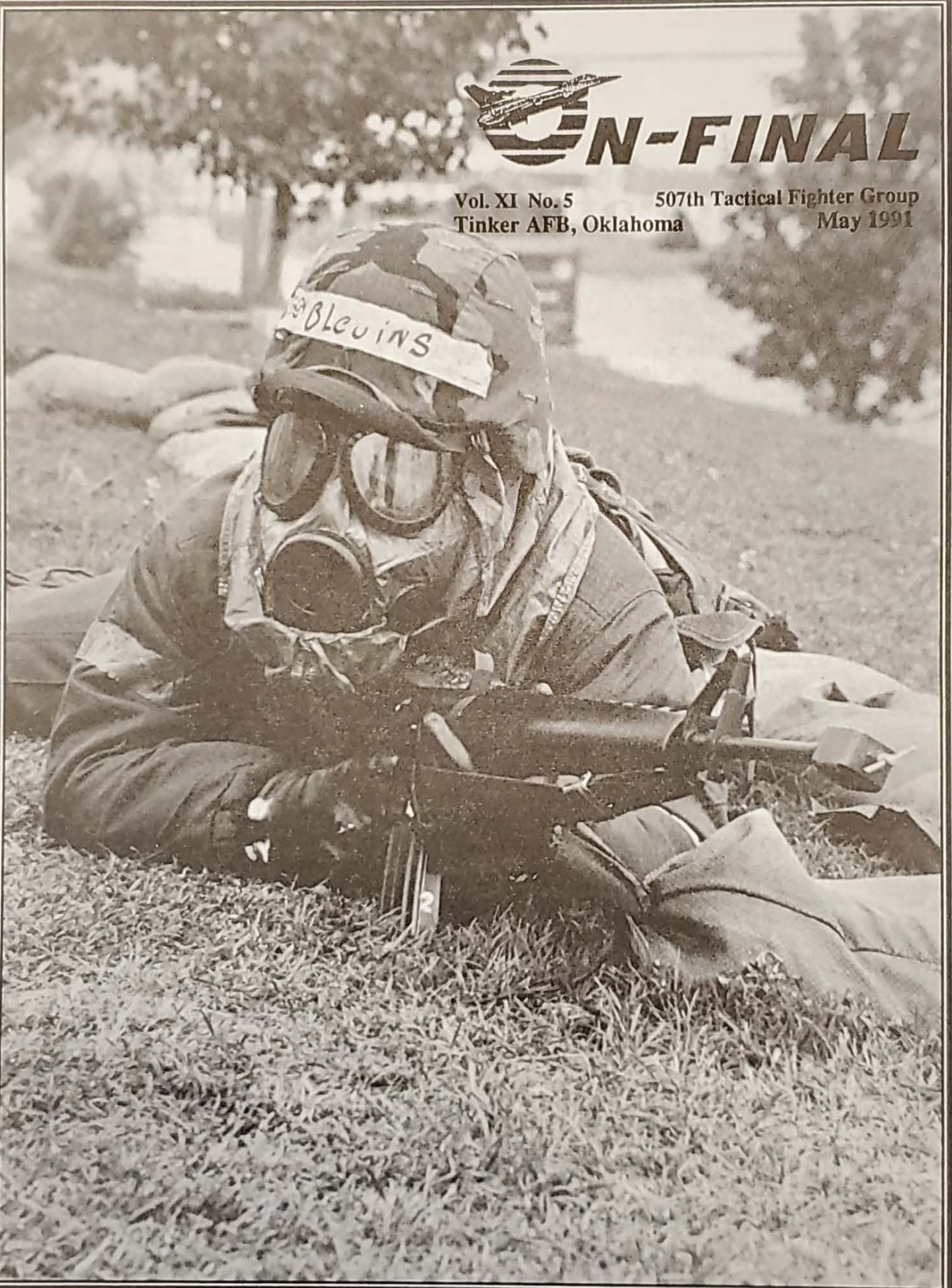




# N-FINAL

Vol. XI No. 5  
Tinker AFB, Oklahoma

507th Tactical Fighter Group  
May 1991





## EDITORIALS

Colonel's Journal

# Congratulations 507th!

By Lt. Col. Robert Lytle  
Commander

There was perhaps no greater reward, for me to receive, than to watch this unit meet a challenge head on and dominate the task so impressively.

Last month, I had the opportunity to witness the OKIE "can do" spirit in action. Each and every one of you were fantastic!

During the inspector's outbrief, the base theater nearly burst with pride as slide after slide showed where we fit in with the rest of the Air Force. What I found unusual was the audience reaction to some of the various slides shown.

For the record, meeting Air Force standards is tough. An Operational Readiness Inspection is not a test of individual sections or shops; it is a test of our wartime capability as a Tactical Fighter Group.

The question an ORI asks is can we survive a war and complete our mission? The answer, we proved, was a resounding "YES!" Not only can we complete the mission, we can do it as a GROUP.

If a person or section is truly concerned about the mission, there isn't time to worry about personal ratings. You all proved the mission came first. As far as I'm concerned, there are no bad checkmarks on our scorecard.

Just remember, every unit inspected after the 507th will now have to beat OUR standards.

It took a tremendous amount of teamwork and leadership from everyone to get through this inspection. It showed the 507th is a unit full of professionals. Be proud of yourselves, you earned it.

Rising to meet a specific challenge head on demands our best. As we move on down the road, I think there lies an even greater challenge. It's the challenge

of trying to keep that edge in the face of a more "normal" routine. This is perhaps the hardest challenge any unit faces. It's called, "business as usual".

We must continue to strive for excellence and keep that professional edge. I believe you always have and that's why the OKIEs remain at the head of the pack. I am proud to be part of this team.



## 507th Tactical Fighter Group Editorial Staff

COMMANDER.....Lt. Col. Robert E. Lytle  
Director, Public Affairs.....1st Lt Richard Curry  
NCOIC, Public Affairs.....SSgt. Stan Paregien

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SSgt. John Blevins, 507th Security Police, prepares to move out during a relocation of the Survival Recovery Center, during last month's Operational Readiness Inspection. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Stan Paregien)

## EDITORIALS

Notes from the road

## America: A country we can be proud to serve

By SSgt. Stan Paregien  
507th Public Affairs

In my civilian job as a college admissions counselor at Oklahoma Christian University, I have traveled more than 10,000 miles across America from big metro cities like Dallas, Texas and Denver, Colorado, to small towns like Binger, Oklahoma, home of baseball legend Johnny Bench.

Some towns have a main street that is four blocks long; others stretch for miles. Some have shopping centers and skyscrapers; others just have a post office and a general store. In the past eight months I have seen towns of every size.

Just like the towns, the people who live there are all different. But there is one thing they all have in common: Patriotism. For some it's shown with an American flag, flying in the breeze or yellow ribbons tied to the porch. Bumper stickers, window banners, signs, and billboards: They're everywhere in every town, big or small.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait last August and we sent troops to cut them off, the flags and ribbons started popping up all over the United States. It was an amazing and beautiful sight.

Many organizations got involved in sending packages and letters to the troops. School children sat down in class and wrote letters to unknown soldiers in the Persian Gulf. All over this nation companies donated goods to troops and families. Ordinary people did extraordinary things to help those left behind.

There were also anti-war demonstrations. That too was a beautiful sight. It showed other countries in the Persian Gulf and worldwide that America is still a free



SSgt. Stan Paregien, 507th Public Affairs NCOIC, talks with reporters during a recent 507th exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo)

country where people are able to express their opinions. I could understand the protesters rights to their opinions and feelings, but that was not the way I felt.

You see, at the University, I met a Kuwaiti student who had come to America just before the invasion. She had no idea what was going to happen in August. She came here to get a better education.

But her whole country was changed overnight because of the cruelty of one man and a country that is not free to express opinions and demonstrate.

This student told me she had not been able to talk to her parents or friends for many months. Seeing the hurt in her eyes and the trembling in her voice, proved to me that this was about more than oil. It was about people, their lives, their country.

Where were you on January 17, 1991? I was visiting a church in Tulsa when the war started that winter Wednesday. Someone had

brought a portable television and when church was over, we all gathered around just in time to see President Bush address the nation.

It was a strange feeling standing among this group, most of whom I didn't know.

No one said a word.

It was a somber mood. Anticipation and uncertainty hung in the air. You could feel it. As we listened to the President, a look of determination came over their faces. Some had tears, but most seemed to be bracing themselves for an emotional roller-coaster ride to come.

At the time I was unsure about whether I would be part of the activated Reserves, but I knew these people were worth defending at any cost.

In the next few weeks of the war, I saw so much love and admiration for our country and our troops.

(Continued on next page)



## Reserve still supporting Desert Storm

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) -- Air Force Reserve support of Operation Desert Storm continues as it transports troops and cargo, and performs air refueling missions.

From the beginning of the Persian Gulf crisis until April 18, AFRES aircrews logged more than 241,700 hours of flying time. They flew nearly 310,000 passengers, transported more than 560,000 tons of cargo and transferred close to 130 million gallons of aircraft fuel.

Associate C-5 Galaxy crews amassed 51,600 hours and transported more than 119,000 passengers and 252,000 tons of cargo. Unit-equipped C-5 crews put in more than 29,000 hours of flying time, while airlifting nearly 54,000 passengers and more than 121,000 tons of cargo.

Associate C-141 Starlifter crews flew almost 100,000 hours with more than 78,500 passengers and close to 110,000 tons of cargo.

AFRES' C-141-equipped unit amassed more than 12,000 hours, while transporting nearly 13,000 passengers and more than 19,000 tons of cargo.

AFRES C-130 Hercules aircraft and crews were airborne more than 21,500 hours, carrying more than 40,000 passengers and 24,000 tons of cargo.

Air refueling crews also transported troops and cargo. KC-10 Extender crews flew more than 15,500 flying hours, transported more than 4,000 passengers and 34,000 tons of cargo, and pumped more than 83 million gallons of aircraft fuel.

AFRES KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft and crews logged close to 9,400 hours, airlifted more than 1,100 passengers and 70 tons of cargo, and pumped almost 46.7 million gallons of fuel.

In other air operations, A-10 Thunderbolt II fighters flew more than 3,300 hours in more than 1,400 sorties, while destroying numerous enemy weapons systems.

AC-130A special operations crews flew 180 hours in 59 sorties and carried 268 passengers and 75 tons of cargo, and HH-3E Jolly Green helicopter crews logged 85 hours in 47 sorties.

C-9 Nightingale associate crews have flown numerous hours since the start of the gulf crisis, and an undetermined number of those were in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

## America: A country we can be proud to serve

(Continued from previous page)

Between January and March, we watched the battle escalate. We were angered by the Iraqi war crimes and sorrowed by the lives lost on both sides.

The most exciting thing to see was the explosion of patriotism and pride in America. This was about teamwork at home, as men and women of all races and creeds did what they could to help.

And it was also about nations working together. Although we can be proud of our American leaders taking the initiative, we can also appreciate other countries who cooperated.

Americans are held in high regard by other countries around the world. I hear that all the time from students who come from nations far away. They respect this country like no other.

We didn't come this far as a nation by chance. We had to take a stand many times in history and there will be more challenges to come. May it always be fashionable to show our determination as a nation under God, even in peacetime.

In the future, I hope we will continue to take pride in our American heritage and not take this great land for granted.

As members of this unit, we can take pride in our accomplishments. We were here

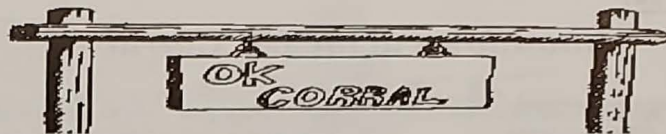
ready and standing by for our turn. Because of superior American military management and technology, the war was short and we weren't needed. But the Air Force knew we were 'ready to help.

Many S07th individuals served short terms of active duty in support of Desert Storm and we are proud of their work. In the future, we know we must be ready to help secure the national defense.

We probably all learned a little more about how we fit into the "total force" because of this war. Now we can push on and be ready for anything the future holds.

I love you, America.

On-final special ORI wrap-up



# Show down at the OK Corral



Members of the Survival Recovery Center prepare to relocate after a simulated airfield attack during last month's Operational Readiness Inspection. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Stan Paregien)



## On-final special ORI wrap-up

## Ready, Set, Draw!

*Showdown at the OK Corral*

By 1st Lt. Rich Curry  
507th Public Affairs

*It's high noon, April 14. The steam locomotive's been replaced by a sleek KC-135, but it's high-pitch squeal's the same as it rolls into the station at Tinker AFB.*

*Out steps more than 50 people; the 12th Air Force's hired guns. The Inspector General team has arrived and they're ready for an Operational Readiness Inspection.*

*They're ready for a showdown at the OK Corral.*

*The hired hands of the 507th Tactical Fighter Group were ready. For months they had been building tents in the Toxic Free Area, fixing fences, and placing bunkers on the ramp to help the unit survive hostile attacks. Through it all they endured both freezing rain, biting cold and Oklahoma's searing sun.*

*Now the clock was ticking. With hardened faces and iron jaws they stood ready. They knew their jobs. They had to win....*

The 507th Tactical Fighter Group experienced an Operational Readiness Inspection last month. An ORI is the toughest challenge any military unit can face short of actual combat. It is designed to test a unit's wartime capability to fight, survive and win.

During the inspection outbrief held April 23 in the Base Theater, unit members learned they could do their mission and do it well.

Firefighters TSgt. Steven Henthorn and SrA. Douglas Hall give buddy care to TSgt. Clifford Demers to keep him from "dying with his boots on." These civil engineering members were part of a rapid runway repair exercise at the Glenwood area. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Stan Paregien)



While it is against Air Force Regulations to publicize actual ratings of an inspection report, additional reports should be available at each work section for review.

The inspection itself assessed three major areas: initial response, combat employment, and ability to survive and operate. Those major areas were further divided as inspectors evaluated command and control; mobility; aircraft generation, deployment, regeneration and maintenance; operations; resources; active and passive defense measures; base recovery after attack and sustainability. Within those areas are evaluations of individual sections and work centers.

The inspectors tasked the 507th to mobilize support equipment, aircraft and personnel for a simulated overseas deployment. The unit's F-16 aircraft were employed in interdiction, offensive counterair, close air support and defensive counterair missions. The unit's command and control and ability to survive and operate were tested throughout the ORI.

After the Inspectors outbrief, Brig. Gen. David Smith, 10th Air Force Commander, congratulated the members of the 507th on "another outstanding job by the Okies. New standards are being set every day throughout the Air Force Reserve and we're really proud of you here at the 507th."

Brig. Gen. Forrest Winebarger, commander of the 419th Tactical Fighter Wing, also congratulated the 507th saying, "I've been to many of these outbriefs. (These ratings) prove everyone is strong across the board. Everyone can be proud of

(Continued on next page)

## On-final special ORI wrap-up



TSgt. Gordon Walters, 507th CAMS, conducts a check for contamination on a jammer. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Rich Curry)

(Continued from previous page)

this. It takes a tremendous amount of teamwork to make this happen and that's what's it all about."

Lt. Col. Robert Lytle, 507th Commander, concluded the outbrief thanking the IG team for their professionalism, various base organizations for their support and all 507th civilian employees for their assistance throughout the exercise.

He also thanked the attached units, the 403rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron for their help and support. "I also want to thank the 507th Communications Squadron, who while not inspected with the unit, participated heavily in helping us get through this in flying colors."

"The team effort that we talked about was there, we couldn't have gotten through this without every player. I am so proud to be here. 507th I salute you."

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations on your recent ORI. Maj. Gen. John Closner and I extend our sincere appreciation to all who participated in this significant accomplishment.

Brig. Gen. Robert McIntosh  
Air Force Reserve vice commander

**Way to go**

Congratulations on the superb performance. We knew the Okies would come through.  
Lt. Col. Richard Hall  
944th TFG Commander



## On-final special ORI wrap-up



ABOVE: Maintenance crews decontaminate a munitions trailer after a simulated attack.

LEFT: A 465th pilot makes his way across the flightline for debriefing. Aircrews were decontaminated after missions while the inspectors watched. (U.S. Air Force photos)



## Good job

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the results of your recent all-phase ORI. Your first class performance stands as a testimony to the validity and efficiency of the total force concept. I know how hard you have worked to become combat ready in a new weapon system and the results of this inspection serve as a formal and important report on that effort. Well done!

Col. Michael Navarro  
Commander 388th TFW, Hill AFB, Utah  
(The 507th's active duty advisor wing)

## On-final special ORI wrap-up

RIGHT: SSgt. Thomas King, 507th CES, helps install camouflage netting.

BELOW: TSgt. Paul Tucker, 403rd CLSS augmentee, watches over the flightline.

BELOW RIGHT: Maintenance members wait for an all clear signal.

(U.S. Air Force photos)



## On-final special ORI wrap-up



**LEFT:** Members of the 507th CES demonstrate their skills in rapid runway repair at the Glenwood area.

**BELOW LEFT:** SrA Travis Harris, TSgt. Richard Holder, and MSgt. Gene Steffens head out across the flightline.

## NEXT PAGE

**TOP RIGHT:** SrA Ronny Waller, 507th CES fireman, watches and waits.

**LEFT:** SMSgt. David Lightfoot, 507th CAMS, prepares to report in.

**BOTTOM:** Time for shift change.

(U.S. Air Force photos)



## On-final special ORI wrap-up





## On-final special ORI wrap-up



ABOVE: Maintenance members place fellow workers at the casualty collection point after a simulated airfield attack.

RIGHT: TSgt. Joe Lafitte and SMSgt. Alfred Jackson get ready to go to work.



## Desert Storm

## Information

Benefits reservists*New law amends relief act*

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) — The president has signed Public Law 102-12, which includes seven substantial provisions that could benefit reservists.

The law, signed March 18, amends the 1940 Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act and Veterans' Reemployment Rights. The provisions are:

- \* Professional liability insurance for physicians and other professionals who are ordered to active duty will be suspended upon written request to the insurance carrier for the period of the individual's active duty.
- \* Reinstatement of health insurance, without waiting periods or exclusions of coverage for preexisting conditions, for a reservist who is ordered to active duty and his or her family.
- \* Clarify existing reemployment rights for reservists called to active duty for periods of 90 days or longer.

\* Servicemembers may not be discriminated against in terms of creditworthiness and certain other contexts by reason of exercise of rights under the SSCRA.

\* Broaden protection against eviction to families paying rents up to \$1,200 a month.

\* Expand the authority under the SSCRA for automatic extension of a power of attorney of a servicemember who is missing in action that otherwise would have expired as of July 31, 1990.

\* Provide for the stay of any judicial action or proceeding — other than a criminal case — involving a member of the Armed Forces until after June 30, 1991. The member must apply for the stay and be on active duty and serving outside the state in which the court having jurisdiction over the action or proceeding is located.

Congress enacted the SSCRA in 1940 to protect individuals called to active duty. The SSCRA is intended, in large part, to promote national defense by suspending enforcement of servicemembers' civil liabilities, enabling them to devote their energy to the defense needs of the nation.

*Desert Storm settles down for reservists*

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — More unit Air Force Reservists are coming home as Desert Storm winds down.

As of April 4, the Air Force released 734 Air Force Reserve officers and 1,510 AFRES enlisted personnel from active duty.

At the same time, 3,584 mobilized officers and 14,505 enlisted people are still on active duty. More than 23 percent of them are women. Another 58 officers and 809 enlisted members remained on active duty as volunteers.



## Special Desert Storm insert

## Desert Stormers gain transition health benefits

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Personnel officials will adjust Desert Storm won't have to do without health care benefits when they are released from active duty.

The Persian Gulf Conflict Supplemental Authorization and Personnel Benefits Act of 1991 authorizes Desert Storm reservists and their families to receive military health benefits up to 30 days after deactivation. The act was signed into law April 6 by the president.

This transitional health care benefit is good for 30 days or until a Reserve family's employer-sponsored health care plan resumes -- whichever is sooner.



Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) paperwork to show 30 days of eligibility after the reservists are released from active duty.

Reserve families must present a Reserve identification card and a copy of the reservist's DD Form 214 at health care facilities to receive military-sponsored medical treatment.

Normal procedures apply for filing claims with the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) during the 30-day transition period.

## Veterans benefits improve for reservists

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Air Force Reservists gained rights to additional education assistance and other Department of Veterans Affairs benefits when the president signed Public Law 102-25 on April 6.

The 1991 Persian Gulf Supplemental Authorization and Personnel Benefits Act provides for more educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve.

Starting Oct. 1, the law will increase the full-time rate for Montgomery GI Bill assistance from \$140 to \$170 per month. The three-quarter rate will go from \$105 to \$128, and half-time assistance will jump from \$70 to \$85 per month. In addition, the VA has the option to increase rates for inflation in fiscal years 1994 and 1995.

The law also amends Title 38, making the Persian Gulf War a "period of war" for certain VA benefits.

These benefits include:

- Guaranteed housing loans for veterans who served on active duty for 90 days or more any time during the Gulf War.

- Health benefits counseling to veterans who served on active duty after May 7, 1975, in an area where hostilities occurred, within the limits of VA facilities.

- Outpatient dental services and treatment to veterans for service-related disability. The period of active-duty service required to qualify for this benefit changed from 180 days to 90 days for veterans who served during the Gulf War.

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers toll-free assistance. The phone number is 1-800-368-5899. The local telephone number for benefit information is 235-2641.

## What is a reservist?

A reservist is proud and honored serving in peace time and war

He is a son, a husband, a father  
She is a daughter, a wife, a mother

They come from all walks of life  
Some are young and some are older  
Businessmen, laborers, and homemakers  
But most important, they are dedicated

These weekend warriors with a long history  
From Paul Revere, to Operation Desert Storm  
Soldiers always willing to defend their country  
And fight for world peace and freedom for all

Dedicated to all Reservists and Guardsmen  
By TSgt. Carolyn Cowns

## Policy set for ART high year tenure

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) -- The Air Force Reserve has established a high year of tenure policy for its air reserve technicians.

Two dates affect ARTs' tenure because they have dual status as military personnel and civilian employees. Military high year of tenure is 33 years of service based on the person's pay date. Civilian high year of tenure is based on the individual meeting minimum civil service retirement requirements -- either through the Civil Service Retirement System or Federal Employee Retirement System.

ARTs are eligible to apply for continuation beyond their high year of tenure. Approval for continuation is on a case-by-case basis, and the Air Force Reserve vice commander is the final approval authority. The program restricts unit commanders to recommending only people who are essential to sustaining readiness of the unit.

If their civilian high year of tenure date is past their military high year of tenure

plus three years, ARTs may automatically continue until their civilian high year of tenure date.

If continuation is approved and their civilian high year of tenure date is before their military high year of tenure, they can only continue up to three years plus the military high year of tenure date.

For example, if the military high year of tenure date is June 1, 1993, and the civilian high year of tenure date is Sept. 15, 1995, approval for continuation would be through June 1, 1996.

If people leave or lose their ART status before their civilian high year of tenure date, their high year of tenure will revert back to their military high year of tenure date. If not previously considered for continuation, these ARTs may request supplemental consideration.

If they are not selected for continuation, they will be retired, reassigned to the Individual Ready Reserve or separated as soon as possible but not later than 90

days from the date of nonselection for continuation.

If ARTs leave or lose their civil service position, they will be removed from their ART reserve position when the civil service employment ends. If they have a remaining military high year of tenure, they may enter a non-ART reserve position or they will be reassigned to the IRR or Retired Reserve.

ARTs will enter the Department of Defense Priority Placement Program one year before their high year of tenure date. If they are not placed in non-ART jobs, they will be separated from their military and civilian positions on the high year of tenure date.

The Air Force Reserve has about 8,600 enlisted ARTs. Three-fourths of them work in aircraft maintenance.

Consolidated base personnel offices have more information about the ART high year of tenure policy.

## Former WSO writes 507th

*Editor's Note: Major Lew Neff, a former 507th weapons system officer, recently wrote a letter to the members of the 507th. Major Neff is no longer with the Air Force Reserve due to a terminal illness. Unit members may write to Maj. Neff at: Lew Neff, 8187 Chester Dr., Sacramento, Calif. 95830.*

Dear Bob and friends at the 507th,

Thank you very much for your phone calls. I certainly enjoyed them. I have enjoyed working with all of you over the last few years. We had some really great times.

My ALS is progressing along rapidly. My voice keeps getting softer and my hands almost don't work. My feet are getting very weak. My spirits are high.

I am now residing in California with my family. My girls are getting very big. They are certainly a blessing. I have always enjoyed being with them.

I am trying to get myself right with God.

I thank you for your friendship and hope life is good to you. I will pass along something to you that I have learned a little late. Enjoy today and do what you like to do because tomorrow isn't promised to any of us.

I would like to suggest a charity which is very important to me. It is the ALS association. They are the major ALS research organization doing research for causing cures for ALS. Their address is:

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association

21021 Ventura Blvd. Suite 321

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

(818) 340-7500

Feel free to write or call. God bless you my friends.



# Reserve news you can use

## Blood drive planned this month

A blood drive will be held on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A bloodmobile will be parked in front of hangar building 1030. All 507th members are encouraged to participate.

## CAMS hosts fitness competition

The 507th CAMS is holding its annual fun run and weigh-in on Sundays during May UTAs. Members should report in, wearing their running gear, to the parachute shop from 7 to 7:30 a.m.

After sign-in, members will report to the East side of the hangar where they will be formed into groups for the evaluation. Afterwards, all members will go to the CAMS breakroom for weigh-in and then report to work.

This year an intra-unit competition for the entire squadron. Members will compete for best time in the 1.5 mile run, 3.0 mile run and 3.0 mile walk. Other categories include most push ups, sit ups and pull ups in one minute. The first four place finishers in each category will receive special t-shirts. The first and second finishers will receive an additional trophy or plaque.

## AFSA hosts membership drive

The Air Force Sergeants Association is hosting a membership drive this month. The AFSA is a non-profit organization representing the professional and personal interests of more than 161,000 active duty, reserve, guard and retired enlisted members.

In addition to representing enlisted issues legislatively, AFSA also sponsors low-cost insurance options and educational scholarships for its members and their families.

Unit enlisted members may get more information or applications for membership from their first sergeants or

CMSgt. Lee Adams, 507th Senior Enlisted Advisor.

## Desert Stormers may get two W-2s

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) -- Air Force Reservists called to active duty as part of Operation Desert Storm may receive two W-2 income tax forms for 1991.

The first form will cover wages received while on active duty. The second form will cover wages earned for inactive duty and active duty for training before being mobilized.

## SGLI increases

The Air Force raised the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance benefit to \$100,000. Coverage is automatic unless smaller amounts are requested by individuals. Monthly premiums increase from \$4 to \$8. Reservists who do not wish to pay \$8 per month for \$100,000 of insurance should contact the customer service section of the consolidated base personnel office in building 1043.

## Stop Loss stops

Stop Loss has been terminated, and all specialty codes have been removed from the Reserve list. The original stop-loss action was taken in mid-February at the height of the Persian Gulf War. It affected some 30,000 Individual Ready Reservists and 6,000 Individual Mobilization Augmentees in several critical skills.

## NDSM Medal on hold

Authority for reservists to wear the National Defense Service Medal as a result of Desert Storm/Desert Shield is

still awaiting approval by the Air Force. It may be in June 1991 before the waiver for reservists is approved.

## VA benefits good 30 days

On April 6, the President signed into law The Persian Gulf Supplemental Authorization and Personnel Benefits Act. It authorizes health care benefits for Desert Storm reservists and their families up to 30 days after deactivation. Local Department of Veterans Affairs offices will have more details.

## NCO status change has ripple effect

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) -- Several personnel policies change for Air Force Reservists when the Air Force discontinues its E-4 noncommissioned officer status program May 2.

These changes include the following:

- \* Reservists no longer need to be in NCO status to reenlist.

- \* The NCO preparatory course becomes mandatory for promotion to staff sergeant, either in residence or by correspondence. The Air Force is developing an airman leadership school which is scheduled to replace the NCO preparatory course and the NCO leadership school Oct. 1.

- \* Airmen first class are not eligible to enroll in the NCO preparatory course. Those already enrolled in the NCO preparatory correspondence course must complete it by April 1, 1992.

- \* E-4 sergeants and below may not serve as raters.

Airmen serving in the rank of senior airman or sergeant on May 2 will retain that rank until they are promoted to staff sergeant.