



# On-final

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

It was 507th Communications Squadron all the way last month as they beat second place 403rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron at unit volleyball games during Family Fair Day. More photos of the weekend activities are featured on page 13.

## Happy 45th 507th!

The 507th Tactical Fighter Group became 45-years-old last week. The unit was constituted on October 5, 1944 and activated on October 12. It moved to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WWII where it received the Distinguished Unit Citation following an engagement with enemy aircraft. During the unit's history, it has also been stationed at Okinawa and Michigan.

As if to commemorate the occasion, an F-4 Phantom, formerly flown by the unit, was recently featured in a plastic model kit. The model, manufactured by a Japanese corporation, features aircraft "66-550," one of the 507th's MiG-killers that was flown by Brig.

Gen. Daniel Cherry, USAF (Ret.) who flew the aircraft to its record during the Vietnam War. The model features the "SH" tail markings.

This is not the first time a 507th aircraft has been featured in a plastic model. Previously, the unit's WWII markings were featured on an French-produced model of the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, as flown by the 507th over the Pacific theater.

The 507th has also been featured pictorially during the past year in several international aircraft magazines. More information about the 507th and its heritage can be obtained through books available in local hobby shops and at the 507th Public Affairs Office.

## Gunsmoke tests units

Air Force reservists from units in Arizona, Indiana and Texas are setting their sights on Gunsmoke '89 at Nellis AFB, Nev., Oct. 1-14.

Representing the Air Force Reserve at the Air Force-wide fighter gunnery meet are the 944th Tactical Fighter Group, Luke AFB, Ariz., flying F-16 Fighting Falcons; 930th TFG, Grissom AFB, Ind., flying A-10 Thunderbolt IIs; and the 924th TFG, Bergstrom AFB, Texas, flying F-4 Phantom IIs. They will compete against eight active duty and five Air National Guard units in the biennial competition sponsored by the Tactical Air Command.

Gunsmoke gives the "top guns" from U.S. tactical air forces the chance to prove who is best at basic weapons and tactical bomb delivery and navigation. In addition to testing combat skills through various air-to-ground scenarios, Gunsmoke enhances esprit de corps, increases unit training efficiency and recognizes the best aircrews, maintenance teams and munitions load teams, officials said.

The 924th TFG is the only returning Reserve team. Two years ago the AFRES F-16 team from the 419th Tactical Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah,

came in second place overall with three of the top five pilots, including the top gun. The 926th TFG, a Reserve A-10 outfit from NAS New Orleans, La., bolted down the maintenance team honors and finished second in the weapons load event at Gunsmoke '87.

Other units participating this year in the F-16 category are the 86th TFW, Ramstein AB, West Germany; 347th TFW, Moody AFB, Ga.; 388th TFW, Hill AFB, Utah; 432nd TFW, Misawa AB, Japan; and the Guard's 169th TFG, McEntire ANGB, S.C.

In the A-10 category, participating units include the 23rd TFW, England AFB, La.; 81st TFW, RAF Bentwaters, England; 343rd TFW, Eielson AFB, Alaska; and the Guard's 103rd TFG, Bradley ANGB, Conn.

The Guard's 150th TFG, Kirtland AFB, N.M., and the 185th TFG, Sioux City, Iowa, will fly A-7s.

The other two F-4 units participating are the 3rd TFW, Clark AB, Philippines, and the Guard's 181st TFG, Terre Haute, Ind.

Gunsmoke '89 is the fifth tactical air-to-ground competition since the series' revival in 1981.

## UTA Schedule

November  
4-5  
December  
2-3

January  
6-7  
February  
3-4



U.S. Air Force Photo

Models and magazines alike have featured 507th aircraft and history. The unit turned 45-years-old this month.

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## Colonel's Journal

## The myth about being "satisfactory"

The mission is almost over.

We've just plastered the target and my four-ship flight is intact and egressing the threat area at a high rate of speed. The forward edge of the battle area is just ahead and to our surprise, safe passage procedures are working. Success!

I've just time enough to gather my wits and check for the mutual support of my element when simultaneously, my Threat Warning Receiver explodes with the sound of an airborne radar locked on to me in high PRF, and my wingman's animated voice comes over the VHF: "Okie 91, break hard left, BANDIT at left eight o'clock closing fast."

I instinctively plug in the augmentor, put my F-16 over in a max-rate, high-G turn and crane my head around against the increasing forces of gravity to see every fighter pilot's nightmare: an enemy aircraft saddling up for the kill.

My wingman's voice again comes over the radio: "Okie 91, additional BANDIT closing on me. I'm engaged." O.K., I can't count on my wingman for help. We're both in defensive BFM engagements and we're both hurting, big time. Man, this guy is really moving! I wonder why he hasn't fired yet.

Out of the corner of my eye, I can see the smoke trails left by the flares. I have begun to dispense in order to foil the enemies' heat-seeking missiles. Although I can't see them, the chaff bundles are there too as the ALE-40 faithfully carries out the instructions programmed into it before

the flight. Something must be working; his radar is no longer locked onto me.

As my vision slowly begins to fade under the sustained-G forces, I concentrate hard on anti-G straining maneuvers and once again I can see clearly. God, nine G's hurt!

I'm padlocked on my guy and perceive that he is beginning a low line of sight rate overshoot to the outside of my turn circle. I wait until he slides to the outside and then begin a slow nose high over top reversal to the right. Sure enough, there he is, planform to me and continuing his nose high left turn. He too, has me in sight and has accepted the challenge. We are in a vertical rolling scissors at low altitude and too close to disengage. The conclusion will be very final for one of us.

If he didn't have firing parameters I wonder why he didn't separate. With his closure he probably would have made it. Too late to think about his mistakes now.

I keep the right roll coming and pull hard over the top gaining 3-9 advantage. He goes pure horizontal probably trying to outturn me and affect my overshoot. No way! A low yo-yo across the circle to preserve energy and if everything works I'll have a min range lima shot. Thanks to my training, this looks very familiar. Man, I've been here a thousand times.

I want a full system lock so I engage the dogfight switch to the missiles override position. The radar instantly locks up and momentarily



Col. James L. Turner

the TD box superimposes with the missile diamond right over the enemies' tail. The DLZ data says that it's show time so I depress the gain switch and the selected missile's tone changes from a constant growl to a high pitched scream. The missile is self tracking and begging for the opportunity. Fox Two!

Just as I begin to wonder if it'll go, the AIM-9L accelerates off the left wingtip and after several seconds of leaving a smoketrail, it disappears. Thinking that something has gone wrong, I start to fire another and then: WHAM! A bright orange flash appears at the target's tail and he begins a wildly gyrating spin, out of control, minus his tail.

"Okie 91, splash one BANDIT," I yell into the radio.

"Roger 91, in sight. I'm at your right four o'clock. Check twenty right. Your six is clear. Sierra Hotel,

lead. I got mine too."

Too dramatic? Probably.

Possible? You bet.

Last month's Commander's

Comments promised a further look at my belief that we should never settle for "SATISFACTORY" in anything we do, either as individuals or as a group. Take the above mythical scenario as an example (it's right out of the training manual's objectives for BFM-1): because we "good guys" have been better trained, because all our equipment works and, most definitely, because we are flying the world's greatest fighter aircraft, we win!

Conversely, because the "black hatters" are not as well trained; because they make mistakes or because their equipment is not as reliable — they lose.

As reservists, we also have a slight continuation of training currency problem built into our system. This means that when you board that deployment aircraft to go to war, you'd better hope the training you received last month was better than "satisfactory".

The bottom line is this — confidence in the excellence of my training, my aircraft, and my people means an unbeatable advantage in combat. I hope the "bandit drivers" are satisfied with "satisfactory".

Because when they go canopy to canopy with our Okie pilots and catch a glimpse of the Okie logo on the tail of our F-16s, they'll know they have their work cut out. They'll know the "SH" stands for "EXCELLENCE".

## We must find better ways to do business

By Maj. Gen. Alan G. Sharp  
Air Force Reserve vice commander

One of the many challenges facing the Air Force Reserve is to find better ways to do business. We cannot afford to operate as in the past. National defense dollars are shrinking, not growing.

We need to look at ways to do our jobs better — to streamline. Paperwork reduction is part of it. We can't let ourselves get bogged down with unnecessary or redundant procedures. We have to find ways to get better results using the same effort.

Everyone is encouraged to have an input — from the one star to the one striper, from the reservist to the air reserve technician to the civilian employee.

If you can save five minutes here and 10 minutes there without compromising safety and security, perhaps your ideas can also be applied at other units with potential hundred-fold savings. Keep in mind, however, that what's good at one location might not work at another. When viewing a proposal, we often have to find a common ground that will work as well as possible for the entire force.

We also have to consider today's technology. What once took years to develop now seems to evolve over night. Computers and microchips, satellite communications and electronic mail offer us almost instant access to a wealth of information. However, we must have the insight to manage those resources wisely.

The Pony Express is a good example of what happens when technology overtakes you. It was a private venture started in April 1860 which didn't last long.

It used a relay team of horseback riders to cover the 2,000-mile stretch from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif. The riders could cover the distance in about half the time of the fastest stagecoach.

Within 18 months the Pony Express was shot out of the saddle, a victim of the coast-to-coast telegraph.

We, too, have to be ready for change. Right now we're in the midst of thoroughly reviewing our entire organizational structure and the way we do business. This is a long-term project and will take some time. We're involved in training sessions to reorient our thinking. We can't continue in the same direction "because we've always done it that way." We also must be sure that current procedures are meeting our needs. We don't want change for the sake of change.

Many of our people have been involved in the Defense Department's Defense Management Review, a long-term, thorough scrub down of how DOD does business. The bottom line of the review is to save taxpayer dollars.

We have received a large volume of DMR suggestions from our field units. Many of these recommendations are being consolidated to go forward to brief the Air Staff. Others are being worked at AFRES headquarters.

There have been other programs to streamline the services. Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer's (chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRES commander) pro-

gram of delegating decision making to the lowest possible level has been most successful in putting our command in the forefront by placing the authority where it should be — in the hands of our field commanders. Gen. Larry Welch, Air Force chief of staff, has challenged us even further through his formalized initiative, known as STAR (Streamline Authority and Responsibility) 89, to provide this same philosophy by delegating maximum authority to the on-scene supervisor.

As a command, we have done much to assist unit commanders and their people. We recently granted a special manday waiver authority to wing and group commanders. We also made a change in the recommendation to fill unit vacancy promotions by eliminating the requirement for a lengthy letter of justification.

## Let's never forget

On Veterans Day the nation honors the millions of veterans who have protected our freedoms. They paid the price necessary to maintain the freedoms we enjoy. Their sacrifices will long be remembered.

Today, and every day since the Air Force Reserve was officially designated on April 14, 1948, reservists continue that same tradition of service and sacrifice. Let us dedicate ourselves to keeping those principles as we defend our great nation.

— Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer,  
Air Force Reserve commander



November 10  
U.S. Marine Corps established, 1775

# Family Day a splashing success!



See Colonel Turner  
in dunk tank . . .

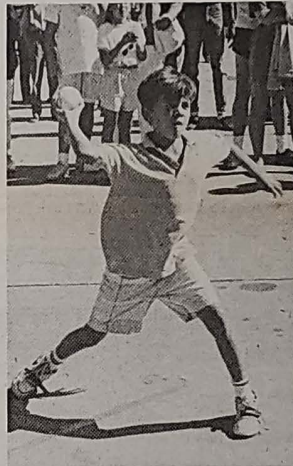


*U.S. Air Force Photo*

More than 300 Fun Run runners took to the streets to enjoy a 1 1/2 or 3-mile run.



See Bobby Turner,  
age 9 . . .



*U.S. Air Force  
Photos by  
SSgt. Stan  
Pargien*

See Bobby throw . . .



*U.S. Air Force Photo*  
Unit members all pitched in to ensure there were enough hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone during the day.



Good toss, Bobby!

# Four receive 30-year pins

Col. James D. Corbett, director of Distribution, presented 30 year pins and certificates of service to four directorate personnel Sept. 21.

## Supply Division

Loretta M. Love, lead supply technician in Base Research, Supply Division, began her federal service career at Travis AFB, Calif., followed by assignments at McChord AFB, Wash. and Fort Carson Colo. She came to work at Tinker AFB in 1965.

Ms. Love has been assigned to Depot Supply Branch, and has worked in Security, Personnel, Directorate of Materiel management and Veterinary Service. She assumed her present position in 1982.

## Materiel Processing Division

Otis J. Bennett, Materiel Receiving Support Section chief, Centralized Materiel receiving Branch, began his Federal Service career in the U.S. Army. After separation from active military service, he continued his military career in the Army Reserve, retiring in July 1988 as a sergeant major.

He began his civilian federal service in 1962 in Distribution and has never had an assignment outside the directorate. Before assuming his present position, he was assigned as supervisor of the Document Control and Input Unit, supply technician in the Research Unit and Warehouse supervisor.

In his career Mr. Bennett has received numerous letters of recognition and three Special Achievement Awards for outstanding support.

Robert E. Dean, chief of Unit A in DSF is responsible for storage operations of Bldgs. 3, 10 and 16. Before beginning his civilian federal career in January 1962, he spent four years in the U.S. Army.

Before being assigned to his present position, Mr. Dean was assigned to the Administrative Support branch as the directorate training officer and 11 years before that as a first line supervisor in various assignments within the Materiel processing division.

Mr. Dean has received many Outstanding Performance Awards and letters of recognition in his career and has recently served as president of the Tinker Management Association.

## Transportation Operations Division

Andrew L. Stephenson, woodworker in the Corrosion Control Area, began his federal career with four years in the U.S. Air Force. He spent much of his civilian federal career as swing shift supervisor in the commissary.

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# Early retirees will pay insurance premiums

Beginning Jan. 1, 1990, employees who retire before age 65 and elect to retain their Basic Life Insurance coverage will be required to pay premiums for this coverage after retirement. These premium payments will be withheld from annuities of retirees from date of retirement until they reach age 65.

Free coverage between retirement and age 65 will continue for those employees who retire before Jan. 1, 1990. For the purpose of meeting the free coverage provision, actual separation for retirement must be before Jan. 1, 1990 or annuity must commence before Jan. 1, 1990.

Employees under age 65 who retire on or after Jan. 1, 1990 will have an opportunity to elect one of three levels of post-retirement Basic Life Insurance coverage. Regardless of the level of coverage elected (either 1, 2 or 3 below), the same amount of Basic Life premium paid as an employee (currently \$.401 monthly per \$1,000 of Basic coverage) will be withheld from annuity payments until age 65.

**Minimum level of coverage.** Full Basic coverage until age 65. At that point, premium withholdings stop and the insurance begins to reduce at the rate of 2 percent per month until it reaches 25 percent of the original value.

**50 percent level of coverage.** Full Basic coverage until age 65 and then reduces at the rate of 1 percent per month until it reaches 50 percent of original value. In addition to the monthly premium withholding of \$.401 per \$1,000 of Basic coverage, further premium withholdings (at the monthly rate of \$.52 per \$1,000 of Basic coverage currently) begin at retirement. The \$.401 per \$1,000 premium withholdings stop at age 65; the additional premium withholdings \$.52 per \$1,000 continue throughout the life of the annuitant or until the insurance is cancelled or discontinued.

**100 percent level of coverage.** Full Basic coverage is retained; no reduction in original value. In addition to the monthly premium with-



holdings of \$.401 per \$1,000 of Basic coverage, further premium withholdings (at the monthly rate of \$1.69 per \$1,000 of Basic coverage currently) begin at retirement. The amount of the Basic coverage stays at the full value for the life of the annuitant. The \$.401 per \$1,000 premium withholdings stop at age 65; the additional premium withholdings (\$1.69 per \$1,000) continue for life or until the insurance is cancelled or discontinued.

Employees over age 65 who retire on or after Jan. 1, 1990 will have the same opportunity to elect one of the three levels of coverage noted above. For these individuals, Basic Life premium withholdings stop and the reductions specified in items 1 or 2 above begin immediately upon retirement. Of course, the additional premium withholdings will be required if either the 50 percent or No Reduction level of coverage is elected.

Regardless of date of retirement (before or after Jan. 1, 1990), employees who wish to continue any of the optional insurance coverages (Options A, B or C) into retirement must, as a prerequisite, continue Basic coverage. Those individuals who retire on or after Jan. 1, 1990 must pay the \$.401 per \$1,000 premium in order to continue the Basic coverage, unless they are over age 65.

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