Base is not only the best value for our taxpayers, but it also places KC-46A operations in

one centralized location on the base, making it easier for them to provide the airpower our nation relies on," said Kathleen Ferguson, the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy. "Our air refueling fleet is critical to our ability to reach any corner of the globe quickly, and Tinker plays a vital role in that mission."

Lt. Gen. Bruce Litchfield, the Air Force Sustainment Center commander, also lauded news of the agreement.

"Our Air Force's global mission is underpinned by our ability to air refuel when and where needed," Litchfield said. "For more than 50 years the KC-135 Stratotanker has supported our Air Force mission across the world. Since this Eisenhower-era aircraft was introduced into the fleet, Tinker has been home to KC-135 sustainment and maintenance. The modernized KC-46 replacement tanker will support Global Reach, Power and Vigilance for generations to come.

"For Tinker, it's safe to say that supporting the KC-46 represents the bedrock for the next 50 years," the general added. "Acquisition of the current rail yard property allows the development of a highly effective and efficient maintenance and repair operation that will save

the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars over the life of the system. This is a win-win for our nation, Air Force, taxpayers and local community. We are grateful for all the support and visionary leadership engaged to make this happen."

Tinker officials stressed that the acquisition would not be possible without the continued support of the installation's community partners.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber led a coalition of local and state government to support the acquisition.

"Tinker Air Force Base has been a cornerstone of our economy for decades and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is dedicated to supporting Tinker, as well as the jobs it represents for our residents," said David Rainbolt, the chairman of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and CEO of BancFirst Corporation. "This is an example of what can be accomplished when community leaders work together to support the future of Oklahoma City."

The City of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County provided a combined \$36 million to enable the acquisition. The 1,321 new jobs created through this project will be enrolled in the Oklahoma Quality Jobs program. Legislation passed last year will allow those incentive



Pictured above is an artist's rendering of the future KC-46A Pegasus Maintenance Campus to be built at Tinker AFB. On Wednesday, the Air Force acquired the land for the campus. (Air Force illustration)

payments to go back to the city and county on a prorated basis to reimburse their investment in this job-producing infrastructure.

Gov. Mary Fallin heralded the project as a prime example of how Oklahoma works together for economic development and for the support of our nation.

"Tinker has such a critical role in supporting our military," Fallin said. "Oklahomans recognize the importance of the base and the workforce at Tinker to our economy. I applaud everyone involved for their perseverance in bringing this complicated project to fruition."

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett agreed.

"This work exemplifies how our community's support of this base is unequaled in our nation," Cornett said. "Time and again over the past 60 years we have shown unwavering support of the missions - and the men and women who perform them -- on this base. Each time we make these investments in Tinker, the base and the community are stronger."

In addition to the land acquisition, the county and Air Force also made a final transfer of ownership of the former General Motors facil-

ity. An Oklahoma County bond issue passed in 2008 secured the use of the facility for the Air Force.

"We really see the acquisition of this rail yard as a sequel to our work in acquiring the GM plant," explained Brian Maughan, the chairman of the Oklahoma County Commissioners. "Our promise to the voters in 2008 was to expand employment, improve worker conditions on base and create a more effective manufacturing operation for the Air Force. This project absolutely continues that effort."

(To read the rest of the story, click [here.](#))

# DOD releases FY16 budget proposal

Air Force Reserve gains 2,100 positions, new missions under request

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

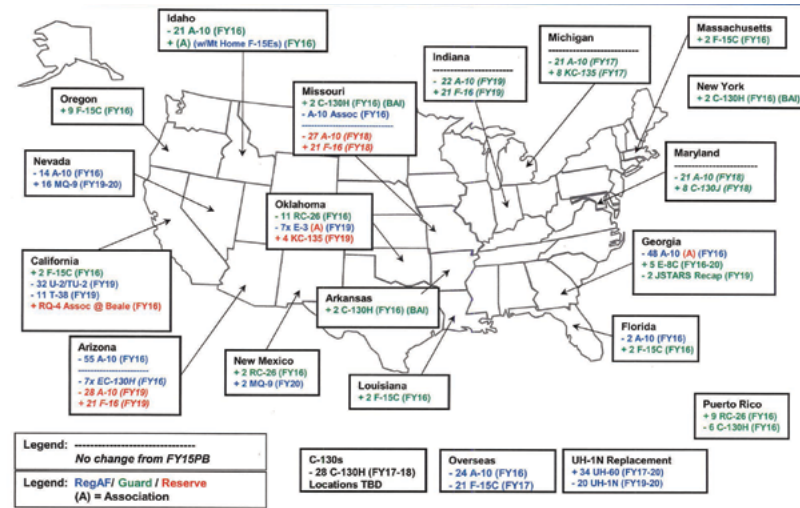
The Department of Defense fiscal year 2016 budget request released on Monday includes many proposed changes for the Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command in the next few years.

The proposal includes funding for the 513th Air Control Group and all E-3 Sentry aircraft through fiscal year 2019, providing security for the future of the Air Force Reserve's only Airborne Warning and Control System unit.

"While the proposal still has a long way to go before being made into law, the 513th funding being extended is just one more sign of our valuable contribution to the AWACS mission," said Col. David Robertson, the 513th commander.

If enacted into law, the DOD budget request would also restore 2,100 manpower positions to the Air Force Reserve and increase the Reserve's presence in a number of mission areas.

"The budget request ensures the Air Force Reserve will remain an integrated, flexible and combat-ready force," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, Chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "The additional manpower will allow the Air Force Reserve to support Air Force requirements in new and



existing missions in the F-35, F-16, C-17, ISR and Cyber."

Jackson also noted that the Air Force Reserve is still addressing some of the previously announced force structure changes.

"The Air Force, in conjunction with the recommendations of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, will finalize its mission area and force composition analysis in the coming months," he said. "Decisions on Reserve basing of C-130s at Pope Field, Keesler Air Force Base, and Little Rock Air Force Base are delayed until the Air Force meets the requirements established by Congress in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act."

Jackson also explained that if the Air Force divests A-10s at Moody AFB, Ga., the Air Force Reserve's classic associate unit, the 476th Fighter Group, will inactivate in

2016.

"Our A-10 units at Whiteman AFB and Davis-Monthan AFB will continue to fly the A-10 until 2019, when they will transition to F-16s," he said. "There are also opportunities with the F-35 at Luke AFB and Hill AFB."

According to Jackson, the 610th Security Forces Squadron at Naval Air Station JRB Fort Worth, Tx. will be inactivated.

"The vast majority of our people serve locally on a part-time basis, and force structure changes pose significant challenges for Reservists," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "I will ensure that Reserve leaders at every level are doing everything they can to help Reservists through the transition."

(Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs contributed to this report.)



Senior Airman Eduardo Walker

**Unit:** 513th Maintenance Squadron Hydro Back Shop

**Job title:** Hydraulic Journeyman (2A655)

**Hometown:** Hartshorne, Oklahoma

**Favorite part of your job?** The people you get to be a part of and the friendships you make along the way.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** I wanted to either be Macho Man, Randy Savage or a Ninja Turtle.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th?** I probably should say going to Hawaii, but my best memories came from home station just being around all the guys and building real friendships. These are things that will always stick with me and I'm sure I'll be telling stories about when I'm an old man.

**If you had superhero ability, it would be:** The Wolverine. You can't go wrong with being pretty much indestructible and have knives coming out of your knuckles.



Senior Master Sergeant Robb Hall

**Unit:** 513th Operations Support Squadron

**Job title:** Trying to be the new Woody in LRS

**Hometown:** Statesville, North Carolina

**Favorite sports team?** Carolina Panthers.

**Favorite part of your job?** New challenges.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** Crop duster pilot.

**Little-known fact about you:** Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and I were in the 7th grade together at a little Christian school.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th?** I would have to say the deployments...I have always enjoyed them.

**If you had superhero ability, it would be:** The ability to reverse time, stop it or fast forward it.

# Highlights from the January UTA

After 24 years of service, Master Sgt. Pamela Ratajczyk retired last month at the Tinker Club.

Ratajczyk last served as a knowledge operations manager for the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. She also worked in the 513th Maintenance Squadron's supply section.

Ratajczyk continues to serve as a civil servant with the 430th Supply Chain Management Squadron.

We wish her the best and will miss her experience around the 513th!



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