

507th Tactical Fighter Group



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On-final

Conversion is delayed, but still proceeding

Air Force officials released to Congress a proposed force structure change for Fiscal Year 1989.

The proposal directly affects the 507th conversion to the F-16 Falcon aircraft. The reserve unit was originally scheduled to convert from 24 F-4Ds to 24 F-16A/Bs in April of this year.

Instead the unit will now convert to 18 F-16s in early 1989. The programmed force build to 24 F-16A/Bs was reduced because of fiscal constraints. The decrease of six aircraft an estimated loss of 111 drill (part-time reserve) and 22 full-time civilian manpower authorizations.

The reductions are a part of a range of actions taken by the Air Force to meet Congressionally imposed budget restrictions.

"This is the fourth consecutive year the Defense Budget has declined in real terms — a decline that now amounts to

11 percent," said Secretary of the Air Force Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge, Jr.

"The Congressional funding decisions have stopped the momentum toward reaching the objectives we

established early in this administration. As a result, future Air Force capability will certainly be reduced and past gains will, in some cases, be reversed. In addition, cuts of this magnitude will

increase risk to our national security. The United States deserves a better Air Force than this budget will provide," he said.

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Aircraft 507 TFG, the 507th first F-16A Fighting Falcon, arrived Jan. 12. Budget cutbacks have delayed the unit's

conversion which is now scheduled to be held in January of 1989.

U.S. Air Force Photo by 2nd Lt. Rich Curry

Intel trio named Best in Air Force

Three members of the 507th Tactical Fighter Group's intelligence section here, may have pulled off an Air Force first; they won three of the 17 top intel awards for 1987.

First Lieutenant Keith E. Seaman, an air reserve technician and chief of the Group's 465th Tactical Fighter Squadron intelligence section, won the Outstanding Intelligence Civilian Award for GS-11 through GS-13. SMSgt. Douglas K. Patterson, noncommissioned officer in charge, captured the Outstanding Senior NCO award, and SrA. Johnna K. Adams garnered the Outstanding Airman honors.

The trio defeated their peers in 12th Air Force and Tactical Air Command before winning the Air Force-level

competition. There are some 18,000 people in the Air Force intel business, and more than 2,000 of those are in the Air Reserve Forces, said Maj. Wade H. Williford, chief of the intelligence division at Air Force Reserve headquarters at Robins.

"It's almost impossible to have three winners from the same unit with so many potential competitors from so many organizations throughout the Air Force," the major said. "That's what makes this such a great achievement."

"This award confirms my belief that we have the best intelligence team in the Air Force," said Lt. Col. James L. Turner, 507th TFG commander. "Throughout the past year, Lieutenant Seaman and his office have created and

established numerous innovative programs. They integrated intelligence into the mainstream of fighter operations, which is the most crucial feature

of any intelligence operation."

The award winners will receive their awards during a ceremony March 16 at Bolling AFB, D.C.



U.S. Air Force Photo by 2nd Lt. Rich Curry

Three members of the 507th Intelligence Section were selected as Best in the Air Force. Pictured are 1st Lt. Keith Seaman, SrA. Johnna Adams and SMSgt. Douglas Patterson.

Former unit member dies

A former 507th member, Major Byrd Charles Willis "Willy" Kempe, 40, was killed Feb. 20 when his F-16 jet crashed on a training mission over the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range in southern Arizona.

He was the son of W. Martin and Mary Kempe, Orange, Va., and the brother of Alex Kempe, Richmond, Va.

Major Kempe was assigned to the 944th Tactical Fighter Group, Air Force Reserve, at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. He was a resident of Grapevine, Texas, and a civilian pilot with American Airlines.

He began his military career with the

U.S. Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. Entering the Navy in June 1969, he flew as a radar intercept officer in the F-4 Phantom. Based on the aircraft carrier, USS Saratoga, he logged more than 300 hours of combat time in Vietnam.

In November 1973, he left active duty and entered the Naval Reserve until transferring to the Air Force Reserve in August 1974.

Major Kempe's family has requested any memorial donations be made to Bailey-Pitchford Scholarship Fund, 457th TFS, Carswell AFB, TX 76127-5000.

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Commentary — Hey man, that's not my job

By Capt. Larry L. Burriss
118th Tactical Airlift Wing
Nashville, Tenn.

Picture this scenario: Rumors have it that an inspection team might visit the base. At the staff meeting, you breathe a sigh of relief: You're told the team has landed, but they aren't going to inspect your area. No need to sweat because there's nothing for you to do.

"Hey man, I'm glad that's not my job."

In our push to meet deadlines and take care of our own problems, we sometimes forget about the big picture. We've all heard about the Total Force, but too often we think this is just for the folks in the Pentagon.

The Total Force starts right at the local base, even in small, isolated shops and offices. It means that every-

one in the unit has to work together to accomplish the mission.

An aircrew needs some help for an early-morning flight. Do you respond, "Hey man, I'm a cook. That's not my job." Good nutrition is an integral part of flight safety. In fact, safe flying involves medical, personnel, security, services and a host of other so-called "support" agencies.

Imagine a couple of other scenarios:

Somehow your entire personnel record ends up in a plastic trash bag. Would you want someone walking by to say, "That looks like a personnel record. Should I take it out? Nah, that's not my job."

Or, you're walking alongside the flight line and you see a piece of garbage. You might say, "Hey man, that's not my job to clean it up."

"Hey man, that is your job."

Saying goodbye hardest part of TDY's

By 2nd Lt Richard Curry

It's time.

Mixed feelings rush over me as I look at the clock. Beside the door, my bags are packed and waiting. I run a last minute mental check of what I've packed, hoping to avoid the feeling of butterflies in my stomach. It never works, and yet, I always try.

And there you are, waiting, the kids by your side. You smile bravely and try to joke.

You didn't forget your hat again, did

you?

But I know.

I can see your eyes watering. I'm leaving again. As funny as it seems, I miss you already.

I know why you like the Reserve so much...it's all those paid vacations you get to go on.

We both laugh, knowing that's really not true. For the next two weeks I'll be working my head off. Work that doesn't quite seem like work. It's more a joy, like soaring, knowing what I'm doing makes a difference...for you and

the kids...for us.

I pick up my bags and we drive to the base. Trivial talk fills the time... not at all what I really want to say. What am I doing? I'm leaving my family. I'm abandoning them to the mercy of whatever lies waiting for them. Something always seems to wait until I'm gone before it goes wrong. Something always decides to break down...the washer, the car, the lawnmower...something.

I should be here, with them...I could help her. And yet I tell myself...she's strong...she can handle it. I silently pray my presence will make more of a difference where I'm going.

We're there.

I unload my gear and say goodbyes. This is the hardest part. I steel myself and take a deep breath. I have a job to

do. In a few minutes I will be absorbed in that job, dedicating all my energy and drive in completing my task.

It's time for one last hug.

Be careful.

I smile and say, "Try not to buy anything too expensive while I'm gone." A family joke.

I've come to expect returning just to see what you got this time. I remember those past trips, my asking, "Where'd this dog come from?" "We have a VCR?" "Just how much did this dresser cost?" I really don't care about the cost. I get to see the world and you go to yard sales. We have a weird life.

I sling my dufflebag over my shoulder and pick up my suitcase. One last kiss.

I'll see you in two weeks.

— Editorials —

Conversion is delayed

Continued from page 11

According to Lt. Col. Larry Turner, 507th Tactical Fighter Group Commander, the changes will reduce manning beyond previous plans.

He stated that the originally scheduled conversion to the F-16 aircraft from the aging F-4D would have meant some personnel reductions.

"We knew we would be losing personnel because the newer F-16 requires less maintenance, aircrew and support services," he said.

The F-16A is a single engine, one-manned aircraft. It's sophistication and reliability make it more dependable and requires far less maintenance.

Converting to 18 F-16s further reduces the numbers needed for maintenance and flying.

Colonel Turner stressed that everything possible will be done to assist and relocate the full-time civilians and part-time reservists affected by the reductions.

"The bottom line is that the 507th will convert to the F-16. This aircraft will allow us to remain a viable force in national defence and the Total Air Force policy. We will maintain our mission capability: To deploy anywhere in the world, at anytime and to Fly, Fight, and Win," he said.



U.S. Air Force Photo by 2nd Lt. Rich Curry
Lt. Col. Larry Turner introduces Maj. Gen. Roger Scheer, AFRES Commander, to members of his staff. General Scheer visited the unit last month to discuss the unit's conversion to the F-16.

Air Force Reserve will turn 40 on April 14

By Pamela S. Nault
Headquarters Air Force Reserve

(AFRNS) — The Air Force Reserve will celebrate its birthday April 14.

On this date, 40 years ago, the U.S. Air Force Reserve was officially designated as part of the newly established Department of the Air Force.

"In gaining its independence from the Army, the Air Force was able to develop a reserve component to accommodate the needs of the air arm," said Gerald T. Cantwell, director of AFRES historical services.

Under the Air Force's new Reserve program, the Continental Air Command, forerunner of today's Air Force Reserve, organized and trained 25 Air Force Reserve wings, all of which, along with 118,000 individual reservists, were mobilized in 1950 and 1951 during the Korean conflict, Mr. Cantwell said.

During the next decade, new programs were established such as the air reserve technician program, which provided a permanent cadre of civilian technicians ready for instant mobilization, and the Reserve's aircraft inventory grew to include C-119s, C-46s, SA-16s, F-80s and F-86s.

Major changes within the Reserve structure were still to come. The Office of Air Force Reserve was organized in the Pentagon on Jan. 1, 1968. Seven months later, Headquarters Air Force Reserve, a separate operating agency, was formed at Robins AFB, replacing the discontinued Continental Air Command as the field agency for the Reserve program. Both of these new organizations were headed by reservists called to active duty.

1968 also proved to be an eventful year for reservists. Thirteen AFRES units were mobilized Jan. 26 in the wake of the Pueblo Incident, and on May 13 to augment Air Force opera-

tions during the Vietnam conflict.

That same year saw expansion within the Reserve program with the conversion to C-130 aircraft at Ellington AFB, Texas, and the inauguration of the Reserve associate airlift program at Norton AFB, Calif.

"The associate program is a significant operational feature of the modern Air Force Reserve," Mr. Cantwell said. "It allows Reserve units to share the equipment of active force units with which they are collocated. Reserve unit aircrews and maintenance personnel train with and augment active force units."

For their part, reservists received much recognition which resulted in greater responsibility. On Aug. 23, 1973, Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger proclaimed the Total Force Policy. This major revision of policy provided that the Reserve components be the initial source of augmentation of the active force rather than the draft.

"The policy integrated the active, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve into a homogeneous whole," Mr. Cantwell said.

Today, the reservists fly state-of-the-art F-16s, C-5s and C-130s. Reservists meet the same combat standards as their active duty counterparts, with whom they work side-by-side performing critical operational missions throughout the world on a daily basis.

"We're able to perform these operational missions because we've trained with the active component, and we meet its same exacting standards," said Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRES commander. "As we expand in the future, as we continue to modernize, one thing is certain: We will continue to provide the United States with the strongest, most combat-ready Air Force Reserve possible. Our reservists are dedicated individuals, and our combat readiness is dedicated to national security."

Training becomes reality

A fire fighting class turned into a real-life battle Feb. 10 for SSgt. Wade Boyer of the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron.

Sergeant Boyer was one of nine Air Force Reserve firefighters attending a class at Eglin Auxilliary Field 3, Fla., who responded to a two-alarm fire at a nearby community hospital.

Reservists from the 928th Civil Engineering Squadron, O'Hare Air Reserve Forces Facility, Chicago, Ill., 923rd CES, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and the 507th CES, were attending the training class at Eglin AFB, when a fire broke out at the Humana Hospital in Fort Walton Beach.

When the fire threatened to engulf the hospital, civilian authorities called for help. The reservists responded with the Eglin firefighting teams.

Other Reserve firefighters were MSgt. John Hogan and SSgts. James McGeever, Mitchell Kuschner, Ronald

Kleinhaus and Lawrence Cobb of the 928th CES; MSgt. Eduardo Herrera, TSgt. Steven Gauger and A1C Rene Anaya of the 923th CES.

The fire was believed to have started in the hospital records room by sparks from a worker's torch. The fire was contained to the records room, but smoke from the blaze infiltrated almost every room of the four-story building.

All 125 patients were evacuated to other area hospitals, doctor's offices, retirement homes and clinics. No one was seriously injured in the incident, local authorities said. By early evening, most of the patients were returned to the hospital thanks to successful ventilation techniques that rid the facility of smoke.

Local firefighters applauded the reservists for using their "big-city" experience in the use of smoke extractors and methods of ventilating multi-story buildings.



U.S. Air Force Photo by 2nd Lt. Rich Curry
Col. William J. Furtado, U.S. Army Field Artillery Board, right, and Lt. Col. Larry Turner display an Employer Support Certificate given to Colonel Furtado by SMSgt. Thomas Morse, 507th Communications Squadron. Colonel Furtado is Sergeant Morse's civilian employer. Forms are available at Public Affairs to nominate your employer for a certificate.

The NCO Academy is looking for more volunteers

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — The Air Force Reserve is looking for a few more good senior noncommissioned officers.

AFRES officials say they need more interested, qualified senior master sergeants and chiefs to apply for the Air Force's Senior NCO Academy at Air University, Gunter AFB, Ala.

"We have many seniors and chiefs eligible to apply for the academy," said MSgt. Jim Robillard, NCO professional military education administrator at AFRES headquarters. "But, some-

times we have trouble filling our three allotted positions per class."

Selection criteria for reservists to attend the Air Force's top enlisted PME course include:

- Completion of a command NCO academy, either in residence or by correspondence.
- Holding the rank of senior or chief master sergeant.
- Meeting physical fitness and weight standards.
- Submitting a biographical sketch,

listing educational and professional accomplishments.

• Recommendation by unit commander.

"This is a rigorous course which requires a personal commitment to a tough academic work load," Sergeant Robillard said. "Some applicants may

need to brush up on their vocabulary comprehension and reading skills before the class starts."

More information about the nine-week course, which meets five times a year, is available through unit training offices or from Sergeant Robillard, AUTOVON 468-5059.

Riley competes in AF competition

CMSgt. Michael D. Riley, of the 507th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron has been selected as one of five Air Force Reserve Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Chief Riley will now represent AFRES in the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition.

The chief is NCO in charge of the 507th CAMS propulsion branch. He was cited in his nomination for his efforts which resulted in the unit receiving a high rating on a unit effectiveness inspection and for not having any lost aircraft sorties due to

maintenance during an exercise.

Other AFRES representatives are MSgt. Roy R. Arakaki, 445th Military Airlift Wing, Norton AFB, Calif., TSgt. Walter E. Lemanski, 932nd Aeromedical Airlift Group, Scott AFB, Ill., SrA. Eric M. Brasch, 445th MAW, Norton, and A1C Anthony J. Sgaglione, 514th MAW, McGuire AFB, N.J.

The reservists will compete against nominees from other major air commands and organizations for selection as Air Force outstanding airmen.

Five will receive star

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — Five Air Force Reservists have been nominated for star status by the president.

The brigadier general nominees are Cols. Robert H. Jones, 10th Air Force vice commander, Bergstrom AFB, Texas; Richard K. Vogel, 4th AF vice

commander, McClellan AFB, Calif.; Robert A. McIntosh, 442nd Tactical Fighter Wing commander, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo.; James E. Sherrard III, 433rd Military Airlift Wing, Kelly AFB, Texas; and Forrest S. Winebarger, 419th TFW commander, Hill AFB, Utah.

Reserve News from around the world

Suggestion Savings

Air Force suggesters saved a record of \$309 million in Fiscal Year 1987. The annual Suggestion Program report shows that more than 17,000 of the 65,000 ideas received were approved and Air Force saved \$35 for every dollar it spent for cash awards and personnel costs.

Reserve selects outstanding junior officer of year

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) — Capt. Dennis L. Daley, 93rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Homestead AFB, Fla., has been selected the Air Force Reserve Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year for 1988.

Captain Daley received the award at the Reserve Officers Association conference in January.

Selection of the award winner is made by a board of senior Air Staff officers.

Kelly wing wins 4th Air Force maintenance award

MCCLELLAN AFB, Calif. (AFRNS) — Most supervisors expect their people to complete a task on time. The aircraft maintenance people in the 433rd Military Airlift Wing at Kelly AFB, Texas, got their job done in

three-fourths the expected time and earned themselves an award.

Air Force Reservists and technicians in the 433rd MAW won the 4th Air Force 1987 CMSgt. James K. Clouse trophy for maintenance excellence for their conversion from C-130B transports to the larger, more complex C-5A aircraft.

"We received our first C-5A in July 1985 and within 27 months we attained our combat readiness and met our operational capability," said Col. Mahlon H. Stief, 433rd MAW deputy commander for maintenance. Colonel Stief said a unit normally needs three years to meet those standards.

The 433rd MAW was the first Air Reserve Forces (Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard) unit to be assigned C-5A Galaxy aircraft.

Westover dines on food service award

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — Cooks from the 439th Military Airlift Wing's dining hall at Westover AFB, Mass., are serving more than food these days. They're representing the Air Force Reserve in the annual Hennessy Trophy competition.

The food service personnel roasted the competition to win AFRES' Dining

Facility of the Year award for 1987.

"The dedication, team work and spirit shown by Westover's food service people were factors making them

the best in the command," said Col. George A. Romero, deputy chief of staff for AFRES engineering and services.

CCAF open to reservists

Trying to earn a college degree? Maybe the Community College of the Air Force can help.

CCAF is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A minimum of 64 semester hours college credit is needed to complete any of CCAF's 68 degree programs. Credits

may be earned for Air Force technical training, completion of professional military education courses and civilian college course work. Credits may also be earned by testing.

Only enlisted members of the Selected Reserve in categories A, B and D are eligible for CCAF degrees.

Driver earns award, \$\$\$

SMSgt. Robert W. Driver, will be flying to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., March 24 to receive a Suggestion Program award from the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Sergeant Driver, NCOIC of the 507th TFG Command Post, and 10 others will be receiving the Air Force Chief of Staff High-Value Suggestion Award, for suggestions that represent 8.5 percent of Air Force-wide savings for 1987.

Sergeant Driver made his suggestion

in his civilian position as contracting officer, OCALC/Directorate of Contracting and Manufacturing-Pratt/Whitney Engine Section. That suggestion to consolidate requirements of turbine vanes into different classes, resulted in a Air Force savings of \$10 million.

"So far, I've been awarded \$10,000 which I'll get in increments," Sergeant Driver said. He added that there is currently a proposal at the Secretary of Defense level that could result in another award of \$15,000.



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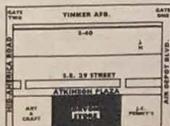


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