

On-final

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2002



Warrior Spirit



507th ARW Mission: Man, train, equip, and sustain an Expeditionary Reserve Force in support of DoD peacetime and wartime taskings.



507th ARW Commander's Column

By Col. Tim Wrighton

Our Warrior Spirit

As we start our new year we cannot and will not forget what has happened to us - our great nation - this past year. We must forever "Be Ready."

We must support our Comrade's In Arms. It is our duty to keep focused on the mission.

Granted, it will be difficult at times, but we must remember we are at war and we are doing our part to fight terrorism. We need to ensure our families are prepared and that they are aware their rights and privileges.

We must be aware of our rights and privileges. Many will be tasked to go beyond what they thought were limited capabilities and will succeed. Many may give the ultimate sacrifice - their lives.

We must always step up in true "SH OKIE" fashion and continue to accomplish our mission/jobs in the most professional manner possible, making a positive contribution, leaving the world a better place for us having been there.

It has taken a crisis to bring us together as a nation and we will do all can to wipe terrorism from the world. Air Mobility Command has proclaimed 2002 as the "Year of Warrior Spirit" and I see it as synonymous with our "SH OKIE SPIRIT." We know how to get things done and can be counted on to meet all demands levied on us.

We are "FOREVER READY ALWAYS THERE."



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

Let's Keep Focused

This past year was a busy one for us. Our tasking was far greater than ever before. We proved to our nation that we were ready to go to war. You stood up to all tasks as advertised. You are absolutely "true heroes...the best." As Brig. Gen. Ben T. Robinson, Commander, 552nd Air Control Wing said earlier of the 513th Air Control Group and the NATO contingent, "The value you add to our nation's beacon of freedom is **undeniable!**" But as the U.S. is finishing up in Afghanistan, let's not lose sight of the fact the war on terrorism is probably going to be a long one. Imagine how foolish it would be for a bystander to approach a marathon runner one mile into a race and ask him when, exactly, he expects to finish.

I want you to know I have not forgotten how many of you have had and continue to have major disruptions in your lives; i.e., family separations, employer changes with reduced incomes, childcare challenges, and the like. For these reasons I will always be concerned for you. But please remember that thousands of innocent American civilians lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Our nation has pulled together to preclude any attack on this scale ever happening again. This is a costly endeavor, and demands many sacrifices. As you all know, our activation is a part of that sacrifice. I am proud to command individuals who have volunteered to be at hand for our nation's call. And it cannot be said enough that never before has there been such an urgent call. May God bless America and the 513 ACG family in the New Year.



From the Chief

by CMSgt. Bob Kellington
507th ARW Command CMSgt.
"Okie Spirit on duty"

Col. Wrighton, Lt. Col. Rossow and I re-

cently had the opportunity to visit our activated Security Forces Squadron. As many of you know they were activated in support of Noble Eagle/Homeland Defense. Our troops have worked many long hours and have received accolades from every corner as to how well they have performed. I was especially proud to hear from a number of civilians and military personnel. "You can tell when the OKIES are on duty. Their professionalism, attitude, and courteousness make

waiting in line to get on base or being stopped and questioned almost enjoyable. Their military bearing has made us proud and we can appreciate what they are doing for us. We love having them here to protect us."

Our troops have endured some hardships but rest assured we are trying to remedy or have remedied some of them. Their spirits are high and they have a sense of purpose. They have a job to do and they are prepared to do it. They have and are living up to President Bush's edict "We will not tire. We will not falter. We will not fail." If and when you should you get the call to activate - remember to show what it means to be a "SH OKIE." Get the job done in an outstanding manner and be proud of what you do and the part you are chosen to play.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition.

This is your news source. Take it home with you to share with family, friends, and employers.

On The Cover



U.S. Air Force Photo

Warrior Spirit: Wartime taskings takes members of the 513th Air Control Group to a deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



507 ARW



513 ACG

CONTENTS

Reservists cope with call ups 4
Unit recognized for quality approach 7
Retirees discuss forming 'Silver' squadron 8
Employer Award program sees increased workload during buildup. 9
'Positive' TB test no cause for alarm. 10
Password creation key to OPSEC success 13

Recruiting web site offers interactive features. 16

DEPARTMENTS

Training Planner. A1-A4
Around The Command. 12
Upclose. 14
Wing News. 15
R-News. 16

NEWS/ INFORMATION/ FAMILY READINESS/ MORE!

507th AIR REFUELING WING and 513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



www.afrc.af.mil/507arw

Reservists cope with call-up

By SrA Robert Sperling

Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Reservists called to active duty to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle are finding a renewed sense of purpose and patriotism as they answer their country's call.

"After the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, I was the only one of my college classmates that was able to be a part of the response," said a senior airman assigned to an Air Force Reserve Command unit from Charleston AFB, S.C. "It is a great feeling to be a part of something good."

In addition to their contributions to America's war on terrorism, the more than 9,000 reservists who have been called up since Sept. 20 are receiving additional pay and benefits while in active-duty status. Their entitlements include increased military pay, basic allowances for housing and subsistence, Continental United States cost-of-living expenses, and medical and dental benefits for themselves and their families while activated.

An activated reservist receives pay based on years of service and grade. For example, a technical sergeant with more than 18 years of service gets \$2,421.30 a month plus basic allowance for housing and basic allowance for subsistence. Current pay tables are available at www.dfas.mil.

A Reserve technical sergeant with the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron at Barksdale AFB, La., said, "The change in pay from civilian life to active duty has been a respectable increase." While on active duty as a fireman, he is augmenting the active force's 2nd CES at Barksdale and will receive approximately \$40,800 annually.

Mobilized reservists receive the same medical and dental coverage as their active-duty counterparts. Their families become eligible for TRICARE benefits depending on the duration of the sponsors' active-duty orders. To help families of reservists activated for Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the Department of Defense has waived TRICARE deductibles for care received since Sept. 14. More information about these benefits is available at www.defenselink.mil/news and www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm.

The activation of reservists has caught some families off guard.

"Our command staff had to set up a support chain for all of the reservists and their families who were unfamiliar with all of the new benefits available to them and to assist them as they transition to active duty," said a lieutenant in a security forces squadron in the western United States.

"The majority of my troops are in good spirits and are very excited to be able to participate in such a worthwhile mission and wish that they could do more," said the SFS operations officer. "We have had troops in our squadron who either recently separated or were about to separate reconsider their decision and re-enlist just to be a part of this mission."

Reserve personnel called to active duty are protected by federal law under the Uniformed Services Re-employment Rights Act of 1994. USERRA provides service members, upon release from active duty, the right to return to their former position or one of similar status, seniority and pay. USERRA applies to involuntary and voluntary duty. For more information concerning USERRA, log on to www.esgr.org.

Reservists and their families are heeding their country's call to arms and doing their best to make a difference. However, for some families, the transition to active-duty military pay and benefits has not been an easy one.

Help is available

Some corporations are stepping up to cover monthly health insurance premiums and other company benefits for their employees.

The Air Force Aid Society can help activated reservists and their families make the transition, especially if paychecks have been slow in arriving. The AFAS supplies families with basic living needs, emergency travel funds, solutions to childcare problems, and emergency assistance loans and grants and more.

Married reservists and their families are not the only ones having to adjust to full-time military service. The Charleston airman was enrolled in law school when the Sept. 11 terrorist attack occurred. "After being activated, I had to put that on hold to pursue the needs of my country," he said. "The really great part about serving my country in this way is that the school is holding my spot in this highly competitive degree program." (AFRC News Service)



A deployed member of the 507th Security Forces Squadron performs a vehicle check at the entry gate of a stateside air base. Members of the 507th SFS have been on active duty status in support of Operation Noble Eagle since Sept. 22.

Volunteer C-141 crews step up pace

By Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Three times a week C-141C Starlifters leave here for Ramstein AB, Germany, in support of a mission dubbed “Atlantic Express.”

Aircraft from Air Mobility Command units, now performing duties elsewhere in the world, usually fly this mission. With no regular departures to Ramstein, supplies and equipment began backing up, so Air Force Reserve Command answered AMC’s request for assistance and took over the job.

Flying the missions are two Reserve C-141 units – Wright-Patterson’s 445th Airlift Wing and the 459th AW from Andrews AFB, Md. Two out of three flights are divided between the 445th AW’s 89th and 356th Airlift Squadrons.

Before flying the three-day round trip to Ramstein AB, crews make a scheduled stop at Dover AFB, Del., where supplies are loaded onto the aircraft and occasionally space-available passengers hitch a ride.

One noteworthy flight took place Nov. 24, when an 89th AS crew transported 11 pallets to Ramstein containing 18,000 rounds of wool blankets. According to the public affairs

erson at Ramstein, the blankets were turned over to

Army to be rigged for airdrop over either northern or southern Afghanistan.

“Our normal flying for a month is approximately 450 hours,” said Maj. John Martino, operations officer. “For the month of October we flew well over 700 hours, which is almost double our normal flying.”

Martino predicted the crews would fly even more hours in

(Air Force Photo by Maj. Ted Theopolos)

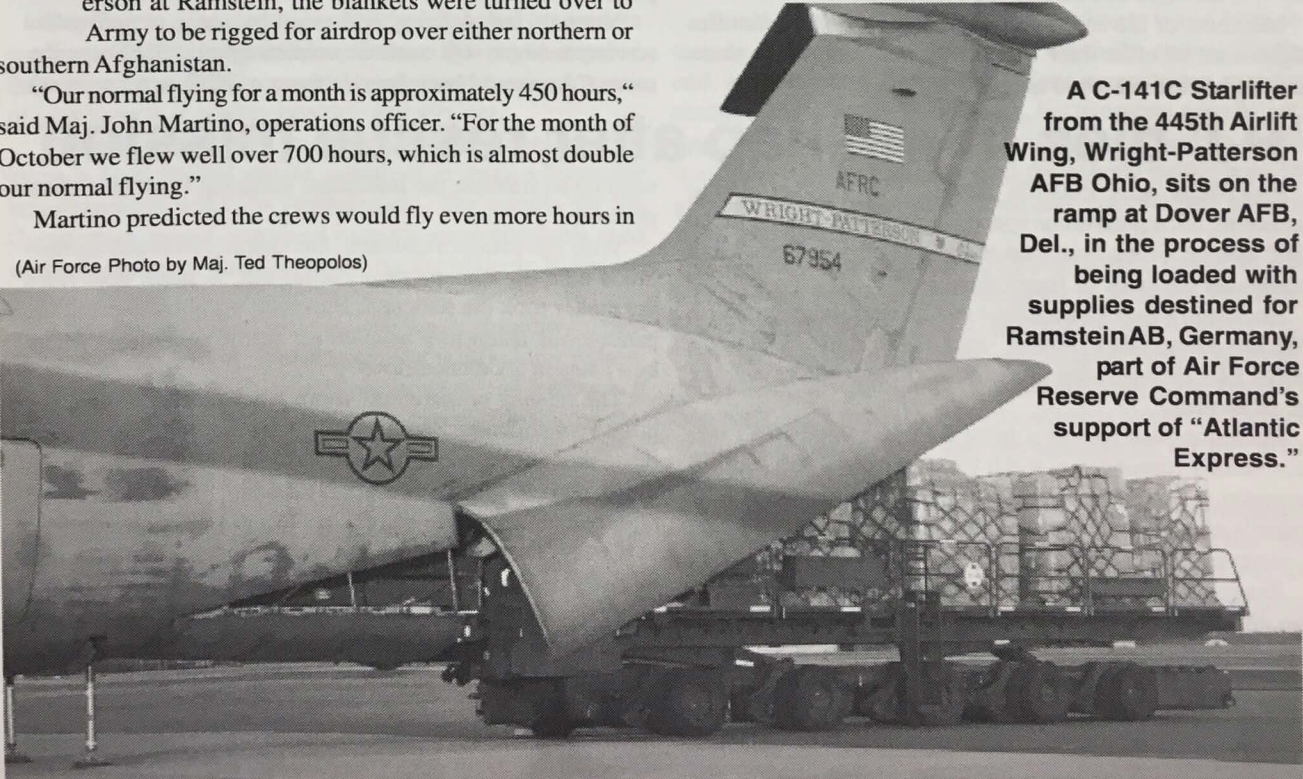
November and he was correct. The reservists logged a total of 569 hours in support of Atlantic Express in October and November. During 31 round trips to Ramstein, they transported 542 tons of cargo and 323 passengers. These missions were in addition to the Ramstein aeromedical evacuation flights, which 445th AW crews also fly.

“I’m pleased and proud that members across the board have stepped forward to volunteer to meet this new tasking,” said Col. James Blackman, 445th Operations Group commander. “Aircrews have been able to fulfill AMC’s missions without being activated.”

Col. Robert Hunter, 445th Logistics Group commander, repeated the same sentiments about his wing’s maintenance crews.

“Maintainers have put in extra hours covering all weekends to meet not only the Atlantic Express surge, but other real-world taskings,” Hunter said. “We are doing this through volunteerism by our full time air reserve technician force and by requesting traditional reservists to help us out.

“Morale is staying high, and we are meeting mission requirements,” he said. “The aircraft are holding up, as are our technicians.” (AFRC News Service)



A C-141C Starlifter from the 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio, sits on the ramp at Dover AFB, Del., in the process of being loaded with supplies destined for Ramstein AB, Germany, part of Air Force Reserve Command’s support of “Atlantic Express.”

DOD announces new ways to thank troops

WASHINGTON – The Department of Defense announced Oct. 30 new ways for Americans to show support for servicemembers deployed overseas.

The initiatives provide alternatives to traditional letter-writing campaigns, which were suspended because of attacks on America. DOD suggests that Americans support the troops by instead helping the communities in which they live.

One way to show support is by doing a good deed on behalf of servicemembers. For example, people can visit a Veterans Administration hospital or nursing home, or volunteer in the local community to help make up for servicemembers who normally would volunteer but are now deployed or otherwise too busy with their duties. Many servicemembers volunteer to coach children's teams, feed the homeless and aid their communities in a variety of other ways. Interested Americans can show their support and honor their military by volunteering in their local communities.

Although many towns do not have a military base nearby, military recruiters are stationed nearly everywhere. Local governments and chambers of commerce are encouraged to reach out to these local members of the military, invite them to speak at community events and encourage members of the community to learn more about America's military.

Members of the community who know military families might want to offer their support by reaching out to those families while their loved ones are deployed.

A number of private organizations are developing Web-based methods for Americans to show support. While donations of food and gifts for delivery overseas can no longer be accepted, interested Americans might contribute instead to military relief societies. For more information see http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2001/n09172001_200109173.html

All of these initiatives are in response to the suspension of the "Any Servicemember" mail program for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. Military postal officials will not be implementing a similar program for Operation Enduring Freedom. Operation Dear Abby, a morale booster for service members overseas for more than 17 years, will also be suspended. DOD officials are working on alternatives to that program as well.

Servicemembers value and appreciate expressions of support from the American people, and these and other mail programs are a significant boost to morale. However, recent mail-related attacks have resulted in additional precautions and safety concerns for servicemembers. The increased manpower required to ensure safe mail handling coupled with the increased volume of mail that letter-writing campaigns generate could exceed capabilities, and therefore cannot be supported at this time.

Normal mail delivery addressed by name to individual servicemembers will continue uninterrupted. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a DOD news release)

'PJ' dies in mishap after rescue mission

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – SSgt. Doug Eccleston, 35, a pararescue specialist or "PJ" assigned to the 920th Rescue Group here died in the line of duty Dec. 7 in a mishap off the coast of Bermuda.

Eccleston's loss hit members of his pararescue unit hard. "We lost a hero and a brother," said MSgt. Harley Doubet, a fellow PJ. "He made the ultimate sacrifice while saving the life of another."

Eccleston was part of a team from the 920th RQG that successfully responded to a call for help from a 600-foot supertanker about 200 miles southeast of Bermuda. One of the tanker's crewmembers needed immediate medical care due to extremely low blood pressure caused by a bleeding ulcer.

Reservists from the Air Force Reserve Command rescue unit deployed from Patrick on an HC-130 aircraft Dec. 7 at approximately 9 a.m. EST. They arrived at the tanker about three and one half hours later.

Three PJs jumped from the HC-130. Once in the ocean, they configured an inflatable Zodiac raft and went to the tanker. They were hoisted onboard the tanker in their Zodiac and

went on to stabilize the individual suffering from low blood pressure.

With the patient stabilized, the tanker continued to Bermuda with the PJs and their Zodiac raft. A small boat from the tanker took the patient to Bermuda. At about 9 p.m., the patient was taken to a hospital for further treatment where he's listed in good condition.

The mishap occurred off shore when Eccleston and another PJ were in the Zodiac, while it was being lowered from the tanker into the ocean. The Zodiac somehow capsized and threw both PJs into the water. The other PJ was recovered rapidly, but there were no immediate signs of Eccleston.

Coast Guard personnel and others joined the 920th crew on an immediate search operation. Eccleston's body was found about three hours later at around midnight.

A memorial ceremony for Eccleston was held Dec. 11 at Pelican Park in Satellite Beach, Fla. Funeral services were in Midland, Texas, Dec. 13.

The cause of the mishap is being investigated. (AFRC News Service from a 920th RQG news release)

507th ARW recognized for quality approach

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs Office

The Oklahoma Federal Executive Board (OFEB) presented the Cornerstone Award to the 507th Air Refueling Wing during an awards ceremony held December 11 in Oklahoma City. In addition to being named the first ever overall award recipient for this new annual program, the wing also won five out of six subcategories.

"This is great news," said Col. Tim Wrighton, 507th ARW commander. "Within the Air Force we have our own awards program and our unit has been repeatedly recognized for what we're doing to accomplish our mission. Our receiving this award serves as outside-the-box recognition of the quality of our reservists and the processes we use to get the job done."

The Oklahoma Federal Executive board is an affiliation of federal executives with a charter to improve cross-agency communication by focusing on idea exchange, inter-agency cooperation and partnership to improve customer services. By breaking down traditional concepts of various federal agencies operating in isolation, the overall goal of OFEB is to improve federal government efficiency and reduce overall costs. Any federal executive, by their employment in federal service, can participate in either council or committee activities.

The Cornerstone Award is a newly developed program to recognize federal organizations that are striving to improve their overall performance and demonstrate sustained trends of providing high quality products and services.

The goal of the award program is to both recognize excellence in local federal service as well as to create a forum for benchmarking ways for improvement. The criteria for the Cornerstone award is derived from the same standards used in the Presidential Quality Award and the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award programs.

According to OFEB officials, the Cornerstone award program is unique because it assists applicants in building a stronger application through individual evaluation and feedback. It also allows the applicant to use the criteria for self-assessment throughout all levels of their organization.

"What's unique about this program is that any Federal, or for that matter state or some civilian companies, could use the criteria to assess their effectiveness," said Capt. Don Satterlee, of the 507th ARW Performance Planning Office. "The award criteria allows you to take a detached, unemotional look inside your organization."

Satterlee said that government agencies especially could reap multiple benefits from applying the criteria since it provides a framework to assess and measure overall performance. "We have our unit processes established and we know



Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

Capt. Don Satterlee and Ms Kim Hinkston of the 507th Performance Planning Office stand beside Col. Tim Wrighton, 507th ARW commander, to display the array of awards received from the Oklahoma Federal Executive Board recently.

they work well. But by preparing our award nominations and applying our processes against the award criteria, we can learn ways to do our jobs better."

While preparing the unit award packages was a time-intensive effort, Satterlee said it was worth the energy. "In the end, anyone who submits wins. Your organization may get recognized for what you're doing, but everyone wins by getting a better understanding of how they can improve on the way they conduct business. And the general public wins by getting a better customer-focused and cost-efficient government," he said.

In addition to receiving the Overall award, the 507th also received top honors in the categories of Strategic Planning, Customer and Market Focus, Information and Analysis, Human Resource Focus, and Process Management. The award for the final sub-category of Leadership went to the Veteran's Medical Center in Oklahoma City, which is headed by Stephen (Col.) Gentling, who is also the commander for the 507th Medical Squadron.

Wrighton expressed his congratulations and appreciation to his wing's reservists and also stated, "This is not the 'end of the road' for us. We have been recognized for the way we get the job done, but we also know that this is an on-going process. Our nomination packages can help provide additional direction for the future. We must always continue from where we are and continue to look for ways to improve on what we must do."

Retirees discuss creating 'Silver' squadron

By TSgt. George Proctor
507 Civil Engineer Squadron

During the December 2001, meeting of the 507th Breakfast Club, an informal organization of retired 507th Air Refueling Wing and 937th Troop Carrier Group personnel, the advantages of affiliating with the 507th ARW as a Silver Squadron was the casual topic of conversation.

Former 507th ARW commander, retired Brig. Gen. John Gingerich, said that one advantage would be that the retirees could stay in touch and informed of what was happening in the unit.

Former 507th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Terry Mock, observed that a relationship between the reserve retirees and the 507th, similar to the affiliation the Grey Eagles have with the Air National Guard, would garner recognition for the retirees and their accomplishments.

Gene Clayton, a retired master sergeant, and leader of the group, was of the opinion that everyone would benefit if the proposed Silver Squadron had their own office on base and administrative support from the Wing to assist with mailings and other paperwork.

The 507th Breakfast Club meets on Saturdays from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Golden Corral on Air Depot Boulevard in Midwest City. The organization will meet next year on March 30th, July 27th, and December 7th. For more information, please contact Gene M. Clayton at 672-0469.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dwight Magnus
507th ARW Chaplains' Office

My sister-in-law, while living in Minnesota, was told by one of her friends of a peculiarity of southerners. It seems we tend to couch our criticism or gossip of another individual with the phrase, "Bless their heart!" For example, "Poor Joe, bless his heart, he just got another speeding ticket."

Well, if you're Joe, that is not going to bless your heart. To encourage Joe or anyone else, follow the advice of Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Filter your words about another through three questions:

- 1) Will this encourage them?
- 2) Is there a need for them?
- 3) Is it the right time?

If you resolve to be quick to listen and slow to speak, you will be well on your way to a happy new year.

Have a God blessed New Year!



Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Jeremy Overton, 513th Air Control Group, Operations Support Flight, poses with his supervisor Capt. Diane Lamb after his mid-November Academy of Military Science graduation ceremony. Lieutenant Overton received his opportunity for advancement through his unit's Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

Did You Know?

If you become locked out of your computer after three or more attempts of entering your password, leave it alone. Your machine will reset by itself if you wait 15 minutes.

FREE COLLEGE TESTING

Air Force Reserve members, spouses and civilian employees may take DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) or College-Level Examinations Program (CLEP) or Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) FREE! (Military Only for Excelsior examinations). These examinations test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel, or hobbies. 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. **For more information contact CMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.**

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Become a certified professional in a field related to your military training. DANTES and AFRC funded certification examinations are available for certain career fields. Go to <http://www.voled.doded.mil/dantes/cert/index.htm> and click on USAF Matrix which identifies the eligible AFSCs, certification exams available and internet addresses for more info. If you desire to take an exam, **contact CMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.**

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Reserve members are eligible to apply for Tuition Assistance (TA) for Distance Learning and In-Residence courses to further their education up to a Master's Degree.

The basic enrollment requirements are that, you must:

Be a participating member in good standing (no UIF, Article 15, etc.).

Must have two years retainability at time of application.

Enroll and pay for the course up front. Bring receipts for tuition.

Complete TA forms in our office PRIOR to class start date.

After satisfactory completion of class, you will be reimbursed 75% (tuition only) per course, not to exceed \$3500 per FY.

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

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
2002-4	1	16 Apr - 23 May 02	Tyndall AFB, FL
2002-4	1	17 Jun - 24 Jul 02	McGhee Tyson, TN
2002-6	1	05 Aug - 12 Sep 02	Tyndall AFB, FL
2002-7	1	23 Sep - 31 Oct 02	Tyndall AFB, FL

TRICARE/DEERS

It is imperative for anyone who is on active duty orders for 30 days or more and plans on using TRICARE benefits must get themselves and their dependents an active duty ID card as soon as possible. Not doing so may create problems in receiving benefits. Questions should be directed to the Customer Service Section at extension 47492.

HOT TOPICS :

CDC Testing is accomplished at 0750 on Sundays of the (main) UTA. You do not have to schedule it, just be there NLT 0750 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 at 0800 and 1300. 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 allowed to test.

If you are testing for Course 5A, call DPMT at x47075 at least two days prior to the UTA. Course 5 tests are also given Tues at 0730, Wed at 0800 & 1300, and Thurs at 1530. Call for appointment.

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."

Pass and ID Hours of Operation: 1200-1600 on Saturdays of the UTA.

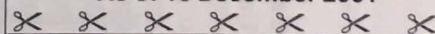
IEU OPEN FROM 1200-1500 ON SATURDAY OF THE MAIN UTA.

Nomination packages for AMN, NCO, or SNCO of the quarter are submitted quarterly. Packages are due by COB, on Saturday of the UTA after the end of the quarter. (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)

FY2002 UTA SCHEDULE

02-03 Feb 02	01-02 Jun 02
02-03 Mar 02	13-14 Jul 02
06-07 Apr 02	03-04 Aug 02
04-05 May 02	07-08 Sep 02

As of 18 December 2001



Fri, 04 Jan 2002

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 1048

Sat, 05 Jan 2002**Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed
0815-0930	Unit Career Advisors Mtg
0900-1000	6 Month Contact Mtg
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting
1200-1600	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng
1330-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg
1600-1630	Protestant Chapel Service

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated**

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
Bldg 1043, Room 206
To Be Determined
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
To Be Determined
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
513th ACG Conf Room

Unit Designated**Sun, 06 Jan 2002****Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng
0750-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II
0830-1030	HAZCOM (Non-Supervisor)
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council
0930	Catholic Chapel Service
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers
1100-1300	"CGOLD"
1200-1600	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Vardaro
1500	Fly Safety Mtg
1500	Wing Commander's Call

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated**

513th ACG Conf Room
Bldg 1043
Bldg 460, Room 213
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Base Chapel
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
To Be Determined
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Bldg 1043, Room B-1
OPS Briefing Room
Base Theatre

Unit Designated**Fri, 01 Feb 2002**

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 1048

Sat, 02 Feb 2002**Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed
0815-0930	Unit Career Advisors Mtg
0900-1000	6 Month Contact Mtg
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting
1200-1600	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng
1330-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg
1600-1630	Protestant Chapel Service

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated**

Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
Bldg 1043, Room 206
To Be Determined
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
To Be Determined
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room

513th ACG Conf Room**Unit Designated****Sun, 03 Feb 2002****Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng
0750-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II
0830-1030	Unit Safety Rep
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council
0930	Catholic Chapel Service
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers
1100-1300	"CGOLD"
1200-1600	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Vardaro
1500	Fly Safety Mtg

Unit Designated Sign Out**Unit Designated**

513th ACG Conf Room
Bldg 1043
Bldg 460, Room 213
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Base Chapel
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
To Be Determined
Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Bldg 1043, Room B-1
OPS Briefing Room

Unit Designated

SERVICEMEN'S GROUPLIFE INSURANCE (SGLI)

A reservist who is called to active duty upon mobilization will automatically receive SGLI coverage at the maximum coverage amount (\$250,000) effective on the date of mobilization. The reservist may decline or elect coverage in any lesser amount evenly divisible by \$10,000 increments by completing and submitting the Form SGLV 8286, SGLI ELECTION AND CERTIFICATE. The reduction or cancellation is effective the first day of the next month following receipt of the election. If the member desires maximum coverage, no action is required. Premiums will be deducted from the mbr's pay during coverage periods.

Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted monthly in Bldg 201, Base Education Building. 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.

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
		Phase I	
Saturday	1330-1400	Information Assurance	CF
Saturday	1400-1500	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Saturday	1500-1530	Local Conditions-Traffic	SE
		Phase II	
Sunday	0800-0830	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0830-0845	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0845-1015	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	1015-1115	Human Relations	ME

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 0845 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 201, Base Education Building.

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 0845 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 201, Base Education Building.

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.

Military Pay

File for payby:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
10 Jan	21 Jan
14 Jan	23 Jan
17 Jan	27 Jan
22 Jan	30 Jan
28 Jan	06 Feb
31 Jan	10 Feb
05 Feb	13 Feb
11 Feb	20 Feb
13 Feb	24 Feb
19 Feb	27 Feb
25 Feb	06 Mar
28 Feb	10 Mar

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is: Then Forward Listing to Unit Commander in: Recertification due in by end of month in:

1	November	January
2	December	February
3	January	March
4	February	April
5	March	May
6	April	June
7	May	July
8	June	August
9	July	September
0	August	October

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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January 2002

January 2002							February 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28		
27	28	29	30	31									

TRAINING PLANNER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
	January 1, 02 Air Force Association Aerospace A New Year's			1:00pm Pre-UTA	507th UTA 6:00pm Hughes Award Banquet
7	8	9	10 9:00am UCI WG -- Minutes (Trask Marilyn A Civ 507 ARW/CCA)	11	507th UTA
14	15 Institute of Navigation Awards	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24 Honor Guard Annual Banquet 6:00pm Tinker AFB Honor Guard Banquet (E-Club)	25	(20 Jan 02 SJSP) Outstanding Cl
28	29	30 ASEV	31		

Employer award program sees increased workload

By Maj. Rich Curry

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Since the Sept. 11 attack, officials at the National Committee for Employer Support (ESGR) of the Guard and Reserve have reported a 25 percent increase of applications for the "My Boss is a Patriot" (MBIAP) Certificate of Appreciation.

The "My Boss is a Patriot" Award program was established by the National Committee as a way for reservists and guardsmen to thank employers for their support. ESGR officials state the awards serve to generate good will, "ESGR awareness" and are highly encouraged.

According to MSgt. Bob Krenke, ESGR Employer Operations manager, "During the nearly four years I've served as manager of the Employer Recognition program I have seen the impact that this program has in garnishing support among employers for approximately 1.3 million reserve component members in the seven reserve components." Krenke stated that on average more than 20,000 MBIAP requests are received per year.

Krenke explained that due to a higher headquarters-directed budgeting review process, the MBIAP program had been suspended from last May until October. "We had an 8,000 nomination request backlog for that period, but our new contractor has pretty much caught back up."

Krenke stated that currently there are three methods that may be used to nominate an employer. Completed nomination forms may be mailed, faxed or nominations may be submitted on-line via the ESGR website at <http://www.esgr.org/formMBIAP.html>. Nominations received are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

While ESGR officials state they will continue to accept and process both mail-in and FAXed nomination submissions, they caution that these submissions require manual processing and take much longer to complete than those submitted on-line. ESGR officials said that eventually this old system would be phased out to solely accepting on-line applications.

ESGR has also changed their procedures for on-line submissions Krenke said.

"Previously, ESGR used to send the certificate to the unit

commander for their "chop" and assistance in presentation of the 'My Boss is A Patriot' certificate," he said, adding "It has been determined that the best possible procedure for the MBIAP program is to provide the certificate directly to the Reserve Component member who submitted the nomination. This will put the certificates in the hands of the service member in a very timely fashion."

Service members then have the option of presenting the certificate themselves, or arranging for their commander to assist in the presentation.

According to a Department of Defense new release of December 12, 542 reservists and guardsmen have been activated within the state of Oklahoma. Since September 11, the Oklahoma ESGR committee has received notice of roughly 100 submitted nominations, according to Faye Norton, OKESGR Awards Committee Chairman. She added that a total of approximately 231 Oklahoma nominations were submitted for the year thus far.

Court limits federal employees reinstatement rights

(From the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve)

Federal employees who go on active military duty may see their job restoration rights limited under certain circumstances under a recent decision (Woodman v. Office of Personnel Management, 00-3414) from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The court said that reemployment rights of employees who go on active Guard or Reserve duty do not apply for those who "abandon" their federal civil service careers.

The case involved a former "dual status" National Guard technician who voluntarily went on Active Guard Reserve duty, requested a series of extensions, eventually qualified for military retirement and then applied for reinstatement to his civilian position and was denied that request.

The court noted that reemployment rights in general apply for only five years and that the employee served a total of 14 years in the military after leaving his civilian position. The court said that although he never formally resigned from his civilian job, his actions "created a de facto resignation by indicating that he never intended to return to his civilian position."

The court's decision in the Woodman case not only sets precedent for employees taking extended Guard or Reserve active assignments but also provides an overview of the current state of reemployment law that is of vital interest to the more than 100,000 federal employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve.

Did You Know...

According to the National Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve the 507th Air Refueling Wing currently leads the Air Force Reserve Command with the largest number of Employer Appreciation Certificate nominations?

Organ donors sought

By Michael Grady
507th Avionics

It's a new year and a time for new beginnings. The best example of a new beginning is the hope that is generated by organ donation.

Why an article about organ donation at the beginning of the year? Simply, because organ donations are desperately needed so some can begin a new life.

I received a call from a dear friend who lost his daughter in a motorcycle accident. He was devastated, of course, but the one comfort that he had was knowing that his daughter's death brought life to one who would die if a liver were not available within the week. We will come back to my friend in just a moment, but first, I would like to answer some of the questions that you have about organ donation; I know because they are the same questions that I asked Phil Van Stavern of the Organ Sharing Network here in Oklahoma.

There are two myths that need to be dispelled immediately. A donor's family is not charged for the removal of the organs after approval has been received from the family. The Organ Sharing Network gratefully takes up that cost. The grief of the family is not exacerbated by having to pay for the surgical procedure. The second myth is that there is no conspiracy to harvest organs while the donor is still alive. In fact, one of the stipulations for donating organs is that the donor must have been declared brain dead while on a respirator because the organs must be kept warm and viable to be used. However, if one dies a sudden death, he or she may still be a tissue donor, which includes giving of heart valves, skin, bone, veins and arteries, and corneas.

Most organs are capable of being transplanted. The two organs that are most needed are the heart, because that is the most desperate situation, and the kidneys, because of the sheer numbers that are needed. Two-thirds of the national and local needs involve kidneys, but since those needing kidneys can be treated by dialysis while waiting for a donor, the need is not as great as other organs. There are some circumstances that prohibit organ donations: HIV or AIDS, Hepatitis B, and metastasis cancer. Mr. Van Stavern said that if the proposed donor was cancer-free for five years, then the viability of donation would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Diabetes and high blood pressure are no longer considered exclusionary. Possible recipients on the waiting list are placed there by their individual physicians and, based on the nearness of death, are prioritized by need, not by how much money or how famous the recipient is.

Now, back to my friend. If he were asked by anyone if organ donation was worth it, he would give a resounding yes.

When I asked Mr. Van Stavern why anyone should consider donating organs, he very quickly answered that is the right thing to do. "Most donors, he said, "die violent deaths, and the families would consider their deaths meaningless if they did not have the comfort of knowing that someone else was given a second chance." So consider giving the gift of life by deciding to be an organ donor, and tell your family of your decision. While as many as 65 percent express an interest or intent to be an organ donor, statistics show that only 30 percent actually tell their families. For additional information, call the toll-free number for the Oklahoma Organ Sharing Network: (888) 580-5680.

During this time of year, do what is truly representative of the season: Give hope by giving the gift of life. Decide to be an organ donor. It is the right thing to do.

'Positive' TB test result not cause for alarm

By Major (Dr.) E. Mark Shusterman
507th Medical Squadron

Officials from the 507th Medical Squadron have reported an unusual increase of localized allergic reactions associated with the PPD (Tuberculosis or TB skin testing) during the past few weeks.

Medical officials also stated this increase has been reported on the active duty side.

However, according to Maj. Gail Livengood, Officer in Charge of Immunizations, 507th Medical Squadron, these positive test results do not appear to a cause for concern. "There has been some confusion regarding a high number of "positive" skin test results, however, we do not believe that the results we're seeing here have been true positives," Livengood said.

Tuberculosis is a bacterium that, if not medically treated, can cause severe respiratory problems and could lead to death. Military members are required to receive the TB skin test annually as part of their mobility readiness qualifications. A TB test must be examined by a qualified medical professional 72 hours after being administered to accurately determine the results. The test must be administered intradermally (within the skin) versus subcutaneously (under the skin) to be accurate.

Currently, two PPD products are most commonly used in this country — Aplisol and Tubersol. The former is somewhat newer and less expensive. Aplisol is the serum currently used locally and which appears to be producing more false positive hits. Both sera are tuberculin inoculates, meaning that they contain antigens of the mycobacterium tuberculosis, the causative agent of TB. Those who have had TB, been exposed to

it, or have previously had certain vaccines, will have antibodies to the bug. Their bodies will also generate reactions to this test, in this case a reddish bump.

Livengood stated that just about any injection might cause localized redness, due to both the mechanical trauma of the injection itself, as well as to the irritating effects of whatever has been injected. She added that infrequently the variability in the injection technique might also play a role. Redness alone is therefore not deemed to be a "positive" result.

"When an immunologic reaction (reddish bump) is observed at the injection site, it can indicate a "positive" test result. However, even a 'positive' test result will not tell us if an individual does or does not have tuberculosis," Livengood said. "It does mean that the individual tested needs to discuss this further with their medical practitioner."

Regarding the serum currently used for TB testing, Livengood said, "For whatever reason, some lots of PPD serum tend to be more irritating than others, and will cause more redness. In short," she said, "we do not believe there is anything here that is of any health concern. People receiving this test still need to have the results read by a qualified medical expert within 72 hours, but they should not be concerned if they observe a reaction on their skin. They need to discuss these results with their doctor first."

Threat may be 'higher' than Americans know

By Don Jenrette Jr., chief of
Air Force Reserve Command Drug Demand
Reduction Program

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - While most Americans are concerned about the threat of more terrorist attacks, they might be better served by keeping a closer eye on their coworkers.

According to the American Council for Drug Education, the person next to you at work may be drunk, high or hung over with potentially dangerous consequences. Here's some statistical information to back up that claim:

- Seventy percent of substance abusers hold jobs;
- One worker in four, ages 18 to 34, have used drugs in the past year;
- One worker in three knows of drug sales in the workplace;
- Americans consume 60 percent of the world's production of illegal drugs;
- Twenty-three million use marijuana at least four times a week;
- Eighteen million abuse alcohol;

- Six million regularly use cocaine; and
- Two million use heroin.

Substance abusers can cause all kinds of problems - increased risk of accidents, lower productivity and higher insurance rates, not to mention putting coworkers' jobs and lives in jeopardy.

A person does not have to be physically addicted to be drug dependent because psychological dependency is equally responsible for compulsive drug use. Abuse may involve regular marijuana use, heavy drinking, weekend binges, casual consumption of tranquilizers or misuse of other prescription drugs. Essentially, substance abuse is the use of drugs or alcohol that threatens physical or mental health, inhibits responsible personal relationships, or diminishes the ability to meet family, social or vocational obligations.

Compared to non-abusers, substance abusers are:

- Ten times more likely to miss work;
- More than 3.5 times likely to be involved in on-the-job accidents;
- Five times more likely to injure themselves or someone else;
- Five times more likely to file a worker's compensation claim;
- A third less productive; and
- Responsible for health care costs that are three times higher.

The results of substance abuse are increased work for non-abusers, lower productivity and compromised product quality, all of which may tarnish an organization's image.

Surprisingly, substance abuse is sometimes difficult to identify. Here are some telltale signs:

- Frequent, prolonged and often unexplained absences;
- Involvement in accidents both off and on the job;
- Erratic work patterns and reduced productivity;
- Indifference to personal hygiene;
- Overreaction to real or perceived criticism; and
- Overt physical signs, such as exhaustion, hyperactivity, dilated pupils, slurred speech and unsteady walking.

Marijuana users may have bloodshot or glassy eyes, and a persistent cough.

Cocaine users show increased energy and enthusiasm early in their drug involvement, but later show extreme mood swings and can become paranoid or delusional.

Alcohol abusers find it difficult to conceal morning-after hangovers, their productivity declines, and they may show signs of deteriorating health.

If you think someone is abusing drugs or alcohol, don't be an "enabler." When you turn a blind eye toward substance abusers, lend them money or conceal poor work performance, you are only delaying the consequences of their behavior.

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New Reserve unit stands up at Edwards

By Master Sgt. Stefanie Doner
Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. - Future Chuck Yeagers got closer to lift off Nov. 14 with the formal activation ceremony of Edwards' newest unit, the 370th Flight Test Squadron.

The 370th FLTS is an Air Force Reserve Command associate flight test support unit under the 412th Test Wing's Global Reach Combined Test Force and works hand-in-hand with its active-duty counterpart, the 418th FLTS.

The new squadron supports flight test, airborne research platforms and training missions according to the needs of the Air Force Flight Test Center. It operates C-135 tanker and test bed platforms, as well as C-12, KC-10 and T-39 aircraft, and supports the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School with its multi-engine curriculum. In addition to the unit here, the 370th FLTS has a detachment at Kirtland AFB, N.M., which is the Reserve counterpart to the 418th FLTS's detachment there.

The Reserve squadron and its detachment were organized through a memorandum of agreement between Gen. Lester Lyles, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, and Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command. The agreement also established depot flight test units at Hill AFB, Utah; Mesa, Ariz.; Lackland AFB, Texas; Randolph AFB, Texas; Robins AFB, Ga.; and Tinker AFB, Okla.

Using reservists to take over flight test support functions frees up active-duty test pilots, engineers and others to focus more on the developmental flight test mission at Edwards, said Lt. Col. Howard Judd, 370th FLTS commander.

"In many cases we can go beyond just flight test support," Judd said. "Many of our missions have required a Test Pilot School graduate piloting the tanker, such as air refueling certification of a new aircraft like the Joint Strike Fighter or flying TPS missions. We have four TPS graduate test pilots in the squadron so far."

Support functions include providing tanker support for flight test missions, as well as test bed work and flying test support aircraft such as the C-12 and T-39. The test support aircraft can serve many functions from training, serving as targets, transporting personnel and providing chase support during test flights.

"Our T-39s chase the C-17 and C-130J when they perform airdrops," Judd said. "They also chase the Global Hawk and serve as airborne targets for Air Force and Navy fighters. The bulk of our missions during the past year has been tanker for F-22 test missions."

The 370th FLTS is manned by full-time Active Guard and Reserve members who are operationally assigned to an active-duty component and traditional reservists who work part time. The unit has an interesting command structure in that its operations chain of command goes through AFMC, while administratively it reports through the Reserve's 452nd Operations Group at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

"This has been quite a success story: the marriage of two major commands for a common purpose," said Col. Mark Kolleda, 452nd OG commander. "When I first heard of this new concept of merging two commands with two reporting chains, I said 'no way.' But it's working exceptionally well. I am very proud of the 370th for building this successful side-by-side relationship."

A unit of experienced reservists is ideally suited for flight test support because it does not experience the high turnover rate of an active-duty unit, according to Judd.

"Many of our people came from the Edwards test aircrew force and are already qualified on the types of aircraft used here," he said. "Also, most are qualified to fly more than one type of aircraft. This saves the center money in training costs."

"Since Reserve tours can be up to five years or more in one location, as opposed to every two or three years for our active-duty counterparts, we can provide more stability to the flight test support functions." (AFRC News Service)

Check your vehicle sticker for renewal needs

Some base vehicle registration stickers will expire on Dec 31. Officials state that if the year sticker on your vehicle is "01," it must be updated. You will need to bring your ID card, driver's license and proof of insurance for the vehicle to Pass & Registration, Bldg 590 or the 3001 Badging Office, to update your year sticker.

If you do not update your registration by 1 Jan, you will be denied entry at the base gates and be instructed to report to Pass & Registration. If the year sticker on your vehicle is "02," or later it will remain valid until 31 Dec of 2002. For reservists, Pass & Registration will be open during normal UTA weekends from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please call the Pass & Registration office at 734-2605.

Computer password security is your responsibility

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

More than ever, computer security is of critical concern to operational security within national defense.

When it's time for you to change your password, there are some important points to remember.

To change your password using either NT or Windows 2000, first press the CTRL + ALT + DELETE keys and then click Change Password. After you have changed your password, you must power down your system for at least 10 seconds before powering back on.

To change your password using the Windows 98 operating system, go to START, then CONTROL PANEL, SETTINGS and double click on PASSWORDS. Select CHANGE OTHER PASSWORDS and select MICROSOFT NETWORKING. Select CHANGE. Enter your old password then enter a new one then enter it again in the VERIFY section. Again, you need to power down your system for at least 10

seconds before powering it back on.

The rules on passwords are that they must at minimum must contain 8 characters including at least one number, upper and lower case letters, and one symbol (i.e., ! @ # \$ % ^ & * ; < >) and can not contain any portion of your userid or any words commonly found in a dictionary. In fact, the 507th LAN office will periodically run a security password breaker program. If your password is broken, you will be instructed to replace it.

If you wish to create a password resembling a word for simplicity, you may change letters such as "o" to number zero or "i" to the number 1. As an example, the password "so0nEr#1" would be considered a secure password.

Finally, 507th LAN officials have restated that if you are currently using a Windows 9X operating system, you will no longer be permitted to connect to network after January 1, 2002. Your system must be upgraded to either Windows NT or higher.

MilPDS: New technology offers more capability, flexibility

By Staff Sgt. Devin Fisher
Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER - For Air Force reservists, the expression no pain, no gain may never ring more true than when the new military personnel data system, or MilPDS, is stabilized. And, the wait is almost over, according to the commander of the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

"We are paying the price today for future capability and flexibility," said Maj. Gen. Michael McMahan, during a visit to the Air Reserve Personnel Center here Oct. 24-25. "MilPDS will always be an evolving system as we continue to make enhancements, but we expect the system to stabilize - meaning normal transactions input correctly result in a valid outcome - before the end of the year."

The general noted AFPC and ARPC have been working together to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"We are doing all we can to ease the pain as a result of transitioning to the new system and we appreciate your patience," McMahan said.

AFPC began the migration to the new database June 5 as personnel information from accessions and assignments, to pay actions, retirements and separations flowed to MilPDS. This migration, coupled with the constant updating of the system, has resulted in some problems that have required manual "workarounds" until the issues could be resolved.

Despite the problems surfacing during the initial transition, McMahan is sure the Air Force is on the right track upgrading the 30-year old legacy personnel system with an entirely new database system.

"It is definitely the right thing to do," he said. "We can't stay with Z128 technology... we must move forward to a more flexible system that allows members access to their personnel information any time, anywhere."

Once fully operational, MilPDS will feature faster and more accurate personnel transactions because the information will only have to be input into one system, not transferred across systems like before. The system will eventually allow Virtual MPF enhancements that will provide airmen with greater visibility and control of their personnel information in a secure environment from home or at work.

The general believes this transition will be most beneficial to Air Force Reserve Command members because this is the first step in providing a complete Web-based personnel system that will allow reservists dispersed all over the world to take care of their personnel issues from home as the need arises.

McMahan is aware that, at present, obtaining personnel information is quite frustrating but he is confident that once MilPDS is stabilized reservists will agree the benefits of transitioning to the new system will be worth the wait. (AFRC News Service)

Update

by TSgt. Ty Yoshida

The following question was asked of members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group:
“When do you feel most proud to be an American?”



SSgt. Dena Hale
507th Medical Squadron

“Everyday. I fly the flag in my front yard and always have. This is truly the land of opportunity thanks to all those who came before us.”



SrA. Deric Nixon
507th Civil Engineer Sq.

“I feel most proud when one of our youth asks me what I do in the military and I’m able to answer ‘protect you and me.’”



SSgt. Caroline Rutledge
507th ARW/Military Personnel Flight

“I’m always most proud when I talk with people about being in the reserve and all the great things we do like Operation Holiday Spirit.”



MSgt. Jim Miller
507th Medical Squadron

“I am proud to be an American everyday. Everytime I see our flag waving in the wind tears come to my eyes. The flag makes me even prouder that I am an American.”



(Name withheld)
970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

“Describing to my children the nature of my work as a reservist. Describing the professionals I work with in the aircraft and in the different support services...and especially describing the dedication everyone displays performing their individual duties.”

Enlisted Council appoints officers

The Wing Enlisted Advisory Council selected its 2002 leadership during last month's meeting. Selected as EAC President was TSgt. Jennifer Johnson, 507th Maintenance Squadron (MXS); as Vice President was TSgt. Evelyn Patton, 507th MXS; as Secretary, MSgt. Wiley Brooks, 507th Air Refueling Wing; and as Treasurer, SSgt. Jermy Hudson, 507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron.

NCO Class slots open

Positions are available for next year's NCO Leadership Development program. The NCOLD has two classes per year and is for the ranks of SSgt. and TSgt., but may take SrA through SMSgt., if classes have available seating. Potential enrollees can contact SMSgt. Russell at 734-3269, for more information.

Family Support soliciting help

The 507th Family Support office is currently contacting all activated reservist family members to provide morale support and help resolve potential problems. To that end, Family Support officials are looking for volunteers who are willing to donate time to help. The office is looking for people with skills to assist with possible home repairs, or who are willing to just help out by babysitting.

Family Support officials encourage unit members to get with their squadron first sergeants and provide their names if they are interested in helping out.

Second Annual 5-Mile Pump-n-Run

The second annual 507th Civil Engineer Squadron Five-Mile Pump-n-Run will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2002 (UTA Saturday), beginning at 7 a.m. This year it will be open to all 507th ARW members. The rules will remain the same as last year.

First the 5-mile run and then the bench press. The bench press rules are to bench press your weight (75% for females). The first five reps will reduce your run time by one minute for each rep. The next 15 reps will reduce your run time by 30 seconds for each rep. The bench press is limited to a maximum of 20 reps. Contestants can do more, but they won't count. The bench presses can reduce run times by up to 12 minutes and 30 seconds.

The bench press will be held at the fitness center immediately after the run. For further information, entrants can contact SMSgt. Singleton (507th CES) at 734-7428.

Fitness Centers open for business

The Base Fitness centers have announced their winter hours of operation. For the Main Gym (Gerrity Center), hours of operation are 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The hours for the Tinker (AWACS) Fitness Center are 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed Saturday and Sunday. The hours for Fitness Center West (507th campus) are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and closed Saturday and Sundays (except during weekend drills when fitness testing is involved.)

PEP your top troops

Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP) packages for the April 1, cycle are due to the 507th Career Enhancement Office by Jan. 11, 2002. The 507th PEP Board will be held on February 3. The career enhancement office still needs volunteers for both the 507th and 4th Air Force boards. Call MSgt. Carla Swingle at ext. 4-7491 for more details.

Get your Wing coins

The 507th ARW Wing coins are still available. The coins sell for \$5 apiece and can be purchased through 507th Command Master Sergeant Robert Kellington. Proceeds from the sales go to the 507th Top Three Council and are used to promote programs within the organization.

Marriage Counseling available

The Air Force Material Command, Year of the Family (YOFAM) Committee, and the Tinker Care Network, are providing free marriage counseling on base to active duty members and their spouses.

The contractor providing the e service is Gwendolyn Gibson, licensed marriage and family counselor, and a licensed clinical social worker. Ms. Gibson provides the counseling appointments in the evenings and weekends to better accommodate the schedules of working spouses. Her office is located in the Religious Education building, just behind the base chapel.

The appointments are confidential and conducted in a private office. Entries are not made in military records.

Couples may receive short-term counseling, one to six sessions. Marriage counseling is available to all active duty members, regardless of their branch of service. There is a limit of 100 appointments each month.

Those interested in scheduling an appointment should phone 734-6890 and leave a message for Ms. Gibson.

Recruiting Web site adds interactive features

ROBINS AFB, Ga. - To attract more young people, Air Force Reserve Command recruiters launched a redesigned state-of-the-art Web site, adding many new interactive features and a more personal experience for the visitor.

The revamped Web site - www.afreserve.com - went on line in October. It is geared toward 17-34 year-olds with no prior-military service, as well as prior-service members from all military branches.

"The original Web site had been on line for almost three years without a major redesign," said Chief Master Sgt. Eric Snipes, chief of the advertising branch for AFRC Recruiting Service here. "We wanted to incorporate the newest innovations in Web site architecture and provide a state-of-the-art experience for our users. We added many new interactive features that cater to the Web-savvy young adult."

Some of the new features include links to interactive mission profiles, which describe numerous Air Force missions and jobs, benefits, eligibility requirements for joining the Reserve and the "basics" of basic military training.

Other features are a news and events section, links to aircraft data and a revised base locator page with interactive introductions to Reserve flying wings nationwide.

Additionally, the site now has a section for prior-service military members. It enables them to review personal testimonials from prior-service members from all military branches.

The redesign has expanded the Web site's level of service by providing a larger amount of information in an easy-to-access format, Snipes said.



A C-9 Nightingale from Scott AFB, Ill landed at Tinker AFB this month to take the four-year-old daughter of Maj. Bryan Runion to Wilford Hall, Texas. Runion, a reservist from the 507th ARW, is currently serving a four-year active duty tour at Randolph AFB, Tex. His daughter, a special needs patient, was at the Children's Center in Bethany, Okla. The major flew on the flight with his daughter and stated, "I want people to know the Air Force takes care of their own. I'm happy my daughter has the opportunity to receive further testing at this fantastic Air Force facility."

Web site informs technicians about rights

Air reserve technicians called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom can obtain helpful information on the Air Force Reserve Command restricted Web site.

ARTs are full-time federal civilian employees who also serve as Air Force reservists in the same position.

In addition to benefits and entitlements, they can learn about the following by logging onto the Headquarters AFRC directorate of personnel's civilian personnel division (DPC) site:

- Time and attendance, and leave and duty status;
- Attending training while mobilized;
- Information about active-duty service at full-service and limited-service bases;
- Office of Personnel Management assistance;
- Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994;
- Stop-loss, waivers, delays and exemptions; other guidance and miscellaneous Web sites. (AFRC NS)

507th ARW Recruiters

Tinker AFB, OK

(In-Service Recruiter)
MSgt. Larry Wheatley
(405) 739-2980



Norman, Moore, South OKC

MSgt. Dennis Orcutt
(405) 217-8311

Midwest City, OK

MSgt. Darrell Batchelor
SSgt. Gene Higgins
SSgt. Tabatha Irby
(405) 733-9403

Altus AFB, OK

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

Lawton, OK

SrA Kamala Thigpen
(580) 357-2784

Tulsa, OK

TSgt. Candy Bradshaw
(918) 665-2300

Vance AFB, OK

MSgt. David McCormick
(316) 652-3766

McConnell AFB, KS

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

Sheppard AFB, TX

MSgt. Michael Tubbs
(940) 676-3382