

# 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

October 2006

Vol. 26, No. 9



Family Day

Pages 6-7



513<sup>th</sup> reservist on  
AF Rugby team

Page A4



'Flash' Gordon  
moves on

Page 12



The crowd gathered around as Dewey Beene Jr., the magician, and his helpers entertained.

See Pages 6-7 for more information and photos.



507th MSG  
Commander's Column  
By Col. Rodney E. Bryan

## ORI is coming, are you ready?

During the past year, Air Mobility Command (AMC) made the decision to go back to conducting Wing Operational Readiness Inspections (ORI). Previously, they had been conducting Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspections (EORI) in which several units were joined together, with a mixture of UTCs (Unit Type Code), to form an Air Expeditionary Wing. As you are aware, the 507th ARW gets to participate in a Wing ORI in June 2007. Having been through an EORI in May 2005, and a Wing ORI in June 2006 as the MSG for the 446th AW at McChord AFB, I want to offer my perspective on preparing the wing for success.

This past May I had the opportunity to participate with the 507th ARW in your Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) at Volk Field. Col. Bob Colyer had retired and I was not yet assigned to the wing; so I flew in TDY from McChord to deploy with you as the Survival Recovery Center (SRC) Director. Most of the personnel working in the SRC were inexperienced and some of that inexperience showed during the first day of the war. However, by the second day the SRC was performing as a cohesive team. Even the exercise evaluators commented on how much the performance of SRC members had improved. A big factor in that improvement was the fact that those personnel maintained a positive attitude and learned from their mistakes. As we gear up for our ORI, that positive attitude needs to continue.

Commanders, please stress to your unit personnel the importance of constantly reading and studying their Airman's Manual. AMC IG team members will ask individuals, at random, questions on subjects covered in the Airman's Manual. They will even ask personnel to demonstrate tasks such as drinking through the gas mask, treating a victim of nerve agent poisoning, or performing first-aid. At McChord, we tabbed certain sections of the Airman's Manual for easy access to information. We found that the inspectors were most impressed with personnel who could answer their questions without looking in the manual. That comes through regular study of the Airman's Manual.

The wing will be evaluated on Initial Response during the ORI. During this phase evaluators will see how effectively our wing can deploy to perform its wartime mission. Therefore, it is crucial to do well during Initial Response to set the tone for a successful ORI. If a unit cannot get to the fight on time, it could adversely affect the outcome. The key to doing

well during the Initial Response phase is ensuring that all personnel are current on their personal deployment requirements. This includes ID Cards, Dog Tags, Emergency Data (DD Form 93), immunizations, SGLI, Leave and Earnings Statement, Locator Card (AF Form 245), Gas Mask Fit Test, Weapons Qualification Card (AF Form 522), and Safety Form (AF Form 55). Also, if applicable, there are other requirements such as Dependent Care Certification (AF Form 357), Prescription Glasses and Gas Mask Spectacle Inserts, Will, and Power of Attorney. In addition, personnel must be current on required training such as Small Arms, NBC (Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical), Information Assurance, Self-Aid and Buddy Care, Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC), Antiterrorism/Force Protection, and Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR). Each unit has a Unit Deployment Manager (UDM) to oversee its program, but ultimately the responsibility lies with each member to ensure that they are deployment ready. The UDMs cannot do it alone; they need your full support.

During the Employment phase the wing must demonstrate its ability not only to survive but to continue to operate. ATSO training is a must for everyone participating in the ORI. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the ATSO training being conducted during the October UTA. As I have said before and will continue to foot stomp; "attitude is everything!" If everyone shows a positive attitude and sense of urgency, this wing will do well. Now having said that, remember that we all have to perform tasks in a safe manner because safety is also paramount.

Now is the time to get serious about preparing yourselves to be ready for the ORI. For our traditional reservists, June '07 is only 16 days away. As I stated during my Assumption of Command, we have a busy year ahead of us. Next month, some of us will participate in an ORE at Gulfport with the 164th AW, Memphis ANG, who will be our partners in the ORI. Then in Mar '07 we will have our ORE at Alpena or Volk Field with the 164th AW. This will be our final dress rehearsal for the Jun '07 ORI. Additionally, there will be ongoing training to get our members prepared. We need everybody to pull together and do their part to ensure that this wing has a very successful ORI.

### Correction

In a retirement article published in last month's *On-final*, Tech Sgt. Ty Yoshida claimed to be the last wing member serving to have received the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He was incorrect. We've learned there are still others in the wing who earned those medals.

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER****Parasites**

By Chaplain (1st. Lt.) Kelly Stahl

I don't know about you, but I love to read little factoids. They are short little blurbs of information or articles that have interesting tidbits in them.

I recently came across an article about different parasites of the world. I find them interesting because we as military members may find ourselves in different regions of the world and it pays to know the indigenous ecosystems we are stationed in.

One of the disgusting little creatures that really stood out in my mind is called the sacculina carcini, and luckily it only has a taste for crab. It starts its twisted life out by swimming in the ocean and eventually finds an unknowing, innocent crab.

The parasite finds a weakness in the crabs "armor" and squeezes in. It eventually sends roots to every part of the crab's body and grows so big it pops out the top of the crab's shell. The crab becomes a zombie and only does the bidding of the parasite and forgoes all the normal things little crabs like to do, like molting, reproducing and growing new appendages when one is missing. All energy and resources are diverted to the parasite. The duo remains locked in this fashion for the rest of their lives.

Creepy, I know, but fascinating. Did you know that there

are "parasites" in our lives that want our full attention and energy? They can be money, power, possessions, work, relationships, pleasure and really just about anything. They start out small and insignificant but soon take over our lives, sometimes without us even realizing that they are consuming us and all of our energy. Sometimes they can even start out as good things but eventually halt any personal and spiritual growth, creating a zombie-like creature looking to only do the bidding of the behavior.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Jesus' example was about money, but we can replace it with anything that begins taking over our lives. Unfortunately for our little crab friend, once it is infected it is too late; once the menacing parasite gets in its body its life is over.

Thankfully for us, there is still hope. What is the weakness in your armor? What has squeezed in and is taking over? Who or what do you serve? Unlike the crab, we can always call upon the Lord to overcome our "parasites" and He is faithful. Peace!

**On-final**

Volume 26, No. 9 OCTOBER 2006

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's Public Affairs Office, 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 9, Tinker AFB, OK., 73145-8726

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.

# The attributes of enhancing effective communication

*An Interview with Lt. Col. Rich Curry, 507th ARW Public Affairs Officer*

**By Capt. Mark Vardaro**  
**507th Wing Inspector General**

Poor communication can hurt any organization. In fact, of the complaints I have received in the IG office so far this year; nearly 94 percent of them could have been prevented if communication breakdowns did not occur. In a recent climate assessment conducted by the Chief of Staff, communication was identified as one of the most significant opportunities for improvement Air Force wide. I wanted to explore more about communication within the wing and asked questions to Lt. Col. Richard Curry, the 507th ARW Public Affairs Officer. For more than 20 years Colonel Curry has worked to find and distribute key information to the wing and the community. Here's what I learned.

**Vardaro: What is communication?**

**Curry:** Communication is a 2x4 smacking you between the eyes, a swift kick in the pants, or a "good job" slap on the back. It's also a faint smile or a twinkle of the eye. Communication is both forceful and subtle, written or verbal, a call to action or sometimes no reaction.

**Vardaro: Why is communication important to supervisors?**

**Curry:** Without effective communications, how do you know your team has done its best? The focus of any supervisor is to ensure the job gets done.

**Vardaro: How do you communicate?**

**Curry:** Well, I am partial to using sock puppets.... Seriously, it really depends on who my intended audience is and the message I'm trying to deliver. To efficiently communicate, you also need to take some time to think about your message and the most effective way to present it BEFORE you start.

Who am I addressing? Do they have any issues or concerns that might create obstacles to what I'm trying to communicate? Also, before I try to communicate a difficult message to others, I try to role-play by reversing roles. You have to pretend you know nothing of the topic issue, review what is to be presented and then ask yourself if you truly understand it. It's tough to be hard on yourself, but the harder you are, the better your message will be understood by others.

**Vardaro: Who do you communicate to?**

**Curry:** Anyone who'll listen.

**Vardaro: What are the signs you look for in determining if the communication is understood?**

**Curry:** When you're trying to determine whether or not you're being understood, sometimes all you have to go on is body language...does that person appear to be interested and engaged in this conversation or do they look like they'd rather be somewhere else?

**Vardaro: What factors do you consider when preparing to communicate?**

**Curry:** There are a lot of things to consider. Take target audience for example. What is the age group you're addressing? What's their background? Are they all military or from diverse civilian experiences? Are they busy managers who would rather you be succinct and to the point or people who want to hear more detailed illustrations. All of this is considered when you plan how you wish to communicate.

**Vardaro: What are the most common communication mistakes you see supervisors make?**

**Curry:** The most important part of

communication is listening. To communicate effectively, you also have to be an aggressive listener. Don't assume you're understood. Ask questions that will draw the other party into the discussion. Listen to what they have to say about the tasks being assigned. In our business that two-way feedback can mean the difference between a job successfully completed or a safety mishap.

**Vardaro: How can supervisors better prepare to communicate?**

**Curry:** Become a student of communications techniques. Look for and study good communication interactions. Read. When you are watching interactions between people, ask yourself if all your questions were answered.

In talking with Colonel Curry, I found communications occur through several different channels, each of which has significantly different needs and concerns. Before you communicate you must know your audience and customize how you present your message to them. A good communicator "aggressively listens" to ensure their intended message is received. Finally, you may have to make sacrifices to ensure a clear message is delivered and received as communication breakdowns can cause mission failure, safety mishaps, and lost opportunity.

In November, the Human Resources Development Council will be sponsoring a 2-hour workshop entitled "Enhancing Effective Communications within Your Workcenter." The workshop will discuss the communications process, help supervisors pinpoint and improve communication deficiencies, and provide tools such as a communications plan and communications audit to aid in the communications process. The workshop is limited to 30 participants and includes lunch. To register, send an email to [takesha.williams@tinker.af.mil](mailto:takesha.williams@tinker.af.mil)

News from 'the shirt'

## The importance of belonging to a Professional Military Organization

How would you like to receive your military retirement benefits at age 55? It can't happen while you're reading this article, but what you do afterwards could make the difference! If your answer was yes, then the next question is where do you sign up, right? One of the best ways to be heard and acknowledged is through *active* membership in a professional military organization! Join a national organization and make some noise on Capital Hill! Just looking for some local action? Join a wing level organization! There is no feeling like the one you get when you see some good changes in effect and knowing you were a part of it! To jump in with a national organization, grab a phone or hit the keyboard.

Organizations such as the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), the Reserve Enlisted Association (REA), and the Reserve Officer's Association (ROA), just to name a few, are highly active in fighting for military entitlements. Through their memberships these organizations have been responsible for improving the quality of life for military members and their families. With active and effective programs that review and monitor congressional actions, members have been influential in changing legislation. For example, the AFSA was pivotal in increasing the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) benefit from a maximum of \$250K to \$400K. By joining a professional military organization you are ultimately combining your one voice with the voices and actions of many. But wait, there's more! Additionally, members are afforded registered lobbyists who work for them, Capitol Hill updates, informational pamphlets, magazines, discounted rates on an array of products and services, and scholarships for their dependents.

You also have an opportunity to become involved with changes in "your own back yard!"

At the wing level, organizations such as the Tinker Reserve Enlisted Advisory Council (TREAC) and Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) are two of the proactive voices for Air Force Reserve members. Similar organizations are located within each military branch although the names may differ; they exist for the sole purpose of implementing change. Did you know we now enjoy dining facility hours compatible with UTA hours because folks like you changed this through their active memberships? Although much smaller in scope, wing-level organizations have as great if not a greater impact because they affect the wing's morale, build cohesiveness, foster teamwork, and promote esprit de corps! Whether federal or wing-level, the greater the membership the more powerful our voices become.

Federal-level professional military organizations offer opportunities for positive change by taking care of the needs of its members. Members also effect change through their wing-level organizations. Your benefits, rights, and privileges as members of the military are of utmost concern to these organizations. Increased membership in professional military organizations is needed to continue to im-



**Master Sgt. Takesha Williams**  
465th ARS First Sergeant

prove the quality of life for all military members. **Remember, if a difference is to be made, a voice must be heard, and there is power in numbers.** If approached in the future by a member who offers you an opportunity to make a difference, consider that your actions will have long-term effects. **Decide today, that you will become actively involved in resolutions important to you and your family by joining a professional military organization.** Right now organizations are working to raise the awareness level regarding retirement at age 55. If you do not think they could use some help — think again.

### Helpful Web Sites:

<http://www.afsahq.org>

<http://www.roa.org>

<https://www.reaus.org>

### The IG says .....

The primary charge of the IG is to sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations, and Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) programs characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality.

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

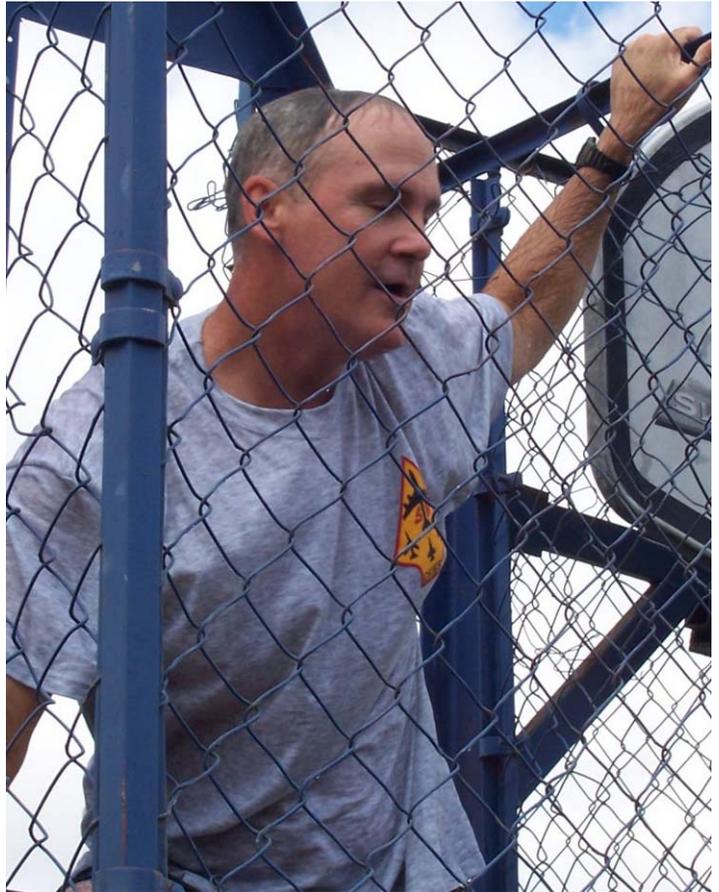
# Family day was full of fun for most

More than 1,000 unit and family members gathered at the 38th EIG area on Sept. 16th for the annual 507th ARW Family Day.

The Family Day Committee would like to thank all of the sponsors and workers of the various activities for the kids and families and the unit members who helped with the set up and tear-down of tents and equipment.

“We need to thank Kim Glass, the commander’s wife, for volunteering to make potato salad and cole slaw to feed 500 people each,” said Capt. Robert Atkins. “That was an awesome job and greatly appreciated.”

Plans are already underway for next year’s family day, which will be held either in July to celebrate the completion of the ORI or again in September. More information will follow in future issues of the *On-Final*.



**Col. Randall “Arlo” Guthrie, 507th ARW vice commander, prepares himself for another dunk in the dunk tank. Commanders, deputy commanders and the command chief took turns of about 15 minutes each to help raise money for the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron morale fund. Their efforts raised \$180.**



**Above: Vicki Kelley, 507th LRS, checks a tattoo that she just applied to a youngster’s arm. The young man in the background shows off his new face painting.**

**Right: Family Day was made possible by members of the unit volunteering on Friday, setting up tents and preparing the grounds for the activities on Saturday.**



(Photographs by Lt. Col. Richard Curry and Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch, 507th ARW Public Affairs Office)



Shortly after taking his turn in the dunk tank, Col. Jeffery Glass, 507th ARW commander, was “arrested” by the 507th Security Forces and taken to jail. Guarding the prisoner was Staff Sgt. Robert Mussyal. Colonel Glass was a sport and served the full sentence. Approximately 70 people were arrested throughout the day.



Above: Kailee and Jeffery met at Family Day and became instant friends, playing games at the Kids Tent and sliding down the slide at the playground.



Left: Tim Parker takes his turn at the bench press competition while Ronald Mitchell serves as a spotter. Winners of the Men’s Bench Press were Ken Sarsycki (1st place), Gerald Duke (2nd place) and Tim Parker (3rd place). Women’s Bench Press winners were Marcie Mitchell (1st Place), Makesha Robinson (2nd Place) and Danesha Henry (3rd Place).

# Wake-up call: your actions make a difference

By Lt. Col. Bryan Dickson, 513th ACG

As a reservist, it is sometimes easy to work yourself into a lull. Most of us have racked up a lot of hours doing what the Air Force trained us to do. Whether you fly a jet, maintain a jet, or work in a support field, chances are you've been at it awhile and are very good. So let me remind you why we fight. After all, the Cold War has been over for long time. . .

November 1979 - Iranian students attacked and seized the American Embassy in Tehran

April 1983 - U.S. Embassy compound in Beirut bombed (63 killed)

October 1983 - U.S. Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut bombed (241 killed)

December 1983 - U.S. Embassy in Kuwait bombed

September 1984 - Another van was driven into the gate of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut

August 1985 - The main gate of the U.S. Air Force Base at Rhein-Main bombed (22 killed)

October 1985 - The cruise ship Achille Lauro is hijacked; an American in a wheelchair is singled out of the passenger list and executed.

April 1986 - TWA Flight 840 bombed (4 killed)

December 1988 - Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland (259 killed)

February 1993 - World Trade Center bombing in New York City (6 killed)

November 1995 - U.S. military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia bombed (7 killed)

June 1996 - Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia bombed (19 killed)

August 1998 - Two U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania bombed (257 killed)

October 2000 - U.S.S. Cole bombed (17 killed)

Sept. 11, 2001 - There were 2,973 fatalities: 246 on the four planes, 2,602 in New York City in the tower and on the ground, and 125 at the Pentagon.

Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom - on-going

In case you have forgotten, the United States is at war. It may not seem like it, but we have been at war for over 25 years. Our enemy will not rest, will not negotiate, and will not surrender. Be assured that every action you take, every mission you fly, every sortie you generate contributes in some way to the overall fight. Some of you contribute directly, some indirectly - but everyone plays a part. The Global War on Terrorism is real and your actions make a difference.

## Reserve O-line forms brick wall

The Reserve flag football program is in its 13th season, and one of its strengths is the offensive line. Veterans Ken Sarsycki and Anthony Lee, both in the 507th ARW, have been with the team since the '90s. Floyd Conner and Jim Sherman are second-year players, and Jeremy Allen is in his rookie season. "There are some small colleges out there that would like to have this line," commented teammate Brian Finley, another long-time veteran and member of the 507th. The combined weight of the six players (not pictured is Wes Updegraff) is 1,422 pounds, with an average weight of 237 pounds and average bench press of 399.2 pounds. "Anthony and Jeremy are the heaviest at 275 pounds each, and both bench 440 pounds," noted Sarsycki. "But my arms are still bigger, and that's all that matters," he continued. The Reserve team plays every Tuesday night, with the base playoffs beginning after the Thanksgiving holiday.



Pictured, from left, Ken Sarsycki, Floyd Conner, Anthony Lee, Jim Sherman, and Jeremy Allen

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch

## 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: Dec. 4 - 15, 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 507.msf.dpmt@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 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 or call 734-7075 prior to scheduled testing time.

All testing is also available on 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 5 Oct. 2006



## OCTOBER TRAINING PLANNER

**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**  
 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 Tng 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 TngBldg 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**  
 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  
 1030-1130 HRDC meeting Bldg. 1056 Auditorium  
**1300, by appt. CDC Testing**  
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, Room 214  
**1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
**Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated**

**Fri, 03 Nov 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, 04 Nov 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**  
 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, 05 Nov 2006**

**Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated**  
 0730-0930 MPF Closed for In-House TngBldg 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**  
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room  
 0800-1030 Unit safety rep 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**  
 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.

## Military Pay

File for pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
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17 Oct	25 Oct
19 Oct	27 Oct
23 Oct	01 Nov
26 Oct	03 Nov
31 Oct	07 Nov
02 Nov	09 Nov
07 Nov	15 Nov
09 Nov	17 Nov
14 Nov	22 Nov

## 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
<b>Phase I</b>			
Saturday	1305-1315	Wing Lodging Program	SVF
Saturday	1315-1415	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Saturday	1430-1500	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Saturday	1500-1530	OPSEC Training	OG
Saturday	1530-1545	0013/A2D2 briefing	MSG
<b>Phase II</b>			
Sunday	0800-0815	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0815-0830	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0830-0945	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	1000-1030	Counter Intel/Awareness	SF
Sunday	1030-1100	Human Relations	ME
Sunday	1300-1600	First Duty Station	ME

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

## 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 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.

**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. Charlotte 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) Senior Airman Elvira Munoz, Education and Training Advisor Ms. Kimberley Silkwood, Testing and Education Advisor

# 513<sup>th</sup> reservist is member of Air Force Rugby Team

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

An Airman with the 513<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron mauled his way on to the Air Force Rugby Team.

Master Sgt. Jeremy Allen, integrated avionics section chief, joined the reserve to play rugby. Nine years later Allen is still playing rugby and was recently selected to play for the Air Force Rugby Team.

This marks Allen's eighth straight selection. "It is hard work each year, especially when you hear the names of those people wanting to replace you on the team," said Allen.

This rugby veteran knows that no one has a free pass. "Each of us has to show up and put in the work," said Allen.

The Air Force team holds an annual trial camp for members like Allen to try out for the team. "Over 200 people show up to try out," said Allen. Prospective members are divided into teams. This gives the team scouts an opportunity to see what each member brings to the team.

Tryouts last several days which include workouts, classroom instruction and concludes with a weekend long tournament. "If you don't show up looking like and performing like you've played all year, you'll be cut," said Allen.

Of the 200 people to try out, approximately 30 to 35 people make the first round of cuts. "As long as I show up 100-percent prepared, I walk away satisfied, knowing all my hard work and effort was realized on the field," said Allen. In October the remaining members compete for the limited slots on the team at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina.

Sergeant Allen is no stranger to this process. He served as team captain on the 2004 championship team. "All together we've won the Armed Forces Championship tournament in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2005.

"We have excellent coaches who are always looking for that edge.

Whether it's our diets, exercising, or weight training, our coaches are always in contact with us. You have to have a good balance and be a well-rounded athlete to compete in rugby," said Allen.

Rugby, according to Allen is like hockey. "Every guy on the team has to have both offensive and defensive skills," said Allen. "Some skills are instinctive some are learned."

With one of the most physical positions, Allen, a loosehead prop, continues his training to be the best he can be. "I'm always looking at the guy across the field. It's not only great to beat him physically but mentally too," said Allen.

After all the preparation and sacrifice Sergeant Allen's hopes turn to winning. "After a game and you're beat down and hopefully a winner, what's important to me is knowing I have lived to fight another day," said Allen.



**Jeremy Allen**



**Jeremy Allen, center with the ball, fights off an opponent.**

# 513th ACG reservist gets 'fit to fight'

Story and photos by  
Maj. Walter Jacques, 513<sup>th</sup> AMXS

An Air Force reservist at Tinker Air Force Base is taking the charge to be "Fit to Fight" seriously. Master Sgt. Matt Thomas, a jet engine mechanic for the 513<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, has used the program to get himself not only fit but into outstanding permanent health as well. In only 14 short months, Thomas has increased his overall FTF score from 43 (Poor) to 98.89 (not only Excellent, but near perfect). In the process, he lost 122 pounds and shaved a whopping 13-1/2 inches off his abdominal circumference.

Plagued with high blood pressure, back and foot problems and being 100 pounds overweight, Thomas took the initiative and worked out a solution. The beginning came with his resolve a year ago to change things for the better, initiating a self-help program that included radical life changes in exercise and diet.



**Matt Thomas prepares to run the Wildcatter Run 10K.**



**At more than 100 pounds overweight as early as 1994, Master Sgt. Matt Thomas had a challenge ahead of him if he wanted to be fit to fight.**

"Exercise is the main ingredient to losing the weight and getting back into a healthy routine quickly," he noted.

To get into shape, Thomas applied the discipline, motivation and hard work characteristic of his performance as a respected, professional Airman. He began working out tenaciously, running 4-5 miles, five times per week. Not liking to do static exercise machines, he found that the running was the best all-around exercise that would lean him down while enhancing his endurance in the other areas of exercise and fitness. Were there obstacles? "The TV is your worse enemy while on the weight-loss journey," said Thomas.

The running clearly paid off for Thomas, who cut a full third off his time, from a 15:40 mile to just over 10 minutes and he recently ran the Wildcatter Run 10K (six miles) in under 40 minutes. Strengthening his abs with the run-

ning helped in another aspect of the FTF regimen as well: his crunch count more than doubled, from only 19 in May of 2005 to 42 last month.

In addition to the running, Thomas increased his ability to lose weight and exercise with a radical change in diet, from standard western 'fast food'-style fare to a healthier mixture minus the fried, rich and sugary foods. Instead of soft drinks, he now drinks Crystal Light, a calorie-free drink.

One of the great aspects of his progress is that, at 45, he falls into the range where lifestyle change is extremely difficult. Nevertheless, Thomas stepped up to the challenge, providing an inspiration for all the others who are set in their ways, resistant to change or who think that they are as good as they are going to get. Asked the best part? "My wife can finally put her arms around me." If that isn't motivation, what is?

Know the rules

# Safety tips for Halloween

By the 507th ARW Safety Office

1. Do not allow a child to go “Trick or Treating” alone. Be sure older children TAKE A FRIEND and an adult accompanies young children.

2. Be certain to accompany young children to the door of every house they approach.

3. Be certain that parents are familiar with every house and with all people from which the children receive treats.

4. Children should be cautioned that they should not enter any home without prior permission from their parents.

5. Children should be cautioned not to approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are ac-

companied by a parent.

6. Make sure that all children carry a glow stick or wear reflective clothing.

7. When using facial masks, make sure that children can see and breathe properly and easily.

8. All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame resistant.

9. Children should be warned to never approach any house that is not well lit and does not have a porch light on.

10. Children should be cautioned to remember any suspicious incidents and report them to their parents and/or the proper official.

11. Children should be cautioned to run

away from people who try to trick them with special treats.

12. Children should be instructed to scream and make a scene if anyone tries to grab them or force them, in any way, to go with them.

13. Parents should inspect all treats and dispose of anything that seems to have been tampered with, has been

opened, or is not wrapped.

14. A good alternative to “Trick or Treating” is for parents to organize parties at home, in schools, or in community centers.

Have a safe and fun Halloween.



## Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 8-14

# The Coconut Grove Night Club

By Senior Master Sgt. Gary A. Bristol  
507th ARW Safety

The Coconut Grove, once a trendy Boston-area night club, was destined to be the site of the deadliest night club fire in United States history. On the night of Nov. 28, 1942, The Coconut Grove was packed full with men and women, many of whom were in the military. The recently expanded night club had approximately 1,000 occupants on that evening, more than twice its official capacity of 460. The club had been decorated in a romantic tropical style with paper palm trees, cloth draperies covering the ceiling, and other flimsy decorations. Some of the decorations were allowed to obscure exit signs.

That night an employee was instructed to change one of the light bulbs in the dimly-lit lounge area. Unable to see the light socket in the dim light, the employee lit a match. How things happened next is unclear, but somehow one of the artificial palm trees caught fire. Waiters tried to douse the fire, but despite their efforts, the fire spread quickly to nearby decorations on the walls and ceiling. Flames raced through the club's adjacent bar, the new lounge area and main club room. Within five minutes the entire night club was ablaze.

Panicked club patrons tried to exit through both sides of the club's main entrance, a single revolving door. One other

unlocked door, which opened inwards, was rendered useless because of the people pushing people against it trying to escape. To keep club patrons from exiting without paying their bill, the club's management had the side exit doors welded shut.

When firefighters arrived, they had to dismantle the revolving door to get inside. They found patrons' bodies behind the revolving door piled four to five deep for almost 40 feet on each side. The fire took 492 lives, and hundreds more were injured.

The investigating fire officials said that 300 of those killed could have been saved if exit doors opened outward. Emergency lighting is now a requirement as a result of the concern generated by this fire. Exit signs are required to be visible at all times. Occupancy capacity placards are now posted, and fire sprinkler systems are used in places of assembly. Many of the safety features we now take for granted or even go unnoticed today are a result of the many fire codes which were established after the fire. Have you ever noticed how revolving doors now have flanking exit doors?

There is still a valuable lesson for all of us here. Practicing safety is a life-style commitment. Never try to circumvent safety standards and never assume “the other guy” has taken care of making sure your environment is safe. You are that other guy.

# Suicide prevention: Taking care of your own

By Capt. Michelle Billetter  
507th MDS

Many of you know me and have sat through one of my briefings on Suicide Prevention.

Suicide is preventable, but detecting and keeping it from happening within the reserve military structure can be difficult. I believe if we actively try to get to know one another on a personal level it will help us see the warning signs in our troops. Suicide prevention is a part of Self-Aide Buddy Care, it's a part of the Air Force's 11 Suicide Initiatives and a key component of the "Wing Man" concept. Recognizing that someone is hurting and getting them to talk about whatever is going on may be the first step with intervening in a potential suicide situation. Individuals who are suicidal are in a great deal of pain and they come to a point where they see taking their own life as the only way to end their pain. But reaching this point takes time and it does not happen overnight.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the military. There are many risk factors for suicide and generally these individuals have more than one issue going on in their life that is overwhelming to them. A few risk factors include financial problems, relationship problems, job stress, disciplinary proceedings, self-esteem and others. Signs and symptoms of depression include, insomnia, sleeping all the time, difference in appearance, talking about death and dying, weight gain or a weight loss, personality change, change in job performance, isolate themselves, quit doing things that they normally enjoy, etc. Everyone is different but basically we are looking for changes in that individual's normal behavior.

Everyone's "normal" is different. I think one of the toughest aspects of this is not to judge these individuals based

on what we think should be stressful or not. Everyone has a different tolerance for stress, different support systems and a different way of handling life's issues and challenges. What stresses one person out may not bother another person at all. Being judgmental will only hurt our mission to prevent suicides. One of our protective factors is being a part of an organization or group. The Reserve is an organization that cannot function without being a "team." I know that there are individuals within our wing and they feel that this is their family. They don't have anyone else they can lean upon. The Chaplain is a great source to use if you have any individual that may need to talk to someone. If you notice someone that you think may be having problems, do you know what you should do? You should ask them if everything is alright and describe to them what changes you are seeing in them. Get involved -- use open-ended questions, give them your undivided attention, let their

supervisor/first sergeant know that you are concerned about them and why. If they say that they are suicidal do not leave them alone. Get them to the Chaplain or emergency room for assessment. Seeking assistance can be a challenge for reservists. Be persistent in getting care your troop needs.

I have spoken to many individuals after briefings and some personnel have sought me out to just "talk" about issues, concerns, and potential problems. That is one reason why we require in-person briefings every year. I'm happy to talk to anyone if they want to talk to me about their problems or they just need to vent.

For more help, the National Hope Line number is 800-SUICIDE. They provide access to trained telephone counselors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you haven't had your annual briefing, please contact me. It needs to be completed before the end of the year. I can be reached at Michelle.Billetter@tinker.af.mil.

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

### More women need to get tested

Women often perform caregiver duties for their own families and other relatives and friends, but often neglect to take care of themselves. Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) officials are reminding women that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and that they need to take care of their health. One way to do so is to be screened for breast and cervical cancer.

Routine screening with mam-mograms helps detect breast cancer for earlier treatment and increased chances of survival. Oklahoma ranks 20th in the nation for breast cancer deaths. In 2006, approximately 2,850 women will be diagnosed and approximately 550 women will die from breast cancer in Oklahoma.

With routine screening using Pap smears, cervical cancer is almost totally preventable because pre-cancerous conditions are detected and treated. Unfortunately, Oklahoma ranks 11th in the nation for cervical cancer deaths. In 2006, approximately 130 women will be diagnosed and approximately 50-60 women will die from cervical cancer in Oklahoma.

For more information about breast cancer awareness, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast>.

# Master Sgt. Floyd ‘Flash’ Gordon moves on

By Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch  
507th ARW Public Affairs

The Air Force says you have to go, in most cases, when you have reached your high year of tenure. So Master Sgt. Floyd “Flash” Gordon is going out the door, and straight to the Air National Guard. “They welcome you with open arms when you have a needed skill and you haven’t turned 60 years old,” said Gordon. Flash is a few years from that mandatory retirement age and still wants to turn wrenches and serve his country.

Gordon was an engine mechanic with the 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron until last month when he left to join the Guard. He hopes to be back out here soon when the Guard and the 507<sup>th</sup> start working together. I first joined because I wanted to serve my country, said Gordon, and I think I still have a couple of TDYs left in me.

Gordon entered active Air Force in June 1970 and served eight years before getting out. He earned his nickname of “Flash” while on active duty and stationed in New York. A supervisor started calling him Flash, after the movie character Flash Gordon and it just kind of stuck. He came close to being drafted during the Vietnam era. As he completed basic training and was getting ready for tech school, his number was the first one pulled on July 4, 1970. Gordon became a member of the 507<sup>th</sup> in 1979 and has been here ever since. “I’m the last F-105 (J75 turbo jet) mechanic left at the 507<sup>th</sup>,” said Gordon.

During his 34 year, 7 month military adventure, (as an ART and under the age of 55, he was able to stay longer than 33 years) Gordon has been a telephone lineman, radar repairman, in vehicle maintenance, a heavy equipment operator, mechanic, and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Group he worked on everything except tanks, etc. and traveled to just about every country or region except England. He has logged more than 900 flying hours since the unit received the tankers.

“There’s no place else that you can get experience like this and get paid for having this much fun,” said Gordon. “Why would I want to do anything else; I’d do it for free,” continued Gordon.

“Without my family at my side, I would not have been able to do the things I have done over the years,” said Gordon. “I missed our first five wedding anniversaries, I missed four of my daughter’s birthdays, and some holidays, too,” he continued. “If I was my wife, I would have kicked me out a long time ago! So, yes, she has put up with a lot over the years,” said Gordon.



**Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Mesenbrink, right, presented Master Sgt. Floyd Gordon with his very own, personalized, F-4 drag chute during his going-away roast held last month. The gift left him speechless.**

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch

When asked who the most memorable military character was that he knew during his career, he quickly threw out the names of Mike Grady, Master Sgt. John June and Senior Master Sgt. Cicero Quinn, among others. Gordon says these guys were the driving forces and mentors that kept him on the right path. And those same guys thought the same of him.

“Floyd Gordon, aka ‘Flash,’ is one of the most dedicated workers I know,” said Mike Grady, a former unit enlisted member in the Avonics Shop, who has retired. “His faithfulness to his country as exhibited by his many years of service is exemplary, but beyond that, I consider him a close personal friend as well as a brother in Christ,” continued Grady. “Knowing him and serving with him has truly been a blessing. His friendship has been enriching, and I wish him well in his future endeavors. God bless, Flash. Don’t be a stranger,” commented Grady.

And Gordon’s advice to younger Airmen just starting out was to do your job and high quality work. The opportunities are unlimited and this is one of the most exciting times to be in the military.

Gordon isn’t looking past the “60” timeframe for now. He just wants to continue with his military career and maybe get a chance to help more with the war effort.

## September Promotion List

Promotion to: Airman 507th OSF Dina M. Unklesbay	507th SVF 513th MXS 507th CES 507th LRS 513th ACG 507 SFS 507 MXS 507 SFS	Tyesha N. Francis Nicholas A. Hoover Eric W. Liftee Adrian D. Mack Julie A. McKinney David M. Morris Hugo E. Pike Anthony P. Robinson	Promotion to: Master Sergeant 72 APS 507 CES 513 MXS 970 AACCS 507 MXG 513 OSF	Ricky G. Aynes Darren L. Kennedy Michelle MacFarlane Margaret A. Ralston Richard W. Stull Jane Ward
Promotion to: Airman 1st Class 513th MXS Casey L. Chambers 507th SVF Joseph L. Pettiford	507th AACS 507th CES 507th SFS 513th MXS 72nd APS 970th AACCS	Matthew Benshoof Harold J. Jones Casey M. Pearson Andrew J. Quinn Larry K. Sanders Paul W. Steger	Promotion to: Tech. Sergeant 507 ARW 507 MXS 72 APS 507 OG 507 MXS 507 AMXS 513 ACG 507 LRS	Barbara G. Belyeu Kelly L. Chastain Jared M. Colyard Ernest Miller Scott Richardson Michael C. Rogers Andrea D. Waskom Lee W. West
Promotion to: Senior Airman 970th AACCS 507th CES 507th SFS 513th MXS 72nd APS 970th AACCS	Promotion to: Staff Sergeant 507th AMXS 507th LRS	Duane S. Deeter Karen L. Fowler	Promotion to: Chief Master Sgt. 507 MXG 507 ARW	Robert L. Legg Tina M. Long
			<hr/> October PEP promotion to Senior Master Sergeant 465th ARS Lowman, Kathleen	

## Fall 2006 Community College of the Air Force graduates

Tech. Sgt. Gary Berry <i>Aerospace Ground Equip. Tech.</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> MXS	Staff Sgt. William Russell <i>Logistics</i>	72 <sup>nd</sup> APS
Tech. Sgt. Roland Brock <i>Aviation Maintenance Tech.</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> MXS	Staff Sgt. Robert Sanchez <i>Fire Science</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> CES
Staff Sgt. Paula Carethers <i>Allied Health Sciences</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> MDS	Airman 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Paul Steger <i>Air and Space Operations Tech.</i>	513 <sup>th</sup> AMXS
Master Sgt. Melanie Cherry <i>Human Resource Management</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> MSG	Tech. Sgt. Aaron Thomas <i>Avionic Systems Tech.</i>	513 <sup>th</sup> MXS
Tech. Sgt. Brian Davie <i>Aviation Operations</i>	970 <sup>th</sup> AACCS		
Tech. Sgt. Ami DuBose <i>Aviation Maintenance Tech.</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> AMXS		
Senior Master Sgt. Shannon Fipps <i>Information Systems Tech.</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> OG		
Master Sgt. George Gould <i>Transportation</i>	72 <sup>nd</sup> APS		
Staff Sgt. David Jones <i>Aviation Maintenance Tech.</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> CES		
Senior Master Sgt. Randy Long <i>Aviation Operations</i>	970 <sup>th</sup> AACCS		
Master Sgt. Lisa Ortiz <i>Aviation Maintenance Tech.</i>	507 <sup>th</sup> MXG		
Staff Sgt. Bernice Ray <i>Electronic Systems Tech.</i>	35 <sup>th</sup> CBCS		

### OPSEC reminder

If you are applying for credit to purchase a house, a vehicle or anything that requires verification of your employment, you may use the new automated system for verifications of employment called TALX(1-800-367-2884 or through the web site [www.theworknumber.com](http://www.theworknumber.com) .) If someone calls your office, the Supervisor of an employee is allowed to verify if that employee works in his/her area with a yes or no answer, but no additional information can be provided. If they require additional information refer them TALX or to Ms. Judy Worsham, 72MSS/DPCER, phone 739-4313. Protect your personal information and the personal information of our co-workers. Be sure to practice OPSEC.

## Former OKIE remembered

**By Capt. Bill Pierce  
507th ARW Public Affairs**

A former 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing MEO officer is found dead in his home.

Leonard Charles Gaines passed



**former Fort Worth Fire Chief  
L. Charles Gaines**

away Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006. Gaines was discovered Saturday when his girlfriend could not reach him by phone. The cause of death was hypertensive heart disease, the Tarrant County medical examiner's office ruled. Diabetes and sleep apnea added to his health problems.

In the Reserve, Capt. L. Charles Gaines served his country as a firefighter from 1985 until he received his commission in 1991. He became the assistant social actions officer and later Chief of the Wing MEO office until November 2002. He then joined the Reserve unit at Carswell (NAS Joint Reserve Base) in Fort Worth, before retiring in March 2003 with more than 23 years service.

"He was a very positive and insightful person who would help guide you in the right direction when you needed ad-

vice," said Capt. Ben Walker, a fellow officer in the reserves.

"He had some positive advice for me after I returned from officer training school," said Walker. "He told me to excel as an officer in the Air Force, be willing to work hard, take care of the people who work for you and be willing to make sacrifices to accomplish your goals," said Walker. "It's kind of surreal to think about it, because that was the last time I had a chance to talk to him as he was on his way to take the Fire Chief position in Ft. Worth. This is a great loss for all of us," concluded Walker.

Gaines left the 507th after being hired by the Fort Worth Fire Department as their 11th Fire Chief since 1893 and the first African-American to hold the top spot.

As a civilian he served his community as a fireman. According to Gaines' profile on the Fort Worth Fire Department's website he began his firefighting career in the Air Force in 1975 before joining the Oklahoma City Fire Department in 1981.

This native of Oklahoma City served the citizens of Oklahoma City from 1981



**Capt. Leonard Gaines  
former 507th ARW member**

to 2002. His career with the Oklahoma City Fire Department spanned more than two decades and took him many places, including the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building the morning of April 19, 1995 where he spent the first 36 hours on the ground as the department's operations safety officer.

Chief Gaines received a Bachelor of Science degree in human resource management from Southern Nazarene University in 1989 and a master's degree in business administration in 2001 from Oklahoma City University.

Memorial services were held in Fort Worth and Oklahoma City before his body was cremated, as was his wish.



**Tinker Honor Guard members, including Master Sgt. Clifton Howard, second from left, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron, prepare to give a final salute to Capt. Leonard Gaines during a Memorial Service held Sept. 30 in Oklahoma City in his honor.**

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch



Col. William Erickson and his wife, center front, pose with fellow Okies at the conclusion of his Fini Flight on Sept. 12. The former 507th Operations Group vice commander will be assigned to the USSTRATCOM, Offutt AFB, Neb. and work as the assistant to the J8 commander.

Photos by Senior Airman Gabriel Padilla



Col. William Erickson protects his face from the water and various other liquids sprayed on him just moments after landing Sept. 12.



Col. William Erickson is bombarded from all sides by unit members as he departs the plane on his Fini Flight.

# Parting Shot



The 513th Air Control Group celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Sept. 9th with a dinner at the Sheraton Downtown-Grand Pavilion. Pictured above are part of the 450 attendees, which included current and former unit members and guests from 10th Air Force, 552nd Air Control Wing and the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Photo by Capt. Bill Pierce

## On-final

### R-News

#### 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.

#### AFRC patch wear date details

Due to unforeseen circumstances regarding availability of the AFRC patch, the mandatory wear date has been extended to May 1, 2007. As patches are issued, members are expected to wear them on their uniform ASAP.

#### First Sergeant board planned

The Wing will conduct a First Sergeants Board during the October UTA. There is one open position in the 513th 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.

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

Master Sgt. Michael Comfort  
(405) 217-8311

##### Midwest City, OK

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  
(316) 759-3830  
Tech. Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough  
(In-Service Recruiter)  
(316) 759-3766  
Staff Sgt. Ron Todd  
(316) 681-2522

##### Vance AFB, OK

Tech. Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough (316) 759-3766