

November 2015

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



THE (SOFTBALL) WAR RAGES ON

THUMPERS, OKIES MEET
IN 99TH MATCH

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From the Top: Busy Times // Remembering MSgt Jerry Colbaugh

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming events

- Saturday – 0830-1030 – Flu Shots (MXS/AMXS, building 230)
- Saturday – 1500-1700 – Flu Shots (970th AACs, building 1056)
- Nov. 12-17 – UEI Capstone Inspection
- Oct. 1-Dec. 15 – Combined Federal Campaign (See SSgt Wanzer or LtCol Hawkins for info)
- Dec. 5 – 1800 – Christmas Party (Petroleum Club)
- Dec. 6 – TBD – Group Commander’s Call

Promotions for November

Congrats to this month’s promotees!

Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Jennings
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

Tech. Sgt. Wiley Warner
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

Chief Master Sgt. Jeremy Allen
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

Cover photo

513th Air Control Group Thumper Lt. Col. James Matthey releases the ball toward home plate Oct. 15 during a double header against the 507th Air Refueling Wing Okies at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The Thumpers retained the series trophy with two wins against the Okies, widening their all-time record to 55-44. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



Fit to Fight MVP’s

MSgt Joe Bartee
Unit: 513 OSS
Score: 97.7%



CMSgt Jeff Davis
Unit: 513 ACG
Score: 94.8%

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: 1st Lt. Lily Baker

Situps

Men: **109** **92** Men: 1st Lt. Michael Doughty
Women: **84** **63** Women: 1st Lt. Amie Inman

1-Mile Walk

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

513th standard: busy times

By Col. David "Super Dave" Robertson

It's been a busy year so far for the 513th, which for most of us is business as usual. Being the only Reserve AWACS unit in the Air Force means being in demand and stepping up when our country calls. It's a little early to write an "End of Year" article, but I do want to pause and reflect briefly on the accomplishments of 2015 and, in particular, our recent voluntary deployment to the AOR.

Hopefully, as you are reading this, most of our last deployers are back in Oklahoma. The voluntary sacrifices of our maintainers and aircrews have been noticed at the highest levels. In the monthly 10th Air Force Commander's teleconference in October, Maj. Gen. Scobee remarked that the recent 513th voluntary deployment has garnered positive visibility for 10th AF in both AFRC and ACC circles. The fact that many of you were in dwell protection and still raised your hand to deploy has been noted at the highest levels. In light of the unit's uncertain future in 2014, your willingness to deploy is even more remarkable and is a testament to your dedication to our country and the mission of the 513th.

Maj. Gen. Scobee also commented on the precedent we set with 60-day rotations to the AOR, which set an example for other 10th AF units as they deploy in the future. Here at the 513th, we're used to leading the way.

I would also like to personally thank each of you for deploying in support of Operation



Inherent Resolve; I am proud of you and am honored to serve with the finest AWACS Airmen in the Air Force.

As we finish the year with our Capstone Inspection and ongoing budget challenges, it may be easy to feel worn a little thin.

Remember to take the time to focus on yourself and your family. The holiday season is a great time of year to make up for those lost hours and days you've spent on your job and the Air Force. Resiliency is more than just a buzzword--it is part of who we are as Reserve Airmen. Take care of yourself, your family and your fellow 513th Wingmen.

Have a great Thanksgiving....see you in December!



OUR MISSION

To provide **combat-ready AWACS Citizen Airmen to Fly, Fight & Win**

OUR VISION

Experience, Expertise, Teamwork:
The 1st Choice in AWACS

Early Holiday Spirit alive and well



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

Community members, Air Force Reservists and Air National Guardsmen started their holiday season off a little early this year for a good cause, when nearly 330 people filled the Del City American Legion Post 73 on Nov. 7 for Operation Holiday Spirit's 17th annual fundraiser.

This year's charitable event raised \$31,539 to aid struggling Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

members and their families, with donations coming from local businesses as well as Guard and Reserve members and their organizations.

"While we were a little short of breaking any records this year, we're still going to be able to help a lot of deserving Airmen and their families," said Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, the 513th Air Control Group executive officer and the lead Holiday Spirit organizer. "It's really encouraging to see how many people give up their evening and their hard-

earned money to support something bigger than themselves."

Organizers sold 332 tickets this year, just short of the 2014 record of 361 tickets sold. While donations are still being collected, this year's collection total is a little more than \$3,500 short of the \$35,262 record set last year as well.

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 dinner 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 per-

son'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 at www.facebook.com/OperationHolidaySprit.

You're invited to the 513th Air Control Group's 2015

Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 5th

6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

at The Petroleum Club

Come celebrate the reason for the season with family, friends, and honored guests!

Cash bar will be available!

Each ticket holder will be entered to win a big screen TV.

Purchase your tickets early for a jolly good discount!

Enlisted:	Officer:
Purchase in October	Purchase in October
Single - \$40	Single - \$50
Couple - \$75	Couple - \$90
Purchase in November	Purchase in November
Single - \$45	Single - \$55
Couple - \$85	Couple - \$105
Purchase in December	Purchase in December
Single - \$50	Single - \$60
Couple - \$95	Couple - \$115

The Petroleum Club
100 North Broadway Suite 3400
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

IN REMEMBRANCE

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Air Force Family: Remembering MSgt Jerry Colbaugh

By SMSgt Ivan Tenbrook

It seems this is a story that has played out before and has come back to remind us again whether we are active duty, reservist, guardsman, civilian government employee or even a contractor providing support, we are bound to the USAF and service to our country.

On Oct. 14, 2015, the 513th, 507th, 552nd and all of Tinker AFB had the opportunity to say our final goodbye to MSgt Jerry D. Colbaugh. Jerry began his USAF career with the 507th FW as a traditional reservist working as an aircraft electrician on F-16s. He transferred to the 513th Maintenance Squadron in December 1997 where he worked until his retirement in March 2015. Jerry was activated in 1999 to support Operation Northern Watch, and again after Sept. 11, 2001. Jerry also volunteered to deploy with the 552nd in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After retiring from the Reserve, Jerry continued to support the USAF by working in the KC-135 depot as an aircraft electrician. This is where he gave his last full measure for the Air Force. While TDY supporting depot level repairs, Jerry passed on from this life. That was the character of MSgt Jerry Colbaugh: given a task, he would give what he had to accomplish it.

It has been a challenge, to say the least, hearing the news and working

through this with Jerry's family and co-workers.

Throughout this time I have observed the Air Force family in action. It has not been an overwhelming out pouring from one unit or agency, but several acts from all areas where Jerry had worked. I was pleased to see civilian co-workers stop by and visit the family. Active duty and reserve members con-



tacted the family and offered any assistance they could. People who have been retired for several years were quick to reach out and support his family as well. Even people who did not know Jerry from other branches of service were part of the Patriot Guard that escorted Jerry to the Fort Sill National Cemetery.

It was sunny and warm with a light breeze on that Wednesday in October. A good day if there is to be one to say a final goodbye. I have known Jerry since December 1997

and had been his military supervisor for most of that time. My wife and I stayed at that peaceful place in southwest Oklahoma after the friends and family had left. I thought of Jerry and his service throughout the years I have known him. I was not particularly ready to make the hour plus drive back, but time forced us to start back. We made a short stop in a nearby small town before we started back. That is where I met a gentleman named Paige. He was maybe a decade or more my senior who was also an Air Force retiree. As we talked he asked about my uniform and if we had attended a funeral. We said yes, for one of my former subordinates that we said goodbye to way too soon. It was interesting how the conversation turned to character and duty. Our short stop turned into a little longer one but our Air Force family grew by one more.

As the upcoming holidays approach we all need to remember our USAF families who have lost loved ones. They will be experiencing the holidays without key members of their life. I know Jerry's family would appreciate a card, letter or a call to let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers. Let us not forget.

Thank you Paige for growing my Air Force family.

Thank you all who took the time to show respect and support to Jerry's family and our Air Force family.

Farewell, Jerry. Rest well.

99 and counting

Reserve softball rivalry nears centennial match up

Story and photos
by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer

One of the oldest intramural sports rivalries at Tinker came within sight of a major milestone Oct. 15 when the two reserve softball teams, the 513th Air Control Group Thumpers and the 507th Air Refueling Wing Okies, kicked up dust and sent softballs flying for the 98th and 99th times.

The two teams officially closed out their softball seasons on Championship Field at Tinker with the Thumpers winning both games and taking the 2015 series 4-0.

The series, which began in 1997 shortly after the establishment of the 513th at Tinker, has taken on a life of its own outside of the base's softball league. The two reserve teams regularly meet for a night of double or triple headers after each season ends.

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Infrere, the newest member of the Thumper team, can tell a distinct difference between regular season games and Thursday's matchup with the Okies.

"There's just a lot more camaraderie," Infrere said. "A lot of these guys have played each other for years, and that shows in the way that the players interact. It's very competitive, but also a lot of fun."

The 99-game softball series was



Thumper Outfielder Senior Airman Patrick Ridlon reaches for the ball Oct. 15 during the 98th game against the 507th Air Refueling Wing Okies on Championship Field at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The Thumpers retained the series trophy with two wins against the Okies, widening their all-time record to 55-44.

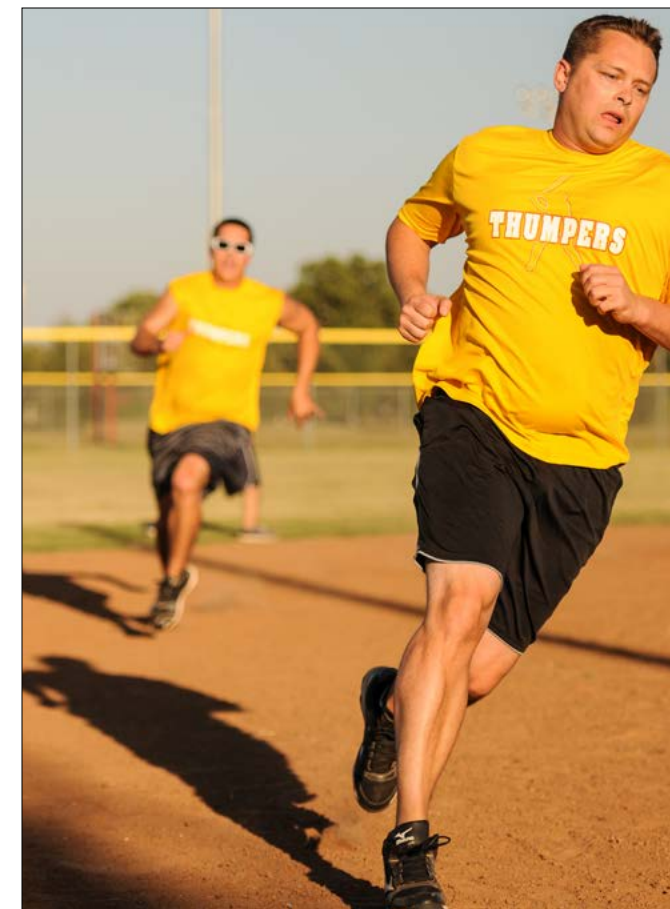
termed the Okie-Thumper war back in 2001, when the teams split the cost for a trophy called the Crystal Cup. The team that wins the season series gets to display the cup in their trophy case for a year until the next season series is decided. The cup currently resides in the 513th's possession, and has for eight consecutive years since the end of the 2008 season.

Despite domination by the 507th in the early years, the Thumpers hold an all-time 55-44 lead in the series. The teams have played as many as 11 games against each other in a season.

When the Okies face the Thumpers next summer in intramural softball, the game will mark the 100th time the two teams have played each other.



The 513th Air Control Group Thumpers and 507th Air Refueling Wing Okies pose for a group photo after playing a double header Oct. 15 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The Thumpers retained the series trophy with two wins against the Okies, widening their all-time record to 55-44.



513th Air Control Group Thumpers Capt. Shawn Kilbourne and Master Sgt. Thomas Carter race to third base on Oct. 15 during the 98th game against the 507th Air Refueling Wing Okies on Championship Field at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

513th Air Control Group Thumper Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Infrere sends the ball flying Oct. 15 during a double header against the 507th Air Refueling Wing Okies at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.





Reserve Gold quarterback Jeff Infrere looks to avoid Reserve White player James Gasaway during a Gold-White match on Oct. 27 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. White edged out Gold with a 7-3 victory in their first head-to-head match of the season.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Rogers enjoys a bath after his final flight on Oct. 2 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Rogers retired from the Air Force Reserve last UTA.

