



# On-final

An Air Force Reserve Newspaper

MAY 1988

SPECIAL EDITION

## On-final mailed to homes again

After a nine month absence, the On-final is once again being mailed to the homes and families of 507th Tactical Fighter Group members.

According to plans, On-final will now publish a special "home edition" on a quarterly basis.

The Air Force Reserve newspaper ceased its home mailing program last September when it became a monthly insert into the Tinker Air Force Base paper, the "Tinker Take-Off". Because of contract limitations, there were not enough copies printed to continue the home mailing.

According to Lt. Col. James L. Turner, 507th TFG commander, quite a few comments were heard from reservists about not receiving On-final at their homes. "We realize there is a need to get information into the homes and to the spouses of our members."

This On-final will attempt to fill that need with information on 507th activities, benefits, privileges and changes affecting reservists and their families. Comments or suggestions may be addressed to 507TFG/PA, Tinker AFB, OK 73145-5000 or called in at (405) 734-3078.

## Commissary changes are proposed

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 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.

### UTA dates

Unit	Dates
<b>June dates</b>	
507th TFG	18-19
507th CS	18-19
507th WSSF	25-26
403rd CLSS	25-26
72nd APS	25-26
<b>July dates</b>	
507th TFG	16-17
507th CS	16-17
507th WSSF	23-24
403rd CLSS	16-17
72nd APS	23-24
<b>August dates</b>	
All units	20-21

# Spouse: We need your support

By Col. James. F. McKeon  
RAF Fairford, England

Spouse.

That's a peculiar word, hanging out there on its own.

It's one of those words that has always been around but little used until we acquired a consciousness of the fact that the "better half" of a military member doesn't always spell w-i-f-e.

Spouse literally means husband or wife -- but there's a deeper meaning for those of us in the military which is simply not covered by Mr. Webster. In the Air Force lifestyle, spouse has come to mean partner.

I think it's crystal clear that those of us who have the understanding and backing of an enthusiastic spouse make daily gains in every endeavor.

Our leaders understand the significance of the spouse enough to have an annual day of recognition.

But how do we honor them? First, we say a great big "thank you."

Then, we can match word with deed by including them, to the maximum extent possible, in our military lives.

Tell them what is going on at the base. Take home those fliers from MWR that have valuable information about myriad interesting things. Encourage them to participate in the military community by letting them know about spouse clubs -- when they meet and what they do. Bring them with you for reenlisting or going regular. Let them share in your NCO status or promotion ceremonies.

The payback doesn't sound like very much in comparison to all the burdens of the military marriage that are borne by the spouse.

In truth, there is no way we can pay them back because the supremely beautiful thing about what our spouses do for us is done with love; with the same commitment and zeal we should all feel about doing our duty.

They don't ask for repayment. But we must never take them for granted; must never fail to acknowledge their contributions and understand their frustrations; must always say "thank you."

Maybe the real backbone of the Air Force is the military spouse.



Aircraft 507TFG, the 507th's first F-16A Fighting Falcon, arrived Jan. 12. Budget cutbacks have delayed the unit's conversion which is now scheduled for January 1989. (USAF Photo)

# Exchange benefits are explained

A variety of products, good service and guaranteed savings make base exchange shopping attractive to Air Force Reservists and their families.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service operates nearly 16,000 retail and service facilities including military clothing sales stores worldwide. Reservists and their family members can select from more than 176,000 items ranging from shampoo and pencils to designer clothes and computers. Shoppers save a average of 24.4 percent compared to prices in civilian retail stores. Additional savings are realized from not having to pay sales tax.

Exchange privileges are entitlements used by active duty and retired military, Air National Guardsmen, reservists and their families. Reservists earn shopping privileges based on the number of training days performed each year (see listing below).

Exchange customers may not distribute or resell their purchases to persons or groups not entitled to exchange privileges, except for occasional purchases that enhance the well being of reservists and their families through customary gift giving.

How reservists earn base exchange privileges?

Reservists performing inactive duty training, in pay or non-pay status, are authorized one day of unlimited exchange privileges for each four-hour period of training. During a unit training assembly weekend, reservists earn four days of shopping privileges to use within 12 months after the training was performed.

During a two-week annual tour, reservists and dependents have unlimited privileges.

Identification requirements:

On active duty for more than 30 days, a reservist must present a green military ID card;

On active duty for 30 days or less, a reservist must present a red ID card with special orders;

On inactive duty for pay, a reservist must present a military ID and earnings statement;

On inactive duty for training points (non-pay), a reservist must present a military ID and a letter of authorization or Air Force Form 40a;

Dependents, accompanied by sponsor, must show a driver's license, marriage license or certified statement of dependency;

Dependents, not accompanied by sponsor, must show one of the above identifications and sponsor's letter of authorization or earnings statement.



**On-final**

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"The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 507th Tactical Fighter Group, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma."

Commander  
Lt. Col. James L. Turner  
Staff  
2nd Lt. Rich Curry                      Chief, PA  
TSgt. Cathi Benedict                  NCOIC

Col. Clifford Cole, 507th CSS Commander is now a full colonel. Assisting in the ceremony are Cole's wife, Glenna, and Col. Forrest S. Winebarger, 419th TFW Commander.



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