

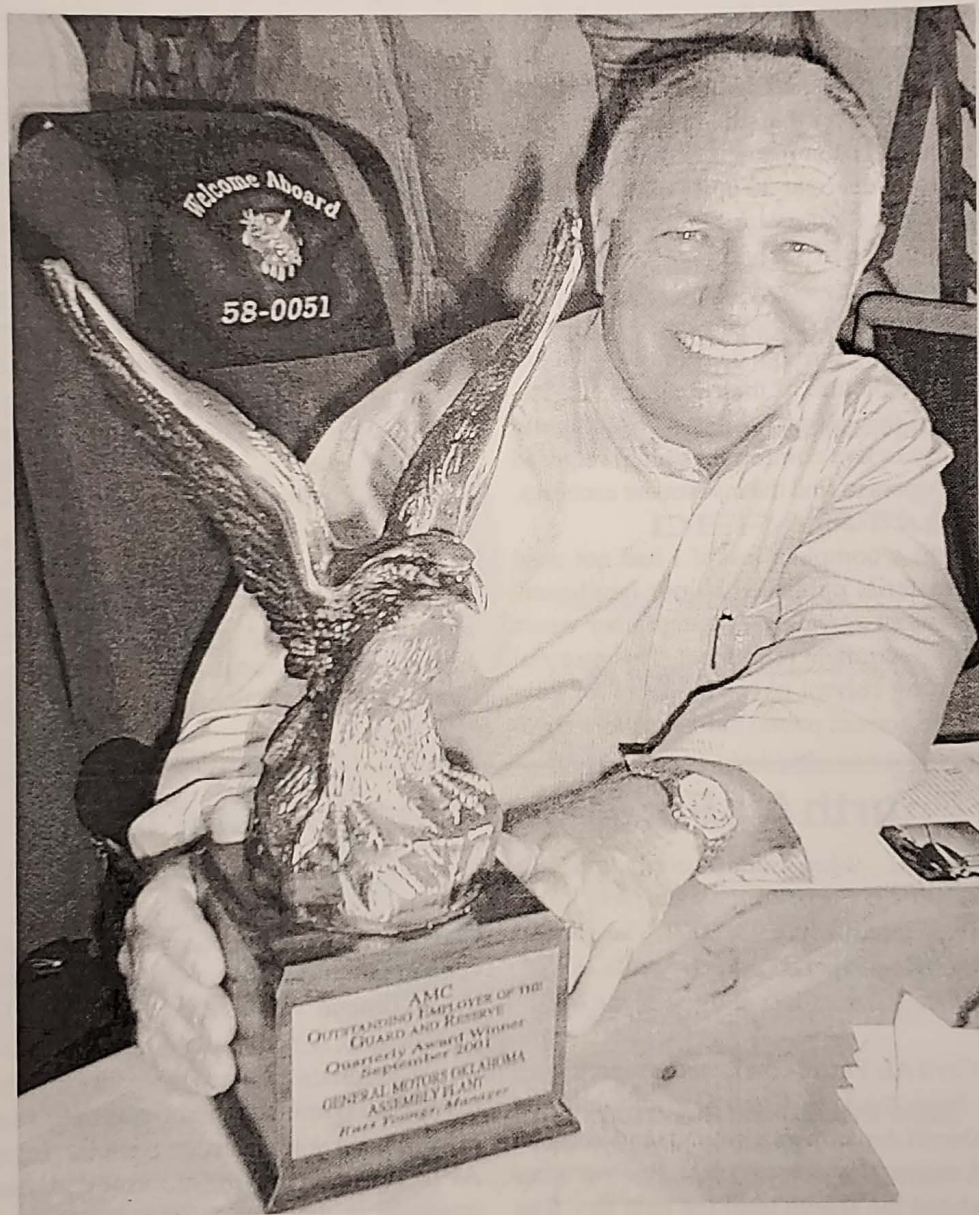
# On-final



507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing - 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group  
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

September 2002  
Vol. 22, No. 9

## Employer Support..



## makes everyone a winner!

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. Dean Despinoy

As members of a military organization we do a lot to keep our personal affairs in order and make sure that our families have the information needed if we fall in harms way while performing our duty. I have always taken pride in the fact that my family would be well cared for if something happen to me. Even with all this personal planning, I recently underwent a very painful process when my stepfather passed away unexpectedly and my mother was left to fend for herself.

I quickly discovered that other than the funeral, not even the simplest arrangement had been made. My stepfather was a very private person and in the over 30 years of marriage to my mother, he only gave her vague ideas of the state of their finances. All bills were paid by him and investments were made without my mother's knowledge.

This fact left me in a situation of playing detective, going through old records, searching through desk drawers, etc. to try to discover a complete picture of their finances. Thankfully, after going through this process, I discovered that my mother had the capability to live comfortably, but it required days of sifting through papers to find the investment accounts, insurance, and checking accounts.

I would have been at a complete loss if I had not used some of the survival material published by our family services and other government agencies. My stepfather was a veteran and also had a government retirement. This material was very helpful in getting current phone numbers for government agencies. These current phone numbers were abso-

sary to notify them of the death and get the VA insurance and survivor benefits for which my mother was eligible.

Many of us "Baby Boomers" are discovering we are forced to take on a new role in our lives when it comes to our parents. I know that many members of the wing have recently lost a parent as well or have had to arrange for long-term care for their parent or parents. Most of the time, you are put in a situation of making decisions or arrangements in a highly charged emotional setting. Please utilize the help that is available through the 507<sup>th</sup> and the military. I know that it would have been impossible for me to handle my situation if I had not been briefed by the military on survivor benefits and annuities. I pity some other "Baby Boomer" trying to do the same thing who did not have the opportunities given to me by serving the country and wearing the uniform.

After going through this process myself, I would highly recommend that if your relationship with your parents will allow it, find out from your parents where the important papers are and where the money is invested. It is also necessary to understand that we are dealing with a different generation with different concepts of privacy. Since they are our parents, after all, they may not wish to talk to their children about these things. If that is the case, suggest that they confide in a lawyer or good friend and then let you know who they have chosen. When the time comes, you can contact that person and be reasonably assured of receiving the needed information.

If and when you have to assume this role, I personally wish you the best. I also want to thank all the members of the wing who sent plants and flowers to my immediate family here in Oklahoma and also to my mother in California. Once again the 507<sup>th</sup> family helped my family get through a difficult time.

## Former Fourth Air Force commander dies in plane crash

**MARCH ARB, Calif.** - Maj. Gen. (retired) James C. Wahleithner, former 4th Air Force commander, was killed in the crash of a private aircraft July 23, 2002. The general was flying a single-engine Piper 140 near Arcata, Calif., when radio communication was lost and the plane disappeared from radar.

The California Civil Air Patrol conducted a search with helicopter support from the U.S. Coast Guard, while the Humboldt County Sheriff department's ground units combed the heavily wooded, mountainous area below. Poor weather and darkness suspended the search until the next day. The search teams were aided with additional aircraft support by the Air Force Reserves' 939<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing from Portland, Oregon. At approximately 8:40 p.m. July 24, the Air Force

Reserve Command was notified the aircraft had been found and the pilot was deceased.

A 37-year Air Force veteran, General Wahleithner assumed command of Fourth Air Force in May 1985, when the command was assigned at [now-closed] McClellan AFB, Calif. A native of White Lake, Wis., the general was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He received his commission and pilot wings in October 1954. He served as a jet instructor pilot at [now-closed] Laredo AFB, Texas, flying T-33 aircraft until his release from active duty in the fall of 1957. The general joined the Air Force Reserve in February 1958.

General Wahleithner is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, and their 11 children.

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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



Mr. Russell Youngs, former manager of the Oklahoma City General Motors Plant, displays an AMC Employer Award he and his plant received for their support of 507th reservists. See related stories on pages 14 and 15.

U.S. Air Force photo

SEPTEMBER 2002

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



507 ARW



513 ACG

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507th AIR REFUELING WING  
and  
513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



[www.afrc.af.mil/507arw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/507arw)



## Refueling aircraft changes, not wartime mission

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - America's war on terrorism shifted airframes in mid-July with the arrival of forward-deployed KC-135 Stratotankers.

KC-135 crews from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.; McConnell AFB, Kan.; Tinker AFB, Okla.; and March Air Reserve Base, Calif., replaced KC-10 Extender crews from Travis AFB, Calif.

Like their predecessors, the replacement crews are a mix of Air Force reservists and active-duty people. The reservists are from March, McConnell and Tinker, while their active-duty counterparts are from Fairchild and McConnell.

Col. Jim Moran, chief of standards and tactics for the 4th Air Force Operations Division at March and a reservist, oversees the KC-135 operation as commander of the 462nd Air Expeditionary Group. He said Air Mobility Command replaced the KC-10s with KC-135s to reduce the number of KC-10s committed overseas and to even the workload among active-duty and Reserve air refueling units.

"We've known for some time that we would swap one tanker for another," Moran said. "But because of other operations taking place, the swap out had to be accelerated."

The KC-10s had been at the forward-operating location for nearly 10 months, sharing the ramp with B-52 Stratofortress and B-1 Lancer bombers, as well as C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft.

The Air Force operates 59 KC-10s at two stateside bases where collocated active-duty and Reserve units fly and maintain the aircraft. It has more than 540 KC-135s, with 64 assigned to Air Force Reserve Command units.

The deployed KC-135s will remain overseas indefinitely with aircrews and support personnel rotating in and out of the area on a scheduled basis. The reservists are performing the mission on a voluntary basis.

"What we are doing now, through volunteers, is showing

that we have the ability to support a specific, long-term mission," said Col. John Hurdle, 507th Operations Group commander at Tinker.

Hurdle said the concept of volunteers rotating to and from the frontlines dates back to the American Revolution when the United States did not have a large standing army. Farmers left their fields to fight for freedom and would periodically return home to tend to their crops.

"It's basically the same today," Hurdle said. "When called, our reservists leave their families and civilian jobs behind. It's hard to tell your employer you have to leave for a month, but we think the employers will agree it's better for their employees to be gone a month rather than a whole year. By allowing our people to rotate on a shorter cycle, we accomplish the mission, as well as reduce potential conflicts back home. We can do this...we have already done this (in the past)."

Although the KC-10s left the forward-operation location, they will continue to support Operation Enduring Freedom, from Travis AFB and operating locations in Southwest Asia.

Moran credits the successful transition from KC-10s to KC-135s to "skills and talents" of the active-duty and Reserve KC-10 air refueling squadrons and the 660th Aircraft Generation Squadron. The KC-10 team had been deployed to the region since the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom, flying more than 2,350 missions with a 99.9 percent mission reliability and success rate.

The KC-10 is a modified DC-10 with greater flexibility than a KC-135 because it can receive and off-load fuel. The KC-10's six tanks can carry almost twice as much as the KC-135, whose commercial equivalent is the 707. Consequently, the KC-135 will fly three missions for every two that the KC-10 flew. However, manpower to support the deployed KC-135s will increase by less than 15 percent because Stratotankers require one less crew member and because of the aircraft's skilled maintenance teams.

Lt. Col. Dave Horton commands the KC-135 flying squadron, the 28th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. He brought the lead package of KC-135s from Fairchild in mid-July and had the smaller tanker/cargo aircraft assume the lead tanker role before the full complement of KC-135s arrived.

"I was amazed at the outstanding relationship the KC-10s and receiver organizations had developed," Horton said. "I'm sure that sense of teamwork and camaraderie will continue with the new assets on the ramp. This, like all operations here, will truly be a Total Force success." (AFRCNS)

### Local flying statistics

From the 507th ARW (As of Aug. 19, 2002):

	Hours	Receivers	lbs offloaded	Sorties
Operation Noble Eagle	1063.9	450	5,681,000	182
Operation Enduring Freedom	199.4	20	1,150,500	32
Operation Infinite Justice	218.9	55	4,203,700	56

From the 513th ACG/970th AACS (As of Aug. 19, 2002):

Total ONE Hours Flown since Sept 01:	1309.7 Hours
Total ONE Sorties Flown since Sept 01:	117 Sorties
Total ONE Alert Hours Flown since Sept 01:	62.1 Hours
Total One Alert Sorties Flown since Sept 01:	7 Sorties

## Air Force ends Stop-Loss this month

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Starting Sept. 1, Air Force Reserve Command, along with the rest of the Air Force, began releasing people in the last Air Force specialty codes affected by Stop-Loss.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche announced the release, which will be phased in during a one-month period to allow the Air Force and affected people time for transition. The Air Force began relaxing Stop-Loss in January and by the end of June the list of remaining AFSCs dropped to three officer and 15 enlisted.

Roche said the Air Force was quickly arriving at a "steady state." "Stop-Loss most certainly helped us get here successfully, but we had pledged all along that we wouldn't hold onto anyone longer than necessary," Roche said.

Reservists with original dates of separation or retirement before April will be eligible to out process beginning Sept. 1. People originally eligible to out process between April 1 and Sept. 30 have to wait until at least Oct. 1, and those who were to separate or retire on or after Oct. 1 will be able to out process on that date.

Reservists have the option of taking up to five months to transition from Stop-Loss status.

AFRC members who are deployed or are on active duty to support ongoing operations will not be released until they return from their deployments or they are demobilized.

"Mobilized reservists are not demobilized, regardless of Stop-Loss provisions, until the gaining active-duty major command commander or SAF/MR approves the member's demobilization," said Master Sgt. Steve Westmoreland, superintendent of relocations programs in the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Personnel.

When Stop-Loss was implemented in October 2001, it virtually covered every reservist in the Selected Reserve, some 73,000.

The last 18 AFSCs on the Stop-Loss list affect 4,917 reservists. The three officer Stop-Loss AFSCs are 31P security forces, 11S special operations pilot and 12S special operations navigator. The enlisted Stop-Loss AFSCs are 1A1X0 and 1A1X1 flight engineer, 1C0X0 air operations, 1C0X1 airfield management, 1C0X2 operations resource management, 1C1X0 and 1C1X1 air traffic control, 1N0X0 intelligence ap-

plications and exploitation, 1N0X1 intelligence applications, 1T2X0 and 1T2X1 combat rescue, 2F0X0 and 2F0X1 fuels, and 3P0X0 and 3P0X1 security forces.

Using an approved waiver of Stop-Loss, reservists have had the option of requesting to retire or separate from the Air Force Reserve due to hardship. As commander of AFRC, Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III has been the final approval/disapproval authority for Stop-Loss waivers, said Westmoreland.

According to Westmoreland, the general did not take these steps lightly because he recognized the significant impact Stop-Loss has on reservists and their families. "When feasible, we released the maximum number of reservists possible and allowed significant time to ensure a smooth transition."

Westmoreland said. Stop-Loss, a Department of Defense program, allows the armed forces to retain military members with critical skills on duty beyond their date of separation or retirement for an open-ended period. Prior to Sept. 11, Stop-Loss was last used during Operation Allied Force over Kosovo in 1999. In 1990, President George Bush delegated Stop-Loss authority to the secretary of defense during Operation Desert Shield.

Military personnel flights have more information about Stop-Loss. (AFRC News Service)

### Be aware and don't leak classified information

Air Force officials are stressing the importance of safeguarding classified information.

According to officials, leaking classified information

- Damages our ability to stop terrorist acts;
- Compromises the success of our operations;
- Puts American lives at risk; and
- Shows an alarming lack of professionalism.

History has shown that our adversaries pay close attention to information that will help them anticipate and counter our actions, officials stated. Leaks jeopardize the willingness of potential allies and foreign nationals to work with us out of fear of having their cooperation publicized.

Officials stress that it is against the law to provide classified information to anyone who does not have the appropriate clearance and a need to know. They add that future successes hinge partly on our ability to sustain coalitions and operate without compromise.

Military legal provisions provide for swift and severe consequences for anyone, military or civilian, found to have leaked classified information.

### Quotable Quotes

Through your efforts, you confirmed the unmatched value, flexibility and promise of air and space power, and the effort continues. Our nation's achievements in the war on terrorism are superb.

-- Dr. James G. Roche, secretary of the Air Force



## 14,000 mobilized Guard, Reserve members extended

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Air Force will be extending the mobilization of more than 14,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members into a second year because of the continuing requirements of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

The plan is to keep these people mobilized just long enough for the active force to realign manpower so that requirements created by the war against terror can be supported by a more predictable steady state process, said John C. Truesdell, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon.

Despite these tour extensions, Air Force leaders are committed to demobilizing people as soon as possible, Truesdell said. Currently, 76,518 National Guard and Reserve are mobilized in support of the president's partial mobilization.

Of greatest concern to DoD officials are what's called "stressed career fields." According to DoD officials, a stressed career field is one in which the Air Force is experiencing difficulties meeting increased requirements and the continued support of Guard and Reserve is crucial.

The greatest portion of Reserve Component member being extended, nearly 67 percent, are those serving in the security force career field, Truesdell said.

Of the total being extended, 4,844 are from the Air Force Reserve and 9,292 are from the Air National Guard. In addition to security forces, the career fields affected most are intelligence, communications, maintenance, pilots and aircrew.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing had 59 individuals in active status, the majority of them security forces and fire fighters. According to unit military personnel flight specialist, a majority of these 507th members have now been deactivated with more deactivation dates set for others in the near future.

Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) support is identified as a stressed career field within the Air Force. The 231 activated members of the 513th Air Control Group will remain in active duty status, at least for the time being. The 513th Air Control Group represents nearly five percent of all Air Force Reservists being extended.

DoD officials stated that these extensions could last up to an additional 12 months, but state that their plan is to just keep individuals mobilized long enough for the active force to realign manpower. Officials state their intent is to adjust the requirements created by the war against terror so that they can be supported in a more predictable steady state process.

Officials outlined several initiatives currently underway to transform the active duty force structure to alleviate its stressed career fields and tailor it to meet the new 21st century requirements. These initiatives seek to free up active duty airmen from non-military essential tasks and use those assets in

stressed specialties such as security forces.

"Senior Air Force leaders understand the concerns this announcement may create among extended Air Reserve Component members (and they are working to seek relief)," Truesdell said.

"This predictability is important if we hope to retain our people, their families and the employers," Truesdell said.

"We are working hard to constantly improve our communication with the many audiences involved with this war effort, especially our people, their families, employers, and every member of Congress. The operative word here is 'retention.' We want our whole team to know that we really appreciate all that they've done for us already but that we still need their continued support to finish the job."

## DoD position explained

According to Department of Defense officials, the announcement that 15,000 reservists will serve a second year can appear to be somewhat misleading. Officials state that - just because some orders were extended to provide commander's with that latitude - it does not mean, definitively, that they will serve that long of a period.

DoD recently issued its position on the use of mobilized forces and how it intends to demobilize activated forces.

- Title 10 of the United States Code authorizes the president in a partial mobilization to order not more than one million reservists to active duty for not more than two years.

- The goal of both the president and the secretary of defense is to have as few reservists on active duty as possible for the shortest duration possible.

- Commanders will get the resources they need to prosecute the war and defend America.

- DoD is committed to being good stewards of resources and will not keep reservists on active duty longer than necessary, again, consistent with the number one priority of defending America.

- Extensions could last up to an additional 12 months, but the plan is to keep people mobilized just long enough for the active force to realign manpower so that requirements created by the war against terror can be supported in a more predictable steady state process.

- Senior Air Force leaders understand the concerns this extension may create and are looking at several initiatives to transform the active duty force structure to alleviate stressed career fields and tailor it to meet the new 21st century requirements. These initiatives seek to free up active duty airmen from nonmilitary-essential tasks and use those assets in stressed specialties such as security forces.

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

SEPTEMBER 2002

## Flexibility enables Reserve to support AEF

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - The war on terrorism now requires that the Air Force review the construct of the Air and Space Expeditionary Force in order to meet new wartime commitments.

AEF, the blueprint for deploying expeditionary forces, designed in part to provide greater stability and predictability for the men and women of the Air Force, has been strained but not broken by the war. As much as possible during the war, the Air Force wants to ensure its promise of deployment predictability and stability for its members and their families.

To address recent concerns, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert Foglesong established a new office, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff for AEF Matters, to operate for at least one year to review, clarify and publish AEF policy and guidance. In addition, every other month, major command vice commanders, a group of Air Staff lieutenant generals and representatives of the AEF Center will meet with the vice chief of staff as the "AEF Forum" to review/refine AEF structure.

"As the dynamic of war fighting changes, the Air Force must change. That is the strength of the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Whaley, director of operations at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "The AEF structure will help balance the forces, and we can then provide a high degree of predictability for our people who are deploying. We have historically taken care of our people when we go through these kinds of changes."

Air Force Reserve Command must continue to reorganize in order to meet the new demands of war, the general said. In doing so, it may require training and restructuring in numbers of unit type codes and pieces of units. UTCs are five-character, alphanumeric codes that identify each type of military skill.

Whaley acknowledged that one concern facing the Air Force in the war on terrorism is that certain specialty codes, such as security forces, fire fighters, and Airborne Warning and Control Systems are stressed.

"Every time we fight, we learn new lessons and we should," he said. "That is the dynamic of the changing Air Force because we don't know where we will fight next. One lesson we've learned is the flexibility of the AEF construct to fight this type of war."

Despite the shakeup of war, up to 90 percent of forces can still count on returning home at their scheduled time. Replacements should continue to receive up to 120-day notices before deploying. One reason for the high percentage of timely tours can be attributed to the large number of reservists volunteering for deployments.

"In my 34 years of service, I have never seen volunteerism

like it is now, and that has kept the mobilization numbers relatively calm," Whaley said.

Another concern facing reservists in the war on terrorism is support personnel filling active-duty shortfalls.

"The active force may have a UTC that is deploying, and we only fill part of those positions," the general said. "We don't really get to go as a group of people. Long term, we can lose our identity as a UTC or unit."

Whaley added that reservists are qualified and motivated to do the job, whether they go as individuals or in units. They demonstrate that the total force policy of deploying as a Reserve unit or integrating reservists with the active force works.

"We have always prided ourselves in the Reserve as being deployable," Whaley said. "When this command says it is going to do something, we do it and we do it right." (AFRC News Service)



SrA Michael McCowan, 507th Maintenance Support Squadron, packs his Airman's Manual at 507th ARW mobility exercise during the August UTA.

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

SEPTEMBER 2002





## 513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

### Show "thanks" to our loved ones back home

We have now completed 11 months of our activation. And you still are all doing a marvelous job fighting this war. The commanders from the HQ USAF, AFRC, 10<sup>th</sup> AF, ACC, 552 ACW, and I are all so very proud of you and extremely thankful for all your accomplishments. Your selfless acts of dedication to National Security stands alone as proof to the dire need of maintaining a strong Air Force Reserve AWACS organization. I imagine that when this unit was only in its conceptual stages (six years ago), no one in either Active or Re-

serve really knew of the great investment you would prove to be. In the last 11 months you flew over three-and-a-half times our annual allocated flying hours, not to mention taking charge of Operation Northern Watch.

And let's not forget our support system that makes this possible. The most important support we receive is the support from our families. Their love, patience, tolerance, and prayers are as much a part of this war as you, the maintainers and operators. Without our families and their support, we would not function. When you think about it, they are as much a warrior as each of us. They also instill in us their love. It is this love and support that gives us the reason to fight for the protection of our great nation's freedoms. So, this UTA weekend is Family Day. This is your opportunity to bring your family out and show them that this is what you do. And it is also a chance to spend a day with your loved ones. But most of all it is also a chance to say "thanks!"

## Be proud to call yourselves 'Airmen'

During the Worldwide First Sergeant's Conference held at Jacksonville, Florida on August 14, Dr. James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, made the following comments.

"Looking back at what we've achieved over the past 11 months, you should be very proud to call yourselves airmen."

"We recalled personnel to active duty, we activated and employed our total force, and we stopped many of our people from leaving active duty. Then, we were soon deploying troops to expeditionary bases in parts of the world previously unfamiliar to most of us, and to countries most of us couldn't pronounce not to mention spell."

"In some cases, we occupied or built bases in the backyard of our former adversaries from the Cold War. When all the pieces were in place; soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines returned fire. We returned fire with conviction. We returned fire with tenacity. We returned fire knowing the security of our nation and the lives of our citizens depended on the success of men and women wearing the uniform."

Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle, we've:

- Flown 68,000 sorties, and employed 75 percent of the total munitions used in Afghanistan.
- Our tanker force flew nearly 18,000 refueling missions, 55 percent for Navy and Marine aircraft.
- Our reconnaissance, electronic warfare, and command and control assets flew more than 3,000 missions.
- Our mobility forces delivered thousands of troops to the

fight, and then they delivered more than 2.5 million humanitarian rations to the people of Afghanistan.

Through your efforts, you confirmed the unmatched value, flexibility and promise of air and space power, and the effort continues. Our nation's achievements in the war on terrorism are superb:

- We've built and sustained a powerful coalition of 90 nations with 18 countries engaged in Afghanistan.
- Al Qaeda, although still a danger, is on the run around the world.
- The Taliban were driven from power in Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan is no longer a base for global terrorist operations or a breeding ground for radical Islamic militancy.
- Beatings by religious police and public executions have stopped.
- The horrid subjugation of women and little girls is over.
- The humanitarian crisis has been averted.
- Aid is once again flowing.
- International aid workers are no longer being held hostage.
- The Afghan people have been liberated.

We accomplished all this despite the challenge of waging a combined campaign in a landlocked nation. While we fought and won the first phase of this campaign as a joint team — and we'll always fight as a joint team — every man and woman, military and civilian, active, Guard and reservist can be proud of the substantial Air Force contribution to those successes.

### 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 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.

Enrollment form must show course number/title, credit hours and cost of tuition.

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

HQAFRC will approve/disapprove based on funding.

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
2003-2	1	27 Jan - 05 Mar 03	McGhee Tyson, TN
2003-3	1	25 Feb - 03 Apr 03	Tyndall AFB, FL
2003-4	1	15 Apr - 22 May 03	Tyndall AFB, FL
2003-4	1	16 Jun - 24 Jul 03	Tyndall AFB, FL
2003-6	1	04 Aug - 11 Sep 03	Tyndall AFB, FL
2003-7	1	22 Sep - 30 Oct 03	Tyndall AFB, FL

### VA BENEFITS

Effective 1 June 2002, members receiving chapter 1606 benefits (Reserve), will be required to call in each month to certify their hours. On the first of each month members must call 1-877-823-2378 or 1-888-442-4551, option #1, to receive pay for the previous month. If you fail to call in your check will not be released. Remember, it is your responsibility to do this. If you receive a denial letter from the VA, please call DPMT at 734-7075, and provide us a copy.

### 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 734-7075 at least two days prior to the UTA.

Coure 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)

### FY2002/2003 UTA SCHEDULE

05-06 Oct 02	05-06 Apr 03
16-17 Nov 02	03-04 May 03
07-08 Dec 02	07-08 Jun 03
11-12 Jan 03	12-13 Jul 03
01-02 Feb 03	09-10 Aug 03
01-02 Mar 03	06-07 Sep 03



**Fri, 06 Sep 2002**

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	513th ACG Conf Room
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	Bldg 1043, ATN Room
1600	Top 3 Executive Board Mtg	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

**Sat, 07 Sep 2002**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0815-0930	Unit Career Advisors Mtg	To Be Determined
0900-1000	6 Month Contact Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
<b>1030-1630 MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT WILL BE CLOSED</b>		
<b>1030-1630 FAMILY DAY</b>		
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

**Sun, 08 Sep 2002**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Conf Room
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	<b>Bldg 460, Room 213</b>
0800-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1014, Buford Hall
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0830-1030	Supervisor Safety Tng	Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
<b>0930</b>	<b>Catholic Chapel Service</b>	<b>Base Chapel</b>
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Vardaro	Bldg 1043, Room B-1
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room
1530	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1014, Buford Hall
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

**Fri, 04 Oct 2002**

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	513th ACG Conf Room
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	Bldg 1043, ATN Room
1600	Top 3 Executive Board Mtg	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

**Sat, 05 Oct 2002**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0815-0930	Unit Career Advisors Mtg	To Be Determined
0900-1000	6 Month Contact Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
<b>0915-1115</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1043, ATN Room</b>
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	To Be Determined
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1300-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	To Be Determined
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
<b>1600-1630</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Conf Room</b>
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

**Sun, 06 Oct 2002**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Conf Room</b>
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	<b>Bldg 460, Room 213</b>
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	To Be Determined
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0830-1030	Haz Com Tng	Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Cancelled
<b>0930</b>	<b>Catholic Chapel Service</b>	<b>Base Chapel</b>
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	To Be Determined
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1400-1500	IG period w/Lt. Vardaro	Bldg 1043, Room B-1
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room
Unit Designated	Sign Out	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 member's pay during coverage periods.

## Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted monthly in Bldg 1014, Buford Hall (3rd Mobile Comm Area). 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. **DUE TO FAMILY DAY ON SATURDAY ALL ANCILLARY TRAINING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON SUNDAY FOR THIS UTA ONLY!!!**

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
<b>Phase I and II</b>			
Sunday	0800-0830	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0830-0845	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0845-0900	Wing Commander/Command Chief	
Sunday	0900-1015	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	1015-1045	Counter Intel /Awareness	SFS
Sunday	1045-1115	Human Relations	ME
Sunday	1300-1400	Information Assurance	CF
Sunday	1400-1500	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Sunday	1500-1530	Local Conditions-Traffic	SE

### 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 0900 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1014, Buford Hall.

### 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 0900 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1014, Buford Hall.

### 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 pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
10 Sep	18 Sep
12 Sep	20 Sep
17 Sep	25 Sep
19 Sep	27 Sep
23 Sep	01 Oct
26 Sep	04 Oct
01 Oct	09 Oct
03 Oct	11 Oct
07 Oct	15 Oct
10 Oct	18 Oct
15 Oct	23 Oct
17 Oct	25 Oct

## BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last  
Digit of  
SSAN is:

Then Forward  
Listing to Unit  
Commander in:

Recertifica-  
tion 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

(Units will no longer receive notification for recertification from pay).

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.

**Editor:** CMSgt. Charlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)  
**Assistant Editor:** MSgt. Dennis O. Cain, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)  
**Contributing Editors:** TSgt. Sharon Lochman, NCOIC, Schools and OJT (ART)  
 TSgt. Melanie E. Cherry, Education and Training Advisor  
 Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor



# Family Day list of events

Sept. 7, 2002 (10 am - 4 pm)

- Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) information booth
- Volleyball tournament (unit teams)
- Bench Press Competition (Fitness Center West)
- Reserve Officer Association (ROA) information booth
- Movies for kids (with popcorn) in Bldg 1056 or movie tent
- Concert by Lainey Edwards (1100-1145) and info/gifts table
- Eagles vs. Chiefs softball game (1515-1615) Tinker fields
- Fire Truck tour and display
- Harley Davidson photo shoot near EC-135 AWAC's aircraft
- Moonwalk for kids
- Kids Train for rides
- Hammer game for kids
- Pin the Tail on the Donkey game
- Balloon Toss for kids
- Civil Air Patrol (CAP) information booth and drill team
- TOP 3 information booth
- Midwest City Moose Lodge information booth
- Local Lions club information booth
- Dunk Tank
- Miniature horses display
- Health information booth
- Honor Guard information booth
- "Jail" run by Security Forces for all ages
- Cake Walks for all ages
- Karokee from 1145-1430 (will announce cake walks as well)
- Face Painting for kids
- KC135 and EC135 aircraft displays and tours
- Lunch 1100 to 1300
- Adult Refreshment booth
- Soda booth
- Combat Photos for all ages with HUMV and war gear
- Sheriff's department doing child ID kits
- Dog Tags for kids
- Information booth for 2 turkey fryer give aways, pie in the face contest, match box car displays, computer give away, ROA scholarship announcement, selling extra food tickets, selling cake walk chances and providing constant announcements and providing Lost and Found services

## Dunk tank 'victim' schedule

Time	Victim
1000	Col. Despinoy
1015	Col. Harris
1030	CMSgt. Kellington
1045	Col. Kerr
1100	Col. Gentling
1115	Col. Hurdle
1130	CMSgt. Beasley
1145	Lt. Col. Peterson
1200	TBD * (was Maj. Stults)
1215	Lt. Col. Taylor
1230	Col. Beavin
1245	Maj. Harlan
1300	Maj. Dodds
1315	Maj. Brooks
1330	Lt. Col. Miller
1345	Lt. Col. Lane
1400	Maj. Peterson
1415	Maj. Sivert
1430	1st Lt. Buchanan

NOTE: Should any Commander be unable to take his or her turn, they will identify a member of their unit to replace them during their same time/turn.

## LOCAL RECOGNITION

# ROA Scholarship to be awarded at Family Day

By 1st. Lt. Bill Pierce,  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

This month during Family Day the Reserve Officer Association will award their annual scholarship to Lacie Easley daughter of TSgt. Larry Easley, Logistics Support Squadron.

Lacie was selected by the ROA Chapter 66 to receive a scholarship of \$400. Lacie stated in her application she plans to pursue a degree in accounting at West Texas A&M.

As an applicant Lacie was required to submit a complete application, which included a 500 to 900-word essay entitled: "What is a Citizen Airman."

During her high school career Lacie was involved in numerous clubs and organizations in and out of school. According to ROA officials Lacie's application reflects strongly on the commitments she has for bettering her community and country as a whole.

The ROA raises funds throughout the year in order to provide dependents with scholarship money for college. Maj. Mark Dodds, scholarship coordinator said ROA's intention is to support the families of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group by providing scholarships to the children of our unit members.

## What is a Citizen Airman?

By Lacie Nicole Easley

Today's complex world requires an ability to be flexible. The Air Force Reserve airman is a unique person. So many different situations and pressure, pulling at a person, make life a challenge. The Citizen Airman is able to adapt to these situations.

The Citizen Airman plays a major role in the Air Force Reserve. The new millennium sees a dwindling active duty force; on the other hand, Reserve airmen fill in on missions previously handled by the active duty. Air Force Reserve members are receiving the latest in military technology. This technology is allowing the Citizen Airman opportunities previously unavailable. Technical schools are receiving more and more Reserve airmen. They must meet the same stringent requirements as the active duty. A volatile, daily changing environment is straining the active duty. The Citizen Airman is available to take command or assist active duty at a moment's notice.

The Citizen Airman is observed accomplishing a variety of jobs in our communities. Everywhere you look, there are Citizen Airmen volunteering time, labor, and money to better our America. The valuable skills the Air Force Reserve teach the military airmen are used in the factories, hospitals, small businesses, churches, and schools. The high morals and standards instilled by the Air Force Reserve continually create a better standard of living for all Americans.

Each year Reserve airmen anxiously await their orders for the annual tour. I know that the tours to Europe and other exotic places play a role in keeping the members reenlisting time after time. The Citizen Airman has a presence worldwide showing the positive American. It truly is a goal to eradicate the "Ugly American" life.

This world is full of surprises. From the Oklahoma City bombing, the New York World Trade Towers and Pentagon terrorist attack, the Citizen Airman responds instantly when

called upon. The thought of those brave airmen going to help in such situations is scary, but all Americans sleep better knowing Citizen Airmen are in their communities. The very high positive support polls taken for support of our President and our military actions are reassuring.

I believe the Citizen Airman proves his or her worthiness time after time. I have seen local news broadcasts of groups of airmen scraping, painting, and repairing houses for the Habitat for Humanity. I can only guess at how much hard work and camaraderie impacted the person who owns that home. To transform a peeling exterior, cracked walls, faulty appliances or plumbing into a fully functional home, made possible by volunteers, overwhelms me. Rarely is such an effort accomplished to help a complete stranger. The caring of these Citizen Airmen is amazing.

One weekend a month my father, who is a Citizen Airman, takes time off from his job and family life. He packs up his pressed uniform, polished boots, and his hat. He puts gas in the car and pays the toll road charges to Tinker Air Force Base. At times, he has gotten off his civilian job at midnight and arrived at Tinker at 3 a.m. He awakened at 6 a.m. to participate in the Unit Training Assembly. I have never heard him complain about spending his money or lack of sleep. The importance of his duty to our country is commendable. Other Citizen Airmen drive from other states to train! Missing out on baseball games, church, and quality family time requires a deep commitment.

When my father's Citizen Airman magazine arrives at home, I read articles within it as well. The title is fitting, for within its pages is some of what I have written about. Although sometimes nervous when watching the nightly news, I am reassured that my father, our communities, and our country is safe know all Citizen Airmen are a caliber of person who are "Above and Beyond."





## Grissom tankers helping keep F-22 flight testing on track

By Leigh Anne Bierstine  
AFRC Public Affairs

Deploying around the world in support of various Air Force operations is nothing new for tanker crews with the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind. But last October, the wing embarked on a brand-new mission — supporting F-22 flight testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

While the F-22 Combined Test Force receives support from tanker crews across the country, reservists from Grissom have become a constant at Edwards. Almost every week since early October, one or two KC-135R Stratotankers have deployed to California from Indiana to refuel the F-22 during test missions.

In all, Grissom crews have flown more than 400 hours in support of the Raptor and are considered regulars at the 418th Flight Test Squadron. The squadron manages all of the tankers that fly in and out of Edwards AFB to support various flight tests.

According to Lt. Col. Eddie Cabrera, commander of the F-22 Flight Test Squadron, the support his team is getting from Grissom is another example of a Total Force success story.

"These dedicated reservists from Grissom are providing the aerial refueling support we need to keep the F-22 flight

test program and timelines on track," Cabrera said.

Even though the 434th is pushing its maximum capacity supporting real-world events, supporting the F-22 remains a priority, said Master Sgt. Larry Santine, a boom operator with the 74th Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom.

"We are doing everything we can to help them move forward with their testing," Santine said. "We'll do whatever it takes to continue our support."

Santine is one of almost 50 maintenance and operations crewmembers from Grissom who have supported the new mission. Typically, the reservists leave Grissom on Monday and return on Friday. Most of the tanker crews are reservists who were activated after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"The last couple of months seem like Groundhog Day," said Santine, referring to the movie "Groundhog Day" in which the main character relives the same day over and over again. "I get home on Friday, do laundry and relax a little, and then get back on the tanker to Edwards."

Santine admits the back-and-forth trips are taxing, but the sense of accomplishment he and others receive from participating in the mission makes it all worthwhile.

"We have done so much flying, and that has made it pos-

sible for the F-22 to get a lot of testing done," he said. "Being part of a new airplane and making a difference in its development keeps us coming back."

Lt. Col. Brad Knapp, 74th ARS commander, said supporting the F-22 test force has been a great morale-builder for the unit. Since the unit's activation last September, crews have deployed worldwide in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Right now, we're doing long TDYs in the Middle East and living in tents in a pretty Spartan setting," Knapp said. "When our crews rotate back to Grissom and spend time with their families, they're ready to do something different. Supporting the Raptor test program is the perfect answer. The support we get from the Edwards units has been great."

Cabrera said a benefit the flight test squadron receives from working with the Grissom tanker crews on a regular basis is the continuity they provide.

"Because the Grissom crews are already familiar with the local ranges, airspace and F-22 issues, our day-to-day test efficiency and overall flexibility is greater than if we were dealing with new tanker crews each week," he said.

The first Grissom crews to come to Edwards built continuity files that outlined the ranges and the fundamentals of the refueling missions. Santine said these crews shared the information with others supporting the mission so the refueling missions would go smoothly.

In addition to continuity, the reservists provide flexibility to the F-22 test force. When takeoff times change, as is often the case in a test program, the crews simply adjust.

"We know these are high-priority missions, and we look at them that way," Santine said. "So when their mission changes, we change with it."

During the missions, Santine said tanker crews offer more than fuel. They keep a close eye on the Raptor to make sure

nothing looks "out of place."

"I'm sure they would know if there was something wrong," he said. "But we try to look over the aircraft just in case."

The 434th ARW plans to continue supporting the F-22 Combined Test Force at Edwards for as long as its real-world schedule permits, Santine said. That continued tanker support, Cabrera said, is critical to the future of the F-22 flight test program.

With the Grissom crews' dedicated efforts, the F-22 test team is able to conduct efficient flight tests, saving time and significant costs in delivering America's future air superiority fighter to the war fighter, Cabrera said. (AFRC News Service courtesy of Citizen Airman Magazine)

## F-22 warfighting capabilities

The F-22 represents an exponential leap in warfighting capabilities for the Air Force. It will enable the Air Force to:

- Defeat our greatest future threat: the next two generations of double-digit surface-to-air missile systems
- Defend itself and protect the F-117 and B-2, facilitating 24-hour stealth operations to counter enemy attempts to deny access
- Enhance joint warfare by gaining and maintaining air dominance, thus providing ground, naval and special operations forces with unimpeded access to their targets
- Engage mobile ground targets in any weather, 24-hours a day, deep within enemy territory with planned avionics improvements.

## Air Force extends Reserve per diem entitlements

WASHINGTON - Reservists in Air Force Reserve Command called to active duty in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom may now receive per diem for up to 730 days at one location.

Michael L. Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, signed a waiver Aug.

21 extending his original entitlement waiver for the payment of per diem from one year up to two years.

His initial waiver of Sept. 22, 2001, had authorized per diem entitlements for members up to 365 days at one location. According to officials in the Office of the Air Force Reserve's Directorate of Personnel, per diem entitlements under

this authority are not taxable and cannot be arbitrarily reduced. Per diem is not payable to people in a commuting status.

Headquarters Air Force will issue an official message providing administrative information concerning this entitlement. (AFRC News Service)



## Periodic health assessment program instituted

By MSgt. Doug Coleman  
507th Medical Standard Manager

With a seemingly endless list of requirements that reservists have to meet, "training," at least as far as their job is concerned, is often a forgotten part of the monthly unit training assembly. We understand how important training issues are but health and safety for our troops should be at the top of the list. When health and safety are sacrificed to get the job done or to meet training requirements, the mission has a very good chance of failure.

One of the requirements that takes up precious time is medical examinations. In an effort to let reservists make the most out of every available minute, the Air Force Reserve Command surgeon general's office instituted the Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment Program. The RCPHA will allow members the ability to spend less time completing required medical exams. The objective is to minimize lost training time due to annual medical requirements while at the same time allowing Reserve commanders the tools necessary to assess the medical readiness of their unit.

Under the new program, reservists will be required to fill out an Internet-based medical questionnaire, with an estimated 10-minute completion time, up to six months prior to their birth month. A medical technician will review the questionnaire and, based on the information provided, determine whether or not a person needs an appointment with a doctor. The technician will then schedule an appointment with the patient's squadron medical monitor. The RCPHA will replace the head-to-toe five-year physical for our non-flyers with a targeted physical assessment. The average person, who is in good health, will only need to be seen in the Reserve medical unit one out of every three years.

For people on flight status, the program will mean less of a change. Like everyone else, they will be required to fill out the online questionnaire. However, they will continue receiving an annual physical, though the physical will be scaled back to include only those exams necessary to ensure aeromedical safety.

With the questionnaires we can identify potential problems earlier, and we shouldn't have people falling through the system because we will see them each year.

Research has shown that these exams are expected to save 2 1/2 days over a three-year period per reservist, with the average visit decreasing from all day to half a day or less. Surgeon general officials estimate that the program will save more than 150,000 man-days command-wide over the first three years of the program.

The following are the instructions on how to access the

RCPHA questionnaire via the internet.

Go to this web site, <https://www.wbits.afrc.af.mil> and hit the RCPHA logo. At the next screen hit the questionnaire logo. The next screen will ask for your personal info. It also requires your date of rank (you can call 734-3151 or MPF to get this date). Once that has been completed, proceed to the next screen and click on questionnaire. Once the questionnaire is completed make sure you submit it, that way it will be sent to the 507th Medical Clinic.

If anybody has any questions, feel free to contact me at 734-3151.

## Reserve, Guard transitional health care benefits improve

By TSgt. Tim Dougherty  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard people who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Guard and Reserve members with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Under a worldwide demonstration project, family members are also covered under this plan. This program is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for these benefits will be determined by information in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to people who are eligible for this benefit, but only if the information in DEERS reflects their having served in support of a contingency operation such as Operation Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

Members and families who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime while the reservist was on active duty will automatically be disenrolled upon release from active duty. Reserve component or family members must actively re-enroll if they wish to continue TRICARE Prime during the transitional health care period.

An enrollment form is available on the TRICARE Web site or at a local TRICARE service center. No enrollment is necessary for TRICARE Standard or Extra. (AFRC News Service)

## Cell phones and safe driving

from the 507th ARW Safety Office

Driving can be difficult enough even when concentrating completely on the road. But driving while dialing a phone or balancing one on your ear can be distracting and potentially dangerous. Car phones may be convenient for those who own them but, if not used properly, motorists with cell phones are a danger to themselves and everyone on the road.

While there is no research that demonstrates that car phone use while driving increases the risk of an accident, anything that takes a driver's concentration off the road presents a problem and increases the possibility of a collision. At 55 miles per hour, a vehicle travels the length of a football field (3.7 seconds) — less time than it takes to dial a phone number.

The National Safety Council offers this safety information about cellular phones:

When purchasing a car phone, consider type of phone and its ease of operation. The Council strongly suggests a cellular phone with a hands-free speakerphone option, with the microphone installed in the sun visor directly above the driver's line of vision. Avoid the mistakes that many drivers make: DO NOT look at the speaker while talking.

The handset should be placed for maximum comfort and convenience by being easily accessible and allowing the driver to sit and drive normally. A hand-held phone diminishes the

use of one ear for hearing traffic noises and also reduces peripheral vision out of the eye closest to the phone.

Once the motorist is ready to begin actual use of a cellular mobile phone, he or she should remember the number one priority — driving safely! The motorist should keep both hands on the steering wheel and eyes on the road, using the speakerphone and letting the handset stay in its cradle whenever the vehicle is in motion. Become familiar with how to use the phone. Read the user's manual and practice using the different features.

Mobile phone users should also assess the traffic situation before placing or receiving calls, making sure they are fully aware of road conditions and upcoming distractions.

The safest method of calling is to dial phone numbers when stopped. Most phones allow the entry of numbers for calling at the user's convenience. Furthermore, frequently called numbers can be stored within the phone's memory to minimize dialing while driving.

The Council stresses that phone users should remember to obey all traffic signs and signals and observe posted speed limits. Since cell phone users generally drive slower and drift within their lane, a motorist on the phone should drive in the slow traffic lane in case he or she decides to pull over to complete the call. The ability to pull over into a safe stopping place is especially important if notes have to be taken.

### Family Support Volunteer Listing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Days/Times Available: \_\_\_\_\_

*I am interested in working the following circled items:*

Newsletter	Phone calls
Fundraiser ideas	Fundraiser events
Addressing Envelopes	Stuffing Envelopes
Working Family Support Booth	Decorating for events
Child Care at Family Support events	
Refreshments for Family Support events	
Next Town Hall meeting	
Local vehicle for hauling things to Family Support events	
Thank you for supporting the Family Support Office. Call us at (405) 734-6869/1890 or (800) 753-3487.	

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### Yellow Pages Volunteer Listing

The Yellow Pages is a list of businesses that provide their services to military families at free or discounted rates. We are continually updating our list. Not only does this help the families, it also gives you exposure to possible new clients. If you are interested in participating, please provide the following information:

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, call the Family Support Office at (405) 734-6869/1890 or (800) 753-3487.

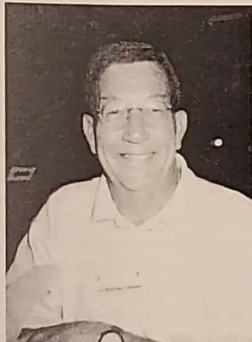
"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



# Uprclose

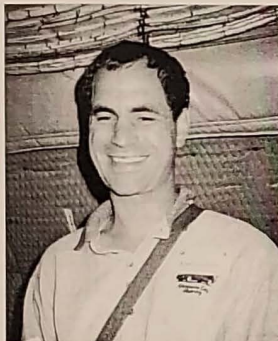
The following question was asked of participants involved in the ESGR orientation flight to Scott AFB:

**"What are your thoughts on the orientation flight and refueling mission?"**



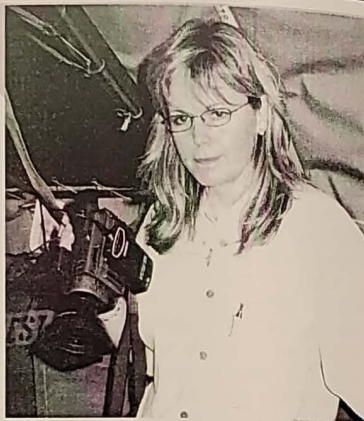
**Retired Col. Gary Jackson**  
Oklahoma ESGR executive director

"This was a great opportunity for GM to witness firsthand what their citizen-airmen are doing for their country."



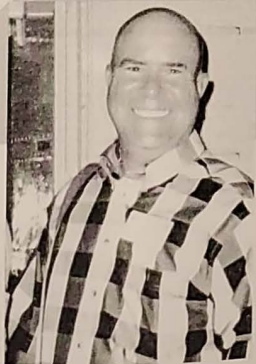
**Martin Dohman**  
Central Engineering

"It gives you a much better appreciation of what GM Reserve employees do when you personally see the roles they are playing."



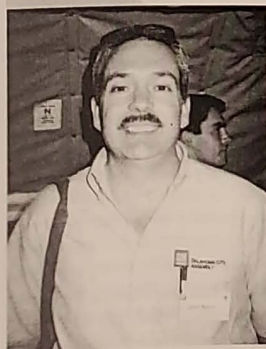
**Brenda Asby-Baldwin**  
Video/Photographer

"When we boarded the KC-135 Stratotanker, our mission was to receive an award for General Motors. However, not only did we return with the beautiful award, but everyone agreed it was an absolutely incredible day and we all returned with pride and full respect for the SH Okies, the men and women of the 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing and the United States Air Force Reserve."



**Mark Black**  
UAW Local 1999 Shop Chairman

"I never imagined I'd get an opportunity like this. It has been quite an experience -- a neat deal for me -- quite a day!"



**John Natoli** Body Shop Area Director

"This has been a wonderful opportunity to really have the chance to see this kind of operation -- I am very proud to have been a part of it. Seeing our men and women in action -- it echoes why we do this so our employees better understand why it is important to support them."

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## Employers take a ride for their Reserve support



**Top Right:** Russ Youngs, former manager of the Oklahoma City General Motors Plant, witnesses an inflight refueling as boom operator SSgt. Kelly Witt, explains the process.

**Above:** Local employers from General Motors received an opportunity to witness the inflight refueling of F-117 Stealth Fighter aircraft.

**Right:** 507<sup>th</sup> reservists CMSgt. Joe Tytanic and TSgt. Monica Stinson, are pictured next to their civilian employer Russ Youngs. Also pictured is GM employee and Army reservist Stirling Mitchell with AMC Vice Commander Lt. Gen. James R. Baker.



In August 2001, officials from Air Mobility Command (AMC) at Scott AFB, Ill., selected the Oklahoma City General Motors plant and Mr. Russell Youngs to receive its quarterly Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve award.

AMC established the award program to recognize the contributions of outstanding employers of Guardsmen and Reservists assigned to AMC-gained units. Mr. Youngs and the Oklahoma City plant was nominated by CMSgt. Joseph Tytanic, a reservist with the 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing (Air Force Reserve) stationed at Tinker Air Force Base.

Youngs, then-Manager of the Oklahoma City plant was selected to receive the award, a bronze eagle, for the second quarter. Originally, a presentation ceremony was scheduled at AMC headquarters for that fall, however the events following September 11, placed planning on hold.

On July 31, a 507<sup>th</sup> KC-135 with unit members, members from the GM plant and members from the Oklahoma Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee traveled to Scott AFB to receive the award. Officiating the ceremony was the AMC vice commander Lt. Gen. John R. Baker. This was the sixth time the award has been presented nationwide to employers of Guard and Reserve members.

For more information on nominating your employer for this AMC award program, contact 507<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs.



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U.S. Air Force photo by TSgt. Melba Koch

It may not have exactly been "JAWS 3-D", but members of the unit's Crisis Action Team (CAT) recently experienced an opportunity view a 3-D briefing by unit intelligence personnel. Though not commonplace during the meeting, the 3-D imagery added dimension to the topics discussed.

## On-final R-NEWS

### Honor Guard seeks applicants

The Tinker Honor Guard is currently accepting applications for our upcoming September training class. Class will be held Sept. 23 through 27. Please contact the Honor Guard office at 734-4226 with any questions you might have.

### Okie reunion slated

There will be a "Sierra Hotel Okie" reunion Sept. 20-21. Festivities will begin with a barbeque at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at the 465<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron headquarters. Other scheduled events include a semi-formal dinner with guest speaker Senator James Inhofe, a golf tournament, and a trip to Bricktown. The only prerequisite for attendance is that you must have been a bona fide "SH Okie" at some time in your career. All 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group members qualify.

For more information and registration, visit the website [http://](http://www.shokies.com)

[www.shokies.com](http://www.shokies.com), or contact Lt. Col. Donald W. Klinko (734-6379) or MSgt. Cindy Bischoff (734-7494).

### Unit member selected to USAF rugby Team

Congratulations to SSgt Jeremy Allen, a member of the 513th Aircraft Generation Squadron, on his selection to the U.S. Air Force's 2002 Rugby Team. As a member of the team Allen will participate in the upcoming Aspen Ruggerfest and the Armed Forces Championship, both held in Aspen, Colorado.

### Watch out - vehicle tows

According to the 72nd ABW/CV, the base will begin towing away vehicles (and trailers - attached or unattached to vehicles) that:

- have no DOD vehicle decal (sticker) registration
- have been in one spot for a considerable amount of time

There was no firm "amount of time" mentioned. The bottom line - get your vehicles registered on base.

## 507th ARW Recruiters

### Tinker AFB, OK

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



### Moore, Norman, OK

TSgt. Gene Higgins  
(405) 217-8311

### Midwest City, OK

MSgt. Pam Peterson  
SSgt. Marvin Greene  
(405) 733-9403

### Altus AFB, OK

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

### Lawton, OK

SSgt. Kamela 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  
TSgt. Arthur Powell  
(316) 652-4350