

507th Tactical Fighter Group



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On-final

Christmas Spirit lives on at 507th

The trees are gone; the lights and tinsel are put away for another year, but the Christmas spirit lives on at the 507th Tactical Fighter Group.

Recently, Lt. Col. Larry Turner, 507th Commander, received letters of thanks for the Christmas cards, candy canes and baseball caps the unit sent to naval reserve crews working the holiday season in the Persian Gulf.

The idea began in a brainstorming session last September between Colonel Turner and 507th Chaplain (1st Lt) Joel Clay.

"We knew how lonely the holidays can get for a serviceman away from home and we wanted to do something to help," Chaplain Clay said. "Our idea was for the 507th to adopt a ship." As things turned out, however, the 507th "adopted" three ships.

Chaplain Clay contacted Surface Forces Atlantic at Norfolk Naval Air

Station, Virginia and learned that three minesweepers were working in the Gulf over the holidays: the Illusive, Inflict and Fearless. He also learned they were manned entirely by Naval reservists.

Three giant Christmas cards were designed and created by MSgt. Ronald Brown, 507th illustrator, while baseball caps were donated by the maintenance squadron. Unit members then signed each of the three cards during Reserve Fair Day last November.

But having the presents ready and getting them there were two different problems.

"We mailed the cards to the Chaplains office at Norfolk NAS, who had them airlifted to the organization supporting naval forces in the gulf at Bahrain (an island in the Persian Gulf). From there, the Bahrain Chaplain had

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U.S. Air Force Photo by 2nd Lt. Rich Curry
A full-time civilian in the 507th Combat Support Group training section, and a Naval reservist, YN3 Nancy Knight signs Christmas cards mailed to Naval reservists in the Persian Gulf.

507th WSSF invades Oklahoma countryside

By TSgt. Cathy L. Benedict

They came, they saw, they evaded. That was the scene at Camp Gruber as the 507th Weapons System Security Flight on Jan. 23-24 "invaded" the countryside of Oklahoma to outsmart the enemy.

MSgt. John Harwell, 507th Combat

Support Squadron, combat arms training and maintenance instructor, went to provide training for weapons qualification. "The 2854th Security Police Squadron supported the training and provided one of their CATM instructors, TSgt. Pat. Lowder, to help qualify our people on the M-16 and M-60," said MSgt. Ed Dimmock, 507th WSSF NCOIC.

To add realism with the training, pop-up targets were used during the qualification testing.

For some of the flight members, this was a new experience qualifying with pop-up targets. "This is the first time in my five years in the security police career field, active duty and reserve, that I had the chance to use pop-up targets. It definitely adds realism,"

said SSgt. Ron Balmer. The targets ranged in distance from 50 to 300
(Continued on Page 12)

Commissary problems are addressed

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) — In the near future, the Department of Defense is expected to announce new procedures for Reserve members to use their commissary benefits. The policy will resolve several concerns that have been identified with the current procedures.

Those concerns include the potential loss of benefits in cases where active duty for training for two separate fiscal years is performed during the same calendar year. Another concern is the lack of a uniform identification document; three services use leave and earnings statements while another uses W-2 forms.

Under the new policy, a standard DOD commissary privilege identification card will be issued by all services. These cards will authorize members of the selected reserve and their families 12 discretionary days of commissary use during a 365-day period. Also, reservists will be entitled to use commissaries during actual active duty for training periods by presenting a valid copy of orders.



Sgt. Donnell Smith feeds the ammunition as SRA Gary Sears sights in the target on the M-60 machine gun during last

U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Edward Bradford
month's training exercises at Camp Gruber.

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Sergeant: A servant or a leader?

By TSgt. Dennis Center
Little Rock AFB, Ark.

That word . . . sergeant. It means so many different things to each of us.

To my grandpa, it was that leathery, cigar-chewing, fearless fighting man that led him into battle during World War II.

To General Halftrack, he's an overfed, inefficient slob who lives to pulverize moronic privates in his spare time.

To the writers of Random House College Dictionary, a sergeant is "any noncommissioned officer." It is an extremely old word, with its roots in the Latin verb "service" (to serve) and the noun "servient" (servant).

Of course, the servant part is just as apt to have spawned different visions in

everyone's head — usually in a negative vein.

But for the sake of argument, let's all consider the duty of a sergeant and the interpretation of a servant as one item: A man or woman bound by oath to serve the Constitution of the United States. We do that by training our troops. We do that by taking orders from our superiors. We exemplify being a sergeant most of all by being leaders.

Servant in the service of our country. Leader. Hmmm . . . the two don't seem to fit, now do they? But, when thought out to the logical end, they do complement one another — and from servant, the metamorphosis begins to create a leader.

When you were an airman basic, the lowest of the lowly, did you understand how to take orders? Did you need your supervisor to give you orders or did you

"take the hint" easily?

When the chief (or the buck sergeant or the lieutenant) mentioned that the hall needed mopping or the carpet was getting a little dirty, did you jump at the chance to please and get right to it? Or, when you were issued orders to do those kind of things, did you gripe and moan?

What you did then reflects directly upon how you give orders now. If you didn't know how to take orders (hints) then, you surely don't know how to give them.

Now that you're in a position of authority, do you treat the airmen who work for you or in your section like servants?

Do you still groan and moan when the boss gives you additional workload (for reasons only the boss knows)? Do you hate every minute of taking orders

and love giving them? If so, you have never been a leader and likely never will.

The fact remains that we are all servants, from the president to the wing commander to the airman basic. Don't lose sight of that fact, and don't think you are on the receiving end all the time.

Serving can be rewarding, if you've got your brain in gear and your motives in the right place.

So now that you're a "tech" or a chief, you get a few of the RHIP perks. Good! You should, for as everyone knows, with responsibility comes privilege. If I'm doing the best I can where I am, then I win. Period. If I shirk any of the duty levied upon me, I lose. Period. My office suffers. My squadron, base and the nation suffer.

Make doing it right a way of life

By 2nd Lt. Rich Curry

It was several years ago and, unfortunately, it was one of those days.

My major was in one of "those moods" where nothing I did was right.

I was a brand-new Staff Sergeant and now the NCOIC of my shop. I had just finished making all the arrangements for my unit's Commander's Call, complete with agenda and a list of the award recipients. I worked on it for two hours. It was my first time to do this but, frankly, it looked pretty good.

So here I was watching my "baby" being torn apart.

First came the list of awards:

"Are these all of the awards?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you call CBPO, to find out if they might have any more that haven't gotten to us yet?"

"Uhh, no sir." (Oops)

"How are these awards to be presented?"

"I've got them listed by rank and alphabetically, sir."

"That's fine, but Sergeant Jones here is receiving a Meritorious Service Medal and Chief Smith is only getting a certificate of appreciation. We recognize achievement first and then present

the awards by rank."

"I didn't know that." (Here it comes.)

"Ask." (Splat)

From then on, things got worse . . . much worse. Bit by bit, his red pencil chewed my project to shreds. Even today I still squirm with the memory.

Throughout it all, however, my mind kept saying, "This isn't fair!" After all it was my first time to do this.

My agenda was a solid page of red. Finally, he stopped.

He looked up and said quietly, "Sit down."

"I want to tell you something and if you remember nothing else I want you to remember these three words: 'Completed Staff Work.'"

"You're a career NCO now, a professional. I depend on you the same way the commander depends on me.

As professionals, it doesn't matter if we prepare reports or wash dishes. What does matter is asking yourself, "Have I done everything I can? Can I do more?" It's the difference between having the dishes washed and having them washed and stacked."

Completed staff work. A light came on. I saw the solution. It's not the two hours, it's the two hours and ten minutes that makes the difference.

Sure, we're only human and a person may not be able to think of all the angles all the time, but that ten minutes sure helps.

So, I walked away with my "bleeding paper" and a new philosophy: Completed staff work. Thanks, Major T. I also learned something else; you get your philosophies wherever you find them.

But that's another story.

— Editorials —

Lodging plus is in effect

Military temporary duty travelers are now reimbursed under a system that covers actual lodging costs, plus a fixed rate for meals.

Called Lodging Plus, it is more generous to TDY travelers, yet less expensive for the government, Air Force analysis shows. Implemented Jan. 1, the new per diem system is similar to procedures used to reimburse government civilian travelers.

Under Lodging Plus, TDY travelers are reimbursed their actual hotel or motel costs, not to exceed a set amount based on average local costs.

Military people must produce hotel or motel receipts. Receipts are not needed when staying in government quarters. Travelers who stay with friends or relatives will not be reimbursed for lodging.

Meal expenses are repaid at one of two rates stateside. TDY travelers

receive \$25 a day for meals in most areas, or \$33 a day in a limited number of high-cost areas. Meal receipts are not needed. Overseas, there are 57 different meal rates, ranging from \$9 to \$137 daily.

When government meals are not available, members receive the full meal allowance. They receive a reduced amount when government meals are available. Previously, military TDY travelers received a maximum of \$75 a day in high-cost areas stateside, and \$50 a day in lower-cost areas. Now, a TDY traveler to Washington, D.C., receives up to \$117 daily — \$84 for lodging and \$33 for meals.

However, Lodging Plus will not cost the government more than previous per diem systems. Statistics shows most (88 percent) Air Force TDY travelers stay on base or in contract quarters.

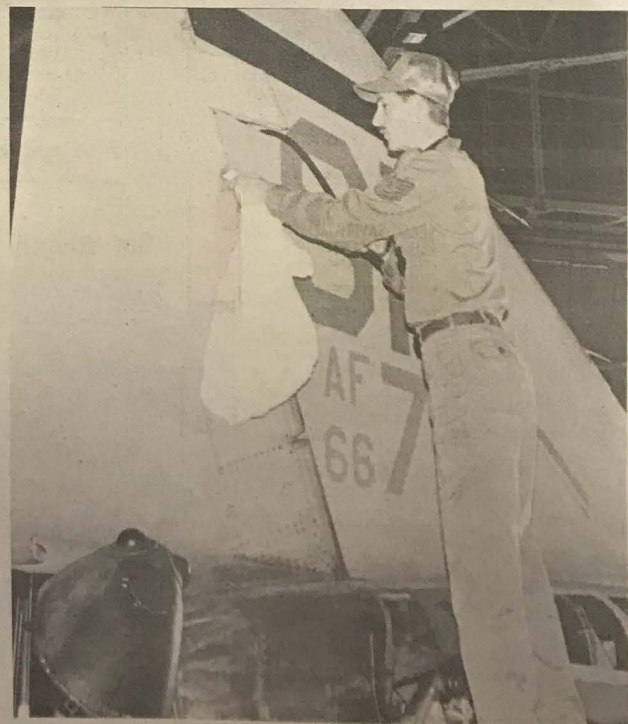
Social Security held from pay

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — The good news is Air Force Reservists received a 2 percent pay raise effective Jan. 1. The not so good news is they will have 7.51 percent deducted from their inactive duty drill pay for social security.

Inactive duty training includes unit training assemblies, additional flight

training periods and equivalent training.

While the new deductions will gain some reservists additional rights to social security entitlements, most won't see a substantial increase in coverage, said accounting and finance officials at AFRES headquarters here.



Whether it's a wheel or a rudder, it's always the "Squeaky" one that gets the grease. Here, TSgt. Wilton Weeks of Phase Dock makes sure the squeek doesn't start.

U.S. Air Force Photo

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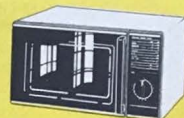
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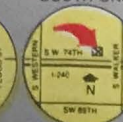
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Galentine enters a world of fantasy

By 2nd Lt Rich Curry

Behind every writer whose work appears in the books and magazines you find in corner drugstores, there exists a throng of eager faces trying to get their first break.

Enter, if you will, into a world beneath the mainstream of modern literature; a world where fantasy lurks behind Dark Shadows or is ready to Trek out across the stars.

Enter the world of Sgt. Donna



U.S. Air Force Photo by TSgt. Alan King
Barnabas Collins lurks in this painting by Sgt. Donna Galentine.

Galentine, painter, poet, and "fanzine" writer.

A fanzine is a periodic publication written and edited by science-fiction and fantasy enthusiasts. It is usually a mimeograph production and ranges in size from 50 to 150 pages.

An Air Force Reserve supply and transportation technician for the 403rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, 27-year-old Galentine began her journey into the fanzine world ten years ago.

"I started writing seriously with a pen pal. That person sent my story to a fanzine. The fanzine publisher then asked if I would submit other stories," she said.

Once in the fanzine network, her contacts led her to other writing opportunities with fanzines like "Star Date" (Star Trek), "Linguacode" and "Grip" (Science fiction) and "Flip of a Coin" (Based on Harrison Ford characters such as Indiana Jones). Her paintings, poems and stories have appeared in numerous publications.

"I illustrate my own stories, so my art and writing go hand-in-hand," she said.

One pen and ink drawing for "Leonard" (which publishes stories involving actor Leonard Nimoy and screen characters he has portrayed) was requested by Nimoy himself for his personal collection.

Galentine said it "was a pretty neat

feeling" to know one of her drawings was selected.

Of course, there are drawbacks for fanzine writers.

"Fanzines don't pay money for submissions. Most of the publishers use any profits from subscriptions to pay their printing costs. If your story is published, though, you do receive a free copy," she said, adding that several Star Trek writers got their start this way when their work was "discovered".

Sergeant Galentine, who lives in Lavaca, Arkansas, is presently attending Westark Community College, at Ft. Smith. She hopes to transfer to the University of the Ozarks next fall where she plans to major in Art Education.

Through the years her contacts with other writers and publishers have given her "feedback" and pointers to improve her writing skills, she said. "I also get a lot of inspiration and support from my family."

So what do the murky mists of the future conceal? Perhaps "Dark Shadows"?

"I'm trying to break out of science fiction into Gothic Romance," Sergeant Galentine said. "I've written some things and made a painting of Jonathan Frid (that's the actor who played Barnabas Collins — tormented vampire of the 1960's TV series Dark Shadows).

"I generally work on three or four stories at a time. If I get bored with one, I move on to another. I'm also working on a novel now, which started as a short story. Eventually my goal is to become a full-time free lance writer," she said.

So, until that time, perhaps late at night, the staccato sounds of a typewriter will echo off kitchen walls. And while the rest of the world sleeps, a lonely writer tries to capture swirling mists on paper and can only think of . . . pleasant . . . dreams . . .



U.S. Air Force Photo by TSgt. Alan King
Sgt. Donna Galentine operates a forklift while training with the 403rd CLSS.

507th WSSF invades Oklahoma countryside

(Continued from Page 9)

meters.

Along with required weapons qualification training, WSSF members also had the opportunity to use their wits and skill in evading the enemy. Supplied with terrain maps and one compass per squad, the three squads moved

across enemy lines evading the enemy who attempted to attack each squad at least once. The enemy was comprised of three members from the WSSF unit.

"The purpose of the training was towards evasion, not confrontation," said MSgt. Ed Dimmock. "We didn't

want to get involved with the enemy."

No involvement with the enemy?

"That wasn't our job," added Sergeant Balmer. "We were only to find out where they were, find out what equipment they had and get a feel for a confrontation. To check it out as it were."

"The whole purpose was to find out what the enemy had and regroup with

that information so a confrontation could be made with minimal loss to ourselves and maximum loss to the enemy's supplies and personnel," said Sergeant Dimmock.

"Let's be realistic. You never want to confront your enemy without knowing how strong they are and how much power they have directed towards the line." Also out on the training were five members from 507th Prime RIBS unit. "They treated us great," said Sergeant Dimmock. "MSgt. Leslie Williams along with his team comprised of TSgt. Johnnie Wood, TSgt. Harold Brown, SSgt. Kenneth Prudom and Amn. David Stout were always ready for our hunger."

MSgt. Bob Weist, TAC Clinic, was there to provide medical support for the exercise. He also took part in the training. "He went on compass training with us," added Sergeant Balmer. "He could have taken the bus but he wanted to prove he could do it just like the cops."

Christmas spirit lives on at 507th

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them loaded on helicopters and delivered directly to the minesweepers," Chaplain Clay said.

In his letter to Colonel Turner, Commander Frank DeMasi of the USS Inflict said, "I received your package via Navy mail helo (helicopter) and couldn't figure out what the Air Force was sending me. What a surprise to find the ballcaps and candy canes!"

"We had a small tree on the Mess

Deck and the canes brighten it up. My crew grabbed up the ballcaps. You and your group have really made our day.

"Please pass my warm regards to everyone in your group and thank them for thinking of us over here."

The thank you letters have been placed in the Group's "Good News" scrapbook and can be viewed at the Commander's office, making sure the Christmas spirit lives on for quite some time.



U.S. Air Force Photo
Meet A1C Linda Dean, the newest addition to the 507th Weapons System Security Flight. Airman Dean returned to the 507th on January 22 an honor graduate of the Security Specialist Course.

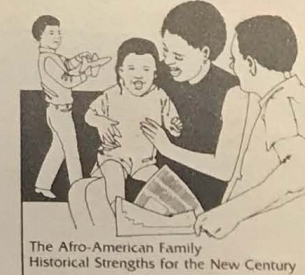
UTA Dates

March	19-20
April	9-10
May	21-22
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the donations to Randolph.

Funds received during the drive support the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Inc., the Air Force Village and the Air Force Aid Society. Each of these non-profit organizations serves qualifying members of the Reserve and their families as well as active duty and retired people.

Contributors are asked to include their full name, grade, address, unit, social security number and the affiliate to receive their contributions.



The Afro-American Family
Historical Strengths for the New Century

February - Black History Month

February is Black History Month. To recognize the occasion, a ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Sooner Room. All unit members are invited.