

June 2016

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



## 513TH BREAKS GROUND ON NEW FACILITY

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# RABBIT TALES

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

## 513TH UPDATE

### Upcoming events

Saturday – 1430 – Cow Bell  
(Maintenance Hangars, Bldg. 230)

Sunday – 1000 – Green Dog Bystander/Early Adopter Training  
(970th AACS Auditorium)

July 9-10 – Unit Training Assembly

July 17-Aug. 2 – Rim of the Pacific Exercise  
(Hickam AFB, Hawaii)

### Gen Lori Robinson takes NORTHCOM command



Air Force Gen. Lori J. Robinson delivers remarks after assuming command of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command during a change-of-command ceremony at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., May 13, 2016. (DoD photo by Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz.)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — There is no more important duty than protecting the homeland, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in Colorado on May 13, and he thanked the men and women of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command for their efforts.

Carter presided as Air Force Gen. Lori J. Robinson took command of Northcom and NORAD from Navy Adm. Bill Gortney.

“The American people and your families, our families, can sleep soundly knowing that you and your colleagues across our government are awake to defend and protect them,” Carter said. ([Click here for full story.](#))

### Promotions for June

Congrats to this month’s promotees!

**SrA Mercedes Richie**  
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

**SrA Michael Zeine**  
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

**SMSgt Sean Kracke**  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

**SMSgt Michael Odparlik**  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

### Fit to Fight hall of fame



Team Tinker



513th ACG

#### 1.5-Mile Run

Men: **7:51** **8:33** Men: Cpt. Bradley Bentlage  
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



# Legacy, change and a new CSAF

By Lt. Col. Robert Thompson

*Deputy Commander for Maintenance, 513th ACG*

On 26 April 2016, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced that the President of the United States nominated General David L. Goldfein to be our 21st Chief of Staff. If confirmed by the United States Senate, General David “Fingers” Goldfein will replace General Mark Welsh. General Welsh is a tough act to follow, as he was a genuine leader who truly seemed to be interested and focused on our Airmen while recognizing the value and emphasizing the importance of the total force. I had the honor of serving with General Goldfein in the 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, when he served as the Operations Group Commander. I truly believe our Air Force is in good hands, but do not simply take my word for it. I encourage you to read the book that General Goldfein wrote for commanders, “Sharing Success, Owning Failure.” It provides insight as to what our future Chief of Staff deems important in leading Air Force squadrons.

I find it interesting, yet insightful that to open Chapter One of his book, General Goldfein quotes another outstanding Air Force leader, General W.L. Creech, who said “excellent leaders stand for absolute integrity, absolute honesty. They preach the concept of honesty in the organization. Excellent leaders practice integrity in thought, word, and deed. And, they insist upon integrity and honesty on the part of the subordinates.” I value the guidance of General Creech as it was simple and direct. Operating in today’s reserve component requires the absolute best of each of our Airmen. We have too many requirements...mission execution, training, and mobility preparedness with too little time to execute. We have no time for fluff, nor do we have time to repeat our actions. We must expect honesty and integrity of all our Airmen, all the time. Even when the news is bad, prompt delivery of the news will help us to overcome the adversity that ensues.

In General Goldfein’s final chapter he speaks to Commanders about great ideas. Specifically he talks about being responsible to have fun, utilizing intelligence, exercising compassion, and bringing energy to the unit. As I reflect on Memorial Day and honor those who gave ultimate sacrifice



to our nation, I think about the 20 years of the 513th Air Control Group. This year we celebrate a milestone, but we must focus on the future. Resting on what “got us here” is not going to develop our legacy for next 20 years. This is a dynamic organization, made up of Airmen with incredible experiences from a variety of disciplines. We must challenge ourselves to open the playbook, listen to the good ideas of all Airmen, and implement those good ideas to the betterment of the organization. Let us not be afraid of challenges to the status quo; instead, let us encourage it. By doing so we will strengthen the 513th Air Control Group and we will do so by emphasizing, not sacrificing our mission; we will do so by caring for Airmen. Let us look to the future with anticipation and excitement, building upon our successes yet never settling. As we welcome a new Chief of Staff, I encourage you to read about our leaders, their histories, and be motivated by their commitments to our cause.

# Gen Goldfein nominated as 21st CSAF

By Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson

*Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced April 26 that the president has nominated Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein to be the 21st chief of staff of the Air Force, succeeding Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, who has served in the position since 2012.

“I’m extremely humbled by the nomination to serve as the Air Force’s 21st chief of staff. If confirmed, I pledge to serve our Airmen and their families unwaveringly and honor our remarkable heritage and legacy of integrity, service and excellence,” Goldfein said. “I also look forward to joining my fellow service chiefs as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Mark and Betty Welsh continue to be exceptional stewards of our service, and Dawn and I are honored to follow in their footsteps.”

Goldfein entered the Air Force in June 1983 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has been assigned to numerous operational, command and staff positions. He currently serves as the vice chief of staff.

“I am pleased to support the nomination of General David Goldfein as our next chief of staff,” said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. “General Goldfein possesses the experience and vision needed to address dynamic global challenges and increasing military demand. He knows how to build and sustain key partnerships, has important warfighting experience, and will exercise the critical judgement re-



*Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein thanks Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James during the Defense Department’s announcement of his nomination as the Air Force’s 21st chief of staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., April 29, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)*

quired to balance our manpower and resources as we shape tomorrow’s Air Force. There is not a better person to lead our Airmen into the next century of airpower dominance.”

Prior to his current position, Goldfein was the director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., where he assisted the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in fulfilling his responsibilities as the principal military adviser to the president and secretary of defense.

“Dave Goldfein is an Airman who epitomizes warrior leadership, and that’s exactly what our Air Force deserves,” Welsh said. “He connects deeply with Airmen, he supports their families relentlessly, and he absolutely recognizes the criticality of our service’s mission. Most importantly, he and Dawn understand the remarkable privilege they’ve been afforded in serving the nation.”

Carter also spoke at a ceremony April 29 at the Pentagon, in which he congratulated Goldfein on his selection.

From his experience at the highest Air Force levels and the joint force, Goldfein “understands deeply the evolving nature of warfare and the threats we face,” the secretary said.

Goldfein, he added, has “developed a keen appreciation for the strategic horizon ... and the need to develop resilient cyber and space capabilities, which will allow the United States to continue to dominate across all domains.”

If confirmed by the Senate as the next Air Force chief of staff, Goldfein’s “extensive political-military experience will be to our great benefit as we continue to accelerate our efforts against ISIL, and work with coalition nations to deal them a lasting defeat,” Carter said.



## Reserve Gold, White take 1st, 3rd in 10th Spring Flag Football League



*Reserve Gold season record: 8–2.  
513th members include: Ryan Clary and Jeff Infrere. Not pictured – Brian VanCuren and Patrick Ridlon.*



*Reserve White season record: 7–4.  
513th members include: Jim Gasaway, Dan Gibb, Ralph Hawkins, T.J. Milliken, Joe Huizar, Jay Harris, Joe Brown, Jeremy Allen, Rob Doty and Randy Schell.*

## Intramural teams keep competition alive past season finish



*From left to right: (Gold) Adam Hawkins, Mike Rosenthal, Aaron Jones, Jacob Bacon, Jeff Infrere, Pat Ridlon.  
(White) Dan Gibb, Jim Gasaway, Ralph Hawkins, Randy Schell, Joe Brown, Lloyd Palmer.*

**By 2nd Lt. Caleb Wanzer**  
*513th Air Control Group Public Affairs*

The two Air Force Reserve flag football teams finished out their 10th season on May 31 with a few modifications to the traditional league rules.

Reserve White challenged spring champion Reserve Gold on the sand volleyball courts at the 38th Civil Engineer Installation Group just east of Tinker Air Force Base. Despite the threat of spring thunderstorms and the occasional shower, both teams declared the evening a success.

“Even on a rainy night, we were able to get 20 people out to play volleyball and re-live the highlights

of our flag football season,” said Gold team captain Jeffrey “Red” Infrere. “Between volleyball and pizza, we had a pretty good time.”

No scores were kept, but rumors have it that White exacted the revenge they sought from their losses to Gold during spring football matchups.

According to intramural sports coordinator Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, much of the success of the Reserve intramural athletics comes from remaining active year-round and building camaraderie through all the different leagues.

“The key to success in our intramural program is including as many people as possible and making it fun for everyone,” he said.

“That’s the way we get people to keep coming back, season after season.”

The combined 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group sports program includes spring and fall flag football, softball, basketball, bowling and volleyball.

This was the first year the Reservists entered a team in the base intramural basketball league, and they plan to enter a team into the base intramural soccer league this season—also for the first time.

The Reserve intramural sports program has won several base championships in spring and fall football, softball and bowling.



# 513th ACG flies first E-3G Block 40/45 in South Korean exercise

By 2nd Lt. Caleb Wanzer  
513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

Reservists from the 513th Air Control Group returned to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, April 30 after providing airborne command and control to exercise Max Thunder 16 with the latest model of the E-3 Sentry, the E-3G.

Max Thunder, the largest military flying exercise over the Korean Peninsula, marks the first time the E-3G Block 40/45 flew in a Pacific Air Forces exercise. The annual exercise involved nearly 2,000 U.S. and South Korean military personnel and included F-16 Fighting Falcons, F-18 Hornets, EA-18G Growlers and the latest Airborne Warning and Control System modification, the E-3G Sentry.

"This was a historic moment for the 513th ACG," said Lt. Col. David Cavazos, the detachment commander for 513th personnel supporting Max Thunder. "It's the first time in history that the new E-3G has been truly integrated with our international partners in the Pacific theatre of operations, and we were honored to be a part of it."

Airmen from the 513th deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan, for the exercise and worked closely with the 961st Airborne Air Control

Squadron, also based at Kadena, to ensure effective AWACS support and learn how to best employ the latest in airborne command and control technology.

"We found that we were able to operate effectively with our South Korean and Japanese allies and came away from the experience with a variety of recommendations on how we can achieve greater levels of efficiency with both Republic of Korea assets and our own aircraft," Cavazos said. "What we achieved here in the employment of the new E-3G Sentry was groundbreaking."

The 513th flew nine missions during the two-week assignment, accounting for the majority of AWACS capability in the exercise. Airmen from the 961st AACS provided the rest of airborne command and control support with E-3B/C aircraft.

"The support we received from the 18th Wing, the 18th Operations Group and the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron was absolutely the best I've ever seen," Cavazos said. "From the operational mission support, to the maintenance employment, to the



transportation and services support, the base ensured that we had everything we needed. Whatever we required, all we had to do was ask and the 18th Wing and 961st ensured that we had it immediately."

The 513th also is slated to fly the E-3G Sentry during this year's

Rim of the Pacific 2016 exercise. RIMPAC is a U.S. Pacific Command-hosted multinational maritime exercise designed to foster and sustain international cooperation on the security of the world's oceans. (Editor's note: Maj. Brian Hard contributed to this report.)



Top left: 1st Lt. Nathaniel Metcalf, from the 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron, talks with Maj. Andrew Popoola, a Reservist from the 970th AACS, on April 27 during a sortie in support of Max Thunder 16. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly Higgins)

Bottom left: An E-3G Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft flown by Reservists from the 513th Air Control Group prepares to land at Kadena Air Base, Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. John Tilley)

Right: 1st Lt. Lily Baker and Maj. Wesley Tibbs, air battle managers assigned to the 970th AACS, operate an E-3G Sentry for the first time during an exercise in the Pacific Air Forces area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly Higgins)



# Reserve AWACS unit breaks ground on new facility

**By Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason**  
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Officials from the 513th Air Control Group, Tinker Air Force Base, Air Force Reserve, Fortis Networks, Inc. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gathered to break ground on the new operations facility April 14 during a ceremony in the field east of the 72nd Air Base Wing Headquarters, Bldg. 460.

The groundbreaking date coincided with the 68th birthday of the Air Force Reserve. The Air Force Reserve was created as a separate component on April 14, 1948, when the Army Air Corps Reserve was transferred to the Air Force.

At the ceremony, Airmen from the 513th ACG discussed the importance of the facility's role in future Air Force Reserve command and control operations.

"It is meaningful to go from being eliminated two short years ago, to being written back into the budget and getting a new building as well," said Col. David Robertson, commander of the 513th ACG. "It emphasizes the importance and the legacy that the 513th has when it comes to supporting the command and control mission for our country."

The 32,000 sq. ft. facility will allow the currently physically separated units to have a consolidated Air Control Group Headquarters,



*Officials from the organizations involved with the building gathered to break ground on the new operations facility April 14 during a ceremony in the field east of Bldg. 460. The 32,000 sq. ft. facility will allow the currently physically separated units to have a consolidated Air Control Group Headquarters. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)*

Operations Support Flight and Airborne Air Control Squadron facility. The building is scheduled to be completed by January 2018.

Project Manager, Joe Wade, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, said he initiated the military construction project back in 2010 once the need was determined for a larger and more up-to-date facility.

"It's a big project," said Wade. "We planted the seed for this new facility six years ago. It was deemed a priority and has steadily gained traction. Now, here we are at the groundbreaking stage."

According to 513th ACG Executive officer, Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, combining the units within the 513th under one roof to get them closer to their associated active duty unit, the 552nd Air Control Wing, is a step in the right direction.

The 513th ACG is an associate Reserve unit, which augments the 552nd with crews and maintenance

personnel for the E-3 Sentry, Airborne Warning and Control System, also known as AWACS.

The 513th Air Control Group was activated in 1996 to provide theater and Air Force commanders with trained aircrews and maintenance personnel and systems for airborne surveillance, warning and control of U.S. and allied military aviation assets.

The Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to manage the construction through their military construction program, which provides engineering design and construction for a wide range of facilities for military customers in Oklahoma and northern portions of Texas, according to their website.

Hawkins said the new construction is a good omen for the future of the unit.

"The new operations building is a sign that the 513th will be around for the long term," said Hawkins.