

On-Target



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

February 2003
Vol. 23, No. 2

Training. . .



. . . to be ready

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

There has been an adage around the Air Force Reserve Command almost since its beginning that is truer today than at any other time, "you recruit the member but you retain the family." Because of the dramatic increase in the Reserve share of the real-world mission, it is possible for every reservist to be employed full-time by the wing. Reservists are not only answering the call when our wing is tasked, but also volunteering to fill in whenever and wherever active duty has a hole to fill, resulting in a true total force. It is also resulting in greater separation and more sacrifice by the members' families.

Several aspects of the way we do business complicate our ability to have good communication with the families. On active duty all of the families either live on base or in the community very close to base. Our families literally live all over the United States. We have members of the 507th who travel from as far east as Maryland and as far west as California. This fact requires extraordinary effort on both the unit and the family's part to ensure that there is a good information flow.

I have several goals for the 507th Family Support program. The most important one is that every 507th family knows if they call (800) 753-3487 they will talk to a member of the 507th. During normal duty hours the phone rings in the 507th Family Services office, after normal duty hours and on non-duty days the number rings in our 24-hour Command Post. The Command Post will quickly transfer the call to a family services member or one of the senior commanders including myself. There is no question too trivial or no situation too small. If it is concerning the family, it is concerning me and my other

commanders. There is nothing more important than helping with a problem or simply putting one's mind at ease when a spouse is deployed.

I have served in the military for more years than I would care to admit. A large portion of that time was as a full time reservist or an Air Reserve Technician (ART). I have been activated several times and my wife Judy and I are very familiar with the problems of separation and the "Murphy's Law" factor that seems to take hold as soon as I walk out the door. It is guaranteed that the minute I set foot on an airplane heading overseas, that is when the washing machine dies, the car starts acting up, and the kids are at their worst. Often times a reserve family will not have the built-in support mechanism that exists in the active duty. Many also may be separated from their extended family who could offer help. This results in the feeling of being totally alone and even stranded.

Family Services and the wing as a whole can help, no matter where you live. There are special funds that we can tap into to get you by a tight financial spot. There are also services, many available in your area, that can help with many of life's common problems. But you have to know how to get in touch with these agencies and services. Family Services is the one-stop referral agency that can help. So please call (800) 753-3487.

The Support Group Commander and my wife Judy are putting together a letter that will be sent to all of our families. It will further explain the program and also offer an opportunity to be a volunteer to work in the Family Services office. If you live close enough to base and have some free time, you could be of great help. No one understands the needs of a reservist's spouse more than a reservist's spouse. Judy is assisting the Support Group in forming a volunteer group. This group will become even more necessary if we have a large deployment of our members. We all look forward to assisting our families in any way possible. Keep the information flowing.

Chaplain's Corner

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

This past month, I was busy passing on a family heritage. The Magnus' came over from Sweden in the 1800s. Ever since, they have had a tradition of eating Lutefisk. Lutefisk is a flaky white fish that is soaked in lye, stinks to high heaven, and is served with a white cream sauce that looks like gravy placed over boiled potatoes. Oh, and you MUST add huge amounts of salt and pepper. Then it is edible....barely. I confess I can only eat about four bites. Yet my dad and uncle eat a bunch of it. This year, my daughter Elisabeth tried it for

the first time, and actually liked it! So the Magnus Family Tradition of Lutefisk has been passed to another generation.

Though the Lutefisk is the center of attention, the afternoon is a valuable time to catch up with family, to laugh and tell stories. I am grateful for my family. I am aware that I have a responsibility to pass on a family heritage. A key part of that is a spiritual legacy. No one ever makes it to heaven on the faith of a mother or grandmother. Each must come to faith on their own. But as a parent, I recognize I am passing on a spiritual legacy to my daughter. I work at developing an environment that helps, not hinders her faith. May I challenge you to do the same in your family.

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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



Crew members practiced chemical warfare decontamination procedures during last month's drill weekend. All unit reservists practiced wartime survival skills to remain ready to respond if called.

Photo by Maj. Richard Curry



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

Guard, Reserve play vital roles in desert mission

By SrA Nicole Bickford
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia - Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve troops here are a vital part of the "total force" supporting the Operation Southern Watch mission. They help protect life, property and freedom while enforcing U.N. sanctions on Iraq and monitoring the southern no-fly zone.

Not only are Air Reserve Component forces providing essential experience, manning and equipment, but they are also responsible for helping alleviate stress on active-duty force deployment taskings.

"The participation of ARC personnel in OSW helps ensure active-duty personnel are not deployed for longer periods of time," said Col. Ron Brooks, ARC liaison at Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. "For every ARC person over here, that is one less active-duty person who has to be here."

During 2002, ARC forces represented 17 percent of the OSW force.

"The current policy of both the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command is to rotate forces every 15 days," Brooks said. "This doesn't mean that all forces rotate every 15 days."

Many mobilized ARC troops, such as those in critical career fields like security forces, are deployed for upwards of 90 days.

While the entire active-duty Air Force is about 350,000 people, ARC forces provide another 175,000 people.

"ARC personnel maintain their roles in the military while balancing their civilian careers as doctors, nurses, lawyers, school teachers, police officers, firefighters, information technology personnel and much more," Brooks said.

Essentially, Guard and Reserve air-

men not only bring military experience to OSW but also the refined skills obtained in the civilian sector - skills that carry over into military life.

Tech. Sgt. Shawn O'Donnell, NCO in charge of financial management with the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing's financial management office, works as a bank examiner in his civilian job.

"Back home I am responsible for analyzing financial documents, making sure they comply with federal regulations," said O'Donnell, a reservist from the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. "Here, we have been creating similar documents as those that I am responsible for reviewing in my civilian job. So instead of using the documents here, I am producing them for Air Force leadership to review."

Recently, the Air Force began recognizing civilian employers for the level of support they have given to the U.S. military and ARC forces, by presenting them with letters of appreciation and E pins, a lapel pin representing the employer-Air Force partnership in defense of the nation.

The United Parcel Service, the first

company to be presented with the E pin, has about 500 employees currently serving on active duty. UPS has continued to provide benefits to those employees while serving in the military.

Two UPS employees are currently supporting the OSW mission at PSAB. Maj. Charlie Holden, an F-16 pilot, and Staff Sgt. Edwin Hicks, a weapons technician, both deployed here from the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith. Holden said they have been impressed by the level of support their civilian employer has given, not only to its employees but to the overall efforts of the nation's Guard and Reserve forces.

Even though ARC forces are tasked with a dual role of maintaining their Air Force career and civilian jobs, most are still proud to serve the U.S. military supporting OSW.

"Being mobilized and deployed is challenging," said O'Donnell, who has been on temporary duty more than 200 days this year. "But my family and I take great pride knowing our sacrifices are for an honorable and just cause." (AFRC News Service)

507th Exercise Tip

This Month's Tip:

What to do if you discover a suspicious package.

- Do NOT touch it
- Ensure personnel do not come near it
- Call Security Forces at 734-3737
- Do not use radios or cell phones w/in 500'
- Establish cordon and evacuate personnel
- Do not alter environment surrounding object
- If it is in doorway, do not use that exit.

Threat, tour length determine need for anthrax vaccination

By Kenny Pruitt
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga – Oct. 11 - Unless deployed to a high-threat area for more than 15 days, most Air Force reservists can expect to keep their sleeves rolled down after the Air Force distributed its anthrax implementation plan to commanders Oct. 11.

In a June 28 memorandum, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz said active-duty people and emergency-essential DOD civilians, as well as members of reserve components who are deployed for more than 15 days to high-threat areas will be immunized.

In early 1998, BioPort, the only company making the vaccine, closed its facility for renovation. With the halt in production, supplies of the vaccine dwindled, and by 2000 the military had extensively slowed its vaccination program.

"It is important that all people whose duties are essential to mission-critical capabilities are vaccinated against anthrax for their personal protection and for success of the military mission," said

Chief Master Sgt. Susan Glenn, individual mobilization augmentee to the director of medicine in the Pentagon's Office of the Air Force Reserve. "Immunizations will begin with designated special mission units and people involved in research and anthrax vaccine manufacturing."

U.S. intelligence agencies are keeping track of the locations where anthrax could or would be used as a biological war. Vaccinations will be mandatory for people in those high-threat areas if they are there for more than 15 consecutive days, except for those medically or administratively exempt, Glenn said.

Higher-threat areas include countries primarily in Southwest Asia, said Maj. Linda Bonnel of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

Full immunization with anthrax vaccine requires six doses administered over 18 months to complete the primary series. After the initial dose, shots are given at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months.

"There is no minimum number of shots required before deploying. De-

pending on the amount of time from notification to actual deployment, members would receive as many shots as possible," Glenn said. "Vaccine is or will be available at all forward deployed locations."

As for reservists who previously received vaccinations but didn't complete the series, Glenn said they will resume the immunization with the next shot in the series. For example, if a member received shot No. 3 in January 1999, the individual will continue the series with shot No. 4.

"If approved by their commander, an administrative exemption may be applicable for those retiring or separating within 180 days," Glenn said. "The exemption will not apply to personnel who the commander determines will receive the vaccine because of overriding mission requirements."

Since the beginning of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program in March 1998, DOD has vaccinated more than 525,000 people with more than 2.1 million doses of anthrax vaccine. (AFRC News Service)

Wing to use new and improved unit climate assessment

By 1st Roslynn D. Rayford
Interim, Chief of Military Equal Opportunity

Headquarters United States Air Force Reserve is planning a conference and training session for all wing Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) offices. This training includes the new and improved online unit climate assessment.

Currently, the active duty Air Force is using this commander's tool to strengthen mission effectiveness and unit cohesion. The Reserve component has been looking forward to using this online tool for the past year. Currently, the 507th uses a paper and pencil system which allows members to answer 42 questions related to job satisfaction, morale, command section influence, sexual harassment, discrimination, and demographics.

The MEO office collects the surveys from the unit, MEO personnel enter responses manually, which generate statistics, and the unit commander receives a report. This process can take three or more UTAs. The new and improved unit climate assessment allows unit members to sit down at a computer, log-in anonymously and complete the survey.

The data processes once unit log-in passwords expire and shortly thereafter the MEO office can generate a report for the unit commander. The new and improved assessment allows your unit commander to get feedback quickly from you, the unit members, to strengthen mission effectiveness and unit cohesion.

The 507th MEO office is looking forward to this innovation in the unit climate assessment program.

Training in hostile environments



BAG IT!

Preventing the spread of potential contaminations is important to everyone. Above 465th Air Refueling Squadron members receive an opportunity to practice departing their aircraft in a simulated contaminated environment.



Honing the sword

Last month's ability to survive and operate (ATSO) training brought a chance to refresh reservist's skills and double check mobility readiness.

Unit Exercise Training Team officials are planning a year-long series of exercises.

TSgt. Denny Graham, 507th Logistics Group Avionics Shop, performs a preflight IFF check on a unit tanker.

Photos by Maj. Richard Curry



Left and Above: Life Support members from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron set up aircrew decontamination stations as part of weekend activities.



With temperatures dipping into the teens, these maintenance team members didn't seem to mind wearing their chemical gear while preparing a unit aircraft for takeoff.

This month:
Unit members will practice mobility processing procedures.



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

Congratulations!

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 513th Air Control Group was one of the Reserve units selected for the 2002 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA). Way to go people! I've been telling you all along how good you are and that your achievements will be and are continuously recog-

nized. Therefore, it's formal now. I'm very happy for you and I wish to thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, and loyalty. And to the 507th Air Refueling Wing, part of this recognition belongs to you as well. There is absolutely NO WAY we could do it without you for you are our support and backbone to this organization. So to the commander of the 507th ARW, Colonel Despinoy, I give you my sincere appreciation and warm hearty thanks for helping us in all you do.

So to all, let's don't let that sharpened edge get dull. Our nation needs us more than ever and her calling has not stopped. So stay strong. Lean on each other for support. And above all, keep the faith!

The Secretary's Vector

By Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

The current strategic environment offers a dynamic array of asymmetric threats, evolving partnerships and challenges, and dramatic advances in defense technology.

New conditions demand America's Air Force continually assess itself and adjust as appropriate in order to sustain the competitive edge of air and space power. As we evolve, accurate, timely, and clear communication with all airmen is essential to educate as well as build awareness of, and support for our service. In this spirit, and complementary to the Chief of Staff's Sight Picture, I introduce the "Secretary's Vector" to share my perspectives on major issues relating to our service's direction.

The topic of this inaugural "Secretary's Vector" concerns the fundamental way in which we describe ourselves, and how we conceptualize our contributions to the nation's security mission in the current era — that is, our Air and Space Core Competencies.

General Jumper and I have discussed these competencies extensively among ourselves and with our colleagues, and we believe they capture the essence of who we are, just as the effort to refine them underscores the spirit of constructive change that motivates us all.

Air and Space Core Competencies

The Air Force has made tremendous strides in realizing the vision of early airmen and exploiting the potential of each medium in which we operate. Yet, we recognize there is an array of capabilities as yet undiscovered, and a need to test and evolve basic tenets against new realities and conditions. Just as our operational concepts and systems continually advance, so must the way in which we articulate our Air Force competencies.

The history of the Air Force reveals fundamental competencies that are at the core of our ability to develop and de-

velop air and space power. These unique institutional qualities set the Air Force apart from the other services and every other military force in the world. By identifying and keeping these competencies foremost in our vision, we can more effectively advance these unique capabilities, as well as the ultimate effects we provide to the nation. The Air Force continually nurtures these areas of expertise, making us the pre-eminent air and space force in the world. Previously, we distilled these into six distinctive capabilities which we referred to as our "core competencies" — Air and Space Superiority, Global Attack, Rapid Global Mobility, Precision Engagement, Information Superiority, and Agile Combat Support. Upon reflection and discussion, we learned that certain elements are more fundamental to who we are as an Air Force, how leaders, commanders, and colleagues view us, and how we develop our capabilities for joint warfighting. These are our institutional air and space core competencies — those that in fact make the six distinctive capabilities possible: Developing Airmen, Technology-to-Warfighting, and Integrating Operations. Our air and space core competencies form the foundation upon which we organize, train, and equip, and are the cornerstone of our strength as a military service.

1) Developing Airmen: The heart of combat capability. The ultimate source of combat capability resides in the men and women of the Air Force. The value of strategy, technology, and organization are diminished without professional airmen to leverage their attributes. Our Total Force of Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian personnel are our largest investment and most critical asset. They are airmen — steeped in an expeditionary ethos. Therefore, from the moment they step into the Air Force, we are dedicated to ensuring they receive the education, training, and professional development necessary to provide a quality edge second to none. The full spectrum capabilities of our service stem from the collective abilities of our personnel; and the abilities of our people stem from a career-long focus on the development of professional airmen.

Continued on page 9

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 as follows:**

- 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 |
|--------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2003-6 | 1 | 04 Aug - 11 Sep 03 | Tyndall AFB, FL |
| 2003-7 | 1 | 22 Sep - 30 Oct 03 | Tyndall AFB, FL |

Senior NCO Academy Board Announcement

The next Senior NCO Academy board has been scheduled for 07 March 2003 for the remaining FY2003 classes as well as FY2004. Packages are being accepted for class dates (2003D) 07 May-18 Jun 03, (2003E) 24 Jul-04 Sep 03, and (2004A) 07 Oct-19 Nov 03. Members applying for the 7 May class need to be aware that it will be a short notification. Please submit all application packages to 507 MSS/DPMT NLT 07 Feb 03 for review and submission to the appropriate NAF. Application procedures were posted to the bulletin board on 15 Jan 03. Questions should be directed to MSgt. Cain at 734-7075.

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 215. You need to enter through the MPF main door (in the back near the ramps), turn right and take the stairs. 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 an 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

Pass and ID hours of operation are from 1200-1600 on Saturdays of the UTA.

IEU Hours

Individual equipment issue is open FROM 1200-1500 on Saturday of the main UTA.

Nomination packages

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

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

As of 15 January 2003

Fri, 31 Jan 2003

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

Sat, 01 Feb 2003**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 | 513th ACG Conf Room |
| 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 | First Sergeant Selection Board | Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room |
| 1600-1630 | Protestant Chapel Service | 513th ACG Conf Room |

Unit Designated Sign Out**Sun, 02 Feb 2003****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 215 |
| 0800-1115 | Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II | Bldg 1030, Room 214 |
| 0830-0930 | Enlisted Advisory Council | Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room |
| 0830-1030 | Supervisor Safety Training | Bldg 1030, Room 104 |
| 0900-1000 | Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng | Bldg 1066 OG Conf Room |
| 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/Capt. Vardaro | Bldg 1043, Room B-1 |
| 1500 | Fly Safety Mtg | Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room |

Unit Designated Sign Out**Fri, 28 Feb 2003**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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, 01 Mar 2003**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 | 513th ACG Conf Room |
| 0900-1000 | 6 Month Contact Mtg | Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room |
| 0900-1000 | Mandatory 3A0X1 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**Sun, 02 Mar 2003****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 215 |
| 0800-1115 | Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II | Bldg 1030, Room 214 |
| 0830-0930 | Enlisted Advisory Council | Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room |
| 0830-1030 | HazCom Training | Bldg 1030, Room 104 |
| 0900-1000 | 3A0X1 Info Mgmt Tng | Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room |
| 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/Capt. Vardaro | Bldg 1043, Room B-1 |
| 1500 | Fly Safety Mtg | Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room |

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: |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 04 Feb | 12 Feb |
| 06 Feb | 14 Feb |
| 11 Feb | 19 Feb |
| 13 Feb | 21 Feb |
| 18 Feb | 26 Feb |
| 19 Feb | 28 Feb |
| 24 Feb | 05 Mar |
| 04 Mar | 12 Mar |
| 06 Mar | 16 Mar |
| 11 Mar | 19 Mar |
| Military Pay (405) 734-5016 | |

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

| If Last Digit of SSAN is: | Then Forward Listing to 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 | Sept. |
| 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.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 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 |

Space heaters are the leading cause of winter home fires

By SMSgt. Gary Bristol
507th Safety Office

In 1999, all forms of home heating caused 49,200 reported fires, 388 deaths, 1,445 injuries, and \$515 million in property damage.

Space heaters are the leading cause of home fires during the winter months according to the National Fire Protection Association. Two out of every three home fires associated with heating equipment involve devices other than central furnaces or water heaters.

Portable kerosene heaters, which are illegal in some states, have the highest rate of fire deaths per household. Room gas heaters pose a similar risk of death from unvented carbon monoxide.

Typically, these fires occurred because the devices were placed too close to combustible materials, had basic flaws in construction or design, or were improperly fueled. Space heaters need to be at least three feet from anything that can burn. Electric space heaters have several advantages. They produce no fumes, do not require the use of an open flame,

and they are portable. However, even the best quality space heaters have downfalls.

Because of these inherent dangers, the Tinker AFB Fire Department prohibits their use. An electric heater can draw more current than the fuses or circuit breakers can handle. Most of the electric heaters require roughly 10-12 amps to operate. If you have other appliances working off the same circuit, you may trip the circuit breakers. Continuous overloading will eventually cause an electrical fire.

Here are a few tips for the safe use of such equipment:

- Always keep space heater at least three feet away from all combustible surfaces and furnishings.
- Never leave an electric heater unattended.
- Always review manufacturer's recommendations, cautions, and safety tips before using equipment.

Space heaters should be approved by the Underwriter's Laboratory. Remember, fire safety practices are paramount when using these devices. Hazard awareness, preventive maintenance, and using common sense (ORM) will help protect you at work and at home.

myPay to offer service member W2s online

Military service members, military retirees, and annuitants will have their account statements and tax information online, thanks to some of the new capabilities of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's myPay.

myPay is the secure, online system that helps military service members, Department of Defense civilians and military retirees and annuitants take control over their pay. The new features include:

Military active duty and reserves – view and print current year W-2, plus up to four years prior W-2s (available now).

Retirees – view and print Retiree Account Statement.

Annuitants – view and print Annuitant Account Statement; view and print 1099R tax statement; view and

print 1042S tax statement; print a copy of the report of existence and submit the form; print a copy of the certificate of eligibility form and submit the form.

Additionally, myPay users can:

- View, print and save leave and earnings statements
- View and print tax statements
- Change federal and state tax withholdings
- Update bank account and electronic funds transfer information
- Manage allotments
- Edit address information
- Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds
- Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment (military only)
- View and print travel vouchers (Features vary by individual's service and status)

To use myPay:

Members of the Armed Forces, Defense Department civilian employees, military retirees and annuitants should use their social security numbers and PINs to log on the system at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> (the old E/MSS PIN works as well.)

Customers needing new PINs should follow these steps:

- Civilian employees, active Air Force and Marine Corps members, all reservists and military retirees and annuitants receive PINs by mail. If you need a new PIN, click "New PIN" and you will receive your PIN in the mail.

Customers with questions about myPay can call customer support at 1-800-390-2348, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time. (courtesy DFAS news release)

From the Wing Inspector General

Whistleblower protection

By Capt. Mark Vardaro

All Department of Defense personnel, to include military members, Civil Service workers, NAF employees, and DoD contract civilians, are protected from reprisal by Public Law. Better known as the "Whistleblower Protection Act," each group of these groups is covered by different sections of the United States Code (USC): military, 10 USC 1034; Department of the Air Force civilians, 5 USC 2302; Non-Appropriated Funds employees, 10 USC 1587; and Department of Defense contract employees, 10 USC 2409. Basically, the law is the same for all these personnel.

It essentially states that you cannot be restricted from contacting members of Congress, an IG, or reporting

wrongdoing to other specified agencies such as the Audit Agency, law enforcement agencies, MEO, EEO, Family Advocacy, or commanders. The law also prohibits your commander or supervisor from taking action against you because you communicated with any of the agencies listed above.

If you need more information on the Whistleblower Protection Act or feel you have been restricted from contacting the IG, I am located in Room 1 in the 507 ARW Headquarters Building and can be reached on base (during UTAs) at 734-6910, by cell (throughout the month) (405) 245-7341, or email address vardaro@earthlink.net.

The Secretary's Vector

Continued from page 9

2) Technology-to-warfighting: The tools of combat capability. The vision of airmen fundamentally altered the way in which we approach military operations. As a leader in the military application of air, space, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technology, the Air Force is committed to innovation to guide research, development, and fielding of unsurpassed capabilities. Just as the advent of powered flight revolutionized joint warfighting, recent advances in low observable technologies, space-based systems, manipulation of information, precision, and small, smart weapons offer no less dramatic advantages for combatant commanders.

The Air Force nurtures and promotes its ability to translate our technology into operational capability — to prevail in conflict and avert tech-

nological surprise.

3) Integrating Operations: Maximizing combat capabilities. Effectively integrating the diverse capabilities found in all four service branches remains pivotal to successful joint warfighting. Innovative operational concepts and the efficient integration of all military systems — air, land, maritime, space, and information - - ensures maximum flexibility in the delivery of desired effects across the spectrum of conflict. The Air Force contributes to this enduring objective as each element of air and space power brings unique and essential capabilities to the joint force. Our innate ability to envision, experiment, and ultimately, execute the union of a myriad of platforms and people into a greater, synergistic whole is the key to maximizing these capabilities. Yet, effective integration involves more than smart technology investment — it also requires investigation of efficient joint and service organization, and innovative operational thinking. Thus, continued investment in our

people to foster critical analysis and intellectual flexibility is equally important to our technology development. Collectively, our air and space core competencies reflect the visions of the founders of airpower, are recognized by our joint "customers," and serve to realize the potential of air and space forces. We foster ingenuity and adventure in the development of the world's most professional airmen. We thrive on transitioning new technologies into practical systems while we encourage intellectual innovation at every level of war. And, we drive relentlessly toward integration to realize the potential and maturation of air and space capabilities.

Our proficiency in these three air and space core competencies underpin our ability to contribute to joint warfighting, producing effects across the spectrum of conflict. Our continued focus on and nurturing of these core competencies will enable us to remain the world's greatest air and space force.

Unit recruiters take Command honors, awards

By 1st Lt. Bill Pierce
507th Public Affairs

Last November, members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing recruiting office were honored for their recruiting efforts during the Fiscal-Year 2002.

During the annual Recruiting Awards Banquet in Orlando, Florida, the 507th ARW recruiters were honored with 10 awards. CMSgt. Alfonso Garza Jr., senior recruiter, said, our bar is set high and in order to meet our goals we have to have a hunter mentality.

As the senior team member, Garza requires his staff to submit an annual strategic plan, monthly calendars, and work from daily to-do lists. When asked if he kept a monthly calendar he was quick to respond by saying, "how could I ask my team to produce these documents if I'm not willing to do the same." In order for our team to attain the goal we have to have tools that enable us to balance both our work and personal lives, said Garza.

The entire office received the HQ AFRC/RS Recruiting Excellence Award for FY02 because they overcame numerous obstacles and achieved 108.4 percent of the annual recruiting goal. Garza said, even though we had a 60

percent turnover rate in our staff, we exceeded our annual goal. We were required to bring 209 new members into the 507th and at the end of the year we had approximately 226 new members signed.

Several individuals were honored for their committed performance. MSgt. Larry W. Wheatley (exceeded his recruiting goal by 179 percent), MSgt. David G. McCormick (exceeded his recruiting goal by 179 percent), and MSgt. Pamela E. Peterson (exceeded her recruiting goal by 118 percent) all received the HQ AFRC/RS Superior Performer Award for FY02.

TSgt. Arthur R. Powell Jr. (exceeded his recruiting goal by 113 percent) and SSgt. Kamala K. Thigpen (met her recruiting goal at 100 percent) both received the 604th Recruiting Flight Rising Star Award for FY02.

Barbara Waldroop received the 604th Recruiting Flight Secretary Superior Performance Award for FY02. Garza said, "she is a team player and is instrumental in the overall success of our recruiting team here at Tinker."

SSgt. Marvin Greene received an Honorable Mention for his recruiting ef-

forts during FY02. Greene's goal was three accessions and he finished with 10 or 333 percent of his goal for the year. Greene's efforts will enable him to compete for the FY03 Rookie of the Year Award.

During the banquet, Wheatley received the Most Valuable Player Award for FY02. Garza said, "MSgt. Wheatley has gone out of his way to ensure the success of our team."

Garza received the 604th Recruiting Leadership Award for FY02. Garza was the first person to ever receive this award. Garza was honored for his performance as the Senior Recruiter and attributes his success to the success of his team. "On a daily basis our recruiting team deals in numbers and every one of those numbers represents an actual person. People do not care how much we know until they see how much we care," Garza said, adding "we have to care -- these individuals we are bringing into the Air Force Reserve are our future assets, colleagues, and friends."

It doesn't matter what the prize is as long as we win, because when we win, everybody wins.

Recruiting changes selling philosophy

"We introduced a new, non-manipulative selling philosophy and system during our national awards banquet in New Orleans in January 2000," Reinert said. "It's called IMPACT and stands for Investigate, Meet, Probe, Apply, Convince, and Tie-It-Up. It was a tough sell to get people to buy into the new system."

In April 2001, Col. Francis M. "Mike" Mungavin assumed command of the organization and shortly thereafter completed the IMPACT training class himself. Sold on the idea that the IMPACT system was the way to go, Mungavin committed the resources to make the program work.

"We contracted with the Brooks Group to teach our people to become IMPACT experts," said Reinert. "And just as importantly, Bill Brooks, the chief executive officer of the Brooks

Group made us an offer we couldn't refuse. For a nominal charge, he sold us the 'rights' to use the IMPACT system at the recruiter school."

Starting in January 2003, the curriculum at the Basic Recruiter Course will reflect the IMPACT Selling System philosophy. Besides increased recruiter production, Reinert said there's a long-term individual value to employing the IMPACT Selling System.

"We offer every recruiter the opportunity to earn a certification as an IMPACT Selling System Professional," Reinert said. "It's similar to the board certification a doctor can earn. It takes a lot of study time, but once earned, the certification clearly identifies the recruiters as specialists in their chosen field."

Dental Clinic flooded

By Lt. Col. Eric L. Kean, D.D.S.
Chief of Dental Services

Because of the new Annual Dental Examination requirement, reservists have flooded to the dental clinic, many with notices that their dental examination was overdue.

The dental section, which is staffed with only seven members is not equipped to see everyone who wants a dental examination. In fact, our manning level is established to perform dental examinations on about one third of wing personnel each year. Non-flying Reserve component members are only required to see a military dentist every third year. With this in mind, Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC), now strongly encourages members (except flight crew) to go to their private dentist for their annual dental examination in the years they are not required to see a military dentist. We will contact those who must have a military dental examination.

During each UTA, required dental examinations and follow-ups take most of the time allotted for dental examinations. This leaves only a few slots for "off-year" dental examinations. These slots are given out on a "first-come, first-serve" basis and are available most UTAs from 1300 - 1500 hours on Saturday of the UTA. Once they are full, unfortunately no more people will be seen.

What reservists need to know about TRICARE dental

The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) offers a wide range of diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services and is available to members and families of the Selected Reserve (SELRES) and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). Enrollment in the TDP is voluntary, and reserve component sponsors do not have to be activated to enroll themselves or their families in the TDP. There are, however, important differences in coverage for family members when their reserve component sponsors are activated versus when they are in a reserve status.

Reserve component sponsors who are activated are covered by the same dental benefits as active duty service members. Sponsors placed on active duty orders for 31 days or more are ineligible for enrollment in the TDP. If previously enrolled in the TDP, they will be automatically disenrolled and automatically re-enrolled upon deactivation. The spon-

sor should confirm re-enrollment before seeking dental treatment.

For family members, the main difference in TDP is the premium cost. Reserve component family members who enroll in the TDP before their sponsor is called to active duty will enjoy a cost savings when their sponsor is activated. The current premium rate for reserve component family enrollment is \$49.36 per month (effective Feb. 1, 2003 this will increase to \$50.88 per month). When the sponsor is activated, fees decrease to \$19.74 per month (effective Feb. 1, 2003 this will increase to \$20.35 per month).

Many families enroll after a sponsor is ordered to active duty. When these families enroll, they pay the active duty family premium rate. When the sponsor is released from active duty, enrollment fees revert back to the reserve rate.

The TDP requires a 12-month enrollment commitment; however, this commitment is waived for non-TDP-



Lt. Col. Eric Kean examines a patient during last month's drill weekend.

The message is clear. Unless you have been asked to come in to see us, avoid "the flood" and go to your private dentist for your dental examination. Have them accomplish a DD 2813, Record of Civilian Dental Examination, and return it to the Medical Squadron. (These forms are available from your unit health monitor, the Medical Squadron and online at: <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/ICDHOME/DDEFORMS.HTM>) This will meet your annual dental examination requirement.

For members who do not have private dental insurance, TRICARE offers an excellent dental insurance plan through United Concordia which is inexpensive, comprehensive and can be taken out in allotments from your Reserve pay.

enrolled families whose sponsor is ordered to active duty in support of certain contingency operations, but only if the family is enrolled in the TDP within the first 30 days of activation. If a family enrolls after the initial 30 days of activation, they will be locked in to the TDP for 12 months. Reserve component family members must decide to enroll in the TDP within the first 30 days of their sponsor's activation to take advantage of waiving the 12-month enrollment commitment. This will provide reserve component families the freedom to choose to remain enrolled in the TDP or disenroll if their sponsor is released from active duty before the completion of the 12-month enrollment period.

For more information about the TDP, beneficiaries may access the benefit handbook online at www.ucci.com then click on the box TRICARE (TDP) or by calling toll free 1-800-866-8499, 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday.

Wintertime driving tips will help keep your cool

Winter driving conditions won't sneak up on you if you're armed with some useful cold-weather tips.

Ice advice

- An icy road is twice as slippery when the temperature is at the freezing point than when it's zero.
- Wet surfaces on bridges and overpasses freeze sooner and remain frozen longer than other road surfaces. Shaded areas such as underpasses can hold treacherous ice patches.
- The "polishing" action of tires spinning and sliding on ice greatly increases the slipperiness of already hazardous surfaces. This occurs especially at intersections, on curves, and on hills. Polishing lengthens braking distance, slows traffic, and presents severe hazards. Your best bet for safety is to slow down before you reach the slippery intersection and to slow down before going into a curve or down a hill.

Wintertime Car Aids

- A winter driving kit, kept in the vehicle, could mean the difference between life and death. At a minimum, the kit should include a shovel, whisk broom, ice scraper, flashlight with new batteries, booster cables, warning devices like flares or triangles, tire chains, and a bag of kitty litter or sand for traction. Other items to be included are a first-



aid kit, paper or cloth towels, a blanket, traction mats, warm clothes, fire extinguisher, properly inflated spare tire, and nonperishable snacks. Have a set of tools and extras of the parts that might fail which can be easily replaced, such as wiper blades, spark plugs, and fuses.

Correcting a Skid

- For years, safety experts advised drivers to correct a skid by steering in the direction of the skid. Now they are saying to steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. It's nothing new, just the same technique stated in a way that is easier to understand.

Snow Blindness

- Blue sky, white snow and a bright sun make a beautiful winter scene, but the combination can be tough on the eyes. For one thing there is the danger of snow blindness if the exposure is severe. Another problem is temporary night blindness. One day spent outdoors in the combined glare of snow and

sunshine could temporarily rob you of as much as 50 percent of your night vision.

- How does an outdoor person avoid these visual problems? Wear a good pair of sunglasses whenever you step outside on a bright, sunny day.

Drive safely and remember that Spring is on the way. Let's enjoy it together.

Activated reservists get tax help

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.
- Unless on active duty during tax preparation time, Air Force reservists are not entitled to Air Force tax assistance through base legal offices.

To help reservists who may have been on active duty during 2002 and to assist other taxpayers in Air Force Reserve Command, the AFRC Staff Judge Advocate is preparing articles about military allowances for activated reservists, as well as general information about filing taxes. The articles should appear in the January 2003 AFRC News Service, at the start of

the 2002 tax preparation period.

Due to manning constraints and regulatory restrictions on legal assistance, AFRC installation and wing legal offices do not offer tax preparation and filing services to reservists in an inactive status. However, unit reservists participating in an inactive status are entitled to mission-related legal assistance - wills and powers of attorney.

Reserve legal assistance officers should be able to address specific tax questions from members on active duty as part of their legal assistance program. These officers should also be able to direct acti-

vated military members to the closest active-duty location offering full tax preparation services. Tax preparation centers are found on most active-duty military installations and normally operate from late January to April.

Reservists on active duty should present their identification cards and orders to the personnel at the tax center to show their entitlement to the service. The military services operate tax centers on installations, ships at sea and at deployed units throughout the world. (AFRC News Service)

Everyone counts — DoD aims for fewer suicides

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The rate of suicides in the military has declined in recent years to 12 per 100,000 — two-thirds the national average. But that's still not good enough for Department of Defense health care officials.

During an open forum Nov. 19 at the Marine Corps' Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va., Army, Air Force and Navy representatives joined a panel of mental health experts to begin planning a yearlong campaign aimed at reducing suicides in the military even further.

"Just because we've been successful doesn't mean we stop focusing on the problem," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Rick Campise, suicide prevention manager and consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General. "If we become complacent, we're only inviting suicide rates to go back up again."

Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Elspeth Ritchie, program director of Mental Health Policy and Women's Issues, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, said forum participants would analyze military suicide prevention programs and determine their effectiveness.

"The number of suicides have gone down because all the services have (been using) very aggressive suicide prevention programs," Ritchie said. "The focus of the forum will be to look at each service's programs and come up with a 'unified approach' to suicide prevention."

DoD statistics show the Air Force as having one of the more successful prevention programs among the services. Between calendar 1991 and 2001, the suicide rate among airmen fell from a high of 15.9 per 100,000 in 1994 to 5.6 per

100,000 in 1999 — nearly a two-thirds decline.

Campise, who unveiled the Air Force's latest tool in preventing suicides, an interactive Web site, credited the decline in suicides among airmen to leadership and community involvement.



"Our program's success lies in the fact that every single person in the Air Force is a suicide-prevention manager," he explained. "From the chief of staff on down, the internal message is to take care of our people."

Ritchie said the forum would also address how to provide suicide prevention and intervention for National Guard and Reserve members.

Regardless of the strategy, major parts of the campaign will focus on educating service members that suicide is preventable and to teaching them what signs and symptoms to look for, she said.

Those signs include depression, alcohol abuse, and family issues due to frequent deployments, retirement or loss of military careers, Ritchie remarked. Other warning signs to look for include decreased ability to concentrate, a change in appetite or sleep, irritability, loss of energy, and feelings of guilt, she added.

"The important thing for someone to do if he notices these factors is to ask, 'What's going on, what's wrong?' It's never hurts to ask," she said.

2002 Blood Drive efforts bring added benefits

By SSgt. Andy Stephens
507 ARW Historian and Wing Blood Drive Monitor

Last month marked a milestone in the long tradition of unit blood drives. Because of an incredible showing that resulted in a 32 percent donation rate, the wing now qualifies for membership in the Oklahoma Blood Institute's Group Benefit Plan.

The Group Benefit Plan extends individual plan coverage to ALL members of a group with a clearly defined membership when the yearly group donations total 25 percent of the membership or more.

One benefit of the Group Plan includes a financial reimbursement of blood processing fees not covered by insurance. Each individual on a benefit plan is also covered for process-

ing fees supplemental to insurance as follows:

- * Up to 100 percent of 100 units of whole blood or products derived from whole blood.

- * Up to 20 percent of 20 units of aphaeresis.

To receive this benefit any 507th member need only to call OBI to ask for a claim form after medical bills have been processed by the insurer. The claim form would be filed with OBI with a copy of the bill and insurance statement and OBI, in turn, would then REIMBURSE the member for the processing fees that the insurance does not pay. According to Jennifer Hasel of OBI, this amount can reach as much as \$400!

Look for OBI to bring out plenty of information brochures during our next blood drive set for the February drill weekend.

Uprclose

by TSgt. Ty Yoshida

The following was asked of unit members during the January UTA:
“What did you accomplish this UTA?”



TSgt. Andy Stephens, 507th ARW/HO
 “I finished moving into my new office downstairs in headquarters. Thank you 507th CES!”



TSgt. Doyle Finstad
 507th CLSS

“I caught up on training film requirements and 623’s.”



TSgt. Judd Stevens, 507th CES
 “Making preparations for bivouac in March and possible deployment.”



SrA. Kevan Marshall
 507th CLSS

“It was a chore, but my re-enlistment was accomplished.”

MSgt. Tracy North, 507th LSS

“We accomplished chemical warfare task qualification training which helps us prepare for possible future events, because “N.K.A.W.T.G.”



TSgt. Bill Quinn, 507th MDS

“Today as a member of the Enlisted Advisory Council, we selected the airman. NCO and senior NCO of the quarter, and as the saying goes, ‘the day ain’t over yet.’”

Weekend training focuses on war skills



A weekend of training

Clockwise from left:

MSgt. William Morris of 507th CES dons firefighting and chemical warfare gear.

SSgt. Melissa Garner, 507th Mission Support Squadron inspects her 'real world' gas mask.

A1C Katrina Moore and behind her (left to right) TSgt. Jason Garner, SSgt. John McCosh and MSgt. Ronald Gregory indicate they have completed 9mm handgun disassembly by placing their hands on their head.

MSgt. Ron Starcher (in background) and SrA Clifton Johnson prepare for weapon firing at the base range.

Parting Shots



After more than a two-year absence due to renovation delays, unit members rolled a KC-135 Stratotanker back into hangar 1030 last month. Use of the hangar was made possible through a special negotiation with contractors. Officials stated they anticipate a permanent reoccupation of the hangar soon.

On-final R-NEWS

Decal deadline extended

Last month's On-final reported that vehicles without a valid vehicle decal would encounter delays getting on base unless they got an updated sticker prior to Dec. 31.

Because of the volume of vehicles requiring stickers, the decal supplies were exhausted. Tinker AFB security officials have announced a one month extension to obtain new decals.

Security officials have announced the Pass and Registration Office (building 590) will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, February 1, to accommodate unit members.

Recruiters wanted

Reservists interested in a recruiting career may call the Reserve Recruiting Service at DSN 497-0145 or (478) 327-0145. (AFRC News Service)

Travelers to file split disbursement this year

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – All Air Force government travel card holders can expect to be filing split disbursements on their travel vouchers starting this spring.

The Air Force is making the current optional process mandatory to combat delinquent government travel card payments to Bank of America, which holds the government travel card contract.

Mobilized soldiers provide base security

WASHINGTON – Dec. 17 - Mobilized Air Force Reserve Command security forces personnel may return home earlier than anticipated because of a memorandum of agreement signed by the Departments of the Air Force and Army.

Under the agreement, the Army will mobilize approximately 9,000 Army National Guard soldiers to augment security at 163 Air Force installations in the United States.

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

TSgt. James Vaughan
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

MSgt. Pam Peterson
(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