

RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

JANUARY 2023



**Operation Holiday Spirit celebrates
24 years of fundraising**

MISSION: TO PROVIDE COMBAT-READY CITIZEN AIRMEN TO GENERATE AND EMPLOY AWACS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME



VISION: WE TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILY OF CITIZEN AIRMEN WHILE KEEPING WATCH OVER AMERICA!

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On the Cover: Airmen enjoy an evening of fantastic food and fundraising at Operation Holiday Spirit Dec. 1, 2023, at the American Legion Post 73/VFW Post 9969 in Del City, Oklahoma. Since 1999, Reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, along with Guardsmen from the 137th Special Operations Wing at Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, have held the OHS Steak Supper Fundraiser for families needing a little extra boost during the holidays. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Kelly)



513TH ACG COMMANDER COL. JAMES MATTEY

Happy New Year warriors,

Alright team, here we go, a new year filled with challenges and opportunities. Are we ready? I am proud to continue being part of the AF's finest group. Over the past few years, you have overcome significant headwinds, and we're still "Thump'n!" Our retention continues to be the best in the NAF, and our readiness metrics are in the green. Nice work! You are doing what you need to ensure we're ready to provide that critical combat capability. I've got two words: Keep pushing! And while we're moving, we must be prepared to incorporate change. To get us in the same mindset, I included the 513th ACG Lines of Effort graphic as a visualization of how our efforts nest into the strategic direction of the nation.

Late last year, we looked long-range and devised four lines of effort to ensure we continue with our core mission while looking to the future, considering human capital management, and innovating for the future. This picture outlines our four effort areas.

First, we will continue to provide CMR maintenance and aircrews. The 970th AACCS has devised some creative and desirable currency opportunities. Our maintenance teams have rejuvenated our total force mindset and practices.

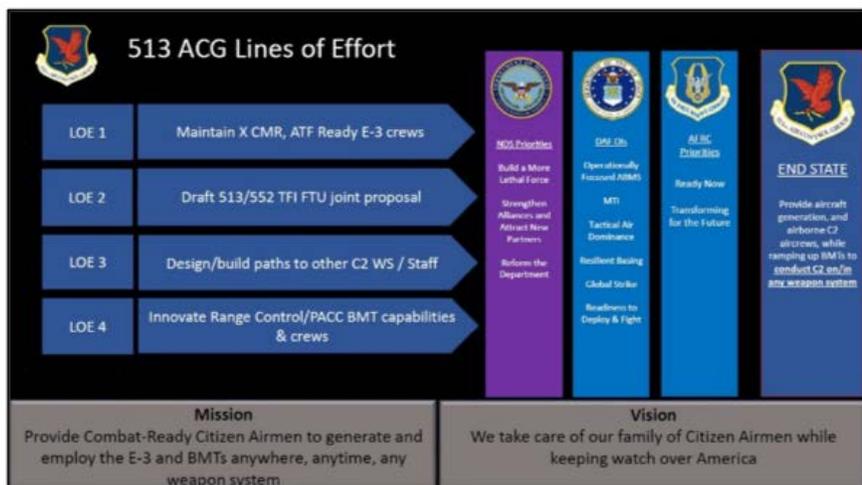
Second, we want to influence and be a large part of the future airborne C2 enterprise. In doing so, we will integrate our experience into a total force FTU and prepare for the eventual arrival of the E-7.

Third, concentrating on human capital management, we will work to expand our expertise into other C2 weapon systems. There are tremendous opportunities for growth and advancement in existing and emerging missions. It's an exciting time in the future of C2.

The fourth LOE is all about innovations. We are building a range control facility in the 513th ACG that WE CONTROL to support BMT and CAF training.

Finally, through the continued effort of C2 subject matter experts with an eye on our strategic gaps, non-traditional C2 is taking root, and we are the definite experts in non-traditional airborne C2 capabilities. We will continue to explore and provide airborne C2 gap coverage for combatant commanders and our fellow warfighters. We're looking for 513th ACG members who want to be part of history. Raise your hand and be part of the Pathfinder PACC team--All you have to do is ask.

Over the past few months, we have foreshadowed significant changes throughout the Air Force. I anticipate hearing about some pretty earth-shattering "new beginnings" from SECAF sometime in mid-January. Though we do not know all that is coming down, one thing is for sure: We'll keep preparing ourselves for combat and adjust to the new changes. It's natural to be hesitant and fearful of change. Don't fear change, don't let it close our eyes to opportunities, and don't be a victim, use it! We must see change as growth and



transformation, and we must see change as evolution, as necessary, and as critical to our nation. Change brings opportunities we can exploit; change brings opportunities to be better.

I hesitate to think about where we'd be today if those who came before us never changed, never went after new technologies or new opportunities, thinking everything would "work out." I'm reminded of a quote from JFK from over 60 years ago:

"History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside."

Folks, we can't be swept aside; there's too much at stake. Some of the future is unknown; some of the future we will make for ourselves and our nation will be better for it.

Operation Holiday Spirit celebrates 24 years of fundraising

305 Airmen enjoy an evening of fantastic food and fundraising at Operation Holiday Spirit Dec. 1, 2023, at the American Legion Post 73/VFW Post 9969 in Del City, Oklahoma. This year's event raised \$44,727 and helped out 13 families. Since 1999, Reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, along with Guardsmen from the 137th Special Operations Wing at Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, have held the OHS Steak Supper Fundraiser for families needing a little extra boost during the holidays. (U.S. Air Force photos by Lauren Kelly)



[Click here for more photos and info on the annual OHS Steak Supper](#)





AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
GEN. DAVID W. ALLVIN



CSAF 23 Letter to Airmen

Fellow Airmen,

As I step into my new role as the 23rd Chief of Staff of the US Air Force, I do so with humility, pride, and a sense of urgency. We are a remarkable team, at our best because our family enables us to be, but we have formidable challenges ahead. However, I also realize many of the solutions to these challenges are not a mystery. We have been on a journey to address the changing character of war and the USAF role in it for some time. Standing on the shoulders of giants who have led—and are still leading—our team, we can see further and more clearly.

Nearly ten years ago, General Welsh (CSAF #20) posited “The Air Force’s ability to continue to adapt and respond faster than our potential adversaries is the greatest challenge we face over the next 30 years.” General Goldfein (CSAF #21) was a driving leadership voice behind expanding command and control to all domains—JADC2. General Brown (CSAF #22) has been, among other things, our conscience—reminding us not only of the need to accelerate, but the consequences of failure to do so . . . losing. Secretary Kendall has led the Department of the Air Force in focusing that acceleration on not only modernizing our capabilities, but the type of deep, honest assessment into all parts of our Air Force needed to execute the National Defense Strategy, and to better optimize us for the strategic environment we face.

We know this assessment is necessary but not sufficient. Together, we face a security environment which grows more complex by the day and a pacing competitor which continues to advance at an alarming rate. The attributes of the changing character of war are ones well suited for our service. Speed, tempo, range, agility, flexibility, precise lethality, and resilience have been the hallmarks of airpower since our inception. Therefore, we have a responsibility to lead and advance the integration of the joint force to achieve excellence in these characteristics. The future holds ambiguity, but our task is clear: **we must now follow through.**

Follow through—on the changes our Airmen and their families expect and deserve. Changes worthy of their commitment and sacrifice, and suited to fulfill the oaths we take on service of this Nation.

Follow through—to transform the products of our *Operational Imperatives* into actual meaningful operational capability. This requires thoughtful consideration and integration, with the ultimate aim of maximizing combat effectiveness.

Follow through—to ensure our *force presentation* and *force generation* models are aligned to the way we intend to fight as articulated in our current Air Force Future Operating Concept. This

CSAF 23 Letter to Airmen (continued)

means adapting many of our current paradigms for units of action, and orienting toward team preparation for deployment to be combat effective more rapidly.

Follow through—to define and refine the *force design* that provides the optimum size, shape, and composition of our force. This entails not only incorporation of currently unfielded classes of capabilities (e.g., collaborative combat aircraft (CCA)), but also new competencies and skill sets for which we must organize and train future Airmen.

Follow through—to adapt our *organizational structure* to optimize for great power competition. This entails applying “integrated by design” to capability development. This organizational design should focus on ensuring designated commanders can focus on training, readiness, and warfighting—with both the requisite authority and accountability. Meanwhile, other commanders will focus on supporting capability development and sustainment. However, all will be oriented on providing well trained, equipped, and ready forces for deterrence and conflict.

Follow through—on *training transformation*. This requires continued focus on learner-centric training and education to optimize individual human performance. We have demonstrated new ways to leverage technology to not only improve information absorption and application for specific skill sets, but also ways to tailor training to individual Airmen and enable them to learn and apply skills more rapidly and effectively throughout their years of service.

Follow through—on harnessing the *innovative talent* and spirit that exists in every corner of our Air Force by vectoring that energy towards solving our key Air Force challenges. We must continue to connect and empower the innovation ecosystem so the brilliance of individuals can better serve the entire Air Force team.

Most importantly, we must **follow through** on our *commitment to the success of the team*. This includes demanding and protecting an environment in which *all Airmen* can reach their full potential. It means uplifting our wingmen, while *holding ourselves accountable* for our actions. It means *removing barriers* while *maintaining and enforcing standards*. It means *all-axis leadership*—top-down, peer-to-peer, and even “leading up.”

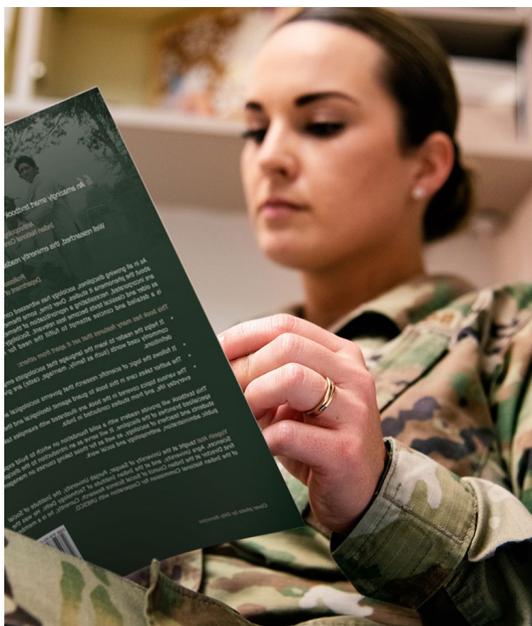
We know each of us is serving in a place of importance in this great Air Force, and in a time of extraordinary consequence. I can think of no cause more honorable than this, and I could not be more proud to serve as your Chief of Staff. We know the challenges . . .let’s follow through and meet them head on!



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OKIE UNIVERSITY

LUNCH AND LEARN



MONTHLY TOPICS:

Oct – Simple principles - Leadership

Nov – Paperback Mentor

Dec – Common Sense Leadership

Jan – Emotional Intelligence

Feb – People Skills

Mar – Leadership 101

Apr – (No meeting due to exercise)

May – The Enlisted Leader

Jun – Courageous Leadership

Jul – (No UTA / No meeting)

Aug – Leading Yourself

Sept - Lincoln on Leadership

EVERY UTA - SUNDAY

1130hrs – 1230hrs

DFAC- Everyone is invited

Contact 507th Air Refueling Wing

Command Chief, CMSgt Darren

Wiseman if you have any questions.

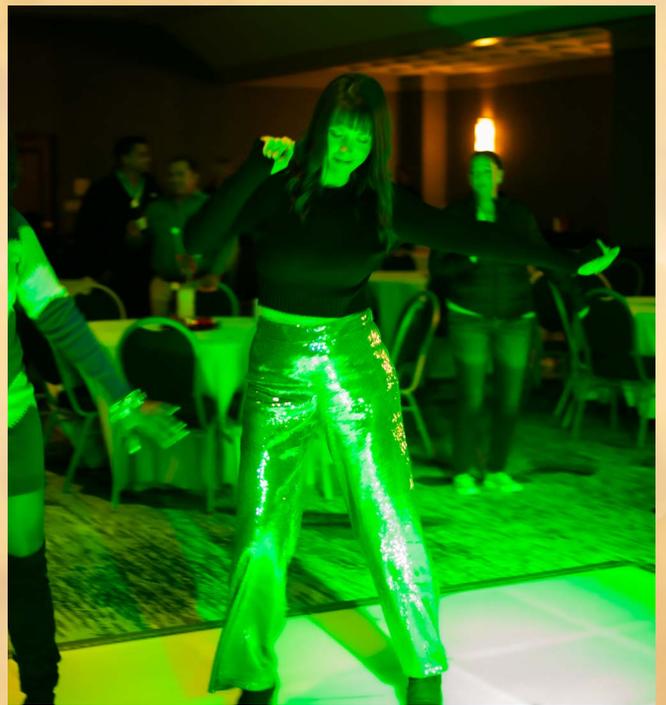
2023 513th ACG Holiday Party Photo Album

Thank you to all who came out to celebrate the holidays at the Sheraton OKC Downtown. The Booster Club dedicated many hours to putting the party together for the group. Happy Holidays and thank you for your support!











Second Quarter award winners announced

Col. James Matthey, 513th Air Control Group commander, presents the 2023 2nd Quarter awards Oct. 15, 2023, at Fannin Hall.



Airman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Devaron Black



SNCO of the Quarter

Master Sgt. John White



CGO of the Quarter

Capt. Andrew Cole

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds announced as headliner at upcoming 2025 Tinker Air Show

Published Dec. 7, 2023

By Clayton Cummins, 72 ABW Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are scheduled to perform at Tinker Air Force Base for the 2025 Tinker Air Show June 28-29, 2025.

The announcement was made Tuesday during the 2023 ICAS Convention at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, a convention for air show professionals sharing information, insight and ideas to apply to future shows nationwide.

The Thunderbirds squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, three civilians and more than 130 enlisted personnel performing in 25 career fields.

It was 2014 when the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds last captivated audiences in the sky at the then named 'Star Spangled Air Show' at Tinker.

The announcement comes after a large turn out for the 2023 Tinker Air Show, where an estimated 301,000 people gathered to attend in July. The Tinker Air Show

returned after COVID-19 precautions forced the cancellation of the 2021 air show.

A Thunderbirds air demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solo aircraft highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about an hour and fifteen minutes.

The Thunderbirds were officially activated June 1, 1953, as the 3600th Air Demonstration Team at Luke AFB, Ariz. Their first aircraft was the straight-winged F-84G Thunderjet, a combat fighter-bomber that had seen action in Korea. Early in 1955 the team transitioned to the swept-winged F-84F Thunderstreak.

Plans are still underway for the upcoming air show. Visit the official Tinker Air Show website for all of the latest information and air show updates. Like Tinker Air Force Base on Facebook or follow @TeamTinker on Twitter.

Enlisted Promotions

November PROMOTIONS



CHRISTIAN PANIAGUA, 513 AMXS



ASHLEY LOPEZ, 970 AACs
DAVID STACKHOUSE, 513 MXS



CHRISTIAN JOSHUA SEGUIN, 970 AACs
KARL CRAIG, 513 MXS

Blood Drive to be held Sunday Jan. 7

**COME OUT OF
HIBERNATION**



**DONATE BLOOD
& SAVE LIVES
THIS WINTER!**



507th ARW & 513 ACG Blood Drive

Sunday, January 7

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Look for the Bloodmobile!

Walk-ins Welcome!



**Scan to schedule
your appointment!**

Donors will
receive this
glow-in-the-dark
bear T-shirt*!



877-340-8777 • obi.org

Photo ID required.
*While supplies last.

Fly, Fight and Win: The reserve seeks pilots

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command addresses this need through current pilot affiliations from active duty, as well as by training new pilots.

Most of AFRC's pilot positions are filled by current pilots who are leaving active duty but wish to continue serving in the Reserve.

"The transition for pilots from active duty to the Reserve is through two primary programs: PALACE CHASE and PALACE FRONT," said Michael LoForti, acting chief of the air, space and information directorate's operations resource division at Headquarters AFRC. "We use both programs to get 11/12X Air Force Specialty Codes to the AFR. Affiliations account for replenishing about 75 percent of our pilot manning in which we lose around 300-350 per year through normal attrition, to include retirements and mandatory separation date limits. The remaining pilot positions must be filled by training new pilots." The other 25 percent of pilots come from other sources, primarily the Undergraduate Flying Training (UFT) program.

"These candidates are hired off-the-street to the 11X Air Force Specialty Code," LoForti said. AFRC typically receives 100-115 pilot training slots per year. Candidates must be selected for UPT by an AFRC pilot training selection board. These boards convene quarterly in January, April, July and October.

Master Sgt. Alexander James, AFRC's officer accessions program manager, cited ongoing efforts to streamline the affiliation process for individuals transitioning from active duty to the Reserve.

"We're reinforcing our connections with hiring units -- particularly with the chief pilots who play a pivotal role in this process," James said. "Strengthening the relationships between our recruiting team and chief pilots is crucial for smoothly bringing fully qualified and non-prior-service applicants into coveted pilot positions." An event is planned in the spring that should also help tally more pilot candidates.

"I'm thrilled to share that we are in the early stages of planning a significant pilot recruitment event this spring," James said. "Our aim is to attract the nation's top pilots from renowned pilot universities, contributing to the growth and excellence of our team in AFRC."

AFRC typically receives 100-115 UPT slots per year from higher headquarters. For more information on AFRC's UFT program, including eligibility requirements and how to contact a recruiter, get sponsored by an AFRC unit and apply to a selection board, please visit <https://milrecruiter.com/afrc-uft/>.



Q and A with the commander

Would you like ask the commander a question anonymously? Scan the QR code below to submit your question.



Have you visited our website? (click the photo for link)

 513TH ACG HEADLINES	 RABBIT TALES MAGAZINE	 Commander Col. Jim Matthey
 Operation Holiday Spirit celebrates 24 years of fundraising	Rabbit Tales Archive	
 513th ACG November Enlisted Promotions	NEW AF HEADLINES	
 Team Tinker to host Wing It Together event Oct. 27	 AF Year in Photos	
 10th Air Force command team visits	 Around the Air Force: Slife Becomes Vice Chief, X-37B Launch, F-15EX Testing	



Would you like to submit a story or news/announcement to the Rabbit Tales? Please email us at:

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