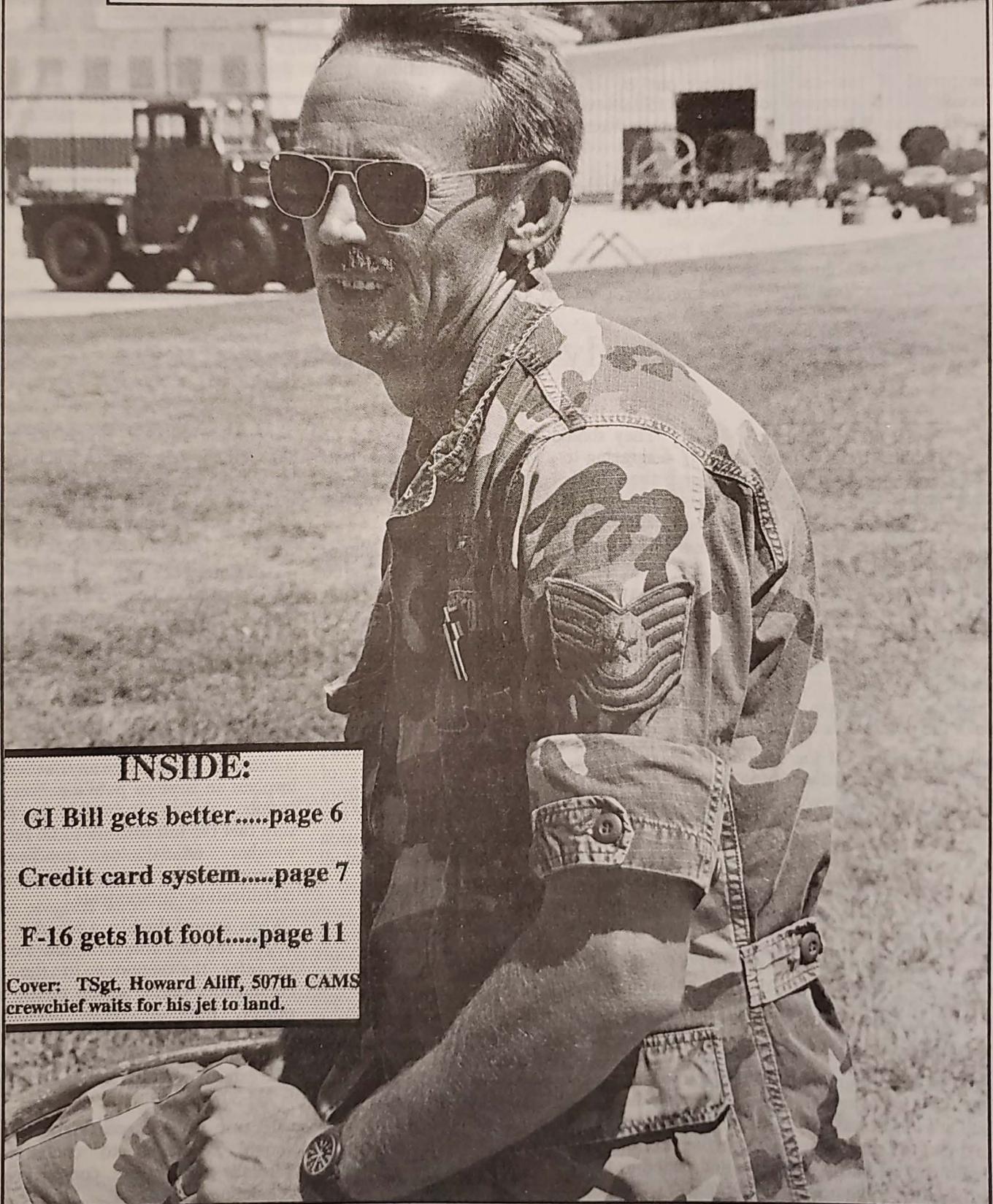




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Vol. X No. 9 507th Tactical Fighter Group, Tinker AFB, Okla. September 1990



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Cover: TSgt. Howard Aliff, 507th CAMS crewchief waits for his jet to land.

Thank you all for your outstanding support

By Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer
Air Force Reserve Commander

I am proud of you--each and every one of you--for the unprecedented volunteerism you continue to show during this demanding time. When the call for volunteers went out, you responded with a "sea of hands."

This deep sense of patriotism and commitment to our great nation has never been stronger and exemplifies the indestructible fibre which binds us together.

You, the men and women of the Air Force Reserve, can be justly proud of the volunteer service you are performing for our great nation. Recent world events have given us the

opportunity to participate and train in real-world contingencies. We are getting the job done with flying colors and airlifting more cargo than ever before. The extraordinary contributions we make daily are noticed the world over.

Thank you for making combat readiness our credo. And, thank you to your families and employers for enabling us to accomplish our mission and remain true to our motto--Ready Now.

EDITORIALS

Media focusing closely on Reserve activities

By 1st Lt. Rich Curry
Public Affairs Officer

Recent current events have focused renewed media interest on active duty and reserve military forces. In attempts to report all slants of the "story", some media outlets have put out requests for not only military members but also their families to come forward to share their personal stories.

While this tactic may provide a windfall of material for reporters, it is wise for unit members and their families to be aware of the potential hazards as well.

Legally, a member of the military may talk with any news media representative as a private citizen. You should realize, though, there is a chance that, regardless of what you say, your opinion may be viewed as the official Air Force position.

When a military spouse talks with the media, a different problem may result.

507th Tactical Fighter Group Editorial Staff

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

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

They should be aware that the act of agreeing to an interview may now place them in the position of a public figure, opening their lives to further media attention.

In the case of a spouse whose military half has deployed, there may also be the personal risk of burglaries or even anti-American terrorist action. Likewise, other acts of drawing attention, such as the display of yellow ribbons outside your house, may also present "invitations" to unwanted guests.

Numerous operations security violations have also been observed on the news such as announcing total numbers of personnel being deployed from particular locations. Such violations can easily destroy the success of any mission or operation and should be avoided at all costs.

According to Air Force Regulation 190-1, "In varying degrees, each member has many opportunities to create a favorable impression and contribute to positive public opinion toward the Air Force.

"Therefore, each person must strive to make sure that these contacts show the highest standards of moral, social and professional ethics. Specifically, each member of the Air Force is responsible for getting the necessary reviews and clearance (through the base or organization public affairs office) before releasing any proposed written or spoken statement, or taking any action that involves an issue of public concern. The member also is responsible for making sure that the information to be revealed, whether official or unofficial, is appropriate for release according to classification requirements."

When approached by a member of the media, the best rule to follow would be to refer the reporter to the group commander or the group public affairs officer. Both of these persons are authorized as official spokespersons and their offices are located in Building 1043. The extension for the public affairs office is 734-3078.

Because of these considerations, care should be taken to choose words carefully and insure compliance with regulations.

Drug abuse, mission readiness do not mix

By Col. James L. Turner
Commander

The 507th Tactical Fighter Group and all associated units face a unique challenge during these times. The Air Force Reserve is no longer a second line of defense. We are called upon to serve as the tip of the spear.

As such, it is imperative that each one of us continually maintain ourselves so that we are mentally, emotionally and physically ready for any contingency. Drug abusers, as well as those who engage in the irresponsible and indiscriminate use of alcohol, jeopardize the mission and the health and safety of themselves and others. Consequently, such conduct cannot and will not be tolerated.

I expect everyone to be drug free. There is no exception. Anyone who is identified as a drug user will no longer be a part of the Air Force Reserve. In addition, it is important that everyone exercise moderation and responsibility when drinking. Above all, if you choose to drink, avoid drinking and driving at all costs. Intoxicated behavior is always inappropriate and will result in appropriate administrative and disciplinary action.

It is particularly vital for commanders and supervisors at all levels to identify substance abusers, cooperate in their treatment and if necessary, their final disposition. Our mission is too important to do otherwise.



Col. James L. Turner

General Closner praises new Montgomery GI Bill

Brig. Gen. John J. Closner III, Deputy Chief of Air Force Reserve, told congressmen that the Montgomery GI Bill benefits the reserve as well as reservists.

"Air Force Reserve recruiting, retention and participation levels continue to remain high," said General Closner, testifying July 12 before the House subcommittee on education, training and employment.

"The progress we've made is in no small measure due to the Montgomery GI Bill. Its impact on attracting high quality people to meet our demanding requirements is significant."

General Closner said that about one-half of the force is eligible to receive benefits, according to the general.

"A recent survey indicates that 75 percent of our reservists intend to use

their benefits in the future," General Closner said. "Last year's survey cited Montgomery GI Bill benefits as a key factor in our people's decision to enlist and reenlist. We continue to emphasize program awareness and participation, and

anticipate increased future enrollments.

"We consider the Montgomery GI Bill among the most effective benefits available for our members, one with an exceptional rate of return," he added.

Maj. Gen. Larry D. Dillingham, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, U.S. Air Force, and Maj. Gen. Philip G. Killey, Director, Air National Guard, also testified on the Montgomery GI Bill.

Hispanic Heritage Week is September 23-29

During the month of September, many communities along with Tinker Air Force Base will be enjoying the many valuable contributions this culture has contributed. There will be many opportunities to take part in festivities.

There are approximately 17 million Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans and persons of Central or South American, Cuban and Spanish origin in the United States today. They live throughout the U.S. but most are concentrated in the areas of the Southwest, Chicago, New York and Florida.

Change plays a major role in the lives of today's Hispanic Americans from life-style to

their traditionally strong sense of family attachment both of which have changed dramatically due to the intermingling of the American way of life.

The majority of Hispanic Americans are employed in blue and white-collar jobs. A numerous amount of Hispanics work in the service industry. Many have served and still are serving our country in the Armed Forces. The 507th has a very small but proud percentage contributing to our everyday mission.

For more information on this culture or schedules of activities, contact MSgt Brenda Young, Social Actions, 45019.

Oklahomans celebrate General Scheer Day

by SSgt. Stan Paregien
507th Public Affairs

Governor Henry Bellmon signed a declaration and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma that proclaimed August 25, 1990 as Major General Roger P. Scheer day.

This declaration was based on General Scheer's current position as Chief of Air Force Reserve Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and his previous work as Commander, Headquarters Air Force Reserve in November 1986.

General Scheer was also inducted into the Order of the Sword on August 25th for his accomplishments in behalf of the NCO Corps and military establishment.

According to CMSgt. Charles F. Joseph, AFRES Senior Enlisted Advisor, enlisted members have high praise for General Scheer's work.

"Since assuming command as Chief of the Air Force Reserve, General Scheer has held the welfare, development, growth, skills, and capabilities of enlisted personnel as a top priority.

"During my years in the reserve program, General Scheer, through his personal involvement, has contributed to the overall development of the enlisted force. Our welfare has been his welfare and he has proven to be an enlisted person's commander," Chief Joseph said.

The noncommissioned officer corps was established in the early 12th century. At that time, King Gustave I of Sweden enjoined the noblemen commissioned by him to appoint officers to serve them. These people became the noncommissioned officers as we know them today.

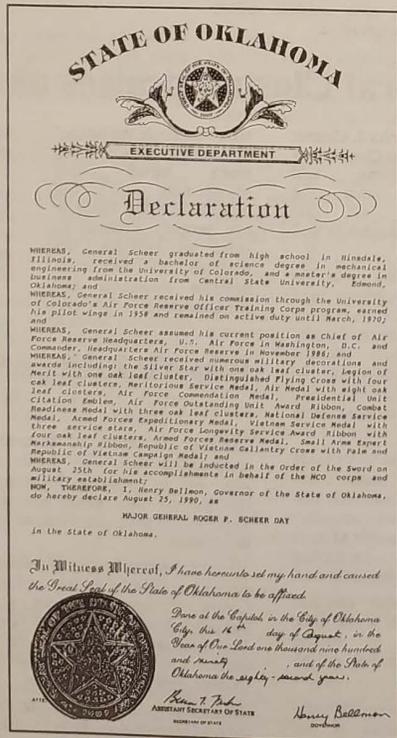
They were the accountants, builders, craftsmen, teachers, scribes and other leaders responsible for conducting the ordinary affairs of the kingdom. The system worked so well that it was incorporated into the army as a way to establish and maintain a cohesive, disciplined, well-trained force for protection of lives and property in the

kingdom. These ancient noncommissioned officers would, on occasion, honor a leader and pledge their loyalty by ceremoniously presenting him with a sword.

The sword, a symbol of truth, justice and power rightfully used as a token for all to see and know that here was a leader among leaders and a man among men. This ceremony became known as "The Royal Order of the Sword." It was passed through the ages, coming to this country about the time of the Revolutionary War.

It lay dormant for many years after that, with the only known instance of its use being in the 1860's when General Robert E. Lee was presented a sword by his command. The old "Royal Order of the Sword" ceremony has been revived, updated and adopted by the noncommissioned officers of the Air Force Reserve as their method of honoring and paying tribute to people they hold in highest esteem.

Any individual, regardless of status, may be inducted into the Order of the Sword by noncommissioned officers of the Air Force Reserve.



New toolkits prove that bigger IS better

by SSgt. Stan Paregien
507th Public Affairs

In the past, maintaining the sleek F-16 birds of steel was not nearly as exciting or easy as it is today. New toolkits recently acquired by the tool room have made a demanding responsibility less of a burden on maintenance personnel.

"When we first got the F-16s, we had to take out four job guide technical order books, a launch and recovery tool box, and a maxi kit to perform anything beyond launch and recovery," said TSgt. Janice Morrow, NCOIC at the 507th tool room.

Sergeant Morrow said the tool room conducted a survey of the crew chiefs to see what they wanted. Tool boxes were ordered and in the last two months TSgt. Dick Williams and TSgt. Dennis Breeding helped cut and make angle iron frames.

"Now one toolbox holds it all. We've also got the storage space to pick up any extra tools necessary. We have enough compartment room now for two people to take it out and work on a plane. It's not like before when you just about had to have a pack mule to carry everything," laughed Sergeant Morrow.

TSgt. Walter Simco, tool room monitor, agrees without a second thought.

"Yes, before the improved kits, we had to carry all our rags and torque wrenches separately. It started getting ridiculous!" he said.

One of the main reasons for the new kits is to streamline the total operation, make it easier on the maintenance, and keep the F-16 mission on schedule.

"We will eventually get 24 new kits. We're keeping seven of the small launcher kits for TDY purposes. We are also using a new type of silhouette inlay with black insulation foam to make the tools more visible. This cuts down on foreign object damage (FOD). One of our basic missions is to keep FOD from getting into the engines of our

SSgt. Craig Wiggins, an aircraft mechanic, feels like the equipment in the tool kits at the 507th is the top of the line.

"At my last base, the tools were in nowhere near the shape they are here. They would practically fall apart in your hands. I just love these new kits!" he said.



TSgts. Dennis Breeding, Walter Simco and Janice Morrow, check over tool box modifications. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Limited medical benefits available for reservists

What are you entitled to if you are injured while you are on active duty, active duty for training, or Unit Training Assembly (UTA)?

Reserve personnel may receive military medical treatment when they incur or aggravate an injury or illness in the "line of duty" while performing active duty, active duty for training, or UTA training. This includes travel directly from your home to duty and return. The medical care must be appropriate for treatment of the condition and will include hospitalization or rehospitalization until the resulting disability cannot be materially improved by further treatment.

One example would be if you were in a car accident enroute from your home to a UTA weekend. You would receive treatment at the closest medical facility. This treatment would be paid for by the Air Force. However, if your trip to the UTA included side trips and you were injured on one of the side trips, this would not necessarily entitle you to military medical care or military funded medical care.

If there was question as to whether the medical care should be paid for by the Air Force a "Line of Duty Determination" would be made. In making this line of duty determination, two areas would be checked. The first would be if the condition existed prior to service. The second would be if misconduct was indicated. (Example: As a

result of the accident, a drunken driving charge was made against the military member.)

If you are hospitalized, due to a non-line of duty injury or sickness, during active duty, active duty for training, or Unit Training Assembly you are not authorized care beyond the final date of your tour.



Beyond that time you will be treated like a reservist not on active duty or UTA--in other words you would not be authorized free military medical care after the termination date of your active duty.

Please note, that if you perform reserve duty without orders and are not on UTA and an injury occurs there is no authorization for free military medical care. In other words, if you are not on orders or UTA you are performing duty at your own risk!

Medications cannot be dispensed to reservists during UTA's except for line of duty injuries or sickness. Medication can be dispensed, for medical conditions not incurred in the line of duty, for personnel on active duty. However, these medications can only be

dispensed for the tour of duty or until civilian medical care can be received after the duty is finished.

Complete elective dental care may not be available during tours of active duty or active duty for training for preexisting dental problems. The dental officer may elect to provide treatment, but also can defer. Each case is judged on individual merit. The criteria for elective care in one instance may not be valid in another case, even though the required clinical procedures are similar. Continuation of treatment after expiration of active duty orders is not authorized. If the dental officer elects to provide care, there must be sufficient active duty time remaining to complete the

GI Bill gets better

Reservists may use Montgomery GI Bill benefits to pursue a second bachelor's degree or pay for selected technical training starting Oct. 1.

The GI Bill will also help pay for vocational technical training, correspondence courses, independent studies, on-the-job apprenticeships, cooperative programs, and remedial, deficiency and refresher courses. It will not fund for postgraduate work.

To be eligible for these benefits, reservists must have a six-year

dental treatment. Dental care for non line of duty and preexisting conditions is not authorized on a UTA.

Spectacle (glasses) and/or eye prescriptions are not authorized during active duty, active duty for training, or UTA training unless the injury was incurred in the line of duty. One exception to this rule is spectacles which are authorized for certain personnel under AFR 167-3. Some examples of these exceptions are spectacles for pilots and gas mask inserts.

If you have more questions on your medical care benefits, you may contact MSgt. Hiroko Yates at 734-2487.

commitment on or after Oct. 1.

New provisions of the GI Bill also permit education assistance for vocational flight training during a test period from Sept. 30, 1990, to Sept. 30, 1994. To be eligible, reservists must have their private pilot's license and have a current six-year obligation which began on or after July 1, 1985.

Funding varies from program to program. Details on eligibility criteria are available from the 507th training staff at extension 47075. (AFRNS)

Credit card replaces cash travel advances

Eligible Air Force travelers who decline to accept the CITICORP Diners Club card will receive limited cash advances to cover travel expenses.

Some Air Force travelers will begin using the cards June 30 to cover lodging, car rental and other major travel-related expenses. Many military billeting offices and most commercial lodging facilities, rental car agencies and airlines accept the card. Eventually, all billeting offices will recognize the card.

"Finance offices will only pay advances up to 80 percent for food and incidental expenses to travelers who are eligible for the card but do not have one through no fault of the government," said Capt. K.W. Thomas Jr. of Headquarters Air Force Reserve. "These travelers will have to pay for lodging and car rentals out of their pocket and receive reimbursement after the trip," said the chief of the comptroller's management and finance division.

To receive a card, travelers must perform two or more temporary duty assignments in a calendar or fiscal year. In general, travelers eligible to use the card are officers, master

sergeants and above, and civilians GS-9 and above, plus WS and WG equivalents.

Headquarters AFRES sets further limits on reservists. They must meet one or more of the following criteria to receive a card:

-- Be on statutory tours or long tours in excess of 30 days.

-- Be an air reserve technician.

-- Or have a full-time civilian job or be retired from military service or civilian employment.

Commanders can authorize people in lower military and civilian grades to receive cards if they meet the travel and employment requirements. Commanders can also deny people the cards based on financial irresponsibility.

The charge card benefits travelers and the government, according to SMSgt. Jim Lapina, chief of the management branch in Captain Thomas' division.

"When the card is not authorized, finance offices can advance people up to 80 percent of their travel pay," Sergeant Lapina said.

"Let's say a traveler is authorized \$200 for a rental car, \$200 for lodging

and \$100 for food and incidental expenses. Travelers not authorized to have a card could receive a \$400 advance -- 80 percent of \$500.

"Under the charge card system, lodging and rental cars are paid for with the credit card," he said.

"Travelers can still receive an 80 percent advance for food and incidental expenses. In our example, travelers would get \$80 -- 80 percent of \$100. Now, instead of having only \$400 up front, travelers can have \$480 worth of buying power."

The charge card helps the Air Force by not having to advance travelers large sums before they start their travel, Sergeant Lapina said. Travelers settle their travel expenses with the finance office after the trip and pay CITICORP for any charges.

There is no interest charge on the card and no limit on charges. The purpose of the card is to purchase services or items needed for official government travel only, not for luxury items, added Sergeant Lapina. (AFRNS)

ART officers gain improved training programs

Air reserve technician officers can now apply through reserve channels for in-residence professional military education courses. If selected, they may request to attend in either civilian or military status using a reserve quota.

This option is currently available on a case-by-case basis; however, efforts are ongoing to formalize it, said personnel officials at Headquarters Air Force Reserve. Previously, if ARTs applied through reserve channels, they had to attend in military status.

In the past, few ART officers attended PME courses in military status because they faced losing civilian benefits such as health insurance and retirement benefits. The policy change will help people who apply for courses beginning in 1991 and will permit them to attend in-residence PME courses without making these sacrifices.

"ARTs have always been able to apply for PME courses through civilian personnel channels," said William O. Stapleton, an employee development specialist at Headquarters AFRES, "but they have to compete with all other Air Force civilians."

Senior officer schools include the National War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, both at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., and the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. All are 10 months long. Other PME courses are the 10-month Air Command and Staff College and the seven-week Squadron Officer School. Both are at Maxwell AFB.

Unit training offices have details on how to apply for these courses. (AFRNS)

Reservists are volunteering for Desert Shield

Anyone questioning the spirit of patriotism and volunteerism should try answering telephones at Air Force Reserve units nationwide. Fully one out of every eight Air Force Reservists has volunteered for duty in the Middle East, not waiting for an official call-up.

Nearly 6,000 of the more than 9,000 Reservists volunteering during the first two weeks of the Middle East crisis are now on duty with their units.

In addition, the 23 Air Force Reserve units now flying in support of Desert Shield have already logged more than 3,300 hours total flying time. That effort, according to Air Force Reserve commander Maj. Gen. Roger P. Scheer, is making a solid contribution to U.S. efforts in the area.

"Recent world events have given us the opportunity to participate and train in real-world contingencies," General Scheer said. "We are getting the job done with flying colors and

airlifting more cargo than ever before."

He praised the enthusiastic response of employers who allowed reservists to serve.

"When the call for volunteers went out, employers responded with understanding," General Scheer said. "Without employer support, the Air Force Reserve could not fulfill its mission." (AFRNS)



Scenes similar to this one taken during the August mobility exercise are occurring throughout AFRES in support of Desert Shield. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Rich Curry)

Weight management program scales down

Air Force Reservists must now weigh in annually and those within 5 percent of their maximum allowable weight must weigh again six months later.

These major changes to the Air Force Reserve weight management program went into effect Aug. 1 with program revised AFRES supplement to a revised AFRES Regulation 35-11, The Air Force Weight and Fitness Programs.

"Under the old program, there were problems because commanders were interpreting the guidelines differently," said MSgt. Preston Rolle, noncommissioned officer in charge of the personnel actions section at

Headquarters AFRES. "The new requirements are clear and should leave no doubt."

Under the new program, reservists who are initially identified as overweight by 15 or less pounds will enter an informal weight program for no more than 90 days. They can only enter the informal program once. If they do not meet standards during the informal period or if they exceed 15 pounds on initial identification, they will enter the formal program.

"The Air Force Reserve will permit reservists to participate with pay and points for a period which allows them to lose weight safely and reach

standards," Sergeant Rolle said. "The Reserve will deny pay and points when satisfactory progress is not met. Satisfactory progress means a man has lost at least five pounds per month and a woman has lost at least three pounds per month."

For example, a man 20 pounds overweight will have no more than four months to achieve his maximum allowable weight.

The Reserve will process reservists for administrative discharge if they do not achieve their maximum allowable weight during the allowed time while on the formal program, said Sergeant Rolle. (AFRNS)

403rd CLSS back from Germany deployment

Several members of the 403rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron deployed to the European Theater for specialty training.

The team traveled to Hahn AB, West Germany to examine base supply and transportation facilities, and to visit the other 403rd team. Time was spent in the Receiving and Local Purchase Sections.

The team also worked in shipment consolidation, Electrostatic Discharge packaging, container fabrication and outside storage. A couple of unique items they handled were checking in of inert bombs and method packaging of M-16 rifles and .38 pistols. Though their ambitious efforts the backlog was eliminated, and the outside holding area was put in excellent order.

SMSgt. Keith Crall said, "The deployment was not only one of the most productive I have been involved in, but also one of the most enjoyable. The team worked together very well, and afterwards, we all felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment."



SrA Sheri Wiley packs up a few items. (U.S. Air Force photo)



ABOVE: MSgt. Larry Ernst checks off incoming material.



LEFT: SSgt. William Oakes, SrA Sheri Wiley and an unidentified active duty member prepare a crate for storage.

Members take to water to help Red Cross



ABOVE: SSgt. Andy Lang, 507th CAMS, goes for another lap.



LEFT: SSgt. Cynthia Bischoff, 507th CSS, takes a quick breather.

BELOW: SrA Jana Lucy, TSgt. Lucy Bryan and SSgt. Cynthia Bischoff, 507th CSS, push on.

(U. S. Air Force photos)

Four members of the 507th TFG took to the water in July during the Fifth Annual Red Cross "Swim-A-Cross".

The event held in cooperation with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division was staged to raise needed money.

Funds from the event remain in the local area at Tinker and the Oklahoma County Chapter to be used in supporting the delivery of Health and Emergency Services to include Service to Military Families.

To promote friendly competition, swimmers from units of the same size swam during the same time slots. Each swimmer from the unit was allotted a two-hour time frame. Pledges were made on the number of lengths completed within the time frame while and some sponsors gave flat rate donations.

Swimming for the 507th were TSgt. Lucy Bryan, SSgts. Andy Lang and Cynthia Bischoff and SrA. Jana Lucy. After all the laps were counted, the team raised \$384 for the cause.



TSgt. John Glover, MSgt. Edward Nelson, and SSgt. Eric Nazelrod of 507th CAMS take a quick break on the flightline. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Stan Paregien)

Reservists extinguish Fighting Falcon 'hot foot'

By SSgt Stan Paregien
Public Affairs

Flames and jet fuel don't mix. When an F-16 tire caught on fire last July, the flames were just inches from the explosive JP-4 fuel used to power the sixteen million dollar aircraft.

Quick reaction by groundcrew members saved the plane from potential destruction.

Maintenance workers were performing taxi checks of the nose and wheel to look at steering problems when the accident

occurred during the July weekend drill.

"Captain Anthony 'Psycho' Comtois did several high speed runs. After two runs he was coming in on Hotel Taxiway when the Tinker Air Traffic Control Tower notified him that smoke was coming from the left brake.

"Captain Comtois immediately stopped the plane and got out by opening the cockpit and jumping out," said CMSgt. Steven Poos, aircraft mechanic supervisor.

At that moment, the expeditor, MSgt. Edward Nelson noticed the flames from the flightline. He, TSgt. John Glover, and SSgt Eric Nazelrod hooked up a fire bottle (fire extinguisher) and drove out to the plane.

Upon arriving at the site, they started spraying the left brake and continued until the fire department arrived.

"We were on Baker 10 (the last aircraft parking spot in B row) when we saw the black smoke and realized it was actually a fire instead of just hydraulic fluid on a hot brake which sometimes happens.

SSgt. Jeff Elders from the transit alert area had seen it too, and he responded to the crisis by shutting down his launches and speeding to the scene with his own fire bottle.

"SSgt. Elders reached the plane before we did and started using his extinguisher. Right about the time we arrived, his fire bottle ran out and we kept the flames down long enough for the fire department to get there and finish the job," said Sergeant Glover.

The scenario could have been disastrous for both the pilot and the plane if teamwork had not been present. The combination of spotters in the Tinker Tower along with SSgt. Elders, TSgt. Glover, MSgt. Edward Nelson and SSgt. Eric Nazelrod all contributed to the early warning and response to the problem.

"If the fuel tank had heated up much more, it could have burnt to the ground quite quickly," said Sergeant Nelson.

"Believe us, the training works. We knew the danger of explosion was there, but we also knew the way to contain it," added Sergeant Nazelrod.



The F-16 tire--afterwards.

Civic leaders see Reserve, active duty in action

By Capt. Christine J. Queen
28th Air Division
Director of Public Affairs

A civic leader tour is coming. What's that? Most people see only the lines of interested, crowd-questioning adults shuttled through their work place, crawling over equipment, or being briefed by the commander. Who are they?

What is the civic leader tour program? According to Air Force Regulation 190-1, it's a program where groups of influential U.S. community leaders are flown to bases on Air Force aircraft to increase public awareness of the Air Force's roles and missions.

Recently a group of 24 community leaders from Oklahoma City and the surrounding area participated in this orientation program. Hosted by the 28th Air Division Commander, Brig. Gen. William J. Ball, and the 507th Tactical Fighter Group Commander, Col. James L. Turner, the group visited Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. and Tyndall AFB, Fla.

In a time of budget cutbacks and quality force emphasis, this program is an opportunity for commanders to tell their story about what they and the Air Force are doing to protect our country. General Ball threw out a hypothetical question during one of his conversations with the group, "How much should you pay for freedom? I don't know, but I would hate to spend too little and find out it's not enough."

The stress is placed on being prepared to defend our country through training, this tour was a golden opportunity for our civic leaders to see the active Air Force and Reserve at work. A KC-10 aircraft from the 916th Air Refueling Group, a Reserve unit at Seymour Johnson AFB ferried the group on each leg of their journey. During different times of the

two-day mission four F-16 aircraft of the 507th were on the refueling boom for training. The civic leaders also saw one of the 552nd Airborne Warning and Control Wing's E-3 aircraft refuel.

For two days the civic leaders saw Air Force personnel and aircraft in action. "I was really impressed with air refueling and the training involved by both the boom operator and the pilot," said Midwest City Mayor, John G. Johnson. "It was awe-inspiring when the planes would, what seemed, slowly approach the KC-10 for fuel. Seeing that big E-3

coming up with that massive dome on top was an unbelievable experience."

One KC-10 crew member commented that the tour members were like kids on a school outing. A tour escort overhead him and asked, "Wouldn't your parents have the same kind of reaction if they were on the trip?" "Of course," he replied. The unending questions and comments from the civic leaders about what they saw and experienced were unique opportunities that few civilians have.

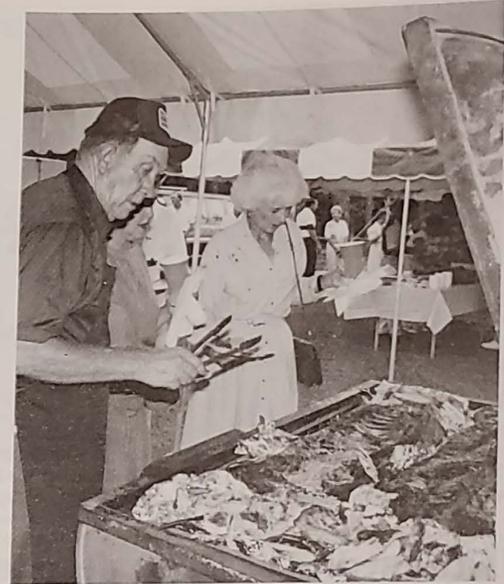


With their cameras clicking away, civic leaders watch the boom operator during an inflight refueling mission.

"You can be very proud of the efficient, professional and 'ready' Air Force we (civic leaders) saw," wrote Mrs. Hay Green of Haldane Associates. She went on to write in her thank you letter that the crews were patient, and very willing to share information and she was particularly impressed with the two 'Boomers'.

Mr. Gary Howard, Oklahoma Gas and Electric, District Manager's letter summed up his feelings about the tour program, "The welfare of our country and its safety are in excellent hands."

As Air Force ambassadors, we should never pass up an opportunity to tell the Air Force story. The next time you have an opportunity to be a part of hosting a tour -- make it a good one. It will make a difference to your guest.



Local civic leaders were treated to a North Carolina "pig pickin" hosted by community members.



Community leaders from Oklahoma City try their hand at simulator training during their recent civic leader tour.



Sgt Shirley Thompson and TSgt. Sandra Watkins carry a litter over a low wall during the exercise. (U.S. photo by 1st Lt. Rich Curry)

507th medics carry on despite many obstacles

For a wounded airman, getting medical help quickly can make the difference between life and death. And sometimes, just getting to that help is an obstacle in itself.

Members of the 507th TAC Hospital proved they had what it takes to get

the job done during a litter obstacle course held during the July UTA.

The course, set up outside the Base Hospital was designed to simulate a variety of field conditions such as carrying stretchers over walls, up hills and under low overhangs.

According to Major Thomas K. Crane, 507th TAC Hospital Assistant Service Administrator, "Safety of the patient and the litter carrying team is paramount."

He explained that if a patient with a spinal injury is not properly transported, the result could be permanent paralysis or death. If the litter team members themselves are injured while carrying a patient they can't carry other patients.

TSgt. Johnny L. Mankey, medical technician agrees. "This training helps our medical teams learn very specific and tested safety measures in transporting patients."

Putting their training to the test, 56 members of the hospital, carried, lifted or dragged their weighted litters through the course. In the end, teams walked away with tired arms, perhaps, but also knowing they had what it takes to best any obstacle between them and the safety of their patient.



TSgt. Diane Bergman drags a litter through a low overhang during the obstacle course. (U.S. Air Force photo)

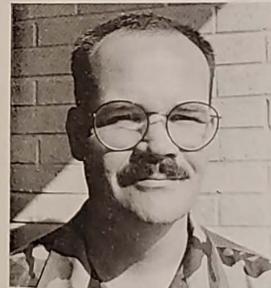
Snapshots from around the 507th TFG



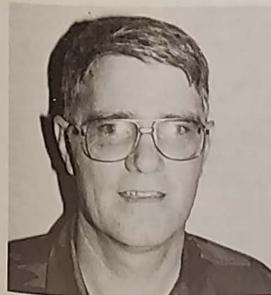
ABOVE LEFT: Lt. Col. Don Shaw, 507th Social Actions, enlists his son, Britton into the 507th.



ABOVE RIGHT: A1C Shannon Nero, 507 CSS, takes a break for some lunch.



MIDDLE LEFT: Meet TSgt. Mark Buckner, new 507th SPF ART.
BOTTOM LEFT: SSgt. John R. Eccles, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron is this quarters top NCO.



ABOVE: SSgt. Patricia Piscitello, 507th CAMS, was one of many who turned out to give blood last UTA.

Reserve survivor plan change increases benefits

DENVER (AFRNS) -- Recent changes to the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan and the Survivor Benefit Plan reduce costs and may increase benefits for survivors.

The changes affect reservists who are eligible to retire and participate in the RCSBP or SBP.

Selected reservists and others are eligible for RCSBP when they complete 20 years of satisfactory service for retired pay at age 60. Reservists with 20 or more years of active-duty time may enroll in SBP when they retire.

A new method of computing the SBP premium cost for spouse and former spouse coverage went into effect March 1. The formula for computing the SBP portion of the cost is 6.5 percent of the amount of retired pay a reservist designates for a survivor's annuity, provided retired pay is more than \$750. The former method is 2.5 percent of the first \$349 of retired pay plus 10 percent of the remaining retired pay a reservist chooses to insure at the time of election. If retired pay is less than \$750, the former method is more favorable,

said officials at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

There is no change to other cost factors. The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center in Denver will figure costs both ways and charge a reservist the lesser of the two amounts.

Reservists will have the option of purchasing supplemental coverage for a spouse or former spouse under RCSBP and SBP starting Oct. 1,

1991. Under current law, the annuity for a surviving spouse or former spouse decreases when he or she reaches age 62.

The annuity drops from 55 percent of the RCSBP or SBP to 35 percent in most cases, or by the amount of Social Security offset if more advantageous to the beneficiary. Supplemental coverage keeps a survivor's annuity payment at 55 percent.



Reserve positions are now available in Europe

Air Force Reservists who relocate to Europe may find a Reserve job while overseas.

Reserve positions are open, depending on reservists' skills, according to SMSgt. Linda J. Martinez, Air Force Reserve administrator for U.S. Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein AB.

"Unlike stateside Reserve assignments that have permanently assigned positions, in USAFE the slot depends on the reservist," Sergeant Martinez said. "We have a unique program that matches applicants' skills with Air Force units."

Called the USAFE "Pool" Concept, it allows reservists who transfer into

the European Theater to continue their training.

"Many reservists must relinquish their stateside training assignment when they come to Europe because the distance makes active participation unfeasible," Sergeant Martinez said. "The Pool Concept offers an alternative to losing a few years of training, or going into inactive or non-paying status."

The program has limitations. USAFE only has a certain number of slots, and these must be within a wartime skills category and can only be in shortage and balanced specialties.

Reservists must be fully qualified and there must be USAFE units into

which they can train. The slots are in Category B as individual mobilization augmentees.

To apply for the program, reservists submit an Air Force Form 1288, Application for Ready Reserve Assignment, indicating specialty codes to be considered. They should include desired training locations in priority order and send applications to OLAQ 2400 RRMS/RSOG, Bldg. 2106 Room 306, APO New York 09094-5000.

MSgt. Ben Walton, the Reserve recruiting liaison at Ramstein AB, has more details at AUTOVON 480-2274. The commercial number is 6371-47-2274. (Adapted from USAFE News Service)