



On-final

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TINKER AFB, OK

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PAINT SCHEME MAKES F-4 LESS VISIBLE

The 507th CAMS paint shop is helping Program Depot Maintenance at Hill AFB, Utah by painting some of 507th Tactical Fighter Group's F-4Ds the new gray camouflage paint scheme.

Although the "official" painting of all F-4 aircraft assigned to Air Force Reserve units began in June, units that had the capability to paint their own aircraft were encouraged to do so. The 507th repainted one of its aircraft in May.

With the assistance of Tinker AFB's paint shop facilities, SSgt. Mitch Chandran, SSgt. Andy Lang, SrA. Robert Mosby and SSgt. Dean Whitehead, under the direction of CMSgt. Marvin Dorward, the aircraft was repainted with the new paint scheme in two days.

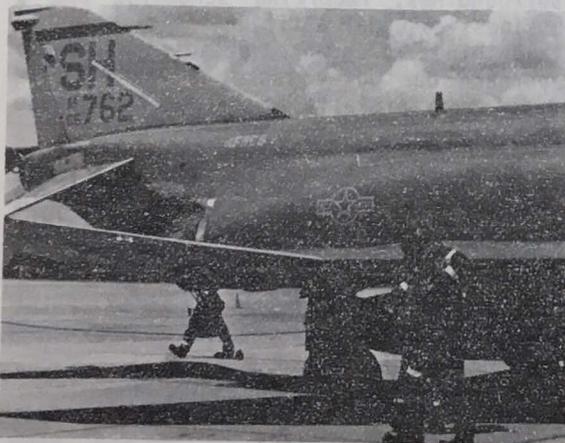
The new paint scheme is designed to make the aircraft less visible at higher altitudes, according to Col. Frank Peck, director of operations for Tenth Air Force.

"The traditional green camouflage paint scheme was used so that F-4s attacking at low altitudes would be less visible to airborne attack from above," said Colonel Peck. "The fallacy in that reasoning is that an F-4 configured for air-to-ground will spend only a short period of time in the low altitude regime because of fuel restraints. It is the longer exposure time at higher altitudes where air-to-air missile perform better and where gun attacks are easier, that a bomb laden F-4 most needs to avoid detection. This is where the gray paint scheme is most effective."

Credit for proposing the gray-on-gray paint scheme for AFRES aircraft has been given to Col. David M. McDowell, vice commander of the 482nd Tactical Fighter Wing, Homestead AFB, Fla. The colonel made the paint scheme suggestion almost six years ago while assigned to the 915th TFG at Homestead.

Tactical Air Command sent a message to all active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard F-4 units "requesting a coordinated position on the number and design of authorized paint schemes" in June 1985.

According to Colonel Peck, all AFRES fighter units wanted to use the gray-on-gray paint scheme and the command-wide change was approved in November.



Sporting the new gray-on-gray paint scheme, aircraft number 762 is the first of two 507th TFG F-4s painted locally. The unit now has six aircraft with the gray camouflage paint. The other four were painted during Program Depot Maintenance at Hill AFB, Utah.

COLONEL'S JOURNAL

1987 WILL BE BUSY, INTERESTING YEAR



Lt. Col. Larry Turner
507th TFG commander

Hopefully, the last few weeks have given us all the opportunity to catch our breath and charge our batteries in anticipation of the next fiscal year's calendar of events.

We are continuing to contact planners within our higher headquarters to iron out specific dates for event in FY 87. As of early August, nothing is in concrete and, unfortunately, we can't nail down specific dates for next year's annual tour.

Don't take it to the bank yet, but so far, here's what we anticipate in the way of scheduled deployments for the 507th in 1987:

January/February--Fleetex training with the U.S. Navy from Roosevelt Roads in

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Puerto Rico (either one or two weeks).

April/May--Fightercomp '87 (location is yet to be determined). This is 10th AF bi-annual fighter air-to-ground gunnery competition.

July--Midnight Sun exercise at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska (two weeks).

Summer/Fall--One week dissimilar air combat training for the aircrews at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

All of the above activities will require support from agencies within the group and it will our goal to get as many folks as possible on a deployed annual tour.

As you can see, we will be somewhat busy handling those exercises as well as the "good deals" that happen occasionally. However, looking at the past two year's activities, FY 87 is shaping up as a "piece of cake" for the 507th.

You've all heard the saying "Familiarity breeds contempt" and that is certainly something to think about as we approach what appears to be a non-threatening schedule. Our familiar surroundings, recurring schedules and a business-as-usual attitude can cause us to take things for granted or absent-mindedly approach our daily tasks. I ask that we avoid such pitfalls at all costs because such practices cause accidents.

The mission is important and we'll get it done in a professional manner. I want each of you to help me insure we get it done in a safe manner, too.

Be careful out there....

Fighter Group, U.S. Air Force Reserve,
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma".

Lt. Col. James L. Turner Commander

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AF LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON RETIREMENT

by Gen. Larry D. Welch, Air Force Chief of Staff and Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge Jr., secretary of the Air Force

On July 1, the president signed Public Law 99-348, the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986. This law does not affect anyone currently retired or on active duty. The provisions will apply only to those entering on or after Aug. 1, 1986. In passing this law, the Congress protected the retired pay of all men and women now serving or retired.

Senator Barry Goldwater, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated he wanted to "make very, very clear to all my colleagues, and especially to all military retirees and those men and

women who are currently serving on active duty, that the changes made in this bill will not apply to them. This legislation recognizes the promises that we have made to our military personnel and I am determined not to break those promises."

Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, also confirmed Congress' intent to protect the current force and also end the protracted debate on military retirement. Mr. Aspin said, "I think it is important that we put that issue to rest both within the Congress, within the administration, and of course, within the armed forces...." The Air Force firmly supports that objective.

FIELD TRAINING ON TAP FOR SEPTEMBER UTA

September's UTA is shaping up to be a fun-filled, family-oriented training period on Saturday, September 20.

"507th members need a chance to relax and recharge, especially since they have had a very hectic year," said Lt. Col. Larry Turner, 507th TFG commander. "This is one way to say thank you to everyone."

Family members are invited to view unit activities on Saturday including static displays of aircraft and equipment, softball and volleyball games, and a dunk tank. "We want some people to 'buy' others time to sit in the tank," said CMSgt. Lee Adams, 507th TFG senior enlisted advisor.

"Along with the annual aerobics testing, we also plan on having a 10,000 meter fun-run and a barbeque," said Chief Adams.

The entire family can enjoy the cookout for \$1. "We will be taking the money during the August UTA," added Chief Adams.

Each squadron will be given the opportunity to field a volleyball team. "The only stipulation is that at least half the team must be women," continued the chief.

For more information, contact your Enlisted Advisory Council member or Chief Adams.



AF LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON RETIREMENT

President Reagan has signed into law a bill creating a new retirement plan for all federal employees hired since Jan. 1, 1984.

According to officials in Washington D.C., the new system takes effect Jan. 1, 1987, and provides social security benefits earned through federal employment; a modified retirement plan for which employees will pay 1.3 percent of their salary; and an optional, tax-deferred thrift savings plan with government-matching contributions.

Coverage under the new federal employees retirement system (FERS) is automatic for first-time employees hired after 1983 and for most people returning to federal service, if they were out of federal employment for more than one year.

All other employees have the option of continuing in the current civil service retirement system (CSRS), switching to the new system, or just enrolling in the thrift plan, but without government-matching funds, officials said.

People hired before 1984 will have the chance to switch to the new system during an "open season" from July 1, 1987 to Dec. 31, 1987. Those who remain in the CSRS will continue to pay seven percent of their salary for retirement benefits and will be allowed to contribute up to five percent of their salary to the thrift plan.

Officials said retirement specialists will be trained Air Force-wide later this month to help employees make retirement decisions.

According to officials, the basic pension benefits formula for the FERS is simpler than the CSRS formula.

They explained that the CSRS formula provides 1.5 percent of pay for the first five years for federal service, 1.75 percent of pay for the next five years and two percent for the remaining years. Pay

for retirement purposes is defined as the average pay in the highest three consecutive years--or "high-three" as it is commonly called.

The new system retains the "high-three" pay base, but the benefit formula is now a simple one percent for each year of federal service for people who retire before age 62. Employees retiring after age 62 with 20 years of service will receive a benefit equal to 1.1 percent per year of service. They also will receive social security and benefits accumulated under the thrift savings plan, officials noted.

Employees with 30 years' service can continue to collect full retirement benefits under the new system, if they meet certain age requirements. The new system initially preserves the benefit of retiring at age 55 with 30 years of service. However, officials noted that the age requirement gradually will be raised to 57 in line with increases in social security full retirement age.

Another major change in the basic pension provisions under the new system is the cost-of-living adjustment. Instead of an annual increase equal to the rise in the consumer price index, FERS provides COLA equal to the index increase minus one percent. The COLA does not begin until age 62 for retirees, but is provided at all ages for survivors and disabled annuitants.

Under the thrift plan, people covered by the FERS may contribute up to 10 percent of basic pay each pay period, and direct their accounts to any of three different investment funds. At the same time, the government will match employee contributions. The government will contribute one percent automatically, whether or not the employee decides to contribute, plus additional amounts based on the employees' contributions. The highest government match, however, is five percent, officials said.

RETIREMENT CHANGES APPROVED BY CONGRESS

After two years of study and debate, Congress has approved legislation changing the military retirement system for people entering the service August 1 or later. Those now on active duty or already retired are not affected. Reservists who entered the military system before August 1 are also not affected by this change.

In order to encourage longer service, the new retirement system initially reduces retired pay for those who retire before reaching 30 years' service but adjusts retired pay at age 62. That early reduction is one percentage point off the current retirement rate for each year before 30 years' service.

For instance, people who retire under the new system after 20 years' military service will initially draw 40 percent of their high-year average basic pay, compared to 50 percent now. That means a 10 percent penalty for retiring 10 years before reaching 30 years' service. At age 62, retired pay will be recomputed to what it would have been without the penalty.

Under the new system, future military retirees will receive annual cost of living adjustments one percent below the inflation rate as measured by the consumer price index. Presently, retirees are entitled to COLA raises equal to inflation.

However, the new system also provides for a one-time COLA "catch-up." at age 62. Future military retirees will have their retired pay adjusted to what it would have been, assuming full COLA all along. After that one-time catch-up adjustment, COLA raises will resume at one percent below the inflation rate.

Along with everyone presently on active duty, in the reserves or retired, people in the delayed enlistment program or in service academies before August 1 are not affected. Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship cadets and ROTC non-scholarship cadets in two-year programs or on the last two years of a four-year program are not affected.

Prior service enlistees who return to active duty after August 1 will be eligible to retire under the current system if they **initially** entered service before the August 1 cutoff.

Although the Air Force opposed any change to military retirement, the changes mandated by Congress preserve the basic structure of the system and protect those who typically are no longer actively employed in a second career beyond age 62. Moreover, despite these changes, the military retirement system remains competitive with the best private sector plans by offering immediate retired pay after 20 years of service, relatively high multipliers, adjustment for inflation, and no member contributions, Air Force officials say.

DEERS ENROLLMENT SET FOR 507TH CSS

The 507th CSS is scheduled for Dependents Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) sign up during the August UTA from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in building 1043. There will be no processing between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DEERS, created by the Department of Defense, ensures that eligible military members and their dependents can receive civilian medical care paid for by DOD.

Members of the Air Force Reserve are required to enroll their dependents in DEERS. In the event of active mobilization, dependents will be able to receive civilian medical care without delay.

Documentation required to prove dependent relationship are certified copies of birth, adoption, marriage or divorce certificates. Certified copies may be obtained by writing to the state where the event was registered or the State Department for children born overseas.

Other units have been scheduled for a later date. For more information, contact CBPO records section at 734-7491.

TESTING FOR DRUGS, AIDS BEGINS SOON

The Air Force Reserve will expand its drug testing October 1 by giving commanders the authority to order commander-directed and limited-inspection drug abuse urinalysis testing of reservists not on extended active duty.

AFRES has, in the past, conducted limited drug abuse testing for aircraft mishap and probable cause search-seizure situations during unit training assemblies and annual active-duty training tours. The primary purpose of the expanded testing program is deterrence, closely parallels current Air Force initiatives.

Commander-directed testing may be ordered when probable cause does not exist but there is reasonable suspicion of drug abuse, or to determine a member's competency for duty and the need for counseling, rehabilitation or other medical treatment. Inspection testing may be conducted as a unit sweep or randomly on segments of a unit, squadron, duty section or dormitory. Reserve members who are randomly selected for inspection testing will be notified no earlier than four hours before the actual time they are to report for testing.

AFRES will initially be allotted 200 urinalysis tests each month from October through December. The number will expand to 400 tests per month through March 1987 and then increase again to 600 per month.

According to Maj. Sandy Kutner, 507th TFG Social Actions OIC, the 507th will start with five tests per month and work up to 15 by March 1987.

Maj. Gen. Sloan R. Gill, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRES commander, authorized the increased drug testing program for the Reserve. "Our mission demands vigilance in the prevention of drug abuse, particularly with the flying units," he said.

Testing for HTLV-III begins in October

HTLV-III testing will begin in October, according to the TAC Clinic. HTLV-III is the antibody that could signify the presence of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

For more information on testing procedures, contact the clinic at 734-2487.



As always, the SH OKies will always be prepared for the unit's mobility commitment.

Who said "you can't take it with you?"--obviously, the person responsible for that saying has never been around the 507th. Cuz, when there is a will, there is definitely a way!

ISS TRAVELS TO TEXAS FOR ANNUAL TOUR

by SrA. Bekki Lingenfelter

The 507th ISS traveled to Bergstrom AFB, Texas for their annual tour where the unit received intensive training learning how to be a collocated operating base.

High frequency communications support was provided by the radio section who transmitted and received numerous messages over the HF via voice and international morse code. TSgt. Renny Shoemaker and A1C Jan Smith added a dial control to the equipment that added commercial dial capability. The switchboard operators provided local, commercial and radio phone patch communications to the commander during the four-day exercise.

According to MSgt. Wayne Blanchard, chief radio maintenance advisor, telecommunications operators were required to power-up and operate the transportable record communications terminal. "On day

four, while wearing full chem gear, we received a total emergency destruction order. We completed it in minutes with 100 percent accuracy."

During the redeployment to the field, it took the 507th only 10 minutes to gather all the necessary comm gear and leave the operations center. The set-up of the tent, the GRA-4 antenna and equipment in the field progressed so smoothly and rapidly, that the instructors from the 1816th Reserve Advisor Squadron slowed the ISS team down by interjecting "condition black". The scenarios that followed let several individuals take over the leadership roles.

At the conclusion of the four days, Capt. Henry Detwiler, team commander, said the quality of training received during the exercises will aid ISS in its wartime tasking. "Everyone from the 507th ISS did a super job. I'm proud of them."

EMERGENCY ACTIONS FOR CHOKING CHILDREN

According to Jane M. Dennison, chief pediatric resident at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, the first thing to do if your child is choking is to listen. If the child is talking, crying or coughing, watch and wait. The child will probably cough up the food

But if the child is unable to make a sound, even if the chest is moving, the airway is blocked. First call for help. Then turn your attention to the child. Remove any food in the mouth.

Put the child face down across your lap with the head supported and use the heel of your hand to strike four blows between the shoulder blades. Flip the child over and thrust on the chest with your fingers four times. If you see food in the mouth, take it out.

Check again to see if the child is breathing.

If not, give the child mouth-to-mouth resuscitation using four quick, gentle breaths. Make sure you cover the nose with your mouth if you are dealing with an infant.

If the chest does not rise, repeat the whole procedure: back blows, chest thrusts and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

If you find an unconscious child, do the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation first to see if the chest rises. If it does not, start with the back blows.

Do not use the Heimlich maneuver on children under age 5 because you may cause internal injuries.

PAY DATES

The following is provided to keep you informed of the pay dates for September. The document date is when the 507th TFG military pay section must have the necessary pay documentation to meet the scheduled pay date.

The documentation must be complete, i.e., certifications, itineraries, orders, etc. If the paperwork is not complete or there is a conflict, the scheduled pay date will not be met.

Document Date Scheduled Pay Date

Aug. 28	Sept. 5
Sept. 3	Sept. 15
Sept. 9	Sept. 19
Sept. 17	Sept. 30
Sept. 24	Oct. 6

Please note that the August UTA paydate is September 5.

Military Pay sends each squadron a listing of individuals who must recertify their authorization to receive BAQ. Failure to recertify will terminate your BAQ approximately 45 days after the listing is given to the squadron.

CE SPENDS ITS ANNUAL TOUR IN GERMANY

While the majority of 507th people were sweating it out in chem suits on Tinker's flightline, some members of the 507th enjoyed their annual tour in other areas of the world.

Members of the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron went to Bitburg AB, Germany at the end of May.

Led by Lt. Col. David E. Pierson, CES commander, the civil engineers revamped a parking area, re-wired the skeet range's electrical system, moved some boilers and built office space in the transportation building.

While deployed, the squadron operated out of a bunker normally used for backup during Bitburg's wartime training.

UTA SCHEDULE

PROPOSED

FY 87 UTA SCHEDULE

25 - 26	OCT;	15 - 16	NOV;
06 - 07	DEC;	10 - 11	JAN;
07 - 08	FEB;	07 - 08	MAR;
11 - 12	APR;	02 - 03	MAY;
06 - 07	JUN;	18 - 19	JUL;
15 - 16	AUG;	12 - 13	SEP;

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