

October 2017

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



## 513th spouses get up close and personal with AWACS

(Page 6)

**INSIDE:**

Milestone changes coming to TRICARE // From the top: Remember V-I-P!

# RABBIT TALES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

513th Update	3
From the top: Remember V-I-P!	4
Goldfein delivers Air Force update	5
513th spouses get glimpse at AWACS mission	6
Milestone changes coming to TRICARE	8



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.

## Upcoming Events

Saturday – 1100 – Green Dot Training  
(970th AACS Auditorium)

Saturday – 1315 – Blended Retirement System Brief  
(970th AACS Auditorium)

Saturday – 1530 – Ops Call (Flyers only)  
(970th AACS Auditorium)

Sunday – 1300 – Blended Retirement System Brief  
(970th AACS Auditorium)

TBD – 513th ACG Change of Command  
(970th AACS Auditorium | TENTATIVE)

## Cover Photo

*Capt. Brian Murray, a maintenance operations officer assigned to the 513th Maintenance Squadron, and his wife, Michelle, pause for a photo on Sept. 9 in front of an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.*



## Promotions

Congrats to our October promotees!



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



**TSgt Brittany Webb**  
(513th Operations Support Squadron)

**TSgt Lacie Brown**  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)



**MSgt Brian Green**  
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

**MSgt Aaron Hoskins**  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

## Fit to Fight MVPs

**MSgt Lloyd Braden**  
Unit: 513 AMXS  
Score: 99.4%



**SrA Angel Lopez**  
Unit: 513 AMXS  
Score: 98.9%

## Remember V-I-P!

By Lt Col Lance Winner  
Deputy Commander for Maintenance,  
513th Air Control Group

Have you ever thought about what it means to be a good leader? Can you describe the characteristics of one? What does good leadership look like? Can you point it out? Can you identify a good leader by rank or title, or do you even need a title to be a good leader? If you ever aspired to be a great leader, these are questions you might ask. Before you can answer these questions, you must first define leadership.

AFDD1-1 defines leadership as the art and science of influencing people, which is a very simple definition for a complex topic. That definition supports the premise leadership is not restricted to a title or the exercise of command. Anybody can be a leader; all they would need is to influence others. So that begs another question: are you a leader? Or more importantly, are you performing as a leader? Are you positively influencing your subordinates and peers? True leadership comes from the positive influence and inspiration one exudes, not by the title they are afforded. So what characteristics can help you positively influence others and hone your leadership skills? Remember VIP!

Vision – Set the vision and help others understand it. Leaders set the vision for the organization and spend an extraordinary amount of time pursuing and communicating that vision. Have you ever been a part of an organization that had no vision? Was it difficult to prioritize tasks or even set a daily “to do” list? People must know the direction their leaders intend to drive the organization. It helps craft their daily activities. If someone is confused on what to do next they only need to reflect back to their leadership’s ultimate vision which will guide their actions. Vision is the energy behind every action and the driving force behind developing solutions to complex problems. According to John Maxwell, a well-known author on leadership, “Vision is the indispensable quality of a leader.” Without vision, energy is low, deadlines are missed, personal agendas drive decisions and units deteriorate. Great leaders have vision and are adept in communicating that vision to the organization.

Integrity – Integrity is the most sought after personal

trait in industry. Leaders with integrity garner trust from their subordinates, peers and leaders. Great leaders inspire trust by setting high standards for their team and themselves, and by being sincere and consistent. First and most importantly leaders set high standards for integrity. Have you heard the phrase “Leading by example”? If leaders display high levels of integrity, subordinates and colleagues will notice and act accordingly. AFDD 1-1 accurately states integrity is the single most important part of character. It shouldn’t come as any surprise considering “Integrity First” is one of the Air Force’s core values and arguably the most important. It is defined as doing the right thing when no one is looking (AFDD 1-1, 2006, 4). This is an important motto for any leader to adopt because there are always people looking. The entire organization looks to leaders for guidance, vision and direction.

Positivity – Positivity breeds positivity. Have you ever worked for a manager that was always negative? Did it inspire you? Of course it didn’t. Leaders with a “can do” attitude can change an organizational culture for the better. Every person has the ability to choose their attitude when they wake up in the morning. It all depends on how you want to address the day. Many times we let our immediate situation dictate our mood for the day. If you are having a bad day because you were late to work or spilled your coffee in the car, that is a choice you make. One of the greatest things about attitudes is that we can control them. Wouldn’t life be better if we looked at obligations as opportunities? Great leaders turn obligations into opportunities, and know every opportunity provides a chance to improve the organization. A positive attitude can transform a good organization to great.

Do you recognize VIP traits in your current leaders or leaders from your past? Do they display vision, integrity, and positivity? I bet they do. Remember, you don’t need rank or a title to be a great leader. We are all leaders; you need only to cultivate the traits that make great leaders. There are leaders in our unit today who don’t run sections or squadrons, but they share common traits that make them great. It is each of our jobs to perfect our own leadership traits and cultivate those traits in our future leaders. VIP – Vision, Integrity and Positivity.

## Goldfein delivers Air Force update

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (AFNS) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein provided an update to his three focus areas during his remarks at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Sept. 19, 2017.

Goldfein announced three focus areas – revitalizing squadrons, strengthening joint leaders and teams, and advancing multi-domain command and control – during last year’s conference.

“A year ago I came out on this stage and laid out for you three focus areas,” Goldfein said. “Big rocks, we call them, because they’re big and they’re heavy, and it’s going to take all of us lifting together to get them moved. By design, it should not be surprising to you that they fit perfectly and are nested under our five [Air Force] priorities.”

Three teams, led by a brigadier general and command chief master sergeant, reviewed each of these efforts over the course of nine months and reported back on what they learned, and the actions they’ve taken to date, setting the table for the important work ahead.

Air Force senior leaders agree the first priority is to restore readiness and drive innovation, which Goldfein said begins at the squadron, the heartbeat of the Air Force.

One overwhelming truth came out of the review done in the last nine months...barriers to success need to be removed, Goldfein said.

“How do we ensure we’re not doing additional duties that are tak-



ing up essential time and actually not adding to the readiness of the squadron,” Goldfein asked.

Air Force senior leaders are minimizing computer-based training and adding commander support staffs and civilians back into the squadrons to take on some of those roles. They are also reviewing all Air Force instructions and empowering commanders to maneuver and make decisions. In turn, Goldfein encouraged wing commanders to let squadron commanders make these decisions.

Ultimately each of these changes is part of the work the Air Force is doing to push decision authority back to the lowest practical level.

With the Air Force being part of every mission, the joint team executes, strengthening joint leaders and teams is vital to mission success, Goldfein said.

As military leaders look at operational war plans, the common theme across all the possible military campaigns is air and space.

“As we strengthen how we build joint leaders and develop exception-

al leaders for the future, it’s important that we acknowledge the inherently joint nature of air and space power,” Goldfein said. “We must train Airmen to bring air, space and cyber capabilities together with all the other elements of a strategic military campaign.”

This will enable Goldfein’s responsibility of organizing trained and equipped ready forces for a combatant commander as the Air Force plans to deploy Airmen in teams of three beginning Oct. 1, 2017.

Goldfein also highlighted the importance of seeking ways to connect capabilities rather than focusing on individual platforms in future warfare. This requires agile and resilient networks.

“We are transitioning from wars of attrition to wars of cognition,” Goldfein said. “It forces us to ask different questions of industry. Now we are starting the dialogue with... does it connect...and...can it share. We’re putting together a wargame that’s focused on these concepts.”

# 513th spouses get glimpse at AWACS mission

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

The spouse flight tradition continued on Sept. 9, when nine wives and husbands of 513th operations and maintenance Reservists climbed into an E-3 Sentry on the flight line at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, for a nearly six-hour flight.

Candace Sturlin, wife of Senior Master Sgt. Malachi Sturlin, a computer display maintenance technician assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, had no idea what to expect on the flight. She has been a part of the 513th's extended family since 2002, when Malachi first joined the 970th after separating from active duty.

"I was so appreciative of the opportunity to fly, because I had no idea what Malachi or anybody did on the AWACS," Candace said. "I was amazed at how organized it was on the jet. Everyone was so nice and informative, telling us each job that they did."

During the flight, the spouses all had the opportunity to listen to the radios and watch each crew member perform his or her duties throughout each phase of the flight. They also watched the E-3 refuel in-air with a KC-135 Stratotanker.

For Michelle Murray, wife of maintenance officer Capt. Brian Murray, seeing the refueling process

from the receiving end was a special moment. Michelle spent four years as a KC-135 maintenance Airmen with the same unit that flew the refueling mission.

"I was very thankful that the air crew took the time to disconnect and reconnect to the tanker for every spouse who wanted to see the refueling process," she said. "Being a former maintainer myself, I know that's not an easy thing to do."

The most memorable part of the flight for Michelle were the flight jackets along with personalized name patches for each spouse during the day, which Staff Sgt. Stephanie Jacks handed out at the start of the day.

"Stephanie had name badges made for all of us to wear on the jackets, which was a real surprise," Michelle said. "We all felt really special and was the main thing that I liked. It was something we were able to take with us and keep."

Even though the spouses didn't get much time to talk among themselves during the day, Michelle said it was nice to at least meet a few of them and have the common experience.

"In general, it was a really good thing to get the families together to see what our spouses do," she said.

To see and download all of the photos, visit our Flickr site: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/125892086@N04/0f07m8>

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Jacks, an Airborne Surveillance Technician assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, pauses with the spouses on Sept. 9 for a photo in front of an E-3 Sentry at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, prior to a spouse orientation flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Giovanna LaMaestra)



# Milestone changes coming to TRICARE

*Military Health System Communications Office*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- TRICARE beneficiaries will soon have increased access to health care through key changes that are set to take place in January 2018.

The Defense Health Agency recently met a key requirement for implementing these changes, with the publication of a formal document – called an Interim Final Rule – that establishes the legal “rules of the road” for putting in place changes mandated by Congress. The Interim Final Rule is now available for public review and comment.

“We are working hard to use the opportunity Congress gave us to continue building a health plan that does even better for our beneficiaries, the warfighter, and the taxpayers who support us,” said Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, Defense Health Agency director.

The goal of this change is to keep beneficiaries healthy by providing better health care options. This includes allowing doctors to make the decisions on whether beneficiaries need a referral or specialty care instead of the regional contractors. Urgent care will be available without a referral through either the military hospital or clinic or at a civilian urgent care center in areas the military health facility is not an option.

TRICARE is changing. Here is what beneficiaries need to know: Some of the key changes that will become effective on January 1, 2018, will affect region consolidation, TRICARE plans, enrollment,

and costs. There are currently three TRICARE regions in the United States, including TRICARE North, South, and West. Starting in 2018, these regions will become TRICARE East and West. They will be administered by Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services.

Several changes will also occur in coverage plans at the start of the new year. TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. In the U.S., TRICARE Select will be a self-managed, preferred provider network option. Beneficiaries will not be required to have a primary care manager and can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider for covered services without a referral. TRICARE Select, both stateside and overseas, includes additional preventive care services previously only offered to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Beneficiaries can review all available plans at [www.tricare.mil/changes](http://www.tricare.mil/changes) under the plan finder.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, all current beneficiaries will also be automati-

cally transitioned into their respective plan as long as they are eligible. TRICARE Prime enrollees will remain in this plan. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will be converted to TRICARE Select. Beneficiaries will be able to choose to enroll in or change coverage plans throughout the year-long grace period in 2018.

Beginning in fall 2018, enrollment will move to a calendar year open enrollment season like federal employee plans. During this time, active enrollment will be required to change plans for the following year. Those who are retiring will have to choose their plan and enroll to retain coverage. The open enrollment season begins on the Monday of the second full week in November and run through the Monday of the second full week in December of each calendar year starting in 2018. All beneficiaries should make sure their information is current in DEERS now so they are converted to the correct plan in January. Learn more about enrollment changes.



Take   
**COMMAND**  
☆☆☆ Enhance Your TRICARE Experience

**Did You Know?**  
**TRICARE IS CHANGING!**

Beginning in January 2018, there will be changes to the TRICARE benefit. The changes will expand your choices, improve access to network providers, simplify copayments, and streamline paperwork.

**This is your benefit.**  
Let us help you make the most of it.

**Are you ready?**  
Learn more and sign up for updates at [www.tricare.mil/changes](http://www.tricare.mil/changes).

#takecommand