

On-final



January 2004

Vol. 24, No. 1

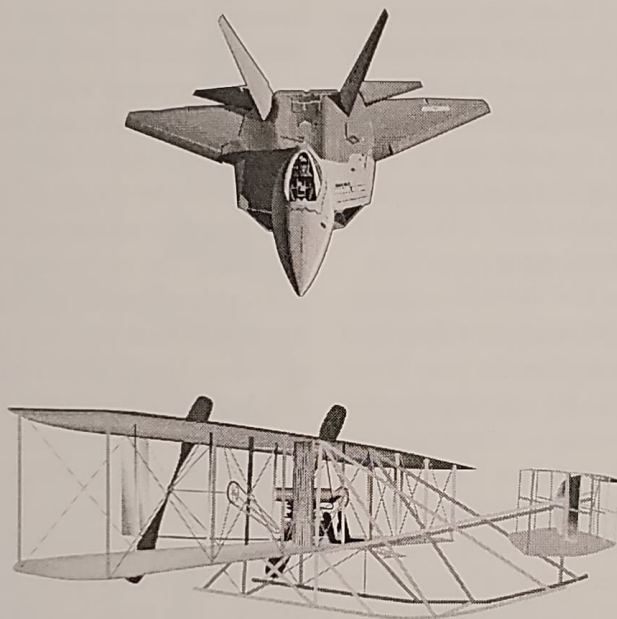
507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

Welcome to the second century of powered flight



Wilbur Wright

(Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Parham)



Orville Wright

"It was the most significant 12 seconds of the last 100 years.

"On Dec. 17, 1903, two bicycle builders from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright, launched the world on a path to the heavens when their rudimentary airplane of wire, wood and canvas wings lifted off a windy, grassy hill at Kitty Hawk.

"Since their marvelous achievement, aviation has enabled our expansion, enhanced our commerce and expanded our communication.

"Military aviation developed quickly after that first flight. The names and exploits of our airpower pioneers are melded into our nation's history: Rickenbacker, Mitchell, Doolittle, Davis, Cochran and Yeager, to name just a few.

"While our past is storied, our present and future remain as boundless and adventurous as the Wright

Brothers' dream. Because of our great airmen in today's Air Force, we have developed, operated, and exploited advanced weapons systems and technologies — from sensors and aircraft to lasers and satellites — enabling us to own the ultimate high ground and dominate any battlespace.

"The Centennial of Flight is as much about our future as it is about our past. We commend you for all that you do every day to promote this heritage and provide our nation with the finest air and space force in the world.

"We're proud to serve alongside you as we continue to discover ways to slip the surly bonds and deliver peace and freedom for our nation."

**A joint message from
Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche
and
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper**

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 ARW Commander's Column

By Col. Dean Despinoy

I wish to welcome everyone back from the Holidays and trust that everyone had a restful and safe time with their families. As we all return to a more normal schedule and start getting used to writing 2004 on all of our checks and documents, it is time to look ahead to the Wing's known taskings for this year.

Our major taskings will be broken down into three basic types; exercises for IG credit, individual or small UTC taskings for AEF requirements, and large AEF deployment taskings.

Several of our squadrons will have full or partial UTCs tasked, that still have not received ORI credit, to participate in an IG exercise scheduled for September. The Logistics Readiness Squadron has a complete listing of currently tasked 507th UTCs the IG has already selected to be mandatory participants.

Some UTCs are in the primary "bucket" for AEF taskings. These taskings, to include number and location, will be sent from headquarters to the 507th LRS throughout the year. Some squadrons have already been notified. All coordination, for anything from special AOR requirements to transportation, must be coordinated through LRS. Remember, LRS is your one stop location for all things to do with deployment or AEF.

The large deployment this year will be to Istres, France in April. Although the largest number of personnel will come from Operations and Maintenance, there will be several other UTCs

tasked. We have a certain amount of flexibility as to the total number of people and the AFSCs we will be able to take. LRS will work with the squadrons to get a final "by name" deployment roster. We have an opportunity to get ORI credit for the leadership package on this deployment. A formal request has been sent to the IG and we will inform those affected as soon as we receive the IG response.

There will also be the opportunity for individuals to volunteer during the year to backfill other wings' shortfalls. Individuals who wish to volunteer for a backfill must be cleared by their squadron and group commanders who will then forward the request to me for final wing commander approval. This process must be followed no matter how you are informed about the shortfall, including direct contact by functionals.

Another major wing event will take place the latter part of February. All flight, squadron, group, and wing commanders are invited to the 4th AF commander's conference. It will be an opportunity for all of the 507th commanders to interface with the other commanders from the wings that make up 4th Air Force. The conference will take place at the Civic Center in Riverside, California. There will be joint sessions as well as functional break outs during the conference. It will be the first time Brig. Gen. Robert Duignan, the new 4th AF commander, will have an opportunity to address all of his commanders since he assumed command last August.

My next wing commander's call is scheduled for the February UTA. I look forward to updating you on any other information impacting the wing. As always I will also answer any questions you may have. Judy and I wish you all the best this coming year. Keep 'em flying and keep 'em safe.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Bradfield

Try new checklist

The last thing you probably want to hear about is the implementation of a new Checklist! We have them for just about everything ranging from maintenance on flying a plane to inspections. January brings to us a brand new cycle of holidays. This might be a good time to check ourselves for the meaning of what we say we celebrate as important days in the year.

A summary of our holiday themes can provide our own self inspection list. So, review the following to see how you did in observing those days from last year and how you can better observe them for 2004.

1. Do I see each new day or year as the beginning of new opportunities and privileges?
2. Do I put into practice a belief that love and honor are important for us all?
3. Do I allow God's promise for life after death to encourage

me during bad times?

4. Do I practice healthy skills in parenting and believe family life is still important?
5. Do I value my personal freedoms without infringing on the freedom of others?
6. Do I provide an honest day's work for a day's pay since labor is honorable?
7. Do I hold myself in debt to those gone before me for their example and effort?
8. Do I believe that a spirit of gratitude is vital to healthy living and do I show it?
9. Do I hold myself accountable to God since He is still active in the world today?

How did you do? What can be done so that you and your family can better experience those special days? Sometimes doing a simple thing would be a good idea like reading to the children, giving to others in need, going to a special place, or just pausing to reflect on that day. May this new year be joyful and meaningful for you. May you grow as a person and may God's closeness be more in your thinking than every before.

Volume 24, No. 1

JANUARY 2004

507th Air Refueling Wing Editorial Staff

507th ARW Commander- Col. Dean Despinoy
Chief of Public Affairs- Maj. Rich Curry
Deputy Chief of Public Affairs- Capt. Bill Pierce
Public Affairs NCOIC- Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch
On-final Editor- Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Yoshida

513th Air Control Group Editorial Staff

513th Air Control Op. - Staff Sgt. Andy Stephens

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

507th Civil Engineer Sq.- Tech. Sgt. George Proctor
507th Combat Logistics Spt. Sq.- Capt. Rick Gale
507th Logistics Support Sq.- Master Sgt. Paul Victorian
72nd Aerial Port Sq.- Tech. Sgt. Robert Shahan
507th Services Flt.- Staff Sgt. Tina Burks
507th Aircraft Generation Sq.- Tech. Sgt. Ben Walker
507th ARW Civilian Employees- Marilyn Trask
507th Medical Sq.- Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Royal
507th Security Forces Sq.- A1C Kimberly Long
465th Air Refueling Sq.- Master Sgt. Scott Wilson
507th Maintenance Sq.- Master Sgt. Jeff Tyler
513th Aircraft Generation Sq.- Tech. Sgt. James Stratton
513th Operations Support Flt.- Capt. Terry Brennan
970th AACCS- Capt. Scott Wilson
1st Aviation Standards Flt.- Senior Master Sgt. Rob Uzzle
35th Combat Comm Sq.- Tech. Sgt. Bryon Carlson

This funded Air Force Reserve Command magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of On-final are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition.

This is your news source. Take it home with you to share with family, friends, and employers.

On The Cover



Wilbur Wright



Orville Wright



From the Wright Flyer to the F/A-22 Raptor, from Kitty Hawk to the moon, welcome to the 2nd century of powered flight.

JANUARY 2004



507 ARW



513 ACG

CONTENTS

'We got him'	4
Reservists sought for force protection duty	5
Wing selects three new first sergeants	6
Tax relief aids military, families	7
New workshop offers leadership training	9
Tomorrow's uniforms offer new capabilities	10
Reserve gain unlimited commissary benefits	11

DEPARTMENTS

Training Planner	A1-A3
513th news8
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

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

PAGE 3

"We got him!"

Mr. Paul Bremer, American consul
in Baghdad, Dec. 13.



President Bush Addresses the Nation on the Capture of Saddam Hussein:

"I have a message for the Iraqi people: You will not have to fear the rule of Saddam Hussein ever again. All Iraqis who take the side of freedom have taken the winning side. The goals of our Coalition are the same as your goals — sovereignty for your country, dignity for your great culture, and for every Iraqi citizen, the opportunity for a better life... I also have a message for all Americans: The capture of Saddam Hussein does not mean the end of violence in Iraq. We still face terrorists who would rather go on killing the innocent than accept the rise of liberty in the heart of the Middle East. Such men are a direct threat to the American people, and they will be defeated."

President George W. Bush, Dec. 14, 2003

Statement by Secretary Rumsfeld on Saddam's Capture:

"Yesterday's successful capture was the result of close coordination of intelligence and a rapid, skillfully-executed military action by U.S. forces. It reflects hard work, the courage and the determination of U.S. and Coalition forces serving in Iraq. Americans can be enormously proud of them. It is important to remember that each is a volunteer. Each stepped forward to serve and to help fight the global war on terror. Challenges remain, to be sure. But, as President Bush said today, the United States will see this mission through."

Secretary Rumsfeld, Dec. 14, 2003

Much-deployed Guard, reserve 'doing superb job'

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department's top civilian praised reserve and National Guard members serving in the global war on terrorism, while acknowledging some of that force is being stretched by multiple deployments.

Members of the Guard and reserve are "doing a superb job," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld declared to a group of state legislators gathered at a Washington D.C. downtown hotel.

About 175,000 Guard and reserve members are now on active duty, Rumsfeld said, with many serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. He acknowledged to members of the National Conference of State Legislatures that some Guard and reserve units with specialties such as military police and civil affairs are being heavily employed — and deployed — overseas.

The secretary said that if a genuine need existed for a larger active force to lessen reliance on the Guard and reserve, then, "obviously our country should do that." Yet, Rumsfeld pointed to the lack of available substantive studies on increasing the active military. Therefore, he added, it's not "readily apparent at this moment," whether increasing the active forces would be a wise idea in the long run.

Rumsfeld said DoD is taking steps to rebalance the active force with the Guard and reserve, noting he met with Army

Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker on that subject.

About 25 years ago, the secretary explained, U.S. defense leaders decided to transfer up to 95 percent of some military jobs — such as military police and civil affairs — from the active duty force to the Guard and reserve. In the past few years, he continued, those and some other specialties have been in high-demand in places like Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Therefore, when you're in a situation like we're in, you have to reach into the Guard and reserve and activate people," Rumsfeld said. "We need to rebalance that."

Schoomaker, the secretary continued, "is in the process of moving some skill sets to the Guard and reserve that we have too much of in the active force, and taking those skill sets that are in the Guard and reserve that we need on active duty."

The result, Rumsfeld remarked, should be fewer call-ups of Guard and reserve members, and "people will be called up less often."

That, he noted, would "be a good thing," for reserve component members, their families, and employers of Guard and reserve members.

The Defense Department doesn't want to "call up the same people over and over," Rumsfeld emphasized, noting that if reserve component members wanted to be in the active force "they would have volunteered for that, instead of the Guard and reserve."

Reservists sought for force protection duties

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force reservists, E-1s through E-6s, can apply for installation force protection duties.

The Air Force needs about 3,000 volunteers from any specialty code to replace Army National Guard soldiers who have been doing these duties. The Army is preparing some soldiers for other missions.

Officials at the Air Force Security Forces Center on Lackland said they may start placing applicants before Christmas.

The volunteers will serve on active-duty manday orders for 30 days or more through Sept. 27, 2004. They will augment force protection at stateside active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command bases. Host security forces will train them in checking IDs, inspecting vehicles

and performing sentry duties.

These tours will qualify the reservists for full basic allowance for housing and TRICARE Prime, as well as lodging and per diem if outside the commuting area.

Interested reservists should be current on all medical, government travel card and membership issues. They also need permission from their squadron and wing commanders.

The Volunteer Reserve System Web page — <https://vrs.afrc.af.mil> — has more details under the Force Protection Augmenter announcement. Interested unit reservists should call Maj. Luke Grubb and individual mobilization augmentees should contact Senior Master Sgt. Tom Tirey at (210) 671-5628 or DSN 945-5628, or extensions 5147 or 7051. (AFRC News Service)

Reserve components key to air mobility successes

By 1st Lt. Jeffrey M. Bishop
AMC Public Affairs

The total force contribution to air mobility successes in the ongoing global war on terrorism was a recurring theme during the 35th Airlift/Tanker Association convention, Anaheim, Calif., Oct. 30-Nov. 2. To highlight that theme, U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command Commander Gen. John W. Handy discussed reserve component issues during a combined address to more than 2,000 people Oct. 31 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, Air Force Reserve Command commander, and Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, director of the Air National Guard, also appeared with the general.

Handy started by lauding the command's performance during recent events. "Our total force mobility team gave everything that it had," he said.

AMC and AMC-gained tankers have flown more than 8,000 sorties, refueling more than 22,000 receiver aircraft for the Homeland Defense mission, according to the general.

"(We) keep the skies over this country safe and provide America that security blanket, that feeling of comfort that we're up there protecting them." He added that the majority of those missions

were flown by volunteers from the Reserve and National Guard.

Citing the role the Guard played in recent military operations, James said, "They did the same thing that the guardsmen of old, the militiamen, did: They dropped the plow, picked up the rifle and mustered. ... and delivered the capability that we needed."

That capability would not have been delivered without the immense ongoing support the reserve components have received from the employers of the 17,000 Guard and Reserve airmen currently mobilized, Sherrard said. That support includes making up pay differentials, retaining health benefits or "just putting up a picture of those who are gone, inside the workplace."

But long, taxing deployments for thousands in the reserve components may create a potential challenge in the area of recruiting and retention. Sherrard said his command is acutely aware of the effects of long deployments and understands "the real pain that we have inflicted on some of our families," that may create a difficult recruiting and retention environment.

A solution lies in part with former active-duty members who still have a strong desire to serve their nation, he

added.

"We can certainly get non-prior service members to come join our force, but they don't have that great experience that that member who is separating offers us," Sherrard said. "It's critical to us, in terms of the things we're going to be asked to do."

After concurrent operations to defend the homeland and prosecute operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, many Air Force leaders will state that the service's integration of its active and reserve components into one total force is thoroughly complete — and seamless.

"We used to have to be careful to say 'Guard and Reserve' every time we said 'active,'" said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper during an interview after his address to the convention. "I think we are beyond that anymore because you don't do any of it without all of us in there together."

"A combat-ready member is a combat-ready member, whether you are a member of the active force, the Guard or the Reserve," Sherrard said. "(Our leaders) ensure that we are all part of one big force. There's really just one team that's stepping forward, and that one team is Air Force," he added. (AFRC News Service from AMC News Service)

Wing selects three new first sergeants

A first sergeant board was held during the December UTA for three units within the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Master Sgt. Deborah Kidd is the new first sergeant for the 507th Mission Support Flight. For the past year she has served as group career assistant advisor for the 513th Air Control Group. Prior to that, Kidd was NCOIC, Mortuary Services in the 507th Air Refueling Wing.



Master Sgt. Deborah Kidd
507th Mission Support Flt.

Since 1999 Kidd has been a member of the Tinker AFB Honor Guard, serving as Reserve liaison. She assists with the supervisor of a 150-member team and has trained over 200 members since becoming Lead Instructor in August 2001. Kidd has performed in over 300 Honor Guard details totaling more than 1,750 detail hours.

"Sergeant Kidd was chosen as the 507th MSF first sergeant because of her ability to be both personable and professional with people, which is a rare quality in the military. Sergeant Kidd is above reproach in her military bearing," said Master Sgt. Mark Stewart, 507th ARW Wing Career Assistance Advisor.



Master Sgt. Tracy House
513th Operational Support Flt.

Master Sgt. Tracy House was selected as the 513th Operational Support Flight first sergeant. He was assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron as NCOIC, Life Support Operations, technician, trainer/certifier and LS instructor. House works full-time as a civilian at the 71st Flying Training Wing, Vance AFB as an aircrew life support technician, trainer/certifier and LS instructor.

He volunteers his time as a substitute teacher during the school year and assists with his daughters' basketball and softball programs.

Tech. Sgt. George D. Stiltner was selected as the new 507th Civil Engineering Squadron first sergeant. Stiltner has been in the unit since 1996 as a heating ventilation air conditioning supervisor with the 507th CES. He works at the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center as a correctional security manager Level-I. He supervises 15 correctional officers for shift work and has the overall responsibility for institutional safety and security, housing 730-plus offenders during an eight hour tour of duty.



Tech Sgt. George Stiltner
507th Civil Engineer Sq.

Stiltner volunteers his time as a youth leader for junior teens and teenagers for his local church. He has volunteered to lead Bible studies, crafts and games and organize and sponsor outings to include overnight camping and skating.

He is a self-defense instructor for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and has 13 years' experience as a Certified Black Belt instructor in Shaolin Tiger Kung Fu Federation.

According to Lt. Col. Renee Lane, 507th CES commander, Stiltner has a tough act to follow with Master Sgt. Harry Ginzl. "I've been blessed to have one of the most outstanding first sergeants in the entire wing. Sergeant Ginzl has earned the 507th ARW 1st Sgt. of the Year Award for two different years," said Colonel Lane. "I can't tell you how much I will miss him and his support, as will the rest of the squadron, but I am convinced Sergeant Stiltner has all the necessary qualities and confident that he has the drive to be just as successful. I'm excited about the future and look forward to the great working relationship Sergeant Stiltner and I will enjoy."

Tax relief aids military, families

by K.L. Vantran

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Legislation signed by President George W. Bush on Nov. 11 increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free.

That portion of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001, to provide for servicemembers who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing global war on terror, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton. She is the director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

"If you are killed on active duty, regardless of whether you're in theater, or in a training accident or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed," she said. "And that's a big change. In addition, any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax-free."

Capital-gain exclusion for home sales is one of the most common areas people were looking for tax relief in, Fenton said.

"This act will allow members to suspend the period of time which they have to sell their home and take the tax exclusion so they won't have to pay that capi-

tal gains," she said. "It's retroactive to 1997 so military members who have sold their homes since 1997 have one year from Nov. 11, 2003, to request a refund for any tax they did pay."

Since 1997, when the law was previously changed, if servicemembers who owned a home got reassigned more than 50 miles from that home or was ordered to move on post, they were no longer able to roll over the gain from that sale to the next home they purchased.

Also since 1997, individuals could exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples) of gain from the sale of a home if they resided in it for two of the five years preceding the sale. Under this act, military and foreign service people can suspend (for up to 10 years) the time transferred away from home on official extended duty for purposes of applying the five-year portion of the two-out-of-five-year rule.

The 2003 act also includes above-the-line deduction for overnight travel expenses of reservists and National Guardsmen who have to travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings.

"The act allows for an above-the-line, which means you don't have to itemize

your taxes to use this deduction," Fenton said. "(Servicemembers will) be able to deduct unreimbursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs." This part of the act is retroactive to Jan. 1.

When the tax code changed in 1986, it allowed any military benefit existing in September 1986 to remain tax-free, Fenton said. However, it was always unclear whether military child care was included in that, she added.

"This act merely makes it clear that those provisions of child care were intended to be tax-free to military members," she said.

The act also provides for extra tax-filing time for servicemembers serving in contingency operations. The IRS code allows servicemembers who are serving in combat zones or hazardous-duty areas to have an extension of time — usually 180 days from the time the person leaves the combat zone — to file taxes.

The act also includes modifying eligibility criteria of tax-exempt veterans organizations; tax-free treatment of homeowners' assistance program payments; and suspension of tax-exempt status for designated terrorist organizations.

10 units receive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Reservists in 10 Air Force Reserve Command organizations can add an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award ribbon to device to their military decorations. Two of the AFOUA recipients are receiving the award with the V device for valor. Units qualifying for the AFOUA in 2003 and their respective award periods are:

- 917th Wing, Barksdale AFB, La., Oct. 1, 2001, to Aug. 1, 2003;
- 442nd Security Forces Squadron, Whiteman AFB, Mo., Oct. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2003;
- 919th Special Operations Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla., with valor, Feb. 1, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2003;
- 701st Combat Operations Squadron, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Sept. 1, 2001, to Aug. 31, 2003;
- 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan., Sept. 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2003;

- 940th Air Refueling Wing, Beale AFB, Calif., Oct. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2003;
- 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif., with valor, Aug. 1, 2002, to Aug. 15, 2003;
- 340th Flying Training Group, Randolph AFB, Texas, Oct. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2003;
- 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C., Sept. 11, 2001, to Sept. 10, 2003; and
- 439th AW, Westover AFB, Mass., Oct. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2003.

Reservists assigned to one of these units during the award period are eligible to wear the award. Those who have remained with the unit should have their records automatically updated by their military personnel flight. Former unit members should check with their MPF to ensure they receive credit for the award. (AFRC News Service)



513th ACG Deputy Commander's Column

By Lt. Col. John E. Trnka

Reflect on challenges ahead and pride in past achievements

Welcome to the first UTA of 2004! I'm the new 513th ACG Deputy Commander. I've spent about half my career in AWACS, the last few as a Mission Crew Commander in this unit. I've worked with many of you over the last few years in a variety of places around the world.

The new year brings new changes in addition to a (hopefully) reduced operations tempo. May this year be a lot more peaceful than the last few. I think we'd all like to be in a non-deploying, non-activated, non-Noble Eagle, non-ONW, non-OIF, non OEF, non-OSW status for a while.

For a moment look back with pride over the last few years. What we have done has been unsurpassed in AFRC. Members of the 513th Air Control Group have been involved in every AWACS operation since 9/11. Both the Maintenance Squadron and the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron supported not just Operation Northern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom, but Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch. On the operations side of the house, the route to and from Incirlik became a treadmill for most of us until OIF

gave us a change of scenery. We've had the opportunity to put our skills to the test in unprecedented ways in remote corners of the world and we can take pride in the results.

Now take a moment to look at the challenges ahead; not combat or Saddam, but funding and focus. The battle is to stay trained and ready with a third the money we've had in the past. Focusing on the training is also more difficult without the threat of a looming combat deployment. Because of the funding cuts we're facing, we don't have the luxury of time and can't afford to waste a minute. We have to be better stewards of money and time, ours and the reservists who work for us. Drill weekends will be busier, our missions longer, and the training more intense. Chem warfare, fire-arms, Law of Armed Conflict, and all the other training we face isn't exciting, but it's all part of the readiness challenge we face.

If you haven't looked at it in a while, this is the 513th's reason for being:

"Citizen-airmen extending America's Global Power operating the world's best airborne battle management, warning and control platform."

We have done just that, and done it very, very well. Almost certainly, we will be called on again. Take care of yourself, take care of your squadron mates and take care of the unit's resources. Doing that ensures we will be ready for the next time we're needed.

If I haven't met you yet, I hope to soon. Like most of you, I'm a traditional reservist but I try to get around here several days a month. We're a great team and I want to get to know as many of you as I can. The door's always open.

Have a great 2004!

Operation Hero Miles seek frequent-flyer miles

by K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Operation Hero Miles allows travelers to donate frequent-flyer miles to help servicemembers on leave from Iraq reach their destinations.

Servicemembers participating in the two-week "rest and recuperation" leave program are flown free to airports at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany; Atlanta;

Baltimore; and Dallas, but must pay for connecting flights from and back to those ports.

Launched by Maryland Congressman C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, whose district includes Baltimore/Washington International Airport, the Hero Miles Web site lists participating airlines. It also provides information on how to donate frequent-flyer miles and how servicemembers can receive complimentary tickets.

"I am getting a phenomenal response to Operation Hero Miles," Ruppersberger said. "So many Americans want to donate their frequent-flyer miles to help our men and women in uniform in Iraq so (servicemembers) can spend quality time with their family and friends here at home."

According to the operations Web site, more than 60 million miles have been donated so far.

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.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.

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.

TEMPORARY OFFICE CHANGES

For the next three months Personnel and Education and Training offices will be located in the trailers located south of Building 1043. Personnel offices are in Trailer A and Education and Training offices are in Trailer B. Their phone numbers remain the same.

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

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

As of 20 Dec 2003

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

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

Fri, 06 February 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, 07 February 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, 08 February 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	Unit Safety Rep 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
1500	Wing Commanders Call	Base Theater
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

ATTENTION

Tinker was scheduled for mass implementation Vred DD93's 14 Apr 2003 through 20 Apr 2003. Of course this date has already passed and we have received updates from 83% of our members. This is Air Force wide and everyone who has not updated their DD Form 93 on the Virtual MPF needs to do so ASAP. It can be accomplished from any computer with internet access by going to www.afpc.randolph.afmil. You will need to know your date of rank, pay date, and command (ex: AFRC) in order to sign on. Then click on the VMPF icon and follow instructions. Questions should be directed to Customer Service at 734-7492.

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

13 Jan	20 Jan
15 Jan	23 Jan
20 Jan	28 Jan
21 Jan	30 Jan
27 Jan	04 Feb
29 Jan	06 Feb
03 Feb	11 Feb
05 Feb	13 Feb
10 Feb	18 Feb
12 Feb	20 Feb

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

Editor:

Assistant Editor:

Contributing Editors:

CMSgt. Sharlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)
MSgt. Dennis O. Cain, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)
TSgt. Sharon Lochman, NCOIC, Schools and OJT (ART)
TSgt. Melanie E. Cherry, Education and Training Advisor
Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor

Annual dental exam now a 'job requirement'

By Lt. Col. Eric Kean, D.D.S.
507th MDS

In a recent letter to Air Force Reserve Command and Numbered Air Force commanders, Lieutenant Gen. James Sherrard III, AFRC commander, left no doubt as to his policy regarding implementation of the Annual Dental Examination requirement for reserve component members: "Effective immediately, all unit commanders and program managers will require members to complete their ADE as part of their annual RCPHA (Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment), turning in completed DD Form 2813s for civilian ADEs. If they do not, the RCPHA should be considered incomplete and consideration given to not allow participation for pay or points until the RCPHA is complete."

The question is, just how does a reserve member make this happen?

The answer is simple. Each year, before the beginning of your birth month,

go and get a dental examination. Bring a DD Form 2813 with you to your examination appointment and ask your dentist to fill it out. Then, bring the form to your Unit Health Monitor who will turn it in to the medical squadron. For non-flyers, the DD2813 may be used instead of a military dental exam two out of every three years. The third year, you must receive a military dental examination. In those years, you will be notified that your physical is due and provided with an appointment date.

"Do I have to get a civilian dental examination? Can't I just get a military exam each year?"

Unfortunately, the medical squadron is staffed to see about one in three members each year for their dental exam. Because of this, only those who are required for their annual dental examination will be scheduled. Additional examination time may be made available to your unit, who will decide which mem-

bers should be given the appointments, based on their deployment status, etc.

"Where can I get a DD2813?"

They are available from several sources, including your Unit Health Monitor (UHM) or First Sergeant, the Medical Administration Section of the medical squadron.

What if I don't have dental insurance?"

To meet the needs of reserve component members, the Department of Defense, in association with United Concordia created the TRICARE Dental Plan, which is both comprehensive and economical. The cost of this insurance for members is as little as \$8.14 per month and may be taken from your pay by allotment. For more information regarding the TRICARE Dental Plan, contact the base TRICARE office, the 507th Medical Squadron, or log on to www.ucci.com. You may also call toll-free: 1-800-866-8499.

• Don't get very much exercise

Gestational Diabetes: is a type of diabetes that starts during pregnancy. Gestational diabetes affects about 4% of all pregnant women, and most often, gestational diabetes goes away after the baby is born.

You should see your doctor if you have any of these problems - they can be signs of diabetes:

- You have to urinate more than normal
- You get really thirsty a lot
- You lose weight without trying
- You start getting hungrier than normal
- You have tingling in your hands or feet, or your hands and feet get numb
- You get a lot of yeast infections

Primarily to keep diabetes under control is by not avoiding certain foods, but by keeping blood glucose at acceptable levels. People with diabetes should also aim for healthy lipid (cholesterol and triglyceride) levels and control blood pressure.

Diet, exercise and medication are important factors that must be coordinated for diabetes to be kept in control. Medication is not used to treat all cases of diabetes. Medication when used can either be in the form of a pill (oral hypoglycemic agents) or insulin, which must be injected. Diet, exercise and medication all affect treatment.

New workshop offers leadership training

Unit reservists in the grades of E-4 to E-6 will be eligible to sign up for a new Mentoring and Leadership workshop slated for the February drill weekend.

The workshop is the brainchild of the combined 507th ARW and 513th ACG Human Relations Development Council.

The two-hour workshop is slated to be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. Lunch will be provided for workshop attendees.

According to Capt. Adrian L. Mahone, HRDC Chairman, the workshop is intended to provide training and discussion on mentoring and leadership techniques as well as discussion on a supervisor's role in the performance feedback and performance counseling process.

"I'm delighted that the HRDC chose this workshop as their first project for the New Year," said Col. Stayce Harris, 507th ARW Vice Commander. "We believe this training workshop and others like them will provide vital training for those who we hope become our future leaders."

Captain Mahone stated that the HRDC is looking for additional suggestions from unit reservists for future projects.

The workshop is limited to 30 and reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis by sending an e-mail message to Capt. Adrian L. Mahone, 507th LSS, and current HRDC Chairman.

CLSS bids adieu to two retirees

The men and women of the 507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron said good bye to 52 years of experience as Chief Master Sgt. Richard E. Williams and Master Sgt. John K. Manning retired during the December UTA.

According to Maj. Chad Gericke, 507th CLSS commander, Chief Williams and Sergeant Manning will truly be missed. The experience they take with them is hard to say good bye to. The two openings they leave will provide vacancies within the unit.

The 507th CLSS was hit hard recently with the loss of 40 positions. Major Gericke told his troops that another CLSS squadron received three months' notice before their deactivation. Major Gericke hopes the 507th will be the last CLSS in the Air Force Reserve.

Guest speakers sought

1st Lt. Roslynn Rayford of the 507th ARW MEO office is looking for individuals to serve as a guest speaker for her high school math class. Lieutenant Rayford teaches algebra with the Oklahoma City Public Schools and is looking for speakers to talk during January-February on "How Math Helps Me in My Everyday Job." The discussion would last 10-15 minutes with a Q & A session.

For more information or to volunteer, send an e-mail message to roslynn.rayford@tinker.af.mil.

Diabetes

by Capt. (Dr.) Lopez-Lebron
507th MEDS

Diabetes is having high blood sugar levels. Your body breaks down the food that you eat into glucose, which it uses for energy. People with diabetes either don't have enough insulin, which helps your body break down the food you eat into glucose, or their insulin doesn't work right.

There are two types of diabetes, Type 1 and Type 2. Most people get Type 1 diabetes as a child or young adult, and there is nothing one can do to prevent it. Type 1 diabetes is insulin-dependent, which means one needs to monitor their insulin levels, take daily insulin injections and follow a special diet.

Type 2 diabetes usually develops in people over 40 or who are very overweight. One usually doesn't have to take insulin with Type 2. Type 2 is treated with exercise, weight loss, a strict diet and sometimes medicine. In some cases insulin is required with oral medication. One is more likely to get Type 2 diabetes if:

- You are older than 40
- Are very overweight
- Have a family history of diabetes
- Are African American, Hispanic or Native American

Herbal 'LSD' drug is a prohibited substance

By Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Royal
507th MDS

Drugs and alcohol have always been an issue with the military. Widespread information is not always available on the new drugs and herbal drugs are equally dangerous and are unacceptable for use by military personnel.

The latest herbal drug, *Salvia Divanorum*, has entered the drug market. Having similar effects to LSD, *Salvia Divanorum* only lasts one hour. It contains the hallucinogen opiate Salvinorin A. This herbal drug is widely and freely distributed in all countries and states with exception of Australia, which has laws forbidding sale and use. *Salvia* is referred to as "Ska Maria

Pastora" and "Diviner's Sage"—is a perennial herb in the mint family that resembles sage.

At this time there is no accepted medical use for *Salvia Divinorum*; however, Mazatec Indians in Mexico use the plant in traditional healing ceremonies and to induce visions. This being a religious practice has not preempted the warnings against its use because of inherent dangers. Driving is one such instance whereby the use of *Salvia Divanorum* could result in an inevitable accident leading to death.

Salvia can be smoked, chewed, or inhaled in liquid form and this nets the same mind-altering results. "The hallucinogenic effects generally last 1 hour or

less unlike other hallucinogens like LSD and PCP. High doses of the drug can cause unconsciousness and short-term memory loss" according to the National Drug Intelligence Center.

More information regarding *Salvia* can be obtained on the internet at <http://sagewisdom.org>.

The bottom line is avoiding *Salvia* or any illicit drug or herb that will cause you harm. Not only will the use of this drug and similar drugs lead to ultimate problems, but also it can be lethal and fatal to the user. Although no laws are written, with one exception, against the use and distribution of this herb, it is not prudent to consider as an option for recreational use.

Tomorrow's uniforms offer new capabilities, less weight

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 2003 — They call it the "Christmas tree" effect. Defense engineers come up with the latest new gadgets and gizmos to help troops on the battlefield, and — just like ornaments being added to the holiday tree — they "hang" them on the warfighter.

As a result, troops frequently carry a full combat load of 75, 100 or even 150 pounds.

"What warfighters are carrying today is just ridiculous," said Robert Kinney, director of the Individual Protection Directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass. "Our challenge is to provide greater protections and capabilities, but with less weight and bulk."

Kinney and an army of engineers and researchers at the center, which conducts research and development for all the military services, is committed to reducing the load being carried by service members — while making them safer and more formidable on the battlefield.

Their goal, he said, is to incorporate new, lighter-weight materials to reduce troop loads by almost half, to 50 pounds or less.

At the same time, Natick engineers are exploring advanced technologies that will give warfighters of the future capabilities once thought restricted to the fictitious Power Rangers, Terminator and Contra series characters.

Tomorrow's warfighters, Kinney said, will wear uniforms with built-in chemical-biological protection, embedded with electric wires and fiber optics that give sophisticated battlefield capabilities. Uniforms will be waterproof and flame-resistant, with built-in insect repellent, antibacterial agents that help stop open injuries from getting infected, and even antimicrobial agents that keep odor in check. New synthetic materials being explored will make the uniforms warmer in cold environments, cooler in hot

ones, and lighter in weight and bulk.

In addition, uniforms of the future will be able to adapt quickly to changing conditions. They'll change color, chameleon-style, to reflect the surrounding environment. Boots will come with snap-on soles for different terrains and removable liners that can be replaced when they get wet.

Headgear will take on a whole new dimension, protecting against ballistic and fragmentation while serving as the wearer's personal "control center." Tomorrow's helmets will integrate thermal sensors, video cameras, and chemical and biological sensors. They'll include a visor that can act as a "heads-up display monitor" equivalent to two 17-inch computer monitors in front of the wearer's eyes. And powering all the warfighter's gear will be a single battery, capable of running 24 hours or longer before being recharged.

As futuristic as these technologies may sound, many are being incorporated into the Army's Objective Force Warrior — which LeeAnn Barkhouse, business liaison for the program, describes as a "system of systems" being developed for warfighters in 2010 and beyond. The program is expected to become a prototype for all the military services, she said.

Barkhouse said Objective Force Warrior introduces a far-ranging array of new capabilities, many of them embedded directly into the warfighter's uniform to reduce the heavy, cumbersome add-ons that have evolved over time. And unlike the current combat load, which imposes immense weights on the warfighter's back and shoulders, Barkhouse said the new system will center its lighter load at the body's strongest point: the waist and hips.

Gone will be the "Christmas tree effect." In its place, she said, will be a system that works with, rather than against, the warfighter's body — and offers almost unimaginable new capabilities. "It represents a tremendous advance," Barkhouse said.



The Objective Force Warrior program offers a glimpse into advances planned for warfighters in 2010 and beyond. The program is expected to become a prototype for all the military services. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

JANUARY 2004

Reserve / Guard gain unlimited commissary benefits

The Department of Defense announced Nov. 24, that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

- Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

- Dependents of the members de-

scribed above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until the president signed

the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

"I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "The Congress included unlimited commissary benefits in the National Defense Authorization Act thus making full time shopping possible for the men and women who serve their nation in the National Guard and Reserve."

Reservists gain other benefits from Authorization

WASHINGTON — The fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act offers reservists and their better health benefits and an overall average military pay raise of 4.15 percent.

President Bush signed the defense bill Nov. 24. The act authorizes a minimum pay hike of 3.7 percent to everyone with additional increases to mid-grade and senior NCOs and mid-grade officers.

To improve readiness, the law permits the Department of Defense to provide immediate medical and dental screenings and care to reservists who are assigned to a unit that has been alerted or notified of mobilization.

Reservists can obtain improved TRICARE coverage until Dec. 31, 2004, under the following circumstances:

- Non-mobilized reservists and their families can enroll on a cost-share basis if the reservist is unemployed or the employer does not offer health insurance.

- Coverage for mobilized reservists and their families can begin up to 90 days before the start of the reservists' active duty. Previously, coverage started only when the active-duty period began.

- Coverage can continue up to 180 days after separation from active duty. Previously, coverage lasted up to 60 or 120 days after separation, depending on the years of service.

Another change expands eligibility for family members to

enroll in DoD Dependent Schools on a space-available, tuition-free basis. In the past, this benefit was limited to families of reservists who were recalled from an overseas location. The change also permits DODDS enrollment if reservists are recalled from a continental United States location. Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DOD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered to service members.

War sidelines leave

Volunteerism in Air Force Reserve Command may drop as result of a new interpretation of how wars or national emergencies affect fulltime military technicians. Air reserve technicians can no longer use 44 days military leave while serving on active duty outside the continental United States, according to Office of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. AFRC had interpreted the law to mean that only those who were activated or recalled in support of current contingency operations were prohibited from using this type of leave. Those who had volunteered for active duty were allowed to use the 44 days of military leave while supporting operations overseas. (AFRCNS)

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

JANUARY 2004

PAGE 11

Advisory board offers way for changes

By Maj. Richard C. Sater
4th Air Force Public Affairs

When reservists on the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board meet at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 23-24, they can add another success story to their list of accomplishments.

President Bush signed the fiscal year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act Nov. 24, immediately granting reservists and their families unlimited access to military commissaries.

The AFRAB was created as a mechanism to address questions, big and small, about life and service in the Air Force Reserve, including issues such as unlimited commissary use. The board is set up with the means to change the system for the better by improving the command policies and procedures that affect military life - training, career progression and retirement.

"Our purpose is to make a difference," said board chairman Brig. Gen. Robert Lytle, assistant vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Change starts when people visit the board Web site at <https://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/special/afrah/afrah.htm> and provide their name, contact information and the nature of the problem. Members of the board take it from there.

The board formed in 1995. Initially manned by a single civilian, the program was reorganized when Lytle took over in 1999, and began tackling a backlog of inputs. About 25 people serve on the current board. They are a cross-section of officer

and enlisted reservists from various career fields. Members remain on the board for about three years.

After a concern is received, the board assigns a case number and adds the issue to the roster for the next quarterly board meeting. The last board meeting was Oct. 19-25 in Washington, D.C.

First and foremost on the agenda is the board members' discussion of concerns submitted by Air Force reservists from around the world. The discussion is "a combination of opinion, personal experience and expertise," Lytle said.

After the discussion, the members vote on how to resolve an issue. They look at who needs to be involved in the process, such as the Air Force Reserve Command, the Air Reserve Personnel Center, the Air Reserve Personnel Policy Committee or the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. They also determine if a policy or law needs to be changed.

An action officer is assigned to ensure open items are kept on track, resolved in the most appropriate manner and closed out with the results reported to the reservist who asked the question. The process is deliberate but thorough.

Recent topics include the government travel card, space-available travel, medical benefits for activated reservists, college tuition assistance, meals on drill weekends, even the inspector-general complaint process.

"We've had hundreds of issues and policies clarified and put back into the proper channels for action," said Lt. Col. Roger Daugherty, AFRAB staff officer. However, "we are not a complaint hotline or an alternative to the Air Force suggestion program," said Daugherty, who commands the 952nd Reserve Support Squadron at Headquarters AFRC.

The board's challenge is to examine each issue within the context of the total Air Force Reserve to determine a course of action that will benefit the greatest number of people. It's a see-the-big-picture kind of job.

Success stories include establishing a 1-800 telephone pay information service for reservists without computer access and implementing a Promotion Enhancement Program for individual mobilization augmentees. The board also sorts out a variety of issues relating to mobilized reservists' benefits, including per diem and lodging while in "leave" status. (The Web site eventually will offer links to the board decisions for all issues addressed by the AFRAB.)

Lytle urges reservists to get involved. "Give me your insight to problems, impediments, opportunities or other facets of Reserve life that, if changed, could make the Air Force Reserve a better, more effective organization," he said. "I personally solicit your inputs to the process." (AFRC News Service)

Program offers business opportunities to vets

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

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Veterans Affairs loan program, long known for helping veterans get their own home, is now helping them obtain their own business.

Veterans can now go from "defending the American dream to owning it," said Don DeBolt, president of the International Franchise Association, which sponsors the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative program.

"It's the one way we can focus attention to our veterans who are leaving the military and would like to have their own slice of the American dream and would like to have their own business to operate," he said. "And the beautiful thing about franchising is that there are no glass ceilings, there are no barriers to success."

VetFran was first introduced in the early 1990s, and officials have since worked to attract and educate members of the armed forces about the opportunities through business ownerships and franchising, DeBolt said. VetFran officials work closely with the VA to offer fran-

chise opportunities for retiring veterans transitioning back into civilian life, he said.

The VA "is very high on finding business opportunities for former military (members), and franchising is one of the areas (identified) to look at," DeBolt said.

Businesses participating in VetFran have agreed to help veterans acquire franchises by providing "best-deal" programs and financial incentives not otherwise available to other investors, DeBolt said. Veterans can acquire business franchises with down payments of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost, which can range from \$45,000 to \$150,000.

A wide range of franchises are available including food services to hotel and automotive services. VetFran has 113 companies participating in the program, DeBolt said.

"There is a large menu in franchising ... We'd like to think that there is something for everybody," he said, "not only in terms of their skill sets, their interest and their passions, but also from their pocketbook standpoint."

Veterans can find franchises for a few thousand dollars in initial investment to a few million dollars, "if you're interested in a Ritz Hotel," DeBolt said.

Veterans must realize that owning their own business is a real possibility — that "where there is a will, there is a way," he said. But he also suggested that before making a decision to own a business, veterans must take a personal inventory of their business interests.

"They need to know their skills sets, what they feel passionate about. They need to know the interests and desires of their families, what their families would be supportive of," he said.

To learn more about franchise opportunities, visit the VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise Web site at www.vetbiz.gov.

AFRC gets \$3.47B

On Sept. 30, the president signed the FY04 DOD Appropriations Act, which allocates \$368.2 billion to operate and man DOD during fiscal year 2004. The funding represents a \$51 billion increase to last year.

This year Air Force Reserve Command gets \$3.47 billion, which permits Selected Reserve end strength of 75,800 – 74,140 traditional reservists, and a full-time Active Guard and Reserve cadre of 1,660 members (vs. 75,600 and 1,498 last year).

Tax info available on myPay

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay.

Military members and DoD civilian employees will have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance, users can call myPay customer support at (800) 390-2348.

Officials are projecting the tax statements will be posted on myPay during the following periods.

- Military annuitants: Dec. 13 to 18
- DOD civilians: Dec. 24 to 29
- Army, Air Force and Navy reserve components: Dec. 26 to Jan. 1
- Military retirees: Jan. 1 to 5

"Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information," said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' military and civilian pay services business line.

Air Force announces wear guidance for new nametag

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms.

According to personnel officials, effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women, then the command insignia is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag and the duty badge is worn either a

half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the individual is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on all pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For additional information, members should direct questions to the 507th military personnel flight at 734-7492 or visit them in one of the temporary trailers south of Bldg. 1043.

Uprose

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Lenard Brakebill

The following was asked of members of the 507th ARW:
"What are you looking forward to in this new year?"



Master Sgt. Michael Holford
Pnedraulics Shop

"I look forward to completing the Senior NCO Academy. Also looking forward to the AEF. Nothing pulls people together like being deployed; that's when the 507th really shines."



Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Lyles, 507th MX

"Getting the Wing and Group back to a regular schedule after a very busy, yet productive, previous year."



Staff Sgt. Mark Hansche
Pnedraulics Shop

"I look forward to getting back to college and continuing my education."



Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Thompson
507th WSSF

"I look forward to spending another year with family and friends."



Airman 1st Class Thomas Collins, 507th WSSF

"I look forward to going on active duty in February."

Tech. Sgt. Evelyn Patton
507th MXS

"I look forward to sewing on master sergeant stripes."

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

JANUARY 2004



New officers – The 507th ARW Enlisted Advisory Council officers for 2004 include (from left) Tech. Sgt. Misty Blount, 507th OG, Treasurer; Master Sgt. Neville Comas, 507th MOF, Vice President; Senior

Airman William Russell, 507th CLSS, President; and Staff Sgt. Neika Steward, 970th AACs, Secretary. The council meets during each UTA to talk about enlisted concerns in the wing.



Temporary relocations - 'Occupants' from the top floor of the headquarters building put on their game faces (top) while others help with moving the furniture (right). While the top floor undergoes major renovations, the Finance offices have relocated to the basement, and the military personnel flight and the training office have moved into the trailers located in the parking lot south of the headquarters building. Once the third floor renovations are completed, renovations will then begin for the main floor (sometime this spring). The basement renovations will follow the main floor.

EAC to meet off-base in February

February's Enlisted Advisory Council meeting will be held at the Santa Fe Cattle Company on 29th Street, just outside the main gate, with the purpose of promoting more membership participation.

Contact Neika Steward at 734-3543, or Evelyn Patton at 734-7934 for more information.



"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

JANUARY 2004

ESGR presentation

Sgt. Robert Crider, center, and supervisor of Tech. Sgt. Joseph Grabowski, second from left, was presented an ESGR Certificate of Appreciation in November. Grabowski, a member of the Dallas Police Department/Love Field Unit and a 507th CES fire fighter, has been deployed to McConnell AFB for a year for Enduring Freedom/Noble Eagle. Also present for the presentation were Master Sgt. Harry Ginzi, (left) 507th CES first sergeant, and Chief Master Sgt. A.J. Stanford, 507th CES fire chief (second from right), and Lt. E.W. Smith, Crider's supervisor.



On-final R-News

2004 Blood Drive dates set

Consolidated Reserve campus blood drives through August have been arranged, unit officials have announced.

Blood Drives will occur on drill weekends Feb. 7-8, April 3-4, June 5-6, and Aug. 7-8. The times for the drives will be noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays.

Successful year for Holiday Spirit collections

"Special thanks goes to the Holiday Spirit committee members and contributors for a very successful year," says Maj. Ralph Hawkins, committee chairman. More money than ever was collected (\$6,293); 12 needy Reserve families were helped; 24 children at the Y Battered Women's Shelter received a nice Christmas; a lot of clothes and food was donated to the Downtown Baptist Church and the Y; 100 veterans in the Norman VA home received gifts; and a bunch of stockings were filled for the Salvation Army.

UTA Services

January Sermon:
'Happy New EAR'

Saturday Lunchtime Chapel
in Vanwey Dining Facility:
'Adjusting to Marriage'

February Protestant Worship
Sermon:
'Under the Destiny of God'



To contact the chaplain:
**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James R.
Bradfield**

Wing Chaplain 507th ARW,
Tinker AFB, Okla.
Comm (405) 734-5632
DSN 884-5632

Call (800) 398-9259 to be
connected to long distance:
Civilian Phones: Cell 937-620-
2614

Home 937-296-1492
Civilian email
bradfieldjr@juno.com

507th ARW Recruiters



Tinker AFB, OK

(In-Service Recruiter)
Master Sgt. Nathan Bickle
(405) 739-2980

Moore, Norman, OK

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

Midwest City, OK

Tech. Sgt. Marvin Greene (SE)
Staff Sgt. Sharon McQuitty (NW)
(405) 733-9403

Tulsa, OK

Master Sgt. Pam Peterson (NW)
Tech. Sgt. Richard D. Kozik (NE)
(918) 665-2300

Lawton, OK

Staff Sgt. Kamela Thigpen
(580) 357-2784

McConnell AFB, KS

Master Sgt. David McCormick
(In-Service Recruiter)
(316) 652-3766

Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. David McCormick
(316) 652-3766