

On-Air



507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

November 2002
Vol. 22, No. 11

Unit Reservists Tackle Operational Readiness Inspection



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

Be proud of your accomplishments Stay prepared for the future

Once again we find that we are entering the holiday season having accomplished a tremendous amount for our Nation's defense.

Locally we have produced 693 sorties and flown 2,958 flying hours and that does not count all the activity while TDY.

We have flown 83 sorties for Enduring Freedom, logging almost 570 hours and offloading over 3 million pounds of fuel.

These are just a few highlights of the wing's accomplishments. I could fill several articles if I listed all that the Wing

has accomplished this year. After all this hard work, I want to make sure that we take what time that we can during the holidays to be with our families and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Make sure that your contact information is correct. If you are not going to be at your listed contact number over the holidays, make sure that someone in your chain of command knows how to get in touch with you.

Take the time now to make sure that you know where all of your personnel equipment is and ensure that it is in good working order.

Celebrate our diversity

November is Native American Heritage Month



Readership survey goes on line, opinions sought

Unit reservists now have an opportunity to provide their opinions and comments regarding On-final magazine through an automated, on-line survey software.

The software program replaces traditional newspaper survey techniques while providing immediate feedback of tabulated results.

According to TSgt. Melba Koch, 507th ARW Public Affairs NCOIC, "The software program represents a unique advancement to the way we can learn about how we are doing and

how we can help improve unit communications."

Koch said the program was created by Air Force Public Affairs and now allows for all Air Force members to grade their own unit or base newspaper by answering approximately 40 questions.

After accessing the survey link below, members start by selecting their base and then the newspaper name. Members can stop part way through the survey, click a button on the top and "SUBMIT" on the bottom and return later.

the info already entered so you won't have to start over from scratch. Koch said. The entire database will be archived every Dec. 31.

The link to the survey website is http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm.

The link to the stats of the website is http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/Statistics.htm.

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's Public Affairs Office, 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 7, Tinker AFB, OK, 73145-8726

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



Unit exercises like last month's mobilization processing line (above) will be put to test this month as an Inspector General team examines our ability to perform our wartime mission. See related story on page 4.

Air Force photo by TSgt. Tyrone Yoshida



507 ARW



513 ACG

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NEWS / INFORMATION / FAMILY READINESS / MORE!

507th AIR REFUELING WING and 513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



www.afrc.af.mil/507arw

Inspection tests wing's war readiness

By 1st Lt Bill Pierce
507th ARW Public Affairs

This month, the 507th Air Refueling Wing takes on one of the biggest challenges of any flying unit as its members prove to higher headquarters inspectors that they have what it takes to go to war.

The challenge is called an Operational Readiness Inspection, or ORI for short, and will test the unit's members' ability to mobilize and deploy, and will test forces on how well they meet major national defense war order tasks.

According to Capt. Jimmy Wolfe, 507th ARW logistics plans officer, "Although this is not a wing-wide exercise, reservists in mobility slots should understand this is why we train. This is our chance to prove to the Air Force that we can effectively mobilize our fighting forces."

Typically, the major graded areas of an ORI include the initial response, employment, mission support, and the ability to survive and operate. Previously, units would come together for a weeklong exercise that challenged members with the entire spectrum of the inspection. By breaking away from the wing-wide exercises of the past, officials attempted to integrate more flexibility into both the inspection and war planning aspects of defense operations.

The wing's inspection is one phase of a three-year inspection cycle for the 507th. Throughout the past several years, both individuals and unit type codes have been tested and passed. "A unit type code, or UTC, can either represent a specific individual, a group of individuals with the same Air Force Specialty Code identifiers, or a mixture of specialties designed to accomplish a specific wartime task, Wolfe said. The UTC being tested this month represents the very war fighting heart of the wing and brings together a core cadre that might be needed to forward deploy and become as self-sufficient as possible.

More than 100 personnel involved in the inspection will form to create a Tanker Strategic Aircraft Regeneration Team (TSART) team. The team consists of several predetermined career fields encompassing all functional areas. They are selected by individual UTCs and then seamlessly integrated into a UTC group. The only time the team is deployed is during war. Should the team be needed to complete a mission, they are alerted. Once alerted the TSART team is responsible for deploying personnel and equipment to a given location, bringing up a bare base, receiving aircraft, and regenerating aircraft within a specific time frame and for a specific time frame, said Wolfe.

The ORI will span several days encompassing numerous personnel within specific unit type codes and incorporate both

active duty as well as reserve personnel. As for the 507th unit members, they will participate in a full two-day inspection, said Wolfe.

The ORI will consist of three of the four major graded areas; initial response, employment, and mission support. According to Wolfe, we will demonstrate our abilities to respond by processing personnel through mobility lines. The initial response to be graded will be how well the unit performs command and control, execution, and management of deployment processes, Wolfe said. "All of this requires a high degree of integrated performance. The graded portion of this phase is completed once forces are loaded and ready for departure," he said.

Aircrews will demonstrate their ability to perform command and control procedures, and demonstrate knowledge of aircraft after alert notification. Aircrew procedures in this exercise are different from the normal day-to-day procedures. This exercise will not focus on the flying so much as it will on members' ability to deploy and regenerate aircraft in an effective and efficient manner.

Considering employment may encompass all these areas, Wolfe said that during this ORI unit members will be observed and graded while they perform a limited scope of tasks. "Mission support will be graded on how well it helps facilitate mission accomplishment, which directly affects the unit's ability to perform its wartime mission. Inspectors will assign grades based on direct observation of applicable tasks.

"By the end of the weekend, we are confident that we will have validated ourselves and our training by demonstrating we can deploy our expeditionary forces effectively and meet our national defense requirements," Wolfe said.

Employer recognition website endorsed by SECAF / CSAF

The SECAF and CSAF have endorsed a website where traditional reservists can submit their employers for a letter of recognition from the SECAF and CSAF. This is entirely different program than the ESGR program and is highly encouraged for all traditional reservists to participate. The website link is attached below. The form/link takes less than 5 minutes to fill out.

Often we don't take the time to show our gratitude to our employers for their support and sacrifices. This is a simple effective way for them to receive recognition from Air Force Command reinforcing our sentiments.

<http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com/thanks/>

Mobilized reservists have rights to keep civilian job

By Kenny Pruitt
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.- Reservists called to active duty in support of America's war on terrorism want and deserve assurance that they can return to their civilian job.

To help them, Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act in 1994 to keep reservists out of the unemployment line after their military service commitment ends.

At one point during the war on terrorism, more than 14,000 Air Force Reserve members were mobilized. By early October 2002, that number dropped to 4,800 as reservists demobilized and returned home.

USERRA addresses a number of issues, ranging from the reservists' responsibility to notify their employers to expanded reemployment rights for employees.

USERRA increases the anti-discrimination protection for reservists in hiring, retention and advancement on the basis of their military obligation. Furthermore, employers must make reasonable efforts to retrain or upgrade skills to qualify workers for reemployment following lengthy absences because of military obligation.

"If an employee can't get his or her exact job back, the employer should provide one with like pay and status," said Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Jess Soto of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's national headquarters in Arlington, Va. "If employers cannot provide like pay and status, they must provide an undue hardship."

In addition, the law expands health care and employee benefit pension plan coverage. It also improves protection for disabled veterans and strengthens en-

forcement mechanisms for service members who believe their reemployment rights have been violated.

Among the act's most important provisions is the one that expands the length of time that a reservist can be away from civilian employment. With USERRA, an employee can perform duty up to a total of five cumulative years while employed by that employer and still retain his or her reemployment rights. Under the old law, the limit was four years.

Both laws permitted reservists to begin a fresh five-year/four-year limit upon starting a job with a new employer.

Wright said there are many kinds of duty that do not count against the five-year limit, such as unit training assemblies and involuntary deployments. As a result, Wright said, "The majority of reservists never get close to reaching the five-year limit."

What does count toward the five-year limit is special training that is not categorized as professional development and volunteer duty assignments for non-critical requirements.

Educating reservists about the USSERA law is one of the roles of the

ESGR headquarters, which was created in 1972 to keep conflicts between civilian employment and military duties to a minimum.

At the local level, each wing under the Air Force Reserve Command is expected to appoint a unit ESGR representative, who works with local Mission One volunteers to provide direct assistance to reservists in the unit. ESGR Mission One volunteers also act as a conduit to state ESGR ombudsmen, who are responsible for understanding the USSERA laws and representing reservists in disputes with employers.

If local efforts fail to resolve a conflict, reservists can contact an ESGR ombudsman directly for assistance by going through the HQ ESGR-toll-free number 1-800-336-4590.

"The number one question that reservists ask is 'Will I get the same job back when I go back to work,'" Soto said. "Although the employee isn't 'bullet proof,' the law benefits the reservists and their families. ESGR is here to ensure both the reservist and the employer are familiar with that that law." (AFRC News Service)

Protecting rights rests with reservists

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.- Enacted by Congress in 1994, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is designed to protect an individual's civilian job when he or she goes on active duty, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the individual must meet certain eligibility requirements to be protected by the law. Those provisions include:

- Holding a civilian job with some reasonable expectation for continued employment;
- Giving notice to the employer that he or she will be leaving the job for service in the uniformed ser-

vices, including Reserve component training;

- Being released from military service under honorable conditions;
- Not exceeding the five-year cumulative limit on periods of military service; and
- Applying for reemployment in a timely manner.

Members of Air Force Reserve and other reserve components can learn more about the USERRA laws by going to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Web site - www.esgr.com (AFRC News Service)

Unit member named Fort Worth firechief

Air Force reservist and veteran Oklahoma City firefighter Maj. Leonard Charles Gaines has been selected as the newest fire chief for Fort Worth, Texas.

When Major Gaines assumes his position on Nov. 25, he will become the 11th fire chief for Fort Worth and the first African-American to hold that position. Gaines, currently the chief of the 507th ARW's Military Equal Opportunity Office, was a deputy fire chief in Oklahoma City, and was one of the first responders to the 1995 Murrah Federal Building bombing.

Major Gaines is an Oklahoma native. He enlisted in the Air Force on active duty in 1975, attending technical training as a Fire Protection Specialist at Chanute AFB, Ill., after his basic training. Gaines' first duty assignment was at Whiteman AFB, Mo., with a follow-on assignment to Kadena AB, Okinawa, and then to George AFB in Calif. He left active duty in July of 1980, joining the Air Force Reserve and the 507th Air Refueling Wing in March of 1985, where he was assigned to the Civil Engineer Squadron as a fire protection specialist. In 1988, Gaines became the chief of the 507th's fire protection unit, a position he held until receiving a direct commission in September of 1990. Gaines was assigned as the deputy chief of Social Actions Office.

Gaines said he is highly appreciative of his military experiences thus far. "The Air Force gave me the fundamental train-

ing I needed to start and grow in the fire service profession," he said. "I am proud of being a member of the 507th. I joined the unit when it flew the F-4 Phantom, made the transitions to F-16, and now to tankers. I have enjoyed my Reserve career. I have met some upstanding people."

"The move that I am making has been planned and is a natural progression for my career. I plan on staying a member of the unit for as long as I can," he said.

According to news reports from the Fort Worth *Star Telegram*, Gaines received a standing ovation by city council members as his selection was announced during a meeting last month. Fort Worth City Manager Gary Jackson stated, "Very rarely does a city manager have the privilege of recommending someone of Charles' stature and experience. He is the full package - well-rounded in terms of experience, he is a great communicator and he has handled adversity and crisis situations." Gaines has stated that he is eager to lead the 787-member Fort Worth department.

Wing excellence recognized

The Oklahoma Federal Executive Board (OFEB) presented two Excellence Awards to the 507th Air Refueling Wing during a ceremony held last month.

The wing received Excellence Awards for its Human Resource Focus and Leadership.

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.

This is the second year for The Cornerstone Award program. 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 also allows the applicant to use the criteria for self-assessment throughout all levels of their organization as well as receive feedback.

"The award criteria allows you to take a detached, unemotional look inside your organization," said Maj. Don Satterlee, of the 507th ARW Performance Planning Office.

Former 'Okies' add stars

One former "Okie" was nominated by the president Oct. 15, for promotion to major general and two others were selected to receive their first star, according to an Air Force Reserve Command release.

Nominated for his second star is David A. Robinson, mobilization augmentee to the director of aerospace operations, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va. General Robinson was a former member of the 465th Fighter Squadron, now the 465th Air Refueling Squadron.

Nominated for promotion to brigadier general were Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. Colonel Mazick was a former commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, and Jack W. Ramsaur II, MA to the 19th Air Force commander, Randolph AFB, Texas. Colonel Ramsaur was the former commander of the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, 513th Air Control Group.

These promotions take effect upon U.S. Senate confirmation and by direction of the chief of Air Force Reserve. (AFRC News Service)

AFRC surpasses annual recruiting goal

The Air Force Reserve Command exceeded its recruiting expectations for fiscal year 2002, despite being hampered by the Air Force's Stop-Loss program. And so did the Reserve recruiter here at Tinker AFB.

According to MSgt. Larry Wheatley, Air Force Reserve Recruiting In-Service recruiter at Tinker AFB, "we had 219 accessions which was 105 percent of our ambitious goal of 209."

In previous years, recruiters relied heavily on separating active-duty members to fill Reserve positions, but that luxury was largely gone because many active-force members were being involuntarily retained by Stop-Loss to fight the war on terrorism. Stop-Loss also affected the Reserve, so it had fewer vacancies to fill because of separations and retirements.

"With stop-loss," said Wheatley, "we had to get creative in our recruiting here. Also, we still had vacancies to fill for the 507th and 513th. We have outstanding new recruiters that have heart, and the



MSgt. Larry Wheatley, Reserve in-service recruiter, meets with his recent accession, TSgt. Kelly Gonsalves, now assigned to the 507th Logistics Support Squadron.

NOVEMBER 2002



MSgt. Larry Wheatley and the Reserve recruiting team at Tinker AFB, exceeded their recruiting goals for the year.

leadership in CMSgt. Alfonso Garsa, Jr. to ensure that we have the best tools available."

As a result of stop-loss, the recruiting goal was set lower than in years past because the Reserve had to recruit largely non-prior service people to fill vacancies.

With a goal of 7,600 during fiscal year 2002, which ended Sept. 30, the recruiters signed up 8,202 recruits, yielding an end-strength requirement of 103.4 percent. During the previous fiscal year, the goal was 10,037, and the command accessed 10,500 recruits, to finish the year at 100.69 percent of programmed strength.

"We knew it would be a challenge exceeding the recruiting numbers of FY01, which was the highest posted in five years," said Col. Francis M. Mungavin, director of recruiting at Headquarters AFRC. "I give full credit to our bag-carrying recruiters, who are responsible for surpassing our recruiting goal set for 2002."

Mungavin said his people knew 2002 would be a demanding year,

so they implemented some new strategies to get the job done. He attributes the success to the following:

- Targeting inactive, prior-service people who had served in other military branches, as well as people who never served in the military;
- Teaming with commanders at all levels for projecting active-duty members after the end of the Stop-Loss;
- Improving recruiter training and Reserve recruiting commercial advertisement; and
- Developing an award-winning Web site - www.afreserve.com - and two international programs - "Recruit the recruiter," to fill recruiting vacancies, and "Get One" whereby reservists recommend potential recruits.

This fiscal year promises to be another test for Reserve recruiters with a goal of 10,367.

"We have taken steps to prepare to meet our FY03 recruiting goals by establishing a new recruiter training program and by receiving increased advertising monies," Mungavin said. (AFRC News Service)



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

Approaching the Holidays

We are approaching that time of year we all love, the Holiday Season. November's Thanksgiving Holiday is always the prelude to Christmas and New Years. And both of these seasons always seem to rush by probably because of our busy lives. So, I wish to remind you all to take advantages as much as possible. Slow down and enjoy your families, loved ones, and friends. For it is our relationships that sustain us, strengthen us, aiding us to do better at our jobs. It is our relationships that

foster the camaraderie that we never forget and reminisce for the rest of our lives.

Also, please be supportive of those members who are deploying during these days as well as their loved ones they are leaving behind throughout the holidays. What a hardship and sacrifice our people are making for our nation and I hope the appreciation we have for them will last forever. And above all, always be thankful for our great nation. Be thankful for the many who sacrificed their lives in defending freedom so that we, our children, and children's children may live in peace. And lastly, be thankful to God for our rich blessings that He has so richly and lavishly poured on us. It is God himself who blessed America as the strongest most viable nation in the world. And I believe He did this so that we may help others. So, may God continue His blessings on you all as we serve and as we all approach the holidays.

Top 513th enlisted members of quarter selected

MSgt. Steven M. Parker, TSgt. Rebecca C. Bower, and SrA. Ryan B. Barnard have been selected as quarterly award winners for July 1 – Sept. 30 for the 513th Air Control Group. All three have been activated in support of Operation Noble Eagle and have entered their second year of activation.

MSgt. Steven Parker is an AWACS radar technician with the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron. He maintains 100-percent currency of all required training event items, enhancing the unit's war-fighting capability. He seizes opportunities for extra work and assignments, including flying on all unit deployments during the 2002 fiscal year. His initiatives have reduced traditional reservist publications reviewing time during UTAs and local training sorties, enabling them to obtain more training-event accomplishments during these periods, and enhancing the overall training effectiveness of the section and the unit.

"Parker is an outstanding evaluator airborne radar technician and had a flawless performance during the 12th Air Force staff assistance visit," said Lt. Col. Marvin Alexander, 970th AACCS commander.

Parker has completed his Subcourse 6D by correspondence and recently completed 15 credit hours through the College of Business at Park University.

Parker supports the local community by tutoring low income and underprivileged students at various schools. He is also the squadron Harley Davidson morale NCO.

TSgt. Rebecca Bower is NCOIC of training with the 513th OSF. She created and implemented critical Ready Aircrew Program management programs, resulting in the 513th ACG training office receiving "Honorable Mention" during the Unit Compliance Inspection.

Bower flew 26 sorties in support of Operation Noble Eagle and led the radar technicians in sorties and hours flown," said Lt. Col. Amy Hampton, 513th OSF commander. "Her 'can do' attitude and work ethic set the pace for all other radar technicians to follow."

Bower completed her PME in one-third the time allotted. She also completed her CDCs and received her CCAF degree in Avionics Systems Technology. Bower currently is working on her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Active in the local community, Bower volunteers with the Adopt-a-School program. She also participates in base intramural softball, football, and volleyball activities.

SrA. Ryan Barnard is an instructor airborne surveillance technician with the 970th AACCS. He has logged more than 1,000 flying hours in the E-3B/C battle management asset.

"Barnard is a reliable and dependable airman," said Lt. Col. Marvin L. Alexander. He is a consummate team player who has a bright future ahead of him and the drive necessary to get him there!" He meticulously tracked, monitored, and managed an extensive spreadsheet of incoming and outgoing aircrew members, ensuring 100 percent personnel accountability to the DETCO and deployed staff. The attention to detail items were very appreciated – he shuttled crewmembers to and from the airport; obtained several pallets of bottled water; ensured daily post office trips were accomplished and the mail was distributed, etc.

Barnard is enrolled in the Airman Leadership School correspondence course. In his spare time, Barnard participates in base/unit-sponsored sporting events.

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.volled.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.

HQ AFRC will approve/disapprove based on funding.

Payment occurs after satisfactory course completion. TA reimbursement amounts are set at 75 percent (\$3500) per FY (Masters) or 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Bachelors). 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
2003-3	1	25 Feb - 03 Apr 03	Tyndall AFB, FL
2003-4	1	15 Apr - 22 May 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. 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)

FY2003 UTA SCHEDULE

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

As of 15 October 2002

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Fri, 15 Nov 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, 16 Nov 2002**Unit Designated Sign In**

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
0915-1115	Computer Based Testing	Bldg 1043, ATN Room
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1600-1630	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out		Unit Designated Sign Out

Sun, 17 Nov 2002**Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Conf Room
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
0750-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams	Bldg 460, Room 213
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0830-1030	Unit Safety Rep	Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Cancelled
0930	Catholic Chapel Service	Base Chapel
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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 Sign Out

Fri, 06 Dec 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 Dec 2002**Unit Designated Sign In**

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
0915-1115	Computer Based Testing	Bldg 1043, ATN Room
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1600-1630	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out		Unit Designated Sign Out

Sun, 08 Dec 2002**Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Conf Room
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
0750-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams	Bldg 460, Room 213
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph IIBldg 1030, Room 214	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0830-1030	Supervisor Safety Training	Bldg 201, Base Education Bldg
0900-1000	3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng	Cancelled
0930	Catholic Chapel Service	Base Chapel
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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 Sign Out

ATTENTION

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 1030, Room 214. 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	1300-1400	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	1015-1045	Counter Intel /Awareness	SFS
Sunday	1045-1115	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 1030, Room 214.

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 1030, Room 214.

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:
18 Nov	27 Nov
20 Nov	29 Nov
25 Nov	02 Dec
27 Nov	06 Dec
03 Dec	11 Dec
05 Dec	13 Dec
10 Dec	18 Dec
12 Dec	20 Dec
16 Dec	24 Dec
17 Dec	31 Dec

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

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

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

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.

<p>Editor:</p> <p>Assistant Editor:</p> <p>Contributing Editors:</p>	<p>CMSgt. Charlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)</p> <p>MSgt. Dennis O. Cain, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)</p> <p>TSgt. Sharon Lochman, NCOIC, Schools and OJT (ART)</p> <p>TSgt. Melanie E. Cherry, Education and Training Advisor</p> <p>SSgt. Lisa M. Bingenheimer, Education and Training Advisor</p> <p>Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor</p>
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Bill appropriates nearly \$3.4 billion for AFRC

WASHINGTON – Air Force Reserve Command is getting \$3.4 billion to operate and man the air reserve component, a \$300 million increase compared to last year.

President George W. Bush signed the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense Appropriations Act into law Oct. 23 during a White House ceremony. The bill allocates \$355 billion to all of DOD, \$37 billion more than last year.

During the ceremony, the president also signed the \$10.5 billion FY 2003 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which includes \$67.2 million for AFRC programs.

The president noted the security of the American people is the first commitment of the American government. "Our nation faces grave new dangers, and our nation must fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf," Bush said. "We owe them every resource, every weapon and every tool they need to fulfill their missions."

AFRC appropriations for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2003, permits a Selected Reserve end strength of 75,600 – 61,196 drilling reservists, 12,906 individual mobilization augmentees, and a full-time Active Guard and Reserve cadre of 1,498 members. Last year the command received funding for an end strength of

74,700, which included 1,437 AGRs.

This year's Defense Appropriations Act calls for a full-time air reserve technician force of 9,911, an increase of 93 ARTs compared to last year.

Under the reserve personnel appropriation, the Air Force Reserve receives nearly \$1.2 billion to cover pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, travel and other related expenses. This year's RPA funds a pay hike of 4.1 percent for military personnel. Last year's RPA budget called for \$1.061 billion for the Reserve.

Another \$2.2 billion goes to operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and administer the command this year. O&M funds pay for flying hours, depot maintenance, repair of facilities and equipment, travel and transportation, civilian pay, recruiting, and communication, as well as procurement of services, supplies and equipment. Last year the command got an O&M budget of \$2.005 billion.

The Defense and Military Construction Appropriations Acts provide the funds to carry out programs, but the National Defense Authorization Act allows DOD to spend the money. As of Oct. 23, the president had not signed the FY 2003 NDAA. (AFRC News Service)

Unit members receive CCAF associate degrees

Sixteen members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group received Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) associate degrees earlier this month.

According to Mr. John Baker of the 507th ARW Training Office, "This is a fantastic graduation rate. We're very pleased to see our members taking advantage of this opportunity."

The college celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. CCAF was established as an Air Force unit within Air Training Command (now Air Education and Training Command) March 16, 1972, and officially opened April 1 at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. From a small beginning, the college has grown from its first graduating class of seven students in 1973 to more than 11,000 graduates per year today.

CCAF began as a plan to prepare enlisted personnel for future leadership roles and technology changes. Over the years, it's grown into the world's largest community college with nearly 400,000 students enrolled. CCAF degree programs are constantly evolving, and provide an easily

accessible college system that supports enlisted, job-related technical training.

In 1973, CCAF was accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education Institutions of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the college initially offered two certificates — the Career Education Certificate and the Instructor of Technology Certificate.

During the spring graduation in 1977, the college awarded its first associate in applied science degree and began the task of securing accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. CCAF was accepted as a candidate in June 1978 and accredited in 1980.

Today, the multicampus system consists of affiliated Air Force technical and professional military education schools, education services centers, and civilian colleges and universities.

Graduates include *SrA Mary C. Rehn*, 35th Combat Communications Squadron – Human Resource Management (HRM); *SSgt. Andrew W. Fritsch*, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron – Avionic Systems Technology

(AST); *MSgt. Marty R. Lochman*, 465th Air Refueling Squadron – Aviation Maintenance Technology; *SrA Lindy R. Hoagland*, 507th Aircraft Generation Squadron – AST; *MSgt. Ronald E. Lepp*, 507th Logistics Support Squadron – Logistics; *SrA Daniel A. Martin*, 507th Medical Squadron (MDS) – Allied Health Sciences; *SrA Kristie J. Punley*, 507th MDS – Dental Assisting; *SSgt. Mark C. Nave*, 513th Maintenance Squadron – Metals Technology; *TSgt. Gerald D. Anderson*, 507th Mission Support Squadron (MSS) – Fitness, Recreation and Services Management (FRSM); *SSgt. Kimberly M. Belcher*, 507th MSS – FRSM; *MSgt. Dennis O. Cain*, 507th MSS – Education and Training Management (ETM); *TSgt. Sharon Lochman*, 507th MSS – Human Resource Management; *SSgt. Shirley M. Roberts*, 507th MSS – Personnel Administration; *SrA Sharon L. Anderson*, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS), ETM; *SSgt. Brian L. Davie*, 970th AACS – Air and Space Operations Technology; *SrA Shawn M. Kilbourne*, 970th AACS – Avionics Systems Technology.

Addicted to dance

Wing reservist says he has no intentions of stopping

By TSgt. Melba Koch
507th ARW
Public Affairs Office

Patrick Haines has an addiction...and he has no intention of stopping.

Haines, a Technical Sergeant reservist with the 507th Air Refueling Wing, got hooked last March when he took his first ballroom dancing lesson.

Eight months later, the metals technician became the president of the Oklahoma City Chapter of the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dance Association (USABDA).

"I'm serious when I say ballroom dancing is addictive," Haines said. When he started last March, Haines began by taking one to two lessons a week. But now, with several dances held around town every weekend, Haines says he's trying to attend as many as possible.

"I like to dance," said Haines. "It's a four-seasons event. You get to meet lots of cool people, it helps lower cholesterol level, and is a good light aerobic exercise. All you need to have fun is just learn the basics and then keep practicing. There are usually several dances around town every weekend. You can take group lessons at a studio or dance club to see if you like it and shop around for more advanced lessons."

"It's never too late to learn the techniques of ballroom dancing," Haines said, "and you're never too young to learn how either. Many younger people are getting involved in dancing through college classes and some even have classes while in high school."

"There are studios in the area that offer lessons in all types of dance from the waltz, fox trot, cha-cha, salsa,



Patrick Haines and dancing partner Maggie Abel, love to dance and compete in various dances around town.

polka to international dancing," said Haines. "Some offer introductory classes that include group lessons as well as private lessons"

Haines said the purpose of USABDA is to introduce ballroom dancing to all ages, all skill levels and all income levels. Skill levels range from individuals with no experience in ballroom dancing to those who have reached Bronze, Silver, or even Gold level of dancing.

The USABDA holds dances once a month for members and nonmembers and a free dance lesson is included. The first dance is scheduled at the Moose Lodge in Midwest City Nov. 9. The dances are for singles and couples.

In spite of his "beginner status," Haines and a partner recently entered an annual dance competition called The Oklahoma Challenge. They entered several contests and were chosen as the most outstanding amateur couple. "We were really surprised to receive the award," said Haines.

For more information on ballroom dancing, contact Patrick Haines at 670-8135.

Reserve to recoup funds from ineligible GI Bill recipients

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Beginning Oct. 1, the Air Force Reserve will recoup money from reservists who receive GI Bill benefits but fail to complete their military or education obligations.

The Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve enables reserve component members who enlist, re-enlist or extend in the Selected Reserve for a six-year contract to be eligible for education benefits. However, the 1985 law also calls for fund recoupment if service members do not complete continuous satisfactory membership in the Selected Reserve.

"Recoupment is required by law and is being implemented by all reserve components," said Julia Williamson, training specialist in the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Directorate of Personnel at Robins AFB. "AFRC would prefer that reservists participate regularly and fulfill their service obligations so recoupment will not be necessary."

Members who have been placed in the Individual Ready Reserve for more than 12 months because of absences from training, failure to meet physical standards or failure to complete military courses are among those who will be asked to refund unearned benefits.

The Air Force Reserve has been working with the other

reserve components to streamline recoupment procedures throughout the Department of Defense, according to Ray Warren, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve program manager in the Office of the Air Force Reserve's Directorate of Personnel in Arlington, Va.

"This was a long process and finally we have systems that can work together and ensure current and accurate data is available and that any recoupment action is fair," Warren said.

The names of former Selected Reserve members who have received benefits but did not fulfill their commitment will be identified in the personnel data system. The names will then be forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for collection action, which could involve garnishment of wages or placement on active duty.

Unlike its active-duty counterpart, the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve program is funded by the reserve components, not the service members themselves.

Unit reservists may contact their wing education and training offices, and individual mobilization augmentees may contact the Military Training Division at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver for additional information. (AFRC News Service)

No mandatory wait period for citizenship

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All military members who are legal resident aliens can now apply for citizenship without a mandatory wait period.

There is a five-year conditional period from the time individuals get their green cards through the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service until they can apply to become naturalized U.S. citizens, INS officials said.

Under previous rules, that mandatory wait time was reduced to three years for military members. After a July 4 executive order, there is no mandatory wait period for military members.

"Thousands of our men and women in uniform were born in other countries and now spend each day in

honorable service to their adopted land. Many of them are still waiting for the chance to become American citizens because of the waiting period for citizenship," President Bush said in a July 4 speech in West Virginia.

"These men and woman love our country. They show it in their daily devotion to duty," he said. "Out of respect for their brave service in this time of war, I have signed an executive order allowing them an immediate opportunity to petition for citizenship in the United States of America."

White House officials said as many as 15,000 service members affected by the waiting period could now be eligible to apply for citizenship under the new rules. DoD statistics put the number of legal resident aliens serving in the military at roughly 31,000.

An INS official explained anyone

who has served honorably between Sept. 11 and a date to be determined is eligible under the new rules.

"If someone got out of the military before the change but has served since Sept. 11, that individual is still eligible to apply for naturalization," INS spokesman Chris Bentley said. He explained the naturalization process typically takes eight to 10 months from the time an application packet is submitted until the oath of citizenship is administered.

An application packet must contain several INS forms, all available on the Internet, a set of fingerprints, and other documentation. Information on naturalization is on the Internet at www.ins.gov or available by calling the National Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-375-5283.

First sergeant job becoming special duty

By Tech. Sgt. Jurita G. Barber
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The job of first sergeant in the Air Force will become a special duty assignment Oct. 1, according to the first sergeant career field manager at the Pentagon.

As a result, said SMSgt. Michael Gilbert, new first sergeants will no longer be required to cross-train into the job, and most can return to their old Air Force specialty after a three-year tour.

The change comes as a result of a 15-month review by the office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

"We have 1,200 active-duty first sergeant positions, and we are currently short 120 people in meeting our program needs," he said. "This translates into about 20,000 Air Force troops, commanders and family members not being properly served."

A major goal of the change is to attract more senior enlisted leaders, some

of whom may not have wanted to permanently leave their functional specialty, Gilbert said. Unlike the current cross-training program, the special duty program is designed to return members to their original career field after serving as first sergeants.

The new program will broaden the experiences of more noncommissioned officers and better prepare them to serve as senior enlisted leaders in their functional areas and beyond, Gilbert explained. "This program will help us deliberately develop some of the top enlisted leaders we will need in the future," he said.

Tour lengths will also change. The first tour will be three years. About two years into the tour, the member can apply for another three-year tour, and, depending on Air Force needs, may be selected for a second tour.

First sergeants will continue to test for promotion against others with the

special duty skill, Gilbert said.

After Oct. 1, the changes will be phased in as new people come into the program. While many new first sergeants will be required to return to their old career fields, those already serving as first sergeants can remain in the first sergeant program or return to their previous jobs.

"These folks stepped up and did what we asked them to do," Gilbert said. "They've served us well, and we need many of them to continue on as first sergeants. But we do want to give them a greater opportunity than they currently have, to go out and do more good stuff for the Air Force."

The Air Force is gradually setting up a system that will give greater opportunities to more NCOs who want to demonstrate leadership and have a say in what is going on at the unit level, Gilbert said. "There's no better job in this Air Force than the unit-level first sergeant," he said.

Leadership key in solving travel card problems

By TSgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A Department of Defense comptroller task force created to look into ways to reduce misuse, abuse and fraudulent use of the government travel card wants commanders to take a more active role in the program management. The task force has also recommended canceling thousands of inactive cards.

In a recently released report, the group made many recommendations and changes they said will improve the travel card program so it can remain a beneficial program and cost-effective way for employees to travel.

"Clearly, the most significant finding that came out of the task force is that they say that the travel card program is a leadership responsibility," said Michael Weber, Air Force travel card program manager at the Pentagon. "Commanders must take an active role in reviewing reports. Supervisors must watch their people."

Weber said the task force recognizes that 97 percent of government travelers use their card properly and do not need to be watched;

however, when people abuse the card or do not pay their bill, they are putting themselves and the program at risk.

"I've seen people lose security clearances or get court-martialed for fraud or other crimes," Weber said. "The card program does not have to have these consequences if managed properly. It's serious business and commanders need to pay better attention to what their people are doing with the travel card."

The task force also recommended the cancellation of expired or inactive travel card accounts, saying they are an "unnecessary administrative burden and could lead to potential abuse and misuse." This will amount to nearly 25 percent of travel cards issued to Air Force people.

"If you haven't used your card for a while and know that you have a temporary duty trip coming up, the best thing to do is call the number on the back of the travel card and ask the bank if your card is still valid," Weber said. "If the card has been canceled, it means you haven't used your card in the past year. You can contact your card manager to reactivate the card for use."

Part of basewide program

Unit tests "boot-scootin' buggy"



U.S. Air Force Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

SMSgt. Bob Erickson, NCOIC of Quality Assurance, 507th Air Refueling Wing's Maintenance Group tests out a Segway transport unit. The 'buggy' is described as the world's first self-balancing human transporter.

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

It's described as the world's first self-balancing human transporter, but for some unit members, this new Segway transporter is just a boot-scooting buggy.

The transporter, which can go up to 12 miles an hour, looks more like a lawn mower than a scooter and has no brakes. It is designed to mimic the human body's ability to maintain its balance; riders control the speed and direction of the device simply by shifting their weight and using a manual turning mechanism on one of the handlebars.

According to SMSgt. Bob Erickson, NCOIC of Quality Assurance with the 507th Maintenance Group, the 507th is part of a basewide testing program to determine the value of the unit to support day-to-day operations. In all, 10 units were leased and distributed to base organizations.

"We will be testing this unit for four months," Erickson said. "For our guys traversing back and forth across our campus, they could be of value. They are probably more economical and better for the environment than our current gas-powered carts."

While the transport can be equipped with saddlebags, Erickson mused that carrying toolboxes may not be realistic. "We would be able to carry things like technical orders."

Regarding the ever-present Oklahoma wind, Erickson stated that thus far there hasn't seemed to be much of an impact. "The gyros are very stable on this unit. At present, Environmental Management is telling us we can't use it on the flight line because Base Ground Safety has not approved it yet. We're working this issue now, but as far as we can tell, there at least should be no concerns from water because everything is sealed," Erickson said.

And while it's 12-mile-per-hour top speed won't create any illusions of becoming an "Easy Rider," Erickson still says that riding the Segway "is fun."



Family readiness toolkit website ready to help you roll

The Air Force wants people trained to fight and physically fit with their minds on the job when they deploy overseas. Part of being prepared is making sure loved ones are taken care of before shipping out.

To help make that happen, reservists can turn to the Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Program Toolkit, which is available on the Web at www.defenselink.mil/ra.

The toolkit offers advice on a variety of topics, including medical care, necessary documents, finances, transportation and housing.

Thrift Savings Plan to become more user friendly

Upcoming improvements to the Thrift Savings Plan for both military and federal civilian employees will make the program easier to use.

Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, an Army lawyer who directs the Armed Forces Tax Council in the Pentagon, said the most significant change will be that accounts will become daily valued, instead of the current monthly valued. All transactions will be updated daily, he said.

Other changes include better online access to accounts and participant statements expressed in shares and dollars, instead of just dollars as the current statements are.

VA guide free on internet

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made its comprehensive benefits guide available free on the Internet.

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents is a 118-page handbook describing benefits provided by the VA and an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies. To view this guide as a portable document format, go to: <http://www.va.gov/pubaff/fedben/fedben.pdf>.

VA officials estimate most of America's 25 million veterans qualify for at least some VA benefits, but many are unaware of their entitlements. This handbook includes a listing of toll-free numbers, World Wide Web information resources, and VA facilities. Through this offering, the VA hopes to make the information available to more veterans.

New badge for commanders

The Air Force Command Insignia will be awarded to squadron, group, wing and equivalent organization commanders in the ranks of major through colonel. The badge is to be worn

above the name tag on both blues and battle dress uniforms. While mandatory for people currently in a commander billet, wear of the badge will be optional or those with past command experience.

Toll-free lodging line setup

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) — Air Force Services Agency officials have established a toll-free centralized number to help people reach any base lodging operation in the continental United States.

The number, (888) AF Lodge or (888) 235-6343, eliminates customers having to contact individual lodging facilities to make reservations.

Air Force lodging branch officials are working with the Defense Travel System team to develop "one-stop shopping" for all travelers' needs.

Tuition assistance increases for undergraduate program

"There's no reason for a unit member not to take advantage of tuition assistance and work on obtaining a degree now that 100 percent of the tuition cost is reimbursable," says John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor with the 507th Education and Training Office.

For the second year in a row, Air Force Reserve Command is boosting the amount of help offered through its Tuition Assistance Program for undergraduate work.

Starting Oct. 1, the Reserve will increase a student's maximum assistance per semester from \$187.50 to \$250 for undergraduate work, reimbursing reservists for 100 percent of the tuition cost up to \$4,500 annually for education programs offered by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support.

Last year the Reserve raised the maximum annual aid for reservists from \$2,500 to \$3,500 and expanded tuition assistance for the DANTES distant learning program to include master's degrees.

The master's degree program will remain the same this year, with the Reserve reimbursing reservists up to 75 percent of the tuition costs. Participants may get up to \$187.50 per semester or a maximum of \$3,500 annually to complete their degrees.

As in the past, the changes are part of the Reserve's ongoing effort to attract recruits and bolster retention.

Unit reservists can learn more about the eligibility requirements and program features from the wing education and training office at 734-7075 or stop by the office in Building 1043, Room 206.

Uprclose

The following was asked of members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing: "What was the best part of your summer?"



Lt. Col. Jerry Lauth
507th OG/CD

"I got to go backpacking with my son at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch."



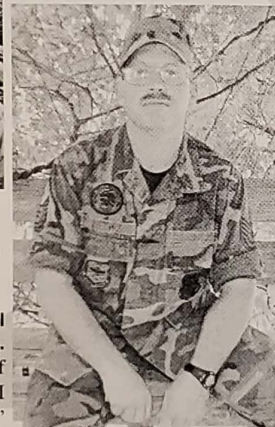
MSgt. Nathan McGuire
72nd Aerial Port Sq.

"I did my annual tour and got caught-up in my office and around the house."



SrA. Richard Joyce
507th MXS

"I went to New York and spent time with my family!"



TSgt. William Bethel
507th Civil Engineer Sq.

"Spending the summer in the land of the never-ending beach, Kuwait. I sure enjoyed coming home."



TSgt. Silas Smith
507th Civil Engineer Sq.

"Spent the summer in Kuwait, best part, coming home."

MSgt. Donna Heflin
507th Aircraft Generation Sq.

"Took a trip to Houston, Texas to see a good friend on my birthday and watch her son's graduation."



NOVEMBER 2002

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



1st Lt. Jim Matthey accepts the 2001 Tinker AFB Athlete of the Year trophy from Col. Dennis M. Kaan, 72nd Air Base Wing commander. Matthey participates in flag football, softball, and volleyball on base. He is a member of the Air Force Reserve Volleyball and Flag Football teams, the 513th ACG group softball team, and serves as group fitness monitor.



Col. Dean J. Despinoy, 507th ARW commander, presents MSgt. Steve Rhodes, 35th CBCS first sergeant, with a base fitness award during an October commander's call.

Goodman promoted



Lt. Col. Ernest Goodman was promoted last month during a recognition ceremony. Above TSgt. Shelly Elliott, 507th Services Flight and SMSgt. Michael Reed, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron get to perform the promotion honors.

NOVEMBER 2002

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



We have 400 Christmas stockings that need to be filled by unit volunteers like some of last year supporters TSgt. Windell Spain, MSgt. Treva Ragland, MSgt. Terry Smith, Ms. Kim Hinkston, and TSgt. Mary Randolph. See your First Sergeant or Chaplain staff for "filling" details.

Parting Shots

AFSA nets 48 new members



The Air Force Sergeant's Association set up a new membership recruiting booth during the September Tinker AFB Reserve Family Day. AFSA recruited 48 new members eight of which signed as Life Time members. Some of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Wing Air Force Sergeants Association members are pictured above. They are, left to

right, MSgt. Steve Rhodes, CMSgt. Bob Kellington, CMSgt. Larry Deal, MSgt. Debi Peoples, MSgt. Marie Pollard, MSgt. Walt Simco, SMSgt. Shelia Russell, SMSgt. Matthew Bier, MSgt. Nate McGuire, TSgt. Gary Berry, MSgt. Larry Bryant, MSgt. Gaery Ragan, MSgt. Carvel Davis, and MSgt. Clyde Hankins.

On-final R-NEWS

Seven Habits Class set

The next class of "7 Habits for Highly Effective People" will be held 27-30 January in the Natural Resources building 2003. If you are interested in attending contact Major Satterlee at 734-5543.

Honor Guard to train

The next Honor Guard training class will be held on November 18-22. If you are interested in joining, contact MSgt. Deb Kidd at 734-4226.

Dinner to raise donations

The 4th Annual Operation Holiday Spirit (OHS) fund raiser Steak Dinner will begin at 6 p.m., Dec. 6 at the Prime BEEF building 1115 main assembly area.

The cost for the evening is \$25 per person (\$15 for people who help set up and serve). The supper includes steak, chicken, or vegetarian entree, baked po-

tato, vegetable and cheesecake. People are invited to bring a beverage to share at their table. Social Hour will begin at 6 p.m. with dinners starting at 7 p.m. See Maj. Ralph Hawkins at the 513th Air Control Group, SMSgt. Jerry Lyles in the Maintenance Group, SSgt. Michelle Paperini in Personnel, or TSgt. Takesha Williams at the Air Refueling Squadron to purchase tickets. Last year, 135 folks attended the dinner. This year's goal is for 150 to attend. Money raised from the dinner is used for unit holiday charity events.

ROA plans meetings

Chapter 66 of the Reserve Officers Association will feature Maj. Gen. "Bugs" Forsythe, former 507th member, as guest speaker during their December 7, luncheon in the 513th ACG conference room. Col. Stayce D. Harris, 507th ARW vice commander, will be the guest speaker during the Jan. 11 luncheon. Start times for both of these UTA week-end events is 11 a.m.

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