

On-final

April 1999

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group M A G A Z I N E



SHAPING

our future

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

507th ARW Mission: Man, train, equip, and sustain a reserve force in support of DoD peacetime and wartime taskings.



Commander's Column

By Col. Mark Pillar
507th ARW Vice Commander

**You help pay
"Freedom's bill"**

WOW! You sure looked GREAT last UTA. It's not often that we have a military formation, but when we do, we do it well. I was extremely proud to stand in front as your Commander of Troops. YOU DUN GOOD!

Each UTA, Col. Mazick, Chief Kellington, and I go to the Newcomer's In-brief to introduce ourselves and give a short talk. During that time, we tell our new folks that we want to create an environment in this wing to allow everyone the opportunity to reach their full potential. That is our commitment to all of you. At the same time, it is your responsibility to do your job to the best of your ability. By this I mean not only doing your requirement training, but also completing the appropriate schools and training for your grade and rank. Be the best "OKIE" that you can possibly be!

You know that we are in a unique profession and we don't often talk about it in this way. We are charged with the defense of our country, and to perpetuate the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans. We've often heard the saying that "freedom isn't free." Well, it's not. We are all aware of the sacrifices we make as Reservists to help pay freedom's bill. I thank God every night that there are people like you around who are willing to step forward to the task. Whenever we pitch in together to tackle a task, whether it be an Operational Readiness Inspection, an exercise, or a deployment, we get a tremendous amount of satisfaction and sense of accomplishment knowing that we do the job the best we can. We did it better than a team. We did it as a family. We did it as "OKIES." This is a feeling acquired by very few professions. That's why we do what we do for our country. That's our reward. We are "PATRIOTS" in the finest sense of the word.

I challenge each of you to renew your commitment to this tremendous organization, to make yourself the best that you can be. Take the next step. Make the extra effort. Look around and see where you can help. When you look back on your time here you can say with pride "I was there when we successfully completed the ORI." I WAS THERE when we earned the AFA Outstanding Reserve Unit of the Year Award. I WAS THERE when we earned the AFOUA, I WAS THERE when we earned the State of Oklahoma Quality Award. I was an "OKIE," FOREVER READY, ALWAYS THERE.



AWACS Sends

By Col. Kenneth D. Suggs
513th ACG Commander

It's official!

We've done it! On Mar. 8, just 31 months after our activation, the 513th Air Control Group has declared Initial Operational Capability (IOC). That means we've proven beyond any doubt that we can perform the airborne warning and control mission. It also means we'll be called upon to assist our active duty counterparts by fulfilling our Southwest Asia (SWA) rotation requirements.

While that may sound like a pretty tall order, take a look at what we've accomplished in the last three years. Though we're not yet fully manned, we're 87 percent there. And both maintenance and operations are settled in permanent facilities. It's now time to shift our focus from expanding the unit to improving and sustaining our mission readiness. All of us need to remember that even the most mundane task, whether it's operating an onboard computer system or donning a chemical warfare ensemble, can become very confusing and seemingly complex in the fog of combat. The more seriously we take every aspect of readiness training; the better off we'll be when the going gets tough.

Given what we've built and will maintain, we can handle any challenge that comes our way. From Y2K to SWA rotations, we will operate efficiently because of our professional maintainers, operations support folks, and aviators. First hurdle cleared. Bring on the next!!

Did You Know?

Medal of Honor recipient General James Doolittle, USAFR, the architect of the United States' first bombing raid on the Japanese Home Islands during World War II, never held the ranks of captain or colonel. He was promoted directly from first lieutenant to major in the late 1920s, from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general in 1942, and retired as the Air Force Reserve's only lieutenant general. He was promoted to general at the order of President Ronald Reagan.

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Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition. This is your magazine. Take it home with you to share with family, friends, and employers.

On the cover...



Photo by 2Lt. Stan Paregien

A 507th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135R "Stratotanker" prepares to refuel one of the United States Air Force's newest aircraft, a B-2 bomber, over the state of Missouri, during a local training mission.



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The 507th Air Refueling Wing and the 513th Air Control Group are fortunate to have many people dedicated to different aspects of each unit's missions possessing a diversity of skills, talents, and knowledge.

This is a story of just one reservist applying her skills, talents, and knowledge to the total force.

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Visit us online at <http://bncc.tinker.af.mil/507arw/default.html>



Photos by TSgt. Mitch Chandran

Maj. Gen. Wallace Whaley, (left) 4th Air Force commander, passes the 507th Air Refueling Wing flag to Brig. Gen. Jon S. Gingerich during the Change-of-Command ceremony Mar. 6. Col. Martin M. Mazick (right) will assume command of the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

Gingerich commands 507th ARW

By TSgt. Mitchell B. Chandran
507th ARW Public Affairs Office

During a Change-of-Command ceremony Mar. 6, Brig. Gen. Jon S. Gingerich assumed command of the 507th Air Refueling Wing from Col. Martin Mazick.

Mazick assumed command of the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

"We started this journey about 33 years ago," Gingerich said. "It's a wonderful Air Force journey that started at Vance AFB in Oklahoma. We have a lot of family ties and very close friends who are still here."

Gingerich said he was looking forward to being commander of the 507th ARW and developing close working relationships with both those on Tinker AFB and the community.

Gingerich has a long list of accomplishments during his military career. His last assignment was commander of the 459th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md., the only Air Force Reserve unit in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

He entered the Air Force in 1966 as a graduate of the University of Arkansas and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. Gingerich separated from active duty in July 1978 and joined the Air Force Reserve's 927th Tactical Airlift Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

In September 1980, he joined the air reserve technician (ART) program. Gingerich is a command pilot with more than 6,000 hours, principally in airlift aircraft, and was a C-130 pilot in Vietnam.

Some of his past assignments include being commander of the 446th Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash; commander of the 928th Tactical Airlift Group, O'Hare Air Reserve Forces Facility, Ill; deputy commander of the 928th Tactical Airlift Group, O'Hare Air Reserve Forces Facility, Ill; and deputy commander for operations of the 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing, Peterson AFB, Colo, among other assignments.

Throughout his career, Gingerich has earned the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm, Vietnam Service Medal with three devices, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with one service star.

As a command pilot, Gingerich has flown more than 6,000 hours in T-33, T-37, T-38, T-41, MC-130E, C-130A/B/E/H, and C-141B aircraft.



Brig. Gen. Jon Gingerich is congratulated by Commodore Tom Trotter, commander of Strategic Communications Wing One, after the Change-of-Command ceremony

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"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

April 1999



The 931st Air Refueling Group (ARG) was officially reassigned to the 507th Air Refueling Wing family April 1. The 931st ARG has a distinguished history to include a variety of aircraft and missions.



History of the 931st Air Refueling Group

The 931st Air Refueling Group (ARG), currently based at McConnell AFB, Kan. can trace its origin to 1963. On Jan. 15, 1963, the unit was constituted as the 931st Troop Carrier Group, Medium. On Feb. 11, 1963, the unit was activated and aligned under the Continental Air Command, and began operations at Bakalar AFB, Ind. During July 1967, the unit was redesignated as the 931st Tactical Airlift Group. During that time airlift operations were conducted using the C-119 "Flying Boxcar."

In June 1969, the unit's mission changed to tactical air support. With the mission change came the redesignation to the 931st Tactical Air Support Group. To complete air support missions, from 1969 to 1971, pilots used the O-2 "Skymaster" and the U-3 "Blue Canoe." Six months after the unit's redesignation moved, with personnel and resources, to Grissom AFB, Ind. Following two years of air support operations the mission changed to special operations. The unit was redesignated the 931st Special Operations Group on Mar. 1, 1971. With the mission change came the conversion to the A-37 "Dragonfly." Operations and training with the A-37 continued over the next four years. Though the primary weapons system remained the same, the unit designation changed to the 931st Tactical Fighter Group on Oct. 1, 1973. After twelve and half years of service, the unit inactivated on July 1, 1975.

The unit was inactive for only three years. After a redesignation on May 18, 1977, the unit reactivated on July 1, 1978. With the change in the unit's designation came a change in the primary mission and primary weapons system. This time the unit operated under the designation of 931st Air Refueling Group, Heavy. For exactly nine years, the men and women of the 931st completed air-refueling operations, using the KC-135A "Stratotanker," while stationed at Grissom AFB. On July 1, 1987, the unit inactivated. Members of the 931st distinguished themselves twice during that first period of refueling operations, earned two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards were bestowed upon the unit.

During its distinct history, the 931st ARG has maintained a combat-ready posture within the Air Force Reserve as a troop carrier, tactical airlift, tactical air support, special operations, tactical fighter, and air-refueling group. The 931st ARG has participated in a myriad of exercise and real world operations, as required by the Air Force Reserve and gaining commands. In 1968, the 931st Tactical Airlift Group sent crews and aircraft

to Southeast Asia to transport troops and material, which earned the unit the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Today's 931st ARG received its present designation on Dec. 9, 1994. The unit activated, in the Air Force Reserve, on Jan. 1, 1995, at McConnell AFB. The unit holds the distinction of being the first associate air-refueling unit in Air Force Reserve Command. As an associate unit, the 931st ARG does not have operational control of the KC-135R aircraft. Instead, the host unit at McConnell AFB, the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, provides a designated number of aircraft for missions assigned to the 931st ARG. Upon mobilization, the 22nd ARW and the Air Mobility Command would gain the 931st ARG. Currently, the 931st ARG has one operational flying squadron assigned to it: the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. Other units assigned to the 931st ARG include the 931st Military Support Flight, the 931st Civil Engineer Squadron, the 931st Operation Support Flight, and the 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron. The 931st ARG commander also has a contingent of staff personnel.

Since the most recent reactivation the unit has completed national and international missions. The accomplishments by unit members have not only met the standard of the mission statement of "providing mission ready reservist to fly, maintain, and support global reach for America," but has earned the unit an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.



Col. Dean J. Despinoy

Col. Dean J. Despinoy is the commander of the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kansas. The group reports to Fourth Air Force and is the first KC-135 "Stratotanker" associate unit. The 931st ARG supports Air Mobility Command's air refueling and airlift requirements at home and abroad during times of peace and war.

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"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

72nd APS trains at Guam

By TSgt. Michael P. Waite
Team Chief for the 72nd APS



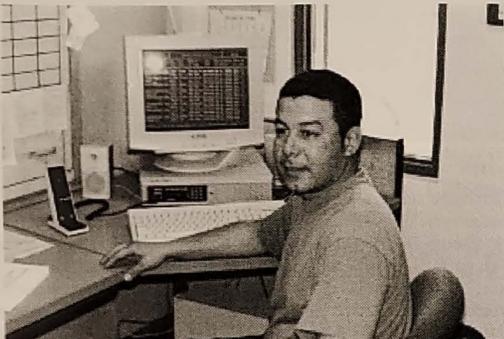
A team of fifteen personnel from the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron (APS) deployed Jan. 16 from Oklahoma to Andersen AFB, Guam, to spend two weeks training and performing real-world Air Force missions.

After traveling for nearly thirty hours, team members were met by their active duty counterparts, the 634th Air Mobility Support Squadron, whom would be partners with the 72nd APS during the training period.

After the welcome message by the squadron commander and the staff of the local aerial port squadron, members were eager to get to work. Training for the 72nd APS team consisted of airfreight warehouse functions, aircraft loading and



Sra Scott Miller, cargo handler for the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron, prepares a pallet with household goods for shipment to the United States.



SSgt. Amal Richid, cargo processor for the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron, performs dispatch duties during the two-week training tour. Richid's dispatch duties included keeping track of all inbound/outbound cargo and aircraft.

unloading, fleet service of the transient aircraft, and passenger services at the Air Mobility Command terminal.

The workload was ideal for quality training, especially for the newer members in this career field, both new to the military and those who chose to cross train from other jobs.

Although training was the priority, members had off-duty opportunities to take advantage of learning what the island and the local culture was all about.

Several members were privileged to participate in a Repatriation of Remains ceremony and tour historical battle sites from WWII.

During the two weeks, aerial porters played a role when the remains of three aircrew members of WWII were transported from Indonesia to Guam, before heading for the United States for burial. The remains were discovered at the crash site in the tropical jungles in the central mountain range of Indonesia. A C-130 aircraft with the remains taxied to the VIP ramp, an Air Force Color Guard, along with a 21-gun salute was presented while *Taps* played for the fallen crewmembers as they returned back to American soil for the first time in 54 years.

Upon arrival at Anderson AFB, 72nd APS members helped unload and load the remains onto a different aircraft for transport to Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, and positive identification.

Maj. Guy B. Lindholm, commander of the 72nd APS, recognized two members for outstanding performance during the two-week deployment: SSgt. David Haider, special handling section of the 72nd APS, and Sra Scott Miller, air freight section of the 72nd APS.

507th CLSS receives Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award

By TSgt. Mitchell B. Chandran
507th ARW Public Affairs Office



The 507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron (CLSS) received the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award (small depot) recently for the period of Oct. 1, 1997 through Sep. 30, 1998.

The mission of the 507th CLSS is to provide highly trained, worldwide deployable military teams to accomplish Aircraft Battle Damage Repair (ABDR), rapid area distribution system support (RADS), and augment supply and packaging operations.

Accomplishments cited by the nomination package included the squadron's maintenance teams and individual members providing outstanding support on Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard's KC-135, B-1, and B-2 aircraft fleets and F100, F101, F108, F110, and TF-33 engine systems.

During this period, 15 member maintenance teams deployed to Eielson AFB, Alaska, for KC-135 support; Ellsworth AFB, S.D., for B-1 support; Luke AFB, Ariz., for F-16 engine support; and the B-52 maintenance team deploying to Nellis AFB, Nev., for their first-ever support of the Air Force's *Red Flag* exercise. The 507th CLSS assisted 4th Air Force by providing engine personnel to support the 459th Air Wing, Andrews AFB, Md., during their annual tour, then extending their tour by 12 days to support a request for maintenance assistance to reduce maintenance backlogs on C-141 engines.

The squadron was also cited for directly supporting Air Combat Command (ACC) Headquarters with 380 mandays April 1999

in support of Operation Southern Watch. Six personnel provided backfill support at six ACC bases during this period.

Unit personnel provided 345 mandays in support of depot level aircraft and engine production at Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center (OC-ALC) and other Tinker AFB activities.

Even during high operations tempo, the 507th CLSS went through two major inspections producing satisfactory ratings within three months of each other.

Among other accomplishments during this period, the nomination package cited the squadron with participating in Air Force Material Command's Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) of OC-ALC by assisting active duty ABDR teams.

Out of 55, 507th CLSS personnel involved, five were named *Outstanding Performers*.

Three months after the ORI, the squadron was evaluated along with the 507th Air Refueling Wing for its first Unit Compliance Inspection by Air Force Reserve Command. Two squadron personnel were recognized as outstanding performers during this inspection.

The squadron established a first-ever Memorandum of Agreement with OC-ALC's Commodities Directorate, for weekend support of Air Force Reserve CLSS training. This action improved quality of work and hands-on training for squadron structural repair technicians among other benefits.



Photo by Capt. Bryon Runion

(Left) Lt. Col. David Beavin, 507th Logistic Group commander, with SSgt. Pat Maloney, (center) fuel cell technician for the 507th CLSS (Air Force Reserve) and a civilian service employee at Altus AFB, Okla., presents a certificate under the wing of a C-17 "Globemaster" to Maloney's civilian boss, Richard Care, supervisor of fuel cell maintenance at Altus AFB, for outstanding service to the national defense through continuing support of the National Guard and Reserve.

On-final

Three awards were recently claimed by two members in the 507th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) and the 507th Communications Flight taking the Air Force Reserve Command's Communications and Information of the Year awards.

Getting the word out...

507th ARW claims three AFRC communications awards

By TSgt. Mitchell B. Chandran
507th ARW Public Affairs Office

Communicators from Tinker AFB, Okla., won three out of eight Air Force Reserve Command communications and information professionalism awards for 1998. Tinker AFB's 507th Communications Flight (CF) took the top organizational award. Michelle R. Carlross of the 507th CF captured the junior civilian award for employees GS-8 and below. SSgt. Michael A. Adams of the flight's sister unit, the 707th CF, earned the Communications-Computer Systems NCO award.

The 507th Communications Flight was named the 1998 Outstanding AFRC Communications and Information Organization of the Year Award and was cited as possessing vigorous leadership, superb administrative support, equipment management, and technical knowledge of mission and information systems that contributed directly to improved mission readiness. They were proactive in managing communications and information programs with 17 personnel assigned to support the 507th Air Refueling Wing (AMC) and 513th Air Control Group (ACC) Tinker AFB, Okla.

Among other accomplishments, members of the flight were recognized for supporting KC-135 operations with communications and maintenance during air-to-ground operations while deployed in support of Operation Joint Guard, Istres, France.

The flight was also cited for designing and building the first deployable server/network for the wing, saving considerable employee hours by giving deployed personnel immediate access to e-mail, publications, forms, and web sites.

Michelle Carlross is an air reserve technician (ART) holding the military rank of technical sergeant with the Air Force Reserve. She was cited for managing diverse communications and information programs for the 507th Air Refueling Wing. Her nomination package mentioned her energetic personality, positive attitude, and pride in job accomplishment highlighting daily performance. Her contributions were substantial in managing the Wing Records Management



program. Carlross chaired quarterly records management meeting with Functional Area Records Managers (FARMS) to review records program resulting in improved safeguarding and managing of the wing's official records. She increased her knowledge of records management by volunteering to attend the Electronic recordskeeping Workshop in Washington, D.C.

Among her other accomplishments, Carlross conducted training classes on Information Warfare and Records Management. She facilitated and instructed the Workgroup Administration (WGA) course for 507th ARW and the 513th Air Control Group.

She was cited for coordinating with the Base Education Office on use of facilities and audiovisual and office automation resources. She collaborated with the 38th Engineering Installation Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla, and established a highly successful joint active duty/reserve partnership that trained 67 military and civilian administrators. She also presented WGA briefings for the wing Senior Leadership Council on career field training requirements and visited each unit commander and information manager to help them better understand the WGA process resulting in overwhelming support from senior leadership to implement this training for the wing among other accomplishments.

SSgt. Mike Adams, communications specialist for the 707th Communications Flight, was cited as possessing superior technical knowledge and an innate ability to resolve troublesome issues essential in the support of forces both at home station and abroad.

During a deployment to Istres, France, with the 145th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Adams implemented an expansion of the site Local Area Network from accommodating just few dozen users to over 100 nodes. He used his expertise to install a critical Air Tasking Order circuit that supported deployed tanker operations during Operation Joint Guard. This ensured rapid deployment for the mission tasking messages were delivered to customers in



Continued on page 12. See "AWARDS"

NCO Academy In-Residence

Listed below are the FY 99 NCO Academy In-Residence class dates: A letter of recommendation from your unit commander must be forwarded to 507 MSS/DPMT not later than 60 days prior to class start date:

Class	Quotas	Dates	Location
99-5	1	990621-990729	Tyndall AFB, FL
99-6	1	990802-990909	Tyndall AFB, FL

NOTE: These are the only quotas allocated for the Wing for the rest of the Fiscal Year. If we have alternates, they may attend at a different location.

Bottom Line: If you want to go, put in your request ASAP.

TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

Reserve members are eligible to apply for Tuition Assistance (TA) for Distance Learning to further their education up to a Bachelor's Degree (members who have a Bachelor's Degree are eligible to pursue a second degree). The basic enrollment requirements are that, you must:

- Pay for the course up-front and after satisfactory completion, be reimbursed 75% (tuition only) per course, not to exceed \$1500 per FY.
- Enroll in only 1 course at a time, using the institutions listed in one of the three DANTES catalogs.
- Be a participating member in good standing (no UIF, Article 15, etc.).
- Complete enrollment form and have unit commander's approval.

For more information contact SMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

FREE COLLEGE TESTING

Air Force Reserve members, spouses and civilian employees may take DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) or the College-Level Examinations Program (CLEP) tests FREE! The DSST and CLEP programs consist of a series of examinations that test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel, or hobbies. Combined, the programs offer you more than 85 ways to get college credit. You must test at your Reserve DANTES approved test center. Testing at another DANTES test center will be on a case-by-case basis. The third Tuesday of each month at 0800 has been set aside for testing. You must call us four weeks prior to test date to ensure we will have your test by test date. Some tests are stocked while others must be ordered. For more information contact SMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

BE A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL

Air Force Reserve members may receive job certification through DANTES or Air Force Reserve Command funded programs. DANTES has agreements with more than 30 nationally recognized certification associations who allow their certification examinations to be administered at your Reserve test center. Examinations are available in many skill areas. Certification provides recognition of skills learned while in the military and demonstrates a high level of professional competence for the civilian job market. Certification tests must be AFSC related. HQ AFRC must approve requests to test outside of your AFSC. HQ AFRC funded tests will be paid in advance by the member and reimbursement will be for test cost only. For information on type tests, eligibility, application procedures, fees and test dates, contact SMSgt. Epps at 734-7075.

HOT TOPICS :

✓ CDC Testing is accomplished at 0800 on Sundays of the (main) UTA. You do not have to schedule it, just show up at 0800 at Bldg 460 (the active duty HQ), Room 213. You need to enter through the South East corner door. If you cannot make it, our Education office also tests on Wednesdays. You DO need to schedule this one 24 hours in advance Important note: If you are retaking a test, make sure you bring the Commander's evaluation/ authorization letter with you or you will not be able to test.

✓ EDUCATION REMINDER: This is just to remind everyone who wishes to update their Education Records, officer and enlisted, that we need OFFICIAL Transcripts to send or accomplish any updates. This means that it CANNOT say "ISSUED TO STUDENT." You may have the college/university send it, we can request it, or you may bring it in as long as it is in a sealed envelope with a SEAL on the flap AND it does not say "ISSUED TO STUDENT."

✓ IEU OPEN FROM 1200-1500 ON SATURDAY OF THE MAIN UTA

✓ Customer Service closed until 0930 every Saturday due to newcomers in processing. Please take care of business after that time.

✓ SHOTS !!!!
Time: 0830-1100 on Saturday morning
Place: Internal Medicine Clinic

The New FY 99 UTA Schedule

01-02 May 99	07-08 Aug 99
05-06 Jun 99	11-12 Sep 99
10-11 Jul 99	

See page A3 for FY 2000 Schedule!!!

as of 21 Mar 99

Fri, 09 Apr 99

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	Bldg 1043, Conf Rm
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	Bldg 1043, TNET Rm
1430	Quarterly Training Review	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1600	TOP 3 Council	Bldg 1030, CLSS Conf Rm

Sat, 10 Apr 99

As Designated by Unit	Sign In	As Designated by Unit
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0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Rm 201C
0800-1600	Ed&Tng Open/Walk-in Service	Bldg 1043, Rm 206
0830-1100	SHOTS (Internal Medicine)	Base Hospital
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
0900-1000	Self-Inspection	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1000	Mobility Rep Meeting	Bldg 1043, TNET Rm
1030	First Sgts Meeting	Dining Hall, Sun Rm
1330-1630	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Col. Collins	Bldg 1043, Rm 102
As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit

Sun, 11 Apr 99

As Designated by Unit	Sign In	As Designated by Unit
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0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	Bldg 1030, Classroom 2
0730-0800	Catholic Chapel Service	Bldg 1043, TNET Rm
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
0730-1030	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
0815-1115	HAZCOM Tng	Bldg 1030, Classroom 2
0800-1115	<u>CDC/PME Course Exams</u>	<u>Bldg 460, Rm 213</u>
0800-0900	Personnel Systems/App'l Trng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
1000-1130	HRDC (All Groups)	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1045	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1130	LTs Luncheon	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1230-1630	EO 2000 Training	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300	SORTS Mass Briefing	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	OPS Briefing Room
As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit

Fri, 30 Apr 99

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	Bldg 1043, Conf Rm
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	Bldg 1043, TNET Rm
1600	TOP 3 Council	Bldg 1030, CLSS Con Rm

Sat, 01 May 99

As Designated by Unit	Sign In	As Designated by Unit
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0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Rm 201C
0800-1600	Ed&Tng Open/Walk-in Service	Bldg 1043, Rm 206
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
0900-1000	Self-Inspection	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1000	Mobility Rep Meeting	Bldg 1043, TNET Rm
1030	First Sgts Meeting	Dining Hall, Sun Rm
1330-1630	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Col. Collins	Bldg 1043, Rm 102
As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit

Sun, 02 May 99

As Designated by Unit	Sign In	As Designated by Unit
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0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	Bldg 1030, Classroom 2
0730-0800	Catholic Chapel Service	Bldg 1043, TNET Rm
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
0730-1030	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
0815-1115	HAZCOM Tng	Bldg 1030, Classroom 2
0800-1115	<u>CDC/PME Course Exams</u>	<u>Bldg 460, Rm 213</u>
0800-0900	Personnel Systems/App'l Trng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
1000-1130	HRDC (Retention Group)	Bldg 1043, TNET Room
1000-1100	HRDC (Mentoring Group)	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
1030-1130	HRDC (Recruiting Group)	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1045	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1130	LTs Luncheon	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1230-1630	EO 2000 Training	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300	SORTS Mass Briefing	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	OPS Briefing Room
As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit

EDUCATION

Air Force Reserve members wishing to take the ACT, SAT I, RCEP, GRE, GMAT, PRAXIS, or LSAT contact **SMSgt. Epps** in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

OFFICER PME, JOLDS OR ANY SPECIAL OFFICER COURSES

Contact **MSgt. Dennis Cain** at 734-7075

Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted **monthly** in Bldg 1030, Classroom 1 (Room 217). **Unit training managers are responsible for ensuring their new personnel are scheduled to attend** within 90 days of their first UTA. If you have any questions, contact the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

		<u>Phase I</u>	
	Time	Subject	OPR
Saturday	1330-1400	Security Awareness (C4 SATE)	CF
Saturday	1400-1500	Drug and Alcohol	SG
Saturday	1500-1530	Local Conditions-Traffic	SE
Saturday	1530-1630	Human Relations	SA
		<u>Phase II</u>	
Sunday	0730-0800	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0800-0930	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	0930-0945	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0945-1045	Counter Intel/Protection from Terrorism	SP

UCMJ Briefing:

All enlisted personnel are required to have the UCMJ briefing within two UTAs of their first reenlistment. This briefing is held during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0800 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Classroom 1.

Ethics Briefing:

All reserve personnel are required to have the DOD Ethics Briefing within 90 days of reporting for duty. This briefing is held in conjunction with the UCMJ briefing during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0800 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Classroom 1.

Disaster Preparedness:

Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical Warfare Training, by name, at least one UTA prior to the requested dates by calling CEX at 734-4460. All personnel must bring a complete training ground crew ensemble (GCE) including the mask and its hood to all classes. Those attending Initial must be prepared to process through a tear agent chamber. Wear of contacts is prohibited in all classes. Anyone arriving late, without a complete GCE with mask, or wearing contacts, will be released back to their unit and reported as a no-show.

Drug Testing: You must report within two hours of notification.

FY 2000 UTA SCHEDULE

02-03 Oct 1999
 06-07 Nov 1999
 04-05 Dec 1999
 08-09 Jan 2000
 05-06 Feb 2000
 04-05 Mar 2000
 01-02 Apr 2000
 06-07 May 2000
 03-04 Jun 2000
 15-16 Jul 2000
 05-06 Aug 2000
 09-10 Sep 2000

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If your SSAN ends with a 4 or 9 you have until 30 Apr 1999 to recertify your BAQ or have it terminated. Please see your Unit BAQ monitor to complete the AF Form 987. 507th Pay sends the list to Unit BAQ Monitors who must return the list complete with all recertifications to the Military Pay Section. **NOTE: If you don't have dependents, you do not need to recertify.**

Military Pay

File for pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
13 Apr	21 Apr
15 Apr	23 Apr
20 Apr	28 Apr
27 Apr	05 May
29 Apr	07 May
04 May	12 May
11 May	19 May
13 May	21 May
18 May	26 May
20 May	28 May
27 May	04 Jun

This publication is brought to you by your friendly MPF Education and Training staff. If you need assistance or have suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please call us at (405) 734-7075, or stop by our office in Bldg 1043, Room 206.

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Assistant Editor: MSgt. Dennis O. Cain, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)
Contributing Editors: TSgt. Sharon Lochman, NCOIC, Schools and OJT (ART)
 TSgt. Scarlet McCloud, Education and Training Advisor
 Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor

May 1999

TRAINING PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Note: 2 May - MPF IN-HOUSE TRNG 0800-0930						1 UTA 72 APS Static Load Tng
2 UTA •72 Training continued- -C-5, C-17, C-14 •HAZCOMM Trng 307 RHS Electric Distribution Project 2-15 May	3	4 MOBEX Meeting 0800	5	6 MOBEX Meeting 0800	7 Blood Drive	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY 307 RHS Electric Distribution Project 2-15 May	10	11 MOBEX Meeting 0800 MPF In-House Trng 0730-0900	12 SLC Business Meeting SNCOA Class 99-D 12 May - 23 Jun 98	13 MOBEX Meeting 0800	14 \$\$\$\$ Submit 3080 Requirements to host base command	15 15-29 - CES Fire- fighters to Spangclalem
16 307 RHS Electric Distribution Project 16-29 May	17	18	19 - 20 ALPENA MI - Wing Deployed ORE 15 - 23 May 1999 "Overall Window"		21	22 Quality Awareness Training AFMC CLSS-wide exercise 20-23 May Davis Monthan AFB
23 Quality Awareness Training	24	25	26 SLC Planning Meeting	27	28	29 72 APS AT McChord AFB 22 May - 5 Jun
30 307 RHS ELECTRIC DIST PROJECT 30 May - 26 June	 31 Memorial Day					

Some medications may cause depressing results

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Reservists who take certain psychotropic medications daily may disqualify themselves from worldwide duty.

"Air Force Reserve Command policy on the use of psychotropic medication, usually antidepressants, is often misunderstood," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Alan Berg, the command's chief of physical standards, aerospace medicine branch.

Base-level flight surgeons and commanders often call to ask for clarification, he said.

"I regularly review medical examinations for worldwide duty determination that state the member is taking a medication on the 'proscribed list,' but there is no such list," said Berg. "Nor is being on the medication the sole reason for a disqualification decision - I've disqualified only one reservist in two and one half years just for being on a psychotropic medication, and that was someone who would not tell me the reason they were taking it."

The command's policy has been in effect for at least the past five years and was validated by a board-certified psychiatrist, Col. (Dr.) John Burkins, then chief of the command's aerospace medicine division.

"The policy was based upon outcomes observed during Operation Desert Storm, when some deployed military members who were taking antidepressant medication could not cope with the increased stresses of the combat environment," said Burkins.

Some causes of increased stress included travel across multiple time zones, increased duty-day length, and the threat of Scud missile attacks. The result, Burkins said, was that some members became withdrawn and ineffective in completing the mission. "There are some reservists who remain incapacitated due to the psychic traumas they experienced, and this could have been prevented if their true diagnosis and need for psychotropic medication had been identified before deployment."

According to the Food and Drug Administration, the use of these medications is for serious psychiatric conditions. The command policy is that the use of psychotropic medication is a flag to the military doctor that the patient may have a serious psychiatric condition, which could potentially conflict with the safe performance of military duty. It is the evaluation of the condition which is the issue. However, it is becoming common practice for family doctors to prescribe them to anyone who is sad, feeling down or having difficulty sleeping for various reasons, Burkins added.

Waivers for the use of psychotropics may be granted when the diagnosis is not a psychiatric reason or when it relates to a stressful situation in life, such as a divorce or death of a family member. (AFRC News Service)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The complete version of this story can be found in the News and Information section at the Air Force Reserve Command's website.

April 1999

AFRC News Summary

This summary is intended to give the reader a brief look at some Air Force Reserve events which recently occurred.

Force structure changes affect Reserve units in 9 states

WASHINGTON - Air Force Reserve Command will expand its space role, realign its special operations units, diversify its training missions, and reduce C-141 positions as part of force structure changes announced by the Air Force March 5.

Changes in the Air Force's force structure are the result of mission changes, adjustments for efficiency, congressional directives and implementation of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force Concept. These changes affect Reserve units in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington.

Wing receives praise for mobility book

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Tanker Airlift Control Elements are an integral part of the Air Force's Global Reach capability. During deployments, they are typically the first ones to set up forward airfield operations.

"That's why it was such an accomplishment to have Air Mobility Command select the 440th Airlift Wing's TALCE deployment handbook as a 'best practice' during a recent inspection," said Brig. Gen. Paul R. Cooper, commander of the 440th AW, Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis.

"The 440th AW developed a superb handbook that incorporates basic mobile command and control information needed to successfully plan and execute deployed operations," explained SMSgt. Craig R. Sands, AMC's TALCE functional manager. "It contains all the checklists needed to successfully function in the ever-changing mobile command and control environments. TALCE units definitely benefit by having a one-stop shopping repository for critical information."

The Wisconsin-based TALCE is the lead unit in Exercise Battle Griffin, a NATO exercise in Norway involving forces from the U.S. Marine Corps, the United Kingdom and Norway. The exercise began Jan. 16 and ended Mar. 15. Up to 28 members of the wing are participating for periods ranging from two weeks up to the 60-day duration from Air Station Vaernes near Trondheim, Norway.

"They not only know how to plan well, but they are relied upon by AMC to execute," said Cooper.

(AFRC News Service from a TIG Brief article)

On-final

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

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A revolutionary new weapon system designed to meet the United States Air Force requirement for active defense against theater ballistic missiles.



AWACS reservist works with new airborne lasers

By 2Lt. Stan Paregien
507th ARW Public Affairs Office

Major Amy Hampton is fast becoming a laser guru. She is the first Air Force Reservist to work on the Airborne Laser (ABL) program, and is currently tasked as an Airborne Laser Liaison Officer for exercise support. This involves real time interaction with other flying and simulation systems in the Air Operations Center to tactically employ the ABL. The Headquarters Air Combat Command Special Management Office (SMO), Langley AFB, Va., is in charge of the program.

The ABL is a revolutionary new weapon system designed to meet the United States Air Force requirement for active defense against theater ballistic missiles. It directly supports requirements for protection against both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The ABL will autonomously detect, track, identify, and destroy theater ballistic mis-

siles in the boost phase of flight while operating at standoff ranges. It also deters launches by destroying them over enemy territory.

The Airborne Laser will be mounted inside a Boeing 747-400 aircraft with a multi-megawatt chemical oxygen iodine laser. It will feature an integral sensor suite for wide-area surveillance and detection, and a fire control/battle management system to allow autonomous salvo engagements against multiple missile launches.

"The ABL office was looking for folks with an AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) background. Because active duty is short of people in this career field, they called Lt. Col. George Gorham, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron Director of Operations, looking for a reserve AWACS

mission crew member to work in ABL development. My husband is an F-16 fighter pilot stationed at Langley AFB, and that's where the program development office is located. I agreed to augment them while coordinating my schedule with the 970th so there's never a conflict between the two," said Maj. Hampton.

"The SMO needed an air battle manager who could see the big picture and would understand theater air integration. I mission planned the exercise for one week back in January and I've done seven weeks of work for them since. I spun up on the program, and was sent to the Netherlands to mission plan a multinational exercise. I will be the liaison officer for airborne laser and tactically employ the ABL thus developing doctrine, which is the exciting part of it for me," said Hampton.

"The reason this project is so important is because it is the only system in development that shoots down theater ballistic missiles in the boost phase."



Maj. Amy Hampton

She is the only person at the SMO who is a mission crew member on a flying platform. ABL planners need this kind of experience base and AWACS overview for project development.

"The ABL program managers appreciate my contribution and would like more help. The SMO is seeking another AWACS reservist to augment them for exercise support," said Hampton.

"The reason this project is so important is because it is the only system in development that shoots down theater ballistic missiles in the boost phase," she added.

The system design will allow worldwide deployment and integration into joint theater battle management architectures. The ABL fleet will be based in the Continental United States. With the inherent long range of the 747 and air refueling capability, this weapon system can be on station in any theater

within 24 hours. Orbit locations will be established based on current intelligence, threats, and level of air superiority achieved.

"We can pass accurate launch and impact point information over the Link 16 for use by everyone in the theater. We are a couple of years away from the prototype aircraft but are using simulation over live flight for the exercises. The results are analyzed for program development," Hampton said.

"Reservists have a wealth of knowledge they can apply in many situations and other jobs than only their primary field to assist active duty. I was an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA) for six years. There are a lot of opportunities for Reservists to excel. You just have to look around and find them," said Hampton.

From 1992 to 1994, she worked at the Theater Air Command and Control Simulator Facility to test various weapons systems. Then she took advantage of another unique opportunity.

"I enjoyed working at Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command as an IMA air operations officer from 1994 to 1998, flying on helicopters, helping to solve problems. My job involved mission planning actual deployments, special operation deployments and working in a joint force environment. I saw many sides of America's forces."

"I'm excited to return to AWACS.

This is my first time in a traditional Reserve unit and it's nice to come back to AWACS since active duty. I enjoyed my IMA experience, but it's not the same as 'sitting in the seat' as a crewmember, and that's why I looked at getting back into AWACS."

"It's challenging. Previously, I was an AWACS weapons director, and now I'm in surveillance. I'm putting all the pieces of the battle puzzle together along with this new piece called ABL. In the next year, I plan to go through AWACS Mission Crew Commander training and continue as an ABL liaison officer," Hampton said.

Maj. Hampton plans on continuing to support ABL exercises well into the future. She is currently participating in Joint Project Optic Windmill #4 at DePeel Air Base, the Netherlands, which

Reserve AWACS unit declares IOC

By 2Lt. Stan Paregien
507th ARW Public Affairs Office

Less than three years after its activation here at Tinker AFB, the 513th Air Control Group, the Air Force Reserve's first and only Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) unit, announced it is ready to take on an expanded role as a full time partner in the national defense by declaring Initial Operational Capability (IOC) on Mar. 8, 1999.

The declaration is a major milestone toward the goal of Full Operational Capability, and makes the unit a readily available resource for Air Staff and Department of Defense planners.

The 513th Air Control Group (ACG) was activated at Tinker AFB in March 1996 as an Air Force Reserve Command unit, flying the E-3 "Sentry" aircraft. The group is already making a difference in supporting the national defense by reducing the flying and maintenance workload tempo of its active duty counterpart, the 552nd Air Control Wing, also located at Tinker AFB.

The Air Force Reserve AWACS unit began proving itself to be a valuable partner to its active duty counterparts soon after activation. "Although we have just declared IOC, we have actually been working 'real-world' missions alongside the active duty for almost two years," said Col. Kenneth D. Suggs, 513th Air Control Group commander.

The 513th ACG participated in its first major deployment of both aircrew and maintenance personnel, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Exercise Central Enterprise 97, just fifteen months after its activation. Soon afterwards, aircrews from the group's operational flying unit, the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, participated in Exercise Baltops 97 in support of a multinational fleet in the Baltic Sea. December 1997 saw group members deployed to the Southeast Air Defense Sector

large force exercise CHUMEX 97-1. The unit took first place in Aerospace Defense Command's 1998 "Top Scope" competition for airborne warning and control systems. Later in the year, the group received the Air Force Association's Outstanding Reserve Unit of the Year Award. The group recently provided backfill support to the active duty AWACS during both the Phoenix Scorpion III overseas deployment and Operation Desert Fox against Iraq. According to Col. Suggs, "While active duty forces were deployed, we flew a continuation of the operational workload by taking an E-3 and an Air Force Reserve crew to Panama assuming an operational rotation in that country."

"We are continuing to build bridges between active duty and reserve forces here at Tinker. Our associate program is a testament to the strength of active duty and reserve crews working together to augment each other. The total force team was made stronger by this mixture than when we started two years ago. Most folks in the 513th Air Control Group have come to us from active duty. Our program allows the Air Force to retain this incredible knowledge and experience base. The Air Force Reserve Command associate program not only keeps highly qualified people participating in the military, it helps reduce the strain of active duty operations tempo," said Col. Suggs.

Eventually, approximately 400 reservists will be assigned to the 513th ACG, with an annual operating budget of \$16.5 million. The group's ultimate goal is to provide six fully qualified 25-member aircrews who will be ready for worldwide deployment at a moment's notice, and a maintenance function fully integrated with their active duty counterparts. Having achieved IOC status, the members of the 513th ACG are enthusiastically looking forward to taking their permanent place as strong partners in support of the nation's defense.

ducing customer waiting time from a few days to eight hours.

In support of the 507th ARW, Adams managed to install and activate the Air Force Command and Control Network (AFC2N) for the wing after repeated failures by others to initialize the system. He troubleshooted, isolated, and initiated a repair for router problems that were keeping the AFC2N circuit from initializing, thus providing the wing intelligence section with vital data for performing missions.

He built a deployable network for the wing that allowed deployed forces to be

connected away from home and played a primary role in upgrading the Metropolitan Area Network from a Novell to a Windows NT Network Operating System, leading a team of communication professionals to complete the upgrade with a minimum of disturbance to users and providing maximum uptime for the network.

These winners are representing the command and competing against units and individuals from other Air Force commands. The Air Force will announce winners of its competition in May.

On-final

April 1999

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



Photos by 2Lt. Stan Paregien



MSgt. Larry Wheatley, 507th ARW Recruiting Office, talks with one of the passengers about the benefits of the Air Force Reserve.



Photo by 2Lt. Stan Paregien

It's official! The Air Force Reserve Command patch can now be seen on the nose of the E-3 "Sentry" AWACS aircraft. Unveiled Mar. 6 on the ramp of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, reservists assigned to the 513th Air Control Group proudly provided tours of the aircraft they fly and help maintain with their active duty counterparts from the 552 Air Control Wing.

April 1999



Photos by Capt. Rich Curry

The new 513th Air Control Group's (ACG) Operations Building was dedicated Mar. 6 during a ceremony presided by Col. Ken Suggs, 513th ACG commander. The building boasts many high-tech features to include underground connectivity to the 507th Operations Group building.



Photo by TSgt. Tyrone Yoshida

TSgt. George Alsbach III (right) is presented a flag, among other plaques, by Maj. Mike Miller, commander of the 507th Mission Support Squadron, during his retirement ceremony Mar. 7. Alsbach retired with 33 years in service.

On-final

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

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Continued from page 8.

AWARDS

a manner allowing them to meet mission schedules on time.

Adams was also cited for assisting the Combined Air Operations Center and establishing procedures for delivery of critical tasking messages through the Secret Internet Protocol Network, reducing message handling and delivery times. He developed procedures for customers to request communications and computer service and support while deployed away from home station, re-

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Update

The following question was asked of employers during a recent Employer Support flight by 507th Air Refueling Wing members:
"How does hiring a reservist help your company?"



Tammy Yoder
York International

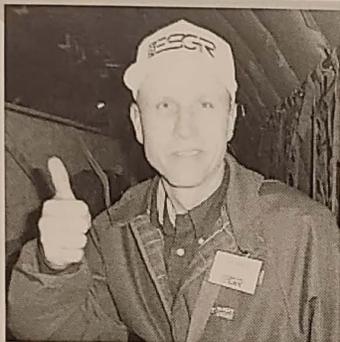
(Pictured with MSgt. Floyd Gordon)

"They [reservists] are very dependable and show lots of respect for company and to the reservist when they leave the job to do their duty."



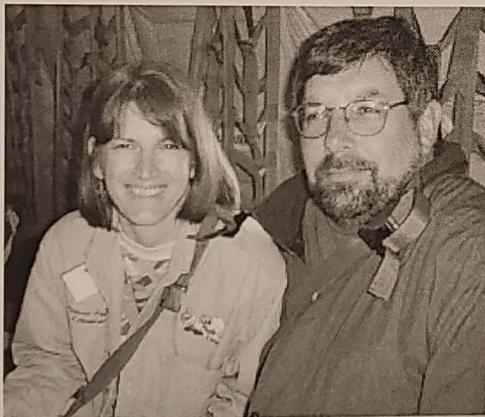
Shannon Phillips
United States Cellular

"It is always a joy to work with reservists. They bring a special leadership, determination, respect, and desire to achieve the best results possible: Qualities that are very desirable in an employee."



Terry Shreve
ODOT

"They [reservist] are reliable, dependable and devoted employees. The reserve employee that works for me is an engineer with high capabilities."



Randy & Tom Reinert
Reinert Paper & Chemical

"The reservist I hired is my general manager. The qualities and capabilities he has as a leader are a tremendous assets to our small, but growing corporation. He is very dedicated to family, company and country."

WHO'S WHO in the 507th Air Refueling Wing



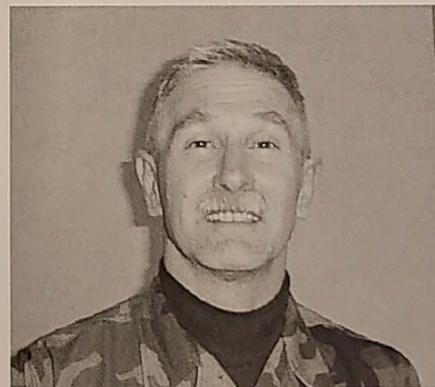
Name: TSgt. Linda Thompson

Position: Firefighter for the 507th Civil Engineer Sq.

Hometown: Altus, Okla.

Hobbies: Camping, fishing, and water skiing

Civilian Occupation: Corrections Officer at Wichita Falls, Texas



Name: SMSgt. Mike Reed

Position: Structures superintendent for the 507th Civil Engineer Sq.

Hometown: Norman, Okla.

Hobbies: Hand loading, ferns, and backpacking

Civilian Occupation: Environmental scientist with the Department of Interior

Federal employees forced to 'eat' official travel costs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS) - Since the Defense Department amended its policy on official travel nearly a year ago, its Office of Hearing and Appeals has received and denied hundreds of appeals from federal employees who inappropriately purchased tickets for official travel.

At Scott Air Force Base alone, more than 20 military and civil service employees have had to cough up nearly \$4,000 because they failed to coordinate their travel plans through a government-approved travel office - a violation of Department of Defense (DoD) policy.

The "rules," which are actually Defense Department directives, specify that when arranging travel, all government employees - military or civilian - must use a commercial ticket office contracted by the government; an in-house travel office such as a base traffic management office; or a General Services Administration travel management center.

Though the rules have been in place since January 1995, they were rarely enforced, said MSgt. Milton Lawrence, chief of customer service for the finance office here. That changed in April 1998, when the Defense Department amended the policy to stipulate that travelers who arranged transportation through a non-authorized ticketing agency were not authorized reimbursement, he said.

"The only exception is if unusual circumstances exist, such as the non-availability of a government-approved ticketing agency," said Lawrence.

The chances of there not being an approved agency to assist a member are slim to none, said Brown, because most contracted travel offices have toll-free numbers people can call any time of day to purchase tickets. They can even request to pick up their tickets at the airport if they're not near the ticketing office.

Lawrence said he believes many people are trying to save the government money when they book their own flights (advanced super-saver fares can often be lower than the government rates), but they are in effect creating a breach of contract.

Benefits for using government-approved ticketing agency, for instance, if travelers need to change their tickets, there are no fees involved and they are protected from any processing fee.

"I've seen many employees who purchased their tickets in advance at a discount rate, only to have their trip canceled," he said. "And guess what? They can't return their tickets or get their money back because they didn't buy the tickets from a government-approved agency."



Photo by 2Lt. Stan Paregien

R-NEWS

Enlisted Advisory Council

The EAC will be holding a car wash during the main UTA in May and will be at the AGE shop area starting at 0900. Proceeds from the car wash will be applied to reducing costs for the wing's upcoming dining out later this year. Donations will also be accepted.

First sergeants needed

Applications are now being accepted for two first sergeant positions by CCMSgt. Robert Kellington, Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 507th Air Refueling Wing. The openings for the first sergeant's positions are with the 507th Aircraft Generation Squadron and the 507th Medical Squadron. Applications must be turned into MSgt. Lane Jones, 507 ARW/DPMSA-Employment NLT 1500, Wednesday, 28 April 1999.

All applicants outside the 507th ARW need to supply an information RIP with their application package. For more information, contact CMSgt. Kellington at 4-6379.

Air Force Online News

The *Air Force Online News* is now available, as of Mar. 17, via the internet. This first-ever Air Force newspaper is chartered to provide balanced coverage of significant issues to people throughout the total Air Force. Anyone with internet access can find this product at its easy-to-remember Web address

<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

Published every Wednesday, *U.S. Air Force Online News* will report on current news of interest across the Air Force. Besides giving Air Force people and their families the news and information that affects them most, the online paper will also provide them an opportunity to express their opinions and voice their concerns to Air Force leaders.

Help unit recruiters by giving them a name, or contact them directly by calling any of the following numbers:

Lawton, OK

TSgt. Nathan Bickle
(405) 357-2784

Tinker AFB, OK

MSgt. Larry Wheatley
TSgt. Rhonda Nolan
(405) 734-5331

Tulsa, OK

TSgt. Bill Thompson
(918) 665-2300

Tinker AFB, OK

MSgt Vic Bradford
(In-Service Recruiter)
(405) 739-2980

Vance AFB, OK

MSgt. Terry Gosh
(316) 652-3766

Altus AFB, OK

TSgt. Ronald J. Salafia
(In-Service Recruiter)
(580) 481-5123

Midwest City, OK

MSgt. Linda Smith
(405) 733-9403

Sheppard AFB, TX

MSgt. Larry Giles
(940) 676-3382

McConnell AFB, KS

MSgt. Terry Gosh
(In-Service Recruiter)
(316) 652-3766
TSgt. David McCormick
(316) 652-4350

