

507th Tactical Fighter Group



Home Town

VOL I NO I

An Air Force Reserve Newsletter

WELCOME FAMILIES!!!!

The 507th will host a reserve Family Fair Day on Saturday, September 17. The annual event encourages members to bring their families, friends and employers to tour the unit.

Military members must sign in at 7:30 a.m. in uniform but can then change into civilian clothes to enjoy the day. There is no special reserved parking and no military duties need be performed. Members can sign out at 2:30 p.m.

An F-16 aerial demonstration will highlight the day. Also scheduled are squadron volleyball and softball tournaments, a two-mile fun run, games and a dunk tank (which is advertised as mandatory for commanders and others who deserve it). Children's activities include an art corner, moonwalk, carnival games and an F-16 paper airplane construction and flying contest.

Lunch will be served with tickets costing \$1 per person. Pink "all purpose" tickets (to purchase drinks and play games) will cost 25 cents apiece. Lunch includes hamburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, beans, chips and condiments. Soft drinks, snow cones and cotton candy will sell for 2 tickets.

Other activities planned for the day include clowns, F-4 photo session (get your picture taken in the cockpit), cake walk, dart toss, ping pong toss, basketball throw, bean bag toss and Wheel of Fortune.

Two bands will provide music throughout the day.

Family Day Schedule Saturday, Sept. 17

0730
Sign-In (Must be in uniform)
0830
Volleyball tournament starts
0830
Softball tournament starts
0845
Two-mile run starts
1000
F-16 Aerial Demonstration
1030
Carnival Games, Dunk Tank,
Moonwalk, Horseshoes, Kids
Art Korner
1030
Band starts
1045
Lunch starts
1230-1430
Photos in F-4
1300
Treasure Hunt
1430
Sign-Out

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Col. Larry Turner

There's an old story told by Mrs. George Catlett Marshall, wife of the Army five-star general who was the WWII Chief of Staff:

One morning, as we were walking along the beach watching the children flying their kites on the dunes above us, I began to laugh.

"What are you laughing at?" General Marshall asked.

"They remind me of military wives," I said.

"What, the kites?"

"No," I answered, "the tails. They have no say as to where they go, but they are always there, trailing along in the rear."

"How high do you think a kite would fly without its tail?" General Marshall mused. "If the tail is too heavy, it falls to the ground, if it is too light, it flies a devious course, but if well balanced, the kite soars high. There is nothing more important to a kite than the good appendage that steadies it."

This message is equally true today. Without that family support, it is virtually impossible for a reservist to fulfill military responsibilities.

A recent survey of thousands of reserve military spouses revealed several interesting facts. Generally speaking, those military spouses polled, agreed with, encouraged, and saw the value in their husbands and wives participating in a reserve component.

Interesting also, was the admission by these spouses that although they were aware that their husbands and wives were involved in the reserve, they really didn't know the mission of the unit or what their military spouse did while training on military duty.

This brings up two important points: (1) Our spouses do support our participation in the Air Force Reserve and (2) As a unit, we may be neglecting this support by not getting information out about the 507th, its people, and mission.

Our spouses must know that their support is vital and greatly appreciated. To show this, in some small measure, we have our annual Family Day. This year Family Day will be celebrated on September 17. This is an excellent opportunity to bring the spouses and kids out, show them around the unit, our aircraft and let them get a feel for what goes on out here.

Please take the opportunity to support Family Day and encourage your spouses to browse around the units, ask questions, and find out more about what you do "at the Reserve."

Let's take advantage of this opportunity to come closer as a unit and say "thank you" to our spouses for their fantastic support.



JAMES L. TURNER, Col, USAFR
Commander

Survey Shows Families are Satisfied

A recently released Reserve components family survey had no real surprises but proved that Reserve duty is really a "family affair," said Stephen M. Duncan, assistant secretary of defense for Reserve affairs.

The survey, conducted in 1986, covered the families of men and women serving in the Selected Reserves. More than 32,000 spouses filled out the survey.

"The vast majority of spouses are satisfied or very satisfied with participation in the Reserve," said Duncan.

"There are specific areas that cause problems, but generally the perception of reserve duty was very favorable."

A greater proportion of Reserve members are married, and they have been married longer than their active duty counterparts. A total of 61 percent of all reservists are married (79 percent for officers, 57 percent for enlisted).

"The length of time that couples are married indicates to us that the spouses are very involved with the decision of the reservist to join the Reserve and stay in," Duncan said.

"With reservists, we're dealing with people who can walk away from the job any time they want. If the spouses are not satisfied with Reserve duty, then it will make an impression of the reservist and may mean the difference between keeping a fully qualified and motivated person in the Reserve."

Specific areas that spouses

view as "serious or somewhat of a problem" include absences for weekend drill and annual training, extra time spent on Guard or Reserve activities, time away from civilian jobs, children and spouses due to Guard or Reserve work, drills on special days (Mother's Day, Easter, etc.), unscheduled Guard and Reserve activities and scheduling problems. Generally, the spouses of officers saw these areas as more of a problem than spouses of enlisted members.



But the problem areas can be overrated.

"Yes, they are view as problems-but by a minority," Duncan said. "Only 13 percent of enlisted spouses said that absence for drill weekends was a problem. The highest-rated problem was drills on special days, and even then only a bit more than a third said it was a problem. This indicates that, for the most part, spouses

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AIR FORCE RESERVE NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Reservists test new on-the-job training system

Air Force Reservists from the 924th Tactical Fighter Group, Bergstrom AFB, Texas, are helping to shape how Air Force conducts on-the-job training in the future.

The reservists are participating with active duty airmen at Bergstrom and Air National Guardsmen at Ellington ANGB, Texas, in a yearlong test of a computer-aided OJT system.

The test involves aircraft maintenance, jet engine mechanic, security police and personnel fields.

Is That Pay Check REALLY In The Mail???

You've performed your unit training assembly and your check is in the mail. Right? Are you sure?

According to Stu Markle, 507th TFG budget officer, you're taking a large chance if you aren't using the Air Force Direct Deposit Program, known as Sure-Pay.

"Until a few months ago, your paycheck may have been receive up to three days before it was legally negotiable," said Mr. Markle. "The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center has instituted procedures to ensure you won't get your check until the day it's effective."

Along those same lines, the U.S. Postal Service has been cutting back on its hours too because of the budget cutbacks. "With weekend mail pick up and deliveries curtailed, this also puts a crimp in the delivery times of the paycheck," added Mr. Markle.

Speakers are needed

The 507th TFG Public Affairs Office maintains a listing of people who are willing to speak to civilian organizations.

Anyone wishing to join the 507th Speaker's Bureau is encouraged to stop by the Public Affairs Office in Room 7, Building 1043.

10AF picks new SEA

CMsGt. James R. Ruderer, an Air Force Reserve maintenance technician with nearly 38 years of military experience, has been sel-

The direct deposit program insures your reserve paycheck will be deposited at the financial institution of your choice on the date specified. "Using Sure Pay is best advice I can give," said Mr. Markle.

According to Col. Ronald A. Swenka, director of military pay operations at AFAFC in Denver, when a reserve member is mobilized and sent to a hostile area, their check will be held in a trust fund account at the AFAFC. "Your family will not be getting the money you have earned. And, for some, that could be real hardship."

"Do yourself and your family a favor. Insure you receive your money. After all, you earned it. Use direct deposit," added Mr. Markle.

For more information and to sign up for the program, stop by the pay office in building 1043.

ected senior enlisted advisor for 10th Air Force effective August 1.

In this capacity, he will be responsible for the welfare of more than 17,000 enlisted reservists assigned to 17 flying and 57 non-flying units located at 23 military installations across the country.

Maintenance flight gears up for activation

A new maintenance unit, the 917th Maintenance Flight, is scheduled for activation at Barksdale AFB, La., Oct. 8.

The 10th Air Force-gained unit will be assigned to the 917th Tactical Fighter Wing and command of the unit will be the responsibility of the 917th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The maintenance flight will be composed of 156 airmen and five officers. These positions will come from existing manpower within the wing rather than an increase in the workforce.

Medical badge approved

Air Force Surgeon General has approved wear of the Enlisted Medical Badge for Medics. Several badges were designed to represent skill and time served in their Air Force Specialty Codes.

The badge was developed to promote esprit de corps and unit cohesiveness, and instill pride of profession in enlisted medical personnel.

HIV tests will resume

Air Force will retest all

Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members for the AIDS Virus during fiscal 1989 and 1990. Initial testing began overseas in September 1986 and is expected to conclude in the States by September 1988.

Approximately one of every 1,000 Air Force people tested has been HIV positive. Army plans to retest every two years while the Navy opted for annual testing.

Political Activities explained

Air Force military personnel center, Randolph AFB, Texas, has reiterated basic guidance on political activities and campaign contributions by Air Force civilian and military personnel. The rules are based on federal law as well as department of defense and Air Force regulations.

The Hatch Act imposes restrictions on political activities of federal employees. These restrictions also apply to military air force members as set forth in air force regulation 110-2. Air Force persons subject to these rules may not actively participate in partisan politics.

However, all qualified citizens have the right to register and vote and air force encourages its people to do so. Air Force people generally may not participate as organizers, public speakers, hosts, or special guests in activities sponsored by the campaign committee of a political candidate.

Although they may not participate in direct or indirect fund raising efforts for a political candidate, Air Force people may make financial contributions to political organizations.

SURVEY

Continued from page 3

understand the type of work that is being done and why it is necessary."

More than 65 percent of the spouses of reservists work. On the survey, they said the reason was because it was financially necessary. "Yet when we looked at what was attractive to them in the reserves, we found the financial aspect did not lead the list," Duncan said.

The opportunity to serve the country (75 percent) leads the list as the reason for participation, followed by military pay and benefits (67 percent) and retirement benefits (63 percent).

The acquaintances and friendships that grow out of Reserve duty were also rated important (56 percent). "Reserve pay does make a major contribution, and we can't forget that," Duncan said. "But these spouses give the impression that other, less tangible things are more important to them."

The survey will provide data that will be examined for years. The first reading, however, already points to an area that needs work-keeping Reserve families informed. "A large majority of spouses want to know more about the reserves and the type of work the reserve members perform," Duncan said.

"More than three-quarters want information on benefits, including retirement and medical benefits. Almost 80 percent want an advance list of when weekend drills and annual training are scheduled."

Spouses would also like to know more about the mobilization roles of the units, and 85 percent say they need information on the family's role during a mobilization. "We have to look at ways to keep these families informed," Duncan said. "We must find ways to get the news out to the families. Perhaps we will look to direct mail or explore some other way of getting families into the reserve picture."

Other areas not rated highly by the spouses were Reserve education opportunities and commissary privileges—although these have undergone changes in recent years. "It's taken quite a time for the word about the reserve Component GI Bill to sink in," Duncan said. "I have a feeling that if the survey were taken today, it would be much more favorable. That's the same with the commissary privileges. We have a different policy now than we did in 1986 when this survey was filled out."

Duncan said there will be no immediate policy changes because of the survey. "We have the data now, and we're on much firmer ground when we go to Congress and talk about the reserve components," he said. "We will no longer be saying 'We think we'll be able to point to the data,'" he said. "We will not rush into decisions. We will examine the data, and if we find areas where a policy change will help, then we will propose one."



DEMOCRACY
Use it or lose it

Olympic Volunteers are Needed

The largest amateur sporting event in the country, the U.S. Olympic Festival, is coming to Oklahoma and the 507th Tactical Fighter Group will be there.

In addition to being asked to fly aircraft flyovers during opening day ceremonies, the Olympic committee has requested unit volunteers to ensure the festival's success.

Olympic committee officials are requesting more than 15,000 volunteers for a variety of duties, prior to and during the festival. The festival is held every summer during non-Olympic years, and attendance for the Oklahoma festival is expected to reach 500,000.

The unit coordinator for the Olympic volunteer project is MSgt. Judy Branchfield, 507th Training Office.

"If anyone's interested in contributing their time and skills to this exciting event, please see me for a volunteer registration form," she said, adding that eventually the forms will be distributed around the unit.

Sergeant Branchfield said Olympic organizers are simply gathering names, addresses, phone numbers, interests and skills at this time. Assignments will be made at a later date.

"Every effort will be made to assign groups together and to areas of expressed interest," she said. "So whether you can work 100 hours, or just a few, schedules can be arranged so that you can be a part of the U.S. Olympic Festival '89."

For more information, contact Sergeant Branchfield at extension 47075.

PROMOTIONS

Welcome aboard Airman Basics:

Ronald Baranski, Travis Lee, Jerry Sample, Osteen Stevens and Christa Swann.

To Airman First Class:

Felicia Alexander, Sylvester Cooper, Detra Dixon, Benjamin Ervin, Mark Green, David Haggard, Espahani Jahangiri, Freda Knapp, Larry Nugent, Rosiline Ratliff and Charmain Winborne.

To Senior Airman:

Reginald Benson, Robert Cameron, Steven Carman, John Cline, Sean Hall, John Lockwood, Reginald Lollis, Mario Lopez, Jeffery Minnis, Lonnie Nutt, Jenna Petty, Darrell Reining, Curtis

Ringgold, Randal Rodgers, Thomas Robin, Lindsey Warlick, Joy Weaver and Frank Whiteman.

To Staff Sergeant:

James Capps, Georgeanne Claus, Curtis Conaway, Karen Dahl, Rollie Fansler, Ricky Henderson, Bekki Lingenfelter, James Longenoelpher, John Loudakis, Barry Shisler, James Shook, Terry Skeans, Scott Wilcoxson and John Wright.

To Technical Sergeant:

Lucy Bryan, Robert Enriquez, Michael Plante, and Lily Smith.

To Master Sergeant:

Debra Arnold and James Miller.

UTA

October
15-16

November
5-6

December
10-11

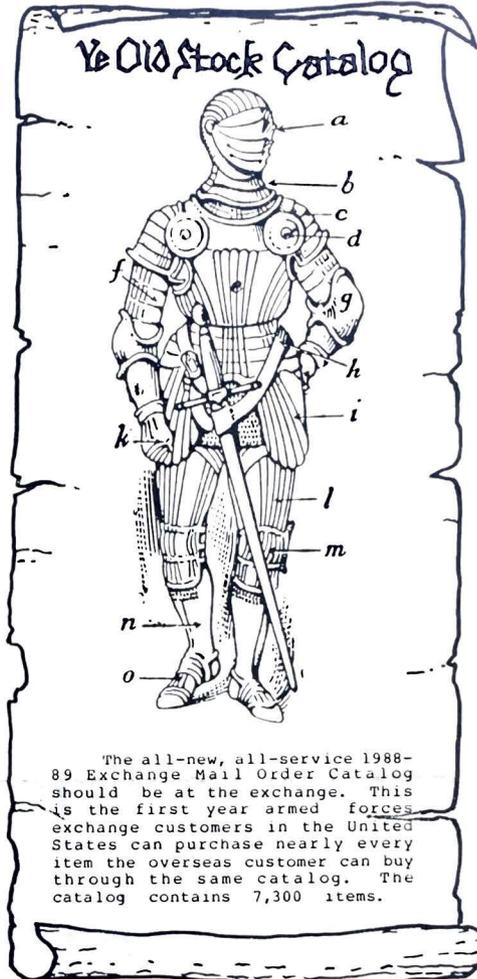
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