

# On-final



U.S. AIR FORCE

May 2005  
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507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing - 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group  
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

## Employer Support Flight See page A4



**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.

# Enhancing our enlisted professionals

By CMSAF Gerald Murray

Today's Airmen are some of the best and brightest young men and women to ever enter public service. The dedication, courage, and innovation they consistently display on the battlefield and at home station ensures America's airpower is always ready.

We have tremendous talent within our ranks and we owe each Airman the opportunity to develop their abilities and recognize their full potential.

More than 2 years ago General Jumper and I, along with other senior Air Force leaders, carved out a developmental roadmap to deliberately grow leaders capable of taking our Air Force to the next level of excellence. Exposure to the right training, education, and experience are crucial. We leverage all these components with the recent implementation of the Enlisted Professional Enhancement Program.

This is a very important and valuable concentration on our core competency of Developing Airmen. Changes you will see at the wing level include:

**Program Consolidation** — Career Assistance Advisors will lead the First Term Airmen Center and the Professional Enhancement Programs. As career specialists, these SNCOs will bring their breadth of experience and bring excellent oversight to these important classes and seminars.

**Course Standardization** — Many bases had established their own professional development centers to provide Airmen, NCOs, and SNCOs with additional military education to bridge gaps between formal training opportunities. While some of these programs were excellent, they lacked consistency from base to base. With this initiative we'll have a solid curriculum to provide Airmen at every base the same foundation while

still allowing flexibility to adapt and meet local needs.

We'll continue to tap into the talents of our most outstanding enlisted leaders to instruct and mentor their fellow Airmen. Airmen, first term through E-7 will be able to get valuable training and peer interaction. We'll continue to tie together our formal training, education, and on-the-job training to develop our Airmen's technical skills and leadership abilities. Our professional development courses will in-turn reinforce and build upon what our Airmen get in formal PME.

Developing Airmen continues to be one of our top priorities and the Professional Enhancement Program is another step in taking care of our most valuable resource — our people. Knowledge is power and empowering our enlisted force is what keeps us the world's premier Air Force.



**Gerald Murray**  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### Reserve Force Development

Force development for members of the Air Force Reserve will be tailored to meet the needs of Citizen Airmen and be flexible enough to satisfy the career goals of reservists of all shapes and sizes.

As the Reserve enlisted transformation begins, Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, AFRC command chief master sergeant, has six priorities:

- \* Proper utilization of the enlisted force.
- \* Developing the enlisted force to assume greater responsibility.
- \* Ensuring that families are priority one.
- \* Continuing to foster the relationship between the Citizen Airman and the employer.
- \* Recognition of the Reserve's people.

\* Ensuring all enlisted people have a fair and equitable opportunity to succeed.

With over 60,000 enlisted people in all categories - unit, IMA, AGR, ART and active duty - assigned, AFRC is dedicated to making the right call and to ensuring that the professional development of its enlisted personnel is a top priority in maintaining a ready and capable reserve force.

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

On The Cover



Employers and escorts gather outside the aircraft after their flight on April 1. See more photos on page A4.



507 ARW



513 ACG

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507th AIR REFUELING WING and 513th AIR CONTROL GROUP

TINKER AFB OKLAHOMA



www.afrc.af.mil/507arw

# Flexibility is key to force development in Air Force Reserve

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor  
Citizen Airman Magazine

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Force development for members of the Air Force Reserve will be tailored to meet the needs of Citizen Airmen and be flexible enough to satisfy the career goals of reservists of all shapes and sizes, according to the officer overseeing the program.

Maj. Dean Hicks, force development point person for the Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon, said no one will lose sight of the "unique needs" of Reserve officers, enlisted troops and civilians.

"The vision for Reserve force development - as an element of Total Force development - is to create a Reserve force that is responsive to overall Air Force requirements and can be managed as an integral part of the Total Force," Major Hicks said. "In doing so, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are predominantly a part-time force and must respect the fact that we share our reservists with their civilian employers and their families. The challenge is finding a way to deliberately develop our people while still respecting their time and volunteerism."

"Force development" is the term coined by senior leaders when discussing how the Air Force trains, educates and assigns its Airmen. It includes changes to developmental education and the assignment process. Force development stems from direction given by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper in November 2002.

Much of the force development "foundation" comes from the Air Force Strategic Personnel Plan. It's also based on the recently published Air Force Doctrine Document 1-1, Leadership and Force Development. Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander, emphasized the importance of the doctrine

document in a recent message.

"It lays the foundation for how we deliberately develop the force," he said. "We have taken its tenets to heart. ..."

In the 18-page document called "Force Development (Reserve Officer) Concept of Operations," senior leaders pinpointed what's needed during this transformation.

"(The goal is) translating desired mission effects into capabilities and determining the human competencies needed to satisfy them," the document said.

Force development, Major Hicks said, will help ensure Reserve officers - be they at the tactical, operational or strategic level of the fight - "will have the requisite occupational and leadership competencies to excel."

Force development affects each functional area. Similar to the active-duty force, the Reserve formed an integrated process team almost two years ago to look at functional areas across the board. The Reserve organized the team around the various reservist categories - Active Guard and Reserve, individual mobilization augmentee, traditional reservist and air reserve technician. The team met four times with the most recent meeting taking place in February.

Officers have already seen two changes, both in the area of selection for developmental education courses. In a change occurring in 2004, personnel records were also updated to reflect reduced emphasis on secondary degrees.

Much of the early process focused on revamping the career paths of about 16,000 officers, but the command's top chief master sergeant said the same transformation is beginning for the 60,000-plus members of the enlisted force.

"The ultimate goal is to ensure the Air Force Reserve deliberately develops enlisted people to meet future needs," said

Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, AFRC command chief master sergeant.

Meanwhile, as the Reserve enlisted transformation begins, the chief said he has six priorities:

- \* Proper utilization of the enlisted force.

- \* Developing the enlisted force to assume greater responsibility.

- \* Ensuring that families are priority one.

- \* Continuing to foster the relationship between the Citizen Airman and the employer.

- \* Recognition of the Reserve's people.

- \* Ensuring all enlisted people have a fair and equitable opportunity to succeed.

Chief Winsett described why it is so important to ensure any changes to the enlisted system work.

"Lots of folks - civilian and military - don't realize there are 60,000 enlisted people in all categories - unit, IMA, AGR, ART and active duty - assigned to the command," the chief said. "Those men and women are counting on us to make the right call and to ensure that the recommendation or decision is always fair and equitable."

Chief Winsett met with the enlisted integrated process team March 17 and 18 in Washington, D.C. The outcome of the meeting was not readily available.

With change on the horizon, Major Hicks emphasized the need to tailor force development to the needs of Air Force reservists.

"The continuing goal in Reserve force development is deliberate and organized development tailored to meet AFR needs within the context and culture of the Citizen Airman program," he said. (AFRC News Service)

# Lula Carter, come on down!

*Lula Carter, come on down, you are the next contestant on "The Price is Right!"* Those were the words heard recently by Master Sgt. Lula Carter, NCOIC of the 507th Mission Support Flight Orderly Room.

On March 17, Carter and her family were on vacation in Long Beach, Calif., and decided to try something different. They contacted CBS about getting tickets to be on the show and they were advised by the gate guard to be in line NLT 4 a.m. to be among the first 100 people to ensure a spot on the set.

"As instructed, we arrived at 3:30



**Master Sgt. Lula Carter on "The Price is Right" as she attempts to guess the showcase price.**

a.m. and stood in line," said Carter. "We were numbers 65, 66, and 67 in line." Between 6:15 a.m. and 10 a.m. they were brought back a couple of times and given more instructions, each time being told they were not guaranteed to be on the set.

At 10 a.m. when we returned, we were again lined up and seated by number. We were not able to leave the area any more until the show had been taped, which began at 2:30 p.m.. Around 1 p.m. the producer begin interviewing the 325 individuals in groups of 12. In each group, the producer would address each indi-

vidual in an exciting manner saying "Hi! Lula! Where are you from and what do you do?" I responded to him in the same manner: "Hi!! I am from Oklahoma City and I am a budget analyst." His comment: "I bet you like those numbers." (While the interviews are taking place, there is another gentleman writing on a clipboard during the interviews). My husband notice the gentleman writing something down after my response to the producer. My husband was so stunned about my overly zealous response and watching the gentleman writing after my comments that he was not concentrating on the producer when he finished with me. He asked him the same question and my husband's response was "Uh Uh! I am from Oklahoma City and I am an aircraft mechanic." From that point on my husband was continually saying "I know my wife is going to be called because I saw that guy writing on the clipboard when she was responding to the producer."

Once we were inside the studio in line by numbers, we filled the middle section in that order. We were right in the middle on the 5<sup>th</sup> row back from the stage. My husband again announced to everyone on the row, listen I think my wife is going to be called. So which direction do you want to go if you are called? I told them I wanted to go to the right because it seemed shorter. Just before the show started, in order to get the audience excited, the announcer (Richard) asked for volunteers to come to the stage to dance. So I was shouting and raising my hands and he called me up along with some other people. So I went to the right just as I had said I would do. I was just as excited. Once the show started, four people were called up to be prepared to bid on the first item. I can't remember but I think I was the fifth person to be called up after two individuals had won. When I got up to the spot Bob Barker stated, "I think those people on that row over there are going to remember you because I think

you stepped on everyone's toes coming out of there." Then he proceeded to the next item up for bid which was his/her Gold watches with diamonds, etc. I bid \$1,000. The actual retail price was \$1,400+. So I lost that bid. The next item was an entertainment center. I knew nothing about that type furniture so I bid \$450. I lost that bid. The next item was a couple of Banjos. I bid \$900. After the show my husband stated everyone else bid lower than \$900. So I won that bid and ran upon the stage. I played the dice game where you go higher or lower than what was rolled on the dice to try to win a brand new 2005 Ford Ranger. I sought assistance from my husband and brother in the audience and I won the truck. I was the first winner on the second half. As such, I had to wait to spend the wheel. Since I was the highest winner on that half of the show I had to spin the big wheel last. The first lady went over, the gentleman got 80, and I squeezed out a 95 which got me to the showcase.

I was the top winner for the showcase so I passed the first one to the young man. The second showcase consisted of a large pool table, a couple of motor bikes, and a brand new 2005 Buick LaSabre S. When I saw the car I forgot all about the other items. My bid was just for the car. As such, I bid way too low (\$23,000); I should have bid \$33,000. I would have won the showcase, but at least I won a truck.

Of course all winnings are considered income so both federal and state taxes will need to be paid. "I received a call from the Santa Monica Fleet on April 4 asking which dealership is closer to me for delivery of the vehicle as well as for maintenance," said Carter. "I gave him Bob Howard Downtown since I work downtown. Hopefully I will have it soon as the deadline is 10 to 90 days after the show aired on TV April 13," concluded Carter.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Jones

# The ride of a lifetime

Most of you don't know it but I love to ride my motorcycle. It is a sleek, black Honda Shadow 1100. I've been riding motorcycles on and off since I was 17 and never had an accident. When I bought this particular bike four years ago, I took the three-day Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Beginning Rider Course. I was a little embarrassed to take the course but realized that I hadn't ridden for some time and needed to brush up on my skills. What I learned was that I didn't know as much about safely operating a motorcycle as I thought I did.

On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, it (the course), along with the Good Lord, saved my life. That was the night a car pulled out in front of me and brought me and my bike to a sudden and painful stop! My motorcycle hit the car broadside doing about 25-30 mph. I took the brunt of the impact on my left side and was thrown into the car door/window and then bounced back onto the road. My rider (my 22 year old niece) flew over me hitting my helmet, handlebars, and

top of the car before landing on the other side of the vehicle in the road. We were both taken by ambulance to the local ER. Fortunately, neither of us suffered any life threatening injuries. However, my niece suffered road rash on her leg and foot injuries while I cracked at least two ribs, bruised my left hip, left hand, and had a minor cut on my forehead. Needless to say, it was very painful and continues to be to this day. In fact, I missed the April UTA because I hadn't recovered in time to make the trip from Little Rock.

So how did the course save my life? First, it taught me to be more aware of my surroundings and to drive accordingly (anybody know what S.I.P.D.E. stands for? If not, ask me and I'll tell you). In this case, even though I didn't see the car until it was too late, I was driving under the speed limit and had already started to slow down because the traffic was heavy and it had just turned dark. Secondly, I was also wearing a good quality helmet, an excellent riding jacket with padding, and leather gloves.

And I made sure my passenger was wearing a helmet too. We were taught to wear the proper clothing and, of course, the Air Force requires the same for any military member who rides a motorcycle. But every time I got onto my bike I had to make a conscious choice to wear that helmet, jacket, and gloves. Those things really protected me during and after the impact.

And what about the Lord's role in all of this? Well I believe that even with all of the right equipment, the impact was very severe and without His protection, my niece and I would still be in the hospital . . . or worse. I am very mindful and thankful for His protection.

Oh by the way, the motorcycle didn't survive. Neither did the jacket (it had to be cut off me) nor the helmet (it was retired from service). But I'm not the least bit upset about those things. I can always choose to buy another bike, helmet or jacket, but my niece's and my lives are priceless. So is yours, so be careful!

## U. S. Navy ship named for Air Force sergeant

A U.S. Navy cargo ship was been named for Air Force Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman at April 8 at the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point, N.C.

John Chapman, a combat air controller killed in action in Afghanistan in 2002, was posthumously awarded an Air Force Cross for his extraordinary heroism. The only higher award is the Medal of Honor.

The ship, christened MV TSgt. John A. Chapman, will be used to strategically place Air Force ammunition and related supplies at sea. The noncombatant, commercially chartered ship will join three other Air Force pre-positioning ships in the Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC) fleet of 35 vessels. Pre-positioning ships remain at sea in strategic areas laden with equipment and supplies for U.S. forces, allowing the military to rapidly deploy combat car! go into theatre.

MV Chapman is 670 feet long and can sail at speeds of up to 16 knots. The ship is operated by Sealift Inc. of Oyster Bay, N.Y., under contract with MSC and is crewed by 19 U.S. commercial merchant mariners.

MSC operates more than 110 noncombatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships at sea, chart ocean bottoms, conduct undersea surveillance, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move 95 percent of military equipment and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces.

Air Force officials stated that TSgt Chapman's direct combat action saved the lives of his rescue team. The MV TSgt. John A. Chapman will serve as a reminder of his unswerving dedication and commitment to service.

# Tinker Airman one of 17 competing for honors

Tech Sgt. Michael McWater was one of 17 bluesuiters from a dozen locations who were vying for one of four spots in the 2004 Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Airman/First Sergeant of the Year competition.

The nominees learned April 7 during an awards banquet in the Robins AFB Museum of Aviation's Century of Flight hangar who will represent the command at the Air Force level. Winners were: **Airman:** Senior Airman Erik R. Hofmeyer, **NCO:** Tech. Sgt. Amy D. Hatcher, **Senior NCO:** Senior Master Sgt. Anthony J. Rittwager, and **First Sergeant:** Master Sgt. David R. Henry.

The nominees in the command competition by category were:

**Airman:** Senior Airman Kevin G. Fredenburg, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Travis AFB, Calif.; Senior Airman Erik R. Hofmeyer, 919th Special Operations Wing, Eglin AFB Field 3, Fla.; Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Carlin, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.; and Senior Airman Michael P. Richter, Band of the Air Force Reserve, Robins AFB.

**NCO:** Tech. Sgt. Michael S. McWater, 507th Combat Logistics Sup-

port Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Staff Sgt. Nicole M. Breseman, 944th Support Group, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Staff Sgt. William V. Margle, 514th Communications Squadron, McGuire AFB, N.J.; Tech. Sgt. Amy D. Hatcher, Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom AFB, Mass.; and Master Sgt. Renee S. Brown, Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB.

**Senior NCO:** Senior Master Sgt. Robert Belletti, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash.; Master Sgt. Robert S. Jones, 944th SG, Luke AFB; Senior Master Sgt. Anthony J. Rittwager, 514th Maintenance Squadron, McGuire AFB; Master Sgt. Roderick N. Grimes, 18th Air Force, Scott AFB, Ill.; and Master Sgt. Austin R. Tosi, Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB.

**First Sergeant:** Senior Master Sgt. Janet M.H. Wescott, 927th Mission Support Flight, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.; Senior Master Sgt. Madeleine A. Reid, 919th Civil Engineer Squadron, Eglin AFB Field 3; and Master Sgt. David R. Henry, 908th MXS, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

The nominees represented the command's three numbered air forces, the command headquarters or Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel



**Tech. Sgt. Michael McWater**

Center in Denver.

The command winners will compete against Airmen from other Air Force major commands and agencies.

The Air Force Association will honor the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year during its annual convention in Washington, D.C., in September. The Air Force First Sergeant of the Year will receive recognition in August during the Air Force Sergeants Association's annual convention in Dallas.

## Take me out to the ball park during June UTA

The 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Chaplain's office will again host the annual wing Night at the Ball Park Saturday, June 4, 2005, at the Bricktown Ballpark. The Oklahoma RedHawks will host the Albuquerque Isotopes.

This year will mark the fifth year the Chaplain's office has coordinated this event. "I started this event in 1998 partly because I enjoy baseball and partly it's a great way to boost morale and get to know each other. Over the years we have had on average 100 members attend these events," said Magnus.

The event is scheduled to begin at 7:05 p.m. and should conclude around 10 p.m. Cost for the event is only \$6,

which includes transportation to and from the event. "We have reserved a military bus for this event. By doing this we can save our people parking charges. The bus will depart from the reserve campus Saturday evening at 6:15 p.m. We will make a stop by one of the local off-base hotels used during UTA weekends around 6:25 p.m. From there we will make our way to the ball park," said Magnus.

The 507<sup>th</sup> ARW has reserved section seating just above the third base. "This section is on the West side in the shade," smiled Magnus.

Contact either your 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant or Chaplain Magnus at [dwright.magnus@tinker.af.mil](mailto:dwright.magnus@tinker.af.mil) today to reserve your seat.



## 513th ACG Deputy Commander

By Lt. Col. John Trnka

### Show recognition in various ways

Handshakes, coins, "Thank You"s, medals, certificates, letters, plaques, trophies - the ways to recognize accomplishments are almost as varied as the achievements themselves.

Recognition - of effort, achievement, results and service, is vital to the long-term health of any organization. Yet, too often we've overlooked the chance to recognize those who are deserving.

Though some will say they don't want the attention, most of us appreciate a legitimate pat on the back from leaders who've taken the time to learn what we've done and who recognize real accomplishment. As fundamental as recognition is to the military, it's an area where we have consistently had huge room for improvement.

Too often we think of recognition only in terms of formal awards - medals given out by squadron, group and wing commanders - and those are important. But, almost always they are written by a first-line supervisor who cared enough to take the time to look around, notice, and document, effort and achievement. Of course, not everything is medal-worthy.

But look for reasons to celebrate with your people. Few things take the place of recognition we receive from our immediate bosses and coworkers, the people who know us best. Atta-Boy letters, certificates, and other informal recognitions are quick and easy to produce and can be the basis of a citation later, when a medal is warranted, and needs to be written.

Speaking of medals, they do matter. Medals count in very concrete ways, especially at promotion time. They send the message to promotion boards that an officer or senior NCO - someone has excelled - and is ready for increased responsibility. The lack of a recent decoration in a promotion folder also sends a message. If you're considering someone for PEP, a medal may make the difference between sewing on a stripe, or not: That PEP package needs a recent decoration. If someone has earned the stripe, they've probably earned the medal.

The key words here, though, are "earned," and "achievement," "effort" and "results." Not medals for medals sake. They need to be legitimate and earned, given for achievement, not just because someone has hung around long enough.

The people of the 513<sup>th</sup> have done remarkable things in its short history in AWACS. Let's make sure we take the time to say thank you, not just for the big things, but for the small as well. It's through those day-to-day, seemingly minor efforts that we have been ready every time we've been called. Those minor things add up to something much greater.

Thanks and have a great summer!

## 507th CES 5-K Pump + Run scheduled for May 14

The 507th Civil Engineer Squadron will sponsor the fifth annual 5-K Pump + Run competition Saturday, May 14.

The competition will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Building 1047, the 507th CES building. All 507th ARW and 513th ACG members are encouraged to enter.

The competition consists of the bench press and 5-K run. You must bench press your weight (60 percent for females) a minimum of one repetition to compete and maximum of 20 repetitions. Each repetition will take 30 seconds off your 5-K run time. "This is a good way to continue preparing yourself for the Fit to Fight program and to maintain good health," said Senior Master Sgt. Billy Singleton, 507th CES point of contact.

Awards will be presented to the top five competitors. There is a \$10 entry fee.

If you can't compete, you are encouraged to sponsor a competitor. Proceeds from this year's competition will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

For additional information, contact Singleton at Billy.Singleton@tinker.af.mil or call 202-3779.

**FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS  
ABUSE THEIR GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD.**

Government Travel Cards are for official travel expenses while on TDY status. Even then, interim travel vouchers asking for split disbursement should be filed so the account can be paid in full every month. That's it. Nothing else. Members using it for other things and "paying it off before they notice" are asking for trouble.

**DON'T LET YOUR WINGMAN  
CRASH & BURN**

The photograph shows a close-up of a bar counter. In the foreground, a hand is holding a glass with a drink and a red napkin. To the left, there is a book with a picture of a landscape. In the background, a hand is holding a small object. A government travel card is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

## 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 13-17 and 20-24 June 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 0800, Wed at 0800 & 1300, and Thurs at 1300. 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)

### FY2005 UTA SCHEDULE

14-15 May 05	04-05 Jun 05
09-10 Jul 05	06-07 Aug 05
10-11 Sept 05	
As of 29 April 2005	

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

## MAY TRAINING PLANNER

**Fri, 13 May 2005**

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
 1430 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg 513th ACG Auditorium  
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

**Sat, 14 May 2005**

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
**0730-0930 Computer Based Testing Bldg 1030, Room 214**  
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203  
**0730-0930 Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY**  
 0730-0900 Wing Training Office Closed Bldg 1043, Room 213  
 0830-0900 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm  
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm  
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm  
 1300-1600 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Wg Commander's office  
 1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, ATN Classroom  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

**Sun, 15 May 2005**

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
**0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium**  
**0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm**  
**0750-1115 CDC/PME Course Exams** Bldg 460, (AD Hq) Rm 215  
 0800-1115 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 0800-1030 Haz Comm - Non-Supvr Trng Bldg 1030, Room 104  
 0800-1030 Unit Safety Rep Training Bldg. 1030, Room 104  
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm  
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
 1245-1545 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, Room 214  
**1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1030, Room 106  
 0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House Tng Bldg 1043, Rm 203  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

**Fri, 3 June 2005**

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
 1430 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg 513th ACG Auditorium  
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

**Sat, 4 June 2005**

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
**0730-0930 Computer Based Testing Bldg 1030, Room 214**  
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203  
**0730-0930 Customer Service Section Open to Newcomers ONLY**  
 0730-0900 Wing Training Office Closed Bldg 1043, Room 213  
 0830-0900 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm  
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm  
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm  
 1300-1600 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Wg Commander's office  
 1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, ATN Classroom  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

**Sun, 5 June 2005**

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
**0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium**  
**0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm**  
**0750-1115 CDC/PME Course Exams** Bldg 460, (AD Hq) Rm 215  
 0800-1115 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 0800-1030 Supvr Safety Trng Bldg 1030, Room 104  
 0800-1030 Unit Safety Rep Training Bldg. 1030, Room 104  
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm  
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
 1245-1545 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, Room 214  
**1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1030, Room 106  
 0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House Tng Bldg 1043, Rm 203  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

## OCCUPATIONAL SURVEYS

These surveys provide information essential for developing personnel programs, classifying occupations, and developing training programs. The Wing Survey Control Monitor (SCM) works with the Unit Training manager (UTM) to ensure surveys are completed. AFI 36-2623, paragraph 2.7 makes completion of these surveys mandatory for all Air Force Reserve members. It is extremely important these surveys are completed by the suspense date. If you have any questions, contact Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hudson at 734-7075 or your UTM.

## Military Pay

File for                      Receive Direct  
pay by:                      Deposit by:

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

17 May	25 May
19 May	27 May
23 May	01 June
26 May	03 June
31 May	08 June
02 June	10 June
07 June	15 June
09 June	17 June
14 June	22 June
16 June	24 June
20 June	29 June
22 June	01 July
28 June	06 July
30 June	08 July

## 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	OPSEC Training	OG
<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	SF
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 Commander in:      Recertification due 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, Rm 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 office in Building 1043, Room 213.**

Editor:	CMSgt. Charlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)
Assistant Editor:	MSgt. Sharon Lochman, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)
Contributing Editors:	TSgt. Chris Rogers, Education and Training Advisor
	TSgt. Jimmy Talley, Education and Training Advisor
	SSgt. Jeremy Hudson, Education and Training Advisor (ART)
	Ms. Kimberley Silkwood, Testing and Education Advisor

## Reservists offer boss a glimpse at refueling

A number of employers for 507th ARW and 513th ACG reservists were given a glimpse at the refueling mission during an Employer Support flight on April 1.

Employer support flights are sponsored to help better acquaint business leaders who employ reservists with the mission of the Air Force Reserve. This is just one way reservists show appreciation to their employer for the time they are able to be away from their civilian jobs and participate in Reserve activities.

The 465th Air Refueling Squadron operates and maintains the KC-135R aircraft. As civilians, many of the pilots assigned to the refueling squadron are employed by commercial airlines. As reservists, they are required to fly the same type sorties as their active-duty counterparts to remain proficient and combat ready.



The 507th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135R boom connects to its receiver aircraft as it prepares to off-load fuel during the April 1 refueling mission. Employers were able to observe the refueling process from the boom pod area.

Mr. Joe Wallace, procurement manager with Boeing Co., waits for the RC-135 to arrive for the aerial refueling mission.



Employers pose for a group photo with Col. Dean Despinoy and Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Tytanic following their refueling mission on April 1, 2005.



Senior Master Sgt. Marty Lochman prepares for aerial refueling while Mr. Mike Dunn looks on with excitement.

## Colonel Harris departs this month for Andrews AFB

Air Force Reserve Command officials have announced that Col. Stayce Harris, 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing's Vice Commander, is selected as the new commander for the 459<sup>th</sup> ARW at Andrews AFB, Maryland.

Last-minute notification prevented planning a departure ceremony this month. Colonel Harris will return for an informal BBQ on her behalf on Saturday of the June UTA.

Colonel Harris joined the wing in May of 2002. In 2003, she deployed for four months to Moron AB, Spain, where she served as the 494<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group Commander in support of OPERATION Iraq and Enduring Freedom. During her tenure here she was a strong proponent of the wing's Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) and worked to help establish internal programs to support and help reservists build better military careers for themselves.

The 459<sup>th</sup> ARW is also equipped with Boeing KC-135R "Stratotanker" aircraft. That wing and its predecessor units have been based at Andrews Air Force Base since 1954. It is the only flying Air Force Reserve unit in the greater Washington, D.C., area. The wing is also a four-time recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The wing is one of a few within the Air Force Reserve where the commander position is a traditional reserve position and the vice commander position is an Air Reserve Technician billet.

The On-final staff caught up with Colonel Harris for one final interview.

**What was your proudest accomplishment with the 507th?** Witnessing our HRDC (Human Resource Development Council) blossom into one of the greatest in the command. I loved that our HRDC members and workshop participants from throughout the wing received a unique opportunity to meet, work together and have fun with each other while gaining insights into team building and professional development. I'm also

very proud how our entire wing took a personal interest and active involvement in our already stellar FOD (Foreign Object Damage) program to reduce the FOD on our campus.



**Previous commanders have told us how the "Okie" spirit affected them. How has it affected you personally and professionally?** From the very first day I arrived to interview, I immediately felt welcome. That feeling has continued and grown exponentially. I brag to my friends at how the people here are the best. The Okie spirit embodies a sense of family. Here people anticipate your needs, are always available to help with a welcome smile and do it all unconditionally.

Professionally, the Okie spirit is defined by a strong work ethic, teamwork and cooperation that is second to none. I've become smarter in a lot of areas by having the opportunity to deploy and visit with our squadrons and flights. I've also received some valuable hands-on training. My thanks to our CES troops in El Salvador for giving me OJT on priming walls!

**What will you miss the most?**

By far, I will miss each person that I've met and gotten a wonderful chance to know personally.

**Any unfinished business you wished you could have accomplished?**

Sure. I wish I could have met every single individual in the wing and gotten to know more about them, their interests and their families.

**How has serving with the Okies helped you prepare for your new position as a Wing commander?** I've been able to learn a great deal from Colonel Despinoy, our Wing Commander. He's been a great role model and mentor for me. We have the best officer and enlisted force and I have been able to continually learn from everyone. The Okies raise the bar on how a wing should perform.

**Do you have any parting advice or comments for our reservists?** Take pride in the phenomenal

reputation you have as Okies and continue to strive to "do the right thing." Keep that wonderful sense of family that you possess. Please continue to invite retirees and those that move on to other assignments (hint, hint) in the loop on what's going on with the wing so we can come back to visit.

**Do you have any parting advice in respect to just the enlisted troops?**

As the proud daughter of an enlisted father, I have boundless respect for our enlisted force. You are the backbone of all military organizations. It's a huge responsibility and I encourage each of you to continue to serve as role models and mentors for officers and your fellow enlisted.

**Any additional comments?** I want to thank everyone in the wing for the incredible experience I've had in the 507th. It's been my honor to have served with you. In my heart, you'll always be family and I look forward to returning often!

## Officials announce Thrift Savings Plan open season

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the “open season” April 15 to June 30.

“TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider,” said Jackie Holland, task manager at the Air Force Personnel Contact Center here. “It’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.

“It’s also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks,” Ms. Holland said. “People can choose safer government securities as well.”

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of Air Force Personnel Center’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts,” Ms. Thomas said. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” Ms. Holland said. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

TSP officials said they also hope to make “Lifecycle” funds available mid-2005. Lifecycle funds are “target asset allocation portfolios” that will hold a mix of the five funds currently available. The mix of funds is chosen based on the date the employee expects to need money for retirement. More information is available online at [www.tsp.gov/curinfo/specint/LFC-Qs&As.html](http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/specint/LFC-Qs&As.html).

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections and/or changes made between April 15 and June 11 will take effect June 12, for servicemembers and civilians. Changes made on or after June 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Public Law 108-469, signed into law Dec. 21, will elimi-

nate TSP open seasons. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board is implementing this law July 1. As a result, beginning July 1, civilian employees and servicemembers may start, change, stop or resume contributions at any time. For civilians, the elections will be effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which submitted, and for military members elections will be effective the following month.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

### Military

— Servicemembers can contribute as much as 10 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment is not more than \$14,000 for 2005. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

— Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$42,000 in annual contributions.

— Airmen can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at [www.dfas.mil/emss/](http://www.dfas.mil/emss/). They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

— Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (877) 968-3778 for people in the 50 States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada, or (504) 255-8777 for people elsewhere, or on the TSP Web site at [www.tsp.gov/](http://www.tsp.gov/). For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

— Specific TSP information is available for Airmen at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm).

### Civilian

Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

— Federal Employees’ Retirement System employees may contribute as much as 15 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to 4 percent as well as an automatic 1 percent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government’s contribution 5 percent.

— Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute as much as 10 percent of basic pay, but do not receive any agency contributions.

— Beginning in December, there will no longer be percentage limits on how much FERS and CSRS employees may contribute each year. Contributions will be restricted only by

# General explains new DoD sex-assault policy

By Terri Lukach  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The new guidelines for reporting incidents of sexual assault within the military create, for the first time, a Defense Department-wide standard that will provide victims with the support they need after incidents occur and help commanders get to root causes of the problems, the head of the Pentagon joint task force for sexual-assault prevention and response said here March 22.

Before the policy, announced March 18, there were “pockets of excellence” but no overarching policy for contending with sexual abuse,” Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain said. The new policy “provides a framework for how the department will respond,” she said.

The new guidelines are expected to take effect in mid-June.

“Sexual abuse crimes create a sense of (powerlessness) in the victim (and) a loss of control, and the official investigative process can be overwhelming,” General McClain said.

It is primarily this sense of being overwhelmed and powerless that causes victims to forgo reporting sexual-abuse incidents, the general said.

The new policy allows the victim to report incidents and receive medical treatment, care and counseling, while at the same time giving the victim more time and control over the release and management of personal information. In short, it allows the victim “to come forward without initiating the reporting process,” General McClain said.

She said the new policy will not limit commanders from

addressing problems of abuse within their commands.

“Now commanders will have more information about the scope and nature of the problem within their organizations” the general said. “It will allow them to adjust their prevention efforts and judge the effectiveness of their training program.”

General McClain said it also creates a universal policy across all services, which is particularly important in this new era of joint operations.

“It is critical that the same policy be applied across the Department of Defense,” she said. “Otherwise, we could have different forms of confidentiality, or even different access to services, varying by location. That would not only be confusing, but also inequitable.”

The message of the new policy, General McClain said, is that while complete reporting and accountability is preferable, the first priority is to ensure that victims are protected, treated with dignity and respect, and receive the medical treatment, care and support they deserve.

Confidentiality does two things, she said: It gets victims the care and support they need, and it gives commanders information they don’t currently have that allows them to get at the root cause of sexual abuse.

“Everyone in the Department of Defense has a role in prevention and response, regardless of rank, position, duty title or assignment,” the general said. “That role is to understand what behavior constitutes sexual assault, and to send a message to co-workers and friends that those behaviors are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.”

## Officials announce Thrift Savings Plan open season

the Internal Revenue Code’s annual limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

— Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Plan Web site and the BEST home page at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm).

— All Air Force-serviced civilian employees will make their TSP contribution elections or changes electronically through the Web-based Employee Benefits Information System at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm) or through the

BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775. Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial (210) 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees can dial the direct-access number for the country they are calling from and then enter (800) 616-3775. Counselors are available weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT.

— Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest his or her money among the five funds) are made via the “Account Access” section of the TSP Web site, or by calling the

ThriftLine at (877) 968-3778 for employees in the 50 States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada; (504) 255-8777 for employees elsewhere.

More information about the Thrift Savings Plan can be found in the booklet “Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan” on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

## New health plan extends care for activated reservists

WASHINGTON – Health care for reservists gets a booster shot April 25. That’s when a premium-based health care plan starts for those activated for a contingency anytime since 9/11.

Department of Defense officials announced Tricare Reserve Select at a Pentagon news conference March 24.

“We are committed to providing the proper combination of compensation and benefits that will allow us to attract and retain the world’s best fighting force,” said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

TRS offers a bridge for reservists entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plan. It’s similar to Tricare Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

Monthly premiums for a reservist are \$75. A reservist and family pays \$233. Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Air Force reservists must serve on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001,

in support of a contingency. And, they must enter an agreement with Air Force Reserve Command to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more years before leaving active duty. If they got off active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to apply.

Reservists earn one year of care for every 90 days of continuous active-duty service and every year of service commitment. For example, reservists with 360 days of qualifying active duty can get four years of coverage if they sign up for four years in the Selected Reserve.

Coverage ends when the service agreement ends. It stops sooner if the reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the program or fails to pay the monthly premiums.

The Tricare Web site – [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect) – will have more details. To get updates by e-mail, reservists and their families can subscribe to [www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/).

For reservists enrolled in the Transitional Assistance Management Program, coverage will start the day after TAMP ends. (AFRC News Service)

### 10-Point Veterans’ Preference

## OPM revises application for 10-Point preference

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Acting Director Dan G. Blair recently announced efforts the agency is taking to make veterans’ preference available to more of America’s veterans. OPM is revising the Standard Form 15 (SF 15), Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference, and locating it on the agency’s website ([www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)) for immediate use in accepting Department of Veterans Affairs letters of disability. The online application is used by agencies, OPM examining offices, and agency appointing officials to adjudicate individuals’ claims for veterans’ preference in accordance with the Veterans’ Preference Act of 1944.

“We must ensure those who are eligible for veterans’ preference re-

ceive the benefits to which they are entitled,” said Blair. “OPM places a strong emphasis on the rights of veterans, including employment opportunities, and this latest version of the SF 15 strengthens that commitment for supporting our veterans in seeking federal employment opportunities.”

The SF-15 has been revised to be consistent with the policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs which considers letters issued in 1991 or later as proof of a permanent disability, unless specifically stated otherwise. In addition, OPM eliminated outdated references from the application form.

To further show OPM’s commitment to this nation’s veterans, OPM currently is in the second stage of

its Veterans’ Invitational Program (VIP). VIP II includes seminars conducted by OPM recruiters and hiring specialists at military bases and medical centers, explains veterans’ preference and appointing authorities, workshops on resume writing and interviewing skills, and hands-on guidance with OPM’s USAJOBS website — [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) — the primary source for finding federal jobs.

Further VIP II visits are scheduled for the following cities: Cherry Point, NC; Camp Lejeune, NC; Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bliss, TX; and Fort Lee, VA.

# Summer -- A season to exercise off-duty safety

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley  
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON - "There are no second acts in American lives," F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote.

Memorial Day Weekend signals the start of summer, traditionally a time of fun and sun. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer, we sometimes try to do too much because of the extra sunlight.

Here are suggestions on how to keep healthy and safe this summer:



**Don't Drink  
And Drive...**

**Alcohol consumption** - Don't drink and operate vehicles - automobiles, boats, jet skis, etc. If you drink, do it moderately and always appoint a designated driver.

**Traveling** - Be sober, vigilant and well-rested. Ensure everyone wears a seatbelt.

**Watercraft** - Know your craft and use personal floatation devices. Use cau-

tion when operating boats and jet skis, staying away from other boaters, swimmers and jet skiers.

**Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles** - Don't operate with-

out proper training and personal protective equipment. Always remain vigilant and drive defensively.

**Outdoor activities** - Before and after athletic activity, take a short moderate-to-brisk walk to improve circulation rather than stretching, which experts say contributes to muscle strain. Know your limits and don't overdo it. Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, use sunscreens and drink plenty of water.

**Swimming** - Swim with a buddy in known waters and don't drink.

In the past few years we've been made more aware of the need for diligent force protection. We need to apply this same kind of vigilance off duty during the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Most mishaps involve one or more of the following factors: alcohol, fatigue, darkness, bad weather, poor judgment, inappropriate risk-taking. Let's use common sense, plan ahead and be prepared.

An "it-will-never-happen-to-me" attitude is not a guarantee but rather a recipe for disaster. Take care of your family and of your Air Force Reserve family. Be alert and prevent incidents that could cause a lifetime of regrets.

Let's all enjoy the months of summer, but let's enjoy our off-duty time responsibly. (AFRC News Service)

## Home survival kit for severe weather planning

No matter where you live, severe weather is inevitable. Plan ahead and stay safe with a home survival kit. The two-person Home Survival Kit has everything you need the next time severe weather threatens. Keep it in your home, emergency shelter and even the car. The kit, which enables you to be self sufficient for approximately three days, can include:

- 2 - Energy Food Bars
- 2 - Gallons of Water

- 2 - Thermal Blankets
- 2 - Ponchos with hoods
- 2 - Tissue Packs
- 1 - Pair Work Gloves
- 1 - Pair Vinyl Gloves
- 2 - Dust Masks
- 1 - AM/FM Radio & Flashlight with spare batteries
- 1 - First Aid Kit
- 1 - Gas Shut-off Wrench
- 1 - Multi-function Swiss Army Knife

- 1 - Box of 50 Waterproof Matches
- 5 - Emergency Candles
- 12 - Sanitation/Toilet Bags
- 1 - Roll of Duct Tape
- 1 - Emergency Safety Whistle

Don't forget to include cell phone, medicines, including dosages and doctor's name and phone number. Also include special needs, like diapers, formula, clothing if there's a baby in the family.

## The IG Says...

Members should attempt to resolve Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA) issues and personal complaints at the lowest possible level using command channels before addressing them to a higher level or the Investigator General (IG).

The immediate supervisory command chain can often resolve complaints more quickly and effectively than a higher level not familiar with the situation.

The IG system should be used when referral to the command chain would be futile or there is fear of reprisal.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Capt. Mark Vardaro at (405) 556-1745, toll-free at (877) 225-5928 or fax (405) 694-4027. You may also call AFRC FWA Hotline: (800) 223-1784, Ext. 7-1513, SAF/IGO FWA Hotline: (800) 538-8429 or DoD FWA Hotline: (800) 424-9098.

# Uprclose

By Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida

The following question was asked of members of the 507th ARW and 513th ACG:

**“What’s in your personal tornado preparedness plans?”**



**Senior Airman Joe Askey, 507th AMXS**  
“I watch TV and head for the basement.”



**Chief Master Sgt. Doyle Garrison  
507th AMXS**  
“We keep a battery-powered TV and radio, and flashlights handy so we can monitor weather. We keep blankets and pillows close to our central bathroom in case we need to use it as a shelter.”



**Staff Sgt. Jeff O’Daniel  
507th AMXS**  
“My storm cellar in the garage is wired with phone and electrical.”



**Senior Airman Tyler Duke  
507th LGMFM**  
“I check for local weather shelters and possible safe locations. I have provisions prepared - water, flashlight, radio, etc.”



**Master Sgt. Tracy North  
507th MOF**  
“I keep up-to-date on weather conditions through the TV or radio. I also have an emergency weather alert radio in my house in case I’m unaware of the weather conditions or to wake me while I’m sleeping.”



**Senior Airman David Jones, 513th MXS**  
“I have a flashlight, radio, and a deep cellar.”

## PT uniform policy guidance for Reserve members

The preliminary policy guidance regarding the phase-in period of the Air Force Physical Training (PT) uniform has been released.

Due to force protection concerns, AOR locations will get first priority to receive the new PT uniform. To date, five shipments have been sent to the AOR and the next shipments will be sent to bases supporting AEFs 5 and 6. Some military clothing sales stores are expected to begin receiving uniforms on a limited basis in the May/June 05 timeframe.

Although the PT uniform is expected to be available to the entire total force by December 2005, fiscal constraints dictate the Air Force Reserve will phase-in the uniform over the next five fiscal years (FY06 - FY10).

Cost of the four-piece uniform is \$142.35: T-shirt (\$9.25 x 2); shorts (\$12.10 x 2); and warm-up suit \$99.65 (jacket \$61.65 and pants \$38). The wear life for the AFR will be two years for the shirts and shorts and four years for the warm-up suit.

In a Dec. 17, 2003 legal review, SAF/GCA determined the PT uniform must not be funded from operation and maintenance funds, and the PT uniform cannot be furnished or funded for officers. Thus, the appropriate funding source is the Reserve Personnel Account (RPA). The AFR phase-in schedule applies to enlisted reservists only, and the PT uniform will be furnished only to enlisted Reserve members. Officers are required to purchase the uniform at their own expense and may

do so when available in AAFES outlets. No mandatory wear date has been finalized as of this date.

Enlisted members will be furnished PT uniforms or be provided a cash allowance to purchase the uniform per the prioritized phase-in plan provided below. Until the phase-in period is completed, AFR enlisted members that have not been furnished the PT uniform are exempt from the Air Force PT uniform wear policy. This includes enlisted Reserve members in deployed locations where supplies are available. After the phase-in period is completed, all AFR members must comply with the Air Force wear policy, as well as any AOR-specific policies for deployed members.

Beginning FY06 (Oct. 1, 2005), the uniform will be furnished to enlisted Reserve personnel on a priority basis as follows:

- A. Personnel deployed in an AOR location where the uniform is available.
- B. Personnel activated in support of contingency operations to any overseas location.
- C. Personnel projected for deployment to the AOR overseas.
- D. All remaining personnel.

If enlisted members purchase the uniform at their own expense, they are not authorized reimbursement for their purchase. However, they remain entitled to receive the uniform at the appropriate phase-in point.

Implementation procedures will be published by the Air Force Reserve Command.

## Partial listing of uniform board results

The chief of staff approved a number of changes at last year's uniform board meeting, affecting everything from cell phones to scarves. Among the changes are:

- Establish a standardized Air Force physical training uniform.
- Redesign the female lightweight blue jacket.
- Authorize the lightweight blue jacket to be worn indoors.
- Authorize, as an option, to have the Air Force symbol embroidered on the lightweight blue jacket.
- Offer the A-line skirt as an optional item.
- Redesign and revise maternity uniforms.
- Authorize the black scarf only with all Air Force uniforms, eliminating white, gray and olive drab options.

— Authorize conservative ornamentation on nonprescription sunglasses and eyeglasses.

— Authorize one small, black, nondescript personal digital assistant, pager or cellular phone at a time to be worn on the uniform belt.

— Allow females to wear small, black spherical earrings when in uniform.

— Allow black web belts or black riggers belts with nondescript buckles as an optional item with the battle dress uniform.

— Remove the requirement to wear a tie or tab with short-sleeved shirt or blouse while traveling on a commercial airline.

— Authorize wear of a backpack over both shoulders.

— Authorize only a solid-color black backpack with blue uniform combina-

tions and solid black, olive drab or woodland camouflage backpack with battle dress uniforms.

— Redesign the security forces beret.

— Allow the wear of plain black conservative hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes with all female hair colors.

— Allow males to cleanly shave their heads or have military high-and-tight haircuts; females are not authorized to shave their heads or wear high-and-tight haircuts.

More information about these and other uniform board decisions will be included in the next update of Air Force Instruction 36-2903.

Questions should be addressed to the 507th Military Personnel Flight customer service at 734-7492.

# Parting Shot



Tech. Sgt. John Beech, 35<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, received Honor Graduate while attending Combat Communications Readiness School, Class 05-02, Feb. 28 - March 18, 2005. Beech received the award for his leadership abilities in the course which consists of a two-week academic phase and a one-week bare base phase. Students are subjected to a replicated hostile organization targeting them as a class and as individuals. During the bare base scenario, the students are targeted with level one and level two threats mixed in with peacekeeping scenarios from a permanent, dedicated aggressor force. Beech is a Del City policeman in his civilian life and is active in many community outreach and support organizations.

Photo submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Greenlee

## On-final

### R-News

#### VA games need volunteers

Volunteers are being sought to support the 19<sup>th</sup> annual National Veterans Golden Age Games set for May 21-26, 2005, in Oklahoma City.

The games are a national, multi-event sports and recreational competition for all United States military veterans age 55 or older who receive health care at any VA medical facility. The games will be held on or about the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

Competitive events include: swimming, bicycling, golf, shot put, discus, 10-meter air rifle, table tennis, dominoes, shuffleboard, horseshoes, nine-ball, bowling, checkers, and croquet. Each event has six age categories for participation, 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70-74; 75-79, and 80 and up. Veterans with visual impairments and those who use wheelchairs may compete in the Visually Impaired or Wheelchair Divisions.

To volunteer your time, call Sherilyn Fails, Oklahoma City Veterans Hospital, at 270-1571.

#### Blood Drive this month

The next Blood Drive will be held May 15, with sign-in in the lobby of Bldg. 1043, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. only.

#### Bracelet not authorized

The Lance Armstrong bracelet cannot be worn in uniform. The YELLOW bracelet supporting a Cancer Foundation is a noble cause, however the bracelet does not meet the conservative criteria outlined in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel. This guidance was received from AFPC/DPPFOC.

#### National job fair scheduled

The NCOA will host a National Job Fair on Tuesday, May 24, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Rd., Midwest City, Ok.

For more information, call John Ham at (800) 662-2620, Ext. 271, or visit [www.militaryjobworld.com](http://www.militaryjobworld.com).

#### ID checks at base gyms

Until further notice there will be 100 percent ID card checks at all base fitness centers during peak hours of 6:30 - 8 a.m. and 3 - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. No guests allowed during these times. If you have questions, call 734-5607.

### 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)  
Tech. Sgt. Carla Lang (NW)  
(405) 733-9403

#### Tulsa, OK

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