

## 507th Tactical Fighter Group



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## on-final

## 507th heralds F-16 arrival

*Conversion ceremony set for Saturday*

The 507th Tactical Fighter Group, Oklahoma's only Air Force Reserve flying unit, officially became an F-16 Fighting Falcon unit on Jan. 1.

The reserve unit is hosting a conversion ceremony Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

The unit began its conversion in 1987 when it was announced by Congress that the 507th's 465th Tactical Fighter Squadron would receive the F-16.

The 507th was activated in Oklahoma in 1972 when it began flying the F-105 Thunderchief. The Reserve unit has been flying the F-4D since 1980. With the introduction of the F-16, the unit will join the cutting edge of state-of-the-art weapons technology.

"We are very excited and pleased about the opportunity to receive this aircraft," said Col. James L. Turner, 507th TFG commander. "As with any aircraft systems conversion, there's been a lot of work that's been done, both with upgrading our facilities and personnel training. We are now ready to make that transition."

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multirole fighter aircraft. Its highly maneuverable design readily adapts itself to both air-to-air and air-to-ground combat. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the air forces of the United States and allied nations.

While operating in an air combat role, the F-16's maneuverability and combat radius exceeds that of all potential threat fighter aircraft.

In the air-to-surface role, the F-16 can fly more than 500 miles, deliver its weapons with superior accuracy, defend itself against enemy aircraft and return to its starting point.



*U.S. Air Force Photo*  
Aircraft 507 flies over the downtown Oklahoma City area. The 507th TFG became an F-16 unit Jan. 1. Its conversion now completes the circle with the 944th TFG and the 419th Tactical Fighter Wing to complete the only Air Force Reserve F-16 Fighting Falcon wing.

## Tactical Fighter Group completes busy year



*U.S. Air Force Photo*

One of the 14 F-4Ds leaving Tinker AFB and American skies for the Republic of Korea in April 1988.

By TSgt. Cathi Benedict  
507th Public Affairs Office

The year began for the 507th with their Civil Engineering Squadron lending a hand to the 2854th CES to clear the active runway after a major snowstorm the first week of 1988. Reserve crews gave their time and received training when the base called for help clearing the runway.

The help came just in time for the Jan. 12 arrival date of the first F-16, aircraft tail number 507, to the ramp.

The 403rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron joined the 507th as a full partner. Previously, the 403rd only received administrative support from the unit. Now, they are considered a true part of the 507th.

In February, the security police flight

was out at Camp Gruber in north central Oklahoma training in search and evasion tactics.

At the same time, it was learned that the conversion to the F-16 was getting delayed nine months and the unit would only be receiving 18 aircraft, instead of the 24 as previously announced.

Other news was the selection of the 507th TFG Intelligence Shop, headed by 1st Lt. Keith Seaman, as the best in the Air Force. Lieutenant Seaman, SMSgt. Douglas Patterson and SrA. Johnna Adams earned the top awards for their work. To have one Air Force Reserve office receive three top intelligence awards was a first for the entire Air Force community. More news of interest was the selection of CMSgt. Michael Riley, 507th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as one of

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# Colonel's Journal... 507th commander speaks out

# Why not the best?

The 507th TFG passed an important milestone on Jan. 1, as we officially became the U.S. Air Force's newest F-16 Fighting Falcon unit. Although it will be several months before we are confirmed in this role, the latest change in our mission reflects the unbounded confidence placed in our group by Congress, the Air Staff, and our senior leaders at Air Force Reserve and Tactical Air Command.

We have been through conversions before and you know that the future is full of opportunities for us to be successful. Our experience, attitude, and Okie can-do will come shining through and we will convert this unit in grand style.

To collectively acknowledge this important event in our lineage, we will mark the occasion with a ceremony tomorrow. Since the conversion is a beginning of sorts, I feel it is necessary to reaffirm our role in its process and progress.

The all-encompassing word that immediately comes to my mind in this reaffirmation is duty. We must make "duty in action; meticulous, tireless attention to duty beyond the routine" the unspoken watchwords of our course through the conversion.

We will be reminded of the inherent challenges in an aircraft conversion in numerous ways over the next several months. Our expertise, our professionalism, our patience, and our commitment will be tested on a daily basis.

The mission will not be easy, sometimes it will not be fun — but troops, it will always be very, very important.

The end result? A safe, efficient, and effective conversion to the finest multi-role fighter aircraft in the world, a quantum step forward in the combat capability of our unit, and an opportunity for the 507th to step forward and claim our position on the first team in our nation's national defense.

There is also a "rounding-out" of the modern mission that is maintained at Tinker AFB and the Air Logistics Center.

Lastly, there will be everyone's recognition of another "OKIE" mission, well done.

Let's get to it! As you start to work on this conversion, let's ask one question and give ourselves a challenge — WHY NOT THE BEST?

# NCO leadership school... a dream come true

By SSgt. Stephanie Preston  
72nd Aerial Port Squadron

Going to NCO leadership school was a dream come true. Most noncommissioned officers dread the thought of going to NCO Leadership School but for me it was a goal that was attained.

I've been in the 72nd APS since 1981 after successfully cross training from the 702 career field. After putting on staff sergeant stripes in 1982, I knew that leadership school was where I wanted to go.

Neither the opportunity nor the chance came up so the dream was put

## Commentary

on the back burner but the desire to go was always there.

Being in the reserves does not provide much opportunity nor the chance to go to a lot of schools especially if you are a seven level. The majority of schools seem to be geared for those who are five level and below. So, when the opportunity came for me, a seven level, to go to leadership school, I took it without the slightest hesitation.

As time drew closer, I had a lot of mixed emotions and kept wondering if

I was doing the right thing. I was so worried that I almost talked myself out of completing the school after failing two tests.

As a student, I had to maintain a 70 percent on all tests taken in order to stay in school. The support and encouragement from my instructors, classmates and friends, along with the chastising I gave myself, is what got me through the course. When you tell yourself that you are not a quitter, that tends to make you do your best, because the "what ifs" stop a lot of dreams and goals from being fulfilled.

The training and knowledge that is received from the school is military

orientated. But there is a lot that can be applied to daily civilian life even if you are not a supervisor.

As an NCO, we are the "go between" for enlisted members and officers. It is up to us to keep things on an even keel in order to have an effective organization in the work force.

Leadership school teaches how to be an effective leader who can get the job done. It also teaches the ways and means of handling people regardless of their rank or status.

NCO leadership school is a must for all NCOs who are supervisors and those who are planning to be supervisors. The training and knowledge are invaluable. Now that I've accomplished and achieved this goal and dream, the next order of business is the NCO Academy.

## Paint scheme

SSgt. Andy Lang controls the paint spray while TSgt. Jeffrey VanDorp checks the paint scheme for the F-105 near the Shoppette. Sergeant Lang repainted the aircraft to its southeastern Asia paint scheme after noticing that it was weather beaten and might be considered an eye-sore to the members of the 507th. "Iron Duke", the F-105 flown by Lt. Col. John Russell, currently deputy commander for operations, is now repainted and standing proud near gate 20.



U.S. Air Force Photo by TSgt. Cathi Benedict

## Newshounds!

### Regulation governs CNN program

Cable News Network has been actively advertising a news-gathering program called "News Hound." This program will consider airing home videotape recordings of potentially newsworthy events taken by amateurs.

If the material is used, the photographer can be compensated for the story, making this program very tempting to many home video buffs.

In view of this, each Air Force member needs to be aware of the ground rules for releasing official Air Force information. According to a recent message from the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office, any material shot off base while off duty is personal and the photographer can do what he or she pleases with the video. However, if the material is shot on base or while on duty, release of the material outside the Air Force is contrary to Air

Force directives. This guidance applies to unauthorized release of any information.

Air Force Regulation 190-1, "Public Affairs Policies and Procedures," clearly states the procedures for releasing information, and who may make a release. The regulation states, "the command is responsible for releasing information to the public. Even though information is unclassified or has been cleared by security review . . . it cannot be given to the public unless the commander approves it for that purpose."

Each person is responsible for getting the necessary review and clearance through their respective Public Affairs Office before releasing any proposed written or spoken statement, or taking any action that involves an issue of public concern.

### On Final story lists wrong quarter for awards

The article on the Airman and noncommissioned officer for the 507th TFG had the wrong time frame listed. The awards were for the third quarter of 1988, not the last quarter of the year.

# 1988 . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for the Air Force Reserve.

In April, the final five of the 14 F-4Ds left the Oklahoma and American skies for South Korea. Taking their place on the ramp were aircraft from the 301st Tactical Fighter Wing at Carswell AFB, Texas, and the 924th TFG at Bergstrom AFB, Texas. Meanwhile, the 507th was still flying its F-4D mission and was picking up on the F-16 mission. One was never too sure if the maintenance troops were talking the same language. "Are we discussing the 16 or 4?" was a familiar chant.

The big news in May was the visit of Brig. Gen. Daniel Cherry, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. While General Cherry was in town, he visited an old friend, the F-4D aircraft 66-7550 he had flown sixteen years earlier when he shot down a MIG-21 over Vietnam.

## Summer months

Summer months saw supply move into a new warehouse area that had been refurbished through self-help. The KC-135 spouse flight took place and Col. James L. Turner returned from F-16 flight school. The unit also received a visit from the Tactical Air Command commander, Gen. Robert D. Russ. The month also marked the farewell to Col. Clifford Cole, 507th Combat Support Squadron commander. Colonel Cole had been a member of the active reserve at Tinker for 28 years.

## Patriot Chips

June brought Patriot Chips, the last

507th deployment with the F-4D. The 465th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 100 maintenance troops spent two weeks at Fallon Naval Air Station in Nevada dropping live bombs and practicing its air-to-air mission.

The security police added another first to the Reserve reputation when they were asked by the active duty security police at Tinker to help secure the SR-71 Blackbird at the three-day Aerospace America air show at Will Rogers International Airport. Crowd estimates were 500,000 for the three-day event.

## Academy deployment

The TAC Clinic spent their two weeks at Shaw AFB, S.C. The civil engineers had one of their two deployments to the Air Force Academy while the 403rd went to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Another CE deployment sent the food service folks to Spain in July and August. The security police trained in Germany and the communications squadron went to Texas.

Maintenance began F-16 training when members of the 527th Field Training Detachment from Luke AFB, Ariz. came to the 507th to provide the training. While some 507th troops attended the technical schools at other locations, 359 people received their basic F-16 maintenance training at Tinker.

Summer ended with a visit to the unit by Maj. Gen. Alan G. Sharp, Air Force Reserve vice commander. Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick received an orientation flight in the F-4D.



**Doing the self-help projects required for the mobility support flight section's move to the warehouse, MSgt. Norman Hustead, right, and SSgt. David Hastings review the plans for the new warehouse.**



**U.S. Air Force Photos**  
**Brig. Gen. Daniel Cherry, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, explains to MSgt. Larry Goode, aircraft 550 crew chief, the moves he made in F-4D aircraft 550 that enabled him to achieve a MiG kill sixteen years earlier. The general stopped by the 507th in May to visit his old war-buddy aircraft.**

## Fair Day

Family Fair Day was the September offering to families of Reservists. During that same time, the 507th supported our Canadian neighbor to the north and sent some aircraft and weapons troops to the Shearwater Air Show to help demonstrate the 507th's and the Air Force Reserve capability. While there, maintenance members of the unit visited people in hospitals and orphanages.

Meanwhile back at Tinker, maintenance troops continued to get the "original" 507th F-4Ds ready for their trip to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., for their deserved rest at the "boneyard".

October was the month for competitions as the 403rd competed in the first ClAS Knight and the 465th in its last Patriot Smoke with the F-4D. Some other happy news the unit received was the word that Congress allocated funding for 24 F-16 aircraft for the 507th.

The final months of 1988 brought yet another first in the annals of the 507th. SSgt. Diane Bergman, 465th TFS medical unit, was selected as the Air Force Reserve Extension Graduate of the Year. The unit also bid a fond farewell to the backseaters when the final flight of the F-4D Phantom took place Dec. 10.

Now, for the 1989 show to begin...

## Military appropriations: many happy returns before new year

Air Force Reserve officials announced that congressional action has paved the way for keeping several aircraft, various projects and a \$40 million cash rebate to the command's operation and maintenance budget for fiscal year 1989.

The funds and projects were earlier targeted for reduction to meet requirements of the 1989 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. Committees of the House and Senate, however, had previously disagreed with the proposed force structure reductions and planned to add back the related fund.

## Promotions

### Selected for colonel

Roger Mondt, resource management and plans; Richard Eustace, former deputy commander for operations, currently commander of the 924th TFG, Bergstrom AFB, Texas; John Russell, deputy commander for operations; Bruce Brandt, 465th TFS commander.

### To Master Sergeant

William Armstrong, 403rd CLSS; Pamela Brandt, 507th CSS; Edward Dimmock, 507th SPF; Bruce Hankins, 507th CSS; David Johnston, 507th CAMS; Nicky Stewart, 507th CS.

### To Technical Sergeant

William King, 507th CSS; William Nickerson, 507th CES; Tommy Smith, 507th CSS.

### To Staff Sergeant

Richard Allen, 403rd CLSS; Cynthia Bischoff, 507th CSS; Bonnie Carlson, 403rd CLSS; Clifford Duncan, 403rd CLSS; Jeffrey Hamaker, 507th CAMS; Steven McClure, 507th CES; Theresa Quicke, 72nd APS; Michael Reed, 507th CES; Ricky Sanchez, 403rd CLSS; Mark St. John, 507th CAMS; Paul Weiner, 507th CES; Thomas Weller, 507th CES; Jerry Williams, 507th CES.

### To Senior Airman

Jeffery Alexander, 507th CES; Candace Bower, 507th CS; Regina Chesser, 507th TFG; Sheldon Hill, 403rd CLSS; Mary Juhn, TAC Clinic; Rachelle McConnell, 72nd APS; Judith Osborne, 507th CAMS; Joel Schulz, 403rd CLSS; Allison Silar, 72nd APS; Angela Stribing, 72nd APS; Anthony Thompson, 403rd CLSS.

### To Airman First Class

Tracy Carrasquillo, 507th CSS; Tracy Cartwright, 403rd CLSS; Jimmy Hanger, 403rd CLSS; David Powell, 403rd CLSS; David Stout, 507th CES.

The resulting appropriations act conference report highlighted several actions affecting the status of Reserve units worldwide.

The congressional action retains 13 aircraft programmed to be lost by operational units in fiscal 1989.

Six F-16 Fighting Falcons will be added to the fleet of 18 aircraft already programmed for the 507th Tactical Fighter Group. The unit had been slated to take a cut in assigned aircraft from 24 to 18 when it transitioned from F-4 Phantoms to F-16s.

Some \$19.5 million will be used to install engines on six KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft, later to be transferred from the active force.

The congressional action also calls for the 302nd

## Reserve News

### Commissary procedures clarified

Reservists will be authorized commissary privileges from Jan. 1 through June 30 following these provisions. In order to gain access to commissaries, reserve members must have performed active duty in reserve capacity at any time during calendar year 1988 or calendar year 1989.

Commissary privileges need not be exercised only during the time period covered on orders. In other words, reservists are not limited to the days on the orders to shop at the commissary. Until June 30, there will be no limit to the shopping days authorized.

The member must present a copy of the active duty orders at the commissary along with the red ID card. The orders must be dated for 1988 or 1989.

A dependent will be required to have copy of member's active duty orders, a valid form of identification containing a picture of dependent and proof of dependent status to named member. A federal tax return or dependent ID will work.

Beginning July 1, the new entitlement card will be the primary document for entrance into the commissary.

### Board suggests changes

The 86th Air Force Uniform Board approved six

Tactical Airlift Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo., to retain four C-130B Hercules and the 939th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, Portland IAP, Ore., to keep an HC-130. Elsewhere, the 919th Special Operations Group, Eglin Aux. Field 3, Fla., will not lose an AC-130 gunship and the 301st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Homestead AFB, Fla., will retain an HH-3 helicopter.

The conferees agreed to support the weather reconnaissance missions of the AFRES and active duty flying units at Keesler AFB, Miss., and directed that these units be fully manned. They also requested to be notified immediately of future decisions to change, decrease or eliminate the mission capability of these squadrons. (AFRNS)

changes in dress and appearance policy, however, none will be effective until Air Force Regulation 35-10 is changed early next year.

The uniform board approved:

- Wear of optional black, gray or olive-green turtleneck dickies with utility uniforms.
- Wear of black and off-black nylons for women in service uniforms.
- Wear of bright and non-subdued grade insignia by officers on battle dress uniform caps while in garrison.
- Wear of 3- or 4-inch chevron for women on service dress coats and utility uniforms.
- Introduction of new London Fog belted, double-breasted all weather coat into the clothing bag to replace the currently issued all-weather coat. (AFNS)

### Social Security planning possible

Many people don't even have a "ballpark figure" of how much social security money they may draw after retirement. There is a way to get that figure and correct any record errors in the process. Call the Social Security Administration toll-free at 1-800-937-2000 to request SSA Form 7994 which you will need to get your records corrected.

