

On-final



December 2003

Vol. 23, No. 12

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



Seasons Greetings to all

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

513th ACG Mission: Citizen-airmen extending America's Global Power operating the world's best airborne battle management, warning and control platform.



507th MXG Commander's Column

By Lt. Col. James F. McDonnell

Holiday time is family time

Holiday time is family time; time to get together with loved ones and share the holiday feeling of home. It is also a great opportunity to reflect back on the year's activities and think about what's happened to our family.

The year 2003 has been a very active year for our "family," the 507th ARW. The biggest event had to have been the activation of over 200 members, and their subsequent deployment to Oman in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. The 465th ARS and the maintainers who keep them in business met up with another member of our extended Air Force Reserve family, the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, from March ARB, CA, and prosecuted the war against Iraq in a most impressive manner. Our folks were deployed to that desert island for four months, each month hotter than the previous. And as if that wasn't enough of a contribution and sacrifice, our family then ran a tanker operation out of Moron AB, Spain, for another two months, again, with very impressive results.

What else BIG happened this year to our family? Another significant event was the implementation of the Air Force's new wing organizational structure. Each of the three Groups was affected; two of them even had their name changed!

Let's see if I can keep all this straight without a scorecard in front of me: The Aerial Port Squadron moved from the Operations Group to the Support Group; the Logistics Support Squadron gave up Supply, Fuels and Transportation, who then hooked up with Wing Plans to form a brand new squadron called the Logistics Readiness Squadron; the Logistics Group flag was retired and stood back up as the Maintenance Group; and the Support Group was renamed the Mission Support Group. I know there was even more re-organizational activity at the flight level, and some squadrons renamed, as well. That all adds up in my book as "Change, BIG time." And to top all that off, by the end of the summer, the wing had new commanders in charge of these three renovated Groups.

Holiday/family time is also an opportunity to work out any differences that may have cropped up during the year. I can remember all my siblings getting together at my parents' home over the holidays, usually the only time we'd all be together for the year. If one of your siblings ticked you off earlier in the year, now's the time to patch up relationships, work out differences, and move on together as a whole family again. The wing re-organization may have created some stressful situations, and people need to learn to work in a different environment or under a new set of rules. The whole wing was not afforded the opportunity to be activated and deployed this year to fight the global war on terrorism; some people may resent that. It's all part of growing and changing, and every family goes through it. Already-strong families, like the 507th ARW, are strengthened by it.

I bid a safe and happy holiday season, and a prosperous new year, to my 507th ARW Family.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dwight L. Magnus

Start a tradition this holiday season

Christmas is a time of traditions. I hope you have a favorite tradition in your holiday celebration. If you don't have one, I'd like to suggest one – the Advent Wreath. Many churches use them, and we have one for our home.

Advent means, "coming" and relates to Jesus' "coming" to earth as prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. The Advent season begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and concludes on Christmas Eve. The Advent Wreath is a powerful visual reminder for Christians of Jesus, the light of the world coming as a babe in the manger.

An Advent wreath consists of 3 purple candles and one pink candle encircling a white candle. The

purple candles are lit the first three Sundays of Advent. They represent the spiritual darkness that existed before the coming of Jesus. The pink candle is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and represents the hope of his coming. The white candle in the middle is lit on Christmas Eve. It represents the celebration of his coming.

If you would like to know more about an Advent Wreath, just contact me. I'd be glad to help you get a new holiday tradition going! From all of us in the Chaplain's office, have a God-blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!



December Topics:

Saturday 11:30 a.m., Chapel at Vanwey Dining:
Love & Marriage

Sunday Protestant Service at 7:30 a.m.,
513th Auditorium
"Like the First Christmas"

Sunday Catholic Mass at 7:30 a.m.
513th Conference Room with Father Pat McCool

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DECEMBER 2003

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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

Holiday greetings from the Public Affairs office and *On-Final* staff.



507 ARW



513 ACG

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NEWS / INFORMATION / FAMILY READINESS / MORE!

507th AIR REFUELING WING
 and
 513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

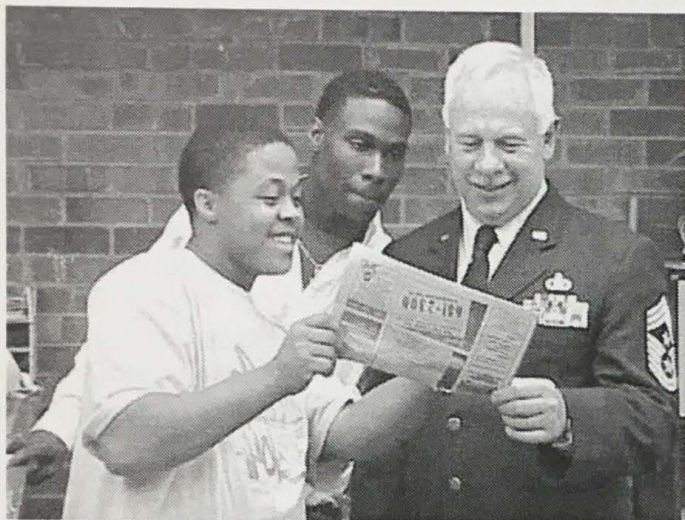
TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA


www.afrc.af.mil/507arw

New Year's Resolution: Get Involved

**By Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Kellington
507th ARW**

I recently had the opportunity to be Principal for a Day at Star Spencer High School, a program in its 13th year put on by



Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Kellington talks with Randall Holiday and Kenneth Clark, seniors at Star Spencer High School, while he served as Principal for a Day.

the Oklahoma City Public School Foundation. It was an eye opening experience for me. So many of our kids (our future - need our help). I saw so much promise in these kids. They stared in awe at my uniform and had many questions. Many of the teachers have not been exposed to the military and they as well as their students wanted to know about us. One of the side meetings I attended highlighted the need for tutors/mentors in any area. As Reservists we are active in many aspects of our communities and have a finger on the pulse of our communities. I am asking you - who are not as involved in your community to "Get Involved" whether in the school programs as a role model/mentor/tutor, keeping your communities clean etc. You are all already leaders and know what needs to be done. This may be a good time to make a New Year's resolution to continue to make our country great. We are known for our giving and caring. You can help us help others by participating in our Angel Tree program (we buy gifts for Veterans in veteran homes) Operation Holiday Spirit proceeds going to local homeless shelters.) The Enlisted Advisory Council, Top 3, Reserve Officers Association, Air Force Sergeants Association. The list goes on and on. The main point I am trying to get across is - This is our country, our Air Force and we are what make it great. If you don't "Get Involved" Who will? In closing I want to wish you all the happiest of Holiday Seasons and the best in the coming year.

Kellington awarded Bronze Star

During last month's Commander's Call, 507th Command Chief Master Sergeant Robert W. Kellington was presented with the Bronze Star Medal.

The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944, and is awarded to any person who distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Chief Kellington received the award for service while engaged in ground combat against an enemy of the United States at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar from Nov. 25, 2002 to Feb. 16, 2003.

According to the award citation, during this period Chief Kellington's pivotal leadership and focus on strategic and personnel issues significantly improved the quality of life of all members of Al Udeid Air Base.

While serving as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for that base, Kellington identified the requirement and led the initiative to increase the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, increasing the existing stock and storage capability by 400 percent, greatly enhancing their ability to handle the increasing bed down of personnel. Chief Kellington's unique leadership ensured Al Udeid Air Base was prepared for a four fold base population increase. He established a volunteer program, creating a reserve pool of over 100 personnel to assist any base service prepare



Col. Dean Despinoy pins the Bronze Star on Chief Kellington.

for the large influx of personnel.

Additionally, Chief Kellington championed involvement in professional organizations, pressing for participation in chief's Group, top Four and Network 15, strongly advocating their involvement in wing functions and awards presentations.

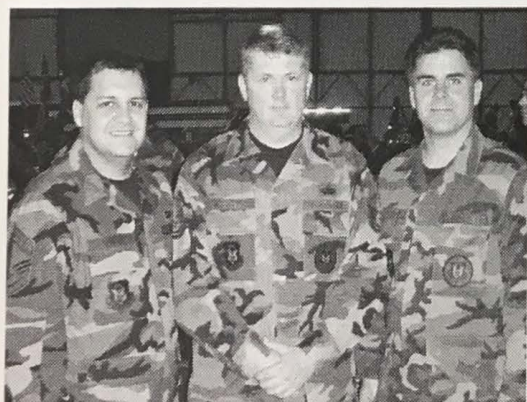
507th ARW recruiters honored *again*

Once again members from the 507th Air Refueling Wing recruiting office were recognized for their hard work and commitment to the Air Force Reserve recruiting effort during Fiscal Year 2003.

Last October the recruiting staff traveled to Savannah, Ga., to be honored during the annual awards banquet. "We knew we were going to receive several awards but didn't know which ones. It was a proud moment when our recruiters names and their accomplishments were announced," said Chief Master Sgt. Al Garza, 507th ARW senior recruiter.

While there, a couple of the recruiters received consecutive honors. Tech. Sgt. Gene Higgins, 507th ARW/RS Norman, Okla. recruiter, finished at 114 percent of his FY03 goal. His goal was 37 and he finished with 42 gains. This marks the second year in a row Higgins received the HQ AFRC/RS 110 Percent Production Award.

"We are proud of Sergeant Higgins. In the last two years he has served three different recruiting offices, oversaw the recruiting MEPS operations and was the trainer for rookie recruiters. For his efforts, AFRC/RS gave him a line number



to master sergeant. He will be promoted on March 1, 2004. He received the promotion in part for these extra duties," said Garza.

Master Sgt. Pam Peterson, 507th ARW/

RS Tulsa, Okla. recruiter, finished the year at 117 percent of her FY03 goal. Her goal was 35 and she finished with 41 gains. This was the fourth year in a row Peterson was awarded the HQ AFRC/RS 110 Percent Production Award.

Ms. Barbara Waldroop, 507th ARW/RS secretary was awarded top honors in the secretary category. This is the second year Waldroop was nominated for the 604th Reserve Recruiting Flight Top Secretary award. Last year she finished as the first runner-up.

Tech. Sgt. Marvin Greene, 507th ARW/RS Midwest City, Okla., recruiter (NW Zone), finished at 148 percent of his FY03 Goal. Greene rounded out his year with 56

gains, 18 over his goal of 38. For his efforts, Green was honored with the HQ AFRC/RS 110 Percent Production Award, the 604th Reserve Recruiting Flight Top Rookie Recruiter, the HQ AFRC/RS Top Rookie Recruiter for Above Average Zone, the HQ AFRC/RS Superior Performer Award (previously called "Top Fifty" award) and the HQ AFRC/RS Century Club Award. Only the top 5 percent of recruiters' nation-wide receive this award.

According to Garza, "Regardless of whom in our unit takes home awards, their individual efforts reflect on our team as a whole. We all celebrate when the challenges placed before us are conquered.

"As professionals, we all face challenges on a day-to-day basis. For our recruiting team, our challenge this year was having a young staff – professionally speaking. Regardless of their youthful experience, the wing should be proud of their commitment.

The fact the wing is 100 percent manned can be attributed to their professionalism and heart. Our team has the heart, passion and endless drive to accomplish any goal set before them. Those of us in recruiting know recruiting its spelled H-A-R-D W-O-R-K.



Okie recruiters pose for a picture following their Fiscal Year New Year's Resolution: Get Involved awards ceremony

Chief Garza, Master Sgt. Wheatley and Master Sgt. McComick

U.S. 'combat' flag presented to Del City

By Capt. Bill Pierce

507th ARW Public Affairs Deputy Chief

The Nov. 17 Del City Council meeting featured a special flag presentation to the Del City Veteran's Memorial.

Master Sgt. John Cardoni, Del City resident and Air Force reservist, presented the city with a U.S. flag flown over Iraq earlier this year. Cardoni is an inspection section dock chief and a 34-year member of the 507th Air Refueling Wing from Tinker Air Force Base.



Brian Linley, Del City mayor, accepts the American flag and certificate from Master Sgt. John Cardoni.

This flag was flown on an Air Force Reserve KC-135R Stratotanker assigned to the 507th Air Refueling Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Cardoni also raised the flag above Del City's war memorial on Veterans' Day.

The 507th ARW was activated in late February of this year. From March to June, 507th reservists were deployed to the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations along with members of the 452nd Air Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif. Unit members returned to Oklahoma in June. While deployed, the tanker task force members were very busy flying missions supporting both Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Their refueling efforts resulted in flying 493 sorties, 2,572.8 flying hours and offloading 23,057,500 pounds of fuel to 909 receiving aircraft.

Cardoni purchased the flag while deployed with his unit and placed it on board an aircraft during several missions. "Every time I drive to work at my unit, I go past the Del City Veteran Monument by the city library," Cardoni said. "I thought it would be nice to donate the flag so others could see how Oklahomans support the War on Terrorism."

Cardoni said the flag was flown in the following operations and in the following areas.

Operation Iraqi Freedom: Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

Operation Enduring Freedom: Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan.

Mother of reservist honored at the Billy Hughes Banquet

Since March 18, 2003, Mrs. Betty Lowman has volunteered over 700 hours to support, encourage, and assist the families and friends of members of the 507th. Mrs. Lowman was instrumental in numerous projects, taking the lead in projects such as coordinating Family Day booths, communicating return and reunion issues and information to local churches and support groups, and performing weekly calls to deployed members families.

Her knowledge and willingness to work within the Family Support Database has ensured information could be provided in a timely manner, reports were accurate and complete, emergency contact numbers were updated, and historical information was kept in a chronological format.

Mrs. Lowman has been an inspiration to the Family Support Office and is a true role model and mentor to anyone who wants to give their time to provide comfort and assistance to our Wing members and their loved ones.



Master Sgt. Kathy Lowman, center, poses with her parents, Frank and Betty, at the Billy Hughes Banquet.

513th ACG Names Fourth Quarter Winners

Senior Master Sgt. Randy Long, 513 ACG/CCV Operations Superintendent, is Senior NCO of the Quarter.

In the Fall Quarter of 2003, Long demonstrated selfless dedication to duty and unprecedented leadership in his position. He provided an unparalleled breadth of knowledge and experience crucial to war-fighting success throughout a challenging second year of the Presidential Selected Reserve

mobilization. He was also the architect for the 970 AACs' demobilization plan.

As part of his duties, Long supervised 200 aircrew personnel across eight flying AFSCs at home and deployed locations, ensuring that all flight and ground training requirements were completed within the time given, preventing shortfalls in



Senior Master Sgt. Randy Long

crew composition and meeting SORTS requirements. His skills have made him the go-to source for E-3 issues.

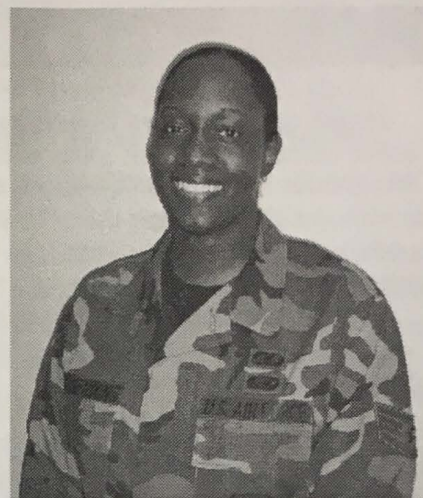
Long is a master at cultivating and bringing enlisted talent to the forefront and applying that newly developed enlisted leadership for ongoing mission requirements. His unsurpassed systems knowledge of the E-3, professional expertise, and communication skills have helped raise the 513th Air Control Group to a higher standard.

Staff Sgt. Sharon Anderson, 970 AACs/CCQ Information Management, is NCO of the Quarter.

Anderson expertly managed the 970 AACs Orderly Room during the last three months, ending a two-year activation supporting national security directives. Squadron administrative functions were deftly controlled to ensure organizational objectives were attained and devised a tracking mechanism to monitor personal leave balances during the de-mobilization for more than 150 aircrew personnel.

She was also selected during this period by the Group Commander's executive to assist with the Line of Duty Determination process and tracked individual profile forms as well as the step-by-step processing of all related paperwork for affected servicemembers, ensuring that they received medical continuation orders and pay relieving them of any undue stress or hardship.

Anderson also assisted her troops by compiling a list of deployment dates—information that will be used to complete DD 214s. This data has been tapped more than once since its collection to apply for Aerial Achievement and Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour Medals, injecting new life into the awards program.

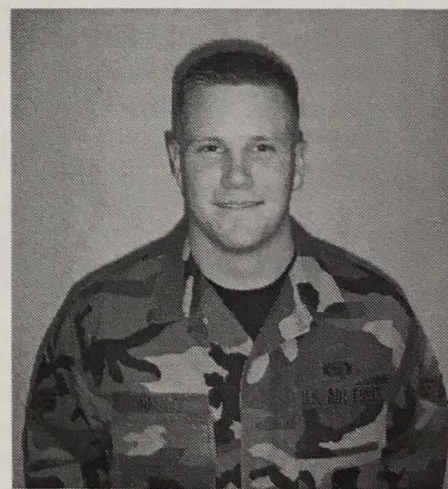


Staff Sgt. Sharon Anderson

Senior Airman Samuel Inman, 513 OSF/IN Intelligence Applications, is Airman of the Quarter.

Inman consistently demonstrated exceptional standards on skill-level upgrade training, ancillary training and duty performance during this reporting period. He completed all six volumes of his Intelligence Applications 5-level CDC two months ahead of schedule with a 96 percent average. These CDC included heady topics such as threat aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, jammer systems, and force protection.

His continued excellence has been rewarded with significantly increased responsibilities and appointments to key positions in Intelligence Oversight, Reference Materials, Intelligence Librarian, and Intelligence Mapping and Charting, all of which are critical to the Intelligence support of the AWACS reserve associate unit's worldwide mission.



Senior Airman Samuel Inman

Inman was highly praised by the 552nd Operations Support Squadron's Intelligence Unit Support Chief for the outstanding content, format and presentation of SU-35 fighter aircraft threat brief, setting a new benchmark for effective presentations.



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

Hope for the holidays

Many of us were still supporting a mission thousands of miles away at this time last year. For some, it had been the second Christmas where you couldn't be with your loved ones. It was a difficult time full of uncertainty and I know some of you missed the warm embrace of family.

You made so many sacrifices for them because, deep down, you knew that it was for them that you made the decision to serve your country. It is at Christmas time when we feel that sacrifice the most, as have all this nation's defenders ever mobilized to war throughout history. You are now a part of that history.

The spirit of sacrifice during the holidays of our nation starts with the birth of the country. It was a miserable winter at Valley Forge in 1777. No warm clothes. No food. No shelter. It was our nation's darkest hour and our military's defining moment because the army under Washington chose to persevere through three months of grisly deprivation instead of disband. Mere months later, the same Continental army defeated the British force at Monmouth.

On Dec. 25, 1864, J. C. Williams, 14th Vermont Infantry wrote: "This is Christmas, and my mind wanders back to that home made lonesome by my absence, while far away from the peace and quietude of civil life to undergo the hardships of camp, and may be the battlefield. I think of the many lives that are endangered, and hope that the time will soon come when peace, with its innumerable blessings, shall once more restore our country to happiness and prosperity." Within less than a year, Williams' wish became a reality.

On Christmas Eve, 1914, World War I soldiers on both sides shared Christmas carols. One veteran recalled how after the Germans finished their carol, the British sang one of their own. Each side would applaud the other and songs were sung

through the night until the British sang "O Come All Ye Faithful." The Germans joined in, singing the same hymn to the Latin words "Adeste Fideles." Two nations were singing the same carol of peace together during a war.

Army 1st Lt. John R. Fox was a forward observer for the 598th Artillery Battalion in Sommocolonia, Italy, for Christmas 1944. On that day, a larger German force staged its attack on the town, forcing most Allied infantry forces to withdraw, but Fox stayed behind in the Axis-occupied city to direct defensive artillery fire. As the enemy pressed their attack, Fox kept adjusting the artillery fire closer to his position until he was at ground zero of the next artillery strike. He acknowledged the danger via radio and insisted that the last adjustment be fired because it was the only way to defeat the attacking soldiers. Later, when a counterattack retook the position from the Ger-

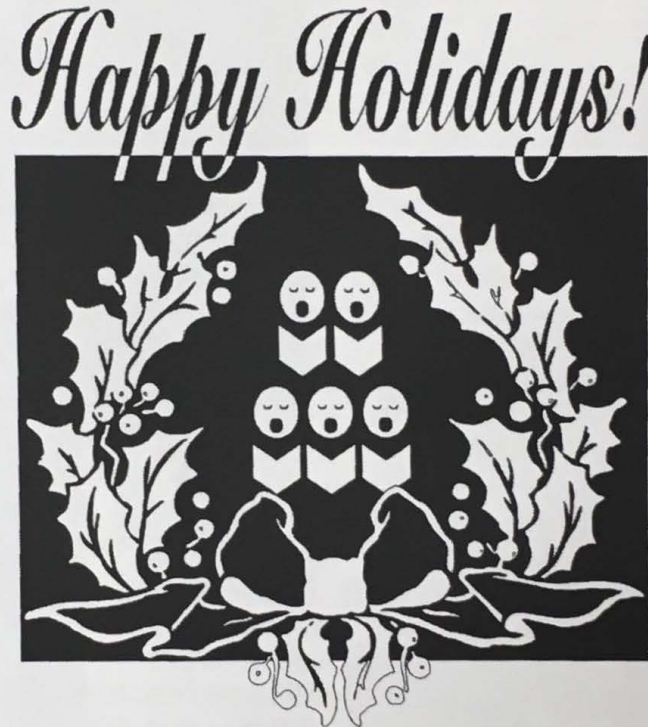
mans, Fox's body was found with the bodies of approximately 100 German soldiers. For his sacrifice and courage, Fox became one of the first African-Americans to earn the Medal of Honor during World War II.

The men of the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company were in Phan Thiet, Vietnam, and spent Christmas 1969 collecting money for the Project Concern hospital at Dam Pao. The gunship pilots acted as Santa Claus for families they didn't even know in a land scarred by a divisive war. A few days later, they were back in the air and waiting for that next rotation home.

But the one thing all these defenders have in common is hope. If the lesson of Christmas

teaches us anything, it is that hope prevails. That someday we can enjoy the peace and go home and be with the very people who inspired our spirit of bravery and sacrifice when we were tested most.

The 513th Air Control Group is safe at home this holiday season. Watch the twinkle in the eyes of your children as they dig through their Christmas stocking. Listen to the sudden gasp of delight as your spouse opens that box and sees that special something. You've endured the hardest years of your lives and prevailed. You have sacrificed so much in that time that I hope you can enjoy the season to its fullest and enrich your lives with the warmth and joy of the relationships of family and love. They were the ones you were really fighting for.



FREE COLLEGE TESTING

Air Force Reserve members, spouses and civilian employees may take DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) or College-Level Examinations Program (CLEP) or Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) FREE! (Military Only for Excelsior examinations). These examinations test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel, or hobbies. You must test at your Reserve DANTES approved test center. Testing at another DANTES test center will be on a case-by-case basis. The third Tuesday of each month at 0800 has been set aside for testing. You must call us four weeks prior to test date to ensure we will have your test. **For more information contact CMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.**

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Become a certified professional in a field related to your military training. DANTES and AFRC funded certification examinations are available for certain career fields. Go to <http://www.voled.dantes.doded.mil> and click on certification programs, MOS matching and USAF Matrix which identifies the eligible AFSCs, certification exams available and internet addresses for more info. If you desire to take an exam, **contact CMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.**

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Reserve members are eligible to apply for TA for Distance Learning and In-Residence courses to further their education up to a Master's Degree.

The basic enrollment requirements are that, you must:

Be a participating member in good standing (no UIF, Article 15, etc.).

Retainability: Officers - two years; Enlisted - ETS after course completion.

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

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

HQ AFRC will approve/disapprove based on funding.

Payment occurs after satisfactory course completion. TA reimbursement amounts are set at 75 percent (\$3500) per FY (Masters) or 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Bachelors). **For more information contact CMSgt. Epps in the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.**

NCO Academy In-residence

Listed below are the FY 2004 NCO Academy In-Residence class dates: A letter of recommendation from your unit commander must be forwarded to 507 MSF/DPMT not later than 60 days prior to class start date:

Class	Quotas	Dates	Location
2004-3	1	24 Feb - 01 Apr 04	Tyndall AFB, FL
2004-5	1	26 May - 01 Jul 04	Tyndall AFB, FL
2004-7	1	20 Sep - 28 Oct 04	Tyndall AFB, FL

FAMILY CARE

If you need to be on Family Care Plan, notify your First Sergeant ASAP - IAW AFI 36-2908, Single parents and dual military couples with children must have a Family Care Plan completed within 90 days of in-processing or family status change.

VIRTUAL MPF

- 1. Address Changes** - You no longer have to go to 4 different screens/areas to update your address!!!
- 2. Point Summary's** - Point Summary's can also be viewed and printed.
- 3. Record Review RIPS** - You will now be notified via e-mail, on your birthday, to logon to vMPF to review your RIP.
- 4. Awards and decorations** - You can also get a picture display of your awards and decorations.

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 Tues at 0730, Wed at 0800 & 1300, and Thurs at 1530. Call for appointment.

EDUCATION REMINDER:

This is just to remind everyone who wishes to update their Education Records, officer and enlisted, that we need OFFICIAL Transcripts to send or accomplish any updates. This means that it CANNOT say "ISSUED TO STUDENT." You may have the college/university send it, we can request it, or you may bring it in as long as it is in a sealed envelope with a SEAL on the flap AND it does not say "ISSUED TO STUDENT."

Pass and ID Hours of Operation: 1200-1600 on Saturdays of the UTA.

IEU OPEN FROM 1200-1500 ON SATURDAY OF THE MAIN UTA.

Nomination packages for AMN, NCO, or SNCO of the quarter are submitted quarterly. Packages are due by 1400, on Saturday of the UTA after the end of the quarter. (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)

FY2003/2004 UTA SCHEDULE

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

As of 19 Nov 2003

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Fri, 05 Dec 2003

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

Sat, 06 Dec 2003

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0930	Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY	
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 1066, OG Conf Room
0730-0930	Computer Based Testing	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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
1130-1200	Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion Vanwey Dining Facility	
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
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

Sun, 07 Dec 2003

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Auditorium
0730-0800	Catholic Mass	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
0830-1030	Supervisor Safety Training	Bldg 1030, Room 104
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg	CAT
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	Unit Designated

Fri, 09 January 2004

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

Sat, 10 January 2004

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0930	Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY	
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 1066, OG Conf Room
0730-0930	Computer Based Testing	Bldg 1030, Room 214
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
1130-1200	Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion Vanwey Dining Facility	
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
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

Sun, 11 January 2004

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Auditorium
0730-0800	Catholic Mass	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
0830-1030	HazCom Training	Bldg 1030, Room 104
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1245-1545	First Duty Station	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg	CAT
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	Unit Designated

SENIOR NCO ACADEMY IN-RESIDENCE

The next Senior NCO Academy has been scheduled for 23 January 2004. Applications are being accepted for the following dates: 04C (15 Mar - 28 Apr 04), 04D (3 May - 17 Jun 04), 04E (1 Jul - 17 Aug 04), and 04F (27 Aug - 14 Oct 04). The suspense date to DPMT to review packages is 22 December 2003. This is to allow time for us to review and forward to the appropriate NAF. Questions, should be directed to MSgt. Cain at 734-7075.

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	1300-1315	Air Force Fitness	SVF
Saturday	1315-1400	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
Sunday	1245-1545	First Duty Station	ME

UCMJ Briefing:

All enlisted personnel are required to have the UCMJ briefing within two UTAs of their first reenlistment. This briefing is held during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0845 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Room 214.

Ethics Briefing:

All reserve personnel are required to have the DOD Ethics Briefing within 90 days of reporting for duty. This briefing is held in conjunction with the UCMJ briefing during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0845 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Room 214.

Disaster Preparedness:

Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical Warfare Training, by name, at least one UTA prior to the requested dates by calling CEX at 734-4460. All personnel must bring a complete training ground crew ensemble (GCE) including the mask and its hood to all classes. Those attending Initial must be prepared to process through a tear agent chamber. Wear of contacts is prohibited in all classes. Anyone arriving late, without a complete GCE with mask, or wearing contacts, will be released back to their unit and reported as a no-show.

Drug Testing: You must report within two hours of notification.

Military Pay

File for
pay by:

Receive Direct
Deposit by:

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

08 Dec	15 Dec
11 Dec	19 Dec
15 Dec	24 Dec
17 Dec	31 Dec
29 Dec	07 Jan

**WISHING ALL A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is:	Then Forward Listing to Unit Commander in:	Recertifica- tion due in by end of month in:
1	November	January
2	December	February
3	January	March
4	February	April
5	March	May
6	April	June
7	May	July
8	June	August
9	July	September
0	August	October

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.

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Contributing Editors:

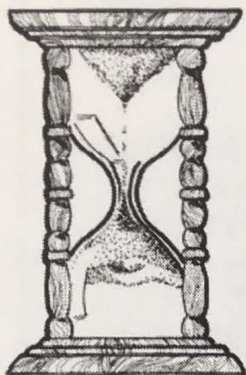
TSgt. Sharon Lochman, NCOIC, Schools and OJT (ART)

TSgt. Melanie E. Cherry, Education and Training Advisor

Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor

New and improved: Physical fitness

By Staff Sgt Nicholas Mims
507 SVF Fitness Specialist



Be Ready!

After 10 years of cycle ergometry, the United States Air Force decided to undergo a level of aerobic performance. The Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper, stated, "The amount of energy we devote to our fitness programs is not consistent with the growing demands of our warrior culture." Effective Jan. 1, 2004, the United States Air Force is releasing a new fitness program which will consist of push ups, crunches, and the 1.5 mile run. "The Air Force Reserve will start the program later in the year," says Col. Dean J. Despinoy, 507th ARW commander. "Our people need a chance to prepare for the testing. No exact dates were given for when the testing would begin."

Now, to those who may think that rushing into a new standard of aerobic competence may seem a bit hasty or even absurd, General Jumper basically summed it all up in two words, "**Be Ready!**"

The message is simple. If you are out of shape, fix it. If you have people in your squadron who need help, help them! It's going to take motivation, self-discipline, and teamwork in order to be successful. "**We**" will be held accountable to maintain a certain level of physical fitness that will assist in our preparedness to deploy and fight.

After all, we are warriors! To be a warrior is to "**Be Ready.**" To be a warrior is about accomplishing any and all tasks that have been

passed down by the Chain of Command with the highest level of execution! Ask yourself a few questions: Am I a warrior? Do I have what it takes to meet this small, yet demanding task? Can I rise above my comfort zone and demonstrate the professionalism acquired throughout my military career? Can I be ready?

Yes! You are a warrior. **Yes,** you can meet the task. And **Yes,** you will be ready! Because believe it or not, ready or not, here it comes! So be ready next year.

You may be wondering, "Where can I find the information needed to fulfill my individual requirements?" Additional information such as physical training, nutritional guidelines, and the fitness test scoring criteria will be provided for all Air Force personnel until a new Air Force Instruction is implemented. You can find the new fitness criteria at http://www.af.mil/new/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf, which will allow commanders to assess their overall fitness as a unit.

In a sense, there is some good news to the new fitness program. The end result is not based on a pass/fail ratio. Just like all other tests, there is a margin for improvement, unless you have a perfect score; which is NOT impossible!



General Jumper mentioned, "I want to make very clear that my focus is not on passing a fitness test once a year. It's about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard – an essential part of your service. It's about warriors!"

As a result, this is an issue that is to be taken seriously! January is 'down the street,' and commanders, supervisors, and front-line leaders must make the path as narrow and straight as possible. DO NOT alienate your individual responsibilities! I encourage everyone to **BE READY!**

AFA Reserve Council seeks members

WASHINGTON - Active, Guard and Reserve members, unit reservists, and individual mobilization augmentees in any Air Force specialty and pay grade have until this weekend to apply for membership on the Air Force Association Reserve Council. Advisory Board openings are available for two airmen, two staff sergeants, two tech sergeants and one first sergeant.

Council members serve for two years and develop AFA policy recommendations on quality of life, equipment modernization and military construction issues affecting Air Force Reserve Command and reservists. Their responsibilities include soliciting concerns on such topics as pay, benefits and training is-

sues from their constituency for submission to the council.

The council meets four times a year, usually in February, May, September and November, often in conjunction with AFA Symposium events, so members may be required to wear service dress and mess dress uniforms for certain functions. Reservists attend these meetings on orders, and the unit or agency of assignment is responsible for paying for the temporary duty trips.

Those interested may apply through their wing commander, or equivalent, with a letter of endorsement indicating the applicant is available to perform duties. The letter needs to contain the following statement: "I understand the (unit of assignment for AGRs and unit reservists) or (major command for IMAs) is responsible for funding all TDYs required for membership on this council."

Other requirements are:

1. A cover letter from the member;
2. A resume of military and civilian experience;
3. Copies of last five performance reports;
4. A current personnel data report; and
5. A full-length, ¾ turn pose photo in service dress uniform. The photo may be a color or black-and-white print, or a Polaroid.

Applications should be mailed to Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, 12313 Manchester Way, Woodbridge, VA 22192 and must arrive no later than Jan. 23.

Applicants will learn in February 2004 if they have or have not been selected.

Please send interested names of volunteers to 507th CCE/CCX by Sunday of this UTA. The chief, who works in the Office of Air Force Reserve's Policy Integration Directorate in the Pentagon, has more information at DSN 225-9442 or (703) 695-9442.

Time to turn in Angel Tree gifts, Salvation Army stockings

Angel Tree gifts are due this weekend. If you have an Angel Tree request from a local veteran, please return the wrapped gift with the request card attached this UTA to the Family Support Office.

Salvation Army stockings for local needy children are due this weekend also. Please return the stockings to the Family Support Office.



Applicants sought for 507th ARW command chief master sergeant

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Commander is accepting applications for the position of Command Chief Master Sergeant.

The position of Command Chief Master Sergeant was established to provide a commander with a direct conduit to the enlisted health, welfare, morale and on utilization of enlisted members in their organizations. The Command Chief Master Sergeant serves at the discretion of the commander. The Command Chief Master Sergeant must be an effective communicator, maintain liaison with local the community and base, represent the commander at selected functions, evaluates the quality of NCO leadership, ensures the commanders policies are known and understood by the enlisted force. They must have exceptional knowledge of airman career fields, his-

tory, mission and organization of the Air Force. In addition, the Command Chief Master Sergeant must be financially stable; behavior and appearance above reproach and maintain high standards both socially and militarily. Personnel interested in applying must be a Chief Master Sergeant or a Senior Master Sergeant eligible for immediate promotion to Chief Master Sergeant, have a minimum of 2 years retainability. Personnel must submit a resume, rip, and be interviewed. After screening/review of records and resume the top 3 candidates will be interviewed by the Wing Commander and Wing Vice Commander and selection made with assumption of duties in July, 2004. All applications will be submitted to Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant no later than the close of business on March 7, 2004.

President Bush extols importance of Employer Support for Guard, Reserve

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14, 2003 - President Bush recognized the importance of employers in making their employees' military service possible as he signed a proclamation marking National Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Week.

"In times of need, our nation counts on the Guard and Reserve members to fulfill their commitments of service," Bush said during a White House ceremony. "We value their courage and we honor their sacrifices. They're defending their nation in the war on terror and they are serving in a just cause."

The president said reserve component service members depend on the understanding of their employers for their service. "Across America where units have been activated, employers at offices, factories, schools, hospitals and other workplaces have been understanding and really supportive," he said. "They have priority to the needs of our nation."

Bush said most employers have shown great consideration for their workers. "These companies have the gratitude of our nation, and the gratitude of the commander in chief," he said.

The tradition of the citizen-soldier began with the Minutemen at Concord, Mass., in 1775. Some of the most famous fighting divisions of World War II started as National Guard outfits.

Bush spoke of his service with the Texas Air National Guard. He said what has stuck with him was his impression of the "high caliber of the people with whom I served."

The reserve components have more than 1.2 million members. They make up almost half of the total military force of the United States. "These men and women face the difficult challenge of balancing military duty with civilian employment," the president said. "They know the call to active duty can come at any time, and they are always ready."

Bush said guardsmen and reservists in places like Afghanistan and Iraq are "meeting the terrorist enemy abroad so our fellow citizens do not have to face the enemy at home."

"They are part of our efforts to employ targeted and decisive force against cold-blooded terrorist killers," the commander in chief noted. "They are helping to train Iraqis and Afghans to defend their own countries. They are helping the Iraqi and Afghan people to build just and free and democratic governments. They are helping to defend the American homeland."

The president said reserve component service members rely on the support and patience of their families. "They also rely on their civilian employers to put the national interest above the corporate or self interests," he said.

"Employers of Guard and reserve members make possible the contributions of our citizens soldiers. By supporting the mobilization of patriots, employers are demonstrating their own patriotism."

The president said America needs the Guard and Reserve more today than it has in decades. "We're at war," he said. "And we're fortunate that so many of our citizens have heeded the call to serve a cause greater than themselves."

See this and more at <http://www.defendamerica.mil>



Combat Flag Presented

Moments after signing an Employer Support proclamation, Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry receives a Combat Flag, flown by 507th ARW aircrews, from Col. (USAR Ret.) Gary Jackson of the Oklahoma ESGR committee. The signing of the proclamation was held simultaneously with that of the President and all other state governors on Nov. 14.



For the next several months 507th ARW Headquarters building 1043 will be undergoing construction. During the next three months, the FM and Pay offices will be located in the basement of Building 1043 and the MPF and Training personnel will be located in trailers located in the south headquarters parking lot. This will eliminate

approximately 30-40 parking spaces. As a courtesy to those affected, if you do not work in the headquarters or CE buildings or need to be there as a customer, please do not park around the headquarters building. The renovation is expected to be completed sometime in the fall of 2004.

New tax act provides relief for reservists

You may have heard about the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 which is of special interest to Reserve members. The new legislation, signed into law by the President on Nov. 11, 2003, is aimed at correcting a series of tax inequities facing the nation's armed services, one of which involved the deductibility of certain Reserve members' "unreimbursed travel expenses" incurred in attending Reserve training. Under prior law, Reserve members who itemized could deduct those "unreimbursed business expenses" could be deducted as itemized deductions on Schedule A but only to the extent those expenses exceed 2 percent of adjusted gross income. Nonitemizers could not deduct any

portion of those expenses.

Congress, however, believed that all Reserve members incurring unreimbursed overnight expenses to attend Reserve training should be able to deduct these expenses from their income, not just those who itemize their deductions. Accordingly, the new legislation provides for an above-the-line deduction for these expenses, which means that the Reserve members incurring these expenses can deduct them from gross income regardless of whether they itemize their deductions and regardless of whether they exceed 2 percent of adjusted gross income.

The above-the-line deduction applies to transportation, meals, and lodging expenses of Reserve members who must travel away from home more than 100 miles (and stay overnight) to attend train-

ing. However, the amount of the expenses that may be deducted may not exceed the general Federal Government per diem rate applicable to that locale.

This provision is effective with respect to amounts paid or incurred in tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2002.

If you have any questions about the new above-the-line deduction or any other provisions of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003, contact Lt. Col. Mark Dodds at (316) 267-7231 or via e-mail: medodds@aghlc.com. He is an accountant with Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C., in Wichita, Kans., specializing in tax matters.

730 days in combat mode

By Staff Sgt. Andy Stephens

513 Air Control Group Public Affairs

Sept. 20, 2003, was a milestone for many Air Force reservists of the 513th Air Control Group (ACG). The long activation was over, and the difficult mission was fulfilled, meeting the needs of their country.

The 513 ACG was activated on Sept. 20, 2001, in the wake of the "Attack on America." As the only reserve unit flying the airborne battle management platform, the E-3 Sentry, their experience was essential to the restoration of secure airspace over the United States and the continued preservation of American lives.

Maj. Bradley "Otis" McBride, an instructor air surveillance officer for the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) and a Continental Airlines pilot during 'civilian' work, was in the air when he received word from company operations that an aircraft had crashed into the World Trade Center. But details were few and sketchy. It wasn't long thereafter when all aircraft were directed to land immediately at the nearest airport and that SCATANA (security control of air traffic and navigation aids) had been implemented. No outgoing flight plans or takeoff clearances were going to be issued.

"As an Instructor Air Surveillance Officer on the E-3 AWACS, I knew NORAD procedures and was aware that SCATANA was an emergency air defense procedure to be used if our nation was under direct threat of attack. Not knowing exactly what had happened, I was quite sure that this was something that would go down in history. In the back of my mind, I knew that the 513th ACG would be mobilized soon.

Like McBride, other members of the 513th ACG were summoned to active duty from civilian life throughout the country. Weddings were put on hold. Graduations and births would be missed. Corporate images were replaced in the mirror with a military uniform. Absences were sorely felt, particularly at important events that would never be repeated. Tears were spent as families hoped and prayed for their loved ones' safety.

"Active duty military are committed 24-7 to the mission," said Maj. Ralph Hawkins, 513th ACG Executive Officer. "Their lives revolve around the military. But reservists have positions of prominence in our civilian community, far removed from military duties. We work in the schools, police stations, hospitals and city halls of America. Some are single parents as well. We put our lives on hold when we are activated, because we have a duty to fulfill. We always will. But that doesn't mean that the separation from our loved ones and careers we've spent years building doesn't hurt."

Across the country, life was put on hold as the 513 ACG went to war.

Homeland Defense and beyond

The 513th ACG was originally activated under NOBLE EAGLE to provide homeland defense, an operations umbrella that included protecting the President, senior staff and key U.S. assets against airborne terrorist threats. Supporting the 552nd Air Control Wing, also based at Tinker AFB, members of the group blended in with their active-duty counterparts, providing more crews to support the demanding mission rate. It wasn't long before the 513th ACG became involved with all Aerospace Expeditionary Force aspects of the 552nd ACW's mission.

The 513th ACG's flight records reflect a dramatic accomplishment early in the activation. Within less than six months of the activation, the group had flown more than 1,000 hours supporting Operation NOBLE EAGLE. During this time, the operational crew capability was also expanding, from four crews to six. The unit had perfected training and skills for operations and maintenance personnel prior to September 11, and it was paying off in huge dividends.

As the air bridge to Afghanistan was established, the 513th ACG guided thousands of troops traveling by air to points worldwide. Because many members of the 513th ACG were prior members of the 552nd ACW, their familiarity with the E-3 weapon system made them sought-after commodities for war planners and tacticians alike. Flightline activities at all forward operating locations were managed by the 513th ACG's maintenance personnel. Operators were logging a record number of hours in a dramatically short period of time. Mission success rates climbed.

Operation NORTHERN WATCH

In November 2001, less than two months after their activation, the 513th ACG assumed command of AWACS operations in Turkey, the hub of the air bridge to the Middle East operated out of Incirlik, Turkey. During a "typical" 10-hour NORTHERN WATCH sortie, the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron (the flying arm of the 513th ACG) controlled more than 50 fighter, tanker and reconnaissance aircraft.

The 513th ACG personnel deployed to Turkey made their presence known in many ways. Some spearheaded the first upgrade on ONW simulator scenarios in more than two years, improving combat readiness. Others donated time to an orphanage in nearby Tulay and a school in Mersin, determined to make the American contribution to the peace long-lasting.

"Both the Turkish school and the orphanage we 'inherited' from active duty," said Senior Master Sgt. Phil Eagle, 970 AACS first sergeant. "We acted as a conduit for the school through which people back home could send school supplies,

continued 730 days in combat mode

crayons, and maps of the world. When you help out someone in need, you find yourself wanting to help to the best of your ability. We invested our emotions and hopes while fulfilling the Air Force mission and suddenly home didn't seem so far away for us anymore. We were building a lasting legacy of hope."

The 970th AACS was supporting numerous strike missions against Iraqi command and control facilities and any Iraqi air defense assets that violated the No-Fly Zone Rules of Engagement imposed by the United Nations, but for the unit personnel who were far removed from their own children, assisting the local children became a panacea for their wounds. The 970th AACS continued its support up to the conclusion of the Northern Watch mission.

Special envoy

In early 2003, the 970th AACS was directed to serve in a special mission on behalf of the State Department. Known as Operation SPECIAL ENVOY, it required round-the-clock coverage for a State Department delegation meeting with Kurdish leaders in Northern Iraq.

"We flew 14 sorties in support of Operation SPECIAL ENVOY," said Lt. Col. Amy Hampton, 513th Operations Support Flight commander and detachment commander during the SPECIAL ENVOY missions. "It made a total of more than 173 hours in the air with an additional 162 hours of alert coverage. Those figures translate as our folks flying three months worth of peacetime flying allocation in a single week. What makes those numbers stand out was we did it with only 50 percent of the squadron manpower allocation."

The tempo was rigorous and demanding. Hampton said that during every day of SPECIAL ENVOY operations, the 970th AACS performed duties comparable to those fulfilled in 63 days of ONW operations.

It wasn't long thereafter that the 970th AACS flew the final Reserve sortie supporting ONW. It marked the end of 12 years of successful no-fly zone enforcement as mandated by the United Nations Security Council and the start of the path that led to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM

As the 513th ACG had brought ONW operations to a terminus, so too was it involved in the first E-3 combat sorties for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. The operators of the 513th ACG flew out of an austere and still-undisclosed location, the maintainers scattered throughout the region.

The number of aircraft tactically controlled by the 970th AACS jumped to more than 900 coalition aircraft per sortie, versus the 50 aircraft per sortie rate of ONW.

Whether it was directing and controlling the airdrop of more

than 1,000 special operations paratroopers, coordinating with the combined air component commander during an unprecedented response option on an Iraqi missile battery, or playing a role in the rescue of American POWs in Northern Iraq, the 970th AACS had an unrivaled bird's eye view of the air war over Iraq. And it was due to the efforts of the 970th AACS that the members of the 173rd Airborne defeated approximately 80,000 Iraqi soldiers, that missile launchers and support vehicles were destroyed, and that seven American POWs were rescued.

But the 513th ACG's maintenance community was accomplishing miracles in their own right. Showing great initiative and greater skill, the 513th Air Maintenance Squadron performed a first-ever field repair of unique E-3 radome components in a combat environment, saving large sums of money and vital mission time.

"Our people had to actually manufacture their own parts with the tools they had available to within Air Force specification," said Chief Master Sgt. Joseph L. DiTomasso. "A stateside depot is usually needed but, based on past experience, if the aircraft had been returned to depot stateside for repair, approximately 21 days would have been lost waiting for diplomatic clearance for a tailswap. There were also no suitable aircraft at home station to exchange when this aircraft's radome broke. That would have prolonged any waiting period."

DiTomasso said the 513th AMXS team repaired the radome with only two days of labor, sparing the OIF mission a significant obstacle.

The end of war, start of peace

On April 24, 2003, the first deployed members of the 513th ACG came home to tearful reunions with loved ones and stories of triumph to tell. Over the following weeks, as the tempo winded down and more deployed personnel came home, people returned to the lives they left behind.

"We had a front seat to history," said Col. James L. Kerr, 513th ACG commander. "We saw America endure its darkest hour, redirect anger into hope, and restored freedom to people who had lost it for so long. The 513th ACG fulfilled a period of service unmatched by an Air Force Reserve unit since the 1950s and set a new standard. Our faith may have been tested on occasion, but we persevered and came through as a family. We'll go back into the communities and most people on the street will never know everything we did for them. We'll return to training and look at the lessons learned over these past two years. If our country ever needs us again, we'll be ready."

Kerr hopes that the 513th ACG will enjoy the break in mission taskings and he looks forward to everyone enjoying a peacetime holiday season.

Upclose

Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Leonard Brakebill

The following question was asked of members of the 507th ARW: "What was your most memorable moment in the last year?"



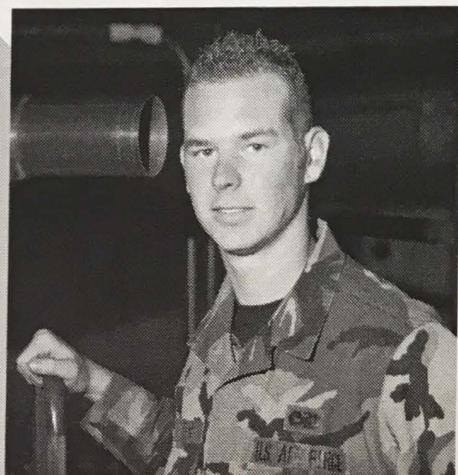
Staff Sgt. Wendell Herron
507th SVF

"Annual tour at Aviano. We had a perfect day in Venice - a riverboat ride with a good group of people."



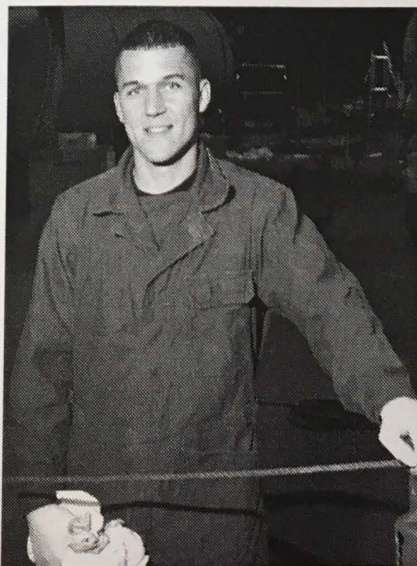
Tech. Sgt. Denny Graham
507th AMXS

"Being part of the team at Oman and Spain. The last year was as memorable as it gets."



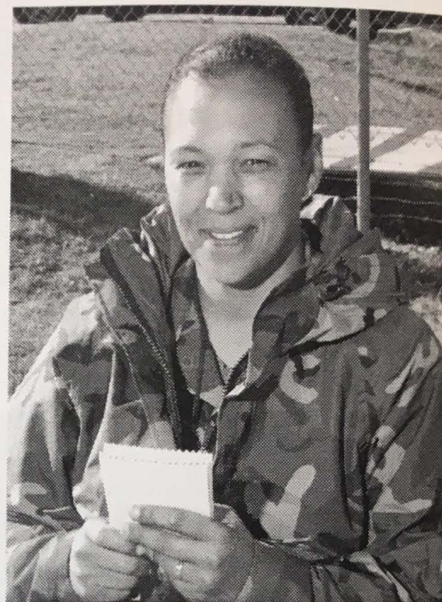
Senior Airman Timothy Milliken
507th MXS

"We had a great pick-up softball game last week. Pizzas after the game are great."



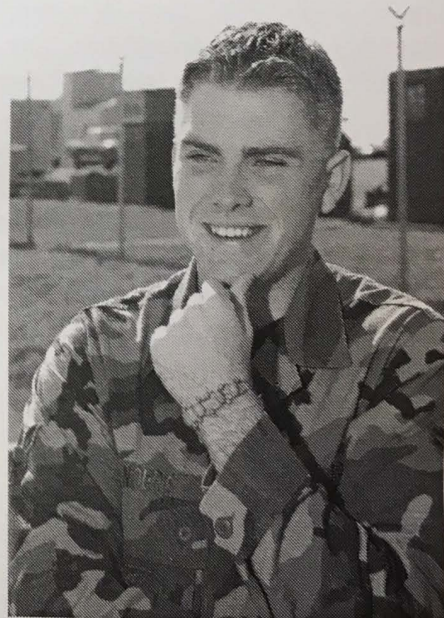
Senior Airman Jeremy Scoles, 507th MXS

"This past week I was honored at an awards ceremony as Wing Airman of the Quarter."



Staff Sgt. Belinda Nolan
507th LRS

"The shock of being put on alert for possible call-up. That was the first time it ever happened to me. As it turned out, I wasn't activated."



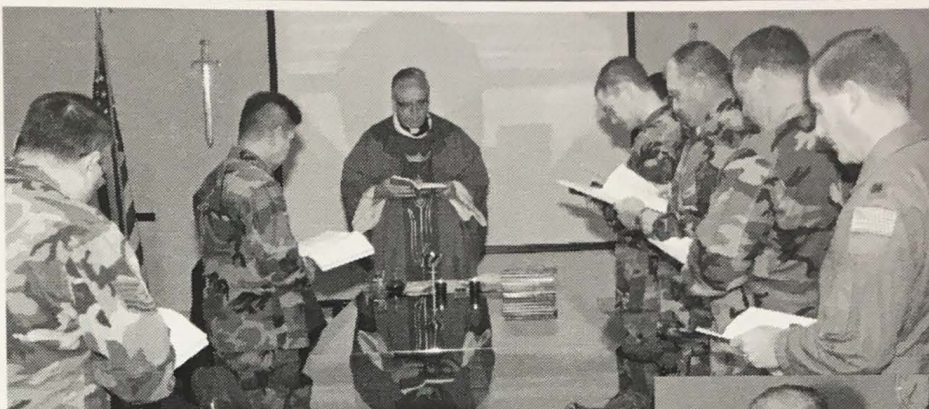
Airman 1st Class Josh Norris
507th LRS

"Basic training and my training instructor yelling at me, 'Norris - on your face and give me 20 (push-ups).'"

Religious services during UTAs



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Bradfield



Both Catholic Mass and Protestant services are provided on campus beginning at 7:30 a.m. UTA Sundays at the 513th Air Control Group headquarters.

Mass, consecrated by Father Patrick McCool, is held in the 513th Conference Room and Protestant Service is held in the 513th auditorium.

According to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Bradfield, "We brought these services to our unit campus to make it easier to attend and provide everyone an alternative to driving across base to the base chapel. We are encouraging all supervisors to help us by allowing members to attend the worship service of their choice as much as possible."

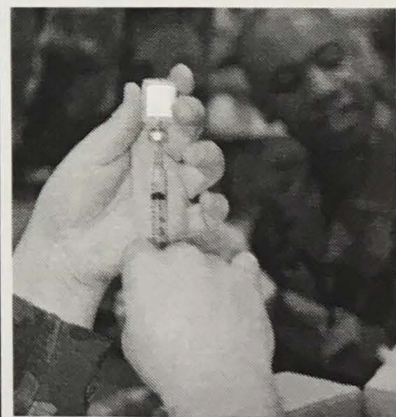
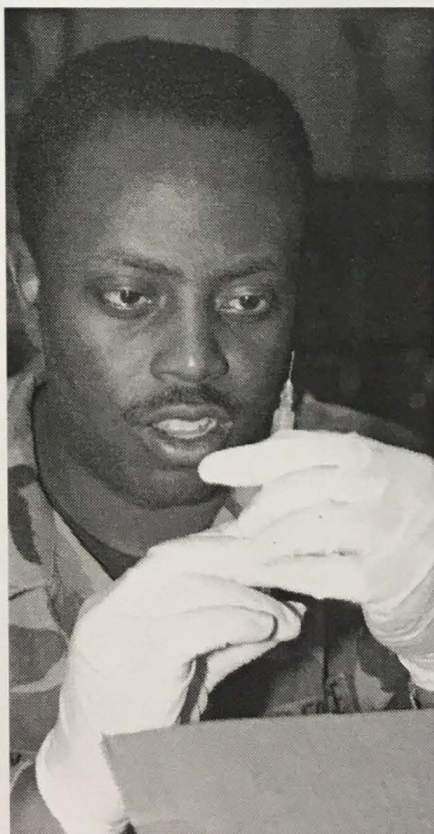


Flu shots, smart choice

Unit officials began providing influenza vaccinations during last month's UTA. Additional immunization lines will be available this month.

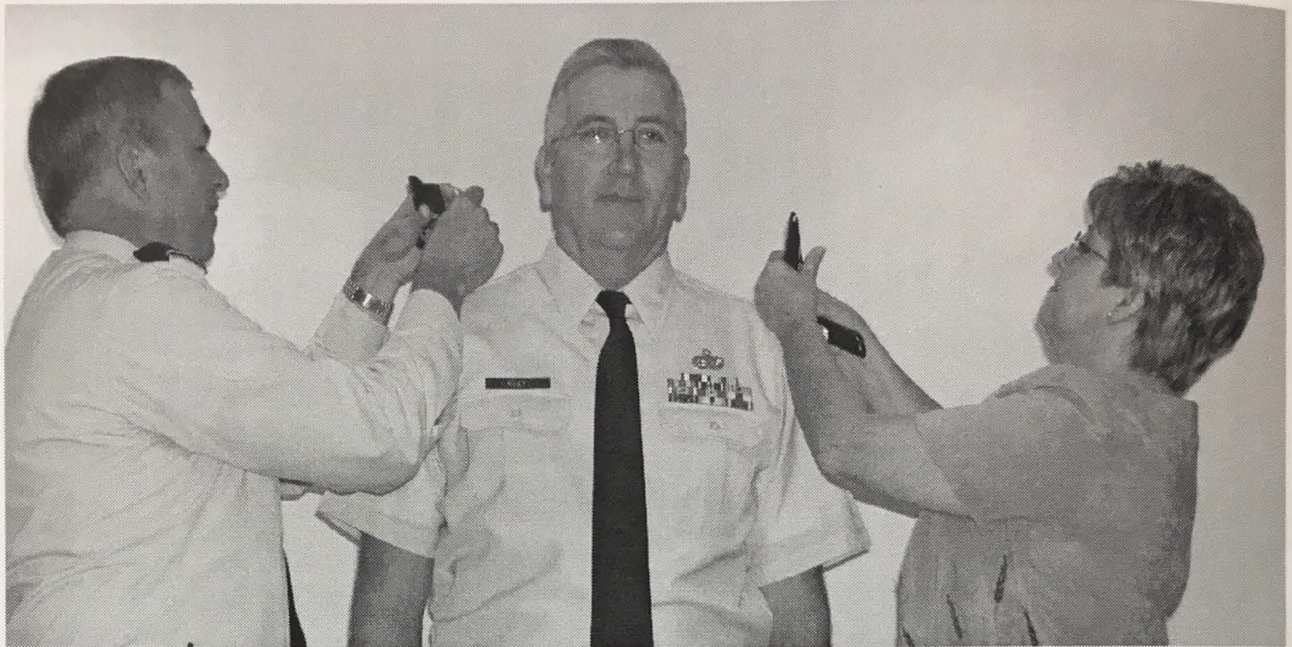
According the Center for Disease Control, getting the flu vaccine is the best way to prevent infection with the flu virus and the complications associated with flu. But everyone must be **re-vaccinated each year** because the flu viruses change each year.

CDC officials state that in the U.S., flu hospitalizes **more than 114,000 people** every year. More than half of those hospitalized are **under 65**. In the Northern Hemisphere, flu activity peaks in December-March. In the Southern Hemisphere, flu activity peaks in April-September. During the period 1976-2001, peak activity for flu in the U. S. occurred most frequently in February. The second greatest number of peaks of flu activity over the same period occurred in December. Each year in the United States, flu and complications of the **flu kill 36,000 people**-more than any other vaccine-preventable illness.



Flu season protection -- Senior Airman Steven Kirk prepares to give a unit member the flu vaccine during the November UTA.

Parting shots



Chief Master Sgt. "Bud" Riley receives his Chief stripes from his wife Judy and Col. Dean J. Despinoy on Nov. 24. Chief Riley is superintendent of the 507th Military Personnel Flight. He began his military career in August 1969.

On-final

R-News

Prevent holiday fires

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 1999, Christmas trees were the first item ignited in an estimated 370 home fires, resulting in five deaths, 60 injuries and \$15.7 million in direct property damage.

The leading heat source attributed to Christmas tree fires, civilian injuries and property damage was electrical arcing, accounting for 130 fires (34 percent), no civilian deaths, 20 civilian injuries and \$5.9 million in direct property damage in 1999.

The leading type of equipment involved in the ignition of Christmas trees were lights and cords and plugs. Unit safety officials encourage everyone to be safe this holiday season!

Equipment custodian training

Equipment custodian training will be offered the first Wednesday of each month. If your unit has a requirement, contact Greg Lewis or Pamela Brandt, 734-2265, by the end of the month.

Equipment custodian reminder

Equipment custodians are being held accountable for lost, misplaced, or stolen equipment. If you have the responsibility of tracking equipment take the task seriously. No one can afford to forfeit their wages.

Use of Government equipment

According to Air Force officials, it is not permissible to move computer equipment without the PRIOR approval of the equipment custodian.

Officials also stress that password-protected screen savers are mandatory for all computer equipment that is connected to the base network.

Failure to observe the prohibitions and mandatory provisions of paragraphs 3.1 and 3.3 and its subparagraphs by military personnel is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Violations by civilian employees may result in administrative disciplinary action without regard to otherwise applicable criminal or civil sanctions for violations of related laws.

507th ARW Recruiters

Tinker AFB, OK

(In-Service Recruiter)
Master Sgt Larry Wheatley
(405) 739-2980



Moore, Norman, OK

Tech. Sgt. Gene Higgins
(405) 217-8311

Midwest City, OK

Tech. Sgt. James Vaughan
Tech. Sgt. Marvin Greene
(405) 733-9403

Altus AFB, OK

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

Lawton, OK

Staff Sgt. Kamela
Thigpen
(580) 357-2784

Tulsa, OK

Master Sgt. Pam Peterson
(918) 665-2300

Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. David
McCormick
(316) 652-3766

McConnell AFB, KS

Master Sgt. David
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