

# On-final



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

May 2003  
Vol. 23, No. 5



## *Take off - Operation Iraqi Freedom*

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

### 55 years old

April 14<sup>th</sup> marked the Air Force Reserve's 55<sup>th</sup> year of serving our country. The formal establishment of the Air Force Reserve Command on April 14, 1948, was a defining point in U.S. military history and permanently established the role the citizen soldier would play in the defense of our great nation.

The Air Force Reserve has always been important but no one in 1948 could imagine the critical daily role that the citizen airmen would play in today's total force. There is nothing that occurs in the world without major involvement by the citizen soldier. To put this into perspective, during the 38-year period from 1953 to 1990, the Reserve was asked to help the active duty 11 times. During the 12-year period from 1991 to 2003 the Reserve was called upon in excess of 60 times.

As I write this article, a large portion of the wing is activated and many are deployed. The military action that history will know as Operation IRAQI FREEDOM is all but officially over. All the services performed magnificently and the total force of the Air Force proved once again that we are capable of seamless execution of whatever mission we are given. Our deployed members have so far flown 327 sorties and flew 1,5785.8 hours to offload over 15 million pounds of fuel to U.S. and coalition force aircraft. The Okies can take great pride in knowing that we were a crucial part of yet another history-making conflict. The speed and decisive manner in which the war was executed indeed brought "Awe" to the entire world.

Very soon we will welcome back the deployers with the

hero's welcome they deserve. The duty they performed was fantastic, but the duty that you performed here was no less fantastic. You kept a 24/7 STRATCOM alert line up, perform Operation NOBLE EAGLE refueling of CAP aircraft protecting vital National assets, and you took wonderful care of the families the deployers left behind. I am proud of each and every one of you.

The country is also proud of you and some companies are demonstrating this pride in a very real way. Anheuser-Busch is giving free admission to Seaworld, Orlando, San Diego, and San Antonio; Bush Gardens, Tampa Bay and Williamsburg; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Penn., from the Friday of the Memorial Day weekend until Veterans Day on Nov. 11. The free entry is for the men and women of all the services and reserves and up to four of their direct dependents.

Thanks again for everyone's hard work and I look forward to getting everyone in the wing back together to meet whatever challenges the future holds.



**Severe weather season tip: When caught out in the open during a tornado, abandon car and seek shelter in nearby ditch.**

## Chaplain's Corner

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

In New York City, there are eight million cats and 11 million dogs. New York City is basically just concrete and steel, so when you have a pet in New York City and it dies, you can't just go out in the back yard and bury it. The city authorities decided that for \$50 they would dispose of your deceased pet for you.

One lady was enterprising. She thought, *I can render a service to people in the city and save them money.* She placed an ad in the newspaper that said, "When your pet

dies, I will come and take care of the carcass for you for \$25." This lady would go to the local Salvation Army and buy an old suitcase for two dollars. Then when someone would call about his or her pet, she would go to the home and put the deceased pet in the suitcase.

She would then take a ride on the subway, where there are thieves. She would set the suitcase down, and she would act like she wasn't watching. A thief would come by and steal her suitcase. She'd look up and say, "Wait. Stop. Thief." My guess is the people who stole those suitcases got a real surprise when they got home.

A lot of us are like those New York thieves. We're chasing after happiness, and we grab what we think will give us happiness; however, when we get it, it doesn't quite deliver.

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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**



**Take off - Operation Iraqi Freedom:** The air assets of coalition forces include the KC-135R Stratotankers of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, several of which are currently deployed in Southwest Asia.

Photos by 507th ARW members deployed in SWA



507 ARW



513 ACG

**CONTENTS**

507th crews deliver. .... 4

Greetings from Moon Base Alpha. .... 5

Maintainers get results despite tough conditions .... 6

Reservists rescue troops during OIF. .... 7

507th Mission Support Group stands up. .... 9

Second quarter winners announced. .... 10

101 Critical Days of summer are back. .... 12

**DEPARTMENTS**

Training Planner. .... A1-A4

513th news. .... 8

Upclose. .... 14

Scrapbook photos. .... 15

R-News. .... 16

NEWS / INFORMATION / FAMILY READINESS / MORE!

507th AIR REFUELING WING  
and  
513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



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

Operation Iraqi Freedom

# 507th crews deliver

**It's called Moon Base Alpha. Considering the starkness of the area, most would agree that's a good name for it....**



**Lt. Col. Bill prepares for a refueling mission from Moon Base Alpha in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

For the more than 150 men and women of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Moon Base Alpha has been home since March 7.

But regardless of their environment, the Okies prove they are a significant part of the war effort (see FACToid insert).

According to Lt. Col. Bill, "It took us 5 days, of around the clock work, to unload equipment and set up operations. The first operational sortie was flown on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Since March 12<sup>th</sup> we have had a jet airborne every minute of the day. Operations and maintenance personnel work 12 hour shifts, 7 days a week. With the reduction in flying we are now starting to give folks a day off."

"We have been deployed for over 40 days and morale is very high. No one knows when we will come home. It's best not to think about it. We know nothing is forever and we will be

returning home sometime. I speak for everyone when I say we are proud of all the support that everyone back home has shown us. We ask for their continued prayers, letters, and care packages, not only us, but for all those deployed."

## FACTOID

Since their arrival in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations in March, the reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 452nd Air Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., have been busy flying missions to support both Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Together, both units are part of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing. As of publication deadline, 321st AEW's refueling effort has resulted in the following:

Sorties	Flying hours	Offload
327	1785.5	14,999,100

## Chronology of events

**March 18:** 507th Family Support Center opens for business.

**March 19:** Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.

**March 19:** 507th KC-135Rs stationed in SWA fly refueling sorties in support of OIF.

**March 20:** First American and British troops push into southern Iraq from Kuwait.

**March 23:** Members of the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, are killed or captured in an ambush near Al Nasiriyah.

**March 30:** 507th Family Support Center hosts a magic show for the kids of wing members.

**March 31:** Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, says airstrikes have reduced Republican Guard units guarding the approaches to Baghdad to less than 50% of their pre-war levels.

**April 1:** A team of Navy SEALs, Marine commandos, Air Force pilots and Army Rangers rescue POW Pfc. Jessica Lynch of the 507th Maintenance Company in a daring raid in Nasiriyah.

**April 6:** NBC newsman David Bloom, an embedded reporter with the 3rd Infantry Division, dies of a blood clot.

**April 7:** A U.S. B-1 bomber drops four 2,000-pound, satellite-guided bombs on a home in the Mansu neighborhood of western Baghdad where Saddam Hussein is believed to be meeting with his senior officials.

**April 9:** A 20-foot high statue of Iraqi

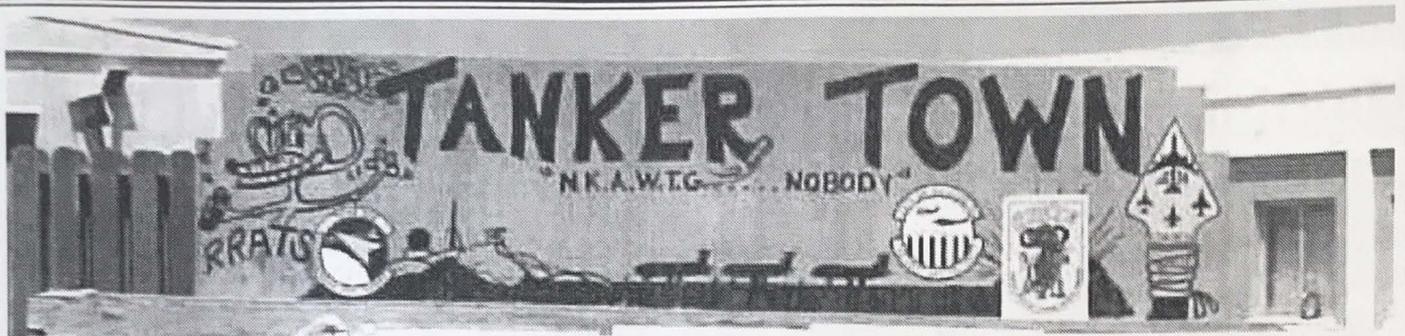
President Saddam Hussein is pulled down in the central Baghdad al-Firdos Square, symbolizing the fall of Baghdad to coalition forces.

**April 13:** 507th Family Support Center sponsors an Easter Egg hunt for the kids of wing members.

**April 13:** Seven American soldiers, including five from the 507th Maintenance Company, held as prisoners of war, are rescued 80 miles north of Baghdad.

**April 14:** The Pentagon declares the war with Iraq effectively over.

**April 19:** The responses of MSGts. Mark and Crystal to the e-mail questions about their deployment in SWA from *The Daily Oklahoman* appear in the newspaper.



No one kicks ass without Tanker gas



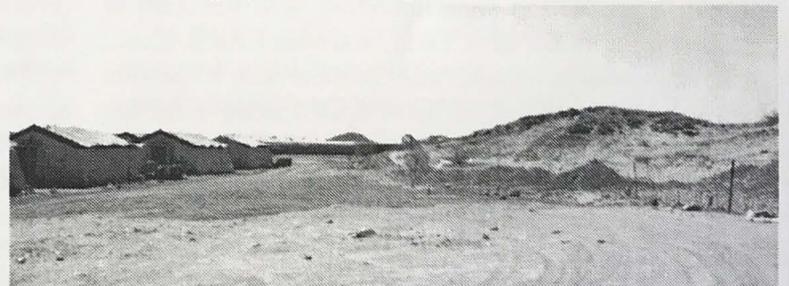
Some of the maintenance guys



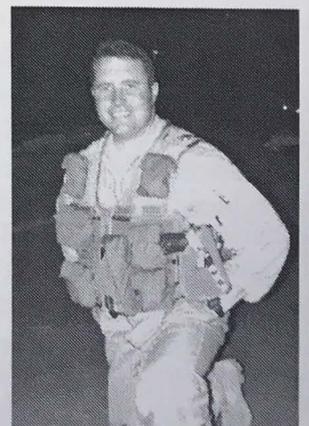
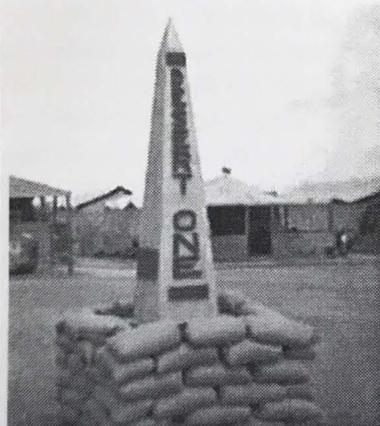
The guys out doing some 4-wheeling



Tell mom HI!



A view of why it's called Moon Base Alpha



# Greetings from Moon Base Alpha

# Maintainers get results despite tough conditions



Photo by MSgt. Mahon

**Alpha and Bravo night shift crews pose for a group picture. Note the Okie connection**

**by MSgt. Chuck Roberts  
Air Force Print News**

SAN ANTONIO — Approximately 1,900 coalition aircraft have launched almost 24,000 round-the-clock sorties since March 19 supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. That means 24,000 opportunities for something to go wrong mechanically.

"No problem," say maintainers like SMSgt. Ricky Abbott and SSgt. Robert Souders who are assigned to the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing at a deployed location.

Abbott, a production superintendent, said his team of maintainers from Tinker AFB, Okla., and March ARB, Calif., are achieving mission-capable rates of more than 90 percent for their KC-135 Stratotankers. As of April 3, aerial-refueling aircraft have combined to deliver more than 27 million gallons of fuel to coalition aircraft.

Souders, a C-130 Hercules crew chief, and his fellow maintainers launched 500 sorties in 18 days with a 100 percent mission-capable rate. And cargo aircraft moved almost 31,000 tons of equipment and approximately 38,000 passengers since March 19.

Maintainers are achieving these in-service rates despite scorching hot weather, sand and the challenge of keeping a steady flow of spare parts coming into the country.

"It's definitely a challenge, but we have a bunch of go-getters here," said Abbott. He said his maintainers have excelled at assessing and solving problems.

They cannot solve the sticky weather problem, but they are acclimating, Abbott said. Temperatures were dipping into the 20s when Abbott and crew left Oklahoma. They landed in a humid environment with temperatures in the 90s.

"We've all tanned and peeled two or three times since we've been here," said Abbott. Maintainers put in days exceeding 12 hours beneath the scorching sun, "but I haven't heard a soul complain about that," Abbott said.

In fact, maintainers often try to keep working on a me-

chanical problem until it is resolved. "Sometimes we have to make them leave," Abbott said.

That is about what Abbott said he expected of his team.

"You couldn't have made them stay at home," he said. "We left people home who wanted to come."

Since arriving, Abbott said the war has caused him to pause and reflect on why he is supporting the fight.

"I sit back and realize we take a lot of things for granted in America," Abbott said. "(The war) makes you definitely appreciate that you come from a country where you have your freedom. That has touched me."

On the C-130 side of the house, Souders said maintainers are also contending with the weather challenge.

When Souders and his fellow Air National guardsmen departed the 167th Airlift Wing's home base at Martinsburg, W.Va., there were 30 inches of snow on the ground and below-zero temperatures. But here, Souders said, the sweat continues to flow even when the maintainers escape the heat for moments of refuge in the air-conditioned "morale tent."

The Hercules has performed extremely well in the challenging weather conditions, Souders said, but maintainers must make accommodations for the heat and fine sand.

Maintainers keep the aircraft sealed shut until a short time before the aircrew arrive to block out the sand, Souders said, but blocking out the sand traps in heat which can affect some aircraft systems. It requires a delicate balance to open the aircraft in time to cool it down without letting the sand in, but so far their timing has been perfect, he said.

Souders said he is glad to be in the same situation as his two cousins who fought with the Marines in Operation Desert Storm more than 10 years ago, when he was still in high school. He remembers praying for his cousins and his mom sending them care packages.

Like Abbott, Souders said he believes in the cause for which his country is fighting.



Members of the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., prepare an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter for a mission April 8 at a forward-deployed location in southern Iraq. Pave Hawk mission equipment includes a retractable in-flight refueling probe, internal auxiliary fuel tanks, two 7.62mm machine guns and an 8,000-pound (3,600 kilogram) capacity cargo hook. (Air Force Photo by SSgt. Shane)

## Reservists rescue troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Lt. Col. K.E. Warren  
920th Rescue Wing

PATRICK AFB, Fla. – Soon after U.S. forces rolled into downtown Baghdad, deployed Air Force reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing had saved the lives of at least 10 American troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to Col. Tim Tarchick, 920th RQW commander, members of the wing were involved in at least four combat search and rescue missions in Iraq as of April 8.

“We’ve been at the tip of the spear on missions involving the extractions of two groups of Marines, an Air Force A-10 pilot and two U.S. Army special operations soldiers,” Tarchick said. “It’s likely our HC-130 and HH-60 crews have been involved in more saves, but the official word hasn’t filtered to us over here yet.”

In addition to reservists from Patrick, members of the deployed Air Force Reserve Command contingent include rescue personnel from Portland IAP, Ore.

Their latest rescue involved flying behind enemy lines to retrieve and extract an A-10 Thunderbolt pilot who ejected from his airplane after it was hit while flying a close air support mission over western Baghdad April 8. He was recovered and flown back to a coalition base, uninjured.

The previous day, 920th RQW members braved severe weather conditions to come to the aid of two Army troops. The soldiers were critically wounded and needed help about five miles south of Baghdad. The deployed 920th RQW team worked with Air Force and Army special operations forces to locate them and transfer them to a hospital in Kuwait, where it was determined that they have a 95 percent chance of survival.

Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and two A-10 Thunderbolt airplanes launched from an air base in southern Iraq and an HC-130 refueler launched from another air base in the region. Additionally, U.S. Army helicopters from another nearby base were put on alert in case backup firepower was needed during the evacuation.

As the team flew to the evacuation site, the Pave Hawk aircrews learned the soldiers were in critical condition. They coordinated with a special operations MC-130E Combat Talon I to meet them at An Najaf, 75 miles south of Baghdad, and to set up a patient transfer from the helicopters to the airplane. The MC-130E had a flight surgeon and two medical technicians on board to treat and stabilize the wounded en route to an advanced medical facility.

Everyone involved in the operation was able to overcome the blowing sand and dust, which allowed about a half-mile of visibility and a flying ceiling of only 3,500 feet.

The Air Force reservists rescued two groups of people in late March. A total of seven Marines were pinned down behind enemy lines in what Tarchick described as lengthy, complicated and dangerous missions.

“I talked to one of our pilots after one of the missions,” Tarchick said. “He was tired but full of pride and happy that they got those Marines out. His adrenaline was still pumping.”

Tarchick said he is extremely proud of his deployed people. “They’re on the front lines of the war in Iraq and are doing a tremendous job under the most hostile and extreme conditions,” he said. “Please keep them in your prayers.” (AFRC News Service)



## 513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

### You, too, are a veteran

In my time as an Air Force serviceman, I have met many fascinating people and participated in some amazing events. When I retire, I will be taking with me great satisfaction in knowing that I did the job given to me well and that what I did made a difference. It is a feeling you will all carry as well when it is your time to pass the torch to the next USAF generation.

But you can begin planning for that future today. There are several organizations out there that promote and support the military. I would like to point out why some of these organizations are so important not just to you as a developing military member, but as the veterans you all will be.

**The Veterans of Foreign Wars** is a non-profit, veteran's advocate organization and has a rich tradition of enhancing the lives of servicemen and women worldwide. Their motto is "Honoring the dead while helping the living." Many of you are already familiar with their free phone card program for deploying military personnel and their fund drives for the World War II memorial. What you may not know is that you are eligible for membership in this august fraternity. If you have a Kosovo Campaign medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, then you can call yourself a veteran of a foreign war. By standing together with other men and women who have shared that military experience, you can serve future generations by being a voice for today. For more information on this noble organization, you can go to their website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

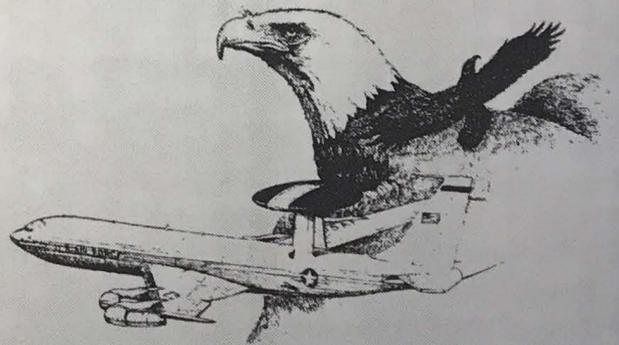
**The American Legion** is the world's largest veterans' organization. Chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, wartime organization, there now are more than three million members today in 15,000 American Legion Posts all over the country as well as several in France, Mexico, and the Philippines. Membership eligibility is based on honorable federal active duty service with the U.S. armed forces. At this time, all members of the U.S. armed forces are eligible to join due to the ongoing situation in Southwest Asia. Their mission mirrors the obligations of citizenship, democracy, and defense of the U.S. Constitution, but also preserves "the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars." It might sound cliché, but those who do not learn from history will be condemned to repeat its mistakes. Organizations such as this can guide our children when they carry on the missions

we began. Their informative website is [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

**The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation** is a non-profit veteran's organization that recognizes the accomplishments of the female veteran. It is the nation's first major national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's armed forces during all eras and in all services, located at the ceremonial entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery. With the memorial now complete and open to the public, the primary focus of the WIMSA Foundation today is to identify and register with the Memorial more than two million women who have served or are serving in all branches of the US armed forces. The Foundation also maintains and operates an elaborate education center to promote military history and the roles of women in wartime. If you have a family member who served, I highly recommend you submit their names to the memorial Foundation for inclusion into their registry. Some 250,000 women, approximately 13 percent of those eligible, have registered or been registered by family or friends. The Foundation's detailed website is [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org).

There are many, many other veterans' organizations out there, but I encourage you to get involved with one today and share your wisdom and experience. We cannot continue our mission forever and it will fall to a future generation to carry on that role as defender and watchmen in the skies. But we can contribute to their lives and that mission by guiding their stewardship long after the torch is passed. It is the standard we bear today and the legacy we will all uphold tomorrow.

### 513th Quick Stats:



**From April 2002 to 23 April 2003**

**OIF - 39 Sorties, 452.3 Hours**  
**ONW - 222 Sorties, 1410.1 Hours**  
**ONE - 15 Sorties, 153.0 Hours**

## 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. Sharlotte 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. Sharlotte 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
2003-7	1	Sep 22 - Oct 30, 03	Tyndall AFB, FL

## Senior NCO Academy Board Announcement

The next Senior NCO Academy board has been schedule for Aug. 22, 2003, for FY 2004 classes (2004B) Jan. 21 - Mar 3, 2004, and (2004C) March 18 - April 28, 2004. Please submit all application packages to 507 MSS/DPTM NLT Aug. 5, 2003, for review and submission to the appropriate NAF. Application procedures were posted to the bulletin board on Mar. 13, 2003. Applications submitted after Aug. 5, 2003, will not be forwarded. Questions should be directed to MSgt. Dennis 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 taking computer-based tests, call DPMT at 734-7075 at least two days prior to the UTA. Computer-based 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)

## FY2003-04 UTA SCHEDULE

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

(As of April 22, 2003)

**Fri, 02 May 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, 03 May 2003****Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0830-0930	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 1, Rm 222 (Enter Door D)
<b>0915-1115</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1043, ATN Room</b>
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
<b>1600-1630</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Conf Room</b>

**Unit Designated Sign Out****Sun, 04 May 2003****Unit Designated Sign In**

<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Conf Room</b>
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	<b>Bldg 460, Room 215</b>
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	Safety Council/Unit Safety/Rep	Bldg 1030, Rom 104
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1, Rm 222 (Enter Door D)
<b>0930</b>	<b>Catholic Chapel Service</b>	<b>Base Chapel</b>
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1300-1600	First Duty Station	Bldg 1030, Rm 214
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, 06 June 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, 07 June 2003****Unit Designated Sign In**

0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0830-0930	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 1, Rm 222 (Enter Door D)
<b>0915-1115</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1043, ATN Room</b>
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sergeants 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
<b>1600-1630</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Conf Room</b>

**Unit Designated Sign Out****Sun, 08 June 2003****Unit Designated Sign In**

<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Conf Room</b>
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	<b>Bldg 460, Room 215</b>
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	Supervisor Safety Tng	Bldg 1030, Room 104
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1, Rm 222 (Enter Door D)
<b>0930</b>	<b>Catholic Chapel Service</b>	<b>Base Chapel</b>
1115	Escorts pick-up Newcomers	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1300-1600	First Duty Station	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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
<b>Phase I</b>			
Saturday	1300-1400	Information Assurance	CF
Saturday	1400-1500	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Saturday	1500-1530	Local Conditions-Traffic	SE
<b>Phase II</b>			
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

## Military Pay

File for  
pay by:

01 May  
06 May  
08 May  
13 May  
15 May  
19 May  
21 May  
27 May  
29 May

Receive  
Direct  
Deposit by:

11 May  
15 May  
18 May  
21 May  
23 May  
28 May  
30 May  
03 June  
07 June

03 June  
05 June

12 June  
14 June

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

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)  
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 TSgt. Melanie E. Cherry, Education and Training Advisor  
 Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor

# 513th presents U.S. flag to McCloud HS

**By SSgt. Andy Stephens**  
**513 Air Control Group Public Affairs**

McCloud High School was recognized for its contributions to the deployed men and women of the Air Force on April 21, when Col. James L. Kerr, 513th Air Control Group commander, returned a token of thanks from a grateful nation. The token was a flag, flown over Oklahoma on Sept. 11, 2002 in commemoration of the bravery and nobility of Americans who responded to the needs of their countrymen a year earlier. It is a legacy that the students of McCloud High School as well as the 513 ACG are keeping alive.

"We are very thankful for your hard work and support," said Kerr at the presentation. "When you have a nation's will behind you, we can do anything. We know we're living in a wonderful country when the children stand together in support of its military."

Since early 2002, McCloud High School students pooled their resources and time into collecting writing materials and books for 513 ACG personnel deployed to Turkey in support of Operation Northern Watch. As time progressed, the 513 ACG began providing transport for school supplies the McCloud High School Key Club gathered on behalf of a Turkish orphanage the 513 ACG deployed personnel had adopted.

"Many of the schoolchildren [in Turkey] still use chalk and slates," said Annette Brown, McCloud High School Key Club sponsor and English teacher. "Our students took it upon themselves to share with them some of what many of us might take for granted: paper, pencils, textbooks, paperback novels. We have always been there for our military and we were

fortunate enough to have such thoughtful students in our schools."

Within the McCloud school district, the sense of patriotism is ever present. According to Richard Spencer, a Vietnam veteran and principal of McCloud High School, there is a heavy military presence in the community and the schools wanted to give back to the heroes of this nation from today as well as yesterday. Many people within the school system as well as the community helped the students pursue their goal.

Some students worked extra jobs for extra money to purchase those school supplies. Others collected through their churches. In a larger sense, however, that extra effort helped promote the peace American forces strived to bring to the region. Little by little, with each extra smile a Turkish child flashed, there was one more person who gained faith in the United States and its overseas presence.

"McCloud High School was one of the first ones to step up and say, 'Hey, I want to support the troops,'" said Kerr. "The students here supported our troops and helped promote understanding between two different cultures. I am grateful that this nation so blessed by God has so many wonderful and caring people. I am filled with hope that the next generation of citizens who serve their nation—whether it's as a servicemember, as a teacher, or as a voter—will serve their country well. Thank you, McCloud students. Thank you, educators. Thank you, America."

The students at McCloud High School may never get to meet the children they helped in Turkey, but through the effort of this Oklahoma high school, the world grew a little closer. And maybe even a little smaller.

## Agreement creates Fighter Associate Program

**By Tech. Sgt. David Byron**  
**Air Force Reserve Command News Service**

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – Air Force Reserve Command and Air Combat Command will join forces to begin the Fighter Associate Program. The new program will build closer ties with a sharing of resources that will benefit both commands and total force relations.

Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, ACC commander, and Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC commander, signed a memorandum of agreement, which took effect April 2.

The Fighter Associate Program is designed to meet the growing need for fighter pilot training by assigning reservists to active-duty units and active-duty pilots to Reserve units.

The idea is not new but rather a refinement of two other programs already in place.

As a result of the drawdown in the early 1990s, the Air Force saw a major drop in fighter pilot retention.

"When we downsized active-duty forces, we didn't realize we were losing all our trainers," said Col. Bob Nunnally, Reserve advisor to the ACC commander and leader of the team that developed FAP. "The active force requires 330-380 pilots a year, but it only has the resources available to train 302. A fighter pilot generally needs 500 flight hours to be considered fully qualified."

In 1996, the Air Force began looking for ways to stem the loss by retaining and training more experienced pilots. The Fighter Reserve Associate Program began at Shaw AFB, S.C., in 1997.

# Mission Support Group stands up

On April 6, Col. Robert R. Colyer assumed command of the 507th Support Group, but not for long.

Within minutes, the 507th Support Group was restructured as the 507th Mission Support Group in a well-choreographed "ballet" of troop movements to show the activations and re-alignments of the squadrons and flights that would make up the 507th Mission Support Group.

The 507th MSGp now includes the 507th Civil Engineering Squadron, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron, 35th Combat Communications Squadron, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 507th Security Forces Squadron, 507th Mission Support Flight, 507th Services Flight, and 507th Communications Flight.



**Looking sharp - All attendees at the restructuring of the 507th Support Group to the 507th Mission Support Group honor the colors during the playing of the national anthem.**

## Second Quarter winners announced



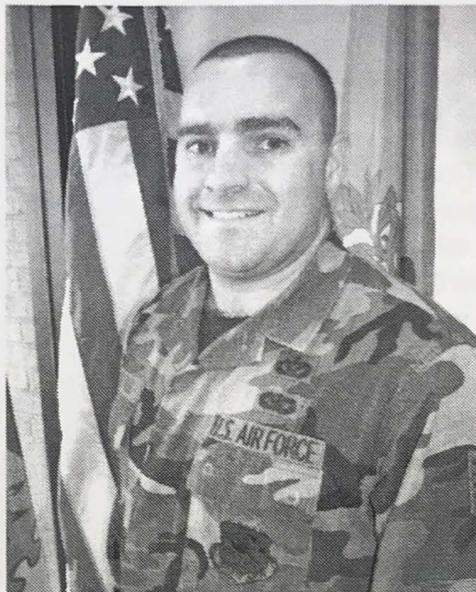
**MSgt. Terri Lindsay-Wilson**

MSgt. Terri N. Lindsay-Wilson, TSgt. George D. Stiltner, and SrA. Justin G. Hunter, were selected as senior non-commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer and airmen of the Quarter, respectively, for the second quarter of fiscal year 2003.

**MSgt. Terri N. Lindsay-Wilson**, a communications-computer systems operator with the 35<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, was selected as the Senior NCO of the quarter.

"Sergeant Lindsay-Wilson was instrumental in the stand-up of the 35<sup>th</sup> CCS, one of two squadrons created in the Air Force Reserve with the mission of providing worldwide communication services and capabilities to combat forces," said Maj. Roy Peterson, 35<sup>th</sup> CCS commander. "Her previous experience as an Air Reserve Technician was helpful in providing guidance to the newly hired ART workforce, an expansion of manpower from one ART to eight full-time positions."

With no administrative manpower authorized, Lindsay-Wilson took on the daily orderly room workload along with her position duties, including preparing travel and administrative orders, budget-



**TSgt. George Stiltner**

ing, and recordkeeping for a unit of more than 60 people.

She is an active member of the Sooner Elementary Parent Teachers Association and on the list to assist teachers as an unpaid volunteer teacher.

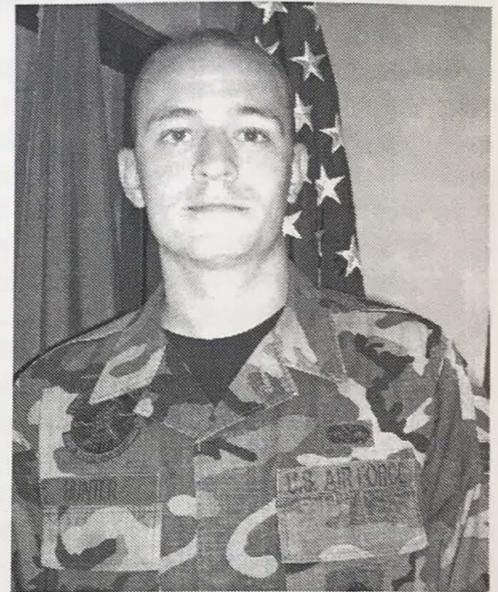
**TSgt. George Stiltner**, a HVAC (heating/venting/air conditioning) craftsman with the 507<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, is the Wing's NCO of the Quarter.

"Sergeant Stiltner's enthusiastic drive motivates him to tackle any project or tasking without supervision, achieving great results, while demonstrating an exceptionally high regard for the Air Force Reserve and its mission," says Lt. Col. Renee Lane, 507<sup>th</sup> CES commander.

He was singled out as an outstanding performer during a recent attack and evacuation exercise, personally carrying an injured NCO to the safety of an ambulance.

Stiltner's "can do" attitude was recognized two months in a row, receiving the group's coin twice by the Tinker Reserve Top Three.

Stiltner has two CCAF degrees and recently received his BA in Criminal Justice from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



**SrA. Justin Hunter**

**SrA. Justin Hunter**, a fire team member with the 507<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, is the Airman of the Quarter.

Hunter recently returned from a deployment to MacDill AFB, Florida in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. He was hand-selected for an elite team, maintaining overall security over U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the personal offices of Generals Tommy Franks and Michael DeLong.

He worked flawlessly with members deployed from 22 different Air Force Security Forces squadrons. During an anti-war protest, Hunter served on a Riot Control Team that ensured the safety and well-being of all assigned personnel and their families.

Hunter was personally recognized by Major Skinner, 6<sup>th</sup> SFS commander, MacDill AFB, as a "Top Ten Performer" out of 357 assigned security forces personnel.

Before being activated, Hunter was enrolled at Rose State Community College and is continuing his college education through CLEP and DANTES testing.

## Aerial porter selected AFRC Transportation NCO of Year

TSgt. Emmanuel Bruce-Tagoe of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron has been selected as the Air Force Reserve Command Air Force Transportation Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

According to his commander Maj. William Bush, "This sharp NCO projects self-confidence and enthusiasm—personifies the US Air Force Core Values."

As a command-recognized expert in load planning, Sergeant Bruce-Tagoe was a by-name request from the 726th Air Mobility Squadron, Rheinmeim Air Base, Germany. While there his team processed 134,934 passengers, 47,772 tons of cargo which included 154 tons of land bridge cargo, 2,139 truck tons, and they handled and serviced 4,139 aircraft. "But what's absolutely amazing," said Maj. Bush, "is that while handling this incredible workload, his dynamic team achieved 98.38 percent reliability rate!"

Sergeant Bruce-Tagoe's reputation and expertise in aerial-port operations, resulted in his being requested repeatedly to work locations stateside and abroad. He has received the thanks and appreciation from the 305<sup>th</sup> APS out of McGuire AFB for his support during their mobility exercise as well as from the 623 AMSS/TROKS senior controller, Air Terminal Operations Center for his performance in the Special Handling Section. He was also praised for his outstanding support to the Chief, Hazardous Material Program, Oklahoma City Air Logistics

Center, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, where he supported the completion of a base-wide inventory of hazardous materials.

In other support projects here at Tinker AFB, Sergeant Bruce-Tagoe spent numerous additional weekends and days to ensure the unit is ready for UTA training. He directly assisted the squadron in facilitating training programs between ATOC and Special Handling. He provided training in Passenger Service Center on passenger check-in, booking control and manifesting. He assisted the squadron vehicle control officer with support vehicles and MHE equipment achieving a 100 percent reliability rate. He also developed and implemented a comprehensive load planning training program for the ATOC Section and ensured that 100 percent of the load planners were qualified on 100 percent of AMC aircraft.

During the award period, Sergeant Bruce-Tagoe also pursued a baccalaureate degree—maintained 3.5 GPA in addition to being a recent recipient of CCAF transportation degree. In the community, he contributes his time as Vice President of the Ghanaian Association Club.

"Sergeant Bruce-Tagoe is a mature and experienced NCO and a proven asset to our team," Major Bush stated. "He truly illustrates Service before Self through his tireless work effort and exemplary performance especially during critical times."

## SGLI military and family coverage premiums lowered

WASHINGTON, April 10, 2003- The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that premiums for the Service members Group Life Insurance will be reduced, handing military members a few extra dollars in their pockets each month.

Beginning in July, the cost for a \$250,000 policy – the maximum coverage — will drop from \$20 to \$16.25 monthly, a \$3.75 savings. The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that rates for Veterans Group Life Insurance will not change.

Tom Tower, DoD's assistant director for military compensation, welcomed the reduced premiums, adding that anytime you put "more money in the pockets of military members, it's always a good result."

Premiums will also be reduced for SGLI family coverage, with rates varying among age groups. The largest saving will go to spouses between 35 and 39 years old, whose premiums will be nearly cut in half. Service members currently pay \$13.00 for a \$100,000 family policy. That policy will cost \$7.50 beginning in July – a \$5.50 savings.

The reduced rates means a military family will save an average of \$100 a year. The VA estimates that service mem-

bers collectively will save about \$96 million annually in premiums, and \$42 million in family coverage premiums each year.

Tower said the reduced premiums are a result of an ongoing process to keep costs down for military members.

"The VA regularly checks to see how much is paid out versus how much is collected in premiums, and whenever it seems like they have built up premium reserves, they like to reduce premiums to keep the cost to a minimum for the member," Tower said. "Its part of the objective of the program: to provide the lowest cost possible."

Today the SGLI program provides coverage of \$250,000 to active duty service members and most Reservists. Coverage of \$100,000 has also been provided for spouses of participating members with free coverage of \$10,000 for dependent children. Reduced levels of coverage may also be elected.

Information about the change in SGLI premiums can be found at [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov), or call the Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance toll-free at 1-800-419-1473.

# 101 Critical Days of summer are back

## from 507<sup>th</sup> Safety Office

The 101 critical days of summer are upon us once again. The 101 critical days of summer begins on Memorial Day weekend and the last day, number 101, ends on Labor Day weekend. Air Force safety statistics have shown that this period has traditionally been a period of increased mishaps, especially those occurring in off-duty activities.

The leading cause of fatal mishaps during this period has been in off-duty private motor vehicle mishaps; the second highest number of fatalities has involved water sports and drowning. Because most of us travel, and many of us participate in water sports, it is important to be aware of the risks and never assume that "It won't happen to me."

So, how can you avoid becoming a statistic during the 101 critical days? Apply risk management principles for all activities. Especially if it is something that you haven't done before. When traveling, plan your route and get plenty of rest



before starting out. Make sure your vehicle is mechanically sound before starting your trip. Severe weather can de-

velop rather quickly in the summer months so watch for bad weather.

If your going camping, let someone know your whereabouts. Camp only in approved areas. Check your equipment before you leave. Use caution when starting fires!

Swim only in designated swimming areas. Check the water before diving. Never swim alone.

When boating use personal flotation devices. Don't overload the boat. Get off the lake during threats of high wind or lightning.

When it comes to alcohol, the main thing is to drink responsibly. Remember that alcohol and vehicle operations **do not** mix. As a matter of fact, alcohol and recreational activity **do not** mix!

Remember, a wise man knows the difference between action safe and being safe.

Enjoy the summer. Be smart and be safe and most of all be back after the 101 critical days of summer!

## Congress shows increased interest in Reserve issues

WASHINGTON – Congress has increased its focus on helping the reserve components since more than 200,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve have been mobilized for the war on terrorism.

With newly introduced bills to enhance reservists' benefits, along with the existing House Guard and Reserve Caucus and newly formed Senate Reserve Caucus, reserve issues have come to the forefront in Congress.

To enhance congressional efforts, Air Force Reserve Command has streamlined its process to provide timely, accurate and consistent information by offering reservists numerous pathways to surface issues and ideas.

Besides submitting initiatives through their chain of command, reservists can propose ideas through the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board and the Office of Air Force Reserve's Policy Integration Directorate in the Pentagon.

The AFRAB accepts any issue or initiative, from addressing existing situations to considering the most creative idea, allowing each reservist to be a catalyst to change.

The policy integration directorate, which goes by the designation REI, deals with all legislative issues for the command at the Air Staff level. The directorate recently expanded AFRC's Congressional Outreach program, which ensures congressional members are aware of the Air Force Reserve and its significant contributions.

REI staffers set up visits for AFRC Commander Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III and wing commanders with their congressional members, provide informative briefings to professional and personal staffs of congressional members and their committees, and answer questions posed by U.S. senators and representatives.

"All reservists should be aware that their voice matters because congressional members are interested in what their constituents have to say," said Wayne Gracie, director of REI. "Our goal is to facilitate communication between Air Force reservists and Congress. We have a great story to tell."

More information about REI is available on its Web site at <http://www.rei.hq.af.mil/rei>. (AFRC News Service)

# Judge Advocate reports on recent adverse actions

by Lt. Col. Michael J. Farr  
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate  
507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing

While recent world events and activations and deployments have been at the forefront of attention for most Tinker reservists the last several months, there has continued to be a significant number of adverse actions among 507 ARW and 513 ACG members for a wide variety of disciplinary infractions. This article will discuss those actions completed in 2002 and early 2003 and hopefully better educate Tinker reservists on the likely consequences of committing such infractions, so they can avoid getting into similar difficulties themselves.

Six Article 15 nonjudicial punishment actions were completed against Tinker reservists in 2002. For leaving a sentry post, a senior airman was reduced to the grade of airman first class. His reduction was later suspended. Under a suspended reduction in grade, the member does not lose his or her stripe immediately. Rather, if the member stays out of trouble for the next six months, the reduction goes away. However, if the member gets into any further trouble during that six months, the reduction is enforced and the date of rank for the reduced grade is the date Article 15 punishment was imposed. Another senior airman received a suspended reduction to airman first class and forfeiture of pay for failure to go and insubordination. Under an Article 15, forfeiture of pay can be a maximum of one-half pay per month for two months. A third senior airman was reduced in grade to airman first class for driving under the influence of alcohol and disobeying a lawful order not to consume alcohol. In another driving under the influence offense, a technical sergeant received a reduction in grade to staff sergeant and forfeiture of pay.

For failure to obey a regulation and a false official statement, a staff sergeant received a reduction to senior airman and a suspended forfeiture of pay. There have been two Article 15 actions completed so far in 2003. In the first one, a senior airman received a suspended reduction to airman first class and forfeiture of pay for dereliction of duty in the form of abuse of the Government travel card. In the second, a staff sergeant received a suspended reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of pay, and 30 days extra duty for drunken driving.

Nine administrative discharge actions were completed against Tinker reservists in 2002. Receiving under other than honorable conditions discharges (UOTHC) were an airman first class for wrongful use of amphetamines and methamphetamines, a senior airman for wrongful use of marijuana, a senior airman for wrongful use of amphetamines and codeine, and a senior airman for theft of \$500. A UOTHC discharge is the worst possible type of administrative discharge and deprives the reservist of virtually all veteran's benefits. It is the administrative equivalent of a bad conduct discharge (BCD) or dishonorable discharge (DD) given by a court-martial. In other cases, an airman basic received a general (under honorable conditions) discharge for unsatisfactory participation and inability to locate, as did a senior airman for unsatisfactory participation and failure to acquire appropriate skill level, as did a senior airman for unsatisfactory participation and dishonorable failure to pay just debts, and a senior airman for wrongful use of marijuana. Additionally, an airman basic received an entry-level discharge for failure to report for Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) within 365 days of enlistment. In the one discharge case completed so far in 2003, an air-

man first class received a general discharge for failure to attain job skill proficiency.

In addition to the foregoing actions, 13 Tinker reservists (two technical sergeants, two staff sergeants, seven senior airmen, and two airmen first class) were reassigned to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) (nonparticipating status) in 2002. Twelve of these cases were for unsatisfactory participation and one was for failure to fulfill NCO responsibilities. Unsatisfactory participation is defined as missing nine or more periods of Inactive Duty Training (IDT) on an unexcused basis in a 12-month period. It also includes failure to complete a scheduled annual tour in a fiscal year unless substituted or excused. Since each Unit Training Assembly (UTA) weekend has four training periods, it only takes missing a little more than two UTA weekends to accrue nine unexcused absences and then become subject to being involuntarily reassigned to the IRR. Tinker reservists who value their careers should take heed of this and immediately discuss the situation with their supervisor or commander as soon as they realize there might be a problem with being able to attend UTAs or annual tour.

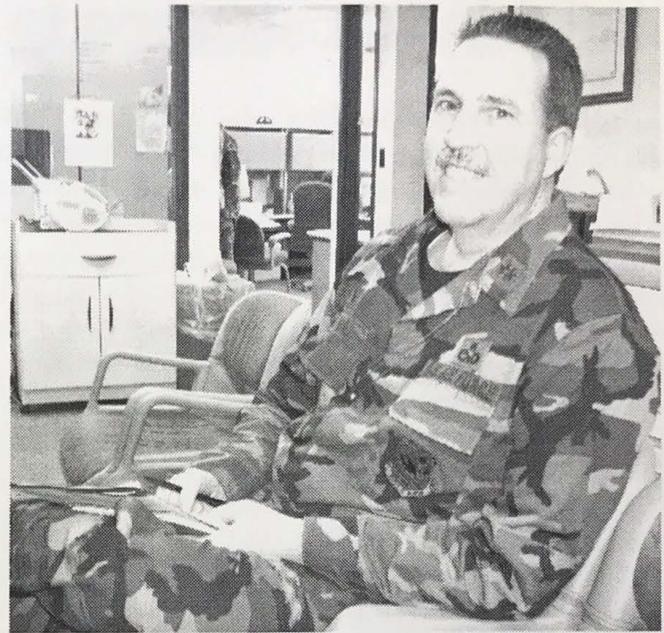
Another potential consequence of unsatisfactory participation is administrative demotion. In 2002, two technical sergeants, four staff sergeants, and two senior airmen were demoted to the next lower grade because of unsatisfactory participation. In other demotion cases, a staff sergeant was demoted to senior airman for Government travel card delinquency, and a master sergeant was demoted to technical sergeant for failure to fulfill NCO responsibilities.

Personnel with questions about the various adverse actions should contact the 507 ARW Legal Office at 734-3823.

# Uppclose

by TSgt. Ty Yoshida

The following was asked of unit members during the April UTA:  
**“What was the wildest bet you ever made?”**



**Maj. Mark Dodds**

**507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**

“As I get older, I don’t do the stupid stuff I did when I was younger, and try to forget the things I did do.”



**TSgt. Randal Colbert**  
**72nd Aerial Port Squadron**

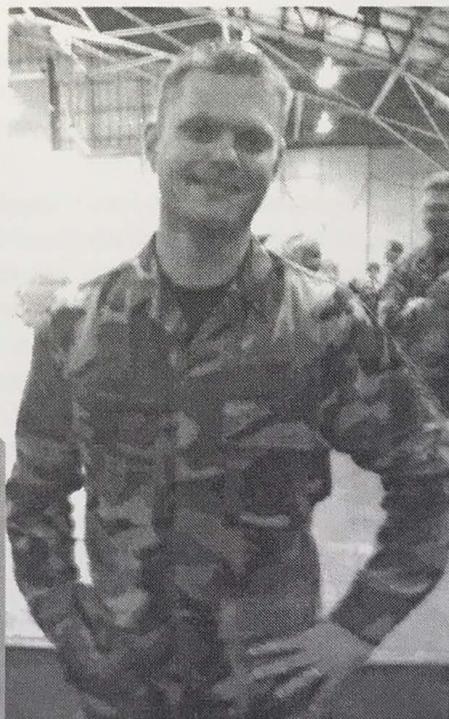
“Being the OU fan that I am, I bet that if we lost to Nebraska, I would wear Nebraska gear and a foam Cornhusker hat. We lost and I had to live up to the bet.”

**SSgt. Patrick Mitchell**  
**507th Communications Flight**

“A friend and I bet each other that we wouldn’t jump off Mansfield Dam in Austin. We both did it.”

**TSgt. Robert Shuster**  
**507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron**  
**(Photo not available)**

“When I was on active duty in Alaska I was the base’s best pool player. I had a bet with a singer in a musical group touring the base. On the last game, I missed a tough shot and left her set up. She won and I lost out on a date.”



**MSgt. Linda Thompson**  
**507th Civil Engineer Squadron**

“I bet my sister my truck that she could not quit smoking. She didn’t quit, but she kept the truck anyway.”



**Maj. Sandra Chasteen, 507th Mission Support Group executive officer, poses with daughter Allie (birthday girl) after being promoted by her commander, Col. Robert R. Colyer.**



**Who dat? Why it's our own Command CMSgt. Bob Kellington making good on a charity bet.**

## Reservist testifies about effects of mobilization

By Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays

### 434th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

GRISSOM ARB, Ind. – Television viewers who tuned into C-SPAN April 3, may have seen an Air Force reservist from here testifying before a House Armed Services subcommittee. MSgt. Kevin Smith, logistics plans technician, joined six other National Guard and Reserve members to address the committee and answer questions about the price military reservists are paying to help defend the nation.

Smith was mobilized Sept. 19, 2001, for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom and remained on active duty for one year. He deployed with other members of Air Force Reserve Command's 434th Air Refueling Wing to Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Misawa AB, Japan; and a classified location in the Persian Gulf. He spent more than a third of the time overseas and the rest of the time at Grissom performing logistics plans duties for the KC-135 air refueling unit.

"I've heard the rumors, as many reservists have, that some reservists are not performing the duties they have been trained for but rather are being used as backfill for those on active duty who forward deploy," he testified. "This is not true for me. We have trained to the same standards as the active force for my entire career and it paid big dividends when we reached the first location."

The hardest part of the activation for Smith was the short-notice reporting he and other members had.

Smith had less than 24 hours to make sure things were in order at home and to say goodbye to his family.

To help get through that experience, Smith and others relied on support from family, friends, neighbors and Grissom's Family Readiness Office.

"These were the key individuals who created organization and peace of mind when it needed to happen," he said.

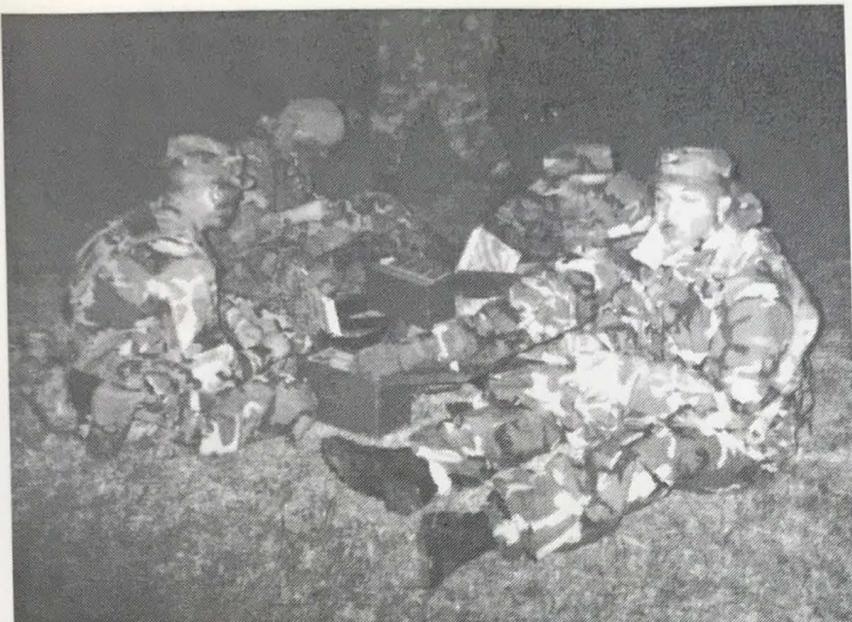
Because of the short notice, Smith was unable to find someone to take his place in his civilian job.

"I am one of the fortunate few whose employer provides wages to cover the pay gap when I'm mobilized," Smith said. "Currently, we receive our wages minus military pay we receive while mobilized. My benefits, such as health care and life insurance, continued to be provided as if I had never been mobilized."

Smith said once things got going he settled into a routine while mobilized.

"Within our unit, traditional reservists and full-time reservists shared the same responsibilities," he said. "We were there to complete a mission, regardless of our previous status. Everyone worked hard and together to get the job done. I believe this also held true between our unit and the active-duty forces that we were assigned to work with."

Smith concluded his comments by thanking the subcommittee members for their interest in the military members' well-being. (AFRC News Service)



## PARTING SHOT

The 507<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron qualified on heavy weapons and completed field maneuvers at Camp Gruber during the April UTA. Here 507<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron Fire Team prepare for a six-hour field maneuvers exercise covering 7 kilometers of dense wooded terrain. According to SFS member TSgt. Richard Kozik, "Our people were dressed out in typical fire team apparel. Each fire team member is equipped with BDUs (sleeves down), gloves, web belt, M-16 rifle (unless otherwise directed), a load bearing vest with five magazines, soft cap, and face paint."

## On-final R-NEWS

### New Associate Program

Air Force Reserve Command and Air Combat Command joined forces to begin the Fighter Associate Program, which will share people and equipment to benefit both commands and total force relations. Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, ACC commander, and Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC commander, signed a memorandum of agreement, which took effect April 2. The Fighter Associate Program is designed to meet the growing need for fighter pilot training by assigning reservists to active-duty units and active-duty pilots to Reserve units. The idea is not new but rather a refinement of two programs already in place.

### In touch with Congress

With newly introduced bills to enhance reservists' benefits, along with the existing House Guard and Reserve Caucus and newly formed Senate Reserve Caucus, reserve component issues have come to the forefront in Congress. To enhance congressional efforts, Air Force Reserve Command has streamlined its process to provide timely, accurate and consistent information by offering reservists numerous pathways to surface issues and ideas. Besides submitting initiatives through their

PAGE 16

chain of command, reservists can propose ideas through the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board (<http://www.afrc.af.mil>) and the Office of Air Force Reserve's Policy Integration Directorate (<http://www.re.hq.af.mil/rei>) in the Pentagon.

### Congratulations PEP promotees

Two unit members deployed to Moon Base Alpha were promoted April 1 via PEP. They are Crystal Martin to master sergeant and Marty Lochman to senior master sergeant. Congratulations to both!!!

### Pass and ID stickers in

The Base Pass & ID office has received a shipment of vehicle decals. Previously *On-final* reported more than 10,000 base cars needed new stickers.

To ensure prompt processing when requesting a new sticker, members must have the following items available:

For a new car registration: Valid Driver's License, Proof of Insurance and Ownership, ID Card

For a yearly update: Valid Driver's License, Proof of Insurance, ID Card.

If your old vehicle decal is not readable, scrape decal off and put scraps in envelope and bring to Pass & ID or 3001 Badging Office. Do not throw the scrapes away; they are necessary so we can delete the original decal out of the system. For just the decal, you will need: Driver's License and Proof of Insurance.

### 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

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

MAY 2003