

March 2017

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

50 years later:  
18th CMSAF  
takes the  
reigns

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**INSIDE:**

New MX commanders announced // In the spotlight returns

# 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

Sunday – 0800 – All Ops Call  
(970th AACS Auditorium)

Sunday – 1300 – 513th MXS Change of Command  
(Bldg. 230)

Sunday – 1500 – ACG Commander's Call  
(Fannin Hall)

April 1-2 – Unit Training Assembly

### MX leadership changes

Team,

As many of you know, both Maj Justin Franklin and Lt Col Gia Wilson-Mackey will be leaving us this Spring to take leadership positions at McConnell AFB and Minneapolis ARS, respectively. Both Justin and Gia have done an outstanding job leading their maintenance squadrons over the past few years and they will both be missed by our 513th family.

It is also my pleasure to announce the new commanders of the 513 MXS and AMXS.

Maj Shauna Taylor will be taking the reins at the 513th MXS. She currently serves as the Maintenance Ops Officer in the 513th AMXS. Shauna has been a solid performer in her current capacity and brings with her a diverse maintenance background, a profound knowledge of flight line operations and corporate knowledge of AF supply chain management.

Lt Col Mark Vardaro will be the new 513th AMXS commander. Mark, a former 513 MX officer, comes back to us from the 507th MXG where he serves as the Director of Maintenance Operations. He brings with him a diverse aircraft maintenance background on a multitude of platforms in addition to extensive experience as an inspector general and continuous process improvement consultant.

We will be doing changes of command over the next couple of months....details to follow. Please join me in congratulating both Gia and Justin on a job well done and also welcoming Shauna and Mark to their new command positions.

Col. David "Super Dave" Robertson

### Promotions

Congrats to our March promotees!



**SrA Kobe Kiesel**  
(513th Operations Support Squadron)



**TSgt Marcus Robello**  
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

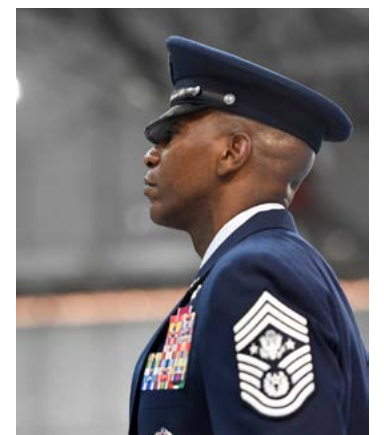
**TSgt Reginald Curry**  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)



**SMSgt Emmit Waskom**  
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

### Cover Photo

*Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright faces the audience during his appointment ceremony on Joint Base Andrews, Md., Feb. 17, 2017. Wright succeeds Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody, who retires after 32 years of service, and he is the 18th Airman to hold this position. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)*





**Tech. Sgt. Edward Miller // 513th Maintenance Squadron**

**Does your job ever feel demanding?**

There are days when the flight-line can be demanding, but the knowledge that I've gotten through and excelled in tough situations in the past, whether CONUS or OCONUS, gives me the confidence to push through days when the work is tough. I also have a fantastic support group at the shop. My wingmen are always willing to lend a hand.

**Why were you attracted to being a maintainer?**

I wanted a very hands-on career, and I definitely got one. Maintaining is rarely glamorous, but I enjoy knowing that maintenance work is essential to accomplishing the mission. Nothing gets done if equipment is broken. Having some skills to transfer over to civilian life was also very appealing to me. There are skills that I've learned as a maintainer that will be useful to me throughout the rest of my life.

**What do you think is the best part of your job?**

The best part of my job is getting to work with my wingmen in the shop. I've been fortunate enough to spend my entire career working with people from all types of different backgrounds, with all manner of experiences. It has helped to enrich me as a human being. Not being able to do this job anymore would be difficult for me. I joined this unit almost right out of high school, so I literally grew up with this unit. The 513th is a second family to me.

**What is your job and how would the mission suffer if it weren't getting done?**

My job is to perform maintenance on aerospace ground equipment, which encompasses a wide range of equipment. I also deliver that equipment to the flight line when needed. Everything from diesel generators, air conditioning units, and liquid cooling systems, I know them and make sure they stay working. Maintenance doesn't get done on aircraft if there's no AGE.



**Airman 1st Class Ashley Autaubo // 513th Maintenance Squadron**

**Does your job ever feel demanding?**

It doesn't feel like too much work, but it is a big responsibility and can be a bit intimidating being responsible for such an important piece of equipment. So much hinges on getting/keeping these planes in the air, and I'm very proud to be a part of that.

**Why were you attracted to being a maintainer?**

I've always worked well with tools and breaking things apart to figure out how they go back together. Growing up, I was always right alongside my father helping him with whatever project he happened to be working on whether it was working on a vehicle or building something. In high school I was in shop class for three years, it was the only extracurricular course that really stuck with me because I enjoyed it so much. It's so rewarding when you start a task and finish it all the way through.

**What do you think is the best part of your job?**

The best part of my job, I would have to say, is how tightly-knit you become with the other airmen working with you. We all have to be able to communicate really well and work well together, so it makes you part of a functioning family. I love that feeling. Personally, it's very rewarding for me to see the look on my daughters' faces when I tell them I fix airplanes. If I couldn't do this anymore, I would be disappointed, but I'm the type of person who can accomplish anything I put my mind to. I know God would just have something else He wanted me to do if it wasn't this anymore, and whatever that may be, I'll answer.

**What is your job and how would the mission suffer if it weren't getting done?**

I'm a fuel systems operator. That means I repair any fuel related problems and aircraft would have. If an aircraft has a problem with any fuel system, it's a big problem because we all know aircraft need fuel to fly.

# CMSAF: Airmen say goodbye to Cody, welcome Wright

**By Staff Sgt. Hailey Haux**

*Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs*

**WASHINGTON (AFNS) --** An American flag, the symbol of freedom, served as the backdrop in a vast aircraft hangar. The bleachers were filled to the brim with Airmen, families and well-wishers from all around the Air Force who came to bid farewell to the 17th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody and welcome the 18th CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright during a transition and retirement ceremony Feb. 17, 2017 at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

The position of CMSAF has been in effect for 50 years now; a position that shapes how Airmen grow...a position of honor.

“Chief Cody not only upheld the standards demanded of the position, he did it with grace, adopting the entire Total Force as members of his family,” said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein. “He epitomized the ‘servant leader,’ choosing to lead his Airmen personally, face-to-face, shoulder-to-shoulder.”

Goldfein listed a number of accomplishments by Cody during his tenure as the highest enlisted Airman saying he is passionate about ensuring Airmen are prepared for

the fight and that he excelled in his duties in the care of Airmen.

“What we are going to miss about our Air Force is you. We’re going to miss the Airmen, we’re going to miss their families,” said Cody, addressing the crowd. “We have served our entire adult lives together, we have grown up with you, (and) we have been through all of it with you.”

Cody said the legacy of the 17th CMSAF isn’t about him, it’s about all the men and women all around the world, along with their families, doing what they do every day for the nation.

During a formal reading of orders, Cody, after 32 years of service to our country, was officially retired, effective April 1, 2017.

The attention shifted to Wright as he stood on the stage.

His service jacket, with chief stripes and a command chief star in the center was exchanged for the CMSAF stripes which stand out as a highly distinguished symbol, representing all Airmen.

The exchange of the coat and service cap symbolizes the weight and consequence of assuming the responsibilities of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force position.

“Chief Wright held a variety of senior enlisted positions...each time, providing his signature wis-



*Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright thanks Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody during their retirement and appointment ceremony on Joint Base Andrews, Md., Feb. 17, 2017. Cody retires after 32 years of service and is succeeded by Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, the 18th Airman to hold this position. (U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya)*

dom and a steady calm for a host of Air Force leaders,” Goldfein said. “The mantle of leadership of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force will test you and will tire you...but when it’s all said and done, and our Airmen have you to thank for supporting what matters most. You will look back and know it was worth

every moment and effort.”

Wright is no stranger to guiding Airmen, serving in leadership positions throughout the Air Force, he is able to bring his experience to the new position.

“Chief Wright has been leading our enlisted force and advising commanders at every echelon, from

squadron to major commands,” said acting Secretary of the Air Force Lisa Disbrow. “He has been the voice of Airmen at home and down range. Chief Wright is competent, poised, and intensely motivated and tremendously humble.”

Standing before the crowd as the new Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Wright was overcome with joy, saying if he wasn’t so tough he may have shed a tiny, baby tear.

Expressing some of the areas he wishes to focus on during his time as CMSAF, Wright mentioned that training, leadership and resilience are at the center of the enlisted force.

“Our Airmen need to be well trained, they need to be well led and they need to be resilient,” Wright said. “We will have a deliberate focus on training to make sure they are ready to fight. We will have a focus on effective talent management to ensure that they are ready to lead and we will have a deliberate focus on total Airmen and family wellness to make sure that they are ready for life. These focus areas will ensure that we are there in every mission, in every domain, in every location. Ready Airmen are essential to our success.”

Wright accepted he has big shoes to fill, but said he is ready to lead today’s Airmen into tomorrow’s Air Force.

# Appearance standards change

By Airman 1st Class Kathryn Reaves  
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

## SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.

-- Air Force dress and appearance standards were updated Feb. 9. Updates included changed language and new authorizations per a memorandum attachment published by Lt. Gen. Gina M. Grosso, Headquarters U.S. Air Force manpower, personnel and services deputy chief of staff.

New authorizations pertain to, but are not limited to, mess dress uniforms, female semi-formal uniform, Airman battle uniforms, physical training gear, backpacks and gym bags.

"Airmen should remain situationally aware of these types of changes," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher McKinney, 20th Fighter Wing command chief. "The Air Force is constantly evolving to keep up with the changing world; whether it's AFIs or being prepared for the next fight. By keeping up with dress and appearance standards, Airmen take ownership and show their pride in the uniform they wear."

Examples of uniform changes include authorization for female Airmen to wear semi-formal slacks and low-quarter shoes with the semi-formal uniform; removal of color restrictions for form fitting undershirts and sportswear (spandex) with physical training gear; and removal of pleat and cuff requirements on informal uniform trousers.



*Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, was updated to include new uniform authorizations, such as the use of gym bag shoulder straps, Feb. 9, 2017. (U.S. Air Force illustration by Airman 1st Class Kathryn R.C. Reaves)*

Airmen in uniform may now use gym bags that are solid dark blue, black, olive drab, Air Force sage green or ABU pattern. Individuals may carry the bag in the left hand or use the shoulder strap on the left shoulder.

Airmen carrying backpacks are now authorized to use solid black, olive drab, Air Force sage green or ABU

pattern backpacks with any uniform combination.

However, installation commanders are authorized to restrict wear policies to support unit cohesion and present a standardized appearance. For more information, refer to AFI 36-2903, available at [www.static.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.static.e-publishing.af.mil).

# AFRC/CC's commitment to safety



I am committed to mishap prevention as we carry out our daily mission to provide combat-ready Airmen to fly, fight, and win. A strong safety culture is a key factor in effective mishap prevention.

Safety culture empowers our Airmen. AFI 91-202 describes our safety culture as an Informed Culture -- comprised of a Just Culture, Reporting Culture, Learning Culture, and Flexible Culture. In an Informed Culture Airmen are empowered and expected to identify and report errors and hazards and to recommend changes to reduce risk. Supervisors and leaders encourage reporting and are receptive to recommendations, recognizing

that errors are an inherently human occurrence. Just Culture recognizes the delicate balance between safety and accountability. While commanders and supervisors are expected to enforce standards, they must differentiate human error, or mistakes, from acts of willful neglect or disobedience.

Our safety culture forms the foundation for all of our proactive safety efforts. Examples of these include Aviation/Airman Safety Action Program (ASAP), Military Flight Operations Quality Assurance (MFOQA), and Line Operations Safety Audits (LOSA). These programs flourish where organizations foster an atmosphere of mu-

tual trust. In these highly effective organizations, Airmen exercise the courage to report safety-related information with the knowledge that leadership respects the difference between acceptable mistakes and unacceptable behavior.

I strongly support our safety culture. I expect commanders and supervisors at all levels to understand the importance of this culture and the impact that it has on the success of our proactive safety and mishap prevention efforts.

Signed,  
MARYANNE MILLER  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander