

On-final

NEWS



Think safety

It is almost springtime and with spring comes the greatest threat of severe weather. We all need to review our personal tornado procedures both at home and at the job site. As the recent outbreak of tornados shows us severe weather can happen at any time. We need each member of the 507th and 513th to update their AFRC IWSAlert information. It is easy to do, just click on the purple globe

on the bottom of your work computer and update your contact information; phone numbers must include your area code or the system will not work. This new system is our primary means to contact you and update our accountability of all of our personnel. To further help with our accountability if you are going on



vacation please let someone in your unit know where you are going. We actually had an individual from this unit on vacation in India during the Mumbai attacks, luckily the individual was not in the area during the attacks and had let wing members know that they would be in India on vacation, the individual also let us know she was ok. With terrorist attacks or natural disasters always possible, we need to make sure you are alright or need help. Remember update your purple globe and if your area is affected let a unit member know you are alright.

To further continue the doom and gloom, I need each and every one of you to make sure your personnel data is up to date, i.e. DEERS, SGLI and your will. I continually hope that no harm comes to anyone but we all live in the real world and at anytime an unforeseen accident or ill-

> ness can kill one of our members. Your personnel information is what we use to contact your next of kin or pass benefits on to your family members. Most of us think we are bulletproof and will live forever, but we are all human. Please check and update your information the next time you are at work. PLEASE BE SAFE!

Motorcycle Spring Spike Focus

Spring is nearly upon us. The birds are returning north, flowers are beginning to blossom, and motorcyclists are pulling their motorcycles out of the garage after a long winter's nap.

The Air Force Safety Center conducted a study of motorcycle mishaps from FY06-08 and determined motor-

cycle fatal mishaps doubled in the spring over the winter season numbers. With this in mind, the Air Force Safety Center is conducting a "Spring Spike Focus" for all motorcyclists and their leadership.

March 1st begins the "Spring Spike Focus" on motorcycle mishaps.

Past fatal spring motorcycle mishaps indicate:

- The average fatal motorcycle mishap involved a male Airman between the ranks of A1C to SSgt with an average age of 28 - Mishaps primarily occurred during the day, while operating a sport bike and speeding

- Another significant factor was limited experience due to no training or license, or training and licensing for less than a year

Riders can protect themselves by:



- Preparing yourself for getting back on the motorcycle; know that your skills aren't what they were when you put the bike in storage

- Preparing your bike; preflight your

equipment like you do on duty

- Preparing your personal safety equipment; make sure you are protected against the unexpected

- Realizing that car drivers are not to used to seeing you—they will see you late or not at all Commanders, supervisors, and wingmen can help pre-

pare riders by:

- Asking riders if they have pre-checked themselves and their bike

- Talking to them about the hazards of the road

- Helping inexperienced riders prepare for the season

We can reduce motorcycle mishaps through concerted efforts of motorcy-

clists, unit motorcycle monitors, supervisors, first sergeants, and commanders. Enjoy the ride, but make sure you and your bike are up for the new riding season.

CHAPEL CORNER

Saved by Sacrifice

by Chaplain, Maj. Dwight L. Magnus 507th ARW Chaplain Office

During World War II, a young paratrooper, David Webster of E Company, 101st Airborne wrote his mother, "Stop worrying about me. I joined the parachutists to fight. I intend to fight. If necessary, I shall die fighting, but don't worry about this because no war can be won without young men dying. Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice."

We have entered the season of Lent. When I was growing up, we did not celebrate Lent. I thought Lent had something to do with the stuff that comes from the dryer or my belly button. As an adult, I have thought of it as a way to "give up" something for 40 days, like chocolate or a dessert. I have come to appreciate Lent as a great opportunity to focus on the Cross, and deal with a bad habit or persistent sin in my life.

I love Isaiah 53, and its poignant message concerning suffering, and salvation.

Is 53:3: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Is 53:5: But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Is 53:7: He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and



507th Air Refueling Wing Editorial Staff 507th ARW Commander-Col. Jeffery R. Glass

Chief of Public Affairs-Lt. Col. Rich Curry Deputy Chief of Public Affairs -Capt. Bill Pierce On-final Editor -Tech Sgt. Melba Koch as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Our Savior suffered in silence, and he suffered deeply. He did not deserve this suffering, but willingly endured it for you and me to make possible our peace and salvation.

John Stott, said, "I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I turn to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in Godforsaken darkness. That is the God for me. He set aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us."

I challenge you to take time leading up to Good Friday and Easter to reflect on the cross, and its meaning for you. It will make the joy of Easter Sunday even greater!



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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. Call us at 734-3078.**

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.

Financial Readiness vital to mission

The Department of Defense designated the week of February 22 through March 1 as "Military Saves Week."

While this announcement was not received prior to last month's On-final deadline, this month's issue will feature several articles containing helpful financial hints.

In a letter sent out by Arthur J. Myers, Director of Services, Air Force DCS/Manpower, Personnel and Services, "The Military Saves program is a DoD Financial Readiness Campaign adopted by the Air Force to promote personal financial readiness among all Airmen and family members." The new Defense Department program encourages service members to become better money managers by paying off or avoiding credit card debt and starting savings accounts, a senior official said Feb. 15.

An additional emphasis of this week is to promote financial readiness while building wealth through automatic savings.

"Mission readiness is closely linked to financial readiness," said Mr Myers. He added that the week will serve to continue to "improve the financial readiness of Airmen...promoting the Military Saves message of 'Build wealth, not debt.""

That message rings true throughout all of American society in light of reports issued by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis February 2 which reflects citizens' concerns for the possibility of future economic uncertainty. The report shows that overall private wage and salaries disbursements decreased in \$23.5 billion in December, compared to a decrease of \$12.1 billion in November.

A somewhat brighter picture in that report showed personal

savings rose to 3.6 percent in December compared to 2.8 percent in November. The report indicates Americans are tightening their belts, spending less and saving more. The savings rate has only been negative for a full year twice before, in 1932 and 1933, when Americans were struggling with huge job layoffs during the Great Depression.

"We want financial planning and financial strategies to become a part of everyday life" for service members and their families, said Leslye A. Arsht, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

When service members are distracted by financial problems, it negatively affects military readiness, Arsht pointed out. The state of a service member's personal finances also affects security clearances, she added. However, service members with money problems shouldn't feel embarrassed or afraid to step forward to obtain help that's free and readily available through military channels, Arsht said.

One such resource, "Military Saves" www.militarysaves.org is an ongoing, DoD-wide website that encourages servicemembers to become better money managers by paying off or avoiding credit card debt and starting savings accounts. Another resource is available at www.militaryonesource.com in their Money section.

"We want financial planning and financial strategies to be part of everyday life," she said. "You start now and keep doing it and it becomes a habit."

507th ARW HRDC hosts financial workshop

Throughout DoD, bases will host a variety of financial workshops and seminars. The Wing's Human Resource Development Council will also conduct a workshop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday in the 507th Maintenance Group training room, second floor of building 1030.

The workshop will be co-instructed by Lt. Col. Meredith Andersen, 507th Mission Support Group, and Lt. Col. DeAnn Lehigh, 507th ARW Judge Advocate. Space is extremely limited and the workshop will only be able to host 30 applicants. Food will be provided.

Andersen started the Financial Peace University (FPU) program held on Tinker AFB sponsored by the Base Chaplain's office and has facilitated several courses. "The Financial Peace University program is a 13-week course. It is an excellent program and I highly recommend it. The typical family that goes through the course improves their net financial position by \$8,000 or more in just 13 weeks! Our workshop won't be able to go as in depth as the full FPU Course, but we want to hit some highlights, and motivate people to take over their finances," Andersen said.

Additional advice will be presented by Lehigh concerning the need for a will. "Every time our members go through a mobility processing line, one of our JAGs is there asking people if they require a will. But actually, there is no mandatory requirement to have a will and many of our members don't have one. However, a will can be critical when a deceased's estate is tied up in probate and surviving loved ones are trying to get by."

Because of limited seating, the HRDC is requesting that people who have previously attended a Financial Peace workshop refrain from enrolling. "We really want to provide this to people who aren't familiar with these concepts or don't know how to build a healthy financial plan. If you have too much month at the end of your money then this is the workshop for you," Andersen said.

For more information or to register, please call the Public Affairs office at 734-3078 on Saturday of the March UTA.

Taking charge of your credit cards

Provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporations www.fdic.gov

Many of our general tips starting on Cutting Your Costs: Simple Strategies for Saving Money on Loans and Credit Cards can help save you money on credit cards. For example, we said it's important to pay your credit card bill and other debts on time to avoid late-payment fees and additional interest costs. Here are more suggestions.

When choosing a credit card, ask yourself if you plan to pay the balance in full each month. Many people don't pay their bill each month — they always carry a balance and pay interest on it. Yet many of these same people sign up for a card because it has no annual fee, without considering the benefits of a card with a lower interest rate or a more generous grace period (before interest begins accumulating). In the long run, a card that doesn't charge an annual fee could end up costing you far more in interest than a card that charges an annual fee.

In general, if you expect to pay your balance in full most months, look for a card with a full grace period and no annual fee. However, if you plan on carrying a balance, then a card with an annual fee and low APR (Annual Percentage Rate) may be a better choice.

Read and save the "disclosures" describing a card's features and fees so you know how to save money. "When it comes to information about the terms of your credit card, be a pack rat," said Janet Kincaid, FDIC Senior Consumer Affairs Officer.

Key information to look for and keep: What is the interest rate and how can it change? Is there an annual fee? What about charges for late payments, returned checks, balance transfers or exceeding your credit limit? What's the cost of a "cash advance" — typically meaning you use your credit card to get cash from an ATM or to make a purchase using one of the blank "convenience checks" sent with monthly statements? Cash advances are likely to carry sizable upfront fees, a high interest rate and no grace period before interest begins accumulating. Also, stay on top of fee increases by reading and saving the disclosures sent in monthly statements or other mailings.

Avoiding additional charges isn't the only reason to become an avid reader of your credit card company's literature. Potential cost savings built into your card also are worth exploring. For example, your credit card may automatically include, at no extra charge, extended warranties on purchases and insurance for car rentals. Your card also may offer cash back on purchases, rewards good for airline travel or products and services, and various other extras. Also be aware of the rules governing these perks because limitations, fees and deadlines may greatly reduce their value.

Be especially aware of your card issuer's billing practices, which can significantly affect your costs. How your card company treats the balances on which you are charged interest can be critical. Here are examples of potentially high-cost practices that many people don't know about even though card issuers must disclose them:

Two-cycle billing: This billing practice is rare but is used by some card issuers. Practices may vary but, in general, if you pay your credit card bill in full one month but then only pay a portion of the bill the next month, your interest charges ultimately will be based on two months of card charges and not one. This may result in you paying more in interest charges than you would under the more common one-cycle billing method. To find out if your card is subject to two-cycle billing, review the cardholder agreement and disclosures from your lender or call their customer service number.

Payment allocation: This involves cards with multi-tiered interest rates. For example, there may be a low rate on a balance transferred from another card, a higher rate on new purchases, and an even higher rate on a cash advance. If you pay only part of your monthly bill, card companies typically will apply your payment to the balance with the lowest interest rate first, while the highest-rate balance continues to run up interest costs until you pay the entire balance.

Universal default: This happens when a card issuer increases a customer's interest rate because he or she made late payments to other lenders or had an overall decline in a credit score — even if that customer paid the card bill in full and on time. While this once-common practice is rare, be aware that it could be used.

Know your credit limit and stay below it. There are two problems with going over your card's credit limit. One is that your card issuer will charge you a penalty, which can be expensive, typically about \$30 for each instance. Also, exceeding your credit limit may damage your credit score, which may mean higher interest rates, now and in the future.

To be confident you are within your credit limit, Kincaid recommends the following. "Periodically check your balance by phone or online to make sure you stay within your limit," she said. "Also give yourself an extra cushion — either try not to get too close to your credit limit or call the card company to get a higher limit if you anticipate a special need, such as a vacation or major purchase."

513th ACG



513th ACG Commander

By Col. John Trnka

A challenging, and successful year so far

The Civil War was well into its third year when in June 1864 Arlington National Cemetery was established on the grounds of General Robert E. Lee's former estate. Arlington is a strangely beautiful place – 1100 acres of gently rolling hills, scattered with large trees, and covered, for the most part, by simple headstones marking the final resting place of 250,000 men and women. Earlier this week, we buried Maj Mitch Lavean among the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who lie there today. Mitch's funeral was one of perhaps a dozen that day, each one representing a tragedy for a family and group of friends. In some cases it's a unit's loss as well, whether due to combat, accident, or as in Mitch's case, the inconceivable death from natural causes of a man in the prime of life, on duty, protecting this country we have all sworn to defend.

Mitch was an Air Battle Manager who had been with this unit about four years. Many of us knew him far longer than that; his career in AWACS stretched back into the early 90's. His happiest times found him in Alaska, flying with the 962nd, and happiest of all, piloting small airplanes into tiny airstrips at hunting and fishing camps throughout that great state. Like many of us, he turned his love of flying into a career, trading his Cessnas for a US Airways' 737. Though he loved that job, his love of country and desire to serve brought him back into the Air Force fold, joining the 513th in 2005. He died doing something he loved, deployed to the Joint Air Defense Operations Center in Washington, DC, on Feb. 6th, 2009. As I write this, we still don't know for sure what happened, but it doesn't really matter. What matters is he's gone, and those of us who knew him are the worse for that. I can't think of Mitch without a smile on his face, and a genuine concern about how you were – one of those people you were always happy to see.

A prayer for Mitch and his family.

Now, let's take some time to celebrate, odd as that might seem. I spent some time with Mitch's family, and have talked to them quite a bit. Through all the sorrow, they kept returning to the joy Mitch found in the Air Force, his part in AWACS and this unit – what you and the accomplishments of this unit meant to him. In that spirit, let's take a moment to reflect on 2008, and this unit's achievements, large and small, and be joyful.

First, an incredibly successful AEF rotation - four months of counter-drug operations, performed just about perfectly. My thanks to all of you who deployed to Curacao, Key West, or supported things from home. The missions were long, demanding, back-side-of-the-clock sorties that demanded great attention to detail and periods of concentration, when most of us have trouble just staying awake. On the ground, maintenance at the far end of the supply chain is always challenging, and yet it was done superbly. As always, you guys made it work, as do Intel and flight management and all the other, too often forgotten support folks. The results aren't just in kilos seized and arrests made, but in the deterrence; the extra work, time and dollars we cost the bad guys. The results are also internal to our unit: the first deployment for some, an opportunity to polish skills for others; a chance to relearn the nuts and bolts of getting a reserve unit out of town. (A lot harder than you might think.)

We've had a number of other successes this last year. As individuals or in small groups MX, OPS, Intel and others have shown around the world they are experts in the world of AWACS, often THE experts. In Japan, Saudi Arabia, at Nellis, Langley, and in the Mid-East, members of the 513th continue to show their skills, sometimes doing what no one else could do. Hat's off to all of you.

Here's to Mitch, whom I will miss very much.

Here's to all of you, whom I will enjoy being with as long as I can. Thanks for everything you do.

President signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last week and President Obama signed it into law today.

The massive bill was scored by the Congressional Budget Office as costing \$787 billion. Among the items contained in the bill is:

---\$555 million to help military personnel forced to sell their homes in the midst of the current real estate crisis. The bill will allow the Defense Secretary to acquire title to a military person's property or reimburse the individual for losses after a private sale or foreclosure.

—Nearly \$3 billion in construction funds to repair and modernize military facilities and provide "family-friendly" projects such as barracks for those returning from overseas deployments, family housing, child-care centers, and health and dental clinics on bases in the United States.

—\$481 million for Warrior Transition Complexes – new or expanded facilities to take care of medical and social service needs for those service members wounded overseas and their families.

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. For more information or to schedule testing, 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 for authorized languages will pay based on active duty days or IDT periods performed. 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 100 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. Next class is scheduled for June 1-12, 2009. See unit training manager for 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. <u>Point Summaries</u> - 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.

Computer-based testing on the UTA is available on Sunday at 0800 and 1300 in Bldg. 1043, ATN Room in the basement.

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 09 UTA SCHEDULE

07-08 Feb 0907-08 Mar 0904-05 Apr 0902-03 May 0906-07 Jun 0911-12 July 0901-02 Aug 0912-13 Sep 09

As of 27 Feb. 2009

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TRAINING PLANNER

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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 at 734-7075 or your UTM.

Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted monthly in Bldg 1030, 507th MSG Conference Room. 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.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>OPR</u>
Saturday	1330-1415	Drug and Alcohol	SG
Saturday	1430-1500	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Saturday	1500-1530	OPSEC Training	OG
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

UCMJ Briefing:

Article 137 of the UCMJ requires "articles (of the code) shall be explained again ... at the time when the membr reenlists." In an effort to ensure compliance with this requirement of the UCMJ, members who are selected for reenlistment must obtain their Article 137 briefing prior to their reenlistment. This briefing is presently being given at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA at Bldg. 1030, MSG conference room. Members who need the training must bring their reenlistment checklist so it can be annotated.

Ethics Briefina:

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 the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, Drug Testing: You must report within MSG Conference Room.

Emergency Management:

Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and incendiary Explosive devices (CBRNE) Survival Skills, by name, through ACES PR. All personnel must bring protective mask (inspected and sized) with C2 canister, protective glove inserts, overboots, mask spectacle inserts, canteen (1 quart) with M1 canteen cap, web belt, helmet, Airman's Manual AFMAN 10-100, CBRNE Awareness CBT certification. Wear of contacts is prohibited in all classes. Anyone arriving late, without all required equipment, or wearing contacts, will be released back to their unit and reported as a no-show. Classes will always be on Sunday at 0800 and noon. Students should make every effort to show up 15 minutes prior to the start of class. Walk-ins are not welcome. Any questions can be directed to your CBRNE Unit Scheduler.

two hours of notification.

Military Pay

File for **Receive Direct** pay by: **Deposit by:** 03 Mar 11 Mar 05 Mar 13 Mar 10 Mar 18 Mar 12 Mar 20 Mar 17 Mar 25 Mar 19 Mar 27 Mar 23 Mar 01Apr 02Apr 10Apr

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

New MPF Hours **Closed Thursday afternoon** Saturday UTA

Open at 0800 - 1500, except for following closures:

1300-1330 - Employments/Relocations

1400-1430 - Career Enhancements 1500-1530 - Customer Service 1500-1600 - IDs only

Sunday UTA

Open at 1130 - 1600

BAO Recertification Deadlines

If Last	Then Forward R	ecertifica-
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: Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART) Assistant Editor: Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman, Asst. Chief, Education & Training (ART)

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MARCH TRAINING PLANNER

NEWS

Air Force Good Conduct Medal reinstated

by Maj Paul Villagran Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—Air Force officials announced Feb. 11 the reinstatement of the Air Force Good Conduct Medal for enlisted members, effective immediately and retroactive to Feb. 6, 2006, when the medal was discontinued. Airmen who are eligible should see an update automatically in their records on the virtual MPF Web site.

Lt. Gen. Richard Newton, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley announced the reintroduction of the medal.

"This is a great day for the Air Force," said Chief McKinley. "The Air Force Good Conduct Medal has a positive impact on good order and discipline in the unit. It's part of our history and we needed to bring it back to where it rightfully should be, part of our enlisted heritage.

"When an Airman is pinned with their first good conduct medal it's an event they will never forget," he said. "I still remember, vividly, receiving my first Good Conduct Medal."

General Newton echoed Chief McKinley's words.

"Bringing this medal back shows the Air Force commitment of being all in when taking care of our Airmen and their families," Gen. Newton said. "This is a great tool for our commanders to recognize deserving Airmen."

The return of the medal comes after the secretary of the Air Force approved a recommendation from a January 2008 awards summit co-hosted by representatives of the office of the secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs and the directorate for manpower and personnel.

Both directorates contended that the AFGCM, one of the oldest military decorations dating back to World War II, has a long-standing tradition in the Air Force and links Airmen with those who served throughout the history of the service. In addition, Air Force officials solicited input from the field regarding the Good Conduct Medal.

"All services present the Good Con-



duct Medal to those who distinguish themselves by exemplary behavior, so Airmen will now have the same opportunity for recognition as Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen," said Gen. Newton. "Chief McKinley is exactly right that this is a great day for the Air Force. A timehonored tradition is back."

For questions regarding updates to Air Force personnel records, Airmen can call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775.

Febru	ary 2009 Promo	otions	Article 137 brid
<u>Name</u>	Unit	Promoted To	before reenlist
Christopher Wheatley Matthew Benshoof Brandon Wichman Sandra Brierton Vincent Medina Eleisha Black Laura Boehm Jennifer Malzer Justin Greer Jeremy Swarengin Christopher Scott Jared Colvard Chauntelle Wood Charles Phillips Bradley Brierton David Mowatt Ivan Esau	35th CBCS 970th AACS 507th SFS 72nd APS 35th CBCS 35th CBCS 513th OSF 513th OSF 513th MXS 507th SFS 72nd APS 72nd APS 507th CES 513th MXS 513th MXS 513th AMXS 507th ARW	Senior Airman Staff Sgt Senior Airman Tech Sgt Staff Sgt Staff Sgt Staff Sgt Tech Sgt Staff Sgt Staff Sgt Tech Sgt Master Sgt Senior Airman Staff Sgt Airman First Class Airman	Article 137 of t Military Justice req code] shall be expl time when the me an effort to ensure requirement of th who are selected for obtain their Article their reenlistment. This briefing is at 0830 on Sunday lary Training. Me training must brin checklist so it can conclusion of training

Article 137 briefing required before reenlistment

Article 137 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice requires "articles [of this code] shall be explained again... at the time when the member reenlists." In an effort to ensure compliance with this requirement of the UCMJ, members who are selected for reenlistment must obtain their Article 137 briefing prior to their reenlistment.

This briefing is currently being given at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA at Ancillary Training. Members who need the training must bring their reenlistment checklist so it can be annotated at the conclusion of training.

NEWS TO USE

Suicide prevention hotline saves veterans' lives

WASHINGTON — Help is only a phone call away for military veterans considering suicide.

Nearly 100,000 veterans, family members or friends of veterans have reached out for help by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention hotline at 1-800-273-TALK. The hotline was launched July 2007.

The VA initiative is part of a collaborative effort with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a nationwide network of 133 crisis centers. Calls automatically are routed to the nearest center based on the caller's area code.

The hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is staffed by trained mental health professionals prepared to deal with an immediate crisis. Although the lifeline isn't restricted to military veterans only, callers are prompted to "please press 1 now" if they are a U.S. military veteran or are calling about a veteran. Callers who press 1 are transferred to the nearest VA call center.

More than 2,600 veterans have been "rescued" through the hotline, according to a recent VA statement.

"I urge veterans and their loved ones to take advantage of our suicide-prevention program," VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said in the statement. "Help for these heroes is a phone call away."

An estimated 5,000 veterans commit suicide annually, with Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans 35 percent more likely to commit suicide than the general population. VA statistics show that between 2002 and 2006, more than 250 veterans who left the military after Sept. 11, 2001, committed suicide.

The trend has grown within the active-duty military ranks, too. A steady increase in suicides among veterans and active-duty members has been persistent in recent years. Army officials recently announced 2008 as the highest suicide year since 1980, with at least 128 soldiers confirmed to have taken their own lives, while 15 other cases are pending investigations.

Specialists in the VA, Defense Department and local communities are making it a point to understand suicide and determine better prevention methods. Defense leaders, including Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have voiced concerns for short- and long-term solutions.

"We have got to be able to support those individuals in ways that, in some cases, we haven't quite figured out yet," Admiral Mullen said during a lecture at Grove City College, Pa., earlier this month.

Admiral Mullen routinely advocates for solutions to increase the amount of rest and time at home troops have in between deployments. Officials recognize the high tempo of deployment rotations as being a likely factor for the increased suicide rates. VA and active-duty military officials are working with outside research organizations to improve their programs and lower the numbers. Officials at the Army and National Institute of Mental Health recently launched a five-year research initiative to gain a better understanding in the hope of preventing suicides in the military and nation.

To identify and treat at-risk patients, prevention efforts and initiatives are in place in each of VA's 153 medical centers and more than 750 outpatient clinics across the nation. Also, suicide prevention coordinators are on hand at each facility.

Troubled veterans, whether they call the suicide prevention hotline or walk in, receive follow-up care almost immediately. Preliminary evaluations occur within 24 hours of requests, and referrals are given for mental health appointments. Comprehensive evaluations are conducted within 14 days, with emergency cases handled immediately.

Air Force Reserve changes in command

Changes in command in the Air Force Reserve taking effect in early 2009 include the following:

-- Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan from commander of 4th Air Force, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to retirement.

-- Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree from commander of the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver to commander of 4th Air Force, March ARB.

-- Col. Kevin E. Pottinger from commander of the 301st Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, to commander of ARPC.

-- Col. Steve Chapman from commander of the 919th Special Operations Wing, Duke Field, Fla., to commander of the 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.

-- Col. Timothy J. Wrighton (former commander of the 507th ARW) from commander of the 315th AW, Charleston AFB to retirement.

-- Col. Reinhard L. Schmidt from commander of the 914th AW, Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y., to deputy director of manpower, personnel and services at Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB, Ga.

-- Col. Allan L. Swartzmiller from commander of the 934th Operations Group, Minneapolis-St. Paul IAPARS, Minn., to commander of the 914th AW, Niagara Falls IAPARS.

NEWS

On-final

Tricare officials launch beneficiary bulletin podcast

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) — As part of a continuing effort to keep beneficiaries informed, Tricare officials have added a news podcast to the Tricare Web site. The Tricare Beneficiary Bulletin brings listeners the latest news about their benefits every week in a quick, easy-to-digest format. The debut podcast contains updates on Tricare Reserve Select and points listeners to other useful online information sources.

The Beneficiary Bulletin features quick tips to promote a healthy lifestyle, news of other military health programs and news on upcoming changes to the Tricare benefit. Keeping beneficiaries educated on how their benefit works is a priority for Tricare Management Activity officials.

"Different people like to get their news in different ways," said Dian Lawhon, Tricare director of communications and customer service.

"This podcast is a

welcome addition to the news releases, Web site postings, brochures, newsletters and other tools we use to get ben-



efit information to our 9.2 million beneficiaries."

A new five minute Tricare Benefi-

ciary Bulletin will appear on the Tricare Web site every hursday at http:// www.tricare.mil/pressroom. To be alerted when there is a new podcast and to sign up for other beneficiary news go to the Tricare

Web site and click on "e-mail updates" in the press room section of the front page.

Your health and the economic crisis

by Lt. Col. Thomas E. Franklin Commander 507th Medical Squadron

An estimated 3.6 million Americans have lost jobs in the last year. The lost of jobs is often accompanied by a lost of health insurance. A great number of these families are in jeopardy of sinking even deeper into crisis due to an unexpected injury or illness.

A great number of people are going without health care due to the current economic crisis. They are not getting recommended screening exams which predisposes them to serious and chronic disease. Also, there are an increased number of people presenting to their hospital's emergency department for care that was once delivered by their family physician, thus taking up time and space that is usually reserved for real emergencies. This is a direct result of a lack of health insurance.

Prevention of disease and injury is always important. However, the loss of a job and insurance makes prevention a crucial ingredient in one's effort to stay afloat economically and emotionally. Many families are just one illness or injury away from financial catastrophe.Here are a few strategies that may lessen your chances of developing chronic disease or sustaining serious injury.

* Maintain home safety- smoke detection devices, fire safety and evacuation, etc.

* Avoid drinking and driving

* Avoid high risk sporting activities.

- * Do not participate in road rage
- * Always use child safety seats
- * Always use safety/seatbelts
- * Stop smoking
- * Avoid illicit drug use
- * Get plenty of sleep and rest

* Avoid the consumption of foods high in saturated fat and sugar

* Get plenty of physical exercise

Although, all of these injury and disease strategies have been conveyed to you and your family members time and time again, I don't think it hurts to re-enforce these concepts in this time of economic difficulty. Injury and disease prevention is a very cost efficient and sensible way to maintain good health. And now more than ever, these strategies can help you steer clear of a very costly health care system.

Also, it remains wise and necessary to get recommended screening examinations. Pap/pelvic, breast, prostate and colonoscopy examinations should be done in a timely manner as recommended by you primary care physician or specialist. If you do not have a primary care physician, call your health department. Many of these screening exams are offered by your state or city health department. Additional health services are available at local community health clinics.

Please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Website for detailed information regarding prevention.

NEWS



Pictured are the Feb. 13, 2009 graduates of the limit of 2 AFRC NCO Leadership Development Course. The if you are next class is scheduled for June 1-12, 2009 with a

limit of 25 students. See your unit training manager if you are interested in attending.

Tinker reservist competes at AFRC as 4th AF personnel specialist of the year

Tech. Sgt. Bobbie-Jean Johnson, a personnel craftsman, is a highly motivated, goal-oriented NCO, according to her commander, Lt. Col. Donald Satterlee. Johnson was selected at the 4th AF level for Personnel Specialist of the Year and now competes at the AFRC level for this award.

Johnson is the program manager for enlisted evaluations and promotions for the 507th ARW and the 513th ACG. She reviewed and processed 150-plus EPRs in a six month period, finding more than 220 discrepancies and ensured their accuracy before filing them.

She is a devoted physical fitness leader; developed a new workout plan for her squadron to enhance the flight's fitness level.

Johnson volunteered and completed PERSCO training at Keesler AFB; readied herself to be a PERSCO team member. She enrolled ahead of schedule and completed NCO Academy in record time. She is motivated; currently enrolled in a lunchtime class to complete her CCAF and holds a 3.6 GPA. She sets the example of service before self. As a staff sergeant she volunteered to attend a 10th AF PEP workshop to ensure unit packages were up to the NAF standards.

Johnson is community minded. She volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House; cooked/cleaned for families with sick children in local hospitals. She also participated in a three-day Tulsa Firefighters Annual Burn Camp for severely burned children.

During the holidays, Johnson raised over \$500 in three hours at a Christmas gift-wrapping stand.



Lots of Valentines

Left: When the Public Affairs Office asked for help, Valentines and posters poured in from several local schools. More than 900 Valentines and a half dozen posters were delivered to the Norman Veterans Center. The cards were given to the Veterans on their meal trays on Valentines Day. A few of the Valentines were sent to deployed troops again this year. If you want to help in the future, cards are also collected for Veterans Day and Christmas.

MARCH 2009

OETA

Unit members help with OETA telethon fundraiser

by Tech Sgt. Kristin Mack 507th Public Affairs Office

Twelve members from Tinker Air Force Base joined together to support the annual Oklahoma Education Television

Authority (OETA) telethon at their headquarter's facility in Oklahoma City February 15.

On-final

Active duty, Reserve, Retirees, civilians and dependents, most of whom were from the 507th Air Mobility Wing, participated in this annual fundraising event designed to gain a majority of funding for OETA programming in the upcoming year.

The mission of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority is to provide educational and public television programming to the people of Oklahoma on a coordinated statewide basis. OETA reaches out to 1,800,000 viewers who tune into OETA on a weekly basis.

OETA must meet certain funding requirements every year to continue to produce and provide programming on their public network. The financial goal for the Festival was \$1,250,000. The final figure we announced on the last night was that we surpassed our goal and raised \$1,250,750!, said Louise Lee, Manager on-air fund raising for OETA.

Their annual telethon is designed to bring various groups of volunteers together to support this effort. Tinker AFB, along with the University of Central Oklahoma accounting team helped raise \$36,806 during their six-hour volunteer shift supporting the telethon.

The volunteers answered phones and entered payment

information on a computer monitor from the supporters who called in. All of this in front of cameras that captured the event and broadcasted on their network.

"We support the OETA because of the community involvement and worthwhile cause for education," said



Pictured, from top left, Clifton Howard, Christina Lindstrom, Takesha Williams, Mariah Howard, Letha Butler, Tracy House. Bottom, from left, Janet Hernandez, Jolecia Timmons, Nakita Hernandez, Kristin Mack, Daniel Jamison, Sara Mesenbrink.

Clifton Howard, Zoning Inspector and former volunteer coordinator for the OETA telethon. "There is always a great group of people to work with, not to mention good shows on while you're there." Mr. Howard has volunteered at the telethon for more than twenty years.

This marks the 24th year Tinker AFB has been assisting with the annual OETA telethon.

Coming Feb. 22: single 800 number for all Airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Members of the total force — regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilian and retired Airmen — are on line to have one central phone number for help with their personnel questions starting at 5 p.m. Central Standard Time Feb. 22.

Members of the Air Force community should call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 to reach a customer service counselor to discuss issues ranging from retraining, promotions and identification cards to leave, retirements and civilian benefits.

While this number already is familiar to Airmen who call the Air Reserve Personnel Center's contact center in Denver, it's a change for Airmen who call the toll-free number currently assigned to the Air Force Personnel Center's contact center in San Antonio.

The single number is a first step toward the Total Force Service Center, or TFSC, concept. This concept provides Airmen seamless access to personnel information and services regardless of the organization or system actually providing it. With the single number, the ARPC and AFPC contact centers become virtually connected, making it easier for all Airmen to reach their needed personnel services.

Airmen and their families also can find answers to many of their personnel questions at AFPC's http:// ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil or ARPC's http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil. For additional information, read the Air Force Print News story at http://www.af.mil/ news/story.asp?id=123135586.

UPCLOSE



The following question was asked of unit members during the February UTA: **"What is your top priority for your finances for 2009?"**



Senior Master Sgt. David Canary 507th MXS "To have all of my bills paid. I'm getting close to retirement so I can relax and retire."



Senior Airman Toshawnya Clay 507th MXS "Have some to set aside and do better with saving money."



Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte Epps 507th MSG "To try and save some more money because I'm retiring."



Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hughes "Paying off bills. It's been a priority of mine for 2-3 years."



Senior Master Sgt. Carol Suggs Senior NCO of the Quarter MARCH 2009 "Re



ggs Tech. Sgt. Gregory Newman r NCO of the Quarter "Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"



Senior Airman Jason Dobbs Airman of the Quarter PAGE 11



Col Stayce D. Harris (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle)

General Officer Announcements

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced Feb 27 that the President has nominated Air Force Reserve Col. Stayce D. Harris to the grade of brigadier general while serving as mobilization assistant to the director, strategic plans, requirements and programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Col. Harris was the 507th ARW Vice Commander from 2002 to 2005. In 2003, she deployed for four months to Moron AB, Spain, where she served as the 494th Air Expeditionary Group Commander in support of OPERATION Iraq and Enduring Freedom.

During her tenure here she was a strong proponent of the wing's Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) and worked to help establish internal programs to support and help reservists build better military careers for themselves.

In 2005, she was selected as the new commander for the 459th ARW at Andrews AFB, Maryland. She departed the 459th ARW last July to serve at Air Mobility Command Headquarters.



Military Scholarships Available Through Grantham University

Grantham's desire is to make education affordable for our nation's servicemembers, which is why they have established scholarships for active duty, reserve, guard, veterans, and military family members. Grantham's Military Scholarship covers the tuition remaining after Military Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits have been applied, up to the fiscal year (FY) cap, even for National Guardsmen and reservists who only receive 75 percentTA benefits (\$187.50 per credit hour). It also includes a Textbook and Technology grant that covers the costs of required textbooks and software. In addition, military students, who use all their allotted FY TA with Grantham, are allowed to take one additional credit hour - at no additional cost - for every \$1,000.00 of TA paid (Additional credits must be used the same FY they are earned).

Grantham University offers online undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Business Management, General Studies, Computer Science, and other technology-related fields. For more information, visit: http://www.grantham.edu/admissions/scholarships.php.

Volunteers needed to work the OKC Memorial Marathon in April

Takesha Williams, team captain for the Tinker Reserve volunteers, is looking for volunteers to help again with the OKC Memorial Marathon to be held April 26, 2009.

Sign up via the marathon website at http://volunteers.marathonguide.com/volunteerregistration/okcmarathon.cfm. Registration deadline is April 10.



MARCH 2009