

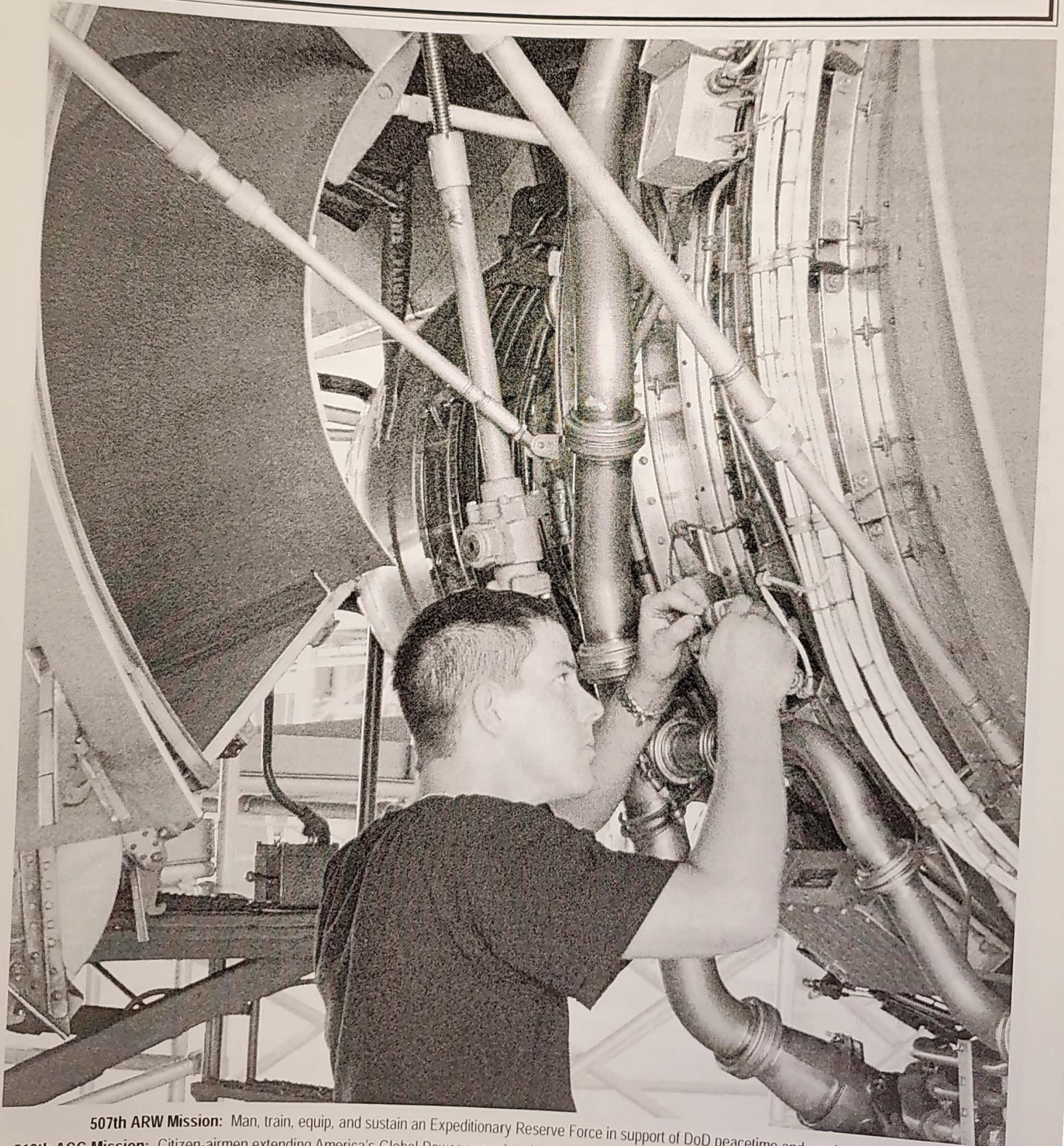
On-final



September 2004
Vol. 24, No. 9

U.S. AIR FORCE

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th 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.

Wherever you are, your vote counts

By Gen. Robert H. "Doc"
Foglesong
U.S. Air Forces in Europe
commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN) — The most important privilege our nation provides its citizens is freedom. Our nation was built on democratic principles and one of our cherished constitutional rights is the right of each American to vote.

Today our men and women are globally engaged to help bring freedom, including the right to vote, to people around the world. By registering and voting you honor your fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who are sacrificing their personal freedoms to provide this staple of democracy.

You also reaffirm the sacred value of this privilege to many who have yet

to achieve it.

It is the right to vote that allows you to elect officials who reflect your views and will speak for you in government. Why would people choose not to exercise this right?

By not voting, you abdicate that right and responsibility of citizenship that has cost so many so much to earn. You allow others, with whom you may not agree, to select our future leadership.

The laws and policies enacted today can, and often do, influence the long-term health of our nation. And it is our nation's future — ours and our children's — that should concern you today.

Take the time leading into the 2004 elections to register to vote and request your absentee ballot. The deadlines for completing and mailing a

Federal Post Card Application or turning in a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot are both fast approaching. The Air Force goal is for everyone to complete and mail his or her application before or during Armed Forces Voters Week, Sept. 3 to 11, to allow applications to meet all deadlines.

America is the greatest democracy in the world. We owe it to ourselves and our great nation to get out and vote. I urge each and every one of you to make your voice heard.

I encourage you to take advantage of a privilege that people around the world continue to fight and die for — whether you are at a geographically separated unit, a one-deep special duty position or deployed in support of an Air Expeditionary Force rotation — no matter where you are, your vote counts!

one of the opposite sex, to have self respect, to cope with disappointments, to create their own loving environment, to judge between right and wrong, to handle finances, to take personal responsibility without blaming others, to deal with the potential stress and anxiety that comes with daily events, to become a creative personality, to have a high quality of character, to have concern for those less fortunate, and to have self confidence?

The truth is that consecrated parents have unique and different families. They generate a feeling of safety, approval, well being, acceptance and love within the home. They create and pass on family traditions with their children. They demonstrate mature spiritual faith that is worthy of duplicating. They discipline in a way that teaches a lesson and does not provoke anger in the child. These things are impossible unless we consciously decide how to parent, stick to the plan no matter which parent is involved at the moment, and are sure to ask for God's help.

UTA Services

Sunday Protestant Service (7:30)

Sermon: War of the Worlds

Catholic Mass (7:30) in Conf. Rm. #204, flightline side of the hangar (Bldg 1030)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Bradfield

Parenting Plan

Children do not come with an operator's manual. Nor do they come with a warranty. And children are not guaranteed to have the perfect parents either. In many ways it would appear that raising children is a hit-and-miss proposition. It is a major accomplishment for parents to produce spiritually and emotionally healthy children.

Challenging our success are world conditions that seem to encourage children to be selfish, materialistic, immoral, and demand their "personal rights." There are so many distractions that would rather pollute the young minds of those we love dearly. Even parents themselves, if not careful, can add to the problem by setting a conflicting poor example. With the odds against us there is only one option and that's with God's guidance. We must discuss with our spouses how we want to parent our children. It might even be a good idea to put this Parenting Plan in writing.

How are you going to...teach your child to make decisions, to have a personal relationship with God, to set personal goals, to know how to problem solve, to relate to some-

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970th AACS - Capt. Scott Wilson
1st Aviation Standards Flt. - Senior Master Sgt. Rob Uzzle
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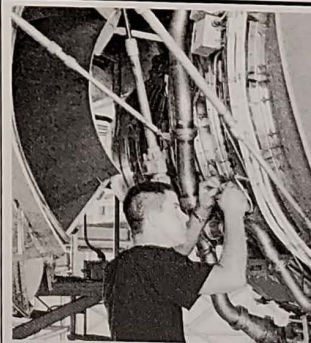
This funded Air Force Reserve Command magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of *On-final* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

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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



The 507th MXS is hard at work fulfilling a mission to inspect, lube, fix, fly. SRA Justin McCowan inspects one of four CFM-International F108-CF-100 turbofans engines during an annual checkup on a KC-135R. "Say ahnh." — Photo by SRA Bryan Axtell

SEPTEMBER 2004

Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority



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507th AIR REFUELING WING
and
513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB, OKLAHOMA

www.afrc.af.mil/507arw

Officials detail global posture realignment process

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realignment of U.S. forces in the world will mirror the changing threats and be a result of a fundamental shift in national security, the DOD undersecretary for policy told the House Armed Services Committee on June 23.

Douglas Feith said that the effort now under way thinks through how U.S. forces may be used in the coming decades. Key to this thinking is that the United States will be working with allies in the full range of military operations, from combat to peace.

"We have found that we've engaged in military operations over the last dozen years or so in places where nobody anticipated engaging in military operations," he said. "And it is clear that one of the most important phenomena in the world today is uncertainty."

— Douglas Feith

President Bush ordered Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to study where U.S. troops are based in the world and realign them to mirror the new security environment. In South Korea, the effort has already resulted in a reduction of 12,500 U.S. servicemembers in that country. DOD officials tout that while that drops the numbers of troops, it does not diminish the capabilities of U.S. forces in the region.

Mr. Feith said U.S. global posture is the legacy of World War II and the Korean War. "And after the Cold War ended, there were substantial reductions taken, but they were reductions

in place," he said. "They were really not a realignment of our forces around the world."

In Korea, many U.S. positions are exactly where they were when the fighting stopped in 1953, Secretary Rumsfeld said.

Mr. Feith pointed to the realignment's premise: One important national security asset the United States possesses is its network of alliances and defense partnerships. That concept is one of five ideas that has shaped thinking on the realignment issue, he said. DOD officials want to expand allied roles and build new partnerships.

"Secondly, we wanted to develop the flexibility to contend with uncertainty," he said. During the Cold War, the threat was the Soviet Union. The United States was committed to defend Western Europe. U.S. troops were in place and equipment prepositioned for them if the Soviets came through the Fulda Gap corridor that ran through then-East Germany into West Germany.

That is no longer the case. "We have found that we've engaged in military operations over the last dozen years or so in places where nobody anticipated engaging in military operations," he said. "And it is clear that one of the most important phenomena in the world today is uncertainty."

U.S. forces must be positioned around the world so they can respond to events, Mr. Feith said. "We do not believe that we know where we might have to do military operations," he said. "We therefore cannot be confident that we are based where we're going to fight. And for that reason, we need to have a force posture that allows for flexibility."

Military leaders will focus not only within regions, but also across re-

gions. "The idea that we have forces, for example, in Europe that are going to fight in Europe or forces on the Korean peninsula that are dedicated to Korean contingencies, is no longer our thought," Mr. Feith said.

Combatant commanders will no longer "own" forces, he said. "(Secretary Rumsfeld) makes clear to everybody, the only person who owns forces, as it were, is the president, who can use the armed forces of the United States across regions as necessary," he said.

The United States also needs rapidly deployable capabilities. "That's a concept that has many parts, ... but among those parts are not simply where you are putting facilities, but also how the forces are organized, how pre-positioned equipment is configured, so that you have the ability to move a battalion somewhere without having to unpack a division's worth of equipment," he said. "We need to have capabilities that are readily deployable."

Finally, the key measure of effectiveness is not the numbers of forces, but the capability of those forces. The number of forces in a country is not an adequate measure of U.S. commitment, he said. Rather, the capability the U.S. presence brings is paramount.

"What we are stressing is the importance of capabilities," Mr. Feith said. "And the goal of our realignment is to push capabilities forward so that we have greater ability to fulfill our commitments and to perform military operations as needed."

United States officials will continue to speak with allies worldwide on this program. They will continue to negotiate with allies on the American footprint in their regions, Mr. Feith said.

Pacific Airmen get direct flights into AOR

by 1st Lt. Christina R. Hoggatt
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (AFPN) — Airmen assigned to Pacific Air Forces now have a dedicated flight to take them directly into U.S. Central Command theater when they leave to fill their air and space expeditionary force responsibilities.

About 200 Airmen from Yokota and Kadena Air Bases in Japan took the first direct flight into the theater June 5 on a contracted airlift flight, cutting the trip from the previous four to five days to 23 hours. The flight originated at Yokota, flew to Kadena for refueling and passenger pickup, and went a direct route to a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia.

"PACAF (leaders) wanted to find a better way to deploy expeditionary combat support personnel, especially from our bases in Japan," said Lt. Col. Jeff Fetner, chief of PACAF-AEF. "It sometimes took five days and four aircraft changes to deploy a PACAF (Airmen)."

"These contacted flights will deploy them much faster by taking a direct route to the (area of responsibility)," he said. "Our troops will only have to load their gear ... at their home base and (unload it) at the AOR main hub, stopping only for gas."

Besides cutting down on travel time, the new flights will

save on commercial airline ticket costs and eliminate excess commercial baggage fees. It will also reduce the ever-increasing complications of moving weapons through foreign commercial airports, saving money and improving security for Airmen, Colonel Fetner said.

"This is not a one-time deal," he said. "We want to provide dedicated flights every AEF cycle."

Colonel Fetner said command officials are looking at AEFs 1 and 2 for Airmen deploying from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Command officials are trying to help make deploying more convenient for all of their Airmen, Colonel Fetner said.

"These new flights will make the process of deploying from any base in PACAF much more efficient," said Lt. Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr., PACAF vice commander. "Overall it will save time, money and will allow for large numbers of troops to deploy together."

Previously, all contracted flights into Southwest Asia originated from the East Coast of the United States, forcing PACAF Airmen to take at least two travel days just to get to Baltimore or Atlanta. After arrival there, it generally took a day of waiting, then another travel day to get to a deployed location.

"The new flights are more convenient from every aspect," Colonel Fetner said. (Courtesy of Pacific Air Forces News Service)

Standard AEF deployment length stretches to 120 days

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Most Airmen scheduled to deploy in upcoming air and space expeditionary force packages will see their orders expand from 90 to 120 days.

The change in deployment length will begin with AEF cycle 5 in September. Those who deploy as part of AEF 1 and 2 should prepare for a 120-day deployment.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper announced the change in his "Sight Picture" on June 4. The reason for the change is that the requirement for deployable forces is not expected to decrease in the foreseeable future, he said.

"Simply put, the demands on our

deployable forces have not diminished and are not expected to decline for some time," the general wrote. "Further, the Air Force component commander in the Central Command area of operations has asked us to deploy people for longer tour lengths to allow greater continuity for expeditionary commanders in the field."

To help extend tour lengths to 120 days, the entire AEF cycle was adjusted. The new cycle, now 20 months in length, allows for a four-month eligibility window and a 16-month training window.

General Jumper also said he intends to increase the pool of Airmen eligible for deployment. Currently, the Air Force has about 272,000 Airmen earmarked as deployment-eligible.

"I have asked all of our major commands to aggressively review the assumptions upon which they exclude Air-

men from our AEFs and take immediate steps to maximize those postured (for deployment)," the general said.

The changes to the AEF cycle, while possibly difficult for some, should be considered by all Airmen as part of their commitment to the Air Force, General Jumper said.

"Let me be perfectly clear — in our Air Force, every Airman is expeditionary, every Airman will know (his or her) place in the AEF system, and every Airman will be prepared to support the combatant commander, whether deployed, in (the continental United States) via reachback, or employed at home station," General Jumper said.

Airmen currently deployed as part of AEF 7 and 8 and AEF 9 and 10 will still be held to the 90-day deployment schedule.

507th ARW 2004 Commissioning Board results

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

Five members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing are on their way to "crossing over" after meeting last July's commissioning board.

"We're very excited at the success of our first-ever commissioning board," said Col. Bob Colyer, 507th Mission Support Group Commander and chairman for the board.

In the past, the path toward receiving a commission was not well defined within the wing, the colonel said. "Our people faced an uphill battle trying to find open positions and working their way through the commissioning process."

With the advent of the commissioning board, unit members now have a better support net from the wing while permitting open competition for the limited position openings, he said. The July Board was chaired by Col. Bob Colyer, Lt. Col. Bill Freniere, 507th Maintenance Group deputy commander, and Lt. Ben Walker, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron as voting members along with 507th ARW Command Chief Joseph Tytanic as a non-voting consulting member. The board reviewed each candidate's personnel record and recommendations, following up with a personal interview. The board's charter is twofold; to determine if a candidate was of sufficient quality to commission and then prioritize the candidates. While the number does vary as of Aug. 13th, the 507th Air Refueling Wing had eight officer vacancies. According to the 507th Mission Personnel Flight, typically two to six enlisted members are

commissioned within the wing annually.

"Prioritizing the candidates was extremely difficult. We have high caliber Airmen competing for limited vacancies," Colonel Colyer said. It was explained to the candidates that there are numerous factors for selection to any commissioning opportunity such as available position vacancies, organizational needs and skills possessed by the candidates.

Meeting the board last July were Master Sgt. Michael Maule, from the 507th Combat Logistics Support Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Patrick Mitchell, 507th Communications Flight; Tech. Sgt. Deshawn Jones, 507th ARW Military Employment Opportunity office; Airman 1st Class Charles Johnson, 507th Mission Support Flight, and Senior Airman Ilia Rivera from the 507th Security Forces Squadron. "All our candidates demonstrated great potential to be successful as future officers in the Air Force Reserve," Colonel Colyer said.

Successful completion of this board does not guarantee a commissioning opportunity. "The candidates were charged to seek out commissioning opportunities from the organizations in the wing," the colonel said. "We recommend that the leadership in the wing keep a watchful eye for commissioning positions. Providing opportunities for these candidates will increase morale and ensure a vibrant deserving airman commissioning program."

While the June *On-final* reported the board will be an annual event, Colonel Colyer stated it may meet more frequently based on wing requirements.

STORY UPDATE: In the three months since the board was held, positions have been identified and blocked for two of the five candidates. Their packages will be sent forward to the Air Force Reserve for review and approval.

Commissioning board to be held during January UTA

The 507th ARW will convene a commissioning board during the January 2005 UTA to fill current and future vacancies.

Commissioning applications must be submitted to the 507th MPF by the December UTA. Applications may be picked up from the MPF. Physicals are not required to meet the board.

Applicants will report in to the board in service dress uniform where 15 minute interviews will be conducted.

Location and time will be announced during the December UTA.

Point of contact: Capt. Mechille Braden, work: (405) 869-6418 (civilian) e-mail address: Mechille.Braden@tinker.af.mil.



Senior Airman Ilia Rivera, 507th Security Forces Squadron, was one of five candidates who met the July board. Rivera said, "Do not be discouraged by the complexity of the necessary documentation. Be physically and

mentally prepared for a challenge. Step into the mindset of a leader: Take into account the good qualities of past leaders and mentors; learn from them; and apply them."

See page 19 for more quotes from the July candidates.

Services train at Lakenheath Royal Air Base

By Capt. Bill Pierce
507th ARW Public Affairs

The 507th Services Flight left a lasting impact on the active duty personnel of the Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, United Kingdom.

Members of the 507th Services Flight volunteered to spend their annual active duty training requirement at Lakenheath

"Our troops worked along side the personnel of the 302nd Services Flight, Peterson AFB, Colorado. Partnered up we integrated our services specialties supporting two dining facilities, a fitness center, base lodging and even facilitated a Teen Center grand opening for approximately 100 teenagers. We allowed personnel to rotate through the various

areas. This aided in morale by people not feeling stuck in one area. We wanted them to be well rounded so we trained in all areas. With so many people deployed, Lakenheath's needs definitely drove our training," said Senior Master Sgt. Clyde Hankins, Services Superintendent, 507th Services Flight.

Embracing their opportunities, services leadership for both



Maj. Sandra Chasteen, 507th Services Flight commander, and Airman 1st Class Stephanie Heath serve the flight-line maintenance personnel at the 48th Street Grill.

supporting the active duty.

Upon landing in country, services leadership were presented with a few logistical obstacles to overcome. Living the "OKIE" motto "Forever Ready-Always There," they quickly adapted and overcame. "We maintained excellent morale despite our challenges," smiled Maj. Sandra Chasteen, commander, 507th Services Flight.

Arriving at their assignments, services learned that most of Lakenheath's personnel were deployed. Services wasted no time in integrating into the active duty slots where needed. "We were able to provide some real-world training that benefited not only our troops but the military families of Lakenheath.

flights worked on deployment logistics and assisted the active duty component in quality control. "Through facility inspections we were able to brief the active duty supervisors on our findings. Our work directly impacted their mission," said Hankins.

According to Chasteen, "With an upcoming IGX, we were extremely fortunate to

First time to deploy

Brand new reservists and first-time deployers Senior Airman Tiffany Mendoza and Airman 1st Class Stephanie Heath were exposed to deployment scenarios enabling them to learn about their career fields in a very short amount of time.

Before basic training, Heath learned she may have the opportunity to go to England. "I was told once I completed basic and technical school I may be able to attend the services deployment to England. How cool - this would be my first time to leave the country.

I joined the reserve to accomplish something. Now I can say I have. I stopped talking and started doing," said Heath.

be paired up with this reserve team. We worked many issues in tandem and spent quite a bit of time working IGX/UCI/operations issues to maximize both of our efforts.

"Training opportunities like these afford invaluable real-life job experience. Everyone approached their training in a professional manner resulting in an extremely successful deployment."



Airman 1st Class Scott Fletcher performs maintenance on the weight equipment while working at the Lakenheath fitness center.



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

A brief look back

It hardly seems that I have been your commander for a little over three months. Just taking over in June and now we are about to begin our September UTA. I must admit that I was a bit apprehensive when I took over the unit. I was apprehensive over what problems I might find in the unit and my ability to deal with them. After three months I can say without hesitation that those apprehensions were for naught. I am continually amazed, day after day, on how well put together this unit is. I walk down the hallways and I am consistently greeted with smiling faces and happy individuals. On the flight line the story is the same. We have a great bunch of maintainers in this unit. On the aircraft; both the flight deck and the mission deck are exceptionally qualified for their duties. Pride wells in everyone and there is no question on how they enjoy their work. Whenever I ask anyone about how they are doing I am constantly bombarded with optimism and pride. This stems from the attitude professed from the lowest level to

the top. You should all take reward in what a vital role you play in our nation's defense. You are the cream of the crop and it shows. I wish to thank each and everyone for a job well done. The supervisors (NCOs and Officers) in the unit are all exceptional and demonstrate their people caring attitude daily. Every issue is taken care of and dealt with in short notice. This shows that the supervisors care about those under them and that is exactly what I want.

As we begin this September (annual Family Day) drill I ask that you all take time to enjoy the activities. It is important that you make your families feel important in their part of allowing you to do your duties. Show them around and let them know the wonderful job you are doing. Let them know that without their support we would not be able to defend this great land of ours in the outstanding method that America's military always does. They are the hinge pin on your ability to perform in the exceptional manner that you do. I ask that everyone be safe and smart in what you do. Let us not forget those that are deployed defending our nation while we are enjoying festivities back home. Let us also remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice over the years so we might enjoy our activities and our freedom.

GOD bless.

Maj. Max Stitzer, Deputy Commander for Maintenance, 513th Air Control Group, receives the Texas Air Force Association (AFA) 'Member of the Year' Award for 2004 from Ms. Sheila Jones, Oklahoma State AFA President. He was selected for the honor from among over 12,000 AFA members in Texas. Major Stitzer was recently assigned to his position at Tinker AFB, OK after serving as the 301st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander at Naval Air Station, Fort Worth, Texas. He also served as the Vice President for Aerospace Education for the Fort Worth AFA Chapter.



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	23-24 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 27 August 2004	

TRAINING PLANNER

Fri, 10 September 2004

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
0730-0930	Computer Based Testing	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0930	Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY	
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0830-0930	6 Month Contact Mtg	To Be Determined
0900-1000	Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng	To Be Determined
1000-1130	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg 1030, Room 214
1000-1100	Mobility Rep Meeting	To Be Determined
1030-1130	First Sgts Meeting	To Be Determined
1100-	Family Day	Main Campus area
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

Sun, 12 September 2004

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Auditorium
0730-0800	Catholic Mass	Bldg. 1030 MSG Conf Rm
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
0750-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams	Bldg 460, (AD Hq) Room 215
0745-1530	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-0930	Adverse Actions Mtg	To Be Determined
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
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT	
1400-1500	IG period w/Capt. Vardaro	To Be Determined
1500	Flying Safety Meeting	465th Ops Briefing Room
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

Fri, 22 October 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, 23 October 2004

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0930	Computer Based Testing	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0730-0930	Newcomers In-Processing	Bldg 1043, Room 201C
0730-0930	Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY	
0730-0900	Wing Training Office Closed	Bldg 1043, Room 206
0830-0930	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
1130-1200	Lunch-Time Chapel Discussion	To Be Determined
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, 24 October 2004

Unit Designated	Sign In	Unit Designated
0730-0800	Protestant Chapel Service	513th ACG Auditorium
0730-0800	Catholic Mass	Bldg. 1030 MSG Conf Rm
0730-0930	MPF Closed for In-House Tng	Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
0750-1115	CDC/PME Course Exams	Bldg 460, (AD Hq) Room 215
0800-1115	Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II	Bldg 1030, Room 214
0830-1030	Haz Comm Trng (Non-Supvr)	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
1300	SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT	
1400-1500	IG period w/Capt. Vardaro	To Be Determined
Unit Designated	Sign Out	Unit Designated

ATTENTION

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

Newcomers Ancillary Training

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

Family Day Schedule

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
Sunday	0745-0800	Air Force Fitness	SVF
Sunday	0800-0830	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0830-0845	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0845-0900	Wing Commander/Command Chief	JA
Sunday	0900-1015	UCMJ/Ethics	SFS
Sunday	1015-1045	Counter Intel /Awareness	ME
Sunday	1045-1115	Human Relations	CF
Sunday	1300-1345	Information Assurance	DPAF
Sunday	1345-1400	Family Support Services	SG
Sunday	1400-1500	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SE
Sunday	1500-1530	Local Conditions-Traffic	

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.

Military Pay

File for
pay by:

Receive Direct
Deposit by:

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

14 Sept	22 Sept
16 Sept	24 Sept
20 Sept	29 Sept
22 Sept	01 Oct
28 Sept	06 Oct
30 Sept	08 Oct
05 Oct	13 Oct
07 Oct	15 Oct
12 Oct	18 Oct
14 Oct	22 Oct
18 Oct	27 Oct
19 Oct	29 Oct
20 Oct	01 Nov
26 Oct	03 Nov

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

If you need assistance or have suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please call us at (405) 734-7075, or stop by our office in Building 1043, Room 206.

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TSgt. Jimmy Talley, Education and Training Advisor
SSgt. Jeremy Hudson, Education and Training Advisor

Microwaves are tested at Glenwood

By Senior Master Sgt. Robert Greenlee

Duty in the field is a way of life for reservists of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron and the newest ad-

spheric conditions will affect the length of the supported mission. It sounds complicated and it is, but it's all in a day's or weekend's work for the crews assigned to this equipment. "Normally the path profiles will be determined by a unit's

engineering section or communications engineering officer," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Meek, Satellite and Wideband Technician. "But reserve combat communication units do not have overhead like engineering sections or communications engineers, so it's up to the equipment Team Chiefs to develop the mission plan."



Tech. Sgt. Michael Meek checks the frequency of the incoming voltage on the TRC-170.

dition to their inventory of equipment ensures that way of life continues. The AN/TRC-170 Radio Terminal Set is an air or ground transportable troposcatter microwave radio terminal. These terminals provide secure digital trunking between major nodes of a communications network. The multichannel radio terminal interface with other current military inventory equipment. TRC-170 links might carry dedicated traffic to include analog and digital channels, point-to-point subscriber circuits, facsimile circuits and teletype circuits.

The unit got a chance to setup and employ the terminals recently during a

field exercise at the Glenwood Training Area. Over a weekend training mission, reservists convoyed their equipment to the site, setup the dish antennas, and made their first live link between the nodes. Personnel assigned to this equipment Unit Type Code include Satellite, Wideband, and Telemetry Specialists (also known as SWATS) and Power Production Specialists, who setup and maintain the unit's power generation sets. "The Power Pro guys are critical to our mission and we simply wouldn't be able to operate without them on the crews" said Meek.

The TRACS are unique in the arena of tactical communication systems which is a world where the equipment suites change constantly and the TRACS are fairly old by today's standards. "This may be old equipment, but the TRACS are very robust and are still the premier choice for those medium range connections" said Lt. Col. "Pete" Peterson, 35th CBCS commander.



A view of microwave dishes at sunset at Glenwood.

Air Force fleet viability board releases C-5A assessment

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — With some qualifications, the first Air Force Fleet Viability Board assessment shows the C-5A Galaxy has at least 25 years of service life remaining.

While the aircraft is among the oldest in the Air Force inventory, officials reported there are no major structural life issues. In the board's judgment, with avionics and engine modifications, the C-5A has the service life remaining.

The report indicates the aircraft still requires significant maintenance effort and support costs, but nothing disproportionate to the enormity of the aircraft itself.

This was the first aircraft to be assessed by the board.

"In this age of trying to make important weapon-system decisions with severely constrained budgets, the C-5A assessment provides valuable insight into the aircraft's projected technical fitness, costs and availability," said Col. Francis Crowley, the board's director.

"As one program manager told me, it is great to have a detailed assessment of the physical characteristics and associated costs in one concise document," Colonel Crowley said. "Having said that, the board plans to make further improvements in our process based on Secretary (of the Air Force Dr. James G.) Roche's vision."

The assessments focus on technical issues and the cost of continued ownership. The board considers cost, aircraft availability and operational health as top-level indicators of a fleet's viability. Along with an analysis of alternatives, it leaves consideration of force structure or operational impact to the Air Force corporate structure.

Two major programs would significantly improve mission capability rates: avionics modernization and reliability enhancement and re-engining.

The avionics modernization program, which began in 1998, includes upgrading avionics to Global Air-Traffic Management compliance, improving navigation and safety, while increasing reliability and maintainability of the avionics.

The reliability enhancement and re-engining program is a comprehensive modernization that improves aircraft reliability,

SEPTEMBER 2004

maintainability and availability. It incorporates reliability enhancements of on-board systems, re-engines the aircraft to improve operational performance and strengthens the aircraft structure to accommodate new engines and increased structural life. The most significant power plant-related change is the replacement of the old engine with the General Electric CF-6-80C2 commercial engine.

"Given that the board projects the C-5A to be viable for at least 25 years, assuming that avionics and engine modification programs occur as planned and continued positive results from teardown of an aircraft at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center,

Ga., the C-5A assessment can serve as a valuable source for determining the best approach for meeting future Air Force capability needs," Colonel Crowley said.

"There are a number of planning organizations in the Air Force that should find the board's analysis extremely helpful in their planning process," he said.

The board stood up in August 2003 to provide senior leaders with an unbiased assessment of the service's aircraft fleet longevity.

The Galaxy is the nation's largest cargo airlift aircraft. It can carry more cargo farther than any other aircraft in the Air Force inventory. However, the "A" model represents a 30-year-old fleet with significant issues and associated planned upgrade investments.

C-5s provide passenger and oversized cargo airlift for both air-land and special operations. One is capable of moving 291,000 pounds of cargo as far as 1,530 nautical miles, or 180,000 pounds of cargo as far as 3,200 miles. It is also capable of carrying 73 passengers, including cargo weight. With its unique visor door and kneeling capability, the aircraft can both load and unload simultaneously.

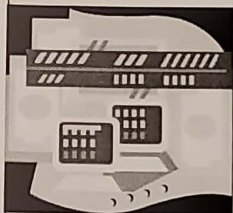
Of the 122 C-5s in active service, 70 of these aircraft are "A" models. During the assessment period, four aircraft were retired with another 10 aircraft slated for retirement at a rate of two per quarter through fiscal 2005. The average age of the C-5A is 33 years old, twice as old as the C-5B model. C-5As average 18,000 flying hours and range from 12,000 to 22,000 flying hours.

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

Family Support Activities

Electronic Banking

The Active Duty Family Support Office in conjunction with the Tinker Federal Credit Union will be offering an Electronic Banking Seminar that will include bill paying, direct deposit, account information etc. Finger food will be provided.



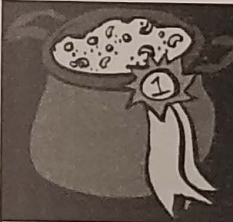
Wednesday, Sept. 15 from 11:15 a.m.-1200

Location: Tinker Federal Credit Union (on base), Bldg 420 Cost: Free

Register with: Lisa Martinez-Leeper at 319-2420 or David Moore 319-2440

Chili Cook-Off

Contestants will make a pot of chili that will be judged by a panel. Prizes will be awarded with a plaque going to the contestant's unit. Members can sample and buy a bowl of chili that they deem the best.



Saturday of November UTA: Nov. 20, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: AGS Breakroom, Bldg. 1067

Cost: 25 cents to sample and \$1.25 for a bowl or \$1.50 a bowl with no samples. Condiments are included.

Kids Night Out:

Shopping Trip to Crossroads, Toys-R-Us

Kids ages 5 and up will have fun activities to occupy their time i.e. movies, arts and crafts and more depending on location.



While the kids are occupied there will be a bus that will go to Crossroads Mall and Toys-R-Us so that you can catch up on your holiday shopping, without the kids tagging along.

Friday before December UTA, Dec. 3, from 5 - 8 p.m.

Location: 513th AGS Auditorium
Cost: Transportation is free.

Midwest City Festival of Lights Bus Tour

There will be a bus tour of the Christmas Lights in Midwest City.

Saturday of December UTA, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at Wing Headquarters building parking lot.

Cost: Donations accepted



Your favorite recipes wanted

The Family Support office wants to know some of those cooking secrets that many reservists and their family members enjoy. Please share your recipes and cooking tips while helping us raise funds for Family Support Activities.

The proceeds from the sale of these unique cookbooks would facilitate activities like Par-



ents Nights Out, Family Events and other needs for 507th ARW and 513th ACG personnel. Plans are to have a cook-off using recipes contained in the cookbook.

Point of contact is mary.randolph@tinker.af.mil or call (405) 734-6869 (800)

753-3487.

An Airman's view

72nd APS trains at Norfolk NAS, VA

By Senior Airman Bryan Axtell
507th ARW Public Affairs

For many "old-timer" reservists, deploying in support of an annual tour might best be described as "already been there and done that."

But what's it like from a young Airman's perspective?

We recently caught up with Senior Airman Jacquelyn Stauffer of the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron to find out.

Twenty-one-year-old Airman Stauffer recently completed her first annual tour during a squadron deployment to the Navy Air Terminal at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia.

"I've been with the unit for 14 months and this was my first opportunity to deploy," she said. "It was also my first flight in a KC-135. The crew allowed me the chance to ride in the cockpit during the flight."

After arriving, the aerial port team buckled down to work, loading multiple C-17s, C-141s, C-130s, C-5s, DC-10s, DC-8s, and 747s with everything from ammunition, blood, explosive chemicals, compressed air, 'Hum-Vee' and tank armor, to people, and lots of provisions on their way to Iceland. Stauffer remembers "blisters from my leather gloves" after one particularly busy session.

"I'm not a very big person!" Stauffer admits. "Aerial porters do have to push and drag heavy stuff around all the time, but we're rarely alone to do so. We often load pallets of cargo weighing thousands of pounds, but we take them from the warehouse to a K-loader vehicle on a forklift and then from the K-loader to the aircraft."

A K-loader has motorized rollers that move the pallets forward on the vehicle then the load crew pushes the pallets onto the aircraft deck rollers, she explained. "Pushing is the hard part, but we rarely have fewer than 6 or 8 guys working on a pallet at any given time. I really didn't find anything about our trip to be too physically demanding—we have several different types of MHE (materials handling equipment) that lets us move cargo around with minimal effort. And there were always big, strong guys around to come to my rescue when I found that I couldn't do something on my own," she laughed.

Stauffer, who graduates from Texas Woman's University in May 2005, recalls typical loads faced daily by the teams included mail, household goods, and provisions. "Mail was usually about a three-pallet, 3,000 lb. load, household goods crates usually came in 20 or 30 at a time

and could weigh anywhere from 500 - 8,000 lbs. per crate. Provisions usually took about 15 pallets (about 30,000 pounds) and were tricky because they have to be processed very quickly and either loaded on an aircraft immediately or put in the giant refrigerator. We also took care of quite a bit of cargo being sent to ships in forward deployed locations and at one point even loaded five dolphins for transport to San Diego."

Originally from North Carolina, the dolphins were in Virginia for special training to locate downed pilots and munitions. Besides being valued in the millions of dollars, Stauffer said the situation became really interesting for the 72nd when five dolphins arrived instead of the anticipated six. "It was 20 minutes until 'block-time' [which is essentially take-off] so we had to frantically reconfigure the entire load plan!"

That's no small feat, she said. Stauffer stated the "big blue bathtubs" for transporting a dolphin are 7 to 8 feet long, by 3½ feet wide with the largest of them weighing around 800 pounds just for the mammal itself.

"I did get to pet the dolphins that we loaded! I was not originally slated for that load team, but one of the officers thought that it would be a great opportunity for me and called me over to the ramp section to help out. It was really quite amazing to see the care taken to get the dolphins safely and quickly loaded. Most people will never have the chance to be face-to-face with dolphins (or ever pet them), but to help load them onto a C-5 was a really great experience."

All was not work in a place as rich in history as Norfolk. After eight hour shifts working hard to pump the blood of the Air Force, it was time for Stauffer to explore -- exchanging the sight of household goods for the sights of historical ships, sailboats, and yachts in the harbor. The constant roar of aircraft engines was replaced with soothing jazz down at 'Harborfest' and the acrid smell of diesel fuel from vehicles in the warehouse was replaced by the smells of seafood fresh from the Atlantic. Stauffer summed up the trip quite well saying, "We were very well accommodated at Norfolk Naval Station, and I would be glad to go back in the future."

According to one supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Sammy Ware, "Senior Airman Jacquelyn Stauffer distinguished herself by completing a major part of her 5-level training during this annual tour. Her attitude prompted the supervisors to unanimously nominate her for 'Airman of the Tour.'"

Course trains Airmen to drive Army convoys in Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Riding in a truck through Iraq, manning a weapon and facing armed adversaries is not a scenario many Air Force vehicle operators thought they would see.

But that is exactly what more than 500 of these Airmen are doing — driving convoys for the Army supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Tate, Air Force vehicle operations career field manager, said a tasking for Air Force drivers to lend a hand came about during a sourcing conference attended by each of the four services.

"The secretary of defense had directed us to develop joint solutions that ensured the combatant commander had the forces necessary to meet operational needs," the chief said. "We looked to see if we possessed a like capability for specific skill sets to help the Army alleviate shortfalls that exist. We determined we had a like capability in the Air Force and the ability to provide Airmen to drive convoys."

To prepare for the mission, the first rotation of vehicle operators underwent six to eight weeks of training. The training was somewhat informal and unstructured, since it was a first for the Air Force, the chief said.

"To remedy that situation for the next rotation and better prepare our Airmen for combat operations, Air Education and Training Command (officials) stood up the Basic Combat Convoy Course, a formal three-week course at Lackland AFB (Texas)," he said.

As soon as the operators complete the course, they will form into units of about 150 Airmen and deploy to Kuwait for convoy live-fire training.

"As part of the convoy live-fire training, they go through a block of training known as close-quarter marksmanship, where they are firing a weapon while on

the move," Chief Tate said. "You're 5 feet from your battle buddy. When you feel the muzzle blast from an M-16 on the back of your neck, (it) raises your hackles, but it's necessary for developing an Airman's confidence in his or her teammates and handling his or her weapon."

"You don't have any choice but to trust your teammates because not only are you depending on (them, they are) depending on you," he said.

The normal span of 30 months between weapons training for vehicle operators did not develop the level of confidence needed in Iraq, the chief said.

"That's why heavy emphasis on weapons training and close-quarter marksmanship is so critical," he said. "Every Airman who went through the training (in Kuwait) fired no less than 600 rounds with an M-16."

Another element of this training was to prepare Airmen to truly defend themselves against enemy forces, Chief Tate said.

"Part of that critical preparation is knowing that your survivability could depend upon your ability to raise and use a weapon against another person," he said. "There are some Airmen who have had to do that."

Training also focused on developing "muscle memory," where Airmen are required to respond to a situation without an extensive thought process.

"It's a natural reaction," the chief said. "You have hostile contact, and the next reaction is you aim, you fire, you kill."

Once fully trained, vehicle operators deploy into Iraq for a six-month rotation, Chief Tate said. To supply the number of drivers needed, the vehicle operations career field is surging two air and space expeditionary force "buckets."

Air Force officials have committed about 300 Airmen through March 2006, he said.

"So, it's quite possible for some of the Airmen currently deployed to Iraq to have to support a future rotation as well," the chief said.

Facing hostile areas on a day-to-day ba-

sis is drawing the units together in many ways, Chief Tate said. Most of the Airmen deployed supporting this mission had no idea they would be truly on the front lines.

"It's really difficult for some to comprehend the team dynamics taking place, but as a leader seeing it firsthand, the cohesion and camaraderie developing as the teams come together is exciting and satisfying," he said. "I saw it when the teams came together and started to communicate to each other their concerns, their fears and what they wanted to achieve while deployed."

This communication and trust is what makes the teams so successful, he said.

"When they go outside the wire on a convoy, they are tight," Chief Tate said. "They are as sharp as you would want a unit to be. They're alert, they're vigilant, they're confident, and they are certainly combat-capable. I have to say that those elements, along with the leadership they have, are (keys) to the overwhelming success of this mission."

That leadership, the chief said, includes elements of both the Air Force and the Army.

"Even though the Airmen are tactically assigned to Army units, they are still well taken care of by Air Force leaders in the region," he said. "There may be a perception that we've taken Airmen, given them to the Army and forgotten them. That's false — we have Airmen working for Airmen, and we have effective support elements in place."

To make sure things run as smoothly as possible for the vehicle operators, a command and control structure was developed through U.S. Central Air Forces that addresses administrative concerns, the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other personnel issues through Air Force chains of command.

So far, the chief said, the Airmen's performance has been outstanding.

"One Army battalion commander (whom) the Airmen fall under said they are the best unit under his command," Chief Tate said.

Reserve, Guard can seek reimbursement from Tricare

WASHINGTON - National Guard and reserve members who paid their medical and dental bills and saved their receipts may now seek reimbursement from Tricare, officials of the military health care system announced July 23.

Officials said the system will begin processing medical and dental claims for Guard and Reserve members who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Only guardsmen and reservists issued "delayed-effective-date active-duty orders" for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, and their families, may be eligible to have medical claims reimbursed.

And according to Tricare, only those medical expenses incurred during the military member's "early eligibility" period - up to 60 days prior to reporting to active duty - from Nov. 6, 2003, to the present are eligible for reimbursement.

This temporary entitlement is part of the Defense Department's 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program, which sought to enhance benefits for Guard and reserve members called to active duty.

Normally, under Tricare guidelines, Reserve and Guard members cannot be enrolled into Tricare until they reach their final duty location. The temporary entitlement gives them access upon receipt of activation orders, up to 60 days in advance.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation authorizing three new temporary provisions for guardsmen and reservists and their families that provided enhanced access for a limited time during contingency activation. The provisions were made retroactive to Nov. 6, 2003.

The Wing IG: Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA)

By Capt. Mark Vardaro

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse — what is it, who should report it, and what number do you call? These are all valid questions regarding a program that we hear a lot about, but have not used because we don't know the answers.

What is fraud, waste, and abuse? The definitions of these oft used words are very specific and can be found in AFI 90-301, *Inspector General Complaints*. **FRAUD**: Intentional deceptions to unlawfully deprive the Air Force of something of value or to secure a benefit, privilege, or consideration to which you are not entitled. **WASTE**: The extravagant, careless, or needless

expenditure of Air Force funds or the consumption of Air Force property that results from deficient practices, systems controls, or decisions. **ABUSE**: Intentionally wrongful or improper use of Air Force resources.

Who is responsible for reporting incidents of fraud, waste, or abuse? Generally speaking, we're all responsible whether we be military, civilian, retiree, or dependent. In these days of budget constraints, FW&A can quickly reduce our operating funds and corrections can only be made if someone speaks up. However, this responsibility is specifically levied on military members and government employees in the Fourteen Principles of

A second provision temporarily extended eligibility for Tricare benefits to 180 days for those guardsmen and reservists who separated from active-duty status during the period Nov. 6, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004.

The third provision extends Tricare medical benefits to reserve-component sponsors and family members who are either unemployed or employed but not eligible for employer-provided health coverage.

All temporary provisions will end Dec. 31, 2004.

However, the measure did include three provisions for permanent health benefits: making benefit counselors available for Guard and Reserve members in each Tricare region, authorizing medical and dental screening and care for members alerted for mobilization, and providing Tricare eligibility for reserve officers pending orders to active duty following commissioning.

Guardsmen, reservists and their family members must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and be Tricare eligible to qualify for the temporary benefit.

To apply for reimbursement, eligible members must submit a Tricare claim form, a copy of their itemized bill, an explanation of benefits and proof of payment (if the bill was already paid) to their regional Tricare claims processor.

Claims processing instructions and a downloadable Tricare claims form, DD Form 2642, are available at local Tricare service centers or from Tricare regional contractors, or may be downloaded from the Tricare Web site. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from American Forces Press Service)

Government Service included in the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER).

Who do you call? The IG office is responsible for the FW&A program so give me a call. My number is (on base) 405-734-6347 or (cell) 405-245-7341. If you get my voicemail, please leave a message with as much information as possible. You may remain anonymous if you wish, but the IG does have a confidentiality policy and it does help us get more information if we have someone to talk to. If it is an issue for a higher level of command, you can call the AFRC Hotline at DSN 497-1495; AF Hotline at (800) 538-8429; and DoD Hotline at (800) 424-9098.

Update

By Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida

The following question was asked of members of the 507th ARW who have faced the 507th Commissioning Board:
"What advice would you give to someone about to face the 507th ARW Commissioning Board?"



**Tech. Sgt. Patrick Mitchell
507th CF**

"Just be yourself. Maintain military bearing, but relax and open up. Don't be afraid to elaborate, because the last thing a board wants are short, clipped answers. It's fun!"



**Airman 1st Class Charles
Johnson, 507th MPF**

"Be professional, honest, and tell the board how you can benefit the Air Force by becoming an officer."



**Tech. Sgt. Deshawn Jones
507th ARW/ME**

"Be yourself. I think in order to be ready for a commissioning applicant must first have his heart and mind aligned with the Air Force mission, vision, and core values along with high motivation to make outstanding contributions to the superior Air Force we serve. And that's straight from the heart!!"

The following question was asked of 507th ARW Human Resource Development Council workshop attendees during the August UTA:
"What did you learn today?"



**Staff Sgt. Jeremy Scoles, 507th
MXS**

"Enjoy yourself and have fun in your work place."



**Tech. Sgt. Lisa Ortiz
507th Maintenance Group/QA**

"It's okay to have fun even while you're learning and working."



**Tech. Sgt. David Hawkins
507th SFS**

"Attitude is a personal choice."

"Readiness is OUR Number One Priority"

SEPTEMBER 2004

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: Here for you and your employer

By Paul L. Jones
 Program Support Director
 Oklahoma Committee,
 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

So you are getting ready to deploy, attend Annual Training, go to a military school and now you have to break the news to the two people that are critical to your continued military career: your spouse and your boss. If you have maintained good communications with both, then you can keep that support. There is a group that exists just to help you keep those good relations with your boss, it is the ESGR.

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization. ESGR provides free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

Each state has an ESGR committee made up of representatives from each of the seven military reserve components, and civilian volunteers. The committee has a number of programs designed for you and your boss:

- Assist employers with training and education to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA is the Federal law that protects the jobs of Guardsmen and Reservists while performing military duty.
- Do you work for an employer that supports your military service? If so, then they should be rewarded. ESGR has

an awards program that let's employers know they are appreciated. Military members can nominate their employers for a number of awards.

• Would you really like to show your boss how much you appreciate the support you get for serving? Nominate them for the annual Boss Lift. These trips take employers to military bases/posts via military aircraft where they can see citizen soldiers in action. Past trips have been visits to aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, and the Joint Readiness Training Center. Employers come away from these trips with a new respect for their employees who serve in the armed services.

• Commanders, are you briefing your unit members on USERRA each year? That is a DoD requirement.

ESGR can help by providing information and visual aids that will ensure a professional presentation.

• Things not going so well with your employer? Professionally trained ESGR Ombudsman (mediators) can visit with your boss informally to explain the requirements of ESGR in a non-confrontational way. The goal is to keep the employer/employee relationship good and supportive.

Keep up on the latest ESGR news, review the USERRA law, and check out the employer awards program at <http://www.esgr.com>. If you want to get quick answers to questions, you can call (R) Gary Jackson, the Oklahoma Committee Executive Director, at (405)228-5811, or LTC (R) Paul Jones, the Oklahoma Committee Program Support Director, at (405) 228-5275.



Civil Engineers bring home honors

By Senior Master Sgt.
 David Liszeski
 507th CES

The 507th Civil Engineer Squadron recently participated in the RED HORSE Exercise, bringing home four of six awards.

While deployed to the Silver Flag training site, Tyndall AFB, Fla., the 507th engineers proved their readiness skills and received an outstanding on their blown crater repair. The commander of 823 RED HORSE was

quoted as saying, "almost a perfect crater repair." Master Sgt. Gary Brown, crater chief, said, "The most important thing is the final grade and compacting; that is where you make it happen. To receive this honor from the commander is very special to us."

Team members included Brown, in charge of the team; Master Sgt. Troy Siler, in charge of final grading; and Tech. Sgt. Sam Neal, loader operator.

Master Sgt. Jonathan Hall, readiness flight, was recognized for know-

ing when to lead and knowing when to let junior members take charge during the exercise.

Airman Nicholas Botts, electrical shop, was recognized for stepping up, staying late and working every aspect of the Emergency Air Field Lighting System, to include design phase, layout and initial set-up of the bare base.

Participants from seven different Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard bases competed in the exercise.

"Readiness is OUR Number One Priority"

Parting Shot



Col. Frank Brooks, AFRC/SC (second from right), and Chief Master Sgt. James Shank, AFRC/SCFR (left), talk with Tech. Sgt. Michael Meek, 35th CBCS Satellite Air Reserve Technician and Lt. Col. Pete A. Peterson, 35th CBCS commander.

On-final R-News

Unit health monitor info

For the Unit Health Monitors (UHMs) who were unable to attend the meeting on Aug. 7th, you may contact Tech. Sgt. Michele Gould at 734-3151 or by e-mail at Michele.Gould@Tinker.af.mil for the shared information from this meeting.

In addition, the Immunizations Section of the 507th Medical Squadron will be e-mailing UHMs the overdue lists on the Sunday of the UTA for next month (September 2004). If you are a UHM and haven't received this list, please contact Gould and you will be added to this list. The First Sergeants will still be given a hard copy on the Friday before the UTA during the First Sergeants' Meeting.

Finally, Immunizations will be adding a second line to the shot lines to accommodate those individuals who are having their physicals.

For more information, contact Gould at (405) 734-3151.

Government equipment info

1. "It is not permissible to move computer equipment without the PRIOR approval of the equipment custodian."
2. "Password-protected screen savers are mandatory for all computer equipment that is connected to the base network."
3. AFI 33-119 "Electronic Mail Management and Use" outlines the danger to our systems.

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

For more information, contact Pamela Brandt, LAN Manager, at 734-2265.

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