

On-final

October 1999

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



Band strikes Oklahoma



Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Jack Gingerich
507th ARW Commander

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who helped me pull off our recent change of command ceremonies. Although the 507th Operations Group and 513th Air Control Group are not in the same wing, and in fact are in two different numbered air forces, a combined change of command just seemed to make sense to me. And since we were breaking new ground, why not add the pinning of our new colonel, Jim Kerr, as he assumes his new command? I'm sure it kept the executive officers and project officers quite busy trying to coordinate guest lists, invitations, and the "occasional" input from me or Maj. Gen. Bradley's staff. It was a quality event made possible by outstanding support from both organizations. I wish the best of luck to both of our new commanders.

I know many of you are preparing for the upcoming deployments associated with the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF). I also sense your frustration being at the "end of the whip" as our requirements seem to be quite fluid. Filling our AEF taskings is our top priority, but it will take some flexibility on our part until the growing pains settle down. It will also take some patience on the part of our employers, and I trust you to keep them informed. In the long run, this process should give us more predictability in future deployments and help spread the wealth across the command.

As a footnote, keep an eye on what happens with the defense budget during the joint conference sessions. It looks to be one of the best efforts in years to address the many concerns of the military, both active and reserve.

Chaplain's Column

By Chaplain (1Lt) Dwight Magnus
507th ARW Chaplains' Office

I recently toured the Hallmark Cards Visitors Center in Kansas City. Along with various displays they showed a 10 minute film. I expected facts and figures. I watched and listened to the outworking of their corporate philosophy. One statement particularly intrigued me. "Life is a series of celebrations. The trick is to let others in on it."

The cynic in me immediately thought, "Yeah, they are think-

Congressional Bill

Pending a final floor vote, U.S. House and Senate conferees reached agreement on the National Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2000.

A final vote on the bill, which authorizes funding for DOD, is expected after Congress returns from recess. Once the authorization bill is approved, the next step is the appropriations bill that approves an actual budget to carry out the authorizations.

Some of the items effecting active duty and reservists that will go to a vote in the House and Senate include:

- A 4.8-percent across-the-board pay raise for military members in January and a one-time reform of the military pay tables effective July 1.
- Setting annual military pay raises at one-half percent above the annual increases in the Employment Cost Index for fiscal 2001 through 2006. This is significant because it will help narrow the gap that exists between private sector wage growth and military pay that is currently estimated at 13.5 percent.
- Adding \$225 million to accelerate the transition to basic allowance for housing. This would reduce out-of-pocket expenses for military members living in high-cost areas.
- Retirement pay reform giving active duty and Active Guard Reserve (AGR tours) military members the option to choose between retiring under the pre-1986 retirement plan at 2.5 percent of basic pay per year of service over 20 years (up to a maximum of 75 percent) or remaining under the Redux retirement system and receiving a \$30,000 bonus.
- Expanding the authority to pay aviation continuation pay, the pilot bonus given to aviation officers in grades below O-

Continued on page 5. See "BILL."

ing up new celebrations now so they can make a card for it. What better way to let others in on it than buying their card." That said, I think they might have something. It certainly is a positive outlook on life, and serves as a strong guiding principle for their employees.

The Scripture clearly states, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Each day there is something to celebrate. While many do not warrant a Hallmark card, they do warrant a prayer of thanksgiving to our Creator, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

What can you celebrate today? Let others in on it!

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- 513th Air Control Gp.- 2Lt. Mechille Braden

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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...



The Air Force Reserve Command Band Strike Package is in the state and is giving Oklahomans everything they got. See their schedule on page 6 for a performance given near you.

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Sponsoring a Family Day for wing member's families and friends is quite a tasking for the many people who are involved in organizing it and making it meaningful. Add to that, a pin-on ceremony and TWO change-of-command ceremonies and the day becomes more meaningful.

See some of the highlights of the day on pages 8 and 9 and you too will say "And what a Saturday it was!"

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Visit us online at www.tinker.af.mil/507arw/default.html

CLSS Members Provide Self-Help

By 1Lt. Walter Jacques
507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron

When the need recently arose for a modification to the Aircraft Battle and Damage Repair (ABDR) Kit Trailer (affectionately known as the 'war wagon'), 507th CLSS members jumped on the opportunity to make the required modification themselves.

One of the main missions of the CLSS is to provide rapid assessment and repair of battle-damaged aircraft. The war wagon is a mobile trailer containing tools, supplies and other material that is used to make those repairs, that can be rapidly deployed to a battlefield location.

Aircraft battle damage repairs require a lot of structural training and skills, just the type of skills needed for the war wagon modification. The CLSS Maintenance



Photos by 1LT Walter Jacques

(Above): TSgt. David Wood (l) tightens a bolt while TSgt. Thanh Hoang provides backup; (Below) SSgt. Tim Parker drills out a hole for a shop vice)

Flight has teams assembled to perform repairs to KC-135, B-1 and B-52 aircraft. Members of one of the KC-135 teams volunteered to perform the modification, and worked well into the evening to ensure that the project was completed on time. This involved building a large maintenance platform for the trailer, complete with a vice and other workstations that could be incorporated right onto the trailer itself. The platform uses a folded-down side of the trailer, and has fold-out supporting legs. The new platform folds back into the war wagon in an ingenious manner and locks in place to prevent injury.

During drill weekends, the war wagon can be seen on the ABDR Pad, which is located just south of the Family Campground area. On the pad are also a retired KC-135 and a retired F-16 which are now used for battle damage assessment and repair practice.

This is just another example of the 'Can-Do' attitude of the 507th CLSS.

CLSS Officer Takes Scholarship

By 1Lt. Walter Jacques
507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron

2Lt. Jodi Velasco, Distribution Flight OIC for the 507th CLSS, has been awarded the Henry J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship worth \$500, for the 1999-2000 Academic Year.

Velasco found an application for the scholarship while checking out the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) website at: <http://www.roa.org>.

Velasco is also a second-year law student at the University of Oklahoma Law School, with a projected graduation in the Class of 2001. Lt. Velasco has already earned bachelor degrees in Women's Studies and Political Science from the University of Oklahoma. "My future plans in the legal field are unclear, but I am entertaining the thought of criminal litigation," says Velasco. Bad guys, look out.



Air Force Photo

2Lt. Jodi Velasco proudly displays her the Henry J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship.

Another Outstanding Airman

By MSgt. Tommy Clapper
507th Civil Engineer Squadron UPAR



Photo by MSgt. Tom Clapper

So, what do you have to do to impress your son? During the July UTA SSgt. Tony Bird received a coin from CCMsgt. Monty Fields, 4th Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant, for being an outstanding airman. Tony was pleased and happy. But his son, Tony Jr., was not. His family came to pick him up after the UTA and got the opportunity to see him with his coin. Everyone in the unit was impressed and

congratulated Tony. His son, Tony, Jr., only wanted to be held by Dad, having no use for a coin of any kind.

On-final

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

October 1999

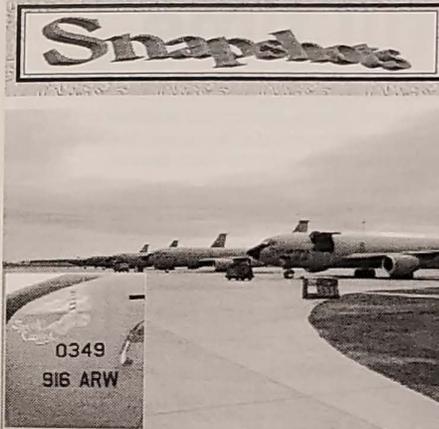


Photo by TSgt. Mitch Chandran

Due to Hurricane Floyd's windy and wet attack on the east coast last month, aircraft assigned to eastern installations, like the above pictured KC-135s from the 916th ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., parked on the 507th ARW ramp, had to temporarily evacuate and relocate to escape potential damage by Hurricane Floyd.

TSgt. Frank Stangl, production coordinator for the 507th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Command Post, receives one of many plagues by Lt. Col. David Beavin, 507th Logistics Group commander, during his retirement ceremony Sep. 11.

Stangl distinguished himself by meritorious service while assigned to the 507th ARW since 1983. As production coordinator, Stangl researched and developed a communications plan encompassing all computer and radio network requirements for the command post among other accomplishments.



Air Force Photo



Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

Electrical lines were placed underground to replace the above ground lines offering many benefits to campus users. Conceived in 1994, the project broke ground May 1999 and completed last month. Col. Gary Mixon, 507th Support Group commander and the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron headed the project with help from many reservists from around the country.

BILL Continued from page 3.

7 through their 25th year of service. The provision also extends the \$25,000 maximum annual amount of the bonus to all contracts, regardless of length.

- \$1.5 billion in increased funding for military readiness; the Air Force portion of this increase is \$648.2 million.
- \$8.49 billion for military construction and family housing; including more than \$650 million for vital military construction projects for the Reserve.

- A requirement for DOD to provide funeral honor details, with a minimum of two uniformed military members, one of which must represent the service of the deceased veteran, for honorably discharged veterans.

"This year, House and Senate conferees confronted especially difficult challenges affecting our nation's security," said Virginia Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Our armed forces are faced with a measurable decline in readiness, troublesome recruitment and retention problems, aging equipment, and newly emerging threats on the horizon," the senator said.

On-final

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

There's still time

Time hasn't run out yet! There's still time to see any one or more of nine different bands of the Air Force Reserve Command Strike Band Package in action at an area near you. Featured acts include High Flight, Reserve Generation, Concert Band, Bagpipes, Jazz Ensemble, Brass and Woodwind

Quintet, and the Dixie Express. Invite your friends, families, and neighbors to any of the following locations and enjoy the pop and classical music provided by your Band of the Air Force Reserve.

Sep. 29

- Concert Band**- 1930: Rose State Auditorium
- Reserve Generation**- 1800: Oklahoma State Fair (B-52 Stage)
- Bagpipes**- 0900: State Capital steps

Sep 30

- High Flight**- 1930: Altus High School
- Reserve Generation**- 1300: Putnam North H.S.
- Brass Quintet/Woodwind Quintet**- 1330: OU Masterclass
- Brass Quintet/Woodwind Quintet**- 2000: OU concert
- Dixie Express**- 2000: Oklahoma State Fair (B-52 Stage)
- Bagpipes**- 1400: VA Medical Center
- Jazz Ensemble**- 1530 & 1900 Oral Roberts University

Oct. 1

- High Flight**- 1245: Choctaw Jr. & High School
- Bagpipes**- 1700: Oklahoma State Fair (14 Flags Stage)

- Brass Quintet**- A.M.: Oklahoma City area High School
- Dixie Express**- 1800: Parade and Strolling throughout Fairgrounds
- Jazz Ensemble**- 1020 & 1105: Washington High School and the Jazz Clinic (Tulsa)

Oct. 2

- Reserve Generation**- 1400: Altus Fall Festival
- High Flight**- 1800: 507th ARW Dining Out
- Brass Quintet**- 1900: St. Joseph's Old Cathedral
- Dixie Express**- 2100: Oklahoma State Fair (B-52 Stage)
- Bagpipes**- 1900: Strolling through fairgrounds
- Jazz Ensemble**- 1600: Concert in Bricktown

Oct. 3

- Jazz Ensemble**- 1700: Oklahoma Fair Bandshell
- Brass Quintet/Bagpipes**- 1400: Oklahoma State Fair (B-52 Stage)
- Dixie Express**- 1300: Oklahoma City Riverwalk



NCO Academy In-Residence

Listed below are the FY 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
00-1	1	991104-991216	Tyndall AFB, FI
00-2	1	000103-000210	Tyndall AFB, FI
00-3	1	000222-000330	Tyndall AFB, FI
00-4	1	000404-000511	Tyndall AFB, FI
00-5	1	000522-000629	Tyndall AFB, FI
00-6	1	000731-000907	Tyndall AFB, FI
00-7	1	000918-001026	Tyndall AFB, FI

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.

TINKER AFB Airman Leadership School (ALS)

Reservists have now been provided the opportunity to attend the Tinker AFB Airman Leadership School (ALS). The purpose of the school is to (1) Prepare SrA to become effective supervisors (2) Modify SrA's values to appreciate the Profession of Arms (3) Develop SrA's knowledge of Leadership, Followership, Communication, and Profession of Arms. The course length is 24 academic days/189 hours. Students will be awarded 8 semester hours through CCAF upon completion of ALS. You must have 48 months time in service. This course requires a great deal of commitment on the part of individuals selected - time away from job and study. Interested individuals should contact their unit training manager or MSgt. Cain in wing training.

00B 00C 00D 00E 00F
9Nov-15Dec99 14Jan-17Feb00 6Mar-6Apr00 24Apr-25May00 9Jun-13Jul00

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. If you are testing for Course 5A, please call DPMT at extension 47075 at least two days prior to the UTA.

✓ 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."

✓ NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION A list of names has been provided to all First Sergeants concerning the rescheduling of Newcomers from September to October due to Family Day. Please ensure your new people attend this valuable training. Questions may be directed to Customer Service at extension 4-7492.

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

FY1999/2000 UTA Schedule

06-07 Nov 99	06-07 May 00
04-05 Dec 99	03-04 Jun 00
08-09 Jan 00	15-16 Jul 00
05-06 Feb 00	05-06 Aug 00
04-05 Mar 00	09-10 Sep 00
01-02 Apr 00	

as of 15 Sep 99

Fri, 01 Oct 99

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

Sat, 02 Oct 99

As Designated by Unit	Sign In	As Designated by Unit
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0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
0800-1600	Ed&Tng Open/Walk-in Service	Bldg 1043, Room 206
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1000	Mobility Rep Meeting	Bldg 1043, TNET Room
1030	First Sgts Meeting	Dining Hall
1330-1630	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Col. Collins	Bldg 1043, Room 101

As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit
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1800	507 ARW "Billy Hughes Banquet" Tinker NCO Club	
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Sun, 03 Oct 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 Room
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
0730-1030	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
0800-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams	Bldg 460, Room 213
0800-0900	Personnel Systems/Appl Trng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0930-1030	Career Advisors Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1000-1200	HRDC (All Members)	Bldg 1043, TNET Room
1045	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1130	LTs Luncheon	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1230-1630	EO 2000 Training	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300-1400	HRDC (Mentoring Group)	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1300	SORTS Mass Briefing	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	OPS Briefing Room

As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit
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Fri, 05 Nov 99

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	Bldg 1043, TNET Room
1600	Top 3 Council	Bldg 1030, CLSS Conf Room

Sat, 06 Nov 99

As Designated by Unit	Sign In	As Designated by Unit
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0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
0800-1600	Ed&Tng Open/Walk-in Service	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1000	Mobility Rep Meeting	Bldg 1043, TNET Room
1030	First Sgts Meeting	Dining Hall
1330-1630	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Col. Collins	Bldg 1043, Room 101

As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit
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Sun, 07 Nov 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 Room
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
0730-1030	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
0815-1115	Additional Duty Safety Rep	Bldg 1030, Classroom 2
0800-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams	Bldg 460, Room 213
0800-0900	Personnel Systems/Appl Trng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1000-1130	HRDC (Retention Group)	Bldg 1043, TNET Room
1030-1130	HRDC (Recruiting Group)	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1045	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1130	LTs Luncheon	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1230-1630	EO 2000 Training	Bldg 1030, Classroom 1
1300-1400	HRDC (Mentoring Group)	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1300	SORTS Mass Briefing	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	OPS Briefing Room

As Designated by Unit	Sign Out	As Designated by Unit
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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.

AFRC NCO LDP

Listed below are the FY00 NCO LDP class dates:

Class 00A: Phase I 7-11 Feb 00
Phase II 28 Feb- 3 Mar 00

Class 00B: Phase I 5-9 Jun 00
Phase II 10-14 Jul 00

See your Unit Education & Training Manager for more details.

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If your SSAN ends with a 2 or 7 you have until 31 Oct 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:
12 Oct	20 Oct
14 Oct	24 Oct
19 Oct	27 Oct
26 Oct	03 Nov
28 Oct	07 Nov
02 Nov	10 Nov
09 Nov	17 Nov
10 Nov	19 Nov
16 Nov	24 Nov
18 Nov	26 Nov
30 Nov	07 Dec
02 Dec	10 Dec
09 Dec	17 Dec

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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NOVEMBER 1999

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	507 ARW/CC Staff Meeting	• Pre-UTA Meeting • Top 3 Council	UTA	UTA
8	9	10		11	12	13
← Defense Messaging System Conference (507 CF) 14-17 Nov San Diego CA →			507 ARW/CC Staff Meeting	Blood Drive		
15	16	17	4AF Commander's Conference & Raincross Trophy Banquet		20	21
22	23	24		25	26	27
29	7 Habits Training 30 Nov - 3 Dec	30				

McConnell AFB, Kansas news

Opp commands 931st Air Refueling Group

By SSgt. David Brumley
931st ARG Public Affairs Office

A new era began for the 931st Air Refueling Group when Col. Daniel Opp took command of the 931st from Col. Dean Despinoy in a ceremony held at the Emerald City Ballroom on September 18.

The ceremony also included Brig. Gen. Jack Gingerich, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Tinker AFB, Okla., who administered the customary changing of the flags from the outgoing to the incoming commander.

Gingerich praised Despinoy for his leadership skills during his tenure as the 931st leader. "Command is something we relish," said Gingerich, "and under Colonel Despinoy's command, the 931st has seen many great challenges. Maintaining manning levels is critical and the 931st has achieved an excellent record of retention, and great credit goes to Col. Despinoy for doing that."



Air Force photo

Brig. Gen. Jack Gingerich, 507th ARW commander, passes the flag to Col. Daniel Opp who became the 931st Air Refueling Group's commander during his change-of-command ceremony Sep. 18.

get fun," said Despinoy. "That's something that I've wanted to bring to this organization. You're more than one individual, you are members of the 931st ARG, and that makes you special."

Col. Opp concluded the ceremonial round of speeches talking about the joys of taking on the challenges of commanding the 931st. "I'm honored to be a commander," said Opp, "I remember when I was first told of my selection I was on a

natural high. Then reality set in of the incredible responsibilities that comes with this great position."

"What you do is important to this nation," said Opp as he addressed the members of the 931st in attendance. "You're the people who are there when the country calls, and my job is to support you."



Colonel Daniel Opp

Colonel Daniel Opp comes to McConnell Air Force Base from Scott AFB, Ill., where he was the operations officer for the 73rd Airlift Squadron (AS), one of two flying squadrons assigned to the 932nd Airlift Wing. The 73rd AS has an aeromedical airlift mission flying the C-9A "Nightingale" aircraft.

Colonel Opp entered the Air Force in 1981 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He attended pilot training at Reese, AFB, Texas, and was assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Assigned to Detachment 2, 1401st Military Airlift Squadron, he flew both the T-39A and C-12F aircraft and was an instructor and evaluator pilot during his nearly three years at Wright-Patterson.

Following C-5 initial qualification school, Colonel Opp moved on to Dover AFB, Del., as a member of the 3rd Military Airlift Squadron. He separated from active-duty in 1988, joining the 326th Military Airlift Squadron, also at Dover AFB. During the next five years he served as the chief of training, chief of standardization and evaluation, chief pilot, and the assistant operations officer for the 326th.

In 1993, Colonel Opp moved to Dobbins AFB, Ga., as chief of strategic airlift branch for 22nd Air Force. After a little more than two years at Dobbins AFB, he transferred to Scott AFB and took over as operations officer for the 73rd AS.

Colonel Opp is a command pilot with over 7,000 flying hours in the T-41, T-37, T-38, CT-39A, C-12F, C-5A/B, and C-9A aircraft.

FAMILY DAY

September's Unit Training Assembly will certainly be one remembered by many people.

Traditionally, the wing sets aside the Saturday in September and sponsors a Family Day for unit member's families and friends.

This year, the wing participated in a pin-on ceremony, two change-of-command ceremonies, and Family Day making Saturday a day filled with ceremonies, fun, and education.

Col. James Kerr, 507th Operations Group (OG) commander, was the first in line to receive his "set of eagles" when he was promoted to the rank of colonel. Immediately, he then received command of the 507th OG during his change-of-command ceremony from Col. John Fobian.

Fobian took stage after Kerr to receive command of the 513th Air Control Group during his change-of-command ceremony from Col. Kenneth Suggs who took command of the 927th Air Refueling Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mi.



In front of the American flag, Lt. Col. James Kerr receives one of his eagles from his mother and becomes Colonel Kerr at his pin-on ceremony Sep. 11, moments before assuming command of the 507th Operations Group.

And what a Saturday it was!



Col. James Kerr speaks to the audience after assuming command of the 507th Operations Group in his change-of-command ceremony. Kerr was promoted to colonel the same morning prior to his assumption of command.

Maj. Gen. John Bradley, 10th Air Force commander, prepares to pass the 513th Air Control Group flag to Col. John Fobian.



Along with a pin-on and two change-of-command ceremonies, the wing sponsored Family Day for unit member's families and friends. Children, spouses, and friends are featured guests at Family Day. Exhibits, games, and food are the order for the day.



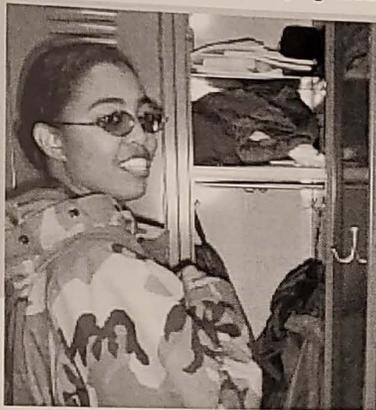
Everyone had a good time. The two guests had a chance to see what it is like to be in the back of a KC-135 "Stratotanker" where the boom operator works when transferring fuel.



There was no shortage of participants for many of the featured attractions. Many guests enjoyed their ride on this year's train.

Update

The following question was asked of members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group:
What do you find most satisfying about your reserve job?



TSgt. Taunya Avery
 507th Aircraft Generation Squadron
 "The amount of training we're always getting."



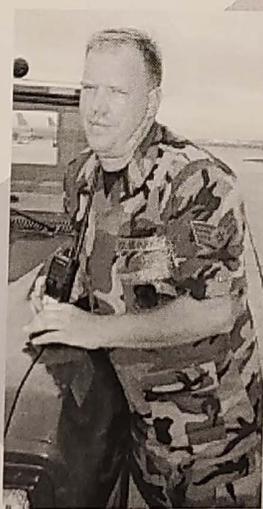
SSgt. Graham Weidner
 513th Maintenance Squadron
 "Being able to deal with challenges I don't get in my regular job."



TSgt. Melanie Sokolove
 513th Maintenance Squadron
 "I like customer service and taking care of my people."



TSgt. Jeffrey Inlow
 507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron
 "The TDY's. I like working with the actives."



SSgt. John June
 507th Maintenance Squadron
 "I like working outside, being always on the go, and keeping busy."

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WHO'S WHO



Photos by TSgt. Melba Koch

Name: 2Lt. Mechille Braden
Organization: 513th OSF/SCO
Position: Communications Officer
Civilian Position: Logistics Mgmt. Specialist Trainee
Hometown: Choctaw, Okla.
Hobbies: Reading, shopping, exercising
Q. Who would play you in a movie?: Demi Moore



Name: 2Lt. Jodi Velasco
Organization: 507th CLSS
Position: OIC Distribution Section
Civilian Position: Univ. of Oklahoma law student
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Hobbies: Triathlons
Q. Who would play you in a movie?: Lucy Lawless

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Air Staff representative visits 513th ACG

By Maj. Rich Curry
 507th ARW Public Affairs Office

Before an assembled audience of 513th Air Control Group (ACG) operations and maintenance members, Maj. Gen. Jim Folsom, Mobilization Assistant, to the Air Staff, stated, "There are a lot of people at the Pentagon who are truly amazed and in awe at what you have accomplished in such a short time."



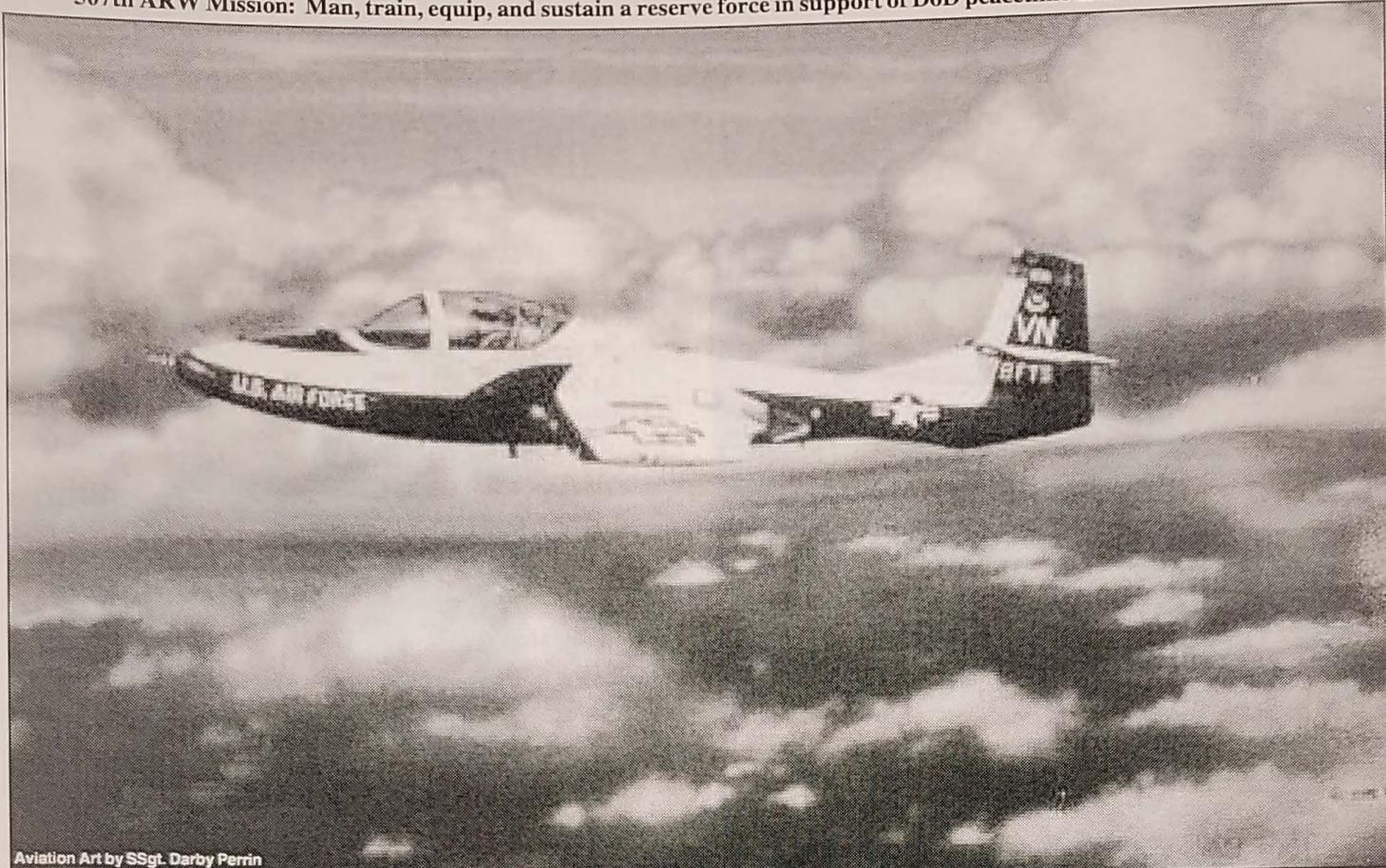
Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

Folsom visited Tinker AFB last month, touring both the 507th Air Refueling Wing Operations and Maintenance facilities, prior to sitting down with members of the 513th ACG for discussion of their concerns and issues.

"You need to realize that you people here are truly unique," Folsom said. Concerns addressed during the session included Reserve operations tempo and discussions currently on-going at Air Staff-level to increase aircrew-manning ratios. "These are issues that are being worked at headquarters," the general said. The general stated that when the Air force Reserve AWAC mission was first created here at Tinker AFB that "there were a lot of people who couldn't see how this mission could possibly be accomplished by Reservists. You've done an excellent job."

The general stated that, while 513th ACG members might not feel fully recognized for their efforts to reduce active duty operations tempo, those efforts do not go unnoticed at Air Staff level. He stated that 513th ACG member's help was needed to continue to innovate and help create ways that permit further lowering of active-duty Operations and maintenance tempos.

Members from the 513th ACG listened as the general explained several examples of how they were assisting active duty forces reduce their tempo to include; reservists taking over maintenance and flying operations on holiday weekends and their activation under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call Up to perform AWAC operations.



Aviation Art by SSgt. Darby Perrin

R-NEWS

New mail drop location

A blue mailbox is expected to be placed by the Shoppette (near the 507th campus). A minimum of two letters per day must be picked up at this location or the mailbox may be removed. The mailbox will be monitored for 3-6 months to determine if it is being used and if it is cost effective.

Government Credit Card

Some concerns were voiced on the use of the Nations Bank Government credit card. The question was raised as to how much advance pay are we authorized. **Results:** Individuals holding a government credit card are authorized to withdraw \$500 through ATM cash advance. The maximum limit to charge is \$4000.

Tinker AFB Job Fair

Tinker AFB's Job Fair will be held Sep. 15 at 0900 to 1500 at the Tinker Officer's Club. This job fair is open to all DoD ID
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card holders and their dependent family members.

Sexual harassment hotline remains available

The Air Force Personnel Center Randolph (AFPC) AFB, Texas, operates the sexual harassment, and other forms of discrimination inquiries, hotline

The numbers are: 1-800-558-1404; DSN 665-2949; or commercial (210) 565-2949.

Counselors are available to take calls during normal duty hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., CST. After normal duty hours, voice mail is available for callers to leave messages. Counselors return after-hours phone calls on the following duty day. Counselors are available 24 hours a day for emergencies or when an immediate response is desired.

Callers with a sexual harassment or discrimination concern are forwarded to a military equal opportunity counselor. Counselors ensure callers understand the avenues available to them and also ensure complaints are channeled to the proper authority.

If you are an artist or photographer portraying past or current military scenes, or 507th specific, and would like to see your work in the *On-final* magazine, contact TSgt. Mitch Chandran at the 507th Public Affairs Office, 734-3078.

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

Tulsa, OK

TSgt. Bill Thompson
(918) 665-2300

Vance AFB, OK

MSgt. Terry Gosh
(316) 652-3766

Midwest City, OK

TSgt. Pam Peterson
SSgt. Mike Gonzales
(405) 733-9403

McCConnell AFB, KS

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

Tinker AFB, OK

MSgt. Larry Wheatley
MSgt. Danny Bretthorst
(405) 734-5331

Tinker AFB, OK

MSgt. Vic Bradford
TSgt. Rhonda Nolan
(In-Service Recruiter)
(405) 739-2980

Altus AFB, OK

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

Sheppard AFB, TX

MSgt. Michael Tubbs
(940) 676-3382



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