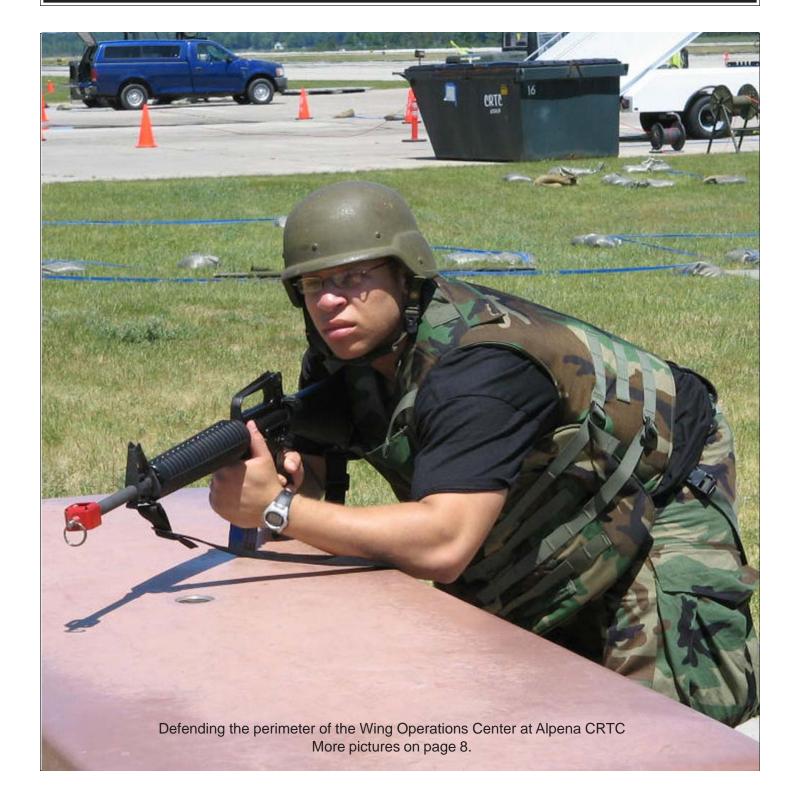




507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma JULY 2007 Vol. 27, No. 7



On-final EDITORIAL



507th ARW Commander's Column

By Col. Jeffery R. Glass

I'm proud of the work you did

The result of the ORI was not quite what we had worked so hard for. We are taking steps to fix some of the inaccuracies in the report, but as of now we do not know if the final grade will change. I want you all to know that I'm proud of the work that each of you did. Not once did I hear about any whining or complaining. Each of our groups that were having problems made progress throughout the inspections. Our personnel out-processing was flawless. My many thanks to the 72nd Air Base Wing for their sup-

port. We do have some areas that need work and we will work hard to fix those areas. I will keep you all posted on upcoming changes or required corrective training.

Let me once again stress safety and ORM practices. We are just through the first third of the 101 Critical Days of Summer and have unfortunately lost one of our members. Chad Ginzl was killed riding his motorcycle and our condolences go out to all of his family and friends. It was an unfortunate accident and he did everything right to include wearing of his helmet. At the same time we had another member of our wing get into a car wreck and spent some time in intensive care. He is fine now thankfully. These incidents show the hazards associated with driving, especially after all of the rain and conditions of our roads.

PLEASE BE SAFE.

Have a great summer and be safe

By Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long 507th ARW Command Chief

As the summer of 2007 sheds its heat and rain on the plains of Oklahoma, we find ourselves inundated with outdoor chores, family vacations, and the spirit of youth. It is a time held sacred for family and fun. The memories of summers past linger in our minds as we attempt to reproduce the joys we experienced as children.

But wait a second, in case you haven't noticed this Norman Rockwell perception of summer isn't exactly our reality. The Okies' summer has been a bit busy. Those of us who have been honing our battle sword for the ORI have had little time to engage in the dreams of summer.

The sacrifice of our families and dedication of our employers has enabled our Wing to utilize its resources in a maximum effort to excel, and to both we have accumulated debt. The intangible accumulation of debt is time. Indebted time owed to employers who have put off production in our absence. Precious time owed to families that have delayed sun and fun for the free-

dom of our homeland and far away infant democracies. Unfortunately we can not take out a home equity loan to equalize our liability. The debt is paid by scrutinizing calendars and commitments in an attempt to find time

Employers are bound by law to support the Reserves and Guard in their capacity of National Defense. The time debt owed to employers will eventually equalize and hopefully the scales will one day balance. Families are a little more fragile. The repayment of a family time loan comes with great consequence if it is neglected.

As our pace slows with the conclusion of exercises and deployments, we all need to take a deep breathe and prioritize our remaining summer. Each of us should ensure our family is repaid the debt in full. Your spouse needs your time to replenish the bond you share. Children need your time to reinstate your existence in their lives and to form the memories they will hold dear in the years to come. Thanks for all the hard work Okies! Have a great summer with your families and be safe.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Me? Be nice?

By Wing Chaplain (Capt.) Kelly Stahl

I am always amazed about what I am reading in the news. The obviousness of some of the research being done makes me laugh. A recent headline read, "Doing something nice for others make you feel better." Wow, it took a research group to come up with that? Probably a team of 20 individuals came up with a hypothesis, wrote a grant proposal (for a couple of million of dollars), drew up plans for running an experiment and then came up with their data. I wonder if they were standing around scratching their heads asking each other how it is that people, when they aren't being selfish or self absorbed, actually get a good feeling deep down inside. Yes, my sarcasm is coming to the surface.

Helping others is something that service men and

women know about. Sacrifice, honor, country, duty, selfless service, integrity, courage and responsibility are not just a few novel words that are tossed around lightly. Military personnel live everyday with these concepts wrapped as closely to them as their ORI reflective belts.

Always be looking for an opportunity to help others in your community. Whether from giving to the Red Cross or volunteering as a big brother or sister or volunteering at your church, you can make a positive impact on those around you. Pay if forward, give back, or make a difference. However you want to phrase it; that is how positive change happens. The Bible tells us that we need to do unto others as we would have them do to us. This means that we take the initiative in "being nice." What we take with us in life isn't as important as what we put into others we meet on this journey called life.

Family 2007

Family Day is scheduled for the September UTA.

Discounted tickets are on sale now; prices will go up as the date gets closer.

Prices for July 1-31:

E-1-E-3 = \$3.00/\$6.00 family

E4 - E - 6 = \$4.00/\$7.00 family

E-7 - E-9 = \$6.00/\$10.00 family

0-1 - 0-3 = \$8.00/\$12.00 family

0-4 - 0-6 = 10.00/15.00 family

Prices for Aug. 1 - Sept. 8:

E-1 - E-3 = \$4.00/\$7.00 family

E-4 - E-6 = \$6.00/\$9.00 family

E-7 - E-9 = \$8.00/\$12.00 family

0-1 - 0-3 = 10.00/14.00 family

0-4 - 0-6 = 12.00/17.00 family

On-final

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition. If you need more time, please call us at 734-3078.

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

507th ARW Mission: Man, train, equip, and sustain an Expeditionary Reserve Force in support of DoD peacetime and wartime taskings. 513th ACG Mission: Citizen-airmen extending America's Global Power operating the world's best airborne battle management, warning and control platform.

Once in a lifetime opportunity

By Capt. Polly Orcutt 507th ARW Public Affairs

Once in a lifetime! That's the best way to describe my opportunity to fly with the Army's Golden Knights on a practice flight prior to Tinker's Star Spangled Salute airshow.

As a civilian I work for the 552nd Air Control Wing in the public affairs office. It was Friday morning, June 8, and I was in the office with the captain I work with when one of my counterparts at the 72nd Air Base Wing public affairs office called and asked if I would like to fly.

How could I pass up that opportunity? I couldn't, I jumped at the chance

and had hung up the phone before reality sunk in and my calendar was glaring at me with a doctor's appointment for my son. Panic! How could I fly and still get him to that appointment? Thankfully, my husband Dennis was also working on base and, hopefully his schedule would allow him to cover the appointment so I could fly. He could do it, so I was cleared for takeoff.

I had 45 minutes from the time I was called until I had to report to Base Opera-

tions to meet the team. I needed to go home and change into warmer clothes and better shoes. We were going up to 12,000 feet and it was going to be cold.

Boots, sweatshirt, jacket, camera – what else could I need? Gloves would have been nice.

There were six of us who were given the chance to board the Golden Knight's C-31A Friendship. I was strapped into my jump seat, second from the door that they would later be jumping out of, camera in hand. Wow, I was going to fly and get a view of the jump

team and of the Tinker Air Force Base area that most people never get to see.

We started to taxi, when were they going to close the doors? We started to take off, OK they aren't going to close the doors, and I guess that makes sense, what would they do with the doors after we got into the air.

The wheels were up and the Golden Knights started to prepare for their jump – suiting up, checking each others chutes, attaching their smoke canisters. All the things they need to do to be ready to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft when we reached 12,000 feet.

I don't think we ever got more than 5 miles from the perimeter of the base,

sitting on it. I don't think I would ever have a chance to get shots like this again, but there was a price, it was getting cold.

The higher we climbed, the colder it got. I don't know what the exact temperature got down to, but I was glad for the sweatshirt and again, why didn't I bring my gloves!

There was a red and a green light located above the doors that the team would depart the plane from. The light was red until we reached altitude. It turned green and the team started to move toward the doors, then it went red again, then green and then they both went out. What now? What does that mean?



A birds-eye view of the E-3 and KC-135 area of the base from the Golden Knight's C-31A aircraft.

Phot by Capt. Polly Orcutt

but we did make circles around it to achieve the necessary altitude. Every time we would bank into a turn I thought my sinuses would explode, my face felt so tight, but the adrenaline was flowing and this was still the greatest ride of my life.

One of the best parts about the ride up was the opportunity to see the base and Midwest City from a new perspective. I had my camera and was shooting away. I live near the base and was able to get a shot of my neighborhood. I was also able to get a nice aerial of the base to include the 507th's ramp and the KC-135s

The Knights made their way back to their seats. Due to the strong Oklahoma winds they weren't going to be able to jump that day. What a bummer. So we slowly made our way back to the ground. On the way down the team undid all they had done to prepare for the jump that didn't occur.

I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to fly with the Golden Knights. I know I got to do something that not everyone gets to do and that I will probably never get another opportunity to do something so amazing.

513th ACG commander retires

By Senior Airman Zach Anderson 507th ARW Public Affairs

For many the pursuit of a childhood dream rarely translates into real-world opportunity. With age most tend to push aside the lofty aspirations of youth, replacing those ambitions with the weighty obligations of adulthood. Yet for Col. Gregory Phillips, commander of the 513th Air Control Group, it was the continued pursuit of a childhood desire that allowed him to make a career of living out his dream.

"At the age of five I wanted to fly airplanes. I have been privileged through my Air Force career to do just that," said Phillips.

Phillip's path to his Air Force career began in 1970 when he joined the Reserve Office Training Corps at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, receiving his commission in 1974. Joining the ROTC was all a part of chasing his childhood dream of flight.

"At a college orientation course the ROTC recruiter told me I could learn to fly airplanes for free. My goal was to become a fighter pilot and fly everything," said Phillips.

From that simply stated goal Phillips forged a military career that has spanned 32 years culminating with his retirement effective July 8.

Phillips served on active duty for 11 years 9 months, during which he held numerous assignments, including serving as a combat ready pilot flying in the F-4 and F-15, serving as a training instructor for the T-38, and as a mission ready pilot flying the F-15. Phillips also served as an Assistant Squadron Weapons Officer under current Air Force Chief of Staff Buzz Mosley.

In 1986 Phillips made the transition from active duty to the South Dakota Air National Guard. He first came to Tinker Air Force Base in 1989 as Chief of Group Safety for the 507th Tactical Fighter Group. In a long and distinguished career as a reservist, Phillips has served on several deployments and held dozens of positions making multiple contributions. In 1997 he was selected as the first commander of the 5th Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, OK. This squadron was a new joint AFRC/AETC initiative directed by the Chief of Staff for the Air Force and a first for the Air Force.

Phillips said he considers this assignment to be his most important contribution to the future of the Air Force.

"I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to create an organization from scratch. The reward I got from building the first AETC Reserve Associate Instructor Pilot unit from nothing to full growth was one that few people will ever get to experience. Words cannot describe the pride and fulfillment you get from taking a military organization from initial concept to full successful operations," said Phillips.

Phillips said he is extremely appreciative of the opportunities he has been provided through his Air Force career.

"I have been able to fulfill my life-

long dream and do it in more airplanes than anyone else. It is rare to have flown as many airplanes and missions as I have. To be able to experience the whole breadth of missions and equipment is an experience only a few, including myself, can say," said Phillips.

Even though his military career has come to an end, Phillips will still be making an active contribution to the future of the Air Force by serving as a civilian instructor at Vance Air Force Base.

"I enjoy teaching kids how to fly for the Air Force and I will continue to do that for at least another five years," said Phillips.

After all his time spent serving as a leader, Phillips also had some parting advice for younger Airmen.

"When you are in charge of people during your career, remember that as the person in charge you cannot have special rules for yourself," said Phillips. "Lead by example. Remember that loyalty is a two-way street."

In the end Phillips said his success within the military really came down to the support of his loved ones and family members. "They allowed me to do what I always wanted to, which is to fly airplanes."



Col. Gregory "Farb" Phillips is given the traditional soaking after his final flight onboard the E-3 on June 8th. Photo by Senior Airman Grady Epperly



513th ACG Commander's Column

By Col. Gregory Phillips

Old soldiers never die, they just fade away

To all members of the 513th, this will be my last opportunity as your Commander to tell you how grateful I am to you. I wish to thank each and every one of you personally for all the hard work and outstanding performance you have given both your country and me over the last three years. It has made my job of commanding an exceptionally easy one. In leaving, I know that I have left the unit in exceptional hands and trust that you will all fare well in the future.

Without going into a lot of explanation as to why I did not wish to have a formal ceremony after 32 years of military service, I would like to say that I'm just not a "pomp and circumstance" kind of guy. I do believe in performing the best job I can in the circumstances I'm given and then moving on to the next adventure, and folks, life is an adventure.

And now, I would like to tell each and every one of you why I chose to give the better part of my life to the military. You see, I am a product of the '60s and I grew up in an era when people honored the World War II sacrifices of many and also in a time when people spit on our honorable soldiers coming home from Vietnam. It was a very rough and tumultuous period when I joined the military in the 7'0s because it was very unpopular to do so. I did not come from a military family nor did I have anyone recommend I join. We were at war at that time just as we are today; an unpopular and long drawn out war and the chances of me getting drafted were very high as I joined ROTC in college. So, my dream was to fly jets and do my nation's calling as a fighter pilot. Back then, we had several great leaders who had set some great examples of commanding. One such man was Gen. Douglas MacArthur. A leader that I, as a kid, wanted to emulate someday. Though some may question his leadership style at times, history has proven him a great leader, and I have always dreamed of being remembered like that. In his farewell speech to the Corps of Cadets at West Point in 1962 General MacArthur mention three words I have tried to adhere to over my career. These words were "Duty, Honor, Country." So the following is my parting shot to the men and women of the 513th.

Duty. I have always considered my being in the military as my duty. I have often given up things that would have

interfered with what I considered my duty. Enjoying 20 years of only three weekends a month is a primary example. I sacrificed happiness, family, money, and many other things to do what I considered my duty. Duty and how well you perform it is really the legacy you leave behind to others. Through your willingness to do your duty, you set the example for others to follow. Over my career, I tried not to hesitate to do my duty the best I could and I hope you would all agree with that.

Honor. Being an honorable man or woman is a legacy you also leave behind. I would like to think that I am an honorable man and that I performed all my duties in an honorable manner. As a kid, my Dad taught me that all a man really owns in life is his honor. It is the only thing that a man can take with him into the hereafter. He was an honorable man and an excellent example. He taught me that lying, stealing, backstabbing and such were not honorable. Unfortunately, we see these things a lot today and it is seen not only in civilian life but in today's military as well. Only time will tell if I was an honorable man and that I performed my duty honorably; I'd like to think that all of you thought that I was.

Country. That is really what the duty and honor are for. As an American, I considered it my duty to give back to my country. The same country my forefathers sacrificed for and I saw it as my duty as well. My favorite saying is "Freedom is not free." We see that fact everyday in the news as our brave and courage troops fight for our freedom. In Iraq and other countries today Americans are losing their lives for that freedom. It takes a special kind of person to be able to put one's life on the line for his country and to do it willingly. I like to think that each one of you is that kind of special person. To serve your country honorably and do your duty were the guiding principals I tried to follow as your commander. I hope you saw me do it successfully.

On April 19, 1951 Gen. Douglas MacArthur gave a farewell speech to Congress. I would like to leave you with part of it. This is the part that relates to my career and my retirement as I see it. I would ask that you substitute my 32 years for his 52 and the Air Force for the Army as you read it.

"I am closing my 52 years of military service. When I joined the Army, even before the turn of the century, it was the fulfillment of all of my boyish hopes and dreams. The world has turned over many times since I took the oath on the plain at West Point, and the hopes and dreams have long since vanished, but I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barrack ballads of that day which proclaimed most proudly that "old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

"And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Goodbye."

GOD BLESS - Farb

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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. Sharlotte 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. Sharlotte 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. Sharlotte 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.**

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.** <u>Address Changes</u> You no longer have to go to 4 different screens/areas to update your address!!!
- 2. Point Summarys Point Summarys can also be viewed and printed.
- **3.** <u>Record Review RIPS</u> You will now be notified via e-mail, on your birthday, to log on to vMPF to review your RIP.
- **4.** <u>Awards and decorations</u> 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 the training office 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)

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FY 2007/2008 UTA SCHEDULE

04-05 Aug 07 08-09 Sept 07 13-14 Oct 07 03-04 Nov 07 01-02 Dec 07 05-06 Jan 08 09-10 Feb 08 01-02 Mar 08 05-06 Apr 08 03-04 May 08 07-08 Jun 08 12-13 Jul 08 02-03 Aug 08 06-07 Sept 08

As of 9 July 2007

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Fri, 13 July 2007 1300 Pre-I 1400 Pre-I 1430 Pre-I 1600 Top 3	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Pre-UTA Chief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1056, 970th AACS Conf Rm	Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room dg 1056, 970th AACS Conf Rm	Fri, 3 August 2007 1300 Pre-U7 1400 Pre-U7 1430 Pre-U7 1600 Top 3	Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1056, 970th AACS Conf Rm	Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room Idg 1056, 970th AACS Conf Rm
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OCCUPATIONAL SURVEYS

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

Newcomers Ancillary Training

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

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
		Phase I	
Saturday	1305-1315	Wing Lodging Program	SVF
Saturday	1315-1345	Information Assurance	CF
Saturday	1345-1445	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/	
		Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Saturday	1430-1500	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Saturday	1500-1530	OPSEC Training	OG
		Phase II	
Sunday	0800-0815	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0815-0830	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0830-1000	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	1000-1030	Counter Intel/Awareness	SF
Sunday	1030-1100	Human Relations	ME
Sunday	1300-1600	First Duty Station	ME

UCMJ Briefing:

All enlisted personnel are required to have the UCMJ briefing within two UTAs of their first reenlistment. This briefing is held during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room.

Ethics Briefing:

All reserve personnel are required to have the DOD Ethics Briefing within 90 days of reporting for duty. This briefing is held in conjunction with the UCMJ briefing during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room.

Disaster Preparedness:

Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical Warfare Training, by name, at least one UTA prior to the requested dates by calling CEX at 734-5249. All personnel must bring a complete training ground crew ensemble (GCE) including the mask and its hood to all classes. Those attending Initial must be prepared to process through a tear agent chamber. Wear of contacts is prohibited in all classes. Anyone arriving late, without a complete GCE with mask, or wearing contacts, will be released back to their unit and reported as a no-show.

Drug Testing: You must report within two hours of notification.

Military Pay

File for	Receive Direct
pay by:	Deposit by:
17 July	25 July
19 July	27 July
23 July	01 Aug
26 July	03 Aug
31 July	08 Aug
02 Aug	10 Aug
07 Aug	15 Aug
09 Aug	17 Aug
14 Aug	22 Aug
16 Aug	24 Aug
20 Aug	29 Aug

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

BAQ Recertification **Deadlines**

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

1	November	January
2	December	February
3	January	March
4	February	April
5	March	May
6	April	June
7	May	July
8	June	August
9	July	September
0	August	October

If you need assistance or have suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please call us at (405) 734-7075, or stop by our office in Building 1043, Room 213.

Editor:

Contributing Editors:

Chief Master Sqt. Sharlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART) Assistant Editor: Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)

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 (Civilian)

Wing says farewell to long-time OKIE

By Capt. Bill Pierce 507th ARW Public Affairs

This UTA, Okies will say farewell to one of their own.

Lt. Col. Michael Miller, deputy commander of the 507th Mission Support Group, will complete his military career with one last official duty, his retirement.

Colonel Miller began his career over 41 years ago enlisting in the Air Force, under the Delayed Enlistment program. "I was completing my first year in college and the Vietnam War was rapidly escalating. We came from a small town in northern Oklahoma and many of my friends were being drafted. The Air Force seemed like the right thing to do. It was a decision I never regretted," said Miller.

After more than four years on active duty, Miller returned to college to complete his education. In late 1972 he joined the 507th as an Air Reserve Technician. Miller promoted through the ranks during the 35 years in the unit achieving the rank of Senior Master Sergeant before earning a commission in 1982.

Editor's Comment: A3C and A2C were ranks used in the Vietnam era. Senior Airman was not used during this time frame. A3C stood for Airman Third Class and is equal to the Airman rank. A2C stood for Airman Second Class and is equal to the Airman First Class rank.

From the time he put on the Air Force uniform Miller held numerous positions on active duty as well as in the 507th. His path has taken many turns offering up challenges at each stop. His unique career allowed him to serve in both the enlisted and officer ranks. Embracing the many opportunities afforded him, Miller's impact is far reaching. "The endeavors that took the most effort but were most rewarding were at the squadron leadership level. I had the unique opportunity to be both a first sergeant and later a squadron commander. That is where the rubber meets the road, you can really make a difference, and I would do it again in a heartbeat," said Miller.

His positions include stints as the superintendent and chief of administration, communications, first sergeant of a fighter squadron, OIC in various sections of personnel, supply and fuels. His command experience includes positions as a flight, squadron and deputy group commander. He was appointed three times as an interim group commander. Miller credits his family support as one of his keys to success. "My wife Kathy, and our children, all knew I was doing what I loved. As American citizens, they benefited and helped sustain me," said Miller.

Looking back over his career, Miller reflected on the many people that helped shape the organization into the wing of today. One such person was Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jim Wade. "When I came into the 507th, we had



Lt. Col. Michael Miller

just converted from transport aircraft to fighters...a tremendous change! General (a colonel at the time) Wade was considered the father of the unit, key in the transition and a larger-thanlife figure. His presence is still felt in this wing today. I had great mentors, and every position seemed to prepare me for the future," said Miller.

As Miller dons his uniform one last time his life enters a new phase. The very thing he served is the same thing he is going to miss the most, the people. "The military camaraderie is unlike anything in the civilian world. That friendship is what I missed when I left active duty; also, why I came in and stayed with the reserve. Work hard, stay the course, be ready to take the opportunities because they may only



AB May 9, 1966 (A3C) Amn July 20, 1966



(A2C) A1C Aug 1, 1967



Sept. 1, 1968



Aug. 1, 1969



Feb. 9, 1973



July 1, 1975

Lt. Col. Miller Retires after 41 years



After attending a chem refresher training class, then Major Miller, posed for a photograph outside the facility.



Sept. 28, 2001



Mar. 5, 1992



Oct. 16, 1987



Oct. 3, 1984

come once, and make your dream a reality," said Miller.

Miller's plans include spending time with his family and continuing his service to the Air Force in his civilian position across base.

In the end, the man that began a career five decades ago with a volunteer spirit will become a testimony to those who stand in his place ready to defend freedom.



Jan. 1, 1980



2nd Lt Sept. 8, 1982



Wife Kathy and youngest daughter Lori help then SMSgt Miller pin on his new Second Lieutenant bars during a ceremony September 1982. Not pictured are son Chad and daughter Shannon.

Photo courtesy of Lt Col Miller

ORI



Sandbag crew



Ops briefing counter



Col. Rodney Bryan leads the way off the plane upon return.



All smiles at the Alpena inprocessing center.



Bugging out during one of the many attacks on Alpena.



Stay-at-home unit members help ORI returnees find their luggage.

CMSAF Perspective:

Importance of physical fitness

By CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley

Our mission requires us to be physically fit. Being fit can prove to be the deciding factor between life and death for Airmen and their fellow Wingmen when combat actions require extreme physical exertion. Airmen must constantly hone their physical abilities to withstand and overcome the demanding rigors of deployment and combat.

It's been more than three years since the current fitness program was implemented. I am pleased with the progress our Airmen have made. Physical fitness has truly become a part of our warrior ethos. Fitness facility use across the Air Force is up, and everywhere I travel I see Airmen participating in unit-led and individual physical training programs.

I applaud our Airmen who realize the importance of peak physical fitness. However, I realize there are also Airmen who are not living up to their health and fitness potential. With every Airman critical to completion of Air Force air, space and cyberspace missions; we need all Airmen physically capable of performing at the highest level.

Maintaining physical fitness and dress and appearance

standards are individual responsibilities. Air Force fitness standards must be maintained, and compliance with these standards may soon be documented on Air Force performance reports. As with any area where Airmen don't meet the established standards, failure to meet physical fitness standards can result in a referral performance report.

While working to improve fitness levels, it's important to realize that passing the annual fitness test is not the Air Force fitness goal.

Training to the test won't help as much as a mix of cardiovascular, muscular and flexibility training. To successfully boost fitness levels, we must all make regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle a part of our daily regimen.

The benefits of a fitter force extend beyond individual fulfillment. The Air Force spent \$3.9 billion on health care last year. By improving overall Airmen fitness levels, we can decrease these health care expenditures and keep our Airmen out of medical treatment facilities and on the job.

I encourage you to establish personal fitness goals as you participate in unit and individual-based physical training programs and provide assistance to those needing encouragement. The rewards will be obvious and beneficial to all.



Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley surprised Barbara Belyeu, a technical sergeant with the Wing Command Post, with one of his coins during his recent visit to the Wing. Barbara was one of the few enlisted troops singled out by 507th ARW Command Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long as a deserving Airman.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch

Support Personnel Ensure Mission Success

By Capt. Polly Orcutt 507th ARW Public Affairs

After months of preparation and hard work, the Operational Readiness Inspection is finally here.

The deployers have departed and are going through their trials, but if it weren't for a large host of support personnel they would have never left Tinker Air Force Base.

More than 100 members from around the 507th Air Refueling Wing worked in the manpower pool from June 17 when members started to process through June 19 when they departed Tinker.

The pool provided people to guard doors, weapons and baggage. They also helped distribute the Meals Ready to Eat (MRE)s, load baggage and ensure people were where they needed to be when they needed to be there.

Chief Master Sgt. Delbert Looper, 507th Services Flight, was responsible for ensuring the 365 deployers received two MREs each when they processed the line on Sunday night/Monday morning and that each person received a box lunch for the plane ride to the deployed location. He was also responsible for getting these meals to the flightline.

"We (in services) don't have flightline driver's licenses, we don't really have a need for them," Chief Master Sgt. Looper said. "I worked with maintenance to get drivers so the meals could be delivered."

Chief Looper is also responsible for ensuring those who need non-availability letters if billeting is full and to reserve rooms for the deployers to stay in when they return June 23.

"Since we don't know now when our people will be back on Saturday, we try to have enough rooms reserved for those who will need them," Chief Looper said.

Deploying members reported for their chalks in Bldg. 1070 where support personnel checked troops and veri-



Wing members scramble to load baggage for the first chalk of deployers during the initial hours of the Operational Readiness Inspection.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Zach Anderson

fied that they had reported at the correct time. Because the members were already checked in the troop commander would just call role to ensure everyone was present and prepared to load the bus for Bldg. 255.

The deployers were also issued baggage claim tickets and told how to properly fill them out. Once their bags were tagged they were taken to trucks waiting outside to be transported to the waiting aircraft where they were loaded on board or palletized if they were to be loaded on the C-5 *Galaxy*. "It takes the whole team to accomplish this mission, Twenty-five percent of our grade comes from getting our people out the door," said Col. Jeffery Glass, 507th ARW commander.

As part of the pre-processing all of the deployers had to pass through Bldg. 255. There was the final chance for record's

to be checked. Medical, legal, finance and the chapel were all on hand to ensure the deployers had everything they needed to get out the door and onto the aircraft.

While in Bldg. 255 the deployers were also briefed by Intelligence, Medical, Legal, Chapel, Public Affairs and Readiness. These people provided final pieces of information for the 365 deployers as they prepared to depart.

The deployers would again go to Bldg. 255 for final instructions prior to actually loading on the plane for their flight.

Hundreds of 507th ARW members provided thousands of man hours to ensure that the 365 deployers had all of the pieces they needed to get to their destination and execute all that they have practiced for months and prove that the 507th Air Refueling Wing can accomplish any mission, anytime, anywhere.

Updose

The following question was asked of unit members providing base support during the ORI:

"How are you contributing to the success of the ORI mission?"



Staff Sgt. Marilyn Arburtha 507th MDS

"Ensuring all have tools properly packaged and ready to go to ensure a successful deployment."



Senior Airman Jermey Lopez 507th CES

"Loading bags onto the trucks to get everyone on the plane with their equipment."



Senior Airman Shawn Erickson 507th LRS

"LRS picked up pallets, weighed them and put them onto trucks."



Senior Airman Roger Kubilis 507th LRS

"Loaded weapons crates in a timely manner to ensure weapons pallet could be built on time."



Staff Sgt. Colleen Wyman 507th MXS

"As an isochronal inspection crew chief, I am helping facilitate the launch and recovery of jets deployed."



Airman 1st Class Leo McNeill 507th MXS "Helping to generate and launch

aircraft."

Remember them with a smile



Juanita "Nita" Swensen, Kim Glass' mother, passed away June 11th, after a short illness. Kim's parents lived in St. George, Utah.

She was a wonderful Mother, Wife, Grandmother and friend and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

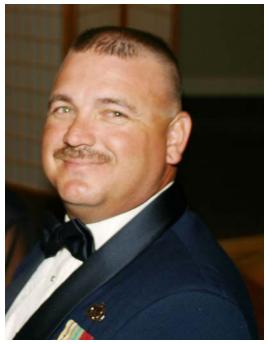
Chad Ginzl, a reservist with the 507th Maintenance Squadron, was killed in an accident Monday evening, June 25th, while he was riding his motorcycle near Wellston, Oklahoma.

A full military funeral was held June 30th with Tinker Honor Guard members participating.

Chad had been in the Tinker unit since 1998 and had nine years military service in the Navy.

He was survived by his fiancee Jennifer and her son Trent; his children Taylor and Cameron; his sister Jamie and family; his parents, retired Master Sgt. Harry Ginzl and his wife Diane, as well as numerous other relatives.

"I love the way Chad's tie is slightly askew, that mischievous twinkle in his eyes because he was probably up to something or didn't get caught doing something, that closed-mouth smile because he most likely has chewing tobacco in there, his moustache that's just barely out



of regulation, that prominent chin of his jutting out, and his aircraft maintenance badge showing proudly above his medals ... this is a great way to remember our brother Chad by."

Lt. Col. James McDonnell 507th MXG Commander

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 in June. 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.For more information, visit the ACSC website.

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



507th ARW recruiters http://get1now.us

Tinker AFB, OK

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

AIR FORCE RESERVE

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