

December 2015

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

Reserve Gold ends season short of championship

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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 – 1800 – Christmas Party
(Petroleum Club)

Sunday – 1500 – Group Commander’s Call
(Fannin Hall / 552nd OG Auditorium)

Jan. 9-10 – January UTA

Promotions for December

Congrats to this month’s promotees!

Staff Sgt. Justin Baxley
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Tech. Sgt. Michael James
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

Tech. Sgt. Michael McCray
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

Tech. Sgt. Jacob O’Connor
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

Cover photo

Intramural flag football team Reserve Gold poses for a group photo before facing off against 552nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in the league’s championship game (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



Fit to Fight MVP’s

Lt. Col. Gracie Alvarez
Unit: 970 AACCS
Score: 99.1%



Maj. Andromeda Augustino
Unit: 970 AACCS
Score: 99.1%

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** **12:04** Women: SSgt Stephanie Jacks

Pushups

Men: **110** **82** Men: SrA Robert Duncan
Women: **65** **50** 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

Congratulations on a job well done!

By Col. David "Super Dave" Robertson

Team,

The results from our November Capstone are in and we received a very positive "Effective" rating with only one significant downgrade and several minor deviations. Roughly 90% of all units that passed their Capstone this past year received a grade of "Effective". This is a result of a new evaluation mindset and a desire to get away from the old ORI/ORE "Black Hat" inspection. Indeed, the AFRC IG mentioned in their out brief their desire to change the grading scale next year to only a three-tier system: Effective, Marginal and Non-Effective.

However, I know the truly outstanding efforts and preparations all of you put in to make sure we showed the IG team the usual 513th excellence. Put that together with a crippling budget environment and the results are even more incredible. Thank you for all the hard work you performed in the weeks and days leading up to the Capstone. I appreciate each of your efforts. I also want to thank Maj Greg Hutto, Maj Adam Lang, SMSgt Mike Nesbitt, MSgt Kim Robertson and the rest of the IGI team for their hard work and preparation for the Capstone. I appreciate their leadership as we continue to navigate the new inspection system.

We also learned a few things to improve our unit before our next Capstone (which is only a short two years away). In the weeks after Christmas, Greg and his IGI team will have some new processes for us to develop and put into place to ensure we continue to



move in the right direction as a unit. Expect more words on this in 2016.

Finally, please take time this holiday season to take a breather and recharge your batteries. As I mentioned last month, I know it has been a busy, busy 2015 for the 513th family; and 2016 will bring us another busy year of exercises, trips and challenges yet unknown. Which makes it that much more important to take the time when we can to focus on what really matters—our families, friends and our fellow Reservists (our other family).

Thank you for overcoming the challenges of 2015 and excelling at our mission: Fly, Fight, Win! See you in 2016....it's going to be a great year!

513th Christmas Party

A night filled with beautiful city views and more than \$1,500 in prize giveaways, including two big-screen TVs and designer purses!

Saturday, December 5th

6 p.m. – 11 p.m.

The Petroleum Club

100 North Broadway Suite 3400
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Enlisted:

Single – \$45
Couple – \$85

Officer:

Single – \$55
Couple – \$105

Points of Contact for Ticket Sales:

970th:	ACG:	MX:
TSgt Cindy Holloway	SSgt Jenna Goodall	MSgt Matthew Stark
SSgt Stephanie Jacks		SrA Jasmine Fuller

Reserve Gold hits new high

Intramural football team's best performance in 15 years

by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Inferrere, *Reserve Gold Quarterback*

After completing a 6-1 regular season, the Reserve Gold flag football team stormed into the fall playoffs and had its most successful year ever, reaching its first base championship game. During the playoff run in which the team went 5-2, Gold defeated--for the first time ever--their arch rivals Reserve White and the 72nd Med Group, before running out of steam (and healthy players) in the title game, losing to eventual champs the 552 AMXS. The 11-3 win-loss record and 2nd place finish was the best in the team's 18 year his-

tory.

Contributing to Gold's success was Ryan Clary, Thomas Vann, Rob Doty, Jay Harris, Randy Schell, Bill Dykes, Joe Huizar, Tom Carter, Dan Gibb, Jeff Inferrere, Jim Matthey, Adrian Mack, Joe Brown, Ralph Hawkins and T.J. Milliken. Vann, Matthey and Mack were unavailable for the championship game due to injuries. The team suits up again for the spring season which begins on March 7, 2016. As a side-note, four members of the 513th play for Reserve White: Jim Gasaway, Jeremy Allen, Brian VanCuren and Patrick Ridlon.



Where'd we get that cowbell, anyway?

by Lt. Col. James Matthey
970th AACS Director of Operations

The ringing of the cowbell has come to be part of the 970th heritage and over the years rumors have surfaced to its significance. It is time to set the record straight about the birth of the cowbell and how it's been ingrained in the 970th culture. It's a "there I was" story with aircrew recollections, fact and fiction but mostly fact, as best as we can tell.

There we were . . . midway through our SECOND year of activation and multiple crew rotations to OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH, the famed Hodja Inn and the world famous patio club. Incirlik Air Base Turkey had always been a home away from home to air crews and maintainers who continued the daily grind of providing the world's best command and control in anticipation of the looming invasion of Iraq.

For those who lived it, there were days of straight out boredom surrounding a couple of "interesting" days in the AOR when we actually dropped iron. For the most part, groundhog day consisted of

alert crews, flying, dinners in the alley and a whole lot of carpet buying before the alley was closed to U.S. personnel. Our esteemed DETCO, one Lt. Col. Jerry V. Beard, and our Operations Superintendent, Maj. Mike Toney, comedians in their own right, provided quite a few memes out of necessity and sometimes just out of sheer boredom. One not so lazy afternoon, Mike T. and Jerry B. were pondering their futures, trying to keep us flying, discussing morale and ways to maintain motivation or at least ways to keep us from showing our backsides with typical aircrew shenanigans. As the story goes, Mike turns and mutters an off-the-cuff question, "you know what this place needs?" Mike and Jerry complete the phrase in true SNL character and shared the story later during one of our magnificent BBQs down on the Patio.

We had many fans of the SNL skit featuring Will Ferrell and Christopher Walken and this started a game to compile a list of all the songs we could think of with a cowbell. Meanwhile, Rich "Stitch" Deemer had his wife send out a couple of authentic cowbells from OKC. When they arrived

they made appearances during our nightly gatherings. As keeper of one of the cowbells, I was entrusted with its safety. Treating it like a running back holding a football during the Super Bowl I took it up during all our remaining missions. Our crew, plus one cowbell, completed 100 percent of our remaining sorties. And those of us who participated in ONW know all too well the difficulty of stringing together successful ONW missions. A plethora of reasons for mission aborts, weather, host nations, maintenance, etc. all conspired against the E-3 to get on station. During a later deployment in early 2003, ops, maintenance and the cowbell contributed to an amazing SIX days straight of non-stop flying with only three crews and three tails. We presented the cowbell with its own honorary AF Achievement Medal.

From then on the Cowbell has come to represent the teamwork and dedication of the men, women and family members of the 970th AACS. The ringing cowbell is to notify everyone in earshot that it's time to step back, reflect and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the 513th ACG.





WELCOME HOME, CREW 2!

The last of our aircrew members returned Nov. 13 from their deployment to Southwest Asia.

