

# On-final



August 2004

Vol. 24, No. 8

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



**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 MSG  
Commander's Column**

By Col. Robert R. Colyer

**Let's take care of our airmen**

Standby for change! In our recent past, we in AFRC enjoyed the benefit of a large standing active duty Air Force to supply us with well trained, motivated, and mature NCO's, Airmen and officers. These folks came to us able to go right out to the flightline, into the office, and TDY at a moments notice. Our "newcomers" in those days required little training and less supervision. They even had uniforms! Our officers and NCO's had a relatively easy job in supervising these "new" members.

So what's changed? As everyone is aware, the active duty Air Force is greatly pared down from the larger numbers of personnel that it once enjoyed. So, that means less people being discharged who might want to join the reserve. In addition, many of those active duty members spent a good deal of time deployed and, while deployed, noticed that the Reserve forces were standing shoulder to shoulder with them doing the same job. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that joining the reserve might mean serving occasionally in far off places. As they are being discharged, they might reason that any possibility of deployment or activation is not appealing. Those who do decide to join our ranks are worth our every effort to support their career decision.

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

By Chaplain (Capt.) Dwight L. Magnus  
**Overcoming obstacles**

A 10-year-old boy decided to study judo, despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," the boy finally said, "shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but trusting his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first three matches.

In the finals, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be over-matched. Concerned the boy might get hurt, the referee

If you stop by the newcomers briefing on any UTA it might strike you that our incoming members are getting younger and less experienced. Many of them are "off the street" as we say. We are sending more and more airmen to basic training and tech school. These folks don't know what "TDY" means. They have never worn a uniform, never had a credit card, never had a job or answered to a supervisor other than their parents.

What this means to us, and we better take note, is that our NCO's and officers have a bigger job ahead of them. We need meaningful training in place to develop these people during UTA's. We need to find additional training opportunities that we have never had to worry about before. The level of training needs to be adjusted to folks with little experience. When was the last time we worried about the minimum drinking age while TDY? We better start thinking about it now. Our folks are getting younger. When planning a TDY we need to consider sending a senior leader to watch over our new airmen to help them stay on the path and avoid potential pitfalls they might encounter. Maybe a first sergeant would fill this role.

Without a doubt these new folks bring an added dimension to our program, but is it all bad? These members also bring energy, enthusiasm, new ideas with no preconceived notions about how a project has always been done. We need to harness some of their energy and ideas to improve our programs. Their wide eyed enthusiasm and ambition can be contagious if you let it be.

called a time-out. The sensei insisted that the boy continue.

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: He dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament.

On the way home, the boy and the sensei reviewed every move in each match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength.

**UTA Services**

No Saturday Lunchtime Service  
Sunday Protestant Service (7:30)  
Sermon: A Soldier's Faith Luke 7:1-10  
Catholic Mass (7:30) in OG Conf Room (Bldg 1066)

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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**



Civil Engineers construct a gymnasium on Indian Territory last May. See story on page 12.

(Photo by MSgt. George Stiltner)



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507th AIR REFUELING WING  
and  
513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



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

## 507th ARW plays role in AF future

By Maj. Rich Curry  
507th ARW Public Affairs

Maintaining aircraft operational readiness and performing daily mission flying requirements can be enough to keep any KC-135 Stratotanker unit busy.

But as any realtor will tell you, sometimes it's a matter of location, location, location.

For the 507th Air Refueling Wing, being located at Tinker Air Force Base with the Air Force's primary depot center for the C-135 fleet, sometimes brings the opportunity to provide an occasional assist to the entire tanker fleet.

Such was the case earlier this month as civilian contractors took a quick tour of a unit tanker to gather data needed for the next generation of unmanned aerial vehicle.

UAVs, such as the Predator and Global Hawk, have met with successes during Operation IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM, but limitations such as the lack of air refueling capabilities limits their available patrol time.

While perhaps still a decade away, contractors examined the tanker's electrical and global positioning system interface to explore designing a communication platform for Air Force refueling aircraft that would eventually enable direct communication with UAV pilots and afford UAV air refueling capability.

According to contractors present, the goal of any future proposal to the Air Force would be to keep prices down with off-the-shelf technology while avoiding "drilling new holes in the aircraft."

While not involved in actual test flight operations, the 507th ARW has supported several depot repair projects over the years, affording depot teams the opportunity to conduct final time-compliance technical order instructional testing for fleet modifications prior to the TCTOs



Government contractors take a quick look at the electrical panel in a unit aircraft as part of a fact-finding research effort.

going out to the field units.

"We can't stop our regular maintenance and flying activities but we do try to accommodate all requests for support from the KC-135 SPO based on our aircraft and technician availability," said SMSgt. Robert Erickson of the 507th Maintenance Group's Quality Assurance Office. "This has a distinct advantage in that, by providing support we sometimes get first hand knowledge of some of the initiatives that the SPO is working

that impact the entire KC-135 fleet."

Previously, since the summer of 2003, the 507th supported seven other projects including TCTO kit proofing for a new radome installation, supported TCTO kit proofing for enhanced C/KC-135 Global Positioning System and Instrument Navigation System software, and a trial installation of a new KC-135 elevator tab assembly.



Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley's wife, Jan, pin three-star rank on the general during a Pentagon pinning-on ceremony June 30. Looking on is the Bradleys' daughter, Leigh Ann, a graduate student at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. Before the ceremony, General Bradley received the Defense Superior Service Medal for his work as the assistant to the chairman of the JCS for Reserve Matters from December 2002 to June 24. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Mickey Sanborn)

## General Bradley commands AFRC

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – The Senate confirmed Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley as chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command and appointed him to the rank of lieutenant general recently.

The former assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., the general was nominated for the dual-hat position by the president in May.

General Bradley replaced Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, who retired effective June 1, as chief of Air Force Reserve. Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., AFRC vice commander, served as commander from June 1 to June 24.

As chief of Air Force Reserve, General Bradley is a member of the Air Staff and principal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff on Reserve matters. As AFRC commander, he is responsible for the supervision of all Air Force Reserve units around the world. Air Force Reserve Command has about 75,800 reservists who play an integral role in our national defense and are vital to the effectiveness of our military in combat.

"I am truly honored to be named chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command," said General Bradley, who was deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve in the Pentagon from February 1993 to February 1998. "With great pride I accept command of the outstanding men and women of AFRC. They are performing superbly, defending America and fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

"Our talented and dedicated Air Force reservists have faced many new challenges since September 11th," General Bradley said. "Many of them have been mobilized and separated from their families, enduring hardships not normally as-

sociated with traditional reservists' duties. They are an inspiration to us all."

General Bradley said he looks forward to visiting with as many reservists as he can, seeing firsthand how they are performing their assigned duties.

"By meeting with our reservists, I will be able to better understand their capabilities, needs and concerns, which are critical to maintaining a strong, combat-ready force," he said.

Before working for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, General Bradley was deputy commander of Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations, U.S. Space Command, Arlington, Va., from March 2002 to December 2002.

He commanded the Air Force Reserve's 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, from February 1998 to March 2002. In that capacity, he was responsible for the command's fighter, bomber, special operations, combat search and rescue, pilot training, and space operations.

General Bradley also has commanded a fighter training squadron, fighter group and fighter wing. He is a command pilot with more than 6,800 flying hours in T-38, A-37, A-10, F-4 and F-16 aircraft. As a fighter pilot, he flew 337 combat missions in Vietnam.

Born in Lebanon, Tenn., he received his commission in 1967 after completing the Air Force ROTC program as a distinguished graduate at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. General Bradley is married to the former Jan Underwood of Decatur, Ala. They have one daughter Leigh Ann, a graduate student at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. (AFRC News Service)



A mix of traditional civilian employees and ARTS who were not activated last year recently received Civilian Achievement Awards last month during a Wing Civilian Commander's Call. The CAA is similar to the Air Force Achievement Award and becomes part of their civilian personnel brief.

## Maintenance civilian employees recognized

By Maj. Rich Curry  
507th ARW Public Affairs

Forty-five civilian employees with the 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group received Air Force Civilian Achievement Awards (CAA) during a Civilian All Hands held last month.

The CAA is presented to recognize an individual or group for clearly outstanding service for a single or specific act or accomplishment in support of a unit's mission or goals. The CAA follows the Exemplary Civilian Service Award in precedence and is considered the civilian equivalent to the Air Force Achievement Medal.

During the award period, the maintenance team supported the effort to successfully deploy all tasked personnel, aircraft, and associated equipment overseas in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM within five days after activation. The Maintenance Group generated an additional aircraft and personnel to the same overseas location two weeks after the initial deployment with only a 24-hour notice. The Group generated additional aircraft, personnel, and equipment for a follow-on tasking to Moron Air Base, Spain, sustaining the global war on terrorism.

Despite a personnel and equipment shortage, the Group executed ongoing Operation NOBLE EAGLE missions, including aerial refueling of Combat Air Patrols, by hosting six aircraft and related crews from other Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and active duty wings. These taskings required an intensive effort for maintaining a 24-hour Alpha and Charlie alert operation on three separate occasions, twice over holiday weekends. The Group's exceptional maintainers endured six tanker aircraft each flew five-hour sorties per day for six days, providing priority support to far-reaching home-

land defense missions.

All unit aircraft redeploying from overseas were restored to full flying capabilities within two weeks of their return to home station after meeting the challenges of deferred maintenance discrepancies and significant corrosion; a monumental accomplishment since the redeployed maintenance personnel were on compensatory leave. All facets of repatriating airframes and personnel were conducted with enthusiasm and pride.

The Group achieved this by employing innovative work schedules, incorporating rigorous cross training, and utilizing maintenance allocations from other squadrons to create a cohesive maintenance team.

The Group participated in supporting aircraft static displays for tours by civic leaders, congressional representatives, general officers, and other distinguished visitors as well as activities to foster morale, cohesiveness, and unit pride.

Dedicated to family support, the Group quickly responded to the devastation left by a tornado on May 8, 2003 by contacting families and forming a volunteer team which provided many hours, equipment, vehicles, and a motivational attitude to assess and restore the damaged property of deployed personnel and their families.

The expertise and abilities of the maintenance team is recognized and valued throughout the wing making them an asset to the command and the Air Force.

Each award recipient received a silver colored medal bearing the Air Force coat of arms within a wreath of laurel leaves, an ultramarine blue ribbon with eight silver gray stripes as well as a miniature medal, silver lapel emblem along with the award certificate.

"Readiness Is OUR er One Priority"

AUGUST 2004

## Rules Restrict Political Activity for DOD People

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind service members and Defense Department civilians that they are subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DOD's general counsel's standards of conduct office, said intimidated many southerners into not voting.

Today, Mr. Epstein said two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DOD directive for active-duty service members and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

That is not to imply that they cannot participate in politics. Mr. Epstein said DOD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to urge others to vote. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues — but only if they do not do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of restrictions differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty service member, a rank-and-file civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career senior executive service, Mr. Epstein said.

Of all DOD employees, uniformed service members have

the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most civil service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, service members as well as government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies. Service members can attend only as spectators and not in uniform. They are not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Service members generally are not permitted to campaign for a political office. Civilian employees are, as long as it is a nonpartisan election.

While the restrictions concerning political activity may vary, Mr. Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DOD workers. They cannot use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle or while wearing an official uniform.

More details about restrictions on DOD military and civilian employees' political activities are posted on the DOD Web site.

## Finance Agency Opens New Reserve Pay Center

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Defense Department's new Reserve Pay Center of Excellence has officially opened for business.

The operation, part of Defense Finance and Accounting Service, will further improve service "to the men and women who defend America," according to a DFAS news release. It will offer "better productivity" to a "key military customer group."

The move centralizes payroll activities for all Army and Air Force National Guard and Reserve elements, as well as the Naval Reserve, in Cleveland. DFAS officials said they expect "significant" productivity gains from running these operations from an established, centralized pay-support site.

"DFAS is constantly striving to improve the way it serves its customers," said Pat Shine, director of the agency's military and civilian pay services business line. "The Reserve

Pay Center of Excellence will make us even more responsive to the needs of a critical component of America's defense — the Reserve and Guard."

According to the release, centralized pay and customer-service operations began for the Air Force Reserve in May. The Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Army National Guard accounts will follow. The Cleveland center already had been servicing the Naval Reserve before the consolidation.

The new center's stand-up did not cause any job losses. Workers at the Denver center who handled Guard and Reserve accounts "have been reassigned to other high-priority military pay tasks," noted the release. And "no loss of jobs will occur" when Army Guard and Reserve functions move from Indianapolis. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

AUGUST 2004

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



### 513th ACG Commander's Column By Col. Gregory "Farb" Phillips

#### Family Life—AWACS Style

For those of you who may not know, I'm a firm advocate for family and the need to balance our lives between our professional demands and the expectations of our loved ones. It can be a challenge for us to find that stable middle ground, but the rewards are well worth the effort.

The AWACS community is a small, tight-knit world where the skills and expertise of its members are always in demand. As the Eyes of the Eagle, we can see approaching threats from great distances and sound the alarm to our nation's defenders. The never-knowing of these threats, however, can wear us down over time. This is just one reason why it is important for us to spend the time we have with our loved ones wisely; they help ground us with the motivations and reasons for why we serve.

Records show that the 513 Air Control Group has reason to celebrate many victories. No one can deny that two years took their toll on our family ties, but we're all making up for lost time. I'd like to think that we're becoming stronger in the process. A two-year activation is an exception for an Air Force Reserve unit—out of hundreds only two other AFRC

organizations were activated for as long. But where did we really draw our strength? Our families. So now it is time for us to give back to them.

So now we need to enjoy the events of our lives together. A spouse who graduates from college or lands a great job. A child who finally found the perfect sport that reflects their wants and needs. An elderly parent who finally gets the retirement they've worked years to achieve. It may seem like just words, but your decision to serve your country really does preserve the American way of life—we are here because we believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our families gain and prosper because people like you serve.

We lead by example. We serve out of compassion. We live in pride. None of this would be possible without the axis our families provide for our respective worlds to revolve around. Since September 11, several programs have been established to recognize our families. If you can imagine the pride when they see you in your uniform, imagine more the pride they'd feel for receiving a recognition pin or a certificate thanking them for supporting you. They were there with you in the E-3 over the skies of the Middle East and alongside you on flightlines the world over. They also served.

I can only offer you my thanks for your decision to serve, but I encourage you to thank your family as well for allowing you to serve. No one will be able to thank them as well as you can.

## 513<sup>th</sup> Maintenance gets the job done

By Maj. Rich Curry  
507th ARW Public Affairs

Having the right team for the right job is exactly what Air Force planners envisioned when the 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group was first established in 1996.

A recent example of that vision bearing out came recently as a blended maintenance team of active duty 552<sup>nd</sup> Air Control Wing and 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group members headed out to Shaw AFB, S.C., in support of a Combined Joint Task Force Exercise dubbed Operation Blinding Storm.

A U.S. Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) directed and sponsored event, the two-week operational event held in June tested both participants and DoD's Joint National Training Capability.

The 25-member blended maintenance team led by Air Force Reservists Capt. Walter Jacques, 513<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Officer and SMSgt. Larry LeTarte (who served as one of two lead Production Supervisors for the trip).

According to Capt. Jacques, "Our mission was to generate eight (8) E-3 Sentry sorties for the exercise, and we gener-

ated all eight. We cut it close, though, because on one down day we came in to find the aircraft batteries drained. With no spare batteries in the kits and no on-site charging capabilities, things weren't looking good.

"We tried countless options to get good batteries for the next mission without success. Fortunately, there was a pilot training sortie out of Tinker that night, so we had that crew load up a set of batteries and a couple of other spare parts from Sentry Control Point and divert the mission to Shaw. We got the batteries about 11:30 p.m. that night, and had an on-time launch in the morning. It was definitely one of those "improvise and overcome" occasions where teamwork makes it all happen."

Elements of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Special Operations, as well as forces from other countries participated in Combined Joint Task Force Exercise.

A key part of the Department of Defense's efforts to transform military training, JNTC represents a global network of joint training facilitators composed of live, virtual and con-

(Continued on page 10)

#### 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 Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and 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 Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and 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 Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and 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 FY 05.

#### FAMILY CARE

If you need to be on the 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 Summaries** - Point Summaries can also be viewed and printed.
- 3. Record Review RIPS** - You will now be notified via e-mail, on your birthday, to log on 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. (Apr, Jul, Oct, Jan)

#### FY2004/2005 UTA SCHEDULE

11-12 Sep 04	30-31 Oct 04
20-21 Nov 04	04-05 Dec 04
08-09 Jan 05	05-06 Feb 05
05-06 Mar 05	02-03 Apr 05
14-15 May 05	04-05 Jun 05

As of 7 August 2004

**Fri, 06 Aug 2004**

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	513th ACG Auditorium
1600	Top 3 Executive Board Mtg	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

**Sat, 07 Aug 2004**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
<b>0730-0930</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1030, Room 214</b>
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
0900-1000	6 Month Contact Mtg	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1000-1130	Unit Career Advisors Mtg	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
<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
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

**Sun, 08 Aug 2004**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Auditorium</b>
<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Catholic Mass</b>	<b>Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room</b>
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1043
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	Safety Council/Unit Rep Trng	Bldg 1030, Room 104
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1100-1300	HRDC Workshop	513th ACG
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
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

**Fri, 10 September 2004**

1300	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg	To Be Determined
1430	Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg	513th ACG Auditorium
1600	Top 3 Executive Board Mtg	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

**Sat, 11 September 2004**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
<b>0730-0930</b>	<b>Computer Based Testing</b>	<b>Bldg 1030, Room 214</b>
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	6 Month Contact Mtg	To Be Determined
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1000-1130	Unit Career Advisors Mtg	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting	To Be Determined
<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	To Be Determined
1400-1500	Training Managers Mtg	To Be Determined
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

**Sun, 12 September 2004**

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Protestant Chapel Service</b>	<b>513th ACG Auditorium</b>
<b>0730-0800</b>	<b>Catholic Mass</b>	<b>Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm</b>
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
<b>0750-1115</b>	<b>CDC/PME Course Exams</b>	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	Supvr. Safety Training	Bldg 1030, Room 104
0830-0930	Enlisted Advisory Council	To Be Determined
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	To Be Determined
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](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 Receive Direct  
pay by: Deposit by:

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

03 Aug	11 Aug
05 Aug	13 Aug
10 Aug	18 Aug
12 Aug	20 Aug
17 Aug	25 Aug
19 Aug	27 Aug
23 Aug	1 Sep
26 Aug	3 Sep
31 Aug	8 Sep
2 Sep	10 Sep

**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
Saturday	1530-1600	Family Support Services	DPAF
		<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

**BAQ Recertification Deadlines**

If Last Digit of SSAN is: Then Forward Listing to Unit Commander in: Recertification due in by end of month in:

1	November	January
2	December	February
3	January	March
4	February	April
5	March	May
6	April	June
7	May	July
8	June	August
9	July	September
0	August	October

**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:**

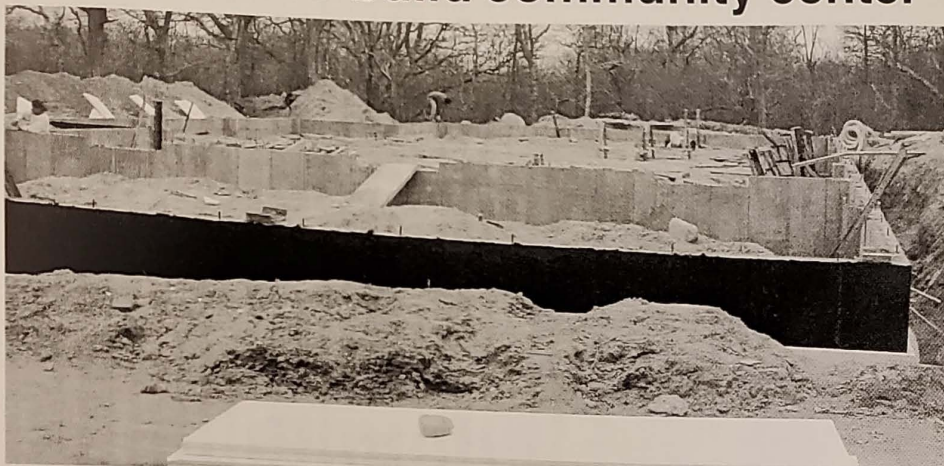
Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical Warfare Training, by name, at least one UTA prior to the requested dates by calling CEX at 734-5249. All personnel must bring a complete training ground crew ensemble (GCE) including the mask and its hood to all classes. Those attending Initial must be prepared 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: CMSgt. Charlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)  
 Assistant Editor: TSgt. Sharon Lochman, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)  
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 TSgt. Jimmy Talley, Education and Training Advisor  
 SSgt. Jeremy Hudson, Education and Training Advisor  
 Mr. John Baker, Education and Testing Services Advisor

## CE members build community center



Appearance of the site upon the arrival of the ADVON team. The foundation has been poured and awaits building construction.

By Maj. Rich Curry  
507 ARW Public Affairs

Maintaining peak skill proficiency is a challenging task when you are a civil engineer.

During combat operations, engineers are challenged with the job of keeping airfield and infrastructure in constant operational status. In humanitarian, or nation building operations, civil engineers have the daunting task of creating or restoring basic services people typically take for granted.

Both environments require being well-skilled in both basic construction techniques as well as dealing with events outside the norm.

When the opportunity arose to support a native American community this spring, more than 40 members of the 507<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, strapped on their tool belts.

During two, two-week annual tour rotations the engineers traveled to

Aquinnah, Mass., on the island of Martha's Vineyard to construct a 6500 square foot community center on Wampanoag Indian Tribal land.

According to 507<sup>th</sup> CE Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Renee Lane, the project consisted of constructing a gymnasium, a meeting room, a kitchen, mechanical room and two bathroom/locker rooms.

"Our goal was to provide valuable training for AFRC personnel while saving the Wampanoag Tribe a large amount of money due to the high cost of construction on the island," Colonel Lane said. The 507<sup>th</sup> teams were followed by members from the 908<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron from Maxwell AFB, Ala. to finish as much of the construction as possible.

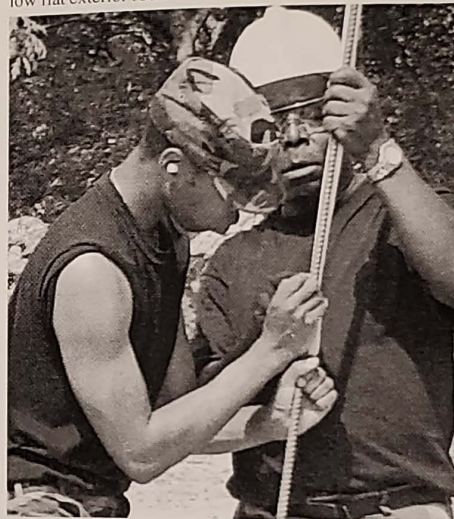
"The training value of this deployment was very high" Colonel Lane said. "Most of our troops had never worked on a steel structure before and had never read a steel manufacturer's shop prints.

Additionally, this steel structure had a few features that were unique and required additional problem-solving skills on the part of the craftsmen and supervisors."

The structures and equipment troops received extensive training during the steel erection while the Utilities and Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning sections received the most training on the plumbing and radiant heat work, Colonel Lane said. She stated the team's electrical section received extensive training on back hole operation and reading blue prints.

"All of our personnel received training on what it takes to be a general contractor and project manager, with many receiving the opportunity to learn skills outside of their primary Air Force skill which could be invaluable on future deployments. It was not uncommon for some of the troops to take floor plans back to their hotel and study them in preparation for the next day's work," she said.

By tour completion the two rotations removed approximately 1000 cubic yards of top soil from the site, assembled 99% of the structural steel package; finished framing 90% of the lower exterior walls; completed under slab plumbing rough in for 22 fixtures, 5 floor drains, a boiler, and the main water and electrical lines; totally prepared the gymnasium floor for concrete which included laying 4000 square feet of foam insulation and approx 5000 linear feet of in slab radiant floor piping; ran electrical power from the Tribal Headquarters Building to the job site trailer, and started installation on the low flat exterior roof.

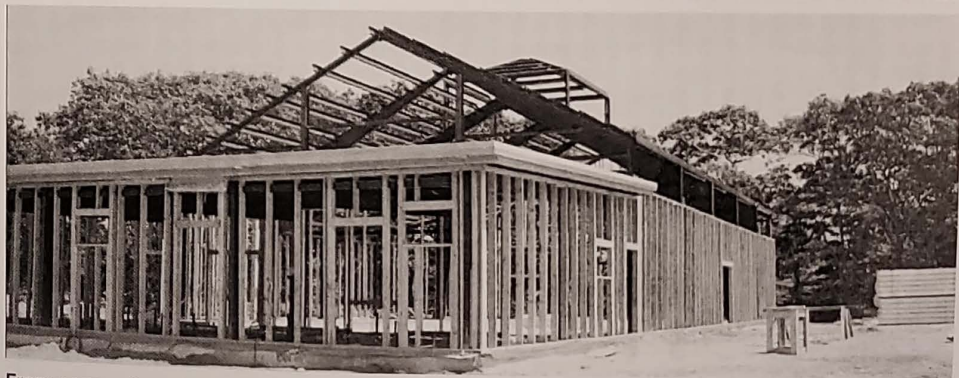


"Our Air Force Reservists built a positive relationship with the Wampanoag Tribal Council and many of the tribal members. Everyone had to remain flexible. Quick planning was a key attribute to the success of this deployment," she said.

As a result of the Reserve Civil Engineering efforts the Wampanoag Tribe will have a community center they can enjoy for years to come. The efforts of the AFRC Civil Engineers saved the tribe \$500,000 in contractor cost and provided the 507<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron unparalleled training opportunities. Next Year the Tribe plans to once again enlist the support of the Innovative Readiness Program (IRT) to construct a health clinic.

Left: SrA Kodi Perry and MSgt. Sampson Djonorh measure out a length of reinforcement bar while below MSgt. Alan Young and another CE member go over the blueprints for the structure. Starting from the ground up, the picture below shows the project work accomplished by the Civil Engineering troops prior to returning to Oklahoma.

U.S. Air Force photos by  
MSgt. George Stiltner



From a ground up start, the building stands after the second unit rotation waiting for a third group from another Reserve unit.

AUGUST 2004

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

PAGE 9



# Air Force Symbol Now Official

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force symbol is now official, four years after the service first applied for trademark protection.

"I'm proud our symbol is now an official part of our heritage," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. "It represents our storied past and links our 21st-century Air Force to our core values and capabilities."

The decision to designate it as the official symbol of the Air Force demonstrates the service's conviction to preserving the symbol's integrity and should ease concerns that the symbol is temporary or remains a test. Trademark protection designates the symbol as exclusive property of the Air Force and gives the service authority to control and enforce its use.

A team of lawyers, public affairs officers, artists and historians are working to expand guidance and standards for the use of the symbol. An official Air Force Instruction is scheduled for release in fiscal 2005.

In the meantime, the intent is to expand use of the symbol today and protect it for the future. Use must be consistent with applicable Air Force instructions and symbol guidelines posted at [www.af.mil/library/symbol/](http://www.af.mil/library/symbol/).

When Air Force officials began testing the symbol in 2001, it appeared on a limited number of base entry signs and water towers and a small number of aircraft and vehicles. Acceptance during the test was so widespread that in 2002, 90 per-

cent of Airmen surveyed thought the symbol was already official.

"Since then, I've seen Airmen wear it, drive it, eat it, carry it, embroider it and even brand it," said Maj. René Stockwell, of the Air Force public affairs national outreach and communications division, who manages the symbol trademark licensing program.



U.S. AIR FORCE

The service is licensing use of the symbol on a variety of commercial goods, from candy and furniture to tires and jewelry, which allows Airmen to display their service pride off duty.

On duty, the symbol is featured on optional military tie tacs, the proposed utility uniform and gray boots, the Air Force lightweight blue jacket and is being showcased in Air Force marketing campaigns.

Airmen and their families can help protect the integrity of the symbol by adhering to the guidelines online, the major said.

They have an implied license to use the Air Force symbol on personal items such as printed materials, food, clothing, literature and briefings. These items must be intended for personal or internal use only, not used for retail sales, advertising or unauthorized endorsements.

structive components (L-V-C). This L-V-C environment works to meld existing operational and strategic facets of the exercise with live forces, creating a more robust and realistic exercise.

During the exercise, live component exercise participants participated in the waters off the U.S. East Coast, while virtual participants joined in via computer networks from sites across the country. Elements of JNTC will ultimately create an environment where every level of training is orchestrated within a joint context, thus providing the highest level of training for seamless future warfighting.

Capt. Jacques continued, "I never cease to be impressed by the dedication of the younger airmen bending wrenches, driving AGE and guarding the jets. Despite the distractions and confusion that the younger troops face in addition to the strange location, operating environment and 3:30 a.m. wake-up calls - and almost all the deployed members were 3-level technicians - we never missed a beat."

## 513th Maintenance gets the job done

(Continued from page 8)

# How to recognize your civilian employer

By Maj. Rich Curry  
507th Public Affairs Office

More Oklahoma Reservists and Guardsmen are stepping forward to recognize their civilian employers with "My Boss is a Patriot" Award certificates offered by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR).

According to officials from Odyssey Imaging Inc., a contracted business supporting ESGR, 342 "Patriot Award" certificates were issued in 2003 to Oklahoma employers and businesses. This compares to 82 certificates requested in 2002.

State ESGR Committee officials agree that the program goes a long way in helping recognize employers.

"Overall, the employers and businesses in Oklahoma really step up to support the military, national defense and their employees who are members of the Guard and Reserve," said Col. (ARNG Ret.) Gary Jackson, Oklahoma ESGR Executive Director. "We've noticed several reserve component units also go the extra distance to make sure they are involved in presenting these certificates by including their command leadership in the event. We can't accomplish our mission without those employers stepping up to the plate so it's a pleasure to see a unit commander taking the time to say, 'Thank you,'" he said. Nationally, Odyssey officials stated the total number of certificates presented has increased from 25,686 in 2002 to 28,570 in 2003.

After opening and entering the ESGR web site, [www.ESGR.org](http://www.esgr.org) <<http://www.esgr.org>>, reservists may select the link for "military members" and then under Programs select, Patriot Award. The form takes only a few minutes to complete and members are encouraged to fill in all blanks to include their assigned unit.

According to State ESGR officials, when a reservist nominates their civilian boss for an award, they begin a process that can produce many beneficial results. First, their nomination goes directly to the NCESGR office in Washington, D.C.

The nomination is processed and a certificate produced which is mailed directly back to the requestor. The National ESGR Committee maintains your nomination for use in determining the top national employer for the year, in conjunction with input from the various states.

The requestor should receive their employer's certificate within 3 to 4 weeks. "We encourage Reservists and Guardsmen to contact their commanders to let them know they have received the certificate and request a military representative to help take part in the actual presentation," Colonel Jackson said. "This gives a more personal focus to the presentation and gives a commander the opportunity to share his personal thanks."

Colonel Jackson added, "But the process doesn't end here. The nomination is also retransmitted to the Oklahoma State Committee for ESGR. The nominations are then reviewed by members of the State awards committee to determine the top Oklahoma employers for the year." Colonel Jackson said that selected employers are eligible to receive a specific Reserve Component award, identified as the Seven Seals Awards. Seven Seals Awards represent each Reserve or Guard component within Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma ESGR Awards committee also selects the top employer for the state from those nominations received. The nominations are judged annually in August and are presented in the fall of each year during a special banquet.

ESGR officials emphasized that, because other state awards are involved besides the certificate, nominators should take a few extra minutes to fill in their own personal stories explaining how their employers support them in the "comments" box of the form.

"People aren't doing this. They're leaving the comments section blank. This makes it hard for us to decide which employer should receive a state-level award for the year. We really don't have anything to go on when that section is empty," Colonel Jackson said.

You can begin this process with just a few minutes of your time. Complete the form and take time to "brag" on your boss.



## Activated Reservists Qualify Faster for Home Loans

By Rudi Williams  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — There has been a dramatic increase in the number of Department of Veterans Affairs home loans to members of the National Guard and reserves in recent years, according to a top VA official.

The number of loans would increase even more if all Guardsmen and reservists knew that being on active duty dramatically reduces the time it takes for them to become eligible for the loans, Keith Pedigo, director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service, said during a recent interview.

He said VA tries to get the word out to all Guardsmen and reservists, but it's difficult to reach all of them because they're spread out across the country.

"I would guess that many of them are not aware of the requirements for a home loan," Mr. Pedigo said. "However, I would expect that those who are interested in buying a home would go to the trouble to find out exactly what it takes to use the home-loan benefit."

Normally, Guardsmen and reservists have to serve six years before becoming eligible for a VA home loan, Mr. Pedigo noted. But, he said, that requirement changes dramatically when they're called to active duty during wartime.

"They're then subject to the same eligibility requirements as a regular active-duty service member," he said. "During wartime, you only have to serve for 90 days to become eligible for a VA home loan."

Those who are discharged with a service-connected disability with less than 90 days are also eligible, he said.

During peacetime, the eligibility requirement is 181 days of continuous active duty with an honorable discharge. Eligibility is also granted to those who

are discharged with a service-connected disability with less than 181 days service.

Mr. Pedigo noted the VA is making "more and more" loan guarantees for Guardsmen and reservists, and officials expect that number to continue to climb.

"We try to promote this benefit to the reserves and National Guard through various means," he said. Currently, about 3.5 percent of VA-backed loans are made to those who qualified based on National Guard or reserve service, he said.

There are some differences in the basic eligibility requirements between home loans for active-duty and reserve-component troops, Mr. Pedigo noted.

He said the best way for Guardsmen and reservists to find out if they qualify for a home loan is to submit an application for a certificate of eligibility to one of the two VA Eligibility Centers. The center in Winston-Salem, N.C., handles states east of the Mississippi River. The Los Angeles center handles states west of the Mississippi.

"They should submit the application along with a copy of their service record," Mr. Pedigo said. The certificate of eligibility proves eligibility for the home-loan benefit.

Another difference between the reserve-component and active-duty benefit is in the amount of fees paid — reservists pay a slightly higher fee, he noted.



The fee consists of a certain percentage of the loan amount: 2.75 percent for National Guard and reserve members, 2 percent for others. These percentages can be lowered with down payments of 5 percent or 10 percent.

The fee doesn't have to come out of the service member's pocket, Mr. Pedigo added. It can be included in the loan amount.

"So if you don't have the cash, that's not a problem," he said.

There are also minor changes to the program during wartime. For instance, reserve-component troops are eligible to benefit from the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, which affords certain financial benefits.

Under the act, active-duty service members can get a reduction in the interest rate on their consumer credit obligations, including mortgages, Mr. Pedigo said.

Activated Guardsmen and reservists "can get a stay on an impending foreclosure and have an opportunity to wait until they're discharged in order to get back on their feet financially," he said.

Mr. Pedigo said financial institutions are more sympathetic to Guardsmen and reservists during wartime.

"We have a very active outreach program with the mortgage-lending community, as well as the real estate profession," he said, noting that about 5,000 mortgage bankers and other financial institutions participate in the VA home-loan program.

VA encourages financial institutions across the country to participate in the home-loan program.

"Real estate sales professionals are often the first point of contact with veterans or (service members) who are interested in buying a home," Mr. Pedigo said. "We want to make sure that the

(Continued on next page)

## Awareness critical to Breast Cancer detection

By Maj. Virginia Harris  
507th ARW Medical Squadron

All women can get breast cancer, even women with no family history of the disease. The two most important factors for breast cancer are being a woman and growing older. The earlier the detection, the smaller the cancer, and the less likely the cancer has spread. Early detection increases your chance for survival.

A self-breast exam could save your life. Most lumps are found by women themselves. When you get to know how your own breasts normally feel, you will be able to notice any changes. It is important to see your provider for any lumps, bumps, or thickening that feel abnormal. The majority of breast lumps are not cancerous. By seeking immediate follow-up with your provider, you will be able to ease your concern or begin prompt, possibly lifesaving, treatment.

Every woman should take the following early detection steps:

1. Breast self-examination (BSE).

Once you reach puberty, you should examine your breasts visually and manually every month.

2. Provider examination. Your provider should perform a complete breast exam at least once a year, possibly more depending on personal and family history.

3. Mammogram. Even if you have no symptoms, routine mammogram are essential because they can detect things that cannot be felt. The general consensus is that women between the ages 40-49 should have a mammogram every one to two years, depending on risk factors. Women over 50 should have a mammogram every year.

The following factors have associated with breast cancer, some more strongly than others.

- Family history— a mother or sister who had breast cancer
- Personal history of breast cancer
- Advanced age
- Overweight
- High-fat diet
- Early menstruation

- Late menopause
- Prolonged use of estrogen
- Late childbearing or no children

Keep in mind that many cases of breast cancer occur in women with no risk factors, and many women with high risk factors never develop breast cancer. Women should discuss their personal history and habits with their physician and be alert to warning signs. Those with one or more risk factors should be even more vigilant. You can help reduce your chances of developing breast cancer by engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight and limiting alcohol intake.

Remember finding breast cancer early is the key to successful treatment. Knowledge about early detection reduces fear and puts you in control of your health. For information about breast cancer and early detection, visit the American Cancer Society website at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). *Material was referenced from Baylor College Of Medicine, Office of Health Promotion, and American Cancer Society.*

## Quicker VA Home Loans available to Reservists

(From previous page)

lenders are aware of the numerous aspects of our program. Then they can promote this to the service member or veteran with accurate information."

Mr. Pedigo was named director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service in 1987. He said he believes the VA home-loan program has two responsibilities.

"One is to make sure that veterans and active-duty service members have the opportunity to use their home-loan benefit," he said. "But also, we consider it to be a serious responsibility for us to make sure that they have an opportunity to stay in that home if they encounter temporary financial difficulty."

VA has large staffs at nine Regional

Loan Centers around the country that are actively involved in assisting veterans who have fallen behind on their loan payments, he noted.

"We make an effort to intercede on their behalf with the lending institution to set up repayment plans," Mr. Pedigo said. "When there's no way to avoid foreclosure, we continue to work with the veteran and active-duty service member to try to find the least costly way of terminating that loan transaction."

"So once the loan is made to the veteran, we don't consider that our responsibility is ended. We consider that we have to try to help that veteran stay in the home and assist them in any way we can."

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the VA home-loan program, which was created in 1944 Serviceman's Readjustment Act. VA has made 17.7 million loans to veterans.

"We've made mortgage money available to the amount of \$138 billion during that 60-year period," Mr. Pedigo said. "The vast majority of those loans have been made without a down payment."

He said the VA is unique in that regard in the mortgage industry.

"Veterans need to be aware that they don't need the cash on hand that non-veterans might need to buy a home," he added.

# Uprose

By Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida

The following question was asked of members of the 507th ARW during M-16 weapons qualification testing last month:  
"What are you doing?"



**Staff Sgt. Robert Hannabass**  
507th MXS

"I was just issued my weapon and now I'm heading to the range."



**Tech. Sgt. Mark Mansfield**  
507th CES

"Once I get this hearing protection on, we'll start firing to zero our weapons."



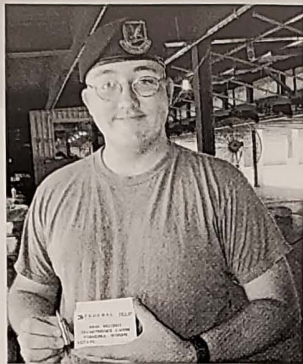
**Master Sgt. Lisa Lusignolo**  
507th CLSS

"Time to breakdown the weapon and clean it."



**Master Sgt. Malada Mouse**  
507th CES

"I chillin. The range instructors are counting our hits on target."



**Staff Sgt. James Courtney**  
507th SF

"I'm distributing the new frangible ammo at the shooting positions for the M-16 AFQT."



**Master Sgt. Tim Parker**  
507th CLSS

"I'm low and to the right in my grouping."

## Government Enforcing Reservists' Job Rights

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Several government agencies are working together to aggressively defend the reemployment rights of reserve-component service members.

Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, reserve and National Guard troops cannot lose their jobs or their benefits due to military service.

In other words, reservists and Guardsmen who are deployed are guaranteed their previous civilian jobs or similar jobs with the same level of benefits when they return. Employers who fail to comply are in violation of federal law and can be sued by the U.S. government.

U.S. Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch is charged with prosecuting federal agencies that fail to comply with the tenets of USERRA. Mr. Bloch visited the Pentagon July 8 to pledge his vigilance in these duties. He signed a statement of support for the Guard and reserves on behalf of federal employers.

Leaders of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs spoke at the ceremony.

Assistant Defense Secretary for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall compared the overwhelming support for today's troops with his own days as a sailor during the Vietnam era. Mr. Hall said that in 21 months in his current position, he has had the opportunity to speak to at least 120,000 people around the country and abroad.

"Everywhere I go, I find a different spirit than perhaps existed in my younger years in the Navy. ... Controversy rocked the country, and many of our young men and women who came back from Vietnam ... weren't welcomed," Mr. Hall said.

"But what is not lacking today," he continued, "is support from the rank and file, from the businesses and from the community."

ESGR's national director, Bob G. Hollingsworth, told those gathered, "America's employers have rallied around (the troops) in an incredible way." The employers realize "they are inextricably linked to the national defense of our nation," he said.

Mr. Hall explained in an interview that employers of reserve-component troops are vital to the future of the National Guard and reserves, and thus America's interests. "It's very key to young men and women having the confidence and their families having the confidence that when they go off to answer the call to colors, when they return they will have a job

waiting for them," he said.

Mr. Bloch is especially committed to serving as an advocate for service members because his son, 19-year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Bloch, is preparing to leave his home base of Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., for a second rotation in Iraq.

"As a member of the administration, I support USERRA," Mr. Bloch said before signing the statement of support. "But I also support it as a citizen and as a father of an active-duty Marine.

"Our commitment ... is the least that we can do to send a message to our wonderfully brave, talented and committed members of the military that we do support them and we do understand the sacrifices they're making," he said.



Mr. Bloch's organization, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, recently brought a suit against a federal agency with the Merit Systems Protection Board on behalf of a reserve military member. He didn't say which agency, but noted this is the first time a federal agency has been sued under the provisions of USERRA.

USERRA suits against civilian employers are brought by the Justice Department, but even those are rare. Mr. Bloch estimated roughly eight cases are referred to the Justice Department each year. Of those, perhaps five are litigated, he said.

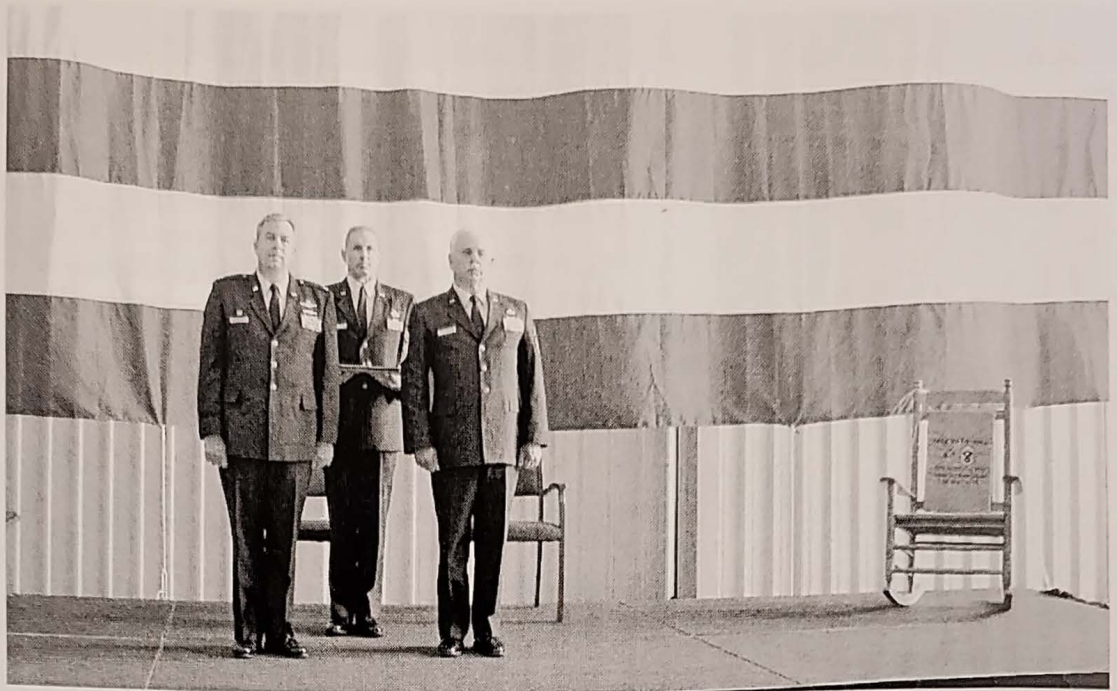
With 1.2 million reserve-component service members in the U.S. military, that shows a very low percentage of cases aren't resolved at the lowest levels, he said.

Mr. Hall explained that ESGR has 4,200 volunteers who work to educate employers throughout the country. Points of contact are posted prominently in all Guard and reserve centers, and the names and numbers of state representatives are available on the organization's Web site.

In most cases, a phone call to an ESGR representative will solve a reserve-component service member's problem. The ESGR representative will meet with employers to explain the requirements mandated by USERRA.

USARRA is a law many employers are unfamiliar with, Mr. Bloch said. "That's just one they kind of overlook until it confronts them," he said. "Then, when they learn about it, generally they say, 'Oh, whatever we need to do, we'll do.'"

# Parting Shot



With his special "Retirement Rocker" standing by, unit members bid farewell to Command Chief Robert Kellington last month.

## On-final R-News

### August blood drive set

The next Blood Drive will be held Aug. 7-8, 2004, during the UTA. Aug. 7th times are noon - 3 p.m. and Aug. 8th times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Reservists must register employers

Senior DoE officials are "concerned" by the limited response to the mandatory requirement for RC to register their civilian employer information on the new Civilian Employer Information (CEI) database established last May. Currently, the AF Reserve has only 5289 personnel who have completed the web form.

The process takes only a few minutes to accomplish. Reservists may access the site at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>.

### SH OKIE Reunion Set

A Sierra Hotel OKIE Reunion is planned for Sept. 17-18, 2004. The reunion is for anyone who served with the 937th group, 507th Group/Wing or 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group.

Festivities include a social gathering and barbeque at 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 17, at the Tinker Club. Other scheduled events include a semi-formal dinner at the Reed Center located at Sooner Rd. and I-40, a golf tournament, and a trip to Bricktown. For more details, go to <http://www.angelfire.com/tx5/9114>.

### Reunion Meetings Set

The next meeting of the 937th/507th Breakfast Club for retired AFRES/AFRC reservists will be at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Midwest City Golden Corral on Air Depot Boulevard. For more information, please contact Gene M. Clayton by mail at 4812 Michael Drive, Del City, OK 73115; telephone (405) 672-0469 or by e-mail at [genec672@aol.com](mailto:genec672@aol.com).

The next meeting of the 507th Breakfast Club will be at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at MWC City Golden Corral.

### 507th ARW Recruiters

#### Tinker AFB, OK

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



#### Moore, Norman, OK

Master 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. Kamala Thigpen  
(580) 357-2784

#### McConnell AFB, KS

Master Sgt. David McCormick  
(In-Service Recruiter)  
(316) 681-2522

#### Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. David McCormick  
(316) 759-3766