

On-Final

Anthology Vol. 2

507th Air Refueling Wing
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

**mission: organize, train, and equip combat ready
citizen airmen to provide strategic deterrence
and global capabilities**



A KC-135R STRATOTANKER BEGINS A FINAL APPROACH AT TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA



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fueling the fight, at home and abroad

The 507th Air Refueling Wing is the largest Air Force Reserve Command flying unit in the state of Oklahoma. The 507th ARW reports to Fourth Air Force and performs daily missions both locally and around the world in support of Air Mobility Command and U.S. Strategic Command's national emergency war order requirements, operating out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The wing operates and maintains eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft providing world-wide aerial refueling to U.S. and NATO aircraft in times of peace, war and national emergency. The 507th ARW trains aircrew on the KC-135R, the C-17 Globemaster III, and the KC-46 Pegasus at a geographically separated unit, the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron at Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

Today, the 507th ARW consists of three subordinate groups and 11 squadrons while employing more than 1,100 men and women. The 507th ARW is made up of Reserve Citizen Airmen, many of whom live and work in our Oklahoma communities in addition to their Reserve commitment. Approximately 200 members of the wing are traditional civilian employees or dual status Air Reserve Technicians who serve as a support cadre.

507th Air Refueling Wing



COL. MILES HEASLIP

Wing Commander

CURRENT STRENGTH

- 1,156 Personnel
- 907 Traditional Reservists
- 174 Air Reserve Technicians
- 32 Active Guard Reservists
- 43 Civilians

LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Tinker AFB -- \$4.55 billion
- 507th ARW -- \$92 million
- 513th ACG -- \$13 million

UNIT TIMELINE

- 1944** -- 507th Fighter Group activated at Peterson Field, Colorado
- 1972** -- Established at Tinker AFB, flying F-105D Thunderchief
- 1975** -- Transferred from active duty to Air Force Reserve
- 1980** -- Transitioned to F-4D Phantom II
- 1988** -- Transitioned to F-16A/B Fighting Falcon
- 1994** -- Converted to 507th ARG flying KC-135R
- 1994** -- Redesignated as 507th ARW
- 1996** -- 513th ACG activated
- 2005** -- Aircraft increased from 8 to 12
- 2007** -- Reserve/Air National Guard Association begins
- 2012** -- Force Structure proposal to 8 KC-135R
- 2015** -- Guard association discontinued, AFRC continues
- 2019** -- KC-46 Pegasus delivered to Altus AFB, Oklahoma



groups&squadrons

OPERATIONS GROUP

465th Air Refueling Squadron

507th Operations Support Squadron

730th Air Mobility Training Squadron, Altus AFB, Oklahoma

Operates eight Boeing KC-135R aircraft. Reservists, both pilots and boom operators, fly and maintain worldwide mission-ready status and regularly deploy in support of contingency operations and incorporates traditional operations support functions such as Intelligence, Aircrew Flight Equipment, Combat Crew Communications, Operations Plans, war plans and flight records maintenance. The 730th AMTS is charged with training aircrew on the C-17, KC-135R, KC-46. The Reservists in the unit work next to active duty Airmen of the 97th Air Mobility Wing, training aircrew members for Air Education and Training Command.



MAINTENANCE GROUP

507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

507th Maintenance Squadron

These units maintain all eight KC-135R Stratotankers and are responsible for periodic inspections, fabrication repairs, propulsion, aerial refueling boom maintenance, aircraft fuel systems and aerospace ground equipment. From installing replacement parts to building a replacement from scratch in order to restore the structural integrity of the aircraft, they work to ensure the safety of the Airmen who fly them. More than just directing essential maintenance operations, they implement crucial aircraft systems checks, deliver combat support and perform air operations all around the world.



MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

507th Civil Engineer Squadron

507th Force Support Squadron

507th Logistics Readiness Squadron

507th Security Forces Squadron

72nd Aerial Port Squadron

These units are responsible for providing air base ground defense and protecting weapon systems and support personnel. They train and equip engineering teams for worldwide combat support performing rapid runway repair, structural bomb damage repair, firefighting and crash rescue. They aid in transportation, supply, contracting, fuels, maintenance training and plans. Additionally, units load, unload and process airfreight arriving from and departing to locations worldwide, provide personnel management and services support such as lodging, fitness, food, recreation and mortuary affairs.



MEDICAL SQUADRON

507th Medical Squadron

The 507th MDS monitors the medical, dental and mental health of all members in the 507th as well as the personnel in the 513th ACG. Major focus areas are maintaining processes and records for annual physical and dental assessments, currency in immunizations and monitoring occupational environments. Other program responsibilities include training initial first-aid care, CPR training, gas mask fit testing and heightening awareness of suicide and prevention. The medical squadron operates out of Tinker Air Force Base's 72nd Medical Group and integrates with the staff. If mobilized, the medical technicians are trained to support a fixed or mobile field hospital site.





Mission

The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 60 years. This unique asset enhances the Air Force's capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach, as well as refueling support to Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. The KC-135 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

Features

Four turbofans, mounted under 35-degree swept wings, power the KC-135 to takeoffs at gross weights of up to 322,500 pounds. A cargo deck above the refueling system can hold a mixed load of passengers and cargo. Depending on fuel storage configuration, the KC-135 can carry up to 83,000 pounds of cargo.

Nearly all internal fuel can be pumped through the flying boom, the KC-135s primary fuel transfer method. One crewmember, known as the boom operator, is stationed in the rear of the plane and controls the boom during in-flight air refueling.

A special shuttlecock-shaped drogue attached to and trailing behind the flying boom may be used to refuel aircraft fitted with probes. Some aircraft have been configured with the multipoint refueling system, which consists of special pods mounted on the wingtips. These KC-135s are capable of refueling two receiver aircraft at the same time.

Background

Air Mobility Command manages an inventory of 414 Stratotankers, 70 of which are operated by the Air Force Reserve.

The Boeing Company's model 367-80 was the basic design for the commercial 707 passenger plane as well as the KC-135A Stratotanker. In 1954, the Air Force purchased the first 29 of its future 732-plane fleet.



The first aircraft flew in August 1956 and the initial production Stratotanker was delivered to Castle Air Force Base, California in June 1957. The last KC-135 was delivered to the Air Force in 1965.

Of the original KC-135As, more than 415 have been modified with new CFM-56 engines produced by CFM-International. The re-engined tanker, designated either the KC-135R or KC-135T, can offload 50 percent more fuel, is 25 percent more fuel efficient, costs 25 percent less to operate and is 96 percent quieter than the KC-135A.

Under another modification program, a re-engined tanker with the TF-33-PW-102 engine was designated the KC-135E. In 2009, the last KC-135E retired from the inventory.

Through the years, the KC-135 has been altered to do other jobs ranging from flying command post missions to reconnaissance. RC-135s are used for special reconnaissance and Air Force Materiel Command's NKC-135As are flown in test programs. Air Combat Command operates the OC-135 as an observation platform in compliance with the Open Skies Treaty.

The KC-135R(RT) aircraft continue to undergo life-cycle upgrades to expand their capabilities and improve reliability. Among these are improved communications, navigation, autopilot and surveillance equipment to meet future civil air traffic control needs.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Aerial refueling and airlift

Prime Contractor: The Boeing Company

Power Plant: CFM International CFM-56 turbofan engines

Thrust: 21,634 pounds each engine

Wingspan: 130 feet, 10 inches (39.88 meters)

Length: 136 feet, 3 inches (41.53 meters)

Height: 41 feet, 8 inches (12.7 meters)

Speed: 530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)

Ceiling: 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)

Range: 1,500 miles (2,419 kilometers) with 150,000 pounds (68,039 kilograms) of transfer fuel; ferry mission, up to 11,015 miles (17,766 kilometers)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 322,500 pounds (146,285 kilograms)

Maximum Transfer Fuel Load: 200,000 pounds (90,719 kilograms)

Maximum Cargo Capability: 83,000 pounds (37,648 kilograms), 37 passengers

Pallet Positions: 6

Crew: Three: pilot, co-pilot and boom operator. Some KC-135 missions require the addition of a navigator. The Air Force has a limited number of navigator suites that can be installed for unique missions.

Aeromedical Evacuation Crew: A basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added for aeromedical evacuation missions. Medical crew may be altered as required by the needs of patients.

Unit Cost: \$39.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

Date Deployed: August 1956

Inventory: Active duty, 153; Air National Guard, 171; Air Force Reserve, 72





▲ MAINTAINERS PERFORM AN ENGINE SWAP

◀ COMBAT COMMUNICATORS DEFEND THEIR BASE



A SERVICES AIRMAN BUILDS A SINGLE PALLET EXPEDITIONARY KITCHEN ▲

A MAINTAINER MARSHALS A KC-135R ►





Okie Forges Victory

Airman from the 507th MXS wins bladesmithing competition

A maintenance supervisor in the 507th Air Refueling Wing here was crowned champion in the History Channel's bladesmithing competition show, Forged in Fire, October 23, 2019.

A member of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron since 2009, Master Sgt. Casey Cleveland is also an amateur bladesmith.

Forged in Fire features four bladesmiths who are faced with a smithing challenge and a fixed amount of time to accomplish the task. During his episode, Cleveland and the other competitors were asked to "Frankenstein" a blade, which is a term used to describe creating a new weapon by taking the blade of one knife and the handle of another.

"[The show] was intense," Cleveland said. "I just had to go in there and pretend that it was my forge and get to work."

Cleveland's journey towards smithing blades began with a chance encounter with the Saltfork Craftsman, Blacksmith and Artisan Association in 2015. He instantly became interested in bladesmithing, which is the art of turning raw metal and other materials into knives, blades and axes.

Cleveland said he has smithed more than 150 blades since then and has created everything from small camping knives to machetes, katanas and axes. Co-workers and family alike admire his craftsmanship and the opportunity to have something custom made, he said.

Eventually, Cleveland's hobby began to teach him skills which could be applied to other arenas of his life. He credits bladesmithing for helping him improve as a Reserve Citizen Airman.

"Bladesmithing has helped me as an aircraft mechanic," he said. "I've learned a lot about patience and keeping my cool under pressure and in dangerous conditions."

507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Operations Officer and Cleveland's supervisor of more than two years, Capt. Adrian Mack, said that Cleveland's high energy, positivity and bladesmithing skills makes him a guy you want on your team.

"Being a bladesmith requires a tremendous amount of attention to detail," Mack said. "I believe he brings this quality with him as a flightline expeditor, which is important to our mission and our Airmen's safety."

Cleveland's quality of work and expertise led him to want to show the world what he could do.

Cleveland applied to be on the show Forged in Fire, because he was determined to show off his skills. After not hearing anything for a while, he applied to the show's spinoff, Knife or Death, where he was able to showcase his blades in a cutting competition.

After Knife or Death, he applied again for Forged in Fire, and his perseverance landed him a spot in the show.

After the show was all said and done, Cleveland looked back at his experience fondly.

"My experience on Forged in Fire has been life-changing, and I couldn't have done it without the support of all my family and friends. Following your dreams doesn't happen overnight; you've got

to work at it and learn from your failures and then grow from your experiences."

Cleveland hopes that one day he will be able to forge his hobby into a profession. He teaches classes and makes custom orders for his family and friends.

"Someday, hopefully, I can get my name and products out there; then maybe I can start doing this full time and make a job out of it."





Five Decades of History

Okie history is now preserved in an online archive

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office here, scanned and digitally archived more than 30 years of unit newspapers and made them available to the public on the unit's official website in January of this year.

Until now, hard copies of the Sooner News (1965-1971), Thunderchief (1974-1978) and On-final (1981-2004) were stored in a closet of the 507th ARW headquarters basement, making access difficult for unit personnel, past and present.

Public Affairs personnel began the task of archiving in August 2019 after receiving a request for scanned copies of a few historic On-finals, which at the time were not available online.

After a few months of digging, organizing and scanning, the PA team noticed that one name was a constant in the publications, appearing in On-final editions over the course of three decades; Rich Curry.

Tech. Sgt. Rich Curry first appeared in the March 1982 edition of the On-final as a writer, where he wrote a story on a chief who had served 30 years in the Air Force. Coincidentally enough, Curry would follow in that chief's footsteps himself by retiring as a lieutenant colonel more than 30 years later from the 507th ARW.

Curry joined the unit, known as the 507th Tactical Fighter Group at the time, one year after the paper transitioned from the Thunderchief to the On-final and said that he liked the name change.

According to Curry, the name of the paper would come into question again in 1988, while the unit transitioned from the F-4D Phantom to the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"The 'On-final' name is appropriate to aviation in general," Curry said. "At that time, people wanted to change the name to reflect the aircraft. I pointed out that if we did that, we'd have to change the paper's name every time we changed aircraft in the future, so the name 'On-final' stayed."

One change Curry did make, though, was the aircraft illustration which was a part of the On-final logo placed at the top of the paper.

"In the old logo, there was a drawing of an F-4 flying through the 'O' of 'On-final,'" Curry said. "But as the transition months went on, I changed it by having the F-4 'fly' away off the page while an F-16 flew into the F-4s spot."

The changes can be seen in the September 1988- January 1989 editions of the On-final.

Throughout his years in the unit Public Affairs office, Curry took great care to preserve photographs, video footage and printed copies of the unit's newspapers. This attention to detail proved invaluable when intact copies of the Sooner News were rediscovered.

Curry, a self-proclaimed history buff, said he

was pleasantly surprised that they had been found and enjoyed viewing the publications online.

The last mention of Curry is in the November 2011 edition of the On-final, where he's listed as Chief, Public Affairs for the 507th ARW. Due to his retirement, another On-final wouldn't appear until 13 months later.

His successor, Capt. Jon Quinlan, revived the publication in December 2012 and now serves at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, as a lieutenant colonel.

Over the years, the name and face of the unit has evolved, along with the aircraft and the people who work in the wing. All have changed and will continue to do so, however, one thing that will never change is the history and memories made here.

Col. Kenneth Humphrey, 507th Operations Group commander and lifetime Okie, said he values the printed copies of the unit's newspapers and the ability now to disseminate them online to all members is a plus.

"We need to stay in front of technology when it comes to passing information to our members," Humphrey said. "Our wing's history is something I'm proud to have been a part of and I hope to continue passing the 507th legacy on to our new members."

According to Humphrey, the wing has a subculture that makes up an identity of shared history, conflicts, beliefs, good times and bad times. He said it's something to take pride in and it's what makes the wing an extended family for him.

"History tells us where we have been, and those who forget it tend to make the same mistakes," he said. "It's important to remember the faces, events and aircraft that have culminated into the incredible unit we have become."

To view the 507th ARW newspaper archive, visit the 507th Air Refueling Wing website.



35th CBCS Always Ready



Reservists with the 35th Combat Communications Squadron participate in an exercise at the Glenwood Training Area March 7, 2020, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

The exercise involved setting up a bare bones base from scratch including communications systems, sleeping quarters and defensive fighting positions.

They were joined by Reservist from the Fox Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine division.

The 35th CBCS, located at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, fall under the 960th Cyberspace Wing located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS RILEY STEED, A HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN WITH THE 35TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON, PARTICIPATES IN AN EXERCISE AT THE GLENWOOD TRAINING AREA ▶



▲ U.S. MARINE LANCE CPLS. JAIEL LEE AND PEDRO ORTIZCORIA, MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS WITH FOX BATTERY, 2ND BATTALION, 14TH MARINE REGIMENT, 4TH MARINE DIVISION, OPERATE WEAPONS DURING A TRAINING EVENT



▲ SENIOR AIRMAN BLAKE EROINI, 35TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON CLIENT SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN, PARTICIPATES IN AN EXERCISE AT THE GLENWOOD TRAINING AREA





Stripes to Bars

Commissioning program available
for eligible enlisted Reservists

The 507th Air Refueling Wing here held a commissioning board for non-extended active duty Airmen Jan. 12, 2020.

Ten airmen applied for the five wing vacancies for non-rated line officer positions in the Maintenance, Force Support and Civil Engineer Squadrons.

The Non-EAD airman commissioning program is a path for enlisted U.S. citizens of high moral character and personal qualifications possessing a bachelor's or higher degree to earn a commission in the USAF Reserve to fill vacant non-rated line positions. Other eligibility requirements include: U.S. citizenship, medical qualified or medically acceptable with waiver, and be under the age of 40 prior to graduating Total Force Officer Training, formerly known as Officer Training School.

The Non-EAD ACP is a "green light" from your wing leadership to apply to TFOT, and ultimately fill the wing's vacant position, according to the Non-EAD ACP Process Guide dated 24 Sep 2019. Once accepted as a candidate, airmen have one year from the date of notification to complete all requirements for and obtain a date for Total Force Officer Training. After that time, members must re-apply for the program.

According to Tech. Sgt. Patricia White, NCOIC, Force Management, 507th Force Support Squadron, if members are interested in commissioning, it is in their best interest to start planning now.

"Members should review their records, prepare for and take the AFOQT and speak to leadership now about letters of reference as we do not have another board tentatively scheduled at this time," White said.

To meet with the board, eligible members must do four things: Gain unit commander approval, take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, complete an application package, and finally, interview with the Non-EAD ACP Board at a scheduled time.

According to board member and 507th Mission Support Group Deputy commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Sorrels, the candidate's ability to write and communicate nonverbally in their letter of intent is just as important as the board interview.

"The letter of intent is a one-page letter written by the candidate describing their military service," said Sorrels. "I looked not only at their reason for applying but also for punctuation and grammatical errors."

Sorrels said the interview portion is a time to look for the candidate's ability to demonstrate their skills in leadership and critical thinking, as well as how they handle working through being nervous.

"We ask candidates questions that force them to think on their feet to demonstrate how they handle pressure," Sorrels said. "It was less about what the answer was and more about the logic of how they came to that conclusion. It was very impressive to see the amount of talent we have within the wing."

Three of the ten applicants offered their advice to airmen who are interested in pursuing this program.

Master Sgt. Jerad Fritze, 35th Combat Communications 1st Sgt., said he has met various other boards before and prepares himself by using sample questions to build a script of his answers, and of course to make sure his uniform is ready.

"Take every opportunity you can to enhance your

career," said Fritze. "It's better to try and not succeed than to not try at all."

Tech. Sgt. Audreann Wallace, 507th Force Support Squadron NCOIC of Customer Support, said this was her first time to meet a board. Wallace said she prepared for a year and a half, including six months of studying for the AFOQT and two weeks of preparing for the board interview.

"Be yourself during the interview," Wallace said. "The board doesn't want to hear an Air Force answer; they want to hear your truthful answer to see if you are the right candidate for the job."

Senior Airman JD Falkner, 507th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, said that he is willing to fill any of the officer vacancies that would be most beneficial to the wing and offered some advice for future applicants.

"Relax," Falkner said. "You're making a bigger deal out of it than it is. If you prepared for it and put the time in, it's not that bad."

Applicants are not limited to applying for vacancies in their current unit, they can look at job vacancies across the command. Understand that each wing may have its own requirements for their program and it is the member's responsibility to contact the wing and obtain the requirements for their commissioning process.



Calling All Boom Operators



Air Force Recruiting Service traveled to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, to highlight enlisted aircrew career fields. The production team spent the day with the 507th learning the air refueling mission.

Master Sgt. Ryan Cornell, 465th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, was selected to be filmed and interviewed. He discussed all the reasons he is passionate about being a boom operator on the KC-135 Stratotanker.

The video is available for viewing on the Air Force Recruiting Service's YouTube and website. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX9xe8yOShI>



▲ MASTER SGT. RYAN CORNELL, 465TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON BOOM OPERATOR, STANDS BY A 507TH AIR REFUELING WING KC-135R STRATOTANKER



▲ AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE FILMS MASTER SGT. RYAN CORNELL, 465TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON BOOM OPERATOR, TO HIGHLIGHT ENLISTED AIRCREW CAREER FIELDS





Medics Mobilize

Reserve nurses mobilize to support COVID-19 response

Three Air Force Reservist nurses with the 507th Medical Squadron here mobilized and departed for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, between April 13-21, 2020, to provide medical treatment to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

507th MDS nurses Lt. Col. Esther Mitchell, Maj. Lisa Morris and Maj. Jolina Griffin will join more than 120 other Air Force Reserve medical personnel to support ongoing medical operations at New York City's Javits Center and surrounding areas. Morris, Mitchell and Griffin deployed April 13, 15 and 21, respectively.

Mitchell, chief nurse in the 507th MDS, said she previously deployed during Operation Desert Storm as an aircraft mechanic and that she is looking forward to her first deployment as nurse.

"We are going to help everybody that needs help," Mitchell said. "The nurses and doctors on the front lines are overtired and overworked, and we are on the way to provide them some much needed assistance."

Morris currently serves as the officer in charge of infection control, and expressed her desire to bring comfort to the patients she will treat.

"Wherever I'm at, I will provide excellent care," Morris said. "I hope to shed some kindness and love along the way. The mask may cover my smile, but my hope is to care for patients by my touch and kindness from my heart."

Col. Alvin Bradford, commander, 507th Medical Squadron, expressed his admiration for Mitchell, Morris and the other medical personnel who have teamed up to support Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They have answered a call that so many brave healthcare workers have answered," Bradford said. "They are among the brightest of the 507th ARW, and the medical squadron is proud of them."

Air Force Reserve Command's surgeon general, Col. Teresa Bisnett, and her team of medical specialists took care to ensure the mobilized medical practitioners were not already serving in the local community's fight against the pandemic before mobilizing them to the east coast.

"We did not want to pull a doc or nurse out of their community clinical practice or hospital if already ensconced in coronavirus operations," Bisnett said. "It was truly a team effort with our units to ensure the right Reservists were selected to provide this surge capability to our nation," Bisnett said.

All Reservists deploying were also medically screened according to DoD and the Centers for Disease Control guidance.

As COVID-19 response requirements for more medical personnel, aeromedical evacuation capabilities, logistics experts and other specialties grew, the Air Force Reserve was granted the authority to activate the inactive Reserve, as needed, by the president's March 27 executive order.

Airmen willing to volunteer for mobilization should contact their squadron commander, unit deployment manager, Readiness Integration

Office Detachment, Functional Area Manager and if medical, email: HQAFRC.SG.AFRCPHEOs@us.af.mil, to self-identify their availability. In the body of the e-mail please provide your name, rank, AFSC, assigned/attached unit, civilian email, address, phone number and if you are currently involved in COVID-19 response in your civilian job.





Mission to Mayor

Reserve Citizen Airman serves community in and out of uniform

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas Jeffrey, the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron commander at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, has always aimed to leave things better than he found it. Jeffrey has carried this philosophy not only throughout his Air Force career, but also while serving as the Mayor of Vernon, Texas, from 2018 to 2020.

Jeffrey was born and raised in Vernon, a small town just south of the Oklahoma border. After attending law school for a year, Jeffrey decided to join the Air Force to become a pilot. Upon completing pilot training, Jeffrey was soon flying mobility aircraft around the world.

"I started my career off flying the C-5 Galaxy out of Dover Air Force Base and had literally flown around the world during that time," said Jeffrey. "After a few years of flying the C-5, I went to Fairchild Air Force Base and started flying the KC-135 Stratotanker. I flew the 135 to lots of places, but one of my favorites was flying over Afghanistan. It was such an eye-opening experience knowing that the people on the ground were being impacted by the Airmen that train here today."

After flying active duty for 14 years, Jeffrey decided to transition to the Air Force Reserve in July 2014 and moved back to his hometown, Vernon, with his wife and four children. Jeffrey was then assigned to the 730th AMTS at Altus AFB as the squadron commander.

"Our job at the 730th is to help train students going through the flying training unit (at Altus AFB), facilitate other squadrons, and give them help or

manpower when they need it," said Jeffrey. "We are here to act as the continuity for the FTU, and the only reason we are able to accomplish our mission, and the only way I can do my job, is because I have an amazing support team that I work with."

During the spring of 2018, Jeffrey decided to run for mayor in Vernon. Using lessons learned throughout his Air Force career, Jeffrey helped foster Air Force core values throughout the local community while serving as mayor.

"Being a squadron commander and a mayor are actually very similar because it's all about your service to others and recognizing people," said Jeffrey. "While I was Mayor of Vernon, I was determined to make it better than I found it, and my goals during that time are almost the same as they are here. In the end, it is really about taking care of the people around you."

Jeffrey served the community of Vernon as mayor from 2018 to 2020 and spent his time helping citizens of Vernon build relationships and bonds through a community of trust. Similarly as commander, Jeffrey aims to help his Airmen succeed and build strong leaders within the squadron.

"My main goal in life is to leave things better than I found them; not just as mayor or as squadron commander, but with everything I do," said Jeffrey. "I wanted to make Vernon a place that people wanted to come to, live in, have a family, grow old in and to call home. This is something really important to me because it's where I'm from and it's my home, too."





Tactical Operations

Civil engineers conduct tactical convoy operations training

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, 507th Operations Group leadership ensured the Okies refueling mission continued while keeping aircrew and maintainers safe by implementing new operating standards in order to conduct daily missions refueling aircraft from Alaska to Texas.

Col. Kenneth Humphrey, 507th Operations Group commander, said the ability to conduct the refueling mission is integral to the nation's defense. However, the concerns over COVID-19 and its tendency to spread in close quarters prompted the 507th OG to adapt to keep everyone safe.

"Human nature and the closeness of our personnel make it difficult to ensure proper safeguard measures are adhered to in the aircraft, briefing rooms, and crew transportation, said Humphrey. "The aircraft poses multiple challenges due to the close confines and required interaction of personnel."

With the help of the 507th ARW safety office, the Air Force Reserve Command logistics directorate and mission partners at the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, the OG implemented new flight operating standards to ensure a clean and safe environment to meet mission requirements.

Rigorous sanitizing measures and the use of personal protective equipment were put in place to include wearing masks, minimizing non-essential crew contact during pre-flights, and limiting the number of personnel on board the aircraft in order to reduce the chances of exposure.

"Contamination across the flight line can easily be spread across the base and city," he added. "Our STRATCOM and conventional missions remain a top priority. Additional crews have been designated and assigned that could be used in the event primary aircrew come down with the virus."

Pilot and crew training and currency requirements are a priority. The ability to adapt and overcome has facilitated the ops group's ability to maintain readiness.

"Our local flying schedule has been sufficient to meet these requirements ensuring we have safe, qualified aircrew to perform the mission and keep the jets flying," Col. Humphrey added.

Col. Miles Heaslip, 507th ARW commander, said

he thinks the members of our wing have done an outstanding job making sure all our missions run safely and effectively.

"The measures implemented by the Ops group once again prove we can overcome anything."

COVID-19 has changed the nation but, thanks to the dedicated aircrew and maintainers, the 507th ARW will continue to fuel the fight.





So Fresh, So Clean

Okies keep aircrews safe amid COVID-19

Nearly 100 personnel from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron here participated in a three-day convoy field training exercise at Glenwood Training Annex July 31- Aug. 2.

Master Sgt. Trevor Senechal, 507th CES Prime Base Emergency Engineering Force manager, said he provides combat skills training oversight to the squadron and planned the exercise, overcoming scheduling challenges due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

"We pooled a lot of very last minute resources together to make something impactful happen that would satisfy all of our requirements," Senechal said. "Glenwood had its own challenges to deal with and offered a very unique training opportunity for us."

The squadron originally planned to perform the training with the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Wing in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The 188th Civil Engineer Squadron's existing convoy operations training route complete with vehicles was an ideal training opportunity for the engineers, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, Senechal set up an alternate training opportunity locally at Glenwood to satisfy training requirements outlined in AFI 10-210, Prime (BEEF) Program.

The scenario-driven training exercise simulated the squadron's ability to operate in a forward-deployed location. The mission was to resupply another location with manpower while protecting critical military assets along a route compromised by members of the local population.

"We wanted to introduce visual and auditory confusion to distract the participants from what was really going on in order to assess their ability to follow procedures," said Senechal. "They demonstrated their ability to perform security and accountability as well as self-aid and buddy care."

According to 507th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Dustin Born, the Airmen appreciated the time out of the office and out in the field performing a tactical mission.

"This was a perfect opportunity to increase both our lethality and retention as well as letting off a little steam amidst current global affairs," Born said. "Just like most units in the Reserve command, we have had multiple unit training assemblies postponed or rescheduled, so being able to complete an in-person, hands-on event

was a big win and a much needed morale booster."

Born extended his appreciation to fellow Team Tinker units, the 35th Combat Communications Squadron and the 72nd Security Forces Squadron, for the use of their Light Medium Tactical Vehicles, a 2 1/2 ton truck and a Humvee to make the convoy exercise a success.



Oklahoma State Honors Airmen



Oklahoma State University Athletics traveled to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, Oct. 9, 2019 to film a video reveal of their new military inspired uniforms.

Airmen from across the wing were able to participate in the production process. As a thank you, OSU Athletics gave participating members patches that matched those on the new uniform.

The video was played during pregame commercials and at the start of the Veteran's day game.

AN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY VIDEO CREW VISITS THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING AND TAKES FOOTAGE OF THEIR MILITARY APPRECIATION UNIFORM WITH AND IN A KC-135R STRATOTANKER



Frontline Hero

Reserve Citizen Airman's everyday actions have extraordinary impact



Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Brigan
507th Maintenance Squadron

At the beginning of 2020, it was unclear how devastating the COVID-19 pandemic would become. During these uncertain times, first responders voluntarily work in harm's way in order to help others.

One of these volunteers is Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Brigan, 507th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, who in addition to serving his community as a Reservist serves on the frontlines of the pandemic as Deputy Fire Chief with the Village Fire Department.

"Although I am not a firefighter in the Reserve, there are a lot of skills that cross over," said Brigan. "First of course is the ability to work as a team with my fellow firefighters and Airmen. Both my Reserve career and my fire career require familiarity with personal protective equipment and staying physically fit is essential."

The Village, part of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area with a population of approximately 10,000 residents, has had 60 confirmed cases and counting.

Deputy Chief Brigan commands 20 paramedic firefighters who respond to COVID-19 calls.

"When the Village Fire Department responds to a potential case of any highly communicable disease we don our PPE along with respiratory protection," said Brigan. "We trust our gear and wear it appropriately while following the recommendations from the Oklahoma Department of Health and Medical Control Board to keep us safe," he said.

The Village Fire Department has received and responded to as many as seven COVID-19 calls in one day. This is in addition to responding to fires, first aid calls and search and rescue situations.

"We are very proud of Senior Master Sgt. Brigan for the support he provides to his community as a first responder," said Col. Karwin Weaver, 507th Maintenance Group commander. "He brings his leadership skills here as a first sergeant and we are better as a group for it."

With the global pandemic of COVID-19 evolving worldwide, first responders like Brigan are ready to meet the crisis head on in order to ensure mission success and to provide support to the local community.

Okie Honors

2019 Wing Annual Award Winners



Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Mary Begy
507th Air Refueling Wing



SNCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Madison Harmon
730th Air Mobility Training Squadron



1st Sgt. of the Year

Master Sgt. Jeremy Scoles
507th Logistics Readiness Squadron



Civilian of the Year

Sharon Lochman
507th Force Support Squadron



Spouse of the Year

Julie Humphrey
Spouse of Col. Ken Humphrey
507th Operations Group

NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Tray Dorrell
507th Maintenance Squadron
*Not pictured

CGO of the Year

Capt. Brenden Valenti
465th Air Refueling Squadron
*Not pictured



A Year of Firsts

22nd Air Force Chief of Staff

Proclaiming himself “proud, yet humbled,” Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. was officially installed Aug. 6 as the Air Force’s 22nd Chief of Staff, becoming the first African American in history to lead a military service as its highest ranking officer.

In remarks following the formal “Change of Responsibility” ceremony in which he took over from retiring Gen. David L. Goldfein, the 21st Chief of Staff, Brown acknowledged an array of people who influenced his life. Among them were his wife, Sharene, and his parents, as well as a list of Air Force colleagues, including Goldfein and other “extraordinary leaders.”

Yet, cognizant of the moment in history, Brown also noted, “Today is possible due to the perseverance of those who went before me serving as an inspiration to me and many others.

“Those like the Tuskegee Airmen, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Chappie James, African American leaders across our Air Force and military, past and present, to include today’s special guest, Ed Dwight, America’s first African American astronaut candidate,” he said.

“It is due to their trials and tribulations in breaking barriers that I can address you today as the Air Force Chief of Staff.”

Brown, who previously served as commander of Pacific Air Forces, was elevated to his new assignment during a solemn, socially distanced, 90-minute ceremony that focused on his achievements while also honoring Goldfein’s 37-year service in the Air Force and his four years as chief of staff.

Among those paying tribute were Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Department of the Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley. The ceremony also honored Goldfein as Esper presented him with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

Moments later in remarks to the new Chief of Staff, Esper said, “In returning to the Pentagon, Gen. Brown brings with him more than 35 years of service distinguished by a depth of expertise and experience that makes him exceptionally qualified to be our nation’s next Air Force Chief of Staff.

“I am confident you will take the Air Force to greater heights and I’m excited to watch you lead.”

In her remarks, Barrett offered similar praise for Goldfein’s service and accomplishments. Like others she expressed confidence that Brown has the correct mix of experience and temperament to lead the Air Force to a bright and dominant future.

Brown, she said, “brings a wealth of joint

leadership experiences and global perspectives to his new role as 22nd chief of staff of the Air Force. Embodying the Air Force core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do, General Brown has the right character, experience, and perspective to lead the United States Air Force.”

Like Goldfein and those who came before, Brown as chief of staff is responsible for ensuring the Air Force is trained, ready and equipped to accomplish any mission at any time.

Yet he’s also taking the reins of an Air Force in transition, one moving from a decades-long priority on combating and containing terrorism to a new era of Great Power Competition. As part of that new focus, the Air Force and entire U.S. military must be trained, ready and properly equipped to confront, deter and if necessary, defeat, challenges from Russia and China. It also comes at a time of heightened challenges from North Korea and other geopolitical shifts across Asia.

In his remarks, Brown said he would work to build on Goldfein’s accomplishments while also adding his own imprint to assure that the Air Force remains the most advanced, professional and lethal in the world.



19th Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne S. Bass formally took the reins Aug. 14 as the Air Force’s 19th Chief Master Sergeant, in the process becoming the first woman and the first person of Asian American descent to be elevated to the service’s highest-ranking enlisted officer.

In remarks after the formal “Change of Responsibility” ceremony in which she assumed the job from retiring Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Bass marveled at the arc of her career and the moment in history.

“Twenty-seven years ago, I joined our United States Air Force with the plan of doing four quick years and figuring out what I wanted to do in life,” she said. “Never would I have imagined I would be standing before you today as your 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.”

Bass’s claim to history followed by one week another major milestone, when Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., her new boss, was formally installed as the 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff. That act made Brown the first African-American in history to become the highest-ranking officer of a U.S. military service. Brown acknowledged the significance by noting the path created by “Tuskegee Airmen, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Chappie James and African American leaders across our Air Force and military.”

“The same holds true today,” Bass said. “It is a moment that could not have taken place without the efforts of many women who have gone before me.

“Our Air Force today is on the right side of history. We are creating not only historic moments with the first African American service chief and the first female and Asian American Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, but we are focused on setting a foundation for all Americans to see themselves in this great institution,” she said.

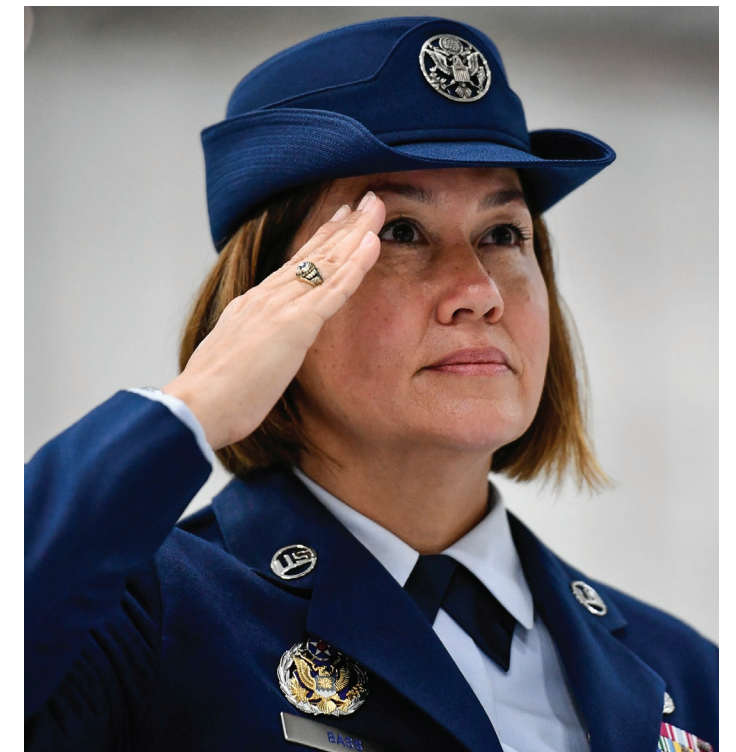
“To anyone who never thought they could be a Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, a Chief of Staff, or a Secretary of the Air Force, or a commander or a first sergeant, this historic moment is for you,” she said.

Bass also paid tribute to Wright and to Gen. David L. Goldfein, the 21st Air Force Chief of Staff.

Wright and Goldfein, she said, “had a monumental impact on each of us. It’s been a true honor to watch and serve under you both.”

As for what comes next and how she plans to lead, Bass was direct, “We have much to get after.”

Bass said she would continue to adhere to leadership principles gleaned from her parents



and from her husband, Rahn, a retired Army First Sergeant.

“What my parents did instill in me is the value of hard work and treating people well. That is something that I will continue on as your Chief – hard work and treating people well,” she said.

Her husband, Bass said, “taught me to always take the ‘hard right’ versus the ‘easy wrong.’ And my word to all Airmen is that we will always take the hard right; meaning, we will always do the right thing even when it’s not comfortable.”

Secretary Barbara Barrett said, “Today, the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, JoAnne Bass, becomes a worthy successor to Chief Wright.”

“Chief Bass, your extraordinary record of service has prepared you well to serve as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. I look forward to working with you as we lead the Air Force toward the future,” Barrett said.

In the global search for the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Bass emerged as the consensus choice from a group of finalists from across the Air Force. The finalists were selected based on breadth of experience, recommendations from senior commanders and performance across each candidate’s Air Force career.



RAIN CLOUDS CLEAR ABOVE A KC-135R ▲

A PILOT PERFORMS A PREFLIGHT CHECKLIST ►



COMMON ACRONYMS & JARGON

AFRC *Air Force Reserve Command*
AFRC provides the Air Force approximately 20 percent of their capability at four percent of the total Air Force budget. The Air Force Reserve performs two missions no other military service does: fixed-wing, aerial-spray missions and hurricane forecasting. AFRC also supports the space program, flight test, special operations, aerial port operations, civil engineer, security forces, intelligence, military training, communications, mobility support, transportation and services missions.

AGR *Active Guard Reserve*
National Guard and Reserve members who are on voluntary active duty providing full-time support to National Guard, Reserve and Active Component organizations for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing or training the Reserve Components.

ART *Air Reserve Technician*
A full-time Department of Defense civilian who is required, as a condition of employment, to be an Air Force Reservist and perform the same duties as a civilian as he/she does during monthly Reserve training.

AT *Annual Training*
The minimum period of Active Duty Training or Annual Field Training the Reserve member must perform every year.

BOOM
The long arm lowered from a KC-135 in flight that allows the refueling of other aircraft, also short for an in-flight refueling technician, or boom operator.

CATM *Combat Arms Training and Maintenance*
Security Forces personnel who train base populace on the use of small arms, oversee, maintain and repair all small arms in the U.S. Air Force inventory.

DEFENDER
Nickname for security forces squadron personnel.

D&TF *Development and Training Flight*
D&TF prepares Air Force Reserve members mentally and physically for the transition from civilian to military life through academic and fitness-based awareness programs.

FALCON
Nickname/call sign of the F-16A. This airframe was flown by the 507th ARW until 1994.

 **FOURTH AIR FORCE**
March Air Reserve Base, California, and its subordinate units are responsible for “strategic reach forces,” which includes aerial refueling and long-range, strategic airlift missions.

HOSE & DROGUE
The hose is a flexible, retractable tube that trails from an aircraft during aerial refueling. The drogue, a small parachute, stabilizes the hose during flight and acts as a ‘funnel’ for the probe of the aircraft being refueled. The KC-135Rs used by the 507th ARW can use either a boom or a drogue to refuel.



ISO *Isochronal inspection*
An extensive examination and maintenance of an entire airframe and systems that seek to increase the overall performance and safety of the aircraft. Can be minor, major or depot level.

IMA *Individual Mobilization Augmentee*
Reservists who augment our active-component counterparts at wings, major commands, combatant commands and government agencies.

IRR *Individual Ready Reserve*
Composed of former active duty or Reserve personnel, these Reservists are not attached to the Selected Reserve, who drill consistently with an organized unit. IRR members can be activated at a moment's notice by the president in times of grave national emergency.

LOGGIE
Nickname for logistics readiness squadron personnel.

OKIES
An endearing term for anyone past, present and future who serve in the 507th Air Refueling Wing.



PAX
A simple, shortened term for aircraft passengers.

PEGASUS
Nickname/call sign of the KC-46A recently delivered to the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron. The KC-46A is the Air Force's newest refueling aircraft.

PHANTOM
Nickname/call sign of the F-4 fighter jet. The F-4 was flown by the 507th ARW until the switch to F-16s.

PME *Professional Military Education*
Refers to the professional training, development, and schooling of military personnel.

PORT DAWG
Nickname for aerial port squadron personnel.

PRIME BEEF
Nickname for civil engineer squadron personnel.

RUTA *Rescheduled Unit Training Assembly*
When needed, Reservists can reschedule a unit training assembly.

TDY *Temporary Duty*
Used to describe a temporary duty location other than ones permanent station.

THUNDERCHIEF / THUD
Nickname/call sign of the F-105D Thunderchief supersonic fighter-bomber used by the Air Force. Capable of Mach 2, it conducted the majority of strike bombing missions during the early years of the Vietnam War.

TR *Traditional Reservist*
TR's are Reservists who work and perform readiness training with their Reserve unit one weekend per month (24 days), plus an additional two-weeks of active-duty training per year.

UTA *Unit Training Assembly*
A UTA is a required, two-day, monthly training period for Reservists, usually scheduled for the first or second weekend of each month. Commonly called drill.





▲ FIREFIGHTERS REMOVE DUMMY DURING A RESCUE EXERCISE

◀ WING COMMANDER INSPECTS HIS JET BEFORE TAKE OFF



▲ A KC-135R REFUELS A E-3 SENTRY ABOVE OKLAHOMA

507TH ARW HEADQUARTERS

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Col. Miles Heaslip

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Nicholas

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF
Lt. Col Amanda Hacman
Master Sgt. Grady Epperly
Tech. Sgt. Lauren Kelly
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