

On-final



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507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group

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It's **ORI** time ... are you ready?





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

Let's push for success in phase 2

The first part of our ORI is complete. Overall we did very well with a couple of exceptions, but those were areas where we knew we needed some work. The attitude and sense of urgency displayed by all of the players was commendable. We need to keep up that great attitude going into part two of our inspection. We need to make that one last push to ensure success during phase two. I ask each of you to make sure your own equipment is good and you have your procedures down, whether it is putting on the chem. gear or proper door guard procedures. Remember every wing member is a part of this inspection whether you are deploying or not. Getting us out of town successfully is a large part of our grade.

As many of you know, Memorial Day is the start of the 101 critical days of summer. More accidents happen during this time than during any other time of the year. People do more traveling and participate in numerous water sports during this time. I ask each of you to take safety and ORM (Operational Risk Management) into your day-to-day life, both on and off of the job. If it looks wrong it probably is, don't wait for the next person to fix it. Safety belts are a requirement both on and off base for all occupants of the vehicle. We had a couple of incidents during the inspection of individuals not wearing seatbelts which should never happen. Remember seat belts SAVE LIVES and we want everyone safe at the end of the summer. Just another reminder that using a cell phone while driving on base is forbidden because of safety concerns and a higher accident potential. It may be OK to use them off base but is it smart? By the end of June our inspection cycle is complete so hopefully we can all take some time off to enjoy the summer safely.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dooms Day Plane

By Wing Chaplain
(Capt.) Kelly Stahl

Can you imagine a plane with the capability of withstanding a nuclear attack? I recently saw a clip on the news about the E4-B or the "Dooms Day Plane." This plane is the plane of choice when the U.S. Secretary of Defense needs to travel across country or around the world. This relic of the Cold War is able to withstand a nuclear attack. Air Force One can't even do that.

When your personal life seems to be under attack, whether nuclear or conventional, do you have what it takes to stand up to it? We all have those moments in our lives that seem to overwhelm us and bring us down. How come some seem to breeze through them while others are overcome? Could it be our armoring or our foundation?

The Bible talks about a person who builds a house on sand. When storms hit, the house crumbles. But someone that builds their house on solid rock is not destroyed when the rain come. And the person that has armor consisting of salvation, truth, righteousness, readiness and faith will withstand whatever is attacking. These aren't riddles or cute sayings; they are real and tangible abilities that each person can have. It doesn't mean that there won't be attacks, obviously we prepare for war even when there is not a threat. But we prepare ourselves so we can be ready when an attack strikes, and hope that it won't be nuclear.

Family Day planned for Saturday of September UTA

Now is the time to buy your Family Day tickets ... while the price is **cheap**. Each squadron has a representative selling tickets. Bringing family friends is encouraged, but they do not count as family. Each additional food ticket can be purchased for \$2. If you can't find your squadron's rep, contact Senior Master Sgt. Steve Wright, 734-6380 or Capt. Robert Atkins, 734-6379.

This year's event is sponsored by the

Maintenance Squadron with lots of activities in the works for young and old alike. There will be food, music, drawings for prizes, aircraft tours, moonwalks, booths for tattoos and face painting, dunk tank, ring toss, a jail, cake walk, motorcycle show, and other activities in the works. A 24-hour POW/MIA Walk-A-Thon will begin the day before Family Day and end at the conclusion of the Family Day activities.

Several organizations have requested a booth, which include the ROA, USAA, Air Force Sergeants Association, The American Legion and the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization. Also planned is a massage therapy booth with a tip jar available; proceeds to benefit the Operation Holiday Spirit fund.

Operation Holiday Spirit tickets will be available to purchase at a reduced price also.

Security Forces Squadron: Ready to Defend

When it comes to protecting the base from aggressor assault, the 507th Security Forces Squadron is ready to defend.

The flight has a wartime mission to perform resource protection, system security and base defense.

“We keep the area clear of aggressors so maintenance can prepare the aircraft and the pilots can complete

their mission,” said Maj. Robert Baird, commander of the 507th Security Forces Squadron.

Among possible tasking, Baird said security forces teams man posts and patrol to protect systems against sabotage, man listening and observation posts, and establish defensive fighting positions.

The flight is organized into and



trained as four-man fire teams and 13-man squads. “We train for deployment into any type of situation from bare bases to main operating bases,” he said.

Baird said the security forces mission could be compared to “guerilla-style” combat. He described an airbase as an urban situation.

Unlike infantry forces, which deal with direct large ground assaults, a higher threat to airbase security comes from terrorist or smaller-sized forces.

“We are prepared to deal with that type of problem. However, if a large force were to attack, we would remain there to stop their movement,” he said. “Security forces is the first into the area to secure the position and the last to leave.”



A 507th Security Forces policeman waits to ambush a convoy during the March ORE in Alpena, Mich.

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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.

Maintenance Group

Keeping the fleet flying requires their best

Keeping a fleet of KC-135R Stratotankers flying is no small task. During an Operational Readiness Inspection, that task is complicated with extreme working conditions such as airfield and ground attacks, performing meticulous tasks and inspections while wearing chemical gear for hours, and manning all the additional details that come with operating out of a forward location in a wartime environment.

The men and women of the 507th Maintenance Group, however, meet that challenge with flying colors.

“We’re here to provide Operations with mission-ready aircraft, pre-flighted, serviced and configured to fly, and on time to meet their air tasking orders,” said Lt. Col. James McDonnell, 507th Maintenance Group commander. Accomplishing that task, the colonel said, demands initiative and commitment from every member of the Maintenance Group.

He said the success or failure in meeting an air tasking order hinges on the efforts of every maintenance technician working together as a

team. “I’ve always been impressed by the dedication and abilities of this Okie maintenance team to get the mission done,” the colonel said. “We have a fantastic team. They know what needs to be done and they get out there and do it, no matter the conditions.”

Maintenance is the second largest group within the wing with 275 people assigned.

The mission of the 507th Maintenance Group includes performing virtually all maintenance activities required to ensure the long-term health of the wing’s fleet of KC-135R Stratotankers while providing mission-capable aircraft for aircrew training.

And while the KC-135s are the oldest aircraft in the Air Force, wing maintainers work hard to keep the fleet viable.

“Not only are our maintainers responsible for these multi-million dollar aircraft, but we are also responsible for the lives of the crews and passengers who fly on our aircraft. We take that responsibility very seriously. For

every KC-135 mission flown there are flightline mechanics, back shop technicians and staff personnel who have worked their hearts out to make sure the aircraft is airworthy and crew-ready,” the colonel said.



Items like this deicer make the job easier for maintenance members when it comes to taking care of the aircraft and getting it ready to fly during the winter.

465th ARS: The point of the spear

The 465th Air Refueling Squadron is more than the flying arm of the wing -- it is the point of the spear when talking about the 507th's war-time capability.

“The focus of an Operational Readiness Inspection, just like during a war, rests on operations,” said Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Mike Mahon. “It’s got to. We know we can’t operate in a vacuum. We need the efforts of every maintenance and support person down to the last message runner. But if we can’t destroy an enemy’s ability to make war or retaliate against our forces, we have all lost. It’s that simple.”



The 465th Air Refueling Squadron incorporates aircrew and traditional operations functions. As civilians, many of the pilots assigned to the squadron are employed by commercial airlines. As reservists, they are required to fly the same type sorties as their active-duty counterparts to remain proficient and combat ready.

Other members assigned to the squadron perform life support, intelligence, and plans functions.

By helping each other come to know the KC-135, the refueling mission and operational refueling tactics like backs of their hands, the 465th is proving it intends to keep their skills razor sharp.

The task was ‘frustrating;’ the lesson invaluable

by Senior Airman Zach Anderson
507th ARW Public Affairs

“It’s cold.”

That was my first thought upon venturing out the door of the 507th headquarters building for last month’s pallet building exercise. It was cold, wet and dreary and within minutes my toes were already going numb inside my steel-toed boots.

In all honesty, I didn’t know the first thing about building a pallet. Yes, I had been through the required cargo training class ... I had tried my best to remember proper height and weight requirements for cargo. But I’d never actually built a pallet before. I’d never tightened a cargo net or had to worry about proper labeling of palletized cargo. Yet here I was, fingers freezing inside my work gloves, with a group of other Airmen all tugging and pulling at netting and trying to properly load cargo to pass inspection.

This was not the fun, glamorous public affairs work I had imagined when I signed my enlistment papers one year ago. This was basic grunt work, pure and simple. The tasking was pretty clear-cut: Place heavy objects on pallet, label heavy objects, strap down heavy objects. It’s the type of job my recruiter didn’t tell me about and it’s not high on the list of “best ways to spend a UTA weekend.”

Virtually all day Saturday and half the day Sunday I was with the pallet buildup team, loading and breaking down pallets and trying to absorb as much information as possible. I listened to those with experience. I watched as the experts demonstrated how to properly strap down a cargo net. When our pallet was declared “frustrated” due to missing documentation, I scrambled with the other members of my team to gather the proper paperwork and meet the deadline for completion. And while at times the task was frustrating, the lesson that came with it was invaluable.

This weekend, I learned about proper cargo placement. I learned the difference between a load list and a packing list, about height and weight requirements. I learned how to use a top net, a side net and where to place a placard. But most importantly, I received a firsthand look at just how important the task of pallet buildup is to the overall success of the mission. Without the proper pallet buildup, no one goes anywhere. No one leaves. And ultimately, we as a wing have failed.

This month, some of us will be going on the ORI while others will be staying behind to provide support. Some will be door guards, while others are working the deployment line or

handling baggage. What I realized this weekend is the tasking itself doesn’t matter. No matter the job, each and every member of the wing will play an integral role in our success during the ORI.

Some jobs may not be the most glamorous. Some may seem to be nothing more than grunt work. Yet it is essential that in each individual tasking we as a wing remember to strive for excellence in all we do in order to ensure our overall success. That pursuit of excellence must extend to each and every part of our operation, from the most high-profile position to the lowest-level tasking ... including the building of a pallet.



Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gaspar, kneeling, 507th OSF superintendent, works on a pallet for the 465th ARS with Maj. Gerald Malloy, 507th OSF Current Operations chief, during last month’s training.

970th AACS
 Director of Operations Column
 By Lt. Col. Michael R. Tucker

What does 'Wingman' mean?

When I was growing up in this Air Force I was introduced to Wingman responsibilities. I had a squadron commander tell me that there were only three things he wanted to hear from his wingman "Mayday, Bingo and Lead you're on fire!" Of course this applied to things in the air but it was ingrained in me when I was a second lieutenant to take care of my Lead at all costs. Over time I learned it meant a whole lot more and did not necessarily pertain just to the air.

Today our Leaders in AFRC preach "Unrivaled Wingman - We will provide the world's best mutual support." They put out documents and pamphlets defining Unrivaled Wingman and from all that I have read it is saying we will provide mutual support for the Air Force and its partners by the Air Force Reserve either alongside of our brethren or in a leadership role. I have no problem with that statement.

I now want to tell you what Wingman means to me and yes everything I stated previously still applies. Whether you are TDY or at home station when a person asks you to be a wingman, and believe it or not they should, then

that means you stay with them through thick or thin. You do not depart the fix single ship and you make sure that his six is clear at work or any extra curricular activities that may be going on. Maybe you are confused at this point so I will give you an example. Say you go TDY and have a good flight that day then decide to go out for the night. Wingman responsibilities still apply and yes, they should be understood but just the same in case someone goes stupid on you someone should remind the people, you are with, that you are a flight of two, four, six or 20 and you will not rest until all are accounted for and have successfully returned to base/quarters/home.

There are some people who like to go single ship and they need to be coerced not to, all the way to the point of arguing with them, if need be. If they do not accept wingman responsibilities then they are stupid and deserve whatever fates bring to them.

In summary, always be a good Wingman whether that is in a supportive role or a leadership role. My door is open for anyone who does not understand this and I will be glad to explain in more detail. We are coming up on many, many more opportunities to show Wingman responsibilities **Do not be the one who lets your lead get shot down!**

On a personal note there is no other wingman or leader that I would like to go to war with than Col. Gregory A. Phillips and it will be a sad day for me when he leaves the fight!

Check Six.

CES: Ready for anything

When it comes to meeting an Operational Readiness Inspection challenge, the men and women of the Civil Engineering Squadron know how to keep cool under pressure, whether that means fixing an air conditioner or putting out a fire.

"The strengths, qualities, and capabilities of the 507th CES were proven in a combat zone in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM," said Lt. Col. Ernest Goodman, commander of the 507th CES.

Civil Engineering is divided into three separate flights, the operations flight, the firefighting flight and the

readiness flight. Each flight prepares engineering for its task of supporting the wartime mission.

The operations flight is made up of approximately 110 individuals with skills ranging from carpentry to electricians. The wartime mission for operations includes rapid runway repair and construction, facility operations and maintenance as well as construction management.

Twenty-four firefighters make up the firefighting flight. These individuals are responsible for crash rescue as well as fire protection.

The seven members of the readiness flight are responsible for maintaining not only the readiness of the engineering squadron itself, but for the wing as a whole. This flight maintains training and readiness to ensure that the 507th is prepared for the wartime mission.

"The 507th CES is a strong, mature team of professionals that can accomplish any task put before them in an exemplary manner," said Goodman. "The number one strength of the 507th CES is its people!"

101 Critical Days of Summer: A time to exercise caution

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

The "101 Critical Days of Summer" between Memorial Day and Labor Day, are once again upon us. In the past this is a historically hazardous time where we sometimes forgo our usual cautious nature and enjoy the warm weather and sunny days without taking the necessary steps to stay safe. Last summer alone the Air Force lost 18 Airmen in accidents during the "101 Critical Days of Summer;" a trend which has remained unacceptably high. Motor vehicle fatalities accounted for most of our losses. Collectively, we lost seven Airmen to automobile mishaps and another four to motorcycle mishaps. Too many of these tragedies involved speeding, alcohol, and a lack of use of seatbelts or a helmet.

There are still several other factors that make us vul-

nerable during the "101 Critical Days of Summer." An increase in sports and recreational activities, high-risk acts, outdoor-leisure pursuits, lack of proper risk management/planning and failing to know your physical limits are just a few of those reasons.

I personally challenge each of you to strive to be an unrivaled wingman to your family, friends and fellow Airmen this summer. Take some extra time to plan your trips and outdoor activities, keep a watchful eye over each other and don't take or allow your friends and family to take any unnecessary risks. Just a few extra moments will significantly help lessen the possibility of this summer being filled with tragedy instead of fond memories.

I hope your family and you enjoy these summer months by taking full advantage of what your contributions to this great country have made available. But, please enjoy them responsibly.

Safety goal:

Successful mission accomplishment in the safest fashion

by 507th ARW Safety Office

Everyone is aware the ORI is upon us! Safety will be a huge concern of the ORI inspection team. How many would like to retake the ORI in 90 days? This could happen if the ORI team feels that we are not performing our jobs in a safe manner!



Some safety violations seen during ORI's in the past months were for tasks we perform on a routine basis such as live ammunition in the ORI play area, weapons not on safe, unattended vehicles running on the flightline, fuel trucks not grounded, fuel spills going unattended, etc. These are the types of safety violations that we should never have, let alone during the ORI. Re-

member that no matter how well you perform your jobs, if not done safely, we will have the undesirable pleasure of repeating the ORI! The results could also be much worse with needless injuries or loss of defense resources.

Successful mission accomplishment in the safest fashion is our goal. We can and must accomplish this as a team! Ask yourself, "How can I ensure the safety

of others as well as my own safety?"

The best way to reach this goal is the "buddy system" and "teamwork!" Remember if you, as a member of the 507th, perform your job following established procedures and tech orders to the best of your ability, you will not jeopardize the mission or the safety of other 507th members!

Think safety!

Too Late

The history of failure can almost be summed up in two words: too late.

Too late...in comprehending the purpose of a potential problem

Too late...in realizing the impending danger

Too late...in preparedness

Too late...in uniting all possible means of help

Too late...in standing with one's friends

- General Douglas MacArthur

Let these words be a reminder as we strive for success on our ORI. But also, might I add another too late...Don't be too late...in taking care of your eternal destiny. Paul writes in Second Corinthians: "now is the day of salvation." Are you ready for eternity?

by Chaplain Dwight Magnus

Operational Readiness Inspection: Where do you fit in?

by Lt. Col. Richard Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs

This month, the 507th Air Refueling Wing will undergo two grueling examinations of its war fighting skills.

The examiners, members of the Air Mobility Command's Inspector General's office, will hurl unit members into scenarios designed to simulate nothing less than total war.

And it's all being done as part of an Operational Readiness Inspection.

The inspection kicked off May 29 through June 1 as IG inspectors evaluate the wing's ability to meet specific war order taskings within the constraints of a peacetime environment and a limited timeframe.

This phase of the inspection will be comprised of four major graded areas involving unit generation, employment, mission support, and safety/defensive counter information.

The challenge for this phase of the ORI is to demonstrate the wings ability to provide a specified deployable force that's available to the commander-in-chief in response to international threats. It is a challenge of the wing's ability to generate aircraft, mobilize equipment and personnel, and execute the effective command and control management so these resources are available as tasked.

The first ORI phase will have barely completed as the unit rolls into the second phase—this time involving a major force generation, deployment and employment.

According to Lt. Col. William H. Mason, 465th ARS/DO and lead wing ORI planner, this phase of the ORI is divided into four major areas: Initial response, employment, ability to survive and operate in a hostile environment and mission support.

Initial Response

Initial Response encompasses the command and control, execution, and management of deployment processes. Assessment of IR will encompass all observed tasks from initial receipt of deployment tasking until forces arrive at destination.

"Initial Response includes all the activities from notification by higher headquarters until we're ready to employ. Evaluators will evaluate what shape our aircraft are in and how quickly we get them ready," Colonel Mason said. Mason explained this area also includes command and control, alert force reactions, security response op-

tions and force generation. "The big players are you as an individual and everyone as a group," he said.

Employment

Employment is the safe delivery of passengers, patients, fuel, and cargo to the correct place, in the proper sequence, and on time. Employment taskings include air, land, aerial delivery, aerial refueling, aeromedical staging, aeromedical evacuation, and other unique missions.

Employment is what the exercise is all about. It means getting fuel to receiving aircraft...and it requires more than just aircrew. Inspectors will observe all phases of sortie generation. Are the required number of aircraft delivered, properly configured and on time?

Now, the aircrew and maintenance take center stage. They are evaluated on all aspects of their roles. Are they knowledgeable about the threats they'll encounter? Can they survive them? Can they meet all Air Tasking orders? Are their aircraft avionics systems operable and helping them? These are the kinds of questions an ORI team wants answered. They want to make sure we can get on with our jobs without spinning our wheels.

Mission Support

The term "Mission Support" has a behind-the-scene sound to it. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. "Every member, every squadron is involved in mission support," Colonel Mason said.

A few of the elements that are included in this area include:

- * Protection of classified materials in a combat environment.
- * Repelling terrorist attacks.
- * Restoration of power, communications, damaged facilities, repair of bombed-out runways.
- * Services, Personnel support, Transportation.

"Everyone, plays a role in Mission Support," Colonel Mason said. "It is critical support to facilitate mission accomplishment and directly affects the unit's ability to perform its wartime mission. HQ AMC/IG will use METs under Air Force Task # 6 (Provide Agile Combat Support) to assess each unit's ability to perform these support tasks."

ORI readiness continued on page 9



Lt Col. Dolores Bubier, 507th Operations Group, Plans Officer, displays her Meritorious Service Medal during her May UTA retirement ceremony. Bubier joined the military June 2, 1982 and retired last month. Maj. Thomas Hudnall, 507th OSF commander, presided over both retirements.

Mark Rowland, right, a lieutenant colonel and chief of the 507th OSF Intelligence Shop, displays his Meritorious Service Medal during his May UTA retirement ceremony. Rowland joined the military Sept. 24, 1975.

**ORI readiness continued from page 8
Ability-to-Survive-and-Operate (ATSO).**

ATSO is a unit's ability to protect, sustain, or restore an installation's mission capability. Criteria include: command and control; operations before, during, and after a contingency; plans for hardening/dispersal; detection and warning procedures; reconnaissance team readiness; contamination avoidance procedures; damage repair, fire protection, and individual protection actions.

"A classic case of wheel spinning would be going through all the effort of getting our force generated and employed, only to get wiped out on the ground. The ability to survive is probably the hardest part of an ORI," Colonel Mason said. "In actual combat, the aircraft we're launching is supporting aircraft attacking and hurting enemy forces on the ground. They'll try to retaliate and do the same to us," he said.

"HQ AMC re-designed its Operational Readiness Inspection program around the core competencies described

in the Air Force Task List (AFTL) and AMCTL. ORI should address the core competencies to: Provide Information Superiority (AFT 3), Provide Global Attack (AFT 4). (Note: Only a few tasks apply to AMC.), Provide Rapid Global Mobility (AFT 5), Provide Agile Combat Support (AFT 6), and Provide Command and Control (AFT 7)," Colonel Mason said.

"It's obvious that all these competencies are important; they're critical. The ORI team thinks so too. That's why they look at them. This inspection will present a challenge to everyone in the wing. How well everyone knows their jobs and does them correctly will determine the final results," the colonel said.

As a final note, Colonel Mason stated it is important for everyone to show a sense of urgency, keep safety awareness involved in all actions, follow your checklist, and above all, don't be afraid to ask questions.

Leading the way**Commander sets example in Run to Remember**

by Senior Airman Zach Anderson
507th ARW Public Affairs

It's often been said that attitude is a reflection of leadership. If that's the case, the commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing is definitely setting the right attitude when it comes to being fit to fight.

Col. Jeffery Glass was one of several members of the 507th to participate in the 7th Annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. Glass ran the first 10-kilometer leg of a five-man marathon relay team before going on to complete the 13.1-mile half-marathon distance. He is currently training to compete in a full-length marathon and used the experience of the Memorial Marathon as practice.

"I was asked to be part of a relay team and since I started working to complete a marathon I thought this would be a good test," said Glass.

Glass, who typically logs up to 25 miles per week running, said the opportunity to participate in a large-scale marathon event came at the perfect time.

"It was just the time I needed to start running some longer legs on the weekend, so the timing was good," said Glass. "My only goal was to run a sub 55-minute 10k, and I did it in 54, so I was happy," he continued. "I participated in a full marathon once in Dallas, but I was much younger last time!"

Other wing members followed in the commander's footsteps to take on the challenge of the marathon as well.

For Tech. Sgt. Ivan Esau, a legal assistant with the 507th ARW, running in the Memorial Marathon has become an annual event.

"This is my third year to participate," said Esau. "I think it's something everyone should experience at least once, on any of the levels whether they are taking part in the five-kilometer walk, the half-marathon or the full marathon."

Esau, who has completed the entire 26.2-mile course in the past, opted to run the half-marathon race this year. Even at the shorter distance the race presented a grueling challenge.

"It was brutal. I pulled a calf muscle five miles into the run. Needless to say, it was truly a challenge even if it was only 13.1

miles," said Esau.

Esau said the pain of the run was worth it for the thrill of crossing the finish line.

"My wife handed me our ten-month old daughter and I held her for the last 100 yards. She giggled and smiled for her daddy as I finished," said Esau.

Esau said it was encouraging knowing that the wing commander was out on the course as well.

"Having your commander out there helps to build an esprit de corps," he said. "Plus, I think it should be mandatory for all commanders to run a half-marathon!"

While he's not mandating marathon running, Glass does hope his own running regimen will serve as inspiration for the rest of the wing.

"I try to set an example by doing things like this. I hope I can motivate other wing members to stay fit to fight as well," he said.

While keeping in shape is a benefit, run participants said the Memorial Marathon is much more than simply a race.

"Running in an event like this means a world more than just running 26 miles. It shows support for our state and our nation as we stand together against terrorism, both foreign and domestic," said Esau.

"It's a great event to honor the casualties of the Oklahoma City bombing and the National Memorial downtown. It's a great opportunity for our wing to show support for a city that does so much for the military," said Glass.

Both Glass and Esau said they plan on taking part in the Memorial Marathon again next year.

"I always say I'm not going to do it again, but my wife says she wants to run the half-marathon and of course I want to better my times," said Esau.

"I definitely plan on taking part in the event again," said Glass. "Next year I plan on running the full marathon. It's great to be a part of an event that has such a powerful meaning behind it."

It's a classic instance of a commander leading not just by words, but by action as he and his Airmen took part in Oklahoma City's "Run to Remember."



Col. Jeffery Glass, in front, runs in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

507th marathon volunteers give back to OK

by Senior Airman Zach Anderson
507th ARW Public Affairs

From the first few steps to finally crossing the finish line, there's nothing easy about running any part of a 26.2 mile marathon. But at this year's Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, at least a few miles were a bit less grueling for runners thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Thirty-two volunteers from the 507th met during the wee hours of Sunday morning in order to serve as course marshals along the marathon route, cheering for runners while helping to make sure race participants stayed on course and that the marathon route was safe and clear of traffic.

For volunteers, however, the effort was about much more than simply offering encouragement to passing runners and keeping a road closed for a few hours on a Sunday morning.

"It gives us a sense of honor and pride beyond the uniform," said Master Sgt. Keisha Williams, Marathon Volunteer Team Captain. "It allows us an opportunity to give back to the community and those who support us."

The Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon began seven years ago as a way to remember the events of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building and support the Oklahoma City National Memorial. The significance of the race was not lost to the volunteers.

"It's for the families of the victims and the bombing survivors. Volunteering gives the wing an opportunity to show its support," said Master Sgt. Natasha Nelson-Palmer.

"I'm originally from Oklahoma City, but I was on active duty in Denver when the bombing happened," said Tech. Sgt. Noel Leal. "Now I just like coming out and volunteering

and doing something to remember."

For several of the volunteers, helping out with the marathon has become an annual way of showing support to the bombing victims.

"This is my second year to volunteer. Working as a course marshal is a small part of remembering the reason for this event. It helps to preserve the memory of those who were killed in 1995," said Senior Master Sgt. Joel Fast.

"This is my fifth year. I love it. It's good to see so many people doing something positive," said Staff Sgt. Alphonzo Glover.

The effort of the volunteers was definitely appreciated by those running in the marathon events, including 507th ARW commander Col. Jeffery Glass. Glass, who participated as part of a five-man marathon relay team, said he was im-

pressed with the wing volunteer turnout.

"It was incredible to find out that we had 32 volunteers for the event. It says a lot about our wing to give that kind of support considering they all had to give up their free Sunday and show up so early in the morning. The event would not have been such a great event without all of the volunteers that did such a great job," said Glass.

"The volunteers are truly helpful and an inspiration," said Tech. Sgt. Ivan Esau after completing the half-marathon event. "It does wonders to have people cheering you on and even more if you know the people cheering. They are what make a marathon possible."

As grateful as the race participants were for the volunteers, those helping out with the race seemed to draw just as much from the experience.

"I love it! I love Oklahoma! I love what this marathon represents. The wing volunteers are just awesome. I love the spirit and how we can represent the community," said Senior Master Sgt. Treva Ragland as she handed out pretzels to help fuel runners along the course.

According to team captain Williams, the bottom line is that volunteering gives the wing a chance to show its support to the state it calls home.

"These people are dedicated. They believe in the purpose behind the memorial. Why else would they be out here at 5:30 in the morning?" said Williams. "This is an opportunity for us to give back whatever we can," she continued. "By volunteering, we show our support. We want to take care of our own and that means taking care of Oklahoma."

Note: This year's event had 14,000 participants, nearly 4,000 volunteers and raised \$175,000 for the Memorial.



Senior Master Sgt. Treva Ragland, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, encourages marathon runners as they pass by.

Bonus AFSCs

Here are the AFSCs eligible for a bonus for the remainder of the year.

1A371	K1A371
1A451D	1A451
1A471	1A471D
1C351	1C371
2A571	2A573B
3A553D	2A671A
2A652	2A655
2A656	2E173
2F051	2T251
2T271	3C051
3E771	

AU offers new education program

A new education program starts this month for enlisted members who have completed their CCAF degree.

The vision of our Air Force leaders is to provide distance learning and bachelor's degree opportunities for Airmen. The AU-ABC aligns with this AF vision and meets the AU near term goal of offering a bachelor's degree. The AU-ABC initiative establishes partnerships between the Air Force and accredited civilian higher education institutions to offer baccalaureate degree opportunities via distance learning. AU-ABC applies CCAF/other 2-year associate degree credit towards baccalaureate degrees and requires participants to complete no more than 60 semester hours after having earned an Associate in Applied Science degree. AU-ABC degree programs will be linked to one or more AF-relevant degree programs currently offered by CCAF. To participate, registrants must be serving in the active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. Degree requirements, however, may be completed after a student retires or separates from the Air Force.

For more information, contact the 507th Education and Training Office at 734-7075.

Promotions

<u>Promoted in May to:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Airman	Jacqueline D. Wells	35th CBCS
Staff Sgt.	Jack R. Benter	35th CBCS
Staff Sgt.	Joseph A. Askey	507th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Thomas A. Bauman	507th AMXS
Tech. Sgt.	Carl J. Hojnacki	507th AMXS
Senior Airman	Kody H. McCowan	507th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Samuel O. Duke	507th CES
Staff Sgt.	William E. Hunter	507th CES
Tech. Sgt.	Rodney S. Jones Jr.	507th CES
Senior Airman	Jeremy J. Lopez	507th CES
Senior Airman	Paris A. Triplet	507th CES
Staff Sgt.	Preston L. Davis	507th LRS
Staff Sgt.	Minica R. Folsom	507th LRS
Staff Sgt.	Jason A. Lewis	507th LRS
Tech. Sgt.	Darrin C. Oglesby	507th MDS
Staff Sgt.	James L. Shade	507th MXS
Chief Master Sgt.	Phillip L. Brand	507th OG
Senior Airman	Joseph L. Pettiford	507th SVF
Senior Airman	Larnell L. Stokely	507th SVF
Tech. Sgt.	Matthew T.	513th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Scot L. Pipkin	513th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Joey C. Cota	513th MXS
Senior Master Sgt.	Larry D. Spradling	513th MXS
Master Sgt.	Michael D. Knight	72nd APS
Master Sgt.	Kevin R. Richison	72nd APS
Senior Airman	Bradley W. Williams	72nd APS
Tech. Sgt.	Joseph P. Bartee	970th AACS
Staff Sgt.	Lori A. Deserio	970th AACS

<u>Promoted in June to:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Staff Sgt.	Lily J. Rollins	507 th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Dustin L. Danai	507 th CES
Senior Airman	Adam M. Murray	507 th CES
Master Sgt.	Jay J. Smith	507 th CF
Senior Master Sgt.	Gregory J. Inlow	507 th CF
Tech. Sgt.	Adrian L. Randles	507 th LRS
Senior Master Sgt.	Marie A. Pollard	507 th MDS
Senior Airman	Daneen M. Holmes	507 th MDS
Tech. Sgt.	Jevon T. Munsanto	507 th MXS
Senior Airman	Janet L. Anderson	35 th CBCS
Senior Airman	Bronwyn E. Cooper	35 th CBCS
Senior Airman	Steven P. Martin	35 th CBCS
Senior Airman	Mark A. Crowell	72 nd APS
Senior Airman	Tania A. Mueller	72 nd APS
Staff Sgt.	Elizabeth A. Brooks	513 th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Landon W. Holloway	513 th AMXS
Staff Sgt.	Anthony A. Lynn	513 th AMXS
Master Sgt.	Michael A. Gibson	970 th AACS
Master Sgt.	Lauchlin G. McMillan Jr.	970 th AACS

WARNING This article is latent with subliminal messages Read at your own risk!

by Master Sgt. Kathy Smith
35th CBCS First Sergeant

Still reading? Good, this won't hurt a bit. Now is a great time to start a new habit, wouldn't you agree? For instance, why not start the habit of recording the good things you do, the organizations you join, and committees you belong to, on and off the job? Here is the benefit: You see on paper your very own successes—it just makes you feel good about yourself—and you should!

Be careful, this habit can set off a chain reaction! At minimum, it will create a list; uh let's call this list umm bullets, yeah bullets of things that show how awesome you really are, and let's call these awesome realizations accomplishments!

Why bother you ask? Because it will save your supervisor the time it takes to interview you; that time is then directly devoted to writing and submitting a well deserved 1206 on your behalf (sups will eat that up!). The bennies don't stop there, it could lead to a chance to win expensively cool stuff, uh let's call the stuff awards. At the base level, just being a nominee gets you bag loads!

'Don't wait—act now,' there are only two award quarters (packages due in July and October) left in the year! Here's a helpful starter kit, uh let's call it opportunities. You don't have to join to help an organization, no one turns away a helping hand.

* Tinker Reserve Enlisted Advisory Council (TREAC)

* Your own unit's Advisory Council,



Master Sgt. Kathy Smith

Spring 2007 507th ARW, 513th ACG CCAF graduates

Name	Unit	Degree
Staff Sgt. Felix Betances	35th CBCS	Information Management
Tech. Sgt. Lewis Haller	507th AMXS	Avionics Sys. Technology
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Kimbro	507th MXS	Aviation Maintenance Tech.
Tech. Sgt. Paul LaFluer	507th ARW	Information Systems Tech.
Master Sgt. Timothy Parker	72nd APS	Aviation Maintenance Tech.
Staff Sgt. Adrian Randles	507th LRS	Transportation
Staff Sgt. Josue Santiago	72nd APS	Transportation
Staff Sgt. Christopher Scott	507th SFS	Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Rebekah Letterman	507th AMXS	Aviation Maintenance Tech.
Master Sgt. Lynda O'Coighligh	507th AMXS	Information Systems Tech.
Tech. Sgt. Noel Smith	507th MDS	Healthcare Management
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Ajimine	513th MXS	Electronics Systems Tech.
Staff Sgt. Matthew Lewis	513th AMXS	Avionics Systems Tech.
Staff Sgt. Stacy Morton	513th MXS	Information Management
Staff Sgt. Cory Tayloe	513th AMXS	Aviation Maintenance Tech.

Top 3, or Top 4 (don't have one, then start one)

* Reserve Enlisted Association (REA): <https://www.reaus.org/>

* Air Force Association (AFA): <http://www.afa.org/>

* Air Force Sergeant's Association (don't have to be a Sgt to join): <http://www.afsahq.org>

* Tinker Reserve Top 3, Tinker Top 3 (TT3)

* Junior Enlisted Council (JEC): Eduardo.Assmann@tinker.af.mil (no typos here)

* Airmen Against Drunk Driving (A2D2): Any Rank, <https://wwwmil.tinker.af.mil/A2D2>

* 507 ARW Human Resource Development Council (HRDC): Any Rank

* Network 56 (for E-5 & E-6): stephen.ridge@tinker.af.mil

You work hard before, during, and after UTAs, so you deserve the recognition! This message has been brought to you by a crusty old Shirt who wants to see you win it all with bullets!

New commander named for 507th Medical Squadron

Lt. Col. Sandra G. Steblin has been named the new commander of the 507th Medical Squadron. Steblin was named commander in March pending the retirement of Col. Steven J. Gentling in June. Gentling had served as commander of the 507th MDS since 1998.

Steblin is a native of Endicott, New York and received a direct commis-

sion into active duty from the U.S. Air Force in 1985, where she served until 1988. Upon separation from active duty, she joined the Air Force Reserve at Charleston Air Force Base, SC and immediately attended Flight Nurse School. Steblin actively served as a flight nurse with three different flying units and deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Steblin arrived at Tinker AFB in 2001, serving first as clinical nurse then as Chief Nurse. In her civilian life, Steblin is an advanced medical nurse practitioner and is the Clinical Training Coordinator for the local Community Response Team as part of the Department of Homeland Security in Tampa, FL.

Dental health matters

TriCare Dental Insurance is affordable

by Tech. Sgt. Kristie Subieta

As a reservist, your goal is to maintain readiness for yourself. In order to help active reserve members cope with the cost of the annual dental examination, the DoD joined with United Concordia Insurance to provide comprehensive dental insurance to military members at an affordable cost. The TriCare Dental Program (TDP) is a voluntary dental insurance program with United Concordia Companies, Inc. United Concordia offers dental coverage for you and your family. As an enrollee, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the following benefits:

- * A network of more than 57,000 dental providers nationwide
- * No out-of-pocket costs for di-

agnostic, preventive and emergency dental services when provided by a participating provider.

* Comprehensive dental coverage:

- Up to \$1,200 annually for covered dental services
- Up to \$1,500 lifetime for covered orthodontic services.



Two months premiums are required up front with subsequent premiums being taken out of the member's pay through allotment. Enrollment forms and more information on the TriCare Dental Insurance program, you can visit their website at www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com.

More information and enrollment forms are also available at the 507th Dental Clinic on any UTA weekend.

National Guard/Selected Reserve monthly premiums

Plan	Enrollment Year	
	Feb. 1, 2007- Jan. 31, 2008	Feb. 1, 2008-Jan. 31, 2009
Monthly Sponsor Only	\$11.05	\$11.58
Monthly Single Premium (One Family Member, excluding sponsor)	\$27.63	\$28.95
Monthly Family Premium (more than one family member, excluding sponsor)	\$69.07	\$72.37
Monthly Sponsor & Family Premium	\$80.12	\$83.95

I salute you for your dedication

by Col. Steven Gentling
507th Medical Squadron

I recently completed my last UTA of active uniformed service to our country and will officially retire this month. It has been a wonderful journey for me, a journey that has been shaped by the experiences of many memorable events and people — mostly people.

“You have become as a golden thread in the fabric of my life, the colors and texture of that fabric woven by our experiences together.”
- from a Benedictine Monks song

As I look back at these experiences I am amazed, thankful and a bit saddened. I am amazed as I recall my days as an E-1, infantryman in the U.S. Army and thankful that I have had the fantastic learning and growth opportunities over the past 29 years in uniform. I am saddened that this part of my journey and learning is coming to an end.

I have been shaped by this association and it will always be a significant part of who I am. I think back to those memorable days of basic and advanced training. Don't we all remember those days? In my case the location was "beautiful" Fort Polk, Louisiana and a valuable lesson learned from my drill instructor — the team's mission ALWAYS trumps individual goals. That lesson laid the foundation of my own leadership style and philosophy. While my Army career didn't last too long and I took a seven year sabbatical before putting the uniform back on, the lessons learned certainly shaped my life. Fortunately, the allure of the Air Force, and the gaining of a commission, brought me back to the "uniform culture" and to another opportunity to learn and to serve.

“We are shaped and we are fashioned by the people that we know, And from each we borrow something, taking it wherever we may go.”
- June Masters Bacher

Clearly, the honor of serving you and our country has also provided me with numerous distinct opportunities. I consider the citizen-airman career to be one of the most valued times in my life, primarily because of the many people I have met along my

journey. The many airmen, one stripes to three stars, have impacted me in very special ways.

I have experienced unique places, travels, training and people. I have learned from seeing things done right, and sometimes from seeing things done wrong. I have learned from my own mistakes, which number into the thousands, and from the mistakes of others. I have had the fantastic experience of being a part of spectacular team achievements and wonderful success stories. I have had the rich experience of being mentored by the best officers and enlisted people imaginable and have tried my best to in turn reflect their sage advice in my own mentorship of others.

I leave with a sense of fulfillment. This because I feel I have always given my “best shot” to the mission and a sense of humility realizing the many “learning mistakes” I have made along the way. Most of all I leave with a sense of respect and pride. Respect for the commitment and sacrifice given by each citizen warrior in service to our country. Lastly I'm filled with pride having had the opportunity to have worn the uniform and to have served with and for each of you.



Col. Steven Gentling

“There is an energy in each of us that makes special things happen when the paths of others touch ours, and when the time of our own sunset comes, how we have used that energy will be our legacy, our greatest gift to others.”
- from a Benedictine Monks song

Thank you for your camaraderie, your mentorship and your gift. In some small way I hope I have also given a gift to you. I salute you for your dedication to our mission and to our country! Thank you and good-bye.

Editor's Note: The quotes represented here are special to Colonel Gentling. They signify the numerous quotes he has picked up over the years. Two of these were given to him by dear friends, one 25 years ago and one three years ago. “They represent my focus on establishing great relationships and my passion for contributing to those relationships and leaving the world a little bit better place in the process,” Gentling said.

Parting Shot



Four unit members recently golfed as a team in the Director's golf tournament in honor of Mr. Connors and his retirement. Team members include, from left, Eric Whitesel, 507th AGS; Jeffery Glass, the 507th Air Refueling Wing Commander; Archie Frye, 507th Operations Group Commander; and Robert Atkins, the 507th ARW Executive

Officer. Colonel Glass got the closest to the hole on Hole #2 with a 4 iron at 189 yards, coming to within 7 feet of the hole. He won the use of a car for a month from Hudiburg Chevy. The team placed 4th out of 20, had a 4.4 handicap, shot a 61 for a score of 56.6. The winning team had a score of 49.7.

On-final R-News

Air Force College offering online Master's degrees

Air University's Air Command and Staff College will offer an online master's degree program starting this month. For the first time ever, eligible officers will be able to enroll in an educational program that simultaneously fulfills Joint Professional Military Education and Air Force Intermediate Developmental Education requirements while allowing them to earn an accredited master's degree online.

Applications for admission to the program are currently being ac-

cepted. Officers who are admitted into the program may begin registering for classes at the end of April. The first classes begin June 25. For more information, visit the ACSC website.

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/dlmasters.asp>

First Shirt selection board to convene

A First Sergeant selection board will be held during the August UTA for five openings. Packages are due by close of business on August 1st. Package information can be obtained from Master Sgt. Deborah Kidd, President of the First Sergeant Council. She can be reached at 734-0284 or via e-mail at Deborah.Kidd@tinker.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

Tech. Sgt. Neil Lambrecht
(405) 732-6279

Tulsa, OK

Master Sgt. Monica Flowers
(918) 250-3400

Lawton, OK

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

McConnell AFB, KS

Sr. Master Sgt. David McCormick
(316) 759-3830
Master Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough
(In-Service Recruiter)
(316) 759-3766

Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough
(316) 759-3766