

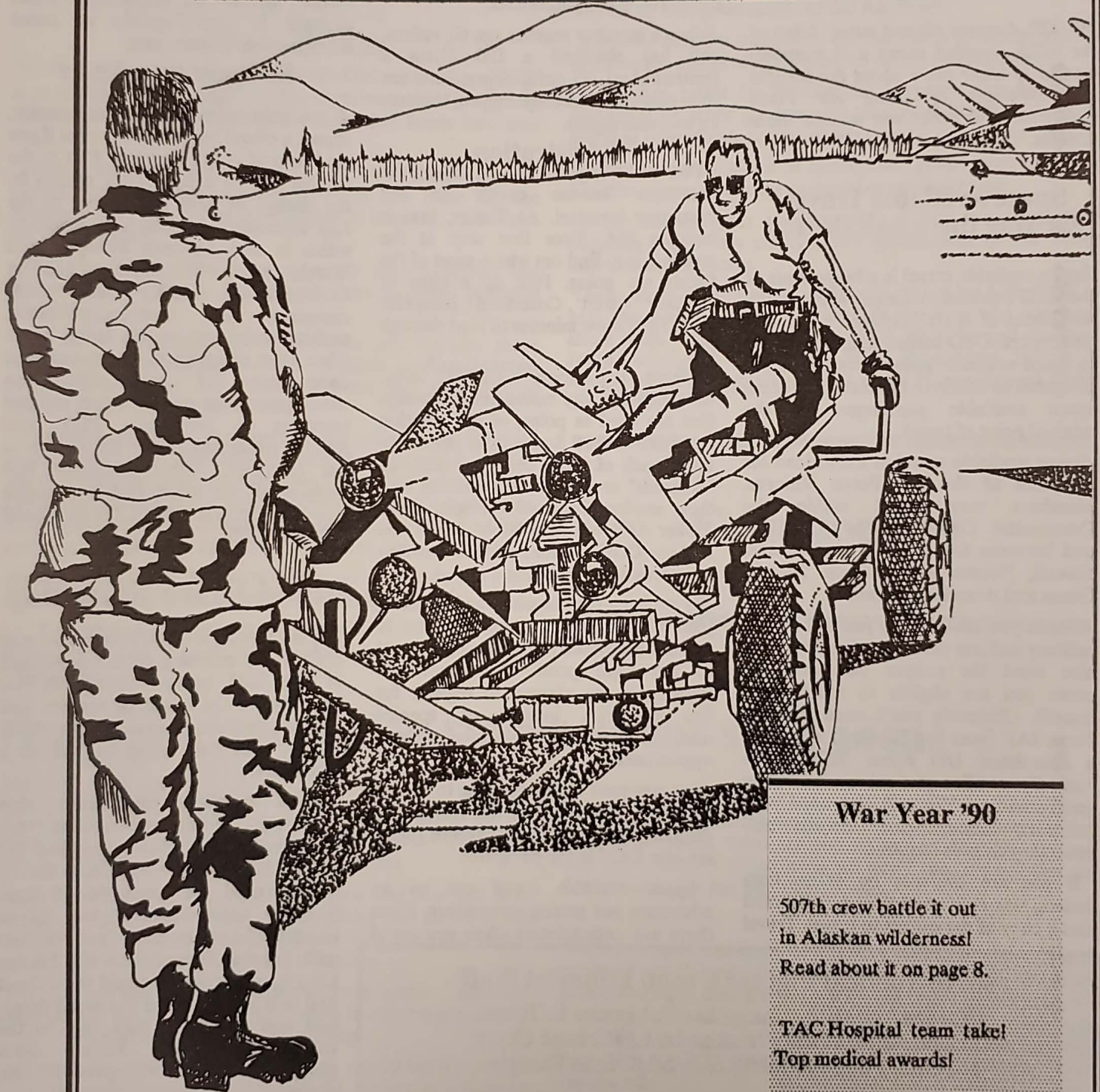


# n-final

Vol. X No. 8

507th Tactical Fighter Group, Tinker AFB, Okla.

August, 1990



## War Year '90

507th crew battle it out  
in Alaskan wilderness!  
Read about it on page 8.

TAC Hospital team take!  
Top medical awards!

## Space Available travel can get reservist moving

### Because you asked...

*NOTE: A recent climate survey taken at the 507th revealed many unit members wanted to know more about the benefits and privileges of being Air Force Reservists. This series will address those benefits.*

### Space Available Travel- Getting there half the fun

Space available travel is a by-product of the DoD's primary mission, which is the movement of space required cargo and passengers. DoD cannot guarantee seats to space available passengers and is not obligated to continue the travel or return space available passengers to the original point of travel.

Space available travel is authorized for members of the Air Force Reserve. Members may travel within the Continental United States (CONUS) and between the CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Unless you are retired, you must be in military uniform while traveling. You will also need the proper documents to prove you are eligible to receive this benefit. Obviously you'll need the DD Form 2AF (your red ID card) as well as a completed DD Form 1853, which basically certifies you are a reservist in good standing. You will also need your passport, immunization records and necessary visas as required.

If you are overseas on active duty orders, you only need your red ID card and a copy of the orders to travel. Travel

of dependents for both of the above categories is not authorized.

When a member reaches age 60, retires, and has obtained a DD Form 2 (retired/blue) ID card, dependents are then eligible to accompany you, but only on overseas flights.

### Registration

You must register in person at the passenger service center in the passenger terminal. At Tinker, that is building 244. Your first step at the terminal is to find out where most of the flights are going. Pick up a copy of Military Airlift Command pamphlet 76-4. Take a few minutes to read through it.

There are seven CONUS MAC terminals and five commercial gateways that are used as points of embarkation from the United States. It is helpful to know each of these bases are assigned "channels" or specific destinations that they service frequently. Flights from Tinker AFB will most likely stop at one of these CONUS bases prior to traveling to international locations.

By studying the pamphlet and planning your destination, you can see how to make the necessary arrangements to get to the right point of embarkation. Passengers are allowed to register for five countries instead of specific destinations which permits greater travel opportunities.

You may want to sign up to go to several locations and commute the rest of the distance by ground travel. Return flights are also listed in the pamphlet.

Space available travel can be an adventure just getting somewhere. Since there are uncertainties when you travel

this way, it is wise to have an extremely flexible agenda. Be prepared to make changes in your agenda or travel arrangements if necessary.

### Summer travel gets crowded

If you plan to fly Space-A this summer, expect a crowd and don't be upset if you get bumped -- and bumped. Part of the trouble will be a bottleneck caused by the change of 1990 PCS moves to the July-September timeframe. Space-A, which is slow between February and March, peaks in summer and at Christmas. In priority order, travel categories are: emergency leave, environmental and morale leave, leaves other than emergency, unaccompanied dependents (17 and older) on environmental or morale leave, military members on permissive TDY, and retirees (reservists fall in the retiree or last category). MAC pamphlet 76-4 explains all the rules and is available from Headquarters MAC/TRPO, Scott AFB IL 62225.

### Blood Drive Saturday

**We are having a blood drive on August 4, Saturday morning on the south end of Bldg 1030, between 0830-1300. You may donate the blood to replace that needed by Paul Owens of the 507th CAMS, who was badly burned in a recent fire.**

Blood donations traditionally slow down during the summer months, there is a shortage of blood now and the Labor Day weekend will be here shortly and a need for extra blood then. Suzanne Gutheridge of the Sylvan Goldman Blood Institute just returned with Colonel Turner from the 507th's Civic Leader tour. She told the colonel how well we supported the blood drives and how important they were to the community. Colonel Turner again pledged full 507th support to this project.

One added benefit to this, besides the iron test, AIDS check, and cholesterol and blood pressure check is that you can enroll yourself and your family in the individual donor plan, which insures blood will be available for you should you need it.

## Set and follow Air Force Standards of Conduct

*By SSgt. Cathy Robinson  
and SSgt. Teresa Benedict  
Legal Service Specialists*

"Joe" is selling candy bars for his kid's Girl Scout troop. "Sally" is promoting a new line of storage containers she's just got in. "Bill" is just getting a signature to close that house insurance deal.

There is absolutely nothing wrong in each of these examples, except that is, when off-duty pursuits are done on the government's time. It's called "conflict of interest". And it can get you in trouble.

The Air Force provides some pretty clear guidance and explanation on how it expects members to avoid potential conflicts.

Air Force Regulation 30-30 provides and explains these standards of conduct that relate to possible conflicts between private interests of Air Force members and their official military duties and responsibilities.

In general, Air Force members should refrain from engaging in any personal or professional business, or financial dealings which could put them in a position of conflict between their private interests and the public interests of the United States. This includes how those public interests relate to their duties and responsibilities as Air Force personnel.

As a member of the Air Force Reserve, it is your duty to avoid this situation. The following suggestions may be helpful:

1. Do not use any information to which you have access through your Air Force duties and responsibilities for your private gain.

## On-final depends on your help for story ideas

Do you ever wonder why your unit doesn't seem to get the publicity it deserves? Maybe it's because the 507th TFG Public Affairs office doesn't know your unit's activities.

The PA office has two people assigned and that just isn't enough people to cover ALL the activities that go on in the unit. We have to depend on inputs and help from individuals and squadron Public Affairs Representatives.

We can't tell you how many times we have heard of an event long AFTER the fact. We can't do much in the way of publicity if we don't know what WILL be happening.

Many of the events that your unit has participated in could have been publicized before it happened. No editor, civilian or military, likes OLD news and old news doesn't "sell" well to civilian news media.

As for the On-final news stories, we realize that getting a story in the paper is difficult. We want to ease that difficulty.

2. Do not engage in any conduct that will be prejudicial in any way to the U.S. government or the Air Force.

3. Do not use your position in the Air Force to induce, coerce or influence others of lower rank to violate this regulation.

4. Do not solicit for commercial purposes any Air Force personnel or other government employee, junior in rank or grade or subordinate to you, at any time on or off duty.

5. Do not misuse, abuse or appropriate government property, facilities or manpower for personal or profitable use.

6. Do not use your military rank or title for commercial purposes which may conflict with government or Air Force interests and concerns.

These are only a few of the standards set out by AFR 30-30 to help you avoid conflict of interest. If you have any questions about these obligations, refer to AFR 30-30 or call the Staff Judge Advocate's Office at 4-5103. Remember, failure to comply with this regulation could result in punishment under the UCMJ.

## Commentary

Bear in mind that there are "must run" (although they are few and far between), there are certain stories, that by the time they get to the PA office, even we won't run. It's not that we don't want to, it's just that they are old.

With a monthly publication, it is very difficult to have "fresh" stories. Even if they are out there floating around, we don't hear about them until it's too late for the paper deadline so the stories get backed up another month. That might make your story two or three months old by the time it hits the On-final. And, that is OLD news which we don't like anymore than anyone else.

Each unit's commander should have assigned one or more members to serve as a Public Affairs representative. Most of our stories come to us through them. But there's always room for anyone who wants to try their hand at writing.

### 507th Tactical Fighter Group Editorial Staff

COMMANDER.....Col James L. Turner  
Public Affairs Officer.....1st Lt Richard Curry  
NCOIC, Public Affairs.....SSgt. Stan Paregien

On-final is an authorized Air Force Reserve publication for members of the 507th Tactical Fighter Group, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, OK 73145-5000. contents of On-final are not necessarily the official views, or endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is prepared and edited by the 507th TFG Public Affairs Office. Copy deadline is noon on UTA Sunday for the preceding month's edition. The PA phone number is 734-3078.

## Frequent flyers are moving on up with style

### 465th plans fall reunion

The 465th Tactical Fighter Squadron is planning a reunion next fall of all squadron personnel.

The reunion is planned for September and includes both enlisted and officer squadron members from 1972 to present.

According to a squadron spokesman, the evening will begin Friday, September 7 with a fly-in and informal social at the Officer's Club. A day of activities will also be scheduled for Saturday, September 8, ending with a coat and tie dinner that night. Registration costs, which include Saturday night's dinner will be \$25 per person. The deadline for registration is August 25.

The point of contact for the reunion is Capt. Mark Wilson at Autovon 884-3260 or (405) 734-3260 or 1st Lt Rich Curry at Autovon 884-3078 or (405) 734-3078.

### A million are educated

Recipients of the Montgomery GI Bill benefits topped one million June 5. The benefits help pay for undergraduate credit. Check with the 507th Training Office at extension 47075 for details.

### Frequent flyers moving up

Air Force Reserve travelers may now use airlines' frequent flyer mileage credits to upgrade to business or first class seats while performing official duty.

Under previous Department of Defense travel guidance, people could only use accrued mileage credits to pay for subsequent official travel. DoD policy still prohibits using credit for personal travel.

Travelers must use government contract carriers, cannot refuse to use them to gain credits in their favorite programs, nor use mileage credits unless the credits result in no-cost travel.

### Incentive bonuses listed

The following AFSCx have been authorized as the bonus AFSCs for the period of July 1 to Sept. 30 1990

452X4B - Tactical Aircraft Maint (507 CAMS)

454X3 - Acft Fuel Systems (507 CAMS, 403 CLSS)

458X2 - Acft Structural Maint (507 CAMS, 403 CLSS)

461X0 - Munitions Systems (507 CAMS)

462X0 - Acft Armament Systems (507 CAMS)

551X0 - Pavements Maint (507 CES)

551X1 - Construction Equipment Opr (507 CES)

605X5 - Air Cargo Processor (72 APS)

631X0 - Fuel specialist (507 CSS)

These bonuses apply to non prior/prior service enlistments, reenlistments, retraining, and affiliation. Incentive amount varies depending on type program but will not exceed \$2,500. For more information, contact the Group Career Advisor, MSgt. Epps, Bldg 1043, Room 211 or call extension 47491.

### AF names new senior enlisted advisor

CMSgt. Gary R. Pflingston, senior enlisted advisor for Pacific Air Forces, has been named as the next chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael J. Dugan announced his selection July 11.

Chief Pflingston, who takes over Aug. 1, will replace retiring CMSAF James C. Binnicker. Chief Binnicker has been the Air Force's top enlisted advisor since July 1986.

### Volunteers are needed

The 507th INTRO program is currently looking for volunteers from all the squadron to become sponsors.

According to MSgt. Sharlotte Epps, unit career advisor, sponsors help greet newcomers and introduce him or her into their future work area.

As a sponsor, a person may only be called to serve once a year.

Sponsors will receive a 15 minute training orientation to acquaint them with the importance of the job.

Individuals wishing to volunteer as sponsors are requested to see their supervisors or first sergeant.

### MSgt. Caroom dies

MSgt. Larry Caroom of the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron died last month from cancer.

Sergeant Caroom had recently moved to the civil engineering squadron from the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron to assume the duties of unit trainer.

Services were held at the Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa. Attending from the 507th were Colonel Turner, Major Ritenour, Captain Goodman, Chaplain Clay, and SMSgt. Cameron.

### Booze kills, year after year

Around 300,000 people, almost the population of Charlotte, N.C., suffer serious injuries each year in alcohol-related traffic accidents. About 25,000 people, which approaches the population of Ardmore, Okla., die in those accidents.



## Eccles, Iron receive unit quarterly awards

The 507th Enlisted Advisory Council has selected SrA Carolyn G. Irons and SSgt. John R. Eccles and the Airman and NCO of the Quarter for April to June 1990.

Airman Irons works at the 507th Tactical Hospital as a medical logistics specialist.

According to her commander, Col. Clio Harper, Airman Irons has a strong personal desire to excel and is dedicated to her job and self improvement.

"Airman Irons' skillful management of her time has enabled her to take on additional duties and she has been an excellent role model for the unit," he said.

She volunteered to direct the Hospital Newcomers Program



SrA Carolyn G. Irons-Airman of the Quarter

as well as providing outstanding support to the Hospital's Medical Readiness and Mobility Programs.

In civilian life, she is a journalism student at Central State University. She will continue to pursue that goal at Rose State College this fall. Her communications abilities are also put to use in the Hospital's Awards and Decorations Program.

She was a vital element in providing support to the Olympic Festival last summer and participates as the performing arts coordinator for her church, where she is an active member. She has submitted a short story which was published by Rose State College and co-authored a play which has been produced at Rose State College.

"She clearly demonstrates capacity for managing activities that lend to high quality results," Colonel Harper said.

Sergeant Eccles is a material handler with the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron. According to his commander, Lt. Col. Stephen E. King, Sergeant Eccles' knowledge of handling cargo, including hazardous and sensitive materials, has brought him nominations by his supervisors for additional duty as an academic instructor.

Sergeant Eccles was cited for spending considerable time improving his professional abilities. He attended the Air Force Reserve Leadership Development Course in residence at Kelly AFB, Texas and was selected to give a speech on "Ideas to Improve the Military" during the graduation ceremonies. He also recently completed a refresher hazardous materials course with a final grade of 95 percent.

In civilian life Sergeant Eccles is committed to making life better for those in his community. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the New Life Center, a shelter for mentally handicapped adults, and a member of the Oklahoma Florist Association, through which he has volunteered his horticulture expertise on Municipal Historical preservation projects.

As a procurement specialist for St. John's Hospital, Sergeant Eccles was recognized as "Employee of the Month". He also combines his love for photography and knowledge of horticulture to help beautify his civilian work environment and has been recognized several times for his hard work.

"Sergeant Eccles is a positive spokesman for the Air Force Reserve," said Colonel King. "On several deployments, he has been observed discussing the benefits of the Reserve with active duty personnel. He has recruited several of his co-workers and two of his friends to seek careers in the National Guard or Reserve."

The colonel said Sergeant Eccles' willingness to help others has earned him high esteem in his section.

## Accident claims 403rd member

By SrA Roy Godfrey

403rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron  
Public Affairs Representative

TSGt. James L. Beckman, 30, was laid to rest June 30 in El Reno after suffering fatal injuries received four days earlier at a new Oklahoma City-County jail construction site.

Upon graduation from Carl Albert High School in Oklahoma City, Sergeant Beckman served four years in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Nellis AFB, Nevada. He joined the 403rd CLSS in July 1985 as an Aircraft Structural Maintenance Specialist. He was employed as a civilian by C. C. Cooke Company. He was active with the Boy Scouts of America and a member of the Pentecostal Church.

A tribute to Sergeant Beckman at graveside was made with full military honors by the AFLC Honor Guards, Col. James L. Turner, 507th TFG Commander and members of the 403rd CLSS.

## Chaplain Joel Clay aids Oklahoma HIV sufferers

by SSgt. Stan Paregien  
507th Public Affairs

One man has seen the pain in the eyes of families. He has seen the emotional strain on the faces of both men and women. And he has seen the final moments of once-strong human beings drift away as dust in the wind.

Chaplain Joel Clay has spent the last five years helping Oklahomans afflicted with the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus. For Clay, the opportunity to assist came in a subtle way.

"In 1985 I was asked to present an issues program on human sexuality to people trained for local church work. Out of that experience came a request from the United Methodist for a workshop about AIDS which occurred in March of 1988," said Chaplain Clay.

Consequently, Clay became involved in the AIDS Support Program (ASP). ASP is a community-based support program in Oklahoma City.

In his civilian life, Chaplain Clay has been appointed as the pastor of the Bethel Acres United Methodist Church near Shawnee for the past two years. He currently serves as the chair of the United Methodist Task Force on Aids in Oklahoma. In April, he completed a one-year term as President of the AIDS Support Program.

Although a lot of confusion and hatred still surround the AIDS subject years after the first confirmed case, Chaplain Clay has tried to make the most of a difficult situation.

"It is really an outreach ministry for me. When I help these people and get involved, the church feels involved too. It confronts me with my own mortality. It makes me thankful I'm not having to deal with a terminal illness in my life, other than age, which is terminal.

"We are now looking to develop a care team made up of eight to 15 people. They will provide round-the-clock assistance when the sickness gets worse," Clay said.

Even the people he tried to help didn't understand him at first glance.

"Many of the patients were standoffish because they thought I was there to convert them. I told them I was there to comfort and care for them if they would let me," he said, reminiscing.

Another of the most profound problems Chaplain Clay faces is a term he refers to as "homophobia".

"The heterosexual community sometimes doesn't understand the situation and they've passed the disease off thinking it only affects homosexuals. But it really affects others physically and monetarily. I'm not drumming up support for gay lifestyles. By mainly working with local churches and the community, I'm trying to help show how

the disease affects us all," added Chaplain Clay.

The spread of the disease has primarily been linked to sexual contact and sharing of drug needles. That doesn't mean you might not get AIDS in other ways. Hemophiliacs have contracted it from blood transfusions and so have hospital patients as bad blood supplies slip through undetected. More blood tests are being run to reduce that risk, but there is still a risk.

Chaplain Clay feels the Air Force Reserve has helped him better deal with the problems he faces from day to day. From physically caring for the sick and dying, to mentally helping the families cope with loss, Chaplain Clay gives from the heart.

"In the last year, I have watched 16 people die from AIDS. Usually a friend of theirs will call me and set up an appointment to work on funeral arrangements. It's difficult, but it's also a healthy thing for the patients to do. They are usually much better prepared for dying than the normal person.

"The Reserves have helped me mentally and directly deal with people needing help. I have been able to reach chaplains at Wilford Hall and put them in contact with those requesting communications.

The issue of HIV infection is closer than most people realize. The reason is that it is sexually transmitted," commented Chaplain Clay.

The chaplain said the most rewarding aspect of his job is the honest friendships he makes.

"The people know they are going to die, so they don't have time to play games like so many of us do when we first meet new persons. They are much more open because they know their time left on earth is short.

"Spending time with the HIV patients and their families gives me a good feeling. In the beginning my initial involvement was circumstantial. Since then it has been 'a calling' for me. Each time I see them discriminated against, I say this is not right and I want to change the way things happen," Chaplain Clay said.



Chaplain (Capt.) Joel Clay

## Hotline outlines unit deployment procedures

Q. - I believe everyone should be allowed to go on deployed tours. It appears to me that only experienced people and those that have gone before are allowed to participate.

A. - It would be great if everyone could deploy off-station at least once each year. We all know that is just not possible or economically realistic. Therefore, all unit commanders are faced with the task of ensuring a successful deployment and providing the most realistic quality training possible within the budget limits. All deployments require certain Air Force Specialty Codes just to meet mission objectives. During our recent deployment to Alaska, the tasking allowed combat supply to take one trainer and two trainees, where as the transportation tasking called for two experienced drivers. This same experienced tasking requirements existed for our refuelers, our mechanics, and our aircrew members.

Sometimes the selection results are not always pleasing to everyone involved. However, this Patriot Polar deployment (64 percent reservists, 36 percent ART force) is evidence of our ability to deploy, employ and redeploy with excellence. I am very pleased with the

exceptionally high quality of reservists in the 507th TFG.



Q. - Why can't our flag be flown at half mast to honor aviation-related deaths, civilian or military, as well as to memorialize civilian firemen and policemen who die in the line of duty?

A. - Flying the American flag at half mast for the death of a prominent member of the republic had its roots in military customs prior to the birth of this great nation. This honorarium is now governed by AFR 900-3, Public Law, and Presidential decree for military flags. State and local governments are governed by Public Law, Presidential decree and local politics. Public Law lists those persons entitled to this honor and sometimes both military and civilian

guidance allow the honor be shown for the same person. This question also mentioned the death of Tom Jones at the recent airshow. Unfortunately, Mr. Jones was not in a position covered by our military rules. As with you, we regret his loss and mourn his passing. We did post our marquee with a memorial for him and we will continue this practice whenever our rules do not permit us to lower the flag.

Q. - Can we get some additional lights in the CAMS area to illuminate dark areas? We also need some of the existing lights rotated to help light up the area between the hangar and Reserve road.

A. - Good suggestion! We are working on having CAMS identify what they need and where, then a work order can be processed for future construction.

Q. - The men's restroom in building 1030 has inadequate water pressure. Can we get this fixed?

A. - The water pressure will not be fixed until the project to renovate the hangar is complete. The system is tied to the water pipes on the second floor and the water has been cut-off upstairs.

## Used cars can spell (and smell) trouble for you

by TSgt. Ronald Allen  
507th Security Police

You've just become the proud owner of a "previously-owned" car. So far, the car's been running great and you've got it registered for on base travel.

Now let's suppose you are entering the gate next UTA weekend and the security police informs you that your vehicle has been selected for a random drug search.

Your first thoughts are, "No sweat. I don't use drugs so I don't have anything to worry about."

Then as you are standing there thinking about your schedule for this weekend, the dog alerts. It seems your car has been hiding a secret. The previous owner was a user and left drug particles behind and ground into the carpet and under the seat.

Are you responsible? Unfortunately, yes.

In such a case, an investigation would be made and you would be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice or local laws. However, there is a way to avoid this predicament.

If you recently purchased a vehicle or plan to do so, you may call the 507th SPF at extension 47849. They will call the Military Working Dog section and set up an appointment to have a drug-sniffing dog check out your car.

According to security police officials, they can thoroughly check your vehicle with a working dog and if it alerts, you will be permitted to have the items removed and cleaned and another check made to determine that the vehicle is 'clean'.

Under this program, no investigation will be made of the incident and you won't risk prosecution. However, if you wait and get caught in a random check, you are on your own.

## OKIES battle Alaskan F-15's during Patriot Polar



Lifting a wing-tip missile into position are, left to right, SSgt. Randy Unger, SSgt. Rick Cherry and SSgt. Danny Fischer of the 507th Munitions section.

Twelve F-16s and 134 members of the 507th arrived at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska June 2.

For the next two weeks unit members toiled away in the land of the midnight sun practicing their wartime skills.

According to Colonel Larry Turner, 507th Commander, Elmendorf offered some unique training opportunities for the unit.

"Here we have an opportunity to practice flying in a different terrain, the chance to employ live munitions and the chance to fly against Alaskan Air Command F-15s," he said.

That opportunity to fly against F-15s gave both sides the chance to compare maneuvers and tactics. As reservists, 507th pilots are required to fly the same number and type of sorties as their active-duty counterparts to remain



ABOVE:: SSgt. Rick Abbott, checks things out.  
BELOW: SSgt. Frank Stangl charts daily maintenance.



Photos and Story  
By  
1st Lt Rick Curry



ABOVE: TSgt. Bob Hamilton, SSgt. Mike Privett and SSgt. Jim Dion talk about the mission.

BELOW: MSgt. Gary Seale, fastens a missile down.



SSgt. John Nugent, left, and TSgt. Felipe Aguilar stand by during an aircraft surge exercise.

proficient and combat ready, the colonel said.

While there, the unit took advantage of the Alaskan weapons ranges to fire off a few Maverick missiles.

"We don't have the opportunity to do this at Oklahoma ranges," the colonel said. He said unlike local ranges, the vast wilderness surrounding Alaskan ranges are ideal.

This is the second time the 507th has visited Elmendorf AFB. The first time was in 1987 when the unit was still flying the F-4D Phantom.

"Since our conversion to the F-16 in 1989, we have been seeking opportunities to improve our training program. Being at Elmendorf has helped tremendously," Colonel Turner said.



MSgt. Chuck Amato, standing, and SSgt. Mike Privett, kneeling, arm a Maverick missile, prior to a takeoff.

# OKIES stretch out helping hand to Honduras



ABOVE: A Honduran Fire Station - BEFORE the 507th Civil Engineers.

BELOW: The fire station - AFTER the 507th Civil Engineers.



by *SSgt Stan Paregien*  
*507th Public Affairs*

It is not every summer that 507th Reservists are able to fly out of the United States and spend time working in another country. This year, members of the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron air lifted to Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras.

The base, located ten miles south of Comayagua and 60 miles north of Tegucigalpa, is a Honduran military installation and the home of the Honduran Air Force Academy.

Before Joint Task Force-11 arrived in August 1983, Soto Cano was a sleepy little valley of parched soil and choking weeds. Since then, it has been transformed from a city of tents to a community of wooden tropical huts. It also features a concrete landing strip capable of handling C-130, C-141 and C-5 aircraft.

"Housing and offices are in temporary buildings called C-huts or hootches. The C-huts are raised wooden structures with screened windows and tin roofs," said 1st Lt. Renee Lane, 507th facilities engineering officer.

Reservists were provided with all the comforts of home including televisions, refrigerators, and fans for their rooms. Fans? The lack of air conditioning gave some members reason to write Santa Claus an early wish list.

"It was awfully hot down there, but we tried to make the most of the facilities. We just kept concentrating on the missions we were sent to perform," added Lieutenant Lane.

That mission kept members busy working on several construction projects. In supporting JTF-Bravo's "Fuetes Caminos 90" exercise, OKIE reservists worked alongside U.S. Army personnel and local Hondurans to build a fire-station and two school buildings. This included building or installing electrical wiring, plumbing, light fixtures, roofs, porches, and sidewalks. No one was bored because there was always plenty of work to be completed.

RIGHT: SrA Maribel Arenas, 507th Civil Engineering Services section gives out a snack to Sgt. John Elliott, 507th Security Police.

BELOW: Spec 4 Fred Paul, Army liaison prepares to hammer down a beam held by TSgt. Andrew Verner, 507th CES.



U.S. Air Force photos courtesy of:

*1st Lt. Renee Lane*  
*MSgt. Tom Clapper*  
*MSgt. Elmer Sheely*  
*TSgt. Irma Lowery*  
*SSgt. Andy May*

Most of the activity progressed on schedule but there were a few glitches.

"We encountered problems during construction of this facility when we found there was no clear definition of design, especially for electrical work. Available drawing dimensions did not correspond with actual construction. Some Honduran work had to be corrected and often materials and equipment were either not available at all or not available when needed most," said 507th member MSgt. Tom Clapper.

The constant heat and high humidity did not make the job any easier for military personnel. On the first work day temperatures rose to well over 100 degrees, and both worksites were forced to shut down early due to a water shortage.

Every military exercise involves some challenges and difficulties. In case of war, all Reservists will be better prepared because of the struggles during peacetime.

The 507th deployment to Honduras provided a realistic indicator of wartime skills necessary to perform the military mission. 507th personnel returned home with a great sense of accomplishment by overcoming adversity and giving a part of their lives to assist the Honduran people.



ABOVE: SSgt. Andy May, MSgt. Teresa Madison, and CMSgt. Robert Carille under the next best thing to a cool breeze.

BELOW: Life at base camp.



## 507th Civil engineers proved they dig their jobs

By 1st Lt. Rich Curry  
507th Public Affairs

Members of the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron proved how much they "dig" their job last month.

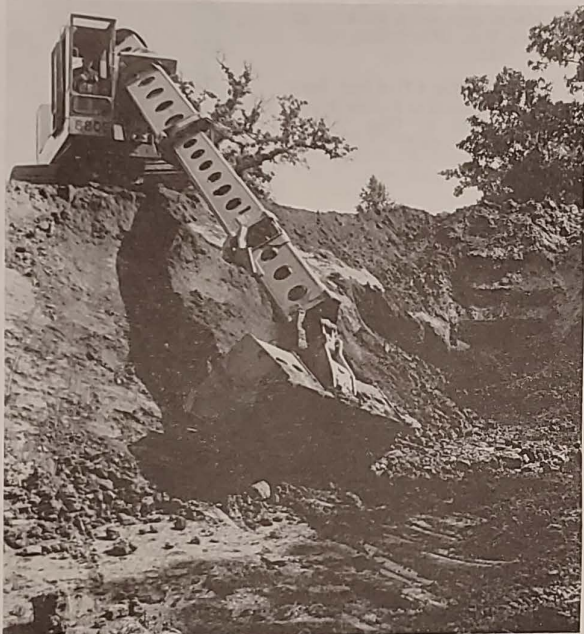
Heavy equipment operators lent a helping hand to the Base Civil Engineers by assisting with the digging of a major ditch within the housing area on base.

According to MSgt. Luther Bagwell, the project would help stop a major flooding problem in the area. "I've been here at Tinker for 31 years. This creek's always had this meander here and everytime it rains hard, this area floods. It happens at least once a year," he said.

To dig the ditch, at least 15 feet deep and 25 feet across, Base Civil Engineers had rented a special heavy-excavation machine called a Gradall. Sergeant Bagwell said that since the machine was rented for 45 calendar days, the Base Civil Engineers had been working 16-hours-a-day for two weeks straight, including the weekend.

So when the 507th team volunteered to take over for a weekend, active duty gladly accepted. Taking on the job required steady teamwork from both the 507th heavy equipment operators and truck drivers to remove the excess dirt.

And while, they knew they wouldn't be able to finish the project, as Sergeant Bagwell said, "We all got an excellent opportunity to train on this equipment!"



MSgt. Thomas Irwin, Equipment Pavement Superintendent, 507th Civil Engineering Squadron, scoops up another bite of dirt from a ditch in the base housing area. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt Rich Curry)

## Sergeant Clapp has called it quits for next 3 years

By 1st Lt. Rich Curry  
507th Public Affairs

Avid blood donor, TSgt. Dennis Clapp, called it quits on May 4.

He won't give another drop, for the next three years.

After his last donation, Sergeant Clapp, the NCOIC of Carpentry with the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron, began taking malaria medication required before going to Honduras on annual tour last month. That medication

prevents him from giving blood for the next three years.

Sergeant Clapp, a civilian employee at the OC-ALC Accessories Division, said he has been donating blood to the Oklahoma Blood Institute for the past 8 years, accumulating 6 1/2 gallons to date.

"I really will miss giving blood," Sergeant Clapp said. "I enjoyed it, and the knowledge that I was helping people."

And obviously Sergeant Clapp will be missed as well. His blood type, O-negative is "fairly rare".

"Over the years I have been called up late at night to give platelets for newborns. (Platelets help coagulate blood)," he said.

The Oklahoma City resident said the malaria medication must be taken for eight weeks, two weeks prior to deployment and four weeks following the tour. While in Honduras the civil engineering squadron assisted in several construction projects.

## Major Gentling files away AFRES top award

Major Steven J. Gentling of the 507th TAC Hospital is the 1989 Outstanding Reserve Health Administrator in the Air Force Reserve.

Major Gentling has been actively and significantly involved as an administrator with all the aspects of the TAC Hospital's operation since joining the unit in 1987.

According to Col. Clio Harper Jr., TAC Hospital Commander, Major Gentling has been particularly instrumental in the transformation of the Medical Readiness and Mobility Programs. As Officer In Charge of these areas, he provided major assistance in the development of the various training modules associated with Medical Readiness. With the initiation of new lesson plans, post course tests, and critique feedback forms, the outcome of the training was greatly enhanced.

"Major Gentling provides the leadership, managerial skills, and innovative program design that has generated a new spirit and higher level of expectation in the unit," Colonel Harper said.

"His leadership is provided by example and motivation," the colonel said. The colonel pointed out that Major Gentling's involvement in multiple programs contributed to the overall high rating received during a Health Services Readiness Inspection, by personally impacting significantly on 22 individual areas.

"Major Gentling refuses to accept the status quo and has insisted a new direction, a new sense of pride and a willingness to provide extra effort and growth.

Constantly looking for ways to enhance efficiency, Major Gentling was instrumental in reviewing the flow of individuals needing physical exams. Resultant changes decreased bottlenecks and expedited the entire process, returning members to their regular assigned responsibilities and thus saving numerous man hours.

Medical readiness has been significantly impacted by Major Gentling's involvement. His assistance in developing lesson plans and providing feedback for improvement has resulted in complete yet concise presentations and high retention of the material presented. He created a unique process for review of "most missed" questions whereby these questions are reviewed during commander's calls.

For the last four years in civilian life, Major Gentling has been the Chief Executive Officer at the 400 bed VA Hospital

in Oklahoma city. He has been an instructor at the University of Texas in Health Services Administration and is currently an instructor at the graduate level for the University of Oklahoma Hospital Administration Program.

"Major Gentling is keenly aware of all areas impacting on the administration of a health care organization, both in the Air Force Reserve and civilian environment," Colonel Harper said.

Additionally, Major Gentling has been instrumental in achieving a high degree of community involvement generating enhanced visibility and recognition for the unit. Some of those projects include assisting the Red Cross in providing two "health Screening" clinics utilized by more than 600 people; providing medical first aid resources to the annual Aerospace America Air Show attended by more than 40,000; providing sole responsibility for two events, soccer and



Major Steven J. Gentling

*"He refuses to accept status quo.."*

— Col. Clio Harper Jr  
TAC Hospital Commander

swimming, during the 1989 Olympic Festival; providing "maintenance" of a two-mile section of highway under the state's Adopt-a-Highway program; and providing much needed support to Thanksgiving and Christmas programs which served meals to the needy of the community.

Major Gentling is a member of the Reserve Officer's

Association, American Hospital Association and American College of Health Care Executives. He initially served in the U.S. Army as an infantryman. He received a commission in the U.S. Army Reserve and in 1981 a commission in the U.S. Air force. He is married and has three children.

"Major Gentling is a significant influence in this organization," Colonel Harper said. "His leadership, energy and motivation has provided tremendous direction. As a role model, he combines an outstanding managerial skill, a dynamic interpersonal capacity that focuses on listening and a significant technical knowledge."

## MSgt. Jerry Jackson cast as AFRES's best

MSgt. Jerry D. Jackson of the 507th Tactical Hospital has been cast by AFRES as Outstanding Reserve Medical Airman of the Year for 1989.

Through his work as NCOIC of Medical Material and many additional duty projects, Sergeant Jackson has improved hospital operations and medical readiness said TAC Hospital Commander, Col. Clio Harper Jr.

"Sergeant Jackson emits a seemingly endless amount of energy focusing on this unit and the Air Force Reserve," Colonel Harper said. Colonel Harper said this energy compliments his knowledge and understanding of military policies and protocol.

"Sergeant Jackson has been a leader in reviewing, interpreting, clarifying and promoting all new regulations and policies. Additionally, he has in past years as a civil service employee written regulations and policies for the Air Force," the colonel said. The colonel added that

because of his knowledge of regulations, policies and guidelines, Sergeant Jackson is sought out by other members of the unit to help interpret their meanings.

Colonel Harper said Sergeant Jackson military bearing is an outstanding example for subordinates and peers alike. His participation in the Reserve Medical Program has been outstanding with 100 percent attendance during his entire 15 years of assignment.

Among the many contributions made by Sergeant Jackson was his establishment of a Communication Outage Recall Program. The project involved working with local radio and television stations as well as local and state Civil Defense personnel to create the recall program.

Faced with a cramped administration office area, Sergeant Jackson on his own initiative explored and researched the latest state-of-the-art systems furniture. Through base organizations he then obtained assorted system furniture components that he personally assembled. The TAC Hospital now sports an attractive, functional, and esthetically pleasing office that is the envy of the base hospital.

Sergeant Jackson volunteered to be the Hospital's Newcomer OPR. He coordinated, designed and developed a unit booklet which provides a concise history, organizational explanation. In addition he initiated an interest for "photo journalism" within the unit which has enhanced the documentation and production of training materials and greatly enhanced personnel recognition. He also serves on addition duty as the Medical Readiness NCOIC, Mobility NCOIC and First Sergeant.

Sergeant Jackson is a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Air Force Association, Masonic Lodges and Tinker Management Club. His military education includes Battlefield Medical Operations Planning, USAF Senior NCO Academy Course and NCO Academy. Sergeant Jackson is married and he and his wife, Nelda, have five children. He is an employed as a Program Analyst in the Directorate of Plans and Programs at Tinker AFB.

"Sergeant Jackson displays a positive "can do" attitude in all assignments and is always willing to search out additional responsibilities. He has earned the respect of all who know and associate with him," Colonel Harper said.



MSgt. Jerry Jackson

## Colonel Craft holds hospital top nurse award

Colonel Phyllis M. Craft of the 507th TAC Hospital has been chosen as the 10th Air Force's Outstanding Reserve Nurse for 1989.

As Chief, Nursing Services, Colonel Craft has the task of maintaining a wartime prepared nursing team of 30 members. Her job includes developing detailed management guidelines, policies and manuals and coordinating all nursing activities.

According to TAC Hospital Commander, Col. Clio Harper Jr., Colonel Craft has demonstrated "outstanding organizational ability and superior management in her position."

"Her innovative guidance resulted in the implementation of five new nursing programs. These include wartime tasking and manager training consultant programs," he said.

Colonel Harper said her programs have made a lasting contribution to the nursing service. "With her guidance, Nursing Services received one of the two highest ratings awarded in the entire Air Force Reserve for 1989. She is a nursing and Air Force professional authority on the cutting edge of the top five percent of Air Force leaders and officers," he said.

In her goal to reorganize Nursing Services, she developed manuals and policies far exceeding Air Force Standards for

*"She has demonstrated outstanding organizational ability and superior management"*

— Colonel Clio Harper, Jr.  
TAC Hospital Commander

Nursing Services, Colonel Harper said. To accomplish this, she served additional time on manday status and contributed many days without pay. She also willingly worked additional projects and attended many seminars.

"Colonel Craft has been in constant pursuit of furthering her education and academic excellence since starting her nursing career. She annually maintains 300 percent more Continuing Education Credits than required by regulations," Colonel Harper said.

Colonel Craft is a member of the Executive Management Team and brings forth outstanding ideas and numerous problem-solving solutions. Colonel Craft has taken a young team of nurses and middle managers and is teaching them confidence, personal management, communication, how to work smart and as a team, Colonel Harper said. "Her efforts are helping them become our future leaders and supervisors," he said.

Her innovative ideas are saving thousands of dollars for the 507th TAC Hospital and 507th TFG. "There has been a 50 percent reduction in the hours for each member to accomplish physical examinations. This represents a tremendous savings and is very cost effective for the entire group," Colonel Harper said.

In addition to being Chief of Nursing Services, Colonel Craft hold the additional jobs of Self Aid and Buddy Care Monitor, Continuing Education

Credit monitor, Nursing Records Monitor, and Nursing Career Progression Monitor.

In her civilian job, she is presently a clinical cardiovascular nurse and perfusionist coordinator at St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Wichita, Kansas. She is president of the University of Nebraska affiliate in Kansas. She an active member of the Calvary Methodist Church in Wichita and currently services as a Communion Steward. She belongs to seven professional organizations.

"Colonel Craft exemplifies the high degree of military professionalism and esprit de corps demanded of today's Reserve forces. Her leadership abilities reflect genuine concern for the quality of the unit. She is an absolute role mode," Colonel Harper said.



Colonel Phyllis M. Craft



## Lt. Col. Bethel finest physician in 10th Air Force

Lt. Col. Shelba J. Bethel has been picked by 10th Air Force as the Outstanding Reserve Physician for 1989.

Colonel Bethel is the Chief of Aeromedical Services for the 507th Tactical Hospital. She is responsible for the quality of both flying and Nonflying Examinations as well as all Gynecological examinations for the 507th Tactical Fighter Group.

According to 507th TAC Hospital Commander Col. Clio Harper Jr., "Colonel Bethel is an extremely knowledgeable and skillful health care provider. She sets the standard for excellence."

Colonel Harper said Colonel Bethel's knowledge and expertise has led to expediting and streamlining the physical examinations process. He said her efforts have been especially helpful in getting pilots and other personnel back to their duty stations quicker, resulting in effective time management and savings.

"Colonel Bethel has superbly function as a triage physician during group exercises and has demonstrated the medical knowledge and administrative leadership so crucial to our success," he said.

Colonel Harper said Colonel Bethel was a prime factor to the unit receiving its high rating during last year's Health Services Readiness Inspection, a major hospital inspection.

She continually updates her professional and military knowledge and imparts this information to clinic personnel. Her knowledge and awareness of military medical requirements have enabled her to establish valuable organizational plans and procedures. These have resulted in a more efficient and effective health care delivery system. In support of the total force policy, Colonel Bethel provides consultations to the active duty force.

Colonel Bethel entered the Air Force Reserve and the 507th TAC Hospital in 1984. In addition to her duties as a Flight Surgeon, the colonel is the Chief of Aeromedical Services, OIC of the Fraud, Waste and Abuse program and OIC of the Bioenvironmental and environmental Health program.

In civilian life, she entered private practice in gynecology and Obstetrics in Norman, Oklahoma in 1970. She has practiced there for the past 19 years. She has been the Chief of the Department of OB-GYN at Norman Regional Hospital, and received an award for meritorious participation in teaching medical students.

She currently serves as a staff member of the Norman Regional Hospital, OB-GYN Department. A portion of her time is given to caring for indigent patients. She is a member of Juvenile Services Inc., which cares for troubled youths. An active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, she has served on the Youth Activity Board, the Marriage Encounter Group and the Cursillo Christianity Retreats.

She has been a guest speaker at local schools, professional groups, and churches. She is presently assisting in setting up equipment for a medical clinic in Mexico for indigent patients. She belongs to 12 professional organizations.

She and her husband, Lander, have four children and she has received the Working Mother of the Year Award from the Norman Business and Professional Women's Association. Other awards include the AMA Recognition

Award, Who's Who in American Women and the Community Service Citation from Juvenile Services, Inc.



Lt. Col. Shelba J. Bethel

*"She sets the standard for excellence!"*

— Col. Clio Harper, Jr.  
TAC Hospital Commander

"The leadership, self-confidence, and positive attitude that Colonel Bethel displays is felt through the hospital. she is a valuable asset to the unit with her professionalism, cooperation, and expertise," Colonel Harper said.