

# On-final



U.S. AIR FORCE

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

September 2006  
Vol. 26, No. 8



RIMPAC

Pages 6-7



513th celebrates  
10 years

Page 8



Softball trophies

Page 15





507th ARW  
Commander's Column  
By Col. Jeffery R. Glass

## Take care of our folks

It is hard to believe that I have been here for over a month; the time has flown by. In the month of September the 507th will be deploying over 60 individuals in support of OIF and OEF. For the individuals who are deploying, "Good Luck" and keep safe, I know you will make us all proud. My wife and I are firm believers in taking care of the families of deployed individuals. If you are deployed and your family needs anything, please let the wing know. If they cannot get the help they need, Kim and I can always be reached to help.

The next topic I would like to cover deals with mentoring and PME. We have numerous individuals, both

officer and enlisted, that could be promoted to the next rank if they just completed their appropriate PME. In my eyes this is a breakdown in our leadership both of-ficer and senior enlisted. We need to push these individuals to complete their PME. We also have to show these individuals the advantages of the increased rank can have on their careers, standing in the community and the bottom-line the increase in their eventual retirement income. Our training folks are here to make availability of testing as easy as possible. If you have individuals that want to test try to find time in their work schedule to allow this to happen..

Finally in closing, Kim and I are moving into our house this month so it officially makes us OKIEs and we could not be prouder. I am honored to have the opportunity to command such a great group of professionals. I know the next year will be tough with OREs, ORI and numerous deployments, but I am sure the 507th will continue to prove it is one of AFRC's premier wings.

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## Life is like a mist

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Jones

Maybe you heard about the Comair flight that crashed in Lexington, Kentucky last month. It not only caught my attention because of the loss of life (49 of 50 passengers died including a newlywed couple) but also because I had been in Lexington only one week before the crash. I had dropped off my son at the University of Kentucky to start his freshman year. I actually drove past the airport on the way out of town.

As I reflected on the news of the crash I thought about how fragile life is and how uncertain is our time of death. We truly don't know when our time to die will come. We only know for certain that it will come. The Christian Scriptures sometimes describe life as a mist or vapor that is here for a moment then vanishes away.

In light of this, some might say, "Life is short so play hard" or "Life is short so pray hard." For me, the uncertainty of when I will die is one more reason to live my life in a way that pleases God. Blessings!

## Maj. Bonnie Tremblett is new Wing Performance Manager

Maj. Bonnie Tremblett is the new Performance Manager for the 507th ARW. She arrived here last month from HQ AFRC, XPXS (now A8XS), replacing Maj. Don Satterlee who was promoted to the 507th MPF Commander position.



**Maj. Bonnie Tremblett**

"I'm glad to be back at the Wing level," said Major Tremblett. "Headquarters was a good tour; I will take everything I learned there and apply it to our mission

here," she said. "Very exciting times, AEF and ORI impending; much planning taking place to help prepare the unit for a very busy next year," continued Major Tremblett. "I will endeavor to get out and meet everybody and you can stop by for a visit. My office is located in the 507th ARW Command Suite, and thanks for the opportunity to serve with the 507th!"

## Two new tanker aircraft arrive in Oklahoma

The 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing received two additional KC-135R aircraft last month, the first of four authorized by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process.

The aircraft were previously operated by another Reserve unit, the 939<sup>th</sup> ARW from Portland, Oregon. The BRAC decision realigned that wing's

operational mission and directed that four of its aircraft would be assigned to the 507<sup>th</sup> ARW. The remaining two aircraft slated for assignment to the 507<sup>th</sup> are temporarily assigned to a different Air Force Reserve wing in Michigan.

The aircraft transfer will bring the total local tanker aircraft to 12.



*From front cover: Tech. Sgt. Ami Dubose, 507th AGS, blocks in the first KC-135 as it arrives from the 939th ARW.*



**One of two Portland birds taxis onto the 507th ARW ramp.**

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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. If you need more time, please call us at 734-3078.**

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

**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.

# Why do we do this to ourselves?

By Col. Michael Higginson  
940th Mission Support Group commander

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – It's 4:45 a.m. Saturday morning of a unit training assembly weekend and you're the only one awake in your house. You hit the start button on the coffee maker, shower and put on your uniform. You give your spouse or significant other a peck on their still-asleep face, fill up your to-go cup with coffee and hit the road.

Your friends are all still in bed. The only reason they'd be up this early is to go fishing or hunting. But you're going to drive an hour and a half, sign in, run a mile and a half, get a typhoid shot, take a career development course test, go to a commander's call, attend a training session or two, work at your duty station for several hours, sign out and drive back home.

Sunday is going to be pretty much the same, and then you roll right into Monday and you're headed back to the civilian job. And on top of all that, if you haven't recently deployed for an extended period of time, chances are good that you will soon. So, why are you doing this to yourself? Money? Fame and glory? Probably not....

The answer to the "why?" in a reservist's life is probably a little complex. We do what we do for a combination of reasons that usually adds up to an answer that is larger than the sum of its parts.

We usually enjoy the field we serve in; security forces folks usually like law enforcement, pilots like flying, etc... We usually like the people we work with in our reserve assignments. They are a separate set of friends from our civilian friends and, hey, the more friends the better.

We are generally proud of the work we do and it makes us feel good. We can see the results of our labor and it gives us a feeling of worth.

Our civilian friends often admire us for our dedication and we all like admiration. And, yeah, they do pay us something (albeit, some more than others and often not enough), and don't forget the typhoid shots are free.

But I think the real answer to the "why?" is often very private and much more noteworthy. I can sum it up for

myself with this quick anecdote about my dad.

Dad was a Kentucky boy and former coal miner who joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked in aircraft maintenance his entire 30-year career and retired as a chief warrant officer. Dad was one of only 17 CWO4's remaining in the Air Force at that time.

After he retired he began to suffer terribly from Alzheimer's or dementia. When I took him golfing for the last time, he had reached the point in his disease where he didn't even recognize me, his oldest child. Dad was 80 years old at the time, three years before his death.

At the pro shop on this last father-son golf outing, I paid both of our green fees and started for the first tee. As I walked away from the counter, my dad opened his old wallet and took out the twenty dollar bill my mom always made sure he had with him. He gave it to the clerk who had just taken my money.

The clerk told my dad, "Your friend has already paid for your golf." My dad looked at the clerk as he handed him his twenty and said, "I want you to take this and buy a new American flag. The one you're flying out front is faded and ragged and when you fly that flag, you should fly it right."

Well, I retrieved Dad's twenty from the dumbfounded clerk on the way out, but we were only able to stumble and fumble our way through three holes of golf before we called it quits. But that morning my beautiful old man, who didn't even recognize his own son or the game he had loved for 50 years,

did somehow remember the wonderful pride he felt for the flag that represented his country.

This story makes it a little easier for me to hit the button on that coffee maker on a UTA morning. I also think it helps explain why many of us continue to do this work. My dad would be proud of all of our Citizen Warriors and he would thank you as I am. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)



## Sergeant Beech helps disabled athletes become winners

Tech. Sgt. John Beech, a member of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron, recently returned from Chicago, Ill., where he participated in carrying the torch in support of the Special Olympics.

Beech, a police officer for Del City in civilian life, was one of many police officers from across the nation who partnered with Special Olympics participants in carrying the Flame of Hope torch from Soldier Field in Chicago to the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa — this year's home for the USA National Special Olympics Games.

According to Special Olympic officials, the "Flame of Hope" symbolizes the courage, hope and determination represented by Special Olympics athletes. The sergeant was one of more than 100 participants selected for the Final Leg team, which includes 60 law enforcement officer runners, nine Special Olympics athlete runners and 40 support team members.

The Torch Runners represented 48 states and the District of Columbia. The participants were selected based on their past support for the Special Olympic program. Sergeant Beech has been involved with fundraising events for Special Olympics and the Special Olympic program for more than eight years. He has participated in previous Oklahoma Torch Run events and first met the Special Olympics Oklahoma Athletes while working on an assignment from the Del City Police Department at the Del City High School.

The actual games were held from July 2 to 7. Sergeant Beech said he departed for Chicago on June 23. The Final Leg event kicked off on June 24 with a "Flame of Hope" Lighting Ceremony at Soldier Field in Chicago, home of the first international Special Olympics Games in 1968.

"During the next 10 days, I ran over 70 miles as one of the guardians of the Flame of Hope. The experience I had while doing this is one that I have no words to describe. When we entered the arena carrying the flame to light the caldron for the start of the games every Special Olympic gave us a standing ovation. There was not a dry eye among any of the officers who were there," he said.



**John Beech, second from left, poses with other police officers on his running team and the athlete that ran with them. The officers are from California, Illinois, North Dakota, Connecticut and Massachusetts and the athlete, Jamie Darko, is from Great Falls, Montana.**

## Air Force leaders send Air Force birthday message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a message from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley on the Air Force's 59th birthday.

"Over the course of the past 59 years, the United States Air Force has established itself as the dominant force in air, space and cyberspace. Our knowledge-enabled Airmen have revolutionized the way our nation defends itself and its allies across the full spectrum of threats.

"Before our inception as an independent service, the Air Force responded wherever and whenever needed,

whether for disaster relief, humanitarian operations or combat operations. We have only gotten better in time.

"Our heritage is one of technological innovation, courage and dedication. As we build on that proud heritage and look toward new and unlimited horizons, we will continue to deliver unmatched air, space and cyberspace dominance for the interdependent joint team and our nation.

"Your tireless commitment, agility and professionalism are the foundation for our successes. Without you, and the support of your families, we could not be the world-class team we are. America's Airmen exemplify our core values of

Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do.

"As we lead into our diamond anniversary celebration, we count on our most valuable asset — our Airmen — to continue the magnificent work our forebears began. We are confident you'll conquer tomorrow's challenges with the same courage, commitment and confidence that defined our first 59 years.

"Thanks to our entire Air Force family across the globe: active duty, civilian, Guard, Reserve, retirees, veterans, and all their families. Happy birthday, Air Force!"

# Wing deployment racks impressive results

By Lt. Col. Richard Curry  
507th ARW Public Affairs Office

After 30 days of deployment, 50 sorties flown, and over 1,500,000 pounds of fuel being offloaded to 271 receivers, the feeling of those returning from RIMPAC 2006 was near unanimous: "We aced this."

Four wing aircraft and more than 160 unit reservists rotated through Hickam AFB, Hawaii, to support the bi-annual Multi-national naval exercise



Master Sgt. Dean McQuitty services a refueling drogue. Eighty-five percent of the refueling missions flown during RIMPAC 2006 required drogue operations. While parked, stands are parked under the aircraft to help support the weight of these fully retracted attachments. Once moving, wind resistance on the drogue pulls the unit up, parallel to the aircraft. The refueling drogue is used to refuel Navy jets and NATO aircraft from other countries. Wing aircraft also refueled Canadian F-18s participating in RIMPAC. Air Force photo by TSgt.

Herbert Briscoe

PAGE 6

during the month of July. The 507th Air Refueling Wing was the sole Air Force refueling unit participating in the exercise.

"During the exercise 507th aircraft averaged 3 missions with a manned ground spare per day, with surges to 4 missions per day during the tactical phase," said Lt. Col. Bill Mason, exercise planner and deployed Detachment commander. A typical mission averaged 4 to 6 hours with 2 to 4.5 hours on track, Mason said. Long duty days were the norm, Mason said, with some days running from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. "We were on tap to support a 12 hour flying window daily,"

he said.

Roughly 85 percent of the missions involved using the drogue attachment while refueling U.S. Navy and some NATO aircraft.

Seven Pacific Rim nations along with the United Kingdom participated in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006, a major maritime exercise conducted in the waters off Hawaii from June 26 through July 28, 2006. RIMPAC 2006 brought together military forces from



The 20th multinational Rim of the Pacific exercise (RIMPAC) was held during July engaging in a series of intensive warfare training conducted off the coast of the Hawaiian Islands. On July 26th, the Coalition Force comprised of eight nations, 35 ships, 160 aircraft and 19,000 personnel, returned to Pearl Harbor for a short pause before beginning the final journey home at the end of the month.



**A KC-135R flown by the 507th Air Refueling Wing refuels an F-18 Hornet somewhere over the Pacific during RIMPAC 2006 multinational exercises. The 507th was the sole Air Force air refueling wing supporting this year's exercise which was held during the month of July.**

Australia, Canada, Chile, Peru, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States. [

This year's exercise was the twentieth in a series of RIMPAC exercises conducted periodically since 1971. Over 40 ships, six submarines, 160 aircraft and almost 19,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coastguardsmen participated in RIMPAC training operations. RIMPAC is intended to enhance the

tactical proficiency of participating units in a wide array of combined operations at sea.

By enhancing interoperability, RIMPAC helps to promote stability in the Pacific Rim region to the benefit of all participating nations. This year's exercise included a variety of surface combatant ships, submarines, tactical aircraft, and amphibious forces. The United States THIRD Fleet, was responsible for overall exercise coordi-

nation. Individual units remain under operational command of their respective national commanders throughout the exercise.

The 507th members returning from the deployment also brought home one final statistic, Mason said: 100 percent aircraft reliability and mission completion. "We didn't miss a single mission and even managed to support a last-minute mission tasking," Mason said.



## 513th Air Control Group Commander's Column

By Col. Gregory Phillips

### 513th celebrates 10 years

This month is special to all the members of the 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group and in light of that I felt a little looking back was in order. It began in 1996 when the 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group was reactivated at Tinker Air Force Base. In the 10 years since, our members have defended the freedom of others, as well as preserved the sanctity and restored the peace of our countrymen. As individual unit members you probably thought that your role was unimportant because it is often times hard to quantify just how much you have accomplished. As your commander for these last two years and two months, I have had the privilege and honor of being able to see how much each of you working together have been able to achieve. Take for example completion of the de-activation, "Excellent" ORI, "Outstanding" ASEV, "Full Compliance" UCI, Air Force Outstanding Unit award two times in a row, short-notice deployment to South America, re-alignment of our AEF Area of Responsibility, and support for our countrymen in New Orleans. That being said, 10 years is a long time for an individual, but for a team it's something larger.

Sometimes, it's easy for us to lose sight of ourselves when no one seems to care, but that's not what being an Air Force reservist is about. Anyone can coast through life, working a 9-to-5 job in some corporate salt mine, collect a paycheck, and go home to watch cable. But each of us was motivated by a grander ideal. An ideal that says we could do more than that and that we could rise up to any challenge and that we might even be able to improve ourselves in the process. The Air Force empowers Airmen by giving them an opportunity to explore themselves and see what they are made of. It's a bold move when you look inside your heart and can work up the courage to ask, "Am I strong enough for this? Am I smart

enough for this?" The most difficult question we can ask ourselves is, "Have I done my part?"

And that's where the team comes in. When we accept that we're not in this alone, we trust each other more and defer to experience where pride would say to press on and never mind the consequences. As reservists, you've heard it said that the skills we learn in uniform benefit us in the civilian world. But the ability to trust in the judgment of others is just as important. That is the hidden meaning of service before self. This core value is not just sacrifice for the greater mission, but an ability to see past ourselves and recognize that a team gets the mission done. In the last 10 years, that's exactly what we've done and how we did it: we became a team and no mission was impossible for us.

That is why the 10th anniversary of the 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control

Group at Tinker is so important. The anniversary isn't about the mission, but about the team; The Tinker Team that carried on the spirit and legacy of the teams that came before us. Our team has grown and I see my time here has been a treasure beyond compare. Deep down, I think many of you feel the same way. What we've learned in these hallways, these hangars and in the aircraft we fly has been that we've all been given the rarest opportunity to explore ourselves to the best of our ability and were found to be deserving of that chance to be something better than what we were as individuals.

That is the legacy we leave behind as we give new Airmen opportunities to face the same challenges we did, as we once inherited from people who came before us. That's maybe the best thing about a team. As players rotate out, the team remains the same, evolving slightly as new ideas are brought in and better processes are implemented. Our team grows this way, keeping up with the world around us so we can be better defenders of its peace.

We are a team, made up of Airmen like you, and we are 10 years old this month. No one is prouder of all of you than I am, and now you know why.

Thank you for being a part of our team.



## 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.**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY (FLPP)

Reservists may apply for FLPP by submitting a written request for FLPP testing to his/her commander. FLPP I requires you to be on a tour of duty that requires the language. FLPP II will pay based on active duty days or IDT periods performed. Spanish and Tagalog speakers are not entitled to FLPP II. If you are proficient at a foreign language and are interested in this program please contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps or Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman in the MPF Education Office at 734-7075 for instructions on how to apply for FLPP.

## 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.**

Payment occurs after satisfactory course completion. **You must provide a paid receipt and your grade NLT 60 days after course completion.** TA reimbursement amounts are set at 75 percent (\$4500) per FY (Masters) or 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Bachelors). **For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps or Ms. Kim Silkwood 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. **See your unit training manager for more information. NEXT CLASS: Oct. 23 - Nov. 3, 2006.**

## 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 :

All testing (paper and computer) must be scheduled by sending an e-mail to Kimberley.Silkwood@tinker.af.mil with the time and date that you would like to test and include the course number.

**Paper testing** on the UTA is only available at 0750 on Sunday of the main UTA and is in Bldg. 1030 (Hangar) Room 214.

**Computer-based testing** on the UTA is available on Saturday and Sunday at 0800 and 1300 in Bldg. 1030 (Hangar) in Room 214.

Please schedule all tests NLT 1500 on Friday before the UTA. If you are unable to keep the scheduled time please e-mail Ms. Silkwood or call 734-7075 prior to scheduled testing time.

All testing is also available on Tuesdays at 0800, Wednesdays at 0800 and 1300 and Thursdays at 1300.

**NOTE:** If you are retaking a test, you must bring the authorization letter with you or you will not be allowed to test.

### 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: 0800 - 1200 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)



### FY 2006/2007 UTA SCHEDULE

14-15 Oct 06	
04-05 Nov 06	02-03 Dec 06
06-07 Jan 07	03-04 Feb 07
03-04 Mar 07	14-15 Apr 07
05-06 May 07	16-17 June 07
14-15 Jul 07	04-05 Aug 07
08-09 Sept 07	

As of 7 Sept. 2006



# SEPTEMBER TRAINING PLANNER

## Fri, 15 Sept 2006

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room  
 1430 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room  
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG ConfRm 204

## Sat, 16 Sept 2006

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203  
**0800-1530 MPF/Customer Service Section Open**  
 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 1043, Wing Trng Room  
**1100 - Family Day**  
**Unit Designated Sign Out**

## Sun, 17 Sept 2006

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
 0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House Tng Bldg 1043, Rm 203, 213  
 0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium  
 0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm  
**0750- by appt CDC testing** Bldg 1030, Rm 214  
 0800-1530 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
 0800-1030 Supr safety training Bldg 1030, Room 104  
**0800-1500 MPF/customer service section open**  
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm  
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
**1300, by appt. CDC Testing** Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
**1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro To Be Determined  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

## Fri, 13 Oct 2006

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room  
 1430 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room  
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG ConfRm 204

## Sat, 14 Oct 2006

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203  
**0800-1530 MPF/Customer Service Section Open**  
 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 1043, Wing Trng Room  
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined  
**1300, by appt. CDC Testing** Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Wg Commander's office  
 1300-1400 Wg. Career Advisor Trng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room  
 1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

## Sun, 15 Oct 2006

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
 0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House Tng Bldg 1043, Rm 203, 213  
 0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium  
 0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm  
**0750- by appt CDC testing** Bldg 1030, Rm 214  
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
 0800-1030 Haz Comm - non-supervisor Bldg 1030, Room 104  
**0800-1500 MPF/customer service section open**  
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm  
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
**1300, by appt. CDC Testing** Bldg 1030, Room 214  
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
**1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro To Be Determined  
**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 Ms. Kim Silkwood or Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hudson at 734-7075 or your UTM.

## Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted **monthly** in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room in basement. Unit/Ancillary Training Managers are responsible for ensuring their new personnel are scheduled to attend within 90 days of their first UTA. If you have questions, contact the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
Sunday	0800-0815	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0815-0830	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0830-0945	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	0945-1000	Break	
Sunday	1000-1030	Counter Intel/Awareness	SF
Sunday	1030-1100	Human Relations	ME
Sunday	1300-1305	Wing Training	
Sunday	1305-1315	Wing Lodging Program	SVF
Sunday	1315-1415	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Sunday	1415-1430	Break	
Sunday	1430-1500	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Sunday	1500-1530	OPSEC Training	OG

### 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 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room.

### 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 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room.

### 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:
---------------------	-------------------------------

14 Sept	22 Sept
18 Sept	27 Sept
20 Sept	29 Sept
26 Sept	04 Oct
28 Sept	06 Oct
03 Oct	11 Oct
05 Oct	13 Oct
10 Oct	18 Oct
12 Oct	20 Oct
17 Oct	25 Oct
19 Oct	27 Oct
23 Oct	01 Nov
26 Oct	03 Nov

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

## BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is:	Then Forward Listing to Unit Commander in:	Recertifica- tion due in by end of month in:
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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 213.**

Editor:	Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)
Assistant Editor:	Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)
Contributing Editors:	Tech. Sgt. Chris Rogers, Education and Training Advisor
	Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Talley, Education and Training Advisor
	Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hudson, Education and Training Advisor (ART)
	Ms. Kimberley Silkwood, Testing and Education Advisor

Operation Hot Water: Rebuilding Together**Civil Engineers use project to help others, get training**

**By Lt. Col. Richard Curry  
507th ARW Public Affairs**

Five members of the 507<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Utilities Section changed out of their military uniforms and into their civilian work clothes after Saturday drill duty July 8 and embarked on a mission of mercy to northeast Oklahoma City.

The Utilities section team united with Rebuilding Together (formerly called Christmas in April), a non-profit organization in Oklahoma City, to help an elderly woman get hot water working in her home.

Leading the crew was Senior Master Sgt. David Liszeski, followed by craftsmen Technical Sergeants Ryan Bart, and George Proctor, along with Senior Airman John Rhodes, and Airman First Class Gary Arnold.

When they arrived they met an elderly woman known as "Granny." Granny, a widower of 26 years known had lived in this house for the last 42 years.

About a month ago her daughter told her about an organization that could help her with her problems. Granny called Tim Reardon from Rebuilding Together (Formerly Christmas in April) and told him she could not afford to have the work done due to a humble fixed income.

Tim then contacted Sergeant Liszeski, who did some volunteer work last year with Rebuilding Together, to ask if he would be willing to help again. Two days prior to the July drill weekend Sergeant Liszeski looked at the project, determined how much time and materials were needed, requisitioned the required parts from RT and sketched out a rough diagram. He then called his entire Air Force Reserve section looking for volunteers for the project.

"Our objective was to provide hot water for the home, and check to ensure the water system was water tight and in working order," the sergeant said.

He said when the team arrived, the house "had a shopping list of plumbing problems, more than what Rebuilding Together told us about," he said.

Granny told the workers about the additional problems with her plumbing. It wasn't until after the work was completed that the team found out that Granny had been without hot water for about three years and had to walk half a block to her nieces house to take a bath.

She had a stopped up kitchen and tub drain for approximately three months. After all the work was completed, less than two hours worth, Granny had all her plumbing problems solved and had five new friends.



CE members pictured with Granny (second from right) included (from left) Airman 1st Class Gary Arnold, Tech. Sgt. Ryan Bart, Tech. Sgt. George Proctor, and Senior Airman John Rhodes.

News from 'the shirt'

## Help make the final chapter a memorable one for reservists

To most reservists, retirement seems like a lifetime away, but it has a real way of sneaking up on you. Before you know it you have reenlisted four or five times and you are on the downhill side of 20 years. If you take a moment and reflect on the years and what you have accomplished, you will have realized it is quite amazing for a "part-timer." I have learned over my career that spans over 25 years, that most reservists are quite humble and don't desire much fanfare and recognition for their accomplishments. I know everyone always says they just want to fade away pretty much unnoticed by their co-workers and supervisors. It is not until that reservist is gone that everyone realizes how important he or she was, until the next

deployment or exercise. Ending a 20-plus year career in the Air Force Reserve is no small accomplishment and is not unlike closing a chapter in one's life.

Freud might disagree, but I believe it is safe to say that we identify who we are by what we do and it can be discomfoting to know that this part of your life is coming to a close, leaving behind friends, coworkers and, yes, even supervisors. A perfect example of this is the recent retirement of our own Command Chief Master Sgt. Tytanic. I have personally known the Chief for about eight years and cannot imagine him not putting on his uniform at least one weekend a month and performing his duty for the wing.

I guess what I'm trying to get to is let's make sure we as supervisors or



**Senior Master Sgt. Tom Geberth**  
**1st ASF First Sergeant**

1<sup>ST</sup> Sergeant's go out of our way to make the final chapter in a reservist tour of duty a memorable one and let them know they had a great impact on their organization and wing and have the respect from all that knew them .

## Reserve personnel center expands online services

DENVER – In today's virtual world, people can shop, perform bank transactions or complete college classes online.

The people at the Air Reserve Personnel Center here are working to offer similar conveniences to members of the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard through the virtual Personnel Center-Guard and Reserve, a Web portal located on the ARPC Web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil>.

The next capability scheduled to be launched by the center will be retirements and associated processes on July 31. These new capabilities will help people conduct transactions online without having to visit a military personnel flight in person.

On March 31, the center gave people the capability to correct their duty history online. In addition to correcting their duty history, customers also can:

- Obtain their 20-year letter (re-issue);
- Send a letter to the promotion board;
- Receive board counseling;
- Acquire a mortgage letter;
- Correct their points history;

- Request a copy of a finalized NGB 22, Report of Separation and Record of Service;

- Get current awards and decorations information;

- Make a personnel data update;

- Find out about current points;

- Choose a Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan;

- Request a copy of a finalized Defense Department Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty;

- Get retired pay assistance;

- Request copies of previous enlisted performance reports or officer performance reports; or

- Sign up for TRICARE Reserve Select.

Members can stay informed about the latest vPC-GR information by creating a new account on vPC-GR and electing to receive the vPC-GR online subscription-based e-mail. To get to it, visit the ARPC Web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil> and click on the vPC-GR logo. (AFRC News Service)

# Uniform board to release updates to AFI

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps — chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

“Over the years, we’ve made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them.”

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

“Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done,” she said. “Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918.”

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates will be re-

flected in the revised AFI.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pair of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is

incorporated in the updated document.

The new AFI will be available for all Airmen later this month.

“The Air Force Uniform Board, chaired by Air Force A1, reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff for a final decision,” Sergeant Athnos said.

## New utility uniform on track for distribution

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

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The new Airman Battle Uniform is moving into production and on track for distribution to deploying Airmen next summer.

Patterns have been finalized and are being run through production to ensure sizing and garment construction as well as preparing for assembly-line operations, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, the Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Senior leaders want the warfighters to get the first ABUs, and Airmen deploying in the air and space expeditionary cycle 7/8 in May 2007 will receive two sets each of the new ABU and the current deployment uniform, the Desert Combat Uniform.

The ABU is the first utility uniform designed in both male and female sizes to replace the DCU and “woodland” patterned Battle Dress Uniform. The ABU will be worn in the desert, state-side bases and in environments for which the BDU was originally designed.

After distribution to Airmen deploying next summer, Airmen in basic training will be issued the ABU beginning in October 2007. Once that distribution system is in place, the ABU will be available in AAFES outlets for purchase.

The expected mandatory wear date for the ABU is 2011.

## Civilians sign commander review on performance reports

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — In the Air Force’s current climate of shared leadership, civilians are finding new opportunities to fill positions that have historically been held by military officers.

One indication of this shift was a change in Air Force policy in June. Civilians designated to lead units, excluding flight commanders, are now authorized to sign the commander review

block on enlisted performance reports.

The Air Force did not change its policy on requiring first sergeants to review enlisted performance reports.

Officials said the Air Force will publish an interim change to Air Force Instruction 36-2406, Officer and Enlisted Evaluation Systems, to reflect the change in policy. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

# OPSEC for family members and friends

## What is OPSEC

Operations Security, or OPSEC, is keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. As the name suggests, it protects our operations – planned, in progress, and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission faster and with less risk. Our adversaries want our information, and they don't concentrate on only soldiers to get it. They want you, the family member.

## You Are A Vital Player in Our Success!

As a family member of our military community, you are a vital player in our success, and we couldn't do our job without your support. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in ensuring your loved one's safety. You can protect your family and friends by protecting what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. That's OPSEC.

## Protecting Critical Information

Even though information may not be secret, it can be what we call "critical information." Critical information deals with specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. If an adversary knew this detailed information, our mission accomplishment and personnel safety could be jeopardized. It must be protected to ensure an adversary doesn't gain a significant advantage.

By being a member of the military family, you will often know some bits of critical information. Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family and especially not over the telephone.

## Examples of Critical Information

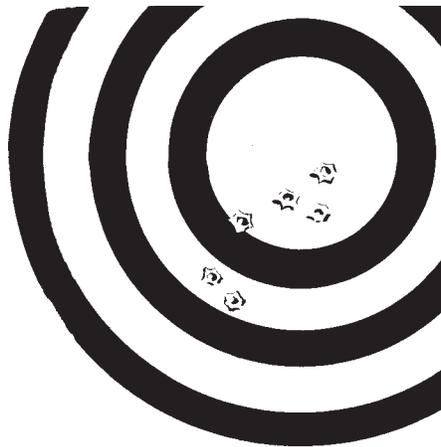
- Detailed information about the mis-

sion of assigned units.

- Details on locations and times of unit deployments
- Personal transactions that occur in large numbers (example: pay information, powers of attorney, wills, deployment information).
- References to trends in unit morale or personnel problems.
- Details concerning security procedures

## Puzzle Pieces

These bits of information may seem insignificant. However, to a trained adversary, they are small pieces of a puzzle that highlights what we're do-



ing and planning. Remember, the elements of security and surprise are vital to the accomplishment of our goals and our collective personnel protection.

- Where and how you discuss this information is just as important as with whom you discuss it. Adversary agents tasked with collecting information frequently visit some of the same stores, clubs, recreational areas, or places of worship as you do.

- Determined individuals can easily collect data from cordless and cellular phones, and even baby monitors, using inexpensive receivers available from lo-

cal electronics stores.

- If anyone, especially a foreign national, persistently seeks information, notify your military sponsor immediately. He or she will notify the unit OPSEC program manager.

## What Can You Do

There are many countries and organizations that would like to harm Americans and degrade our influence in the world. It's possible, and not unprecedented, for spouses and family members of U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collection. This is true in the United States and especially true overseas. What can you do.

## Be Alert

Foreign government and organizations collect significant amounts of useful information by using spies. A foreign agent may use a variety of approaches to befriend someone and get sensitive information. This sensitive information can be critical to the success of a terrorist or spy, and consequently deadly to Americans.

## Be Careful

There may be times when your spouse cannot talk about the specifics of his or her job. It's very important to conceal and protect certain information such as flight schedules, ship movements, temporary duty (TDY) locations, and installation activities, for example. Something as simple as a phone discussion about where your spouse is deploying, or going TDY, can be very useful to our enemies.

# Know your obligations under USERRA

By Josephine B. Vestal and Leona T. Colegrove

Since Sept. 11, 2001, almost 530,000 citizen soldiers have been mobilized, and of these more than 390,000 National Guard and Reserve members have been returned to civilian life. In December 2004, President Bush signed into law the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, which requires all employers, regardless of size - public and private - to notify all employees annually of their legal rights under USERRA. Since then, the U.S. Department of Labor promulgated new regulations which became effective on January 18, 2006. See 20 CFR §§ 1002 et seq. These regulations explain reemployment rights for service members wanting to return to the jobs they held prior to service and specify the seniority, promotion, health care, pension and other benefits to which they are entitled.

Unlike other statutes which simply require reinstatement, USERRA requires that a service-member properly returning from a qualified leave be reemployed, not necessarily in their pre-service, but in a position known as an “escalator position.” This is the position they would have been in had they had no break in service. They are to enjoy the same seniority, status and pay, as well as other rights and benefits determined by seniority as they would have had, with reasonable certainty, if not for their absence for military duty. The law provides for alternative reemployment positions if the service member cannot qualify for the “escalator” position. If no escalation would have occurred, or if the person is not qualified to perform the duties of the escalator position after reasonable efforts by the employer to train the person upon return from leave, re-employment into the position the person held at the time he or she left for military service is required.

The USERRA regulations address the use of the escalator principle. Many employers use seniority-based bidding systems to award jobs and other perquisites of employment to employees. The regulations require an employer to award a job or other perquisite of employment to the returning service member, if it is reasonably certain that he or she would have received it but for the time in military service. An employer may not require that a returning employee wait for the next regularly occurring opportunity to bid in order to seek promotions and other benefits tied to the escalator position. If he or she would have been able to bid into that position had he or she remained employed, the employer must provide the ability to have that position upon return. The returning service member may not, however, be entitled to a promotion, if the promotion depends not simply on seniority or some other form of automatic progression, but on the employer’s discretion. The regulations require the application of a case-by-

case analysis in order to make this determination.

Employees laid off with recall rights (either prior to taking the leave for military service or during the leave) are entitled to reemployment upon return if the employer would have recalled the employee but for the military service. Even where a returning employee was subject to a disciplinary review at the time of the onset of service, or where the employer discovers conduct prior to reemployment that may subject the service member to disciplinary review upon reemployment, the employer still has a reemployment obligation. The employer may resume the disciplinary review upon reemployment, or may initiate such review based on conduct discovered prior to reemployment. In addition to promotions and pay increases, the “escalator principle” may also lead to adverse consequences to the returning employee resulting from restoration on the seniority ladder. For instance, if the employee’s seniority would have resulted in a layoff during the period of service, and the layoff continued after the date of reemployment, reemployment would reinstate the employee to layoff status with their pre-service date of hire for all purposes. Depending on the length of the leave, the regulations also prohibit an employer from discharging an employee following reemployment for a period of time. Leaves of 31-180 days require “just cause” for termination for a period of six months. Leaves greater than 180 days require “just cause” for termination for a period of one year. “Just cause,” however, is not defined in USERRA or in the USERRA regulations.

The position of DOL, reflected in the introduction to the final rules, provides that if an apprentice or probationary position is bona fide, not simply a time-in-grade requirement, a returning service member should be restored as an apprentice at a level that reflects both the experience and training he or she received pre-service. Upon completion of the apprenticeship post-service, the employee is entitled to “journeyman” seniority plus any seniority that would have accrued during military service had the journeyman status been attained during the period of service. Similarly, if a probationary period is a bona fide period of observation and evaluation, the returning service member must complete the remaining period of probation upon reemployment. Once the employee completes the apprenticeship probationary period, the employee’s pay and seniority should reflect both the pre- and post-service time in the apprenticeship or probationary period, plus the time served in the military.

The escalator principle also preserves seniority benefits governed by statute, including a service member’s right to leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

## Know your obligations under USERRA ... continued

Time spent on military duty is essentially counted as employment by the pre-service employer, so that a reemployed service member would be eligible for FMLA leave if the number of months and the number of hours of work for which the service member was employed by the employer, together with the number of months and number of hours of work for which the service member would have been employed by the employer during the period of military service in the qualifying year meet FMLA's eligibility requirements.

The regulations also require employers to ensure that injured service members who are unable to perform their previous jobs are retrained and provided a position as equivalent as possible to the one that person originally left. Employers must provide training or retraining to enable returning service members to refresh or upgrade skills that help them qualify for reemployment. If, despite the employer's reasonable efforts to accommodate the disability, the returning disabled service member cannot become qualified for his or her escalator position, that person is entitled to be reemployed in any other position which is equivalent in seniority, status, and pay, the duties of which the person is qualified to perform or would become qualified to perform with reasonable efforts by the employer. If no such position exists, the service member is entitled to reemployment in a position which is the nearest approximation in terms of seniority, status, and pay, consistent with the circumstances of such person's case. The regulations set forth the priority of reemployment positions for which the disabled service member should be considered.

The regulations also implement the statutory requirement for reasonable accommodation of the returning service member's disability, such as placing the reemployed person in an alter-

nate position, or on "light duty" status, modifying technology or equipment used in the job position, revising work practices, or shifting job functions. The position must be one that the person can safely perform without unreasonable risk to the person or fellow employees. A service member who incurs a temporary disability may be entitled to interim reemployment in an alternate position as well.

The escalator principle also determines the returning service member's rate of pay after an absence from the workplace due to military service. Depending on the particular position, the rate of pay may include more than the basic salary. The regulation lists various types of compensation that may factor into determining the employee's overall compensation package under the escalator principle. These include pay increases, differentials, step increases, merit increases, periodic increases or performance bonuses.

Employers are prohibited from permanently hiring new employees to re-

place those who have gone on military duty, or promoting existing staff to fill the spot vacated by the military personnel. These positions may be filled on a temporary basis. Violations of these new USERRA regulations exposes an employer to potential liability to the prevailing returning service member for reinstatement, lost pay and benefits, doubled as liquidated damages in the case of a willful violation, and attorney fees and court costs. These are some highlights of the new regulations. There is much more, and the regulations are very specific as to the employer obligations and the rights of departing and returning service members. Be sure to check the regulations at [www.dol.gov/vets/regs/fedregs/final/2005023961.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/regs/fedregs/final/2005023961.htm) before taking any action impacting a departed or returning service member.

The content of this article is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter. Specialist advice should be sought about your specific circumstances.

### *The IG says .....*

## Attempt to resolve FWA issues

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.

For questions or concerns, contact Capt. Mark Vardaro at:

507th ARW/513th ACG FWA  
Hotline: 405-556-1745; Toll Free: 877-225-5928 (Enter 405-694-4026); or Fax at: 405-694-4027 or email: [mark.vardaro@tinker.af.mil](mailto:mark.vardaro@tinker.af.mil)

#### **AFRC FWA Hotline:**

(800) 223-1784 Ext. 7-1513

#### **SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline:**

(800) 538-8429

#### **DoD FWA Hotline:**

(800) 424-9098

# Up close

By Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida

Contemplating my imminent retirement from the Air Force Reserve, I asked myself the following question:

## What are the Top 10 things you will miss about being in the Air Force?

### 10. The view from the rear of a KC-135 while in flight.

Over the years I've spent many hours back there (and I'm not flight crew), and nothing matches the panoramic views. Where else can you lay on your stomach and watch the world pass beneath you?

### 9. Breakfast at the chow hall on a UTA Sunday morning.

The price is right, the food is cooked to order and for some reason I always liked the SOS. But mostly it's about ambiance.

**8. UTA pay.** Need I say more? I enlisted at 20 and did four years active duty, and then had a seven year break in service before I joined the Reserves. I now have to wait just two years until my retirement kicks in.

**7. Jet blast / turboprop wash.** Yeah, like the smell of napalm in the morning, being on the flight line and getting a blast of jet engine exhaust or the prop wash from a C-130 feels like victory.

**6. Fit-to-Fight.** I passed my last fit-to-fight test in December. Since then I knew I wouldn't be tested again, and surprise -- I haven't done any strenuous exercising since then. I need the intimidation!

**5. Pre-dawn drive to base prior to a flying mission.** My bags are packed and loaded. It's o'dark-thirty. Time to drive to the base and a showtime for which I can't be late. During the drive I get that 'glow' -- my mind opens up to accept what will happen in the next days, weeks, during this mission. I'm ready for a new adventure.

**4. M-16 weapons qualification.** I never fired a weapon in combat. My closest encounter with armed conflict was during my tour at U-Tapao RTNA, Thailand in 1972, when I flew as an observer in a B-52 on a bombing sortie over South Vietnam. The times I was in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were between hostilities, Operations Desert Shield and Southern Watch.

**3. Springtime in Paris.** I'll miss the opportunity for travel. Places I would have liked to make it to: France, Italy (I'm not counting my three hour layover on Sicily), Australia or New Zealand. I did spend two weeks in West Berlin during the summer just before the Wall fell.

**2. On assignment.** Being out there searching for the perfect picture. Getting the story, and putting it all together for print.

**1. Camaraderie / friendships / bonding.** We've heard this one before many times. So what more can I say, but "see ya!"



Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Yoshida  
507th ARW/PA

**Editors's Note:** Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida retires this month from the U.S. Air Force Reserve after 33 years of military service - four years on active duty, two years in the inactive Reserve and 27 years as a traditional reservist. He joined the Air Force in October 1968. During his four years of active duty, Sergeant Yoshida was stationed at Ent AFB, Colo., Kadena AB, Okinawa, and U-Tapao RTNA, Thailand. He left active service in 1972. In Sept. 1979, he enlisted into the Air Force Reserve, joining the 349th Military Airlift Wing, Travis AFB, Calif. He served in the Wing's Public Affairs Office there until he transferred to the 507th ARW Public Affairs Office on Dec. 1993. Sergeant Yoshida claims that he will be the last member of the 507th ARW to retire having been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.



**Command Post controllers receive training ----** SrA Jessica McCowan (pictured in the middle) and A1C Tania Senft (pictured to the left) of the 507ARW Command Post use their Precision Lightweight Global Positioning System Receiver (PLGR) to acquire a fix on their exact coordinates to be uploaded into the Single Channel Anti-Jam Manportable (SCAMP) terminal while Mr. Kevin Maher of the LinQuest Corporation operates the SCAMP terminal Control Device. The SCAMP terminal is a satellite ground terminal, which provides the user with extended range connectivity for both voice and data digital communication services. Command Post controllers are trained semi-annually on how to setup and operate the SCAMP in a deployed environment to transmit and receive message traffic.

## Jr. ROTC accepting instructor applications from reservists

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Retirees from the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard can apply for instructor duty in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

AFJROTC officials anticipate Congress will approve and enact legislation to Title 10 by Oct. 1 permitting them to hire retired Air Guard and Reserve members as instructors. Currently, active-duty retirees are the only people serving as AFJROTC instructors.

Based on this anticipated approval, AFJROTC is accepting applications from Guard and Reserve members who retired within the past 5 years or less, or who are within 6 months of a fixed retirement date.

People can access applications via the AFJROTC public Web site – [www.afots.af.mil](http://www.afots.af.mil) – by selecting “AFJROTC” and then “Instructor Application.”

AFJROTC officials said acceptance of applications depends on passage of the legislation and approval of applicants’ qualifications. They emphasize that submission of an application does not guarantee approval or selection for an AFJROTC instructor position.

More information is available by calling 1-866-235-7682, extensions 7742, 5112 or 2535. (AFRC News Service from an AFJROTC news release)



**The RESERVE softball team took home three trophies for the 2006 season; from left, Division Champ trophy; middle, Base Runner-Up trophy; and Small Squadron Tournament Champs trophy. The team lost in the base championship game to the 552nd CMS/MOS. The trophies are on display in the AGE shop, along with the Crystal Cup, which has been with the 507th four out of the last five years.**

# Parting Shot

## Zoe makes a wish

A member from the Make A Wish Foundation visited the home of Master Sgt. Sean Kracke, 970<sup>th</sup> Airborne Air Control Systems, August 5, to grant a wish to Kracke's daughter, Zoe. Zoe has been struggling after being diagnosed with leukemia. She is currently in remission. Zoe's wish? Disneyworld. The family plans on going in the near future.

U.S. Air Force Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Curry



## On-final R-News

### First Sergeant board planned

The Wing will conduct a First Sergeants Board during the October UTA. There is one open position in the 513<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Flight. An all-purpose checklist with First Sergeant Qualification/Requirements can be picked up at the Military Personnel Flight, in Building 1043. The point of contact will be Master Sgt. Deborah Kidd, the MPF First Sergeant, and she can be reached at 734-7494. The board will convene in the conference room at Bldg. 240 during the October UTA.

### Upcoming blood drives

The next campus blood drive will be held in November (Saturday, 4th) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other dates are Jan. 7, 2007; March 4, 2007; May 6, 2007; July 15, 2007; and Sept. 9, 2007. All of the blood drives are scheduled for Sunday except the November 2006 drive.

NEWS / INFORMATION / FAMILY READINESS

**507th ARW  
and  
513th ACG**

TINKER AFB  
OKLAHOMA



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

### 507th ARW Recruiters

<http://get1now.us>

#### **Tinker AFB, OK**

(In-Service Recruiter)  
Master Sgt. Gene Higgins  
(405) 739-2980



#### **Moore, Norman, OK**

Tech. Sgt. Michael Comfort  
(405) 217-8311

#### **Midwest City, OK**

Master Sgt. Carla Lang (405) 733-9403  
Staff Sgt. Neil Lambrecht (405) 732-6279

#### **Tulsa, OK**

Master Sgt. Monica Basye  
(918) 250-3400

#### **Lawton, OK**

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Gregory (580) 357-2784

#### **McConnell AFB, KS**

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

#### **Vance AFB, OK**

Master Sgt. David McCormick (316) 759-3766