

On-final



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

March 2003
Vol. 23, No. 3

Responding. . .



. . . to a tragedy

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

Mobility forces busy supporting war on terrorism

**By General John Handy
USTRANSCOM Commander**

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (USTCNS) — U.S. Transportation Command Commander Gen. John Handy recently spoke to the Tidewater Chapter of the Airlift Tanker Association at Langley Air Force Base about how mobility forces are supporting the war on terrorism. As the single manager of America's Defense Transportation System, USTRANSCOM coordinates the aircraft, ships, trains and trucks that allow America to project power and sustain forces worldwide, for as long as they are needed.

Since Sept. 11, USTRANSCOM and Air Mobility Command have been on a high pace of operations for an incredible period of time. No matter who you are, or what your job title is, you are more engaged today because of the war on terrorism.

When our people are deployed, they are never sure when they might be coming home, and when they get home, they don't know how long they will be home until the next thing happens, calling them back to duty. This applies to everyone in our commands. We could not do this without the support of our families.

As I look to the future, the pace of operations doesn't cease. I remain very concerned about the welfare of our team. It's not the C-17s and KC-10s we are concerned about, it's the people. Sustaining this fight is a remarkable challenge to us all. There is no easy answer.

From a USTRANSCOM perspective, the command plans to divert as much as possible into sealift so that our organic sealift fleet can transport much more of the cargo and equipment. Each one of those ships carries anywhere from 300 to 350 C-17 equivalent loads, making this mode of lift extremely efficient and cost effective.

We are working with the U.S. Central Command staff to plan at least 50 days in advance of deployments to allow us to load large volumes of equipment via sealift, thus, saving airlift for the more critical items. This is a huge boost in our ability to deploy forward. We have been able to do that into the Port of Karachi, Pakistan. There is a lot of capability that we have reserved for our airlift and tankers by using sealift.

For example, everyone remembers the 2.4 million humanitarian daily rations that were dropped in Afghanistan by airlift. Aside from the purchase price of the HDRs, delivering them by airlift cost \$7.34 for each HDR, just in transportation costs. If the HDRs had been shipped by sea, then used ground transportation from there, it would have cost 15 cents per.

We've achieved a greater balance between airlift and sealift. One reason that this is so important is the impact this has on our people in AMC — especially aircrews and support personnel. It depresses the operations tempo for our mobility fleet to the extent that if you go to McChord AFB, Fairchild AFB or Charleston AFB, you will see a lot more aircraft parked on the ramps, which means a lot more people are able to recover and recuperate.

Ticket prices for Tinker AFB / Community Dining Out

Tickets are now on sale for the March 22, 2003, Tinker AFB / Community Dining Out to be held at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

The guest speaker will be Oklahoma native and former astronaut Lt. Gen. (USAF Ret.) Tom Stafford.

Dress will be mess dress with black tie. Ticket prices are as follows:

Price Per Ticket

- E-1 thru E-4 and GS-1 thru GS-4 \$15
- E-5 thru E-6 and GS-5 thru GS-6 \$20
- E-7 thru E-9 and GS-7 \$30
- CWO-1 thru O-3 and GS-8 thru GS-11 \$35
- O-4 thru O-5 and GS-12 thru GS-14 \$40
- O-6 and above and GS-15 and above \$50

Tickets may be purchased by calling Maj. Don Satterlee, 734-5543.

Chaplain's Corner

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

Last Saturday of the Feb UTA was a tough one, as we came to grips with the shuttle Columbia tragedy. Please continue to pray for the families of those who lost their lives.

I was particularly touched by an interview on the Today Show with the commander's wife. She very courageously spoke of the long days since the tragedy occurred. She was able to share a verse that meant a lot to her, Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct Your paths.

As war with Iraq seems imminent, may we keep in mind the promise of these verses. May God bless you!

Volume 23, No. 3

MARCH 2003

507th Air Refueling Wing Editorial Staff

507th ARW Commander- Col. Dean Despinoy
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 Deputy Chief of Public Affairs- 1st Lt. Bill Pierce
 Public Affairs NCOIC- TSgt. Melba Koch

On-final Editor- TSgt. Tyrone Yoshida

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

507th Civil Engineer Sq.- TSgt. George Proctor
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 507th Logistics Support Sq.- MSgt. Paul Victorian
 72nd Aerial Port Sq.- TSgt. Robert Shahan
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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

Immediately after the tragic crash of the Space Shuttle Columbia, a 507th tanker was there providing fuel to aircraft involved in search and recovery efforts. Above MSgt. Michael "Spike" Tompkins prepares his aircraft for a second mission tasking that never came. Related story on page 16.

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

ONW reservist proves himself in military, local community



Maj. Ron Hendricks and his wife and daughter are able to see and talk to each other during Hendricks' promotion to lieutenant within the Oklahoma City Police Department via an internet-video-conference ceremony.

**By Maj. Bob Thompson
Combined Information Bureau**

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (USAFENS) —

Whether patrolling the skies over northern Iraq or patrolling the streets of Oklahoma City, Okla., Maj. Ron Hendricks has proven himself to be an outstanding Citizen Airmen in his community and on the frontlines of world events.

While deployed here in support of Operation Northern Watch, Hendricks — a civilian policeman in the Air Force Reserve — was promoted by the chief of the Oklahoma City Police Department during an internet-video-conference ceremony with Tinker AFB, Okla., on Friday, Jan. 31.

"Ron has excelled as a citizen of the United States of America, as a citizen soldier and as a valued public servant to the people of Oklahoma City," said Oklahoma City Police Chief Major Berry. "He maintained a high level of dedication to the Oklahoma City Police Department, while also maintaining his readiness to serve his country through the U.S. Air Force Reserve."



Yun Hendricks, wife of Maj. Ron Hendricks, reacts to seeing her husband on the internet-video screen. Police Chief Major Berry and other police officers stand ready to promote Hendricks.

Shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, Hendricks and his unit, the 513th Air Control Group of Tinker AFB, were activated by the president. That activation has lasted for more than a year and a half so far.

"It was very hard coming here and being activated while I was also testing for police lieutenant," said Hendricks. "I'm very thankful that I was promoted. I'm glad the chief was able to do this."

As an Air Force mission crew commander, Hendricks typically commands 19 aircrew members aboard the E-3B Sentry Airborne Warning and Control aircraft better known as AWACS. His technicians bring on line and maintain computer, radar and communications systems while the operators on his crew detect, track and control aircraft over the no-fly zone in northern Iraq.

"I think he's really lucky to work two jobs that he likes," said Hendricks' wife Yun who, with daughter Alicia, accepted the new police lieutenant insignia from Berry during the ceremony at Tinker AFB.

Prior to his activation, Hendricks worked as a sergeant with the Oklahoma City Police Department. In January 2001, he took the written exam and was assessed in the top 20 percent of his department.

"With a promotion comes new duties and new responsibilities," said Hendricks. "But I have to put that all on hold until our unit gets demobilized and I can get back to my civilian job."

As part of Operation Northern Watch, Hendricks' team flies with a task force of more than 50 U.K. and U.S. aircraft. Coalition fighters, tankers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets work as a team to enforce the northern no-fly zone and to monitor Iraqi compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions.

The 513th Air Control Group has deployed to Incirlik five times since their activation in November 2001.

"I'm very proud to do both," said Hendricks. "It's hard sometimes, but I'm glad to do what I can to serve this country both nationally and there in the city. (USAFENS)

507th Maintenance Group welcomes new commander, redesignation

The 507th Maintenance Group conducted a change of command ceremony during the February UTA, bringing Lieutenant Colonel James F. McDonnell on board as the new commander.

The 507th Logistic Group not only received a new commander but the unit was re-designated, in accordance with the new Air Force organization structure, as the 507 Maintenance Group making Lt. Col. McDonnell the first commander.

Lt. Col. McDonnell was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bloomsburg State College, Pennsylvania, in 1979. He began his military ca-

reer in 1985 and served in numerous leadership roles, including the position of OIC for four organizations. Following his release from active duty in December of 1992, Lt. Col. McDonnell accepted a position within the Air Force Reserves.

Lt. Col. McDonnell's first Air Force Reserve assignment was with the 512th Airlift Wing, Dover AFB, in March of 1993. He held maintenance officer positions in both the 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron and 512th Aircraft Generation Squadron. In March of 1995, he accepted an Air Reserve Technician position as the Maintenance Squadron Supervisor of the 928th Airlift Wing, O'Hare IAP Air Reserve Station, Chicago, Illinois. In March of 1996, he transferred to the 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh IAP Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania, where he served as both the Maintenance Supervisor and Commander of the 911th Maintenance Squadron, supporting the wing's C-130H tactical airlift mission.

From July of 2000 to February of 2003, Lt. Col. McDonnell served as the Assistant Chief of the Logistics Resources Branch of the Headquarters 4th Air Force Logistics Division.

Lt. Col. McDonnell is a lifetime member of the Reserve Officers Association. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on September 12, 2002.



Lt. Col. James McDonnell



Lt. Col. James F. McDonnell accepts command of the newly re-designated 507th Maintenance Group from Col. Dean Despinoy, 507th ARW Commander.



Reservists MSgt. Junior Whiteside and TSgt. Brannen Matthews add the name of Lt. Col. James McDonnell to the sign proclaiming the new re-designated 507th Maintenance Group.

Key information for activated reservists

It's happened. You've been called to active duty. Now all the planning pays off. Personal and family readiness will give you the peace of mind to do your job while away.

Most people know about the basic benefits of activation, such as pay, full commissary use, and health care. Below is a quick reference for answers to questions many activated reservists have. For a more complete guide to preparing for mobilization, see the Family Readiness pamphlet, "Mission Readiness."

Family Support: Leave things as stable as possible at home. Most family members feel some sense of anger or loss at separation. It's not fun, but it's normal. The best thing to do is deal with the feelings. Communicate. Other things that have worked include working out a family budget with the new pay scale, drawing up a chart for household chores, and making sure routine maintenance is done before you leave. You may want to plan a going-away event, so you can leave with warm memories. The Family Support Program offers information, assistance, and support for your loved ones while you are away. They can connect your spouse with experts who will assist them one on one or in a workshop with financial management, job search, parenting, stress management, child care relief (if you're activated), and much more. Call the 507th ARW Family Support at 405 734-6869.

Job Rights: Two basic rights granted to you by Federal law are the right to deploy and the right to return to your job. Your employer must let you report to your military station when you receive orders. You cannot be forced to take personal or sick leave while performing military duty. You should communicate with your employer about when you have to report, and how long your orders are for. Give them a point of contact number, and let them know if your situation changes. If you have any problems on the employer end, call the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) representative, Maj. Richard Curry, at (405) 734-3078. For additional info, visit www.esgr.org, or call national ESGR headquarters at 800-336-4590.

Financial Help: As an activated reservist, you are eligible for emergency aid from the Air Force Aid Society for such things as basic living needs, car repairs, childcare problems, serious illness or death of an immediate family member, and other problems associated with an activation. To contact the ADAS, call the nearest base family support center, or visit www.afas.org. Last year the AFAS helped more than 20,000 Air Force members and their families with some \$26 million in assistance. If you need it, help is there. Other helpful offices include the nearest base chaplain's office (507th ARW chaplain is (405) 734-5632, the USO, the Reserve Officer's Asso-

ciation (call 800-809-9448) or visit www.roa.org for information on organizations that help the military), the American Red Cross (877-272-7337 or visit www.redcross.org), and social services—most are listed in the local phone book.

Deployment Guide: For a wealth of information for the reservist and families on preparing for deployment, deploying, and returning from a deployment, contact the 507th Family Support Office for a copy of their Deployment Guide, or call 734-6869.

Medical Benefits: All active duty service members are authorized to use military medical treatment facilities and are enrolled in TRICARE Prime health care plan. Families of service members are covered through one of three TRICARE options. These options will be explained to you in your in-briefing, or you can visit www.tricare.osd.mil or call 888-363-2273 for TRICARE information.

Pay: For information regarding pay and travel entitlements, please call the FM office at (405) 734-5016. You can access the Defense Finance website at www.dfas.mil, and you can sign up for a pin to let you access your leave and earning statement online at www.dfas.mil/mypay/.

ID Cards and Emergency Information: Your family members must have ID cards and be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to receive medical and other benefits. Call customer service at (405) 734-7492 for more information.

Legal: For wills, powers of attorney, and special powers of attorney, call the base Legal Office at (405) 739-5811 during the week, or contact the 507th ARW Legal Office during UTAs at (405) 734-3823. Your legal benefits extend to twice your activated time, so if you were activated for one year, you are eligible to use active duty legal services for two years. See www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal for a helpful military legal website.

Useful Web Sites

-Veterans Administration Assistance Office offers medical, compensation, re-employment, insurance and home loan benefits — 800-827-1000 or www.va.gov.

-Air Force Reserve Command — <https://www.afrcmil.af.mil>. Note the red "Hot" button for mobilization guidance. This site can only be reached from a military computer.

-Air Force Crossroads — www.afcrossroads.com.

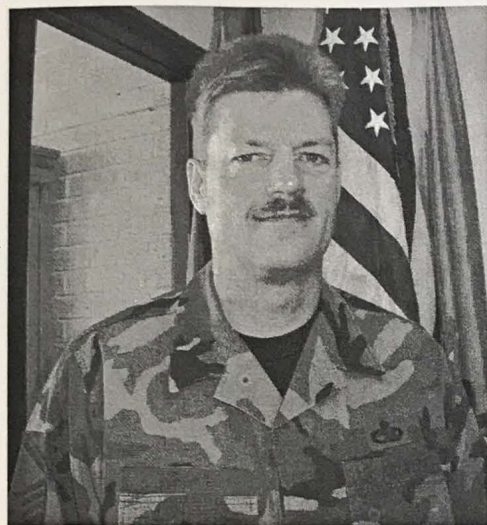
-United Services Organization — www.uso.org.

-Armed Forces Vacation Club — www.afvclub.com.

(Adapted from the 459th Airlift Wing and localized for 507th ARW and 513 ACG members.)

First quarter 2003 award winners announced

The new quarterly winners for the first quarter 2003 have been selected. The Senior NCO of the Quarter is MSgt. David C. Henke; NCO of the Quarter is SSgt. Brent D. Slattery; and SrA Lyrissa S. Parham is the Airman of the Quarter.



MSgt. David Henke

MSgt. David C. Henke is an aircraft maintenance specialist with the 507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron. As the B-1 Team Chief, he supervises a 14-person team consisting of five different skill qualifications with knowledge of the B-1 Bomber Weapons systems

and additional knowledge of Aircraft Battle Damage Repair.

Henke is a highly skilled technician who holds two AFSCs, is fully qualified as a 7-level aircraft maintenance specialist and a fighter crew chief in the Air Force with four years active duty and 20 as a reservist in the Air Force and two years civilian in fuels. At his civilian job in the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, he is a fuels technician with the responsibility of stripping fuel tank bladders and inspecting them for cracks and damage.

Henke is a dynamic leader who's commitment to helping others extends to his frequent and active involvement in the local Midwest City and Del City communities. He also is a very involved member of the Fraternal Order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Oklahoma.

SSgt. Brent D. Slattery, an electronic computer and switching systems



SSgt. Brent Slattery

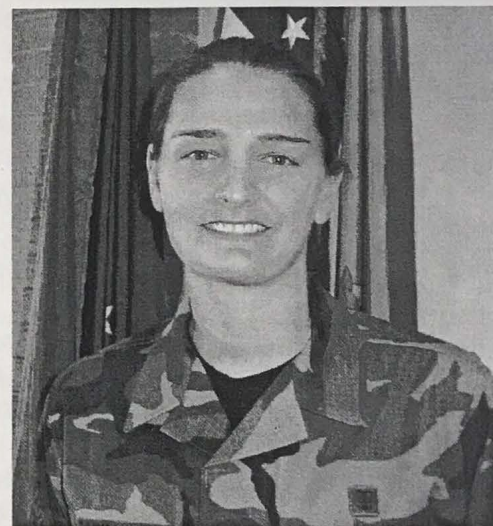
craftsman with the 35th Combat Communications Squadron, was sefor high visibility projects and support including establishment of the Core Automated Maintenance System to support new maintenance tracking and documentation requirements."

Slattery was solely responsible for developing a comprehensive training package for use by command communications and electronics maintenance personnel. He was personally requested by AFRC/SCF to assist in a Ft. Worth, Texas command-sponsored training program for 20 personnel.

He was the first Air Force Reserve member to volunteer for and attend Air Combat Command-sponsored training designed to aid in the transition of communication resources from analog to digital capabilities.

SrA Lyrissa S. Parham was selected as the Airman of the Quarter.

Parham was selected by the chief of Dental Services as Airman-in-Charge of the Dental Services after the incumbent NCOIC left the unit unexpectedly and there were no other NCOs assigned in the department available for appointment to the position. "Parham



SrA. Lyrissa Parham

stepped up to the plate and proved most assertive and willing to take on the challenging responsibilities of running the high volume dental clinic operation," said Col. Steven J. Gentling, 507th Medical Squadron Commander. Despite the fact that this was her first supervisory position, she managed all section programs to peak efficiency after three months in the job with a sense of urgency and confidence.

Parham is working on a variety of self-improvement projects: pursuing a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, working full time, plays recreational soccer, currently enrolled in the Airman Leadership Development PME course, volunteers for a local community organization, and tutors fellow college students who are struggling with the dental hygiene curriculum.



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

The lesson of Columbia

On Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003, this nation lost a precious testament to the human spirit. The Space Shuttle Columbia stabbed into our collective hearts as it fell to earth. Seven brave souls lost their lives doing what most of us only dream.

Space is still a new frontier for us—With all our billion-dollar telescopes and computer-generated windows of time and timelessness, we still see the merest fraction of our reality. The accomplishments of humanity pale in comparison to the vast expanse of space itself. This is why it is important for us to stand united as we move toward an uncertain future. Our name says it all: the *United States Air Force*. We have a higher calling that isn't always understood by everyone, but it is respected and manifest whenever you wear your uniform.

As the Columbia was a testament to our willingness to explore space, the military uniform is a testament to your willingness to explore your character. Getting into the uniform is never automatic. No matter what someone might say, you did have to sacrifice something to earn the right to wear it. Many of you are still sacrificing. Some have made the ultimate sacrifice.

When we wear our uniforms, we are telling our families that we love them, and that we will protect them, that we would give our lives for theirs and do it without regret. The people on the street see it even more: you are willing to give your life for *them*, strangers whose names you've never known and whose faces you may never see again. In a world of

vicarious Hollywood thrills and credit cards without limit, that dedication to service may not seem like much, but it is the only gift we can give that will wash away the tears, knit our collective wounds, and make the world a sane place to live in. Just as the seven astronauts gave their lives for the dream, we are willing to give ours for the reality. And we are as dedicated as they.

The fire of the human spirit won't be extinguished by tragedies. It won't be intimidated into silence or drowned by tears. We as a people have endured worse before and will bear this burden and all that comes hereafter unbroken. From the ancient campfire to the towering condominium, humanity has preserved stories of how a united people persevered in the face of great misery and misfortune. The tapestry of the United States is made up of millions of strong threads and you are one of them. It is up to you to determine where you belong in that canvas.

You don't need billion-dollar telescopes to see into your own heart, but remember that what you do today in that uniform reflects the person you are as well as the mission you perform. Let your heart be your new frontier. Explore it with all the faith of those astronauts on that February morning. Be the best person you can be—as well as the best airman, sergeant or officer.

You are needed: To defend your country. To love your family. To respect yourself. We all have our own frontiers to discover and I encourage you to explore your own. That willingness to face uncertain times, both in terms of spirit and the real world, is what makes you a hero and sustain the union of humanity. People who see you in the uniform will be blinded by the light of our unbroken will and, before that light, no darkness can prevail. Stay strong. Be bold. Explore. That is the lesson of Columbia.

Military association offers scholarships

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Jan. 13 - The Military Officers Association of America will give \$1,000 college scholarships at random to sons and daughters of military personnel, including reservists in Air Force Reserve Command.

Deadline to complete the online application is March 1.

Formerly known as The Retired Officers Association, the MOAA will honor 100 college-bound or current undergraduate students with individual

\$1,000 scholarship grants for the 2003-2004 school year. MOAA's Base/Post Scholarship program is part of an ongoing effort to assist young people from military families.

Of the few eligibility requirements, applicants must be under the age of 24 and provide basic information such as their SAT score and college. If an applicant served in the military before attending college, the maximum age for eligibility will be increased by the number of service years, up to five years.

Membership in MOAA is not mandatory, and there is no GPA requirement to be selected. Semifinalists will be notified by e-mail in March and may be asked to provide more detailed information. The scholarships will be dispersed by late August.

For more information and to apply for MOAA's Base/Post Scholarship program, go to <http://www.moaa.org/Education/2003> (AFRC News Service)

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. Your 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.

HQAFRC 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

Veteran Administration Benefits

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 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 Tuesday at 0730, Wednesday at 0800 & 1300, and Thursday 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

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

As of 19 February 2003

Fri, 28 Feb 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 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	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

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
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1066 OG Conf Room
0930	Catholic Chapel Service	Base Chapel
1000	HRDC	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
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, 04 Apr 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, 04 Apr 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, 06 Apr 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	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

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 8:45 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 Mar	12 Mar
06 Mar	16 Mar
11 Mar	19 Mar
13 Mar	21 Mar
18 Mar	26 Mar
20 Mar	28 Mar
24 Mar	01 Apr
27 Mar	04 Apr
01 Apr	09 Apr
03 Apr	11 Apr
07 Apr	15 Apr
Military Pay (405) 734-5016	

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is:	Then Forward Listing to Commander in:	Recerti- fication 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

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

From the Wing Inspector General

Fraud, waste, and abuse

By Capt. Mark Vardaro

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse—what is it, who should report it, and what number do you call? These are all valid questions regarding a program that we hear a lot about, but have not used because we don't know the answers.

What is fraud, waste, and abuse? The definitions of these oft used words are very specific and can be found in AFI 90-301, *Inspector General Complaints*. **FRAUD:** Intentional deceptions to unlawfully deprive the Air Force of something of value or to secure a benefit, privilege, or consideration to which you are not entitled. **WASTE:** The extravagant, careless, or needless expenditure of Air Force funds or the consumption of Air Force property that results from deficient practices, systems controls, or decisions. **ABUSE:** Intentionally wrongful or improper use of Air Force resources.

Who is responsible for reporting incidents of fraud, waste, or abuse? Generally speaking, we're all responsible whether

we be military, civilian, retiree, or dependent. In these days of budget constraints, FW&A can quickly reduce our operating funds and corrections can only be made if someone speaks up. However, this responsibility is specifically levied on military members and government employees in the Fourteen Principles of Government Service included in the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER).

Who do you call? The IG office is responsible for the FW&A program, so give me a call. My number on base is (405) 734-6910, or cell (405) 245-7341. If you get my voicemail, please leave a message with as much information as possible. You may remain anonymous, but the IG does have a confidentiality policy and it does help us get more information if we have someone to talk to. If it is an issue for a higher level of command, you can call the AFRC Hotline at DSN 497-1495; AF Hotline at (800) 538-8429; and DoD Hotline at (800) 424-9098.

Members cautioned on misuse of government travel cards

By Maj. Don Satterlee

AFRC has put the delinquency rates of the GTC first and foremost on the commander's windshield. This is a statistic we look at monthly as we try to improve our standing on the reporting to AFRC.

Lately, Wing wide we have been encountering some problems with the GTC. A recent review revealed that several of our wing members were using the card as a **personal charge card**. These folks were paying off the charges each month so that they did not come up delinquent. However, back when the card was issued, members had to sign a form that clearly states the card is to be used for official government travel only. So usage of the card in this way violates Article 92 of the UCMJ — disobeying a order.

Some of the charges ranged from buying gas at the Mini-BX to getting cash advances from local casinos. You can see the problem. If you live in the local area and are on orders this is not a situ-

ation where you can use the card. You have to be on official travel.

Two of the members were part of the headquarters. They both received non-judicial punishment and one member had their card suspended. Others in the wing are subject to discipline through the civil service system also.

Bottom line it is not worth the bother to use the card except for official government travel. Monthly, the card activity will be reviewed and those individuals who are not in compliance may get their cards suspended.

If you have any questions on how the card is to be used, call FM.

Six years for stealing laptops

by A1C Andre Thacker
6th AMW Public Affairs

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) — An Air Force staff sergeant will spend six years in confinement, be demoted to airman basic and be dishonorably discharged for stealing four laptop computers and two personal data assistant devices from U.S. Central Command last year.

A military judge sentenced SSgt. Sheridan Ferrell II on Jan. 30 to seven years on two charges of larceny and two charges of dereliction of duty. The sentence was reduced to six years because Ferrell had a pre-trial agreement

in exchange for his guilty plea.

Ferrell pleaded guilty Jan. 29 to stealing four laptops and two PDAs containing sensitive information from CENTCOM last summer.

When two computers were noticed missing Aug. 2, security here clamped down and more than 50 agents from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations swarmed over the base in the largest investigation in MacDill's history.

A week after the laptops disappeared, the investigation led OSI agents to Ferrell's residence, where they found the missing computers.

Dental readiness shouldn't leave a bad taste in your mouth!

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



Avoid the hassle, get a dental examination.

World events being what they are, I'm sure each of us is considering the possibility that we may be deployed in the near future. We are packing our "go-bags", checking our wills, making sure our daily details are caught up so that, if we do deploy, things will not come to a standstill at home. The same applies to the deployment process. If your dental records are not up to date, it may stop you in your tracks in the deployment line and cause serious delays in getting you processed.

How do you prevent these problems? Here are a few answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQ's) that should help you out...

Question: How often do I have to get a dental examination?

Answer: You must get a dental examination every year, no later than the month preceding your birth month. (Born in August, exam due NLT end of July.)

Question: Do I have to get my examination done by a military dentist?

Answer: Non-flyers only have to see a military dentist every third year. When we need you to be seen by a military dentist, your unit will be notified. The other two years you may be seen by your private dentist. We rec-

ommend doing this because we are staffed to see only about 1/3 of the members of the wing each year.

Question: How will my reserve unit know I've been examined by my civilian dentist?

Answer: Before your examination appointment, you should get a copy of a DD2813, Record of Civilian Dental Examination, to take with you. Have your dentist accomplish the form and then bring it, fax it or mail it to the medical records section so they can put a copy in your record and update the computer. Fax #: (405) 734-2571 DSN: 884-2571

Mailing address: 507th MDS\SGD, 7435 Reserve Rd., Tinker AFB, OK 73145-8726 Attn: Dental Records

Question: Where do I get a DD2813?

Answer: Your unit health monitor should have the form or you can come to the 507th Medical Administration Section for a copy. You can also download the form from the government publications website.

Question: I don't have dental insurance. What can I do?

Answer: The DoD, in association with United Concordia, has put

together an excellent dental insurance plan for AFRC members. The government pays 60 percent of the premium, you may have the premiums taken from your reserve pay as an allotment, and the plan covers most every dental procedure. You may contact your unit health monitor, logon to Concordia.com or come by the dental section of the medical squadron for a sign-up form.

Question: What happens if I don't get a dental examination?

Answer: AFI 48-123 covers this. If you go over 120 days beyond your due date, you are to be placed on a no-pay, no-points status. In other words you cannot participate in UTA's etc. until this requirement is met. After 1 year you are recommended for a medical evaluation board for determination as to your fitness for continued military service. That's a lot of trouble over a dental examination. Avoid the hassle, get it done!

I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us: DSN: 884-2487 Comm: (405) 734-2487 or e-mail me at : eric.kean@tinker.af.mil.

Deployment offers tax options; not filing is not one of them

ROBINS AFB, Ga. – Mobilized Air Force reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials here.

Deploying reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize their spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have their non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file their joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized.

Before deploying: If reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay Account" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Most active-duty locations offer a tax assistance program.

Members can electronically file their returns and opt for direct deposit of any refund into their checking accounts.

Authorizing another to file: To allow someone else to sign and file their return, reservists must:

- Be unable to sign the return because of disease or injury,
- Be absent from the United States for a period of at least

60 days before the due date for filing the return, or

- Get permission from the Internal Revenue Service office in their area to have another person file on their behalf.

They can authorize their agent to sign and file by using a special power of attorney or by using IRS Form 2848, which is available on the Web at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf> (instructions at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i2848.pdf>).

Filing a joint return: In this situation, a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 is not required. Married couples filing separate returns cannot take advantage of this option.

Using an extension: Deployed military people can usually take advantage of a filing extension for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Before claiming these extensions, reservists should check with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer to ensure that the area where they are deployed has been declared a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

To find out what a state requires when reservists are deployed, they should consult with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer. Some states have rules that are similar to the federal rules. (AFRC News Service)

Law protects benefits of called-up private sector employees

WASHINGTON – Feb. 3 - In mid-January, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao unveiled updated information to help reservists preparing to be deployed understand their rights to pension and health benefits coverage available through private sector employers.

"Military reservists should have confidence that while they are serving their country on active duty their job pension and health benefits will continue for their families," Chao said. "That is why we have developed information to familiarize reservists and family members with the federal law that protects these benefits."

"Many troops will be called to serve. This represents a great sacrifice by reservists, guardsmen and employers who must carry on without the services of these valuable employees during our fight against terrorism and to preserve the

freedom cherished by Americans."

"Frequently Asked Questions for Reservists Being Called to Active Duty" provides basic information about how retirement benefits of reservists are protected during service to their country.

It also describes the rights of family members to maintain health coverage, including the right to keep coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, as well as the various health benefit options available to family members.

A copy of the questions and answers can be obtained on the department's Web site at www.dol.gov/pwba. The public also may call with questions through PWBA's toll-free employee and employer hotline at (866) 275-7922 or electronically at www.askpwba.dol.gov (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a DOL news release)

Take safeguards with mail

Officials emphasize caution with APO addresses

by SSgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — World events have Air Force postal officials re-emphasizing the need for security when using the military mail system.

In particular, postal officials are concerned that airmen might not use an appropriate amount of discretion when distributing their overseas mailing addresses.

To reduce the vulnerability of using the mail system as a means to attack military people abroad, the Department of Defense officially suspended all "any servicemember"-type mail programs in late 2000. Those programs allowed the general public to address letters and care packages to "any servicemember," and those items would in turn be delivered to military people serving overseas.

Those programs, according to DOD officials, were eliminated because they created an avenue to introduce biological, chemical or explosive materials into the military mail system, putting people in danger. At the same time, the programs left the sources of such material

virtually untraceable.

Air Force officials have identified other potential vulnerabilities in the system. Those include Web sites that ask for overseas mailing addresses, publicly available sign-up sheets for phone cards or other goods to be sent overseas, said Bob Eichholz, the director of Air Force postal policy. It also includes local community efforts to gather up homemade goods and materials that can be sent from anonymous individuals to an APO address provided by a well-meaning servicemember.

"These are all well-intended programs to support the military," Eichholz said. "In the past those programs worked well, but today the same programs open us up to attacks from unknown sources. We have to take as many safeguards as we can to protect our mail system."

Postal officials recommend that people be as prudent with their APO addresses as possible — limiting where they post their address and to whom they hand it out.

"We recommend ... that members not just give out and advertise their APO addresses," Eichholz said. "Keep it for

your business purposes and for your correspondence, but don't advertise it on a Web site."

He said there are some Web sites asking for people's addresses. On other Web sites, people leave their address to get a pen pal.

"We recommend people don't do that," Eichholz said. "You don't know where that mail is coming from or who has access to that address. You need to safeguard your APO address a little bit."

While the Air Force is emphasizing that people keep a short leash on their APO addresses, officials recognize that the American public wants to show support for its troops. Fortunately, said Eichholz, there are avenues where people can do just that without jeopardizing their security.

"First, they've got the electronic 'any servicemember' programs," Eichholz said. "Also, you can support the United Services Organization and the Red Cross. Both organizations go overseas to help and support the troops. You can also help by supporting the various aid societies."

Monthly Mobility Tip:

Your Mobility Folder - Your Responsibilities

* Review your folder to ensure it's current and complete at least twice a year

* Review your DD Form 93 and update addresses BEFORE you mobility process

* Make sure all information on your dog tags is correct and matches your ID card

* Look at your Employment Locator Card (AF Fm 245) — is it current and complete?

* Get your mask fit test done and put 1 copy in your folder and 1 in your mask carrier

* Ensure your training is all current and annotated on your

AF Fm 4005 to include training such as Self Aid Buddy Care, Combat Arms Training, Chem Warfare Defense Training, Law of Armed Conflict, SATE/Info Assurance, Level I Anti-terrorism, Cargo Prep, Any specialty or courier training

* A current copy of your Dependent Care Plan, if applicable, should be in your folder

* If you have a passport in your folder it should be current and signed

* Make sure your immunizations are all up to date - beat the rush and get them now

* All courier and other appointment letters current and in your folder

Overloaded surge protectors capable of meltdown

**Steven R. Henthorn, Fire Prevention Specialist
Tinker Fire Department**

Most modern businesses and homes are supplied with 220-volt power systems. Heavy-draw appliances such as air conditioners, dryers, and electric stoves operate on 220-volts and are not protected by surge protectors. Other appliances operate on 110-volts. These include computers, microwaves, stereo equipment, and TV sets. These items often are used with surge protectors. The normal voltage flow will range from 110-117 volts. Surge Protectors are designed to trap the voltage that exceeds those limits. Excessive voltage occurs due to power spikes. When these spikes occur for a sufficient duration, this activates the trapping device, a Metal Oxide Varistor (MOV), located in the surge protector. The MOV is the heart of surge suppressors. The role of the MOV is to divert surge current. However, MOVs wear out with use. As more surges are diverted, the MOVs life span shortens, and failure becomes imminent. There is no warning or visual indications given -- just failure. And while failing, they can reach very high temperatures, and actually start fires.

Most surge protectors will continue to function as a power strip, even though the surge trap mechanism may have been destroyed by the power spike. This presents two possible dangers: 1) If another power surge should occur, it can damage the equipment or appliances that are plugged into this surge protector, and 2) If sufficient voltage passes through the surge protector due to a second power spike, a resistant short may have been formed, allowing heating to occur and a fire to ignite.

When buying this equipment, look for a surge protector with an indicator light that tells you if the protection components are functioning. All MOVs will burn out after repeated power surges. Without an indicator light, you have no way of knowing if your protector is still functioning properly. Unfortunately, due to manufacturing differences, the light may be "on" or "off" during proper operation. It is important to review the operating instructions provided with the surge protector.

Every year, thousands of fires result from surge protectors, power strips, and electrical cords. Listed below are some suggestions to help prevent a possible fire from igniting.

*** Use only surge protectors or power strips that have an internal circuit breaker.** These units will trip the breaker if the power strip is overloaded or shorted to prevent overheating and fire.

* Surge protectors, power strips, or extension cords are not a substitute for permanent wiring.

* If at any time the surge protector or power strip is hot to the touch, remove and replace the unit. The electrical load for this strip should be evaluated for overloading.

* Do not plug a surge protector or power strip into an existing surge protector or power strip. This practice is called "daisy chaining" or "piggy backing" and can lead to serious problems.

* The Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label must never be removed from the unit.

* Do not locate a surge protector or power strip in any area where the unit would be covered with carpet, furniture, or any other item that will limit or prevent air circulation.

All surge protectors or power strips need to be UL approved. Be sure that the product is listed as a **Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor**. This means that it meets the criteria for UL 1449,

UL's minimum performance standard for surge suppressors. There are a lot of power strips listed by UL that have no surge protection components at all. They are listed only for their performance as extension cords. On a UL listed surge protectors, you will find a couple of ratings. Look for:

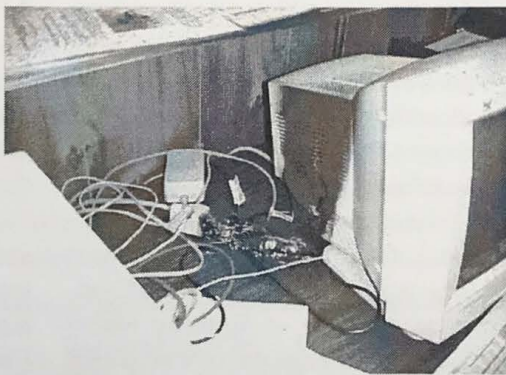
* **Clamping voltage.** This tells you what voltage will cause the MOVs to conduct electricity to the ground line. A lower clamping voltage indicates better protection. Generally, a clamping voltage more than 400V is too high.

* **Energy absorption/dissipation.** This rating, given in joules, tells you how much energy the surge protector can absorb before it fails. A higher number indicates

greater protection. Look for a protector that is at least rated at 200 to 400 joules.

* **Response time.** Surge protectors don't kick in immediately; there is a very slight delay as they respond to the power surge. A longer response time tells you that your computer (or other equipment) will be exposed to the surge for a greater amount of time. Look for a surge protector that responds in less than one nanosecond.

Visually inspect all surge protectors or power strips on a regular basis to ensure that they are not damaged or showing signs of wear or damage. The surge protector or power strips should always have either a polarized plug with one of the blades being larger than the other one or a three-prong grounded plug. Never use a three to two prong adapter to power the unit. Surge protectors or power strips should have a cord of no more than 6 feet in length.



This surge protector from a company in Houston shows what happened when it absorbed all the energy it was capable of absorbing -- then melted down.

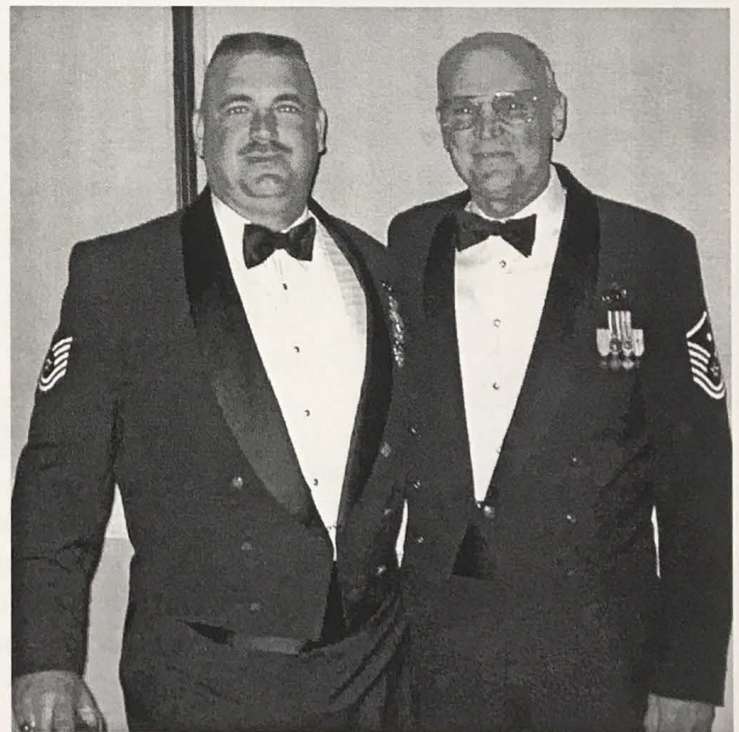
ESGR award presented to local employer



On Feb. 3, 2003, Capt. Karen Baskin and MSgt. Harry Ginzi presented an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Award to Mr. Terry Loveland, the supervisor of TSgt. Troy Siler at the VA Hospital Environmental Control Section. Siler is assigned as an equipment craftsman in the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron. Also attending the presentation was James Adams, Terry Loveland's boss. The presentation was made on behalf of Lt. Col. Renee Lane, 507th CES commander, and the Air Force Reserve for the outstanding support that Terry Loveland has given to Troy Siler during the past five years and his recent 90-day deployment to Southwest Asia while participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Loveland was surprised and very appreciative of the award and presentation.



Lt. Col. Michael Miller, acting 507th Mission Support commander, conducts a retirement ceremony for Maj. David Butsch. Butsch is the first person to retire from the 35th Combat Communications Squadron since its activation two years ago.



It was a family affair as MSgt. Harry E. Ginzi, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron First Sergeant, attended the NCO Academy graduation ceremony of his son TSgt. Chad Ginzi on Feb. 13. Chad is a member of the 507th Maintenance Group.

Uprose

by TSgt. Ty Yoshida

The following was asked of unit members during the February UTA: "If given the opportunity to choose, where would you prefer to be deployed?"



MSgt. William Morris
507th CES

"It doesn't matter to me. I'm ready to go wherever I'm needed."

TSgt. Jonathan Casselman
507th AMXS

"Of course I'd prefer to be at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, but I'm will to go wherever the need presents itself."



SrA. Geoffrey Hauth Marshall
507th ARW/HC

"My first thought was a safe, warm beach somewhere, but I guess I would go where I would be most useful to the unit and mission. I believe the why is self-explanatory for both!"



SrA. William Russell
507th CLSS

"In my mind I do not have a preference. I signed up to serve, so if there is a need I would be more than glad to fill it and do my part in the big picture."



SSgt. Jeff Bass
507th AMXS

"I'd go anywhere to do my part. I would hope to have a little off-duty fun, aka beer."



CMSgt. Robert W. Kellington, Command CMSgt. for the 507th ARW and 379th Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW), Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar serves as carver at the base's latest birthday dinner.

MEO Chief (Lt. Col.) sought

Col. Stayce D. Harris, 507th ARW vice commander, is accepting application packages for the Military Equal Opportunity Chief. This is a **lieutenant colonel** slot. The selectee should have attended or will attend the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) course and the Basic Officer Personnel Course. MEO is a part of the Personnel career field. AFMAN 36-2105 Attach. 24, April 30, 2001, states the requirements of Personnel AFSC 36P.

The application package consist of a copy of your last three OPRs, a resume (including your civilian and military work history), a one page cover letter outlining why you desire to become the MEO Chief and at least one letter of recommendation.

Applications must be turned into the Vice Commander's Office via mail or in person prior to **COB May 1, 2003**. A board will convene to interview applicants on a date to be announced. Uniform for the interview will be the Uniform of the Day. Questions/concerns may be addressed via email to stayce.harris@tinker.af.mil.

On-final R-NEWS

AAFES supports OEF

AAFES' support of Operation Enduring Freedom continues to expand. The Exchange Credit Program is proud to provide Air Force members lower or no interest rates during deployment.

To lessen the hardship of deployment, protect service members and support their families, Military Star credit card offers two options during this time.

The Military Star deployment policy provides deployed service members whose account is in good standing (i.e., not in "collection" status) two options:

Option one, cardholders can reduce the interest rate to 6 percent with no monthly payment while they or their families continue to use the account during the deployment. A second option for service members is to freeze their accounts and receive zero percent interest with no monthly payments. Cardholders and their families then forgo use of the card during the deployment.

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)

Deployment is defined as travel to an overseas location in conjunction with a Joint Chief of Staff (JCS) deployment order. The deployment order must be for at least 90 days. If the deployment time frame is included, the account will be coded with the date provided. If the time frame is not included, the account will be coded for a maximum of 90 days. Orders must be received before or during the deployed time for the account to be coded.

Unit commanders or their representatives must notify the Customer Call Center of Military Star and provide a copy of the deployment orders to ensure their troops receive the deployment benefits. Detailed instructions on this policy can be found on www.aafes.com under Military Star.

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

We will never forget their contributions

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

Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force chief of staff

On Saturday, Feb. 1, our nation and the world lost seven courageous, talented individuals when the Space Shuttle Columbia Orbiter (STS-107) experienced catastrophic failure 15 minutes prior to landing at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Among these brave astronauts were two officers from the Air Force family: Col. Rick Husband, mission commander, from Amarillo, Texas; and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, payload commander, from Spokane, Wash.

On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force, we offer our deepest condolences to our Air Force family members Evelyn Husband and her children Laura and Matthew, and Sandra Anderson and her children Sydney and Kaycee. We stand together with all Americans in offering our prayers for the families, friends, and co-workers of those lost in this tragic accident. We will never forget their great contributions to our nation and the world.

While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, we are also very proud of the Air Force team that has tirelessly assisted in the response to this national tragedy.

Air Force Space Command units from Peterson, Buckley, and Patrick AFBs provided tracking data as part of the accident investigation. Tanker units from Birmingham, Ala., and fighter squadrons from Texas and Louisiana supported a number of



STS-107 Columbia crewmembers were: David M. Brown, Rick D. Husband, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Michael P. Anderson, William C. McCool, and Ilan Ramon.



STS-107 Columbia crewmembers and Air Force members Michael P. Anderson and Rick D. Husband.

search and recovery actions. We've also flown communications support out of Texas and Oklahoma and provided airlift support from McGuire AFB. Barksdale AFB provided part of the Initial Response Teams supporting the Texas Department of Public Safety in recovery efforts, and continues to function as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Consequence Management Operations Center and NASA Shuttle Recovery Center. The Air Force family will continue to offer support to the astronaut's families, DoD, NASA, FEMA, and state organizations.

We grieve for our friends and co-workers, but we also join the rest of the world in celebrating seven lives well lived and promise to continue to support the space program's noble mission of discovery.

May God bless the grieving families, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.