

507th Tactical Fighter Group



On-final

An Air Force Reserve Newspaper

Vol VIII No. 9

Tinker AFB, OK

September-October 1987

Civic leaders enjoy sharing pilot's eye-view

During the past several months, the 507th Tactical Fighter Group has been hosting a series of F-4D civic leader and orientation flights.

The program is authorized by Air Force Regulations to promote a better awareness of Air Force and Air Force Reserve activities. The flights are flown as part of the unit's regularly scheduled training missions. The following includes highlights of the program.

Herbert Kelleher, president and chief executive officer of Southwest Airlines, was given the opportunity to fly with the 465th Tactical Fighter Squadron on May 30. The pilot for his aircraft was Maj. John Ekl. Other 465th TFS members who took part in the four-ship flight were Maj. John Livengood, Maj. Perry Clausen, Maj. Courtney Brown and 1st Lt. Chuck Smith.

Paul Carter, chief pilot for Southwest Airlines, also received an orientation flight. His pilot was Lt. Col. Mark Jensen. With the exception of Lieutenant Smith, all participants are employed by Southwest Airlines in their civilian jobs.

After the flight, Mr. Kelleher told the reserve members that their "contributions to the country is one which makes us all at Southwest Airlines

proud of your Air Force Reserve involvement and participation."

Mr. Kelleher also expressed his thanks in a letter sent to Lt. Col. James L. Turner, 507th Tactical Fighter Group commander, for the "thrill of a lifetime riding one of your F-4s . . . allowing me to experience the wonderful camaraderie that you have created among your men . . . allowing me to see the superb condition in which you maintain your equipment . . . rekindling in such a magnificent fashion Southwest's dedication to the Air Force Reserve and it's goal."

The Southwest flight was not the only one that generated high interest this summer. The 507th TFG had the opportunity to provide a flight for the 2854th Air Base Group Commander Col. Phillip Hubbard in the back seat of one of the MiG killer aircraft the unit flight was Joe Cupido, an aerial photographer. Mr. Cupido took aerial photos of the aircraft for historical purposes. One of the photos is scheduled to be used in the British Aviation Weekly. Another photo Mr. Cupido shot when the unit was deployed to

Nevada was published in the September issue of Air Force Magazine.

Another artist flown was Mr. George Grieg, an oil painter who has some work on display at the Air Force Museum. Mr. Grieg's painting of the 507th's aircraft will be presented to the unit.

Other orientation rides included a flight for Marty Riesing, KZBS radio reporter. That flight provided Mr. Riesing with the opportunity to provide a live on-air traffic report from the back seat of an F-4D aircraft.

Also receiving the opportunity to fly in an F-4D was Philip Newbold, president of Baptist Medical Center. Baptist Hospital provides additional training for the TAC Clinig and is also the civilian employer for many reservists assigned to the unit.

Another orientation flight was provided by 19086 Aerobatic Champion.

The flights were well-received by these honorary backseaters and provided the unit with the opportunity to provide "hands-on" explanations of the reserve and the 507th Tactical Fighter Group.



U.S. Air Force Photo

Herb Kelleher, president of Southwest Airlines, gives the thumbs-up sign after his F-4D orientation flight. His was one of seven orientation flights provided by the unit since the beginning of the summer.

W-4s: Turn in forms or turn away pay

Time is running out for Air Force Reservists to submit the 1987 Form W-4 or W-4A to their employers.

According to Stu Markle, 507th

Budget Officer, Oct. 17 is the deadline though the Internal Revenue Service and he urges people to submit the form early so the right amount of tax can be

withheld from their pay.

Self-employed reservists can obtain forms from their Air Force Reserve pay office and should return the completed forms to that office, said Mr. Markle. If reservists don't turn in the new form to their pay office by Oct. 17, tax allowances may automatically be adjusted to one deduction for single and two deductions for married members.

People who've already given a form to their employer don't have to do it again unless they want to make a change.

Reservists who've filed either form and received at least one paycheck showing their new tax withholding may want to obtain IRS Publication 919,

"Is My Withholding Correct?" by calling toll free 1-800-424-3676.

Another change to the tax law affects claiming dependents in 1987. Social security numbers must be listed for all dependents claimed who're age 5 or older. Previously, the age requirement was 10 or older.

To obtain a social security number, apply at the nearest social security office by filing Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Number Card. A birth certificate or other birth record and proof of identity must be presented for each new applicant. For those born outside the United States, proof of citizenship or lawful alien status is also required. (AFRNS)

Reservists suggest changes

A Department of Defense-wide identification card for reservists' dependents and the use of morale, welfare and recreation equipment on or off base were among suggestions reviewed by Air Reserve Forces policy boards recently.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center/Air Force Reserve Policy and Advisory Council convened here to look at 16 recommendations for improving the Reserve. The Air National Guard/AFRES Enlisted Advisory Panel gathered at the ANG Support Center, Andrews AFB, Md., to evaluate 20 ideas affecting the Reserve and Guard.

Seven items were approved by the advisory council. Items affecting AFRES members were recommendations to investigate the inequities and inconsistencies in the payment of per diem between officers and enlisted members and to make educational benefits available to officers regardless of their degree objective.

The enlisted panel endorsed six ideas. Those items included suggestions to:

- Have the Air Force consider

adopting a ribbon similar to the Army reserve components' overseas training ribbon.

- Allow a deduction for U.S. Savings Bonds from reservists' monthly pay.
- Establish leave procedures for use by the active service and the American Red Cross for emergency situations affecting reservists.

Items approved by the advisory council were sent to Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer, chief of Air Force Reserve. Recommendations endorsed by the enlisted panel went to General Scheer and Maj. Gen. John B. Conaway, director of the Air National Guard. The generals review the items and refer them to the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee and other agencies within the Air Staff.

Reservists may present recommendations to the council or the panel on plain bond paper or ARPC Form 2, "Policy and Advisory Council or Advisory Panel Recommendation," and send them to HQ ARPC/XPXC, Denver, CO 80280-5000. (AFRNS)

Door open to unit IG

Lt. Col. Richard Eustace is the Inspector General monitor for the 507th Tactical Fighter Group.

In a recent interview, he restated his policy towards helping unit members resolve problems or questions they may have.

"My door is always open to help unit members. Whether they are concerned with a possible Fraud, Waste and Abuse situation, or even if they think they know a better way to 'run our business', I want to know," he said.

The colonel stressed that the IG

office is not meant to "circumvent the normal chain of command", but rather provide a "check and balance" for

UEI IG Conference
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problems that cannot be corrected through normal procedures.

"Try your chain of command first. I'm sure you'll find most problems can be corrected that way. If not, then see me. Together, we'll find a solution," he said.

— Colonel's Journal —



(U.S. Air Force Photo)

By Lt. Col. James L. Turner
507th TFG Commander

There is some good news concerning the post-conversion fate of our faithful fleet of F-4D aircraft. Perhaps the "Sun City" retirement center for tired aircraft at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., will get far fewer of our "SH" Phantoms than originally planned. In a recent inspection by a survey team from the Republic of Korea's Air Force, 16 of our birds were earmarked for possible sale to the ROKAF after our F-16 Fighting Falcons are delivered. That says a great deal about the pride and professionalism of our forgotten mechanics and deserves a "well done" to the men and women of the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Remember our goal of successfully converting this unit from the F-4D to the F-16 without the change costing us an accident in either aircraft.

Also newsworthy is the fact that the growing importance of our role in the Total Force is currently exemplified by the manpower increases, mission changes and resultant increased capabilities of the Civil Engineers, Weapons System Security Flight and TAC Clinic. These upcoming changes will chal-

lenge our recruiters to enlist additional talent to man the new spaces, our commanders to decide the best and most expeditious means to accomplish the goal of becoming mission ready in the new posture, and our NCOs to follow through with the training and administration to keep these organizations ready to mobilize, deploy and employ. These are important changes and reflect our leader's confidence in the Air Reserve Forces' ability to perform a vital role in Combat Support and medical readiness — let's get to it with some Okie "can do".

Of course, the big news occurred at the AFRES Commanders Conference at Homestead AFB last month. I want to thank each and every member of the 507th TFG for putting me on the podium with Maj. Gen. Roger Scheer to receive our latest honor — the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for our many accomplishments from July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1986. In addition to the AFOUA, our gaining command's boss Gen. Robert D. Russ will soon present us with another Flight Safety Award marking another accident-free year of flying operations from Sept. 1, 1986 to Aug. 31, 1987.

I'm proud to serve with you — you're doing great and FY 88 will give our Group ample opportunities to shine.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Jeanette Deatherage

SSgt. Phil Ryan, SSgt. Irvin Vincent and A1C Brian Walker repack a nose strut on one of the aircraft during Patriot Polar.

In Patriot Polar '87

Alaska tests Reservists

By SSgt. Jeanette Deatherage

Eight F-4D Phantom aircraft and more than 120 people from the 507th Tactical Fighter Group deployed to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, July 12-26 in support of Patriot Polar '87.

Patriot Polar was a combined training exercise with the Alaskan Air Command. Sponsored by the 21st Tactical Fighter Wing, at Elmendorf AFB, the exercise tasked 507th aircrews with dissimilar air-to-air and air-to-ground operations against F-15 Eagles and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. Ground crew and support personnel received training using Alaska's terrain that provided a realistic environment.

Maintenance troops put in a lot of

long hours maintaining the aircraft. The maintenance problems encountered were considered unique since each break was a "hard" break.

According to Capt. Rodney Lane, the kinetic... certain parts for the fix. "We knew before we left Tinker what maintenance was already scheduled to be done in Alaska. The problems we encountered were not on the periodic maintenance schedule so the parts needed had to be flown in from Tinker," he said.

According to Lt. Col. Jerd Sharp, 507th Air Force Advisor, the weather was a definite problem during the deployment. "Because of inclement weather, we didn't have the opportunity for air-to-ground missions. Otherwise, we had some good training."

Gives commanders flexibility

Man-day system changes

Air Force Reserve members may benefit from changes in how their units handle reserve personnel man-days and related travel in the coming fiscal year, according to AFRES comptroller officials.

Starting Oct. 1, AFRES unit commanders became involved in new programs to further decentralize management of the Reserve Personnel Appropriation, said Pete Jones, chief of AFRES budget operations. Some of these changes will come about through a program called the Personnel Budgeting and Accounting System. PBAS will give commanders a checkbook approach to management of the reserve man-day program, Mr. Jones said.

Reserve man-days account for some 20 percent of the costs in this appropriation. According to Stu Markle, 507th budget officer, "Unit commanders will have maximum authority to redistribute resources — man-day dollars rather than man-day tours — to match continually changing mission needs regardless of the type of man-day required. This will give commanders added authority to go with the responsibility

and accountability they already have."

"With a more direct say in how reserve man-day dollars will be used, unit commanders, managers and reservists will be able to forecast and schedule school and special tour training with greater confidence. This means improved training opportunities for reservists and the Air Force Reserve," Mr. Markle added.

A key policy change will affect man-day support between units. Starting in October, a reservist's unit of assignment will pay the cost of mission-driven man-days in support of another unit or activity.

Another new program, Travel Budgeting and Accounting System, will give commanders better control of unit travel funds.

"With the current travel system, commanders don't always know how much travel money they have because it takes about six months for the average reserve travel voucher to flow through the accounting system after it's been paid," Mr. Jones said. "That time will be reduced to within a month at the most under the new system."

★ Promotions ★

The following people were promoted in September.

To Lieutenant Colonel:

Barry Whipple, 465th TFS

To Master Sergeant:

Clyde E. Lillie, 507th MSF

To Technical Sergeant:

Mitchell Chandran, 507th CAMS;
Robert V. Keck II, 507th CAMS

To Staff Sergeant:

Brian N. Binion, 507th CAMS;
Steven C. Brown, 507th CAMS; Michael A. Decker, 507th CAMS; Deborah K. Drain, 465th TFS; Don W. Ellis, 507th WSSF; Paul D. Geissler, 507th MSF; William G. Harvey Jr., 507th MSF; Tessa R. Hinds, 507th CAMS; Timothy L. Keeling, 507th CAMS; Charles K. McGee, 72nd APS; Sharon K. Paolucci, 403rd CLSS; John A. Ratterman Jr., 507th CES; Roydan B. Soder, 507th CAMS, Gary E. Wehrenberg, 507th CAMS

To Senior Airman:

Johnna K. Adams, 465th TFS; Monte Buchanan, 507th CSS; Tina Hargrove, 72nd APS; John D. Koban, 507th CAMS; Lloyd C. Maxwell,

507th CES; Jeffrey D. McComas, 507th WSSF; Frederick E. Mends, 507th WSSF; Christopher Monsey, 403rd CLSS; Sheri L. Rice, 72nd APS; Carl E. Robertson, 507th CAMS; Joan Scott, 507th CS; David B. Truel, 507th CSS

To Airman First Class:

Robert Cameron, 507th CAMS; Reginald B. Lollis, 507th CS; Mario A. Lopez, 72nd APS; Edward Rosenhauer, 507th CAMS; Michael S. Votaw, 507th CS; Joe H. Walker, 507th CAMS; Frank P. Whitehead, 72nd APS

The following individuals have been selected for promotion.

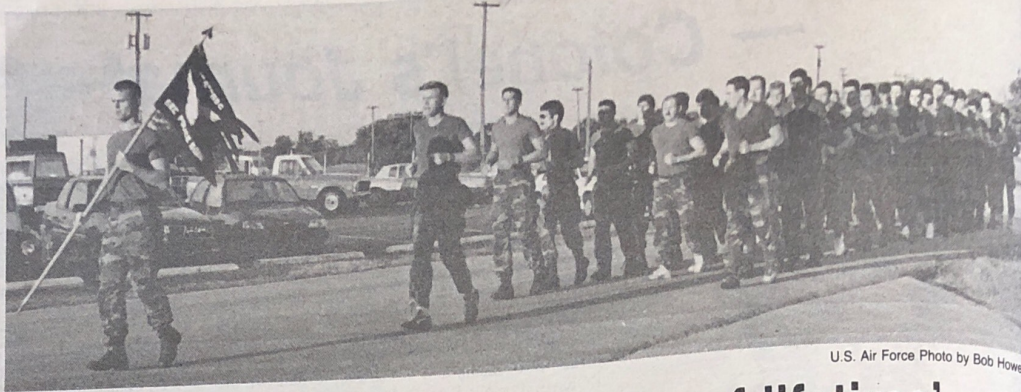
To Lieutenant Colonel:

Warren A. Muller, 507th TFG; Donald Hein, 465th TFS

To Major:

Thomas R. Crane, TAC Clinic; Donald Curtis, 507th TFG; Joe Hidy, 465th TFS; Lynn Long, 465th TFS; Larry Miller, 465th TFS; Mike Tucker, 465th TFS

Company flagbearer and Capt. John Currie lead 2854th Security Police Squadron troops on training run in preparation for combat competition.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Bob Howe

Security Police prepare for 'opportunity of lifetime'

By Darla R. Booker
Public Affairs Office

Forty-four security police from the 2854th Security Police Squadron here are preparing for an "opportunity of a lifetime."

On Oct. 4 they will fly to Little Rock AFB, Ark. to meet with three other security police flights from other commands. Together they will become an opposing combat force in an exercise against a unit that has been called "the nation's finest light infantry airborne brigade." The police will compete against the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne.

"The mission of the security police in this exercise mirrors their combat mission should the need arise," said Capt. John Currie, the team's flight commander. "They must be able to go into a bare base or landing strip, take the area away from any hostile element and after it is secured, be able to defend the base from opposing forces so that our aircraft can safely use the base for air operations."

In this two-week scenario the 82nd Airborne will parachute into an area close to the Security Police defenders and then attempt to take the base away from them.

The exercise will take place at the Headquarters Military Airlift Command Ground Combat Training Center known as "VOLANT SCORPION."

Tinker's security police, specially trained in air base ground defense, have been preparing for the event for the past several weeks. Additional physical training includes running in flight formation for two to four miles each morning, training in land navigation, ambush, communications and intelligences.

The police squadron's opponents during the exercise will be tough to deal with, Captain Currie said.

"The 82nd Airborne personnel are good at what they do. They have to be. They must be able to go out and intercept enemy forces before the enemy forces are in range to do any harm to the base," the captain said.

"The heaviest thing they carry to protect themselves are only the weapons that can be carried on their backs."

Many of the security police squadron's team members are ready and eager to show their stuff.

"We've trained hard. The attitudes are right. And we're ready to 'fight'," said MSgt. Andy Thomas, the team's flight engineer. "The 82nd is going to know they have been involved in combat with the Tinker Cops."

"This is an opportunity for us to engage an unknown force, while gaining experience in our primary mission during wartime which is air base ground defense. I believe we're ready to win!" said Captain Currie.

Lt. Col Mike Rader, commander of the 2854th Security Police Squadron said the security police will leave Sunday to experience "the best training we could hope for in the continental United States."

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