

February 2016

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



OSS GAINS NEW LEADER

Lt. Col. Jen Cress takes the Camelot throne

INSIDE:

Commentary: A warrior ethos // 20th anniversary patches available

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 – 1400 – LtCol Trina Hood Farewell
(552 OG Auditorium)

Saturday – 1400 – SMSgt Mike Nesbitt Retirement
(Bldg 230, Dock 2)

Saturday – 1500 – CMSgt Lamond Tate Retirement
(970 AACCS Auditorium)

March 4 – 20th Anniversary Golf Tournament
& Evening Social

March 5 – 20th Anniversary Celebration
(Bldg. 230 Hangar)

Promotions for February

Congrats to this month's promotees!

SSgt Ryan Carranco
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

TSgt Jeffrey Nivitanont
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

Recruiter contact info

The 513th is always looking for great people!



Chief Master Sgt. Steven Fousek
Flight Chief
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-5331
Cell (405) 409-4784



Master Sgt. Derrick Mills
In-Service Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-3156
Cell (405) 409-5170



Master Sgt. Colin McDonald
In-Service Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-5555
Cell (405) 409-4784

Fit to Fight MVP's

Maj Matt Heckman
Unit: 970 AACCS
Score: 98.75%



SrA Patrick Ridlon
Unit: 970 AACCS
Score: 94.5%

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** **53** Women: Maj. Andromeda Augustino

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

A Warrior Ethos

By Lt. Col. James Matthey
Director of Operations, 970th AACCS

It's six weeks after New Years and statistically a third of Americans who made resolutions have already given up on them. Every year people "aspire" to do better, turn over a new leaf and ironically that's the problem, they aspire. Aspire is a passive verb – to wish, to dream. Success, on the other hand, is an active sport. The most successful individuals, teams, and organizations have figured it out. It's not all about talent, money or luck. Building a successful, enduring, organization we are proud of takes action, passion, and



Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell

and to volunteer for assignments that put you in harms way?" Think about that for a minute. Being a reservist means we accept challenges, hardships and risks not found in other occupations. Our challenges and risks are unique to military life, and because we accept these challenges and hardships, we must be unwavering in our purpose, resolute to our causes, and our beliefs. This is our warrior ethos.

No other profession requires a warrior ethos that is so vital to mission accomplishment. Our mission is about combat. Ours is a higher calling and along with this calling is a commitment to the highest standards.

pride. We can't aspire to be our best we have to inspire.

I've found inspiration comes down to three letters . . . It comes from "WHY". Not long ago I conducted a commander's call and talked about the importance of knowing your WHY. I asked, "what motivates you to get up in the morning, what drives you to spend UTAs away from your families, what inspires you to face challenges head on

Our warrior ethos embodies certain virtues—courage, honor, loyalty, integrity, and selflessness just to name a few. Our Airman's Creed exemplifies common attributes that bind us to a legacy of those who came before us who shared our values. Allow me to share with you what the Airman's Creed means to me.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN – We are part of the American Profession of Arms, the best-trained best equipped most technical fighting force in the history of the entire world. We will continue to write our names in history every single day.

I AM A WARRIOR – Our profession is about combat, sometimes non-lethal yet we reserve the right to rain down on our enemies with extreme prejudice. We specialize in combat in all domains. We endeavor to learn and become experts in our specialties. I will train like a warrior, think like a warrior so I can fight like a warrior.

I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL – A small percentage of Americans raise their hand and commit to defending our freedoms and national interests against all enemies foreign and domestic. We are the few; the proud and we stand with each other in defense of our nation, our values and our way of life.

MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FLIGHT, AND WIN – This is what we do; our nation depends on our commitment, dedication, and loyalty. My fellow airmen deserve nothing but my best.

I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE – From Billy Mitchell to Jimmy Doolittle and Lance Sijan to John Levitow we have story after story of commitment, innovation, vision and faithful service before self. Our heritage is a source of inspiration. We



Capt. DeWright (World War I – GGF)

will continue the legacy, and we will continue to improve.

A TRADITION OF HONOR – Airpower revolutionized modern warfare. It is a privilege and an honor to fly among heroes, I will work every day to uphold the honor established since the beginning of aviation and promote innovation and ideas that are superior to the status quo.

AND A LEGACY OF VALOR – Our heritage is replete with examples of great courage in the face of grave danger. We are all capable of greatness; I will work to live up to the expectations of those who came before, and I expect the same from those whom I serve with today.

GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE – Our oath compels us to defend the Constitution of the United States. We not only protect freedom and justice for the American way of life but also stand ready to be part of a larger coalition to battle evil



Lt. JG Matthey Jr. (Vietnam)

ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER – From the deep underground missile silos to the frozen flight lines, and



Pvt. JG Matthey Sr. (World War II)

across the globe. We fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD – In ancient Sparta, the shield was the most important weapon in their arsenal, they would carry their shield for the protection not of the individual soldier but for the defense of the entire line. I am responsible for my part

forward operating bases in the desert, I am prepared, ready when my nation calls.

I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE – We are lucky to be living in the greatest country in the world and if I am to die for it then I can only hope I take with me as many of our enemies as possible before I go.

WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR – I pledge to stand side by side with my brothers and sisters in arms; to teach and pass down our warrior ethos to the next generation. We will develop a culture based on pride, trust, loyalty, and excellence. I will take responsibility for the success of the team and hold teammates accountable to advance the mission.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND – We are a team, whether deployed or at home; I'm dedicated and can be counted on.

I WILL NEVER FALTER – My commitment and loyalty remains steadfast and unwavering. My strength comes from those who've served and who I serve with today.

AND I WILL NOT FAIL – My determination for success is derived from my WHY and is my shield against failure.



Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James





Airman 1st Class Michael Zeine

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Aircraft Metals Technology

Hometown: Cleveland, Texas

Favorite team: Houston Texans

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A welder.

Favorite part of your job: Machining.

Little-known fact about you: I like puzzles.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th? I haven't been here long enough to make one yet.

If you had superhero ability, it would be:

The ability to clone myself so I could fish and hunt while still being at work.

Watched any good TV shows or movies recently?

Yes, Kung Fu Panda 3.



Senior Airman Logan Chappell

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Commander's Support Staff

Hometown: Stafford, Virginia/Killeen, Texas

Favorite team: Mariusz Pudzianowski. He's a team all by himself.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

It changed constantly; most often it was a cross between Indiana Jones and an astronaut or a fighter pilot. I knew I was colorblind and wasn't Harrison Ford, but I didn't let that get me down.

Favorite part of your job: Talking with Angel Cervantes every day.

Little-known fact about you: It usually surprises people that I'm a father; I have a 1-year old little girl named Luna.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th? I've been here less than a year, so I'm still working on memories. But there are some things I'm very excited for in the near future.

If you had superhero ability, it would be: I want all the abilities of The Incredible Hulk.

Watched any good TV shows or movies recently? Naruto. It's an anime series.

NOW AVAILABLE



Cost – \$6

Authorized for wear on flight suits from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016.

Get yours before they're gone!

970th AACs:
SrA Corey Stephens
SMSgt Joe Baldwin

513th ACG/OSS:
SSgt Caleb Wanzer
MSgt Dan Gibb

513th MXS/AMXS:
TSgt Christina Luna

Blended retirement details released

Saving with the New Blended Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, our service members can get **automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions** as well as mid-career **compensation incentives** in addition to monthly **annuities for life**. All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system.

Today's Retirement System:



Annuity

$2.5\% \times \text{Years Served} \times \text{Retired Pay Base}$
after completing 20 years of service

1 Automatic and Matching Contributions
Automatic contributions are seen immediately



You Contribute	DoD Auto Contribution	DoD Matches	Total
0%	1%	0%	1%
1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
3%	1%	3%	7%
4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%

The DoD automatically contributes **1%** of your basic pay to your **Thrift Savings Plan** after **60 days of service**.

You'll see matching contributions at the start of 3 through the completion of 26 years of service, and...

You're fully vested—it's yours to keep—as of the beginning of 3 years of service and goes with you when you leave.

2 Continuation Pay
Received at the mid-career point



You may receive a **cash payment** in exchange for additional service.

3 Full Retired Pay Annuity
Received after completing 20 years of service



Calculate your **retired pay base** by **averaging the highest 36 months of basic pay**. You'll gain this monthly annuity for life after completing 20 years of service.

Options for Collecting Your Retired Pay

Active Component **Reserve Component**

Full retired pay annuity Full retired pay annuity beginning at age 60*



Lump sum with reduced retired pay
50% or 25% of monthly retired pay annuity bumps back up to 100% at full retirement age (67 in most cases).

*Could be earlier based on credited active service



Effective Date of the New System

Your Retirement System
If you joined the service...

▶ **After December 31, 2017**
You'll be automatically enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.

▶ **After December 31, 2005 but before January 1, 2018**
You'll have the choice to enroll in the Blended Retirement System or remain in today's current retirement system.

▶ **Before January 1, 2006**
You'll be grandfathered and remain in today's current retirement system.

Additional information coming soon.

Sources: Sections 631, 632, 633, 634, and 635 of the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Created: 12/2015

February safety update from the 970th

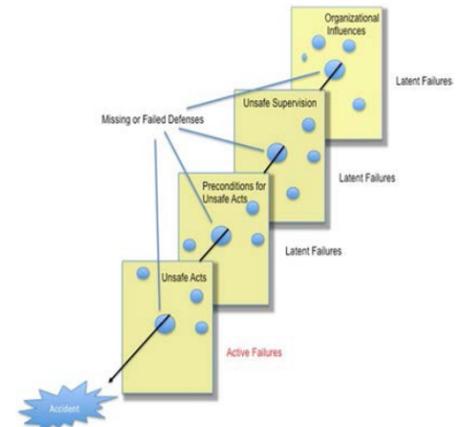
Electrical Safety at Home: Cords and Plugs "According to the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org), electrical cords and plugs are responsible for the most civilian deaths related to electrical accidents each year.

Yet these are among the easiest hazards to avoid: Never use a cord or plug with evidence of burning, melting or any other visible damage. If the insulation is damaged or missing, or the cord has come loose from the plug, replace the whole thing; never use a cord repaired with electrical tape. Extension cords (including power strips and surge protectors) are the biggest offenders in the cord category. Don't use extension cords for permanent hookups, conceal them in any way (especially under carpeting) or expose them to water or possible damage. Always use the right cord for the job, such as 3-prong grounded cords for all appliances and tools that require grounding. Also make sure the cord's capacity well exceeds the demand of what's plugged into it; heavier-gauge cords can handle more current than lighter-gauge cords. Avoid using 3-prong adapters to plug grounded cords into 2-prong outlets. Replace old cords when cracked or frayed. Disconnect the cord by pulling the plug, not the cord, when disconnecting from the socket. Electrical

appliances are notorious for home electrocutions. NEVER attempt to fix devices yourself."

-Mr. Richard Burns, Occupational Safety Programs

970th Squadron Safety Staff:
FSO-Maj Jeff Lown
ADF SO- Capt Brad Keen
USR-MSgt Michael Odparlik
USR- SrA Justin Baxley



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
All who are practically concerned with aerial navigation agree that the safety of the operator is more important to successful experimentation than any other point. The history of past investigation demonstrates that greater prudence is needed rather than greater skill. Only a madman would propose taking greater risks than the great constructors of earlier times.

- Wilbur Wright, 1901

"-Accidents involving complex systems are often the result of the confluence of multiple contributing factors.

-Contributing factors can occur in a wide range of domains from unsafe acts — such as a pilot approaching a runway at an improper altitude — to organizational errors — such as a culture of fiscal austerity that does not prioritize training activities.

-As opposed to the active errors that occur at the time of an incident many contributing factors are in fact latent errors. These latent errors lie dormant, waiting for an active error to turn them into a trigger for an incident.

-Human beings, lacking unlimited concentration, focus and memory, will always be prone to operational errors. Properly designed systems account for this limitation, expect a level of human error, and ultimately keep these errors from resulting in an actual incident." (Article from Invisible Laws)

Long-time Thumper Lt. Col. Lloyd Palmer, most recently the 513th OSS' Current Operations Chief, collected his last UTA check in January. Here he is pictured receiving his own mug as a going away gift from the generous pilot section. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe visited the AWACS world Jan. 15, where he met with recently deployed Airmen and Col. David Robertson, among other leaders. Inhofe, a private pilot, flew his own single-engine aircraft to Tinker for the visit. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)