

# On-final



February 2004  
Vol. 24, No. 2

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



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

**513<sup>th</sup> 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

### Renovations

In a year of relatively tight funds, the 507<sup>th</sup> is seeing an incredible amount of new construction and renovation. This will mean that many members of the wing will have nicer places to work, but it comes with a cost. That cost manifests itself in loss of parking spots, relocation to trailers during construction, and a general confusion as to where certain offices and services have been relocated.

Currently the most visible renovation is the headquarters building. For the next several months all the functions that were on the top floor have relocated while that floor is renovated.

The FM functions, to include pay and travel, have been moved to the bottom floor in the area that was formally the VTC Training room. Mark Scoles and the analysis portion of FM are also on the bottom floor, doubling up in the JAG office across from PA. The JAG will continue to work out of this office and will be primarily available on the UTA.

All of the personnel functions that were on the top floor have relocated to the two trailers in the parking lot on the

South side of the headquarters building. Everyone has done a wonderful job in quickly becoming fully functional. Customer service will still be the first stop to handle any of your personnel questions.

The functions on the other floors of the headquarters building remain unaffected until renovation starts on that floor. We will notify everyone to where the function has relocated once renovation starts on that floor. It is hoped that the entire building will be completed within the next 12 months.

Other construction projects that may not be as visible include the construction of a new Security Forces building, construction of a new joint 507<sup>th</sup>/513<sup>th</sup> storage building, expansion of the Civil Engineering building, and remodeling of the 35<sup>th</sup> Combat Communication Squadron building. All of these projects should be completed within this next year.

With these projects and the recent renovation of hanger 1030, it will mean that most of the wing will have significant improvement in the working environment. Some small renovation has or will be accomplished in the flying squadron building to include a remodeled briefing room and some office space and restroom remodeling. Construction of a new flying squadron building is still on the books in the out years.

All in all, the 507<sup>th</sup> continues to improve our infrastructure to allow the professionals of the wing to work in environments that better reflect the importance and criticality of our mission and contributions to this Nation's defense.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dwight L. Magnus

### What is love?

What is love, from a kid's point of view?

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

Paul writes in First Corinthians: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

## UTA Services

Saturday Lunchtime Topic:  
Children & Parenting

Special Sunday Gospel Service  
(7:30 a.m., 513th Auditorium):  
Praise & Worship Band, Choir,  
and featuring Chaplain Armstrong  
from the Active Duty Chapel.

Volume 24, No. 2

FEBRUARY 2004

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35th Combat Comm Sq.- Tech. Sgt. Bryon Carlson

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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



465<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron aircrews refueled their first F-22 Raptor Jan. 23. The first operational Raptors are scheduled to arrive at Langley AFB, Va., in September. USAF photo by MSgt. Kathy Lowman.

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"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



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



# Escorts help keep Iraqi base safe

by Senior Master Sgt. Gene LaDoucer  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

**KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN)** — When it comes down to getting the mission done, there are few things more valuable than a reliable force multiplier.

Each day dozens of mostly one-, two- and three-stripe airmen provide the multiple necessary to ensure base functions continue unimpeded. Wearing arm bands identifying them as "Force Protection," 72 airmen assigned to the 506th Air Expeditionary Group's escort flight and about 24 soldiers watch over 400 to 500 foreign laborers each day.

Although they oftentimes go unseen, people would quickly take notice if they were not available, said Master Sgt. Scott Vilders, security escort program manager. He said the primary duties of an escort are to watch over workers cleaning facilities, fixing vehicles, working construction projects, performing sanitation duties and similar functions.

"The escorts are responsible for getting local laborers on base and then ensuring they abide by the security rules of the installation," said Sergeant Vilders, who is deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy. "It's because of the escorts that base projects can be completed and Iraqis are afforded an opportunity to work on the base and rebuild a part of their country."

Senior Airman Andrew Gural said becoming an escort gave

him the opportunity to "get into the field where things are going on." Deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Sergeant Gural said he enjoys being deployed and the job provides a break from the flightline where he would otherwise be working on B-52 Stratofortress bombers.

Senior Airman Donald Meck, who previously spent eight years in the Army's infantry, said the deployment has provided a nice change of pace from the additional duties he was performing at Fort Meade, Md., while waiting for his security clearance to be processed.

"Being an escort gives me the opportunity to interact with the locals," he said. "It provides a chance to get to know each other a little bit and the interaction allows the locals to see we are good people."

Airman Meck was quick to point out that familiarity does have its limitations. In training they are taught to treat the laborers with respect, but not get too close to them personally.

"As much as you always want to trust them, you must realize they may have other intentions," he said. "You can never forget that the information you give them could be making it to the wrong people."

"They're doing an outstanding job," Sergeant Vilders said. "They carry a lot of responsibility and they don't take their jobs lightly."

## ART leave no longer authorized while on active duty

Volunteerism by Air Force Reserve Command's full-time military technicians may drop as result of a new interpretation of law.

Air reserve technicians can no longer use 44 days of military leave while serving on active duty outside the continental United States, said officials in the office of the secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Congress established the leave program Feb. 10, 1996, through the National Defense Authorization Act to encourage ARTs to volunteer for noncombat duties overseas. The program reduces the need for technicians to take annual leave or leave without pay to serve overseas. Technicians are federal civil service employees who also serve as Air Force reservists in the same position. When using this form of military leave,

they are in an active-duty status without military pay, receive their civilian paychecks and accrue points toward a reserve retirement.

AFRC officials had interpreted the law to mean that only those who were activated or recalled supporting current contingency operations were prohibited from using this type of leave. Those who had volunteered for active duty could use the 44 days while supporting operations overseas.

However, once a national emergency is declared, no one can use it, said Margaret Keith, a human resources specialist in AFRC's civilian personnel division.

"It will affect all technicians," she said.

Although there are 10,000 authorized technician positions in the command, not all take advantage of this type of leave.

"We expect it will impact volunteerism

because they will have to use leave without pay," Ms. Keith said. "We know some employees may no longer volunteer for contingencies if this is not available."

While in the 44-day leave status, the technicians are covered by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. They are eligible for compensation because of injury under line-of-duty procedures, and they are reimbursed for travel, per diem and lodging on the same basis as their military entitlements.

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC commander, asked Ms. Keith's division to submit a legislative initiative to change the law thereby allowing technicians to use the leave during national emergencies. If approved, change could take up to two years before becoming law, Ms. Keith said. (AFRC NS)

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

FEBRUARY 2004

# See the world again, consider overseas tours

By Staff Sgt. Andy Stephens  
513 ACG Public Affairs

Despite the lower operations tempo of Air Force Reserve missions in recent months, many opportunities are available for traditional reservists who want to explore more of the planet. Depending on your career field and your willingness to travel, you might even see Europe again very soon. The choice to take on these tours depends on several factors, but the rewards are manifold.

No one denies that joint missions are the military trend of the future. That said, your willing participation in a joint mission can sharpen your resume to a precision edge. Joint medals also exist for outstanding participants. While many missions are training opportunities where you can share your knowledge and expertise with others, you also represent the Reserve component of the Air Force in what usually remains an active-duty setting.

Working for the other services in non-joint billets can also improve your standing within your unit and the Air Force Reserve. Army bases in Europe often use Air Force personnel to keep their equipment in ready-for-use condition. Officers serve as aides or planners as well. The division between the services isn't as wide as many might think and everyone is given a chance to prove themselves. You just have to recognize that opportunity when it manifests.

The Defense Attaché System utilizes military personnel for their Defense Attaché Office program. These positions are rare, but do exist. With the DAO, noncommissioned officers primarily responsible for representational duties designed to foster positive relations between the U.S. military and a host nation's defense/security establishment; coordinating with their military offices for aircraft and ship clearances, coordinating country clearances for DOD personnel, and providing the Ambassador with military and political-military advice, assistance and support. More information is available on-line for interested personnel, but competition for the positions is fierce because many NCOs can parlay that experience into commissioning opportunities.

And then there are Air Force missions overseas where you might backfill for someone who has gone home for a much-deserved vacation or was sent TDY to school or a temporary assignment. These are the most common opportunities available to Air Force Reservists and they can be stateside as well as in Europe or the Pacific.

No matter what avenue you choose to take, the possibilities are limited only by your imagination and initiative. Your successes reflect more than you think. So be attentive for openings, be creative on your resumes, and be the best airman you can be. After all, it is your career.

## 'First-strike rations' developed

Reports that deployed troops were "ration stripping," or getting rid of all but the most essential items from Meals, Ready to Eat in order to reduce weight on a mission, alarmed food technologists at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass. Service-members in Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan reported sacrificing all but a few carefully chosen food items from their MRE pouches to lighten their pockets and rucksacks. Servicemembers were also leaving half of their food behind, losing half the nutrition and calories of MREs — at a time when their bodies needed them most.

In response, center workers are developing the "first-strike ration" specifically for short-term use by warfighters during the first days of conflict. First-

strike rations are lighter and more compact than standard MREs. A single pouch holds a full day's food supply and weighs about 2-1/2 pounds. By comparison, three MREs are about two pounds heavier. Besides increasing servicemembers' mobility, the new rations are designed to enhance their physical performance and mental acuity.

They contain food easily eaten on the go, such as a pocket sandwich, beef jerky, nuts, dried cranberries, applesauce and bread or crackers with a cheese spread. Current plans call for the first-strike rations to be fielded by 2007.

For more information, go to: <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123006250>

## Quotable quote

*"We are now engaged in a global war with an elusive and resilient enemy who does not employ traditional means of warfare. These new realities underscore the absolute necessity to adapt our force. As airmen, I ask you to treat 'transformation' as a mindset rather than a process. It is a state of mind that is willing to explore adaptations of existing and new systems, doctrines, and organizations — one that will allow us to be truly relevant in the era in which we find ourselves."*

— Dr. James G. Roche, secretary of the Air Force

Remarks to the Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference, Dec. 15, 2003

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

FEBRUARY 2004



Who 'ya gonna call?

# Family Support Cell database nets sterling results

By Capt. Bill Pierce  
507<sup>th</sup> ARW Public Affairs

The commander's guidance was simple and straight-forward: "Our reservists have been activated. We don't know how long they will be gone. I want your team to take care of their families."

With their marching orders in hand, members of the 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing's Family Support Cell began to set up shop. From the beginning, Capt. Mark Vardaro, an activated reservist and appointed Family Support Cell director, began to tackle the major challenge of how his team would track the increase of family concerns, problems and phone calls. He needed a way to effectively track and follow family support issues to resolution.

For Vardaro, a business process and efficiency consultant in private life, the solution was pulled from his civilian experiences. Recognizing that phone calls

from family members were similar to a business call center for sales orders and customer support, the captain created a specialized, one-of-a-kind shared database program to allow positive tracking and response to family problems.

"I was charged up about this challenge from the start. The commander told me he envisioned my team operating like we were operating a customer service call center. This is the type of challenge I take on in my civilian career and all I lie ahead see were the opportunities that lie ahead," Vardaro said. "I saw a chance to impact how families were taken care of during a wartime situation. I wasn't selected for deployment, so this turned out to be the perfect role where I could support the mission."

"My experience with computer programming enabled me to know how offices could be set up and ran at maximum efficiency. For the FSC to be successful, I knew we would need to lever-

age technology and leverage it heavily," said Vardaro.

Within the first week of activation, using Microsoft Access, Vardaro created a fully operational high-tech Family Support Center. Attractive, form-driven information screens drove an operating database program that allowed his newly created team of reservists and family member volunteers, to easily receive calls, logs actions and produce reports of activity while flagging areas requiring additional response.

**"What we never want to lose sight of is that our members are volunteers. We need to do everything humanly possible to provide the requisite benefits and protections for their families as they do the things that are asked of them."**

— Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command

"Technology was the backbone of everything we did," Vardaro said. "I relied heavily on the suggestions and improvement comments from all of my team members." Almost immediately, the ease of the database linked those who needed the on-demand information, the ergonomics and layout of the office with readily available phone lines to create a process to ensure everyone was doing everything - the same way - every time.

Constantly improving on the database initiative, Vardaro added refinements to



Capt. Mark Vardaro, 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing's Family Support Director, prepares to enter information from an incoming phone call.

Opposite page: The main screen of the Family Support Cell's database program also includes hyperlinks to websites for information on commonly asked questions.

include a measurement system allowing for monthly statistical reports to higher headquarters. The practical applications became quickly evident. "We designed our database to provide maximum information at a few keystrokes. During last spring's tornados several families were affected. We used our database to quickly determine who was in the path of the tornado and focus on them first, by conducting a telephone call out, and then work our way outward based on the location to the tornado's path.

"Following our emergency notifications we reflected and learned if we added an additional field titled, "cross streets" in our database - we could increase our response time. Fortunately for us we were able to implement this field in time for a second tornado the very next night," Vardaro said.

Their database proved successful time and time again. This technological tool allowed the FSC staff immediate access and reduced information sharing time. "Regardless of the family issue, I knew if I needed to get up to speed on a situation I could rely on the staff's notes within the database," said Vardaro.

During the 10-month activation of unit reservists, the FSC dealt with life-threatening situations, death, Mother Nature, as well as everyday situations like plumbing or electrical problems in addition to planning fun activities to help boost morale. Their database not only served as a tool to determine needs but also a tool to determine fun activity focus.

**"Every dollar we invest toward quality of life impacts positively upon our readiness and helps us combat recruiting and retention issues. Our Total Force — military members, civilians, retirees and family members — continually faces unique circumstances of military life, and the Air Force is firmly committed to ensuring their quality of life needs are addressed."**

— Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, Deputy chief of staff, Personnel

"In May of 2003 we knew we had several students graduating from high school. We ran a query and determined

families that had children graduating and set up several individuals to attend in the deployed parents place. Again, this was one way we could let families know their sacrifices were noted and they were not in this alone. In my opinion, it was the least we could do for our fellow co-workers who were deployed putting their lives on the line for freedom," said Vardaro.

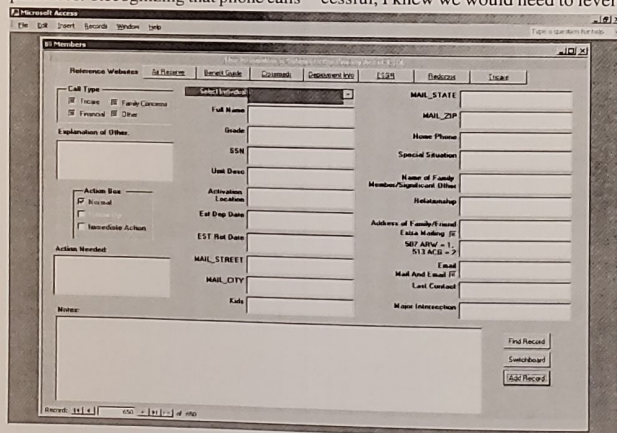
Since the conception and implementation of the FSC database several other Family Support Cells from other bases have benchmarked off the wing's initiative. "It is comforting to know our families as well as others were helped by our efforts."

With the deactivation of 507<sup>th</sup> ARW personnel and the draw down of the unit's Family Support Center, the team looks back to critique themselves.

"Were we successful? Totally!" Vardaro smiled. "At least that's what our FSC services survey results indicate. Of the surveys sent to the activated personnel, the responses we received gave us nearly 100 percent approval ratings in our four key areas. That speaks to our staff and the talents they brought to this mission," said Vardaro.

According to Col. Dean Despinoy, 507<sup>th</sup> ARW commander, "Our families play an important role in any military operation. Their support enables our uniformed men and women to focus on the mission at hand. Similar to the support we give our deployed reservists; their families deserve our best response. I'm proud of the outstanding effort of our Family Support Center and of all the volunteers who gave their best."

While the majority of the unit reservists have deactivated and returned to their civilian life for now, the unit's FSC Call Center remains, waiting to spring back to life whenever required to fulfill the 507<sup>th</sup> ARW's motto of "Always Ready, Forever There."







## 513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. James Kerr

### The future of physical fitness

Ten years ago, if a commander promoted a physical fitness program, his people were expected to do as instructed, even if their hearts weren't in it. I was surprised to find that so many people are taking the new program to heart (no pun intended), even though it holds us to a higher physical standard than we had before.

The reasons people are improving their bodies and lifestyles vary nowadays. Weight-loss. Making one more attractive. Extending lifespan. Competition. The fact that it is now a requirement for us to work out doesn't come as too brutal a shock to most of us. As military members, we've also served our country by being role-models. As the percentage of obese people climbs, maybe we can inspire our friends and neighbors who aren't in the uniform to improve themselves physically as well.

No one will deny that keeping fit improves your quality of living. The "runner's high" after a heavy workout gives you that feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction. You'll also find that you have more energy and sleep better at night. Your thoughts will come faster too. I know that some of you often take your older children with you to the gyms to promote in them a sense of wellness and fitness. This is a wonderful idea. Add in a healthy picnic lunch and a sunny day and you'll have an experience far more beneficial to family as a whole than what a multi-screen theater

could provide.

Your improved fitness increases your ability to support the mission as well. Greater speed and stamina, increased endurance, and improved resistance to injury and illness all show clear gains for the mission, but adding years to your life is the greatest benefit of all and will contribute to better living long after your years of service to your country are complete. We plan our financial strength for our retirements, but it hasn't been until recent years where we began to plan for improved health during those same "golden years." What good is a 401K if you have to spend it from a hospital bed?

I encourage everyone to watch themselves and record their accomplishments as they keep fit. At the end of three-months, look back at where you began and I'm sure you'll be surprised. But if you have doubts about your ability to perform or feel pain when you work out, please go see a physician. Recording your threshold for stamina or exercises where you feel pain is a health-smart thing to do. A doctor can then reference from your illness what the problem might be and how you can overcome it, if not correct it.

You're not competing for the Olympics, even though it may seem like it. The Air Force wants a fit and healthy servicemember in their uniform, someone they are confident can perform all the duties asked of them. The standards are here to stay, but they won't change too much about our everyday military life, but our lives are more than what we achieve when we're in that uniform.

You can take a lead in your life outside the uniform and inspire your loved ones to keep fit as well. Carry that healthy lifestyle over to your civilian lives and inspire others to improve themselves as well. You'll enjoy the benefits for years to come.

## Cold weather running safety tips offered

**Wear clothing in layers.** Warm air will be trapped between the layers. On windy days the outer layer should be of wind-resistant and "breathable" material; the innermost should be a "wicking" fabric.

**Plan your run.** It is preferable to run into the wind at first and with the wind behind you on the way back.

**Run against vehicular traffic,** if you must run on roads.

**Drink water.** Because humidity and the temperature are low, sweating is not

as profuse, but vital fluids are still lost on every run.

**Don't wear headphones.** There are some hazards associated with the practice and the base safety office advises against the use of headphones while running on or crossing any of the streets on Tinker AFB, however there is not any regulations against it, according to the 507th ARW safety office.

**Vary your route and tell someone where you are running.** Have

emergency identification (preferably waterproofed) in a pocket or somewhere on your person.

**Hat and gloves are crucial to body warmth.** You can take them off as you heat up and pull them back on when needed. More than 25 percent of body heat can be lost through a bare head.

*These tips are taken from the Road Runners Club of America's Cold Weather Running recommendations.*

### 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.**

**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.**

### AFRC NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The success of the Air Force Reserve NCO corps depends on their ability to apply leadership and management skills learned primarily in a civilian setting to a military environment. Not all of today's mid-level NCOs have extensive first hand supervisory experience in a reserve environment; therefore, the instruction in this course is intended to improve the students' military supervisor capabilities and understanding of their positions as related to the USAFR. We focus on individual improvement which is ultimately the real source of organizational excellence and success. The next class is scheduled for 8-19 March 2004.

### 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, 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
<b>0730-0930</b>	<b>Customer Service Section</b>	<b>Open to Newcomers ONLY</b>
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
<b>0730-0930</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1030, Room 214</b>
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
<b>1130-1200</b>	<b>Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion</b>	<b>Vanwey Dining Facility</b>
1300-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
<b>Unit Designated</b>	<b>Sign Out</b>	<b>Unit Designated</b>

### 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
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	<b>Bldg 460, Room 215</b>
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	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
<b>1300</b>	<b>SORTS/Post UTA Mtg</b>	<b>CAT</b>
1400-1500	IG period w/Capt. Vardaro	Bldg 1043, Room B-1
<b>1500</b>	<b>Wing Commander's Call</b>	<b>Base Theater</b>
<b>Unit Designated</b>	<b>Sign Out</b>	<b>Unit Designated</b>

### Fri, 05 March 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, 06 March 2004

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
<b>0730-0930</b>	<b>Customer Service Section</b>	<b>Open to Newcomers ONLY</b>
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
<b>0730-0930</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1030, Room 214</b>
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
<b>1130-1200</b>	<b>Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion</b>	<b>Vanwey Dining Facility</b>
1300-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1300-1400	Adverse Actions Mtg	Bldg 1043, Wing CC's Office
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
<b>Unit Designated</b>	<b>Sign Out</b>	<b>Unit Designated</b>

### Sun, 07 March 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
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	<b>Bldg 460, Room 215</b>
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	Supervisor Safety 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
<b>1300</b>	<b>SORTS/Post UTA Mtg</b>	<b>CAT</b>
1400-1500	IG period w/Capt. Vardaro	Bldg 1043, Room B-1
1500	Fly Safety Mtg	Bldg 1048, OPS Briefing Room
<b>Unit Designated</b>	<b>Sign Out</b>	<b>Unit Designated</b>



## ATTENTION

Tinker was scheduled for mass implementation Vred DD93's Apr. 14, 2003 through Apr. 20, 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](http://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.

## Military Pay

File for  
pay by:

Receive Direct  
Deposit by:

**Military Pay (405) 734-5016**

10 Feb	18 Feb
12 Feb	20 Feb
17 Feb	25 Feb
18 Feb	01 Mar
24 Feb	03 Mar
26 Feb	05 Mar
02 Mar	10 Mar
04 Mar	12 Mar
08 Mar	15 Mar
11 Mar	19 Mar

## 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

# Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted **monthly** in Bldg 1030, Room 214. Unit training managers are responsible for ensuring their new personnel are scheduled to attend within 90 days of their first UTA. If you have any questions, contact the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
<b>Phase I</b>			
Saturday	1300-1315	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
<b>Phase II</b>			
Sunday	0800-0830	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0830-0845	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0845-1015	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	1015-1045	Counter Intel /Awareness	SFS
Sunday	1045-1115	Human Relations	ME
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.

**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 temporary office in Trailer B, South of Building 1043.**

**Editor:**

**Assistant Editor:**

**Contributing Editors:**

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



## Service Members' Civil Relief Act signed into law

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

WASHINGTON, January 7, 2004 — A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 provides servicemembers greater protections to handle personal financial and legal obligations, officials said.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the (new act) is the same as under the SSCRA: To provide protections to servicemembers who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

This is significant, because it clarifies and updates SSCRA provisions and adds some protections.

"Servicemembers on long-term deployments, or called to active duty, should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections, or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment," he said.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that servicemembers are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he said.

An automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the servicemember is what Colonel Lindemann called "a significant change" in the new act. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. Previously, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The new relief act also makes it clear the 6-percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Colonel Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, servicemembers and their family who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. This amount is increased to \$2,400 and added an annual inflation adjustment. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465, significantly increasing the number of servicemembers entitled to this protection, Colonel Lindemann said.

The new relief act also gives the servicemember who has received permanent change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for 90 days or more the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Before, servicemembers could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant new provisions is an added protection for motor-vehicle leases. Any active-duty servicemember who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for 180 days or more, may terminate a motor-vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges.

"Now, servicemembers won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," Colonel Lindemann said.

"Servicemembers may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Colonel Lindemann said. "If servicemembers have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

## Survivors will receive extra money

Families of almost 500 airmen who died on active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, are receiving an additional \$6,000 beyond the death benefits they originally received. They will also be reimbursed for taxes already paid on those benefits.

According to the new, families of all servicemembers who die on active duty will now receive \$12,000 tax free, regardless of the circumstance of the death. Commonly called the "death gratuity," it had been set at \$6,000 since 1991. Half of that amount was previously tax-

able. Families are first notified of an airman's death through the information on airman records on the virtual record of emergency data. The record can be updated online from work or home via the virtual military personnel flight at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vsl](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vsl).

## Civil Engineers go to great lengths to award employers

By Maj. Rich Curry  
507<sup>th</sup> ARW Public Affairs

The men and women of the 507<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron go to great lengths to show their support of those who employ their reservists.

In fact, since February of 2003, team members from this 141-member squadron have traveled more than 1,046 miles to personally present "Patric Award" certificates of appreciation to business leaders throughout the region.

According to the squadron commander, Lt. Col. Renee Lane, "I have encouraged our reservists to go the extra distance, not only to nominate their employers for recognition, but to let us know when they receive the awards in the mail so we can make arrangements for personal presentations."

That policy, has seen both Colonel Lane and the squadron's first sergeant, Master Sgt. Harry Ginzi, take to the road to drive their "Thank You" message home. Civil Engineer presentation teams also included Maj. Sandra Chasteen, Capt. Karen Baskin, Chief Master Sgts. Gary Bourisaw and A.J. Sanford as well as Master Sgt. Joe Wade.

The squadron's policy has seen unit teams fan out across the Oklahoma City Metro area where the unit is located, as

well as round trips to locations as far away as Anadarko, 166 miles, and McAlester, 270 miles. But the record distance for the Engineer team stands at 430 miles after making a round trip to Dallas to present a certificate to the Dallas Love Field airport police department.

"We've encourage our people to nominate their employers to receive a

the requested information. The employer certificate is produced at the national level and then mailed directly back to the requesting reservist who may then arrange with his command leadership for a personal presentation. Typically a reservist will receive a certificate in the mail within 3 to 4 weeks.

Officials state that when a reservist nominates their civilian boss for an

award, they begin a process that can yield other beneficial results. By fully completing the comment block on the form to detail the degree of employer support, those same nominations may be used by the national committee to determine the top national employer for the year. After the nomination is processed and reviewed for higher awards at the national level, it is then retransmitted to each state ESGR chapter where it is reviewed as a potential top state winner for the year.

Nominations could also receive one of their State's annual Seven Seals awards which exist for each Reserve or Guard Service component.

"Anybody can begin this process with just a few minutes of their time," Master Sergeant Ginzi said. "All they have to do is complete the form and take the time to brag on their boss."



It may have been a 270-mile round trip from Oklahoma City to McAlester, Oklahoma, but members from the 507<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron made a personal Employer Support certificate presentation to supervisors at the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center Jan. 20. Pictured, left to right, are Deputy Warden Ricky Moham, Chief Paul Rogers (Supervisor for reservist TSgt. George Stiltner), Warden John Grubbs, Chief Master Sgt. Gary Bourisaw, Tech Sgt. Stiltner, and Master Sgt. Harry Ginzi, 507<sup>th</sup> CES First Sergeant.

certificate," said Master Sgt. Ginzi. "We feel it's the least we can do to personally meet with the employers and present them the certificate with our personal thanks."

According to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve officials, the process of nominating an employer for a certificate can be accomplished in as little as 15 minutes via their on-line nomination website located at: <https://www.esgr.org/members/2/onlineForms.asp?c=formMBIA.asp>.

After opening and entering the ESGR web site, reservists may begin filling in

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



## Beyond the horizon

## The MPA System (and how to use it)

By Staff Sgt. Andy Stephens  
513th ACG Public Affairs

If you're looking to build your military resume, then an MPA tour may be for you. If you want to gain joint experience, an MPA tour may be for you. If your thirst for adventure has been left unsated, then an MPA tour may be for you. If you want to see more of the world, then an MPA tour may be for you.

The term "MPA" stands for Military Personnel Allotment and refers to a pay period when a reservist works for active duty. Any Air Force reservist in good standing with his or her host unit can pull an MPA tour and there are several mechanisms in place today that make it possible for traditional reservists to serve an MPA tour. The Office of the Tinker Reserve Advisor is one such avenue to MPA tours at Tinker Air Force Base.

"We want to help the reserve community," said Richard Blochowiak who, along with Janice Green and Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Mosley, is the Tinker Reserve Advisor and a former reservist himself.

"We manage the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program on a day-to-day basis, which consists of about 250 IMA positions. We act as a personnel clearing office for the IMA positions and process their paperwork and applications based on the requirements of the vacancies and the applicant's career and skills," said Blochowiak.

An Individual Mobilization Augmentee reports directly to active-duty. That differs from the Category A "traditional" reservists and how their unit defines their roles and mission. An IMA is authorized to augment or backfill the

active force, but traditional reservists can also fill this role and have done so often throughout the service and the world in recent months. For periods less than 179 days and with the approval of their commanders, a traditional reservist can fill many vacancies that are temporary or not exclusive to IMA reservists.

"We get requests from active duty organizations at Tinker," said Blochowiak. "For whatever reason they have a shortfall in manning, they send us a formal letter stating that they need so many reservists for so many days and what AFSC they're looking for. They also state the impact of not getting the assistance. We review the request and forward it to our major command for approval of the mandays. Those mandays will be allotted for support of the active force and cannot be used for training or for schools. These are MPA days for support of active duty by reservists."

Mandays are projected every year at the base level and forwarded to the major command every year. Once approved, the Tinker Reserve Advisor looks for the skills sought for. Both formal ties to the Reserve organizations on base as well as word-of-mouth get the message out.

"We've been doing this for so long, people often call us," said Blochowiak. "There has to be a formal requirement for a reservist to fulfill an MPA tour. It's an informal process for applying for an MPA tour at Tinker. A lot of the time, we'll already know that type of person they're looking for because the traditional reservists keep in contact with our office. We take down the names and skills of any reservist who calls and find the best match."

It is not a guarantee that a traditional reservist will always get an MPA tour at Tinker, but Blochowiak said that because there's so much demand at present, there are many opportunities for Category A reservists. Many are overseas in Europe and the Pacific and some are even in the joint arena, a plus for the resumes of fast-burners.

"We get a lot of advertisements in our office for MPA tours from other commands and overseas," he said. "We put the word out to the reservists and they talk directly to the requester. Once the reservist gets the permission of their supervisors and commanders, the paperwork moves very rapidly and most of it is filled out by the requester."

Traditional reservists in the 513th Air Control Group need to get the permission of the senior Air Reserve Technician in their section before agreeing to accept an MPA tour. For more information on applying for MPA tours, the Office of the Tinker Reserve Advisor is located in Bldg. 460, Rm. or 739-3091, DSN 339.

**When you call or e-mail information to the Tinker Reserve Adviser, be sure to state:**

- Your full name and rank
- Unit of assignment
- Current AFSC as well as past AFSCs
- Availability
- Security Clearance
- Additional skills (i.e., number of words typed per minute)

## Volunteer Reserve System helps find reservists short-term assignments

Air Force reservists looking for a short-term assignment vacancy should check out the Volunteer Reserve System on Air Force Reserve Command's public Web site. The Web address is <https://vrs.afrc.af.mil/>.

Since its inception several years ago, the VRS has been hosted by different agencies on different servers, both public and restricted, said Prentice Burch, a Web support technician in the Directorate of Communications and Information's Web Support Branch, AFRC headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

"We were finally able to give it a permanent home here on one of our public servers," he said.

Using the VRS, reservists can volunteer for different positions around the world. A point of contact for each position posts the requirements and location of the assignment, and anyone can view the job listings and apply if interested.

Each listing includes a brief description of the vacancy, the date the position was added to the VRS, the Air Force specialty code and grade required, the duty location, and a report-no-later-than date. In mid-October, there were 75 vacancies listed on the VRS.

"The VRS was designed to provide organizations with a method to advertise short-term, funded vacancies and allow reservists, many of whom do not routinely have access to military networks, a method of volunteering for these assignments," Burch said.

He said potential volunteers who want information beyond what is posted on the Web site should contact directly the organization or point-of-contact associated with the assignment. In addition, Burch said, reservists volunteering for a short-term vacancy should get their commander's permission before applying.

The VRS is just one component of a larger "Job Opportunities for Participating Reservists" section on the AFRC public access home page, which is located at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/>.

The section includes listings for active Guard and Reserve vacancies, air reserve technician vacancies, and civil engineer man-day opportunities around the command. The section also links to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management job site. For information on the VRS, call Burch at DSN 497-1838 or e-mail him at [prentice.burch@afrc.af.mil](mailto:prentice.burch@afrc.af.mil). (Courtesy of Citizen Airman Magazine)

## Temporary extension of Transitional Assistance Medical Program

All members of the Reserve components who have served on active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation are authorized Temporary Assistance Medical Program (TAMP) benefits for 180 days, beginning on the date on which the member is separated from such active duty.

This 180-day period of TAMP eligibility applies to all covered Reserve component members who separate from active duty on or after Nov. 6, 2003. This authorization is valid through Dec. 31, 2004, unless further extended by law. Accordingly, with no further extension by law, as of Jan. 1, 2005, the period for which a member is authorized TAMP benefits upon release from active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, shall be adjusted as necessary to comply with the normal duration of TAMP benefits. (The normal duration is 60 days for members with less than six years of cumulative active service and 120 days for members with six or more years of cumulative active service.)

## E-mail hoaxes affect government cardholders

A recent e-mail hoax targeted government purchasing cardholders in an attempt to gain vital account information. The e-mail message linked users to a Web-based form, which fraudulently requested key information such as Social Security number, credit card account numbers and expiration dates.

"This is really uncommon," said Josephine Davis, Air Force banking officer. "What you see most frequently is some organization trying to pick up a slogan or relationship to (General Services Administration) because GSA administers the government purchasing contract."

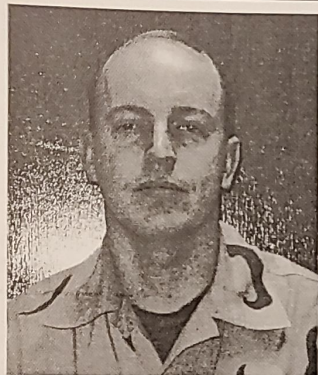
"Be cautious," Davis said. "In general, unless you have initiated the transaction, nobody has any need to know your

account number or expiration date. Banks don't even need that information to be able to find customers in the system."

The Air Force and the Federal Trade Commission are warning all government card users. Any attempts to obtain government card information should be reported. If you receive a hoax e-mail or any other fraudulent requests, contact your agency program coordinator. If it is too late, and fraudulent charges appear on a credit card statement, there are still things cardholders can do to protect themselves, Davis said.

For more information, go to the complete story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123006220> or the FTC Web site at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).





Senior Airman Richard January



Tech. Sgt. Takesha Williams



Master Sgt. Tina Proulx

## Quarterly enlisted winners announced

Senior Airman Richard January, a Wideband, Satellite, and Telemetry Specialist with the 35<sup>th</sup> CBCS, is the 507<sup>th</sup> ARW Airman of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2004.

January was deployed to Kuwait in November to provide wideband satellite service in support of operations in the Middle East. He was a lead technician in a crew from the 35<sup>th</sup> that was requested by Electronic Systems Command to perform upgrades and operational testing of the Interim Tactical Orderwire System (ITOS), a network control communications system supporting Defense Information Systems Agency satellite terminals.

Active duty counterparts singled him out for his knowledge of the TRC-170 Tropospheric Scatter Microwave Radio Terminal and requested him for the lead instructor in the system.

January is pursuing his Community College of the Air Force degree and also attends a local community college, working toward a computer technology degree.

During his spare time while deployed, January spearheaded efforts to greatly improve base camp morale by designing a new cable TV system with added capabilities that customers wanted.

Tech. Sgt. Takesha Williams, an Information Management Specialist with the 507<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, is the 507<sup>th</sup> ARW NCO of the Quarter.

"An outstanding Information Management Specialist whose abilities complement and enhance the unit's combat mission ready status; a significant contributor to my leadership team," is the way Col. Gregory Phillips, 507<sup>th</sup> OG commander, describes Williams.

Her professionalism, extensive knowledge, and attention to detail enable her to masterfully maintain a highly efficient work section, using various programs to support over 90 personnel with minimal discrepancies. Williams coordinates and tracks over 1,000 order requests per month for group personnel, often sacrificing personal time as she provides critical support to meet short-notice commitments and tasks.

Williams is a CCAF graduate, receiving her associate degree in Information Management. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting at Saint Leo University, via a long-distance program that is selectively offered to motivated individuals.

Master Sgt. Tina Proulx, a Family Support Technician with the 507<sup>th</sup> Family Support Office, is the 507<sup>th</sup> ARW Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Proulx assisted in defusing life-threatening situations dealing with emotional, physical, and mental breakdowns during activation within the Family Support Office. She enhanced and improved the operations of the Family Support Office by developing and implementing systematic processes which enhanced the office's family issues turn-around time, customer contact rates, and critical issue closeout performance measurements.

Proulx utilized her leadership abilities to implement a proactive process to ensure critical communication gaps were filled by extensively working with wing members, their spouses, and extended family members, ensuring their concerns and issues were addressed in a timely fashion.

Results-driven, Proulx proactively searches for areas of self improvement and formulates a plan of attack to improve her skills as a family support technician, Senior NCO, and person as a whole. She is currently enrolled and actively pursuing completion of the Senior NCO Academy Course 12.

## Operation Holiday Spirit contributions soar

By Staff Sgt. Andy Stephens  
513th ACG Public Affairs

Last minute contributors to the Operation Holiday Spirit made the 2003 event the most successful ever. By 9 p.m. on Dec. 6, personnel from both the 513th Air Control Group and the 507th Air Refueling Wing had given \$6,293 to people in need during the holiday season.

"That is the all-time record, surpassing last year's record of \$4,108," said Col. James L. Kerr, 513th ACG commander. "The money, toys, clothing and food helped 12 needy Reserve families on campus, 24 children of several families currently residing in the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter, hundreds of children receiving Salvation Army stockings, veterans residing in the Norman Veteran's Home and fed and clothed an untold number of homeless at the Downtown Baptist Church soup kitchen."

"Tinker Air Force Base's Air Force Reserve units have hosted Operation Holiday Spirit every year since 1999," said Maj. Ralph Hawkins, 513th ACG Executive Officer. This year, the climactic event, the annual steak supper, was hosted at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9969. The 1999 steak supper event hosted only 45 attendees, but the 2003 event hosted 138.

"The funds we make off the steak suppers go directly toward the charities," said Hawkins. "It also gives us a chance to relax and be friends for an evening, joined in a common spirit."

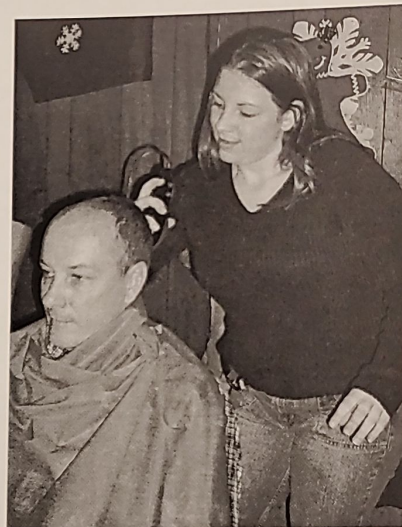
This year's biggest fundraiser was when Lt. Col. James F. McDonnell, 507th Maintenance Group commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Steven Wright, 507th Maintenance Squadron, put their hair on the line for the cause. Attendees at the dinner could contribute money for either one or the other to have their head

shaved bald. Colonel McDonnell kept his locks, but Wright lost his, with his daughter shaving him bald before an amused audience.

For the 2001 fundraiser, Hawkins bet and lost his hair. The executive officer's head was shaved bald at a commander's call in front of the entire combined personnel of the 513th ACG and 507th ARW. Hawkins' public haircut raised \$4,108 for the OHS charities and was submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records for "most expensive haircut." This year's haircut broke the record.

"I'm extremely glad that I was a part of such generosity on behalf of both 513th and 507th members," said McDonnell. "The OHS beneficiaries are very deserving of our assistance. I'm also very happy that my head was not shaved; I have the personal generosity of Lt. Col. Steve Mittuch [970th Airborne Air Control Squadron's Director of Operations] to thank for that."

Planning for 2004's event and how Tinker's Reserve campus can best support the OHS beneficiaries is expected



A close shave - Senior Master Sgt. Steven Wright, 507th MXS, gets what could be the world's most expensive haircut from his daughter, Jennifer, at the 2003 Operation Holiday Spirit Dinner.

to begin soon. But in 2003, the Air Force Reserve at Tinker AFB set another milestone for community support and a legacy to live up to.

"We all make a difference," said Colonel Kerr, "and that difference is felt even more at this time of the year. Thank you, 513th ACG Thumpers, and thank you, 507th ARW Okies."

### Base aerobic class offerings

6 - 7 a.m.	Gerrity	M-F	Step aerobics/circuit
11 a.m. - noon	Gerrity	M-F	Step and Kick boxing
5 - 6 p.m.	Gerrity	M-F	Step aerobics
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.	Annex	M-F	Step aerobics
9:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Annex	Saturday	Step aerobics
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	B-3705	M-W	Kickboxing aerobics

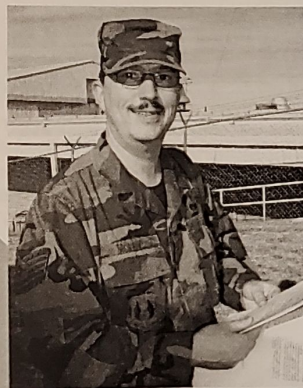


# Updlose

Photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida

The following was asked of members of the 507th ARW:

**"Any ideas how the unit can help Reserve members meet the new physical readiness challenges of our warrior culture?"**



**Tech. Sgt. Richard Malloy**  
507th CLSS

"Education; give us some pointers on what we can do on our own time, and an hour or two of gym time to measure our progress."



**Tech. Sgt. Thomas Bailey**  
507th AMXS

"Create some kind of competition to get people to get started."



**Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte Epps**  
507th MSF

"Offer group activities after the UTA; stress that fitness is an individual's responsibility."



**TSgt. Vivian Bailey**  
507th MOF

"The unit can offer to help reservists set up a fitness plan, and offer some time during the UTA."



**Master. Sgt. Debora Malone**  
507th MOF

"Offer some kind of voluntary exercises, games, competitions every Saturday mornings."

## Readership survey on-line, opinions sought

Unit reservists have an opportunity to provide their opinions and comments regarding *On-final* magazine through an automated, on-line survey software program.

The automate software program created replaces traditional newspaper survey techniques while providing immediate feedback of tabulated results.

According to Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch, 507th ARW Public Affairs NCOIC, "The software program represents a unique advancement to the way we measure how we are doing and how we can help improve unit communications."

Koch said the program was created by Air Force Public Affairs and allows for all Air Force members to grade their own unit or base newspaper by answering about 40 questions. The program keeps track of the responses and compiles them so that each unit newspaper may judge their communications effort.

Sergeant Koch said the survey takes 10 minutes. After accessing the survey link below, members start by selecting their base and then the newspaper name. Members can stop part way through the survey, click a button on the top and "SUBMIT" on the bottom and return later to complete the survey. By adding the button on the top it locks in the info already entered so you won't have to start over from scratch, Koch said. The entire database will be archived every Dec. 31. This will allow bases to run annual surveys. If the same user is still a member of the unit or base, their login information remains the same.

The link to the survey website is [http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey\\_index.htm](http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm).

The link to the stats of the website is <http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/Statistics.htm>.

## Unit first sergeant opening available

Applications for the 507th Operation Support Flight's first sergeant position are now being accepted.

An applicant review board will meet from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday during the April drill to make a decision.

The listings below are the minimum qualifications and requirements for application per AFI 36-2113, AFMAN 36-8001, and the 507th SEA criteria:

1. Must be a volunteer for the first sergeant position.
2. A letter of recommendation from current supervisor endorsed by your commander or first sergeant, if commander not available.
3. Resume citing education (military and civilian), community

involvement, self-improvement, leadership and managerial skills.

4. Be a Master Sgt. (E-7) or be eligible for promotion to Master Sgt.

5. Possess an AFSC at the 7-skill level.

6. Be a high school graduate or GED equivalent.

7. Have completed the NCO Academy (residence or correspondence).

8. Possess a minimum aptitude score of 45 ADMIN or 58 GENERAL.

9. Have ability to speak distinctly.

10. Be financially stable.

11. Meet minimum weight and body fat standards. Overall image should exceed minimum standards.

12. Selectee must attend AFRC First Sergeant Academy at earliest possible

date, but no later than one year from date of assignment.

13. Meet a first sergeant's review/interview board made up of the Command Chief Master Sergeant and three first sergeants. The unit commander makes the final decision, but does not sit on the board. Board members should not be assigned to the same unit as the applicant.

14. Applications must be turned into Master Sgt. Robert Enriquez in the 507th Personnel Employment Office, no later than close of business on March 7.

For additional information, call Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Kellington at 734-5286 or Master Sgt. Robert Enriquez at 734-7493.

## Reserve flag football team wins base championship

Congratulations to the Tinker AFB Air Force Reserve flag football team for defeating Navy 6-0 last night to win the base championship. It was the first time a Reserve team on Tinker has EVER played for a major sports title on base, and the first Reserve championship team.

The best finish prior to this season in football was third place, and the campus softball teams have finished third twice in recent years.

Ralph "Hawk" Hawkins, head coach  
Brian Finley, Offensive coordinator  
Jim Matthey, Defensive coordinator

Other team players include: Ken Sarsycki, Anthony Lee, Joe Brown, Shane Lightfoot, Bob Atkins, Bob Cameron, Tim "Torch" Loucks, Rashmi "Rush" Patel, Andy Clarke, Tim "T.J." Milliken, Joe "Black Cloud" Huizar, Wes Updegraff, and Scott Wilson.



# 2004 Drill Pay Chart

## 2004 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

### Years of Service

	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-7	858.76	898.64	917.12	931.80	958.32	984.56	1,014.92	1,045.20	1,075.56	1,170.92	1,251.48	1,251.48	1,251.48	1,251.48	1,257.80
O-6	636.48	699.24	745.12	745.12	747.96	780.00	784.28	784.28	828.84	907.64	953.88	1,000.12	1,026.44	1,053.04	1,104.72
O-5	530.60	597.72	639.12	646.88	672.64	688.16	722.12	747.04	779.20	828.48	851.96	875.12	901.44	901.44	901.44
O-4	457.80	529.96	565.32	573.20	606.04	641.24	685.04	719.20	742.88	756.48	764.40	764.40	764.40	764.40	764.40
O-3	402.52	456.32	492.52	536.96	562.68	590.88	609.16	639.24	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84	654.84
O-2	347.76	396.08	456.20	471.60	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.32	481.27	481.27	481.27	481.27	481.27
O-1	301.92	314.20	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80	379.80
O-3E	0	0	0	536.96	562.68	590.88	609.16	639.24	664.56	679.04	698.84	0	0	0	0
O-2E	0	0	0	471.60	481.32	496.64	522.48	542.48	557.36	557.36	557.36	0	0	0	0
O-1E	0	0	0	379.80	405.64	420.60	435.92	450.96	471.60	471.60	471.60	0	0	0	0
E-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	502.56	513.96	528.32	545.24	562.20	589.48	612.56	636.88	673.96
E-8	0	0	0	0	0	411.40	429.60	440.84	454.36	469.00	495.40	508.76	531.52	544.16	575.24
E-7	286.00	312.16	324.08	339.96	352.28	373.52	385.48	397.36	418.64	429.28	439.40	445.56	466.40	479.88	514.00
E-6	247.40	272.16	284.16	295.84	308.00	335.48	346.16	358.04	368.44	372.12	374.64	374.64	374.64	374.64	374.64
E-5	226.68	241.80	253.48	265.48	284.08	300.12	311.96	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72	315.72
E-4	207.76	218.44	230.24	241.88	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20	252.20
E-3	187.60	199.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40	211.40
E-2	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36	178.36

## On-final R-News

### Special February Blood Drive

Donate blood between Feb. 8 and 13 and you're automatically in a drawing to win a Saturn Ion from Bob Moore, according to the Oklahoma Blood Institute. The drawing will be held on Saturday the 14th and the winner will be notified by phone on that day.

The times for this special drive will be Sunday of the February UTA only from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The next blood drive will be held during the April UTA.

### Paper CLEP tests coming online

The College Level Examination Program, a popular route for many servicemembers seeking degrees, will introduce 14 new paper tests in April. The test material will be based on computer versions of CLEP exams being administered at national test centers located on college and university campuses.

CLEP tests offer servicemembers

a chance to earn up to 30 semester hours' credit toward a bachelor's degree. The exams, widely accepted by colleges and universities, cover material taught in most college freshman and sophomore courses.

For more information about CLEP tests and the nearest national test center, visit [www.collegeboard.com/clep/](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep/) or go to [www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/examinations/CLEP.htm](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/CLEP.htm).

### Officials prohibit war trophies

Servicemembers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are prohibited from taking to the United States any items that were formerly in the possession of the enemy. With about 140,000 American servicemembers scheduled to rotate out of Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command officials said servicemembers cannot bring home weapons, ammunition or other prohibited items. Under no circumstances can individuals take as a souvenir an object that was formerly in the enemy's possession. While in Iraq, unit commanders will brief servicemembers on the policy before leaving the AOR.

## 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