

507th Tactical Fighter Group



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On-final

Initiatives reduce workload

Several years ago an Air Force officer speculated that the weight of paperwork to launch an airplane equaled the weight of the airplane.

In recent years excessive "flypaper" has become a sticky issue in the Department of Defense, prompting officials to seek ways to trim the weight of paperwork. At Air Force Reserve headquarters at Robins, officials instituted 75 initiatives during February through August, saving field units nearly 28,000 work hours while reducing the headquarters staff workload by more than 8,100 hours.

Members of the deputy chief of staff for operations staff, many of whom fly planes, boast the largest savings. They put forth 10 initiatives to save units more than 13,500 hours and themselves more than 2,500 hours.

AFRES officials are also looking to Air Reserve technicians, civilians and reservists to find ways to lighten the paperwork load.

"We've made the obvious cuts at the headquarters," said Col. Donald R. Martin, director of AFRES information management. "Now we're asking the people in field units to take a look at us. We've developed tunnel vision and need an outside perspective. We want unit people to tell us what we can do to make their lives better."

The Air Force and its information management are undergoing tremendous changes, Colonel Martin said. For

example, he foresees all Air Force publications on compact disks in the next five years. "Through local networking of computers, a person in an office will be able to access the master publications library on the other side of the base. There won't be a need for functional publication libraries. People who insist on having a printed version will be able to print it on a page-by-page basis."

Paperwork reduction is not just cutting the amount of paper; it's also eliminating costly, labor-intensive practices. In August Maj. Gen. Alan G. Sharp, AFRES vice commander, sent a letter to numbered air forces, wings and groups urging them to consider other methods of communicating rather than by messages. Many times, said the general, the use of telefax, conference calls, letters, INFOCEN or just a telephone call can preclude the need to generate a message.

People who have a better idea might try the Command Model Installation Program or the Air Force Suggestion Program to hurdle a paperwork stone-wall.

Information management people in one unit challenged having to keep a handwritten log when the counter on their photocopy machines recorded the same amount of usage. Their model installation program proposal was adopted at the unit level. (AFRNS)



U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Stan Paregien
SSgt. Alice Richardson, left, and SrA. Kandren Huard get ready for the war by practicing suiting up in their chemical protection gear. The war is "War Year '90" which begins next month and ends in 18 months with the unit receiving an Operational Readiness Inspection.

Commissary privileges extended once again

The Department of Defense has extended the National Guard and Reserve interim commissary privilege to Dec. 31, 1989.

Air Force Lt. Col. Jungus Jordan DOD's assistant director of personnel administration and services, said the new Armed Forces Commissary Privilege Card is not yet available, requiring the extension from January 1, 1989.

Jordan said that until the cards reach Guard and Reserve administrative offices, the rules in place will apply to determine eligibility for commissary privileges.

"Guard and Reserve people using the commissary need only to present a copy of their orders showing that they performed active duty in 1988 or 1989 and a military identification card," said Jordan. "Dependents must show proof of dependency and a photo identification."

The commissary privilege for National Guard and Reserve personnel was established in the 1986 Defense

Authorization Act, which allowed members to bank up to 14 days of commissary privileges. DOD decided to authorize 12 visits per year, in addition to unlimited visits while the member is on active duty.

"Initially, we tried to use the leave and earnings statement to keep track of commissary visits," said Jordan. "The procedure resulted in a very heavy workload on the unit and was difficult for members and commissary identification checkers to use. So we created a new form, which will work much like the ration cards overseas."

The new privilege card will be available to all members of Selected Reserve who have performed training as required by law. Jordan said the card will have 12 spaces, with room for a date stamp on the back. When members use the commissary while not on active duty, they will need only to show the card and a military identification card. Dependents will need to show the privilege card and a dependent Guard

or Reserve identification.

Jordan said that unit commanders play key roles in determining eligibility for the privilege cards. "They have to verify the name on the card itself," he said. "Also, if the member does not perform the required duty, the commander will not issue the card."

The privilege cards are not available to members of the Individual Ready Reserve — the so-called inactive re-

serve. However, those individuals can use the commissary if they are called to active duty.

"The Congress authorized this privilege to Guard and Reserve members as an incentive," said Jordan. "And we think the Armed Forces Commissary Privilege Card will make using that benefit as easy as possible for unit commanders, the commissaries and the members of the Guard and Reserve."

Welcome to Family Fair Day!

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | — 1 1/2 mile run and 3 mile run/walk starts |
| 9 a.m. | — Volleyball Tournament Starts |
| 9:45-10:30 a.m. | — KEEPSAFE Program for kids |
| 10:30 a.m. | — Carnival Games start, dunk tank, moon walk and cake walk |
| 10:30 a.m. | — Kids Art Korner Opens |
| 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | — Lunch |
| Noon | — Bank starts |
| 12:30-2:30 p.m. | — Photos in F-16 |

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Colonel's Journal



Col. James L. Turner

As the late-great Gilda Radner used to say when her alter-ego Roseanne Roseannadanna took over: "It's always something."

Those words were never more true than right now at the 507th. Here's why: The long awaited date of Oct. 1 is just around the corner and as those of us who have been following the F-16 conversion milestones know, that's the last date we can present our higher headquarters with the Air Force's newest mission ready F-16 unit. The tendency to look back in wonder over how we hit all the knuckleballs thrown at us certainly exists and as I've told anyone who would listen, the unique problems created by our conversion scenario would have ruined a lesser unit.

While being the first to admit that it hasn't all been fun over the past several months, I must also admit that my admiration for the members of the 507th and all associated units has continued to grow with each new

problem. Several units, namely the Civil Engineers and Tactical Air Command Clinic, have flourished and been recognized for their excellent achievements. The 403rd CLSS has also undergone a gained-command major inspection and come through with flying colors.

Meanwhile, the maintainers and operations folks have continued to react to the seemingly insurmountable problems of our conversion. No one will breathe easier than myself when the conversion is finally over, but, if current operations continue, I can add one more laurel to the bunch when our goal of accomplishing this major aircraft conversion at the 507th without a Class A or B mishap is met. The opportunities to foul something up over the past nine months have been many and there were a few close calls, but due to your "Okie" can-do and professionalism, it looks like we are going to make it.

Before we pat each other on the back, however, remember that daily operations will now present all the trials, tribulations and perils that the past few months have witnessed. Remember too, that on November 30, the 12th Air Force Inspector General team will give us the official reading on the state of the 507th when we have our Unit Readiness Inspection. I have challenged the unit commanders with a better than average showing on that inspection because I know we can do it. Our mission will not support average but that's the subject for another editorial.

So, our conversion problems are almost over. Our inspection preparation for the rapidly approaching UEI continues and when that's over we can get down to some serious stuff, because the Operational Readiness Inspection will only be eight months away. Like Roseanne Roseannadanna said: "It's always something."

What our freedoms really mean

By SMSgt. Ken Pedigo

I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America . . .

Years ago, on my first day of in-processing at an overseas base, I found myself in front of the Air Force hospital at the end of the duty day. As the music began to play and the small flag detail lowered the flag, I noticed a young woman carrying a baby and a bag of Base Exchange goodies, trailing behind was a small boy. The sight and sound of retreat finally registered on the mother and she stopped and faced the flag.

She was doing the best she could with her hands full of baby and groceries. The little boy, not old enough to appreciate the moment began to tug at his mother's skirt and cry. At one point he noticed me at attention, saluting. He became very quiet, faced the flag and imitated my position, looking over his shoulder once or twice to make sure he had it right.

The ceremony ended and without an exchange of words, the woman and her little family continued on their way.

. . . and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible . . .

That retreat, so many years ago, remains vivid in my memory, because in the last five minutes of that first duty day in Germany, I realized an important truth about our national symbol. The thing that represents everything America believes in, will remain a valid symbol of our national heritage, only if we pass on to our children the following three concepts: to honor the flag, to understand the principles of freedom and justice it represents, and finally, to practice them.

That little boy did not see past the symbol he was honoring, or know of flags raised on blood-stained battlefields or flag-draped coffins returning from around the world. He probably never heard of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Betsy Ross or Francis Scott Key. And he certainly could not grasp the abstract, and very difficult to understand principles stated in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. But honor the flag he did, with sincerity.

Today, there is an outcry of indignation in the land, from good people who may be a bit like that little boy. They love our symbol of freedom. They

honor it. They may have risked their lives defending it. Their hearts swell with pride and their eyes fill with tears when the national anthem is played and respect is paid to Old Glory. They are overcome with anger and confusion when they hear of an American flag being burned, and the highest court in the land declares the deed legal under the Constitution.

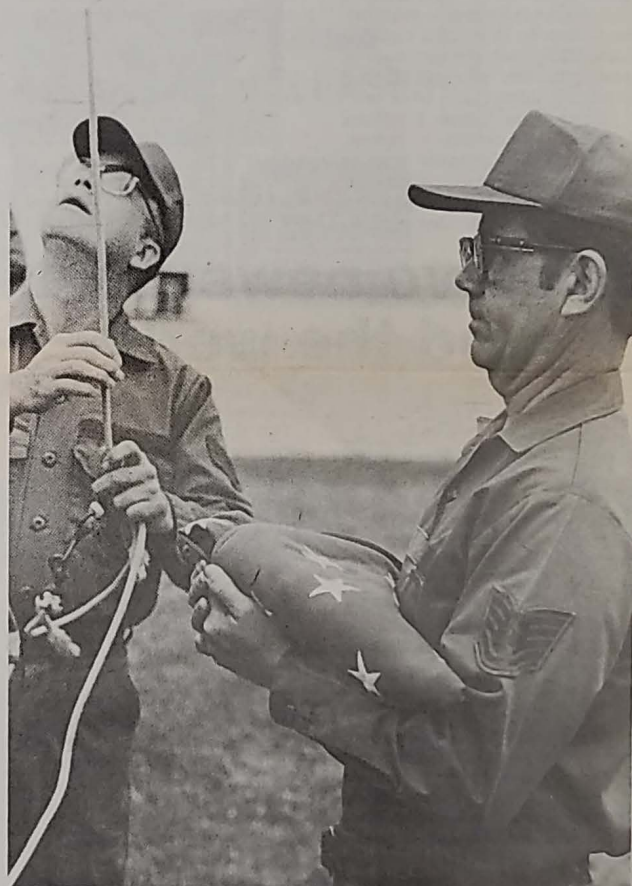
They say "we fought for that flag and nobody should be allowed to burn it." They remind us of the millions who have died defending it. They say it should be made sacred under the law, that an amendment to the constitution should be passed to protect the flag from "desecration." What they're actually saying is the symbol, the piece of material — often mass-produced in countries that don't enjoy the very freedoms it stands for — is more important than those freedoms. They seem to be confusing the flag with the republic for which it stands.

. . . with liberty and justice for all. Liberty and justice, freedom and individual rights, these are abstract, albeit real, ideas that are best represented by our flag. After all, one does not "rally around freedom of the press boys." But these concepts are not destroyed when someone burns a flag. On the contrary, they are strengthened. It's only when the most unpopular ideas can be espoused, that we are truly free. You don't have to like it, but you should love the concept of freedom it allows. Because when the unpopular or minority view can be expressed, then the rest of us can be sure our freedom to practice and espouse our beliefs remain intact.

That's what the framers of the constitution meant, that's what the Supreme Court affirmed, that is what America is all about, and that is what our dear flag stands for.

So before we outlaw flag burning, as abusive to our feelings as it is, let's study and understand what Old Glory really stands for. And if we all practice these principles, perhaps soon we will never see another flag burned.

To those of you who still want to outlaw flag burning, remember this; in Turkey, one can be sent to jail for stepping on Turkish money because it bears the picture of the country's founder — sounds a bit bizarre, doesn't it?



U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Stan Paregian
SSgt. David Browne, contracting specialist on left, and TSgt. James A. Trumbly, vehicle mechanic, help retire the flag during August's annual tour. Both men are members of the 507th Combat Support Squadron.

Day features kid's safety

By TSgt. Cody Smith
507th Safety Office

Many fun events and activities will take place at the family fun day this UTA.

"For the children's entertainment and education, the 507th Safety office, in cooperation with Martha Collar of Children's Hospital, will present the 'KEEPSAFE' program for all the kids."

The KEEPSAFE program is designed to educate children on the hazards they are confronted with each and every day. It discusses items ranging from home safety to crosswalk and school safety. It gets the children involved through role playing, puppets and other fun activities. KEEPSAFE is investing our time today, for their safety tomorrow.

The program will start at 9:45 a.m. next to the stage in the hangar.

CHAMPUS use for reservists explained

Air Force Reservists face a glut of unfamiliar acronyms to learn while in uniform. Two of those terms that crop up from time to time are CHAMPUS and DEERS.

CHAMPUS stands for Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services. It is run by the Department of Defense and picks up most of the costs for treatment in civilian medical facilities when military hospitals and clinics are too far away or busy.

A reservist's dependents are eligible for CHAMPUS benefits under certain conditions.

If a reservist is called to active duty for more than 30 days, his or her family members become eligible for CHAMPUS on the first day of the reservist's active service. They remain eligible until the reservist leaves active duty. The period of active-duty time stated on the reservist's orders is the determining factor.

If a reservist dies while on any type of active duty tour, his or her surviving dependents will continue to be eligible for military health benefits, including CHAMPUS, under the same rules as would survivors of any deceased active-duty member.

DEERS is the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. CHAMPUS-eligible people must be listed in the DEERS data bank to get their claims paid. The data bank contains the names of all active-duty, de-

ceased and retired military sponsors, their CHAMPUS-eligible family members and certain former spouses.

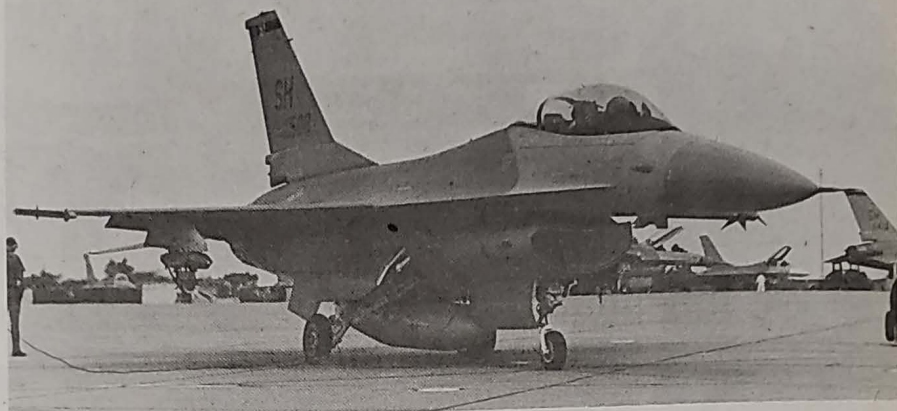
When a CHAMPUS claim is submitted to the claims processor, the processor checks the DEERS computer files to see if the patient is eligible for CHAMPUS benefits. Claims for patients whose names do not show up on DEERS will be denied until the matter of eligibility is resolved.

Reservists serving in CHAMPUS-eligible circumstances should have their dependents signed up with DEERS when in-processing for the active-duty tour. The 507th Consolidated Base Personnel Office has more details about whose dependents are eligible for DEERS status. Contact them at ext. 47491.

Retired reservists and qualified dependents become eligible for

CHAMPUS and other military health benefits on the reservist's 60th birthday.

CHAMPUS eligibility continues for reservists until they qualify for Medicare (Part A), which cost shares hospital charges. Qualified dependents also keep their CHAMPUS eligibility until they become individually eligible for Medicare (Part A). For most people, Medicare eligibility starts at age 65.



U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Stan Paregien

It's a common sight around the 507th TFG nowadays to see F-16 Falcons roaming the runway. By October 1, the 507th will become the Air Force's newest fully-operational F-16 organization.

Reserve news from around the world

F-16 begins upgrade

The 174th Tactical Fighter Wing, an Air National Guard Unit in Syracuse, N.Y., is the first F-16 unit to be equipped with 30mm gatling gun capabilities. The modification was completed in June.

The guns are podded systems with four barrels, capable of firing 2,400 rounds per minute. The 30mm ammunition is identical to that carried by the A-10 fighter's GAU-8 system, which fires uranium slugs that can penetrate most armor.

Although the wing's A-10 fighters are being redistributed to other guard units, the mission remains unchanged. The F-16s will continue to provide ground attack capabilities and close-air support.

Reservists aid fire fighting

Air Force reservists from the 943rd Tactical Airlift Group at March AFB,

Calif., fought fires for a second time this summer.

Two of the unit's C-130B Hercules aircraft, equipped with modular airborne fire fighting systems, deployed to Van Nuys, Calif., July 30 to help fight a fire at nearby Vail Lake. MAFFS is a system used to fight forest and brush fires by spraying water and fire retardant chemicals from the aircraft while in flight.

The Air Force Reserve unit activated earlier in July to douse fires near Tucson, Ariz. Six AFRES and Air National Guard MAFFS-equipped aircraft logged 42 sorties in that effort.

In the first 10 days of the latest fire fighting, reservists and guardsmen flew more than 260 sorties, dropping 6.7 million pounds of fire retardants on fires in central and southern California.

The aircrews fly at 50-200 feet above the ground while traveling at 140 miles per hour. Their spray covers an area 150 feet wide and 2,000 feet long.

Rescue units to change name

Air Force Reserve rescue units may soon have new unit designations.

Their active-duty parent organization, the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, was redesignated the Air Rescue Service and transferred from Scott AFB, Ill., to McClellan AFB, Calif., as of Aug. 1.

Active duty aerospace rescue and recovery squadrons have been redesignated air rescue squadrons, and AFRES officials have submitted a request to Air Force to have Reserve units also renamed.

Reserve rescue units are the 939th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group at Portland IAP, Ore., and its subordinate 301st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Homestead AFB, Fla., 304th ARRS, Portland, and 305th ARRS, Selfridge ANGB, Mich.

Steroid use is illegal for Reserve athletes

Air Force Reserve athletes who use anabolic steroids could find their military career permanently sidelined.

Air Force policy prohibits the use of steroids unless prescribed for legitimate medical needs and declares steroid use to be drug abuse.

The Air Force is revising Air Force Regulation 35-41, Volume III, Separation Procedures for U.S. Air Force Reserve Members, to reflect this policy and separate abusers. Reservists on active duty who use or sell anabolic steroids illegally are subject to punishment under Article 92 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Plans also call for limited testing for steroid use under the random drug testing program, said MSgt. Jim Brewer, chief of the human resources division at AFRES headquarters.

The military's crackdown on

steroid misuse is a reflection of society's views on the problem. The 1989 Omnibus Drug Act passed by Congress called for a mandatory six-year prison sentence for anyone selling illegal anabolic steroids to anyone under 18 years old. It also called for mandatory three-year sentences for those selling these drugs to anyone over 18 years old.

Documented cases show that steroids cause liver cysts and tumors; jaundice, infertility, hair loss, breast enlargement, adverse blood changes and prostate enlargement.

Medical experts also agree that military people using anabolic steroids are not fit for duty and represent a danger to themselves and their units because steroids affect behavior. "Roid rages" — uncontrollable rage that can last up to three hours — are not uncommon. (AFRNS)



U.S. Air Force Photo

The On-Final is written for 507th "Falconers" like SSgt. Anna Montgomery, a material management specialist with the 507th Combat Support Squadron.

Automated sign-in coming

Air Force Reservists at five bases will scan rather than sign this summer when their units start using an automated sign-in system for unit training assemblies.

Air Force Reserve units at Maxwell AFB, Ala., Portland IAP, Ore., Peterson AFB, Colo., Travis AFB, Calif., and Dover AFB, Del., will participate in the program.

Each system consists of a magnetic stripe card reader and a Zenith Z-248 or compatible computer.

Use of card readers instead of the present manual sign-in will greatly re-

duce workload time because the system will also create pay and personnel reports, said Capt. William R. Sims, director of comptroller plans and systems at AFRES headquarters.

The 908th Tactical Airlift Group at Maxwell was the first AFRES unit to test electronic card readers last summer. Reservists from the 512th Military Airlift Wing (Associate) at Dover AFB, Del., finished a three-month trial of the present system in June. "Automatic sign-in procedures for all AFRES units are scheduled to be completed by September 1990," Capt. Sims said.