

On-final



U.S. AIR FORCE

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

MAY 2009 Vol. 29, No. 5



AFRC winner
See Page 8

Reflections on an Air Force deployment

by Lt. Col. Richard B. Stephens, Jr.

Deputy Commander, 507th Mission Support Group

I returned from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, after serving an Air Force Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployment from Sep 08-Jan 09 as the 332d Expeditionary Mission Support Group (EMSG) Deputy Commander.

1. Deployed life in the SWA AOR is physically, mentally and spiritually challenging—long work days, few days off, physical danger, physical burden of wearing heavy protective gear, mental adaptation to a new environment and separation from family/friends. If you like being challenged—to see how you hold up—you'll find out while deployed.

2. Our national defense is in good hands. Today's military and civilians carry out their duties well and can be expected to do so in the future, as they have in the past. As a Cold War and Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM veteran, I do not see a decrease in people's ability to perform the mission—if anything, our Airmen, Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and civilians are smarter and more capable of working with

highly technical systems than ever before. And they have lots of ideas to make things better. Our NCOs have the same level of responsibility for leading and for supervising others' work as what officers are responsible for in other nations.

3. Cold War forces deployed less often. Our military forces have always deployed for contingencies, exercises and inspections but it seems from 1980-2000 they were for shorter time periods and less often. During the Cold War, if you were stationed in Europe or deployed for REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany), you were the force destined to fight in place against the hungry USSR bear and their Warsaw Pact alliance. You trained to hold and repel the Red armies, including fighting a nuclear war. In the Air Force, one usually had to be a second-term Airmen or officer with three years of service or more to PCS to Europe because that's where conflict was expected (in a Major Theater War scenario, Korea was the other hot spot).

In today's post-9/11 world, our nation's military continu-

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Chapel Corner

by Chaplain (Maj.) Dwight Magnus
507th Chaplain

Proverbs 31:30-31 reminds us: Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Finding the right gift for your mother always seems to be a difficult chore. Three sons left home, started careers and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts that they were able to give their elderly mother for her 70th birthday.

The first said, "I built a

Mother's Day Gifts

huge house for Mom." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You know how Mom enjoys the Bible and you know she can't see very well. I sent her a brown parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks in a monastery 12 years to teach him. I had a pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for 10 years, but it was worth it. Mom just has to name the chap-

ter and verse and the parrot will recite it."

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out letters of thanks: She wrote the first son, "Milton, the house you built is not practical. I live in only one room, but have to heat, cool, and clean the entire house." The second she said, "Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay at home all the time, so I never use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

She wrote the third son, "Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to know what your Mother likes. The chicken was delicious."

Whether you are on the giving or receiving end this Mother's Day, do so with love.



Chaplain Assistant opening available

The 507th Chaplain's Office has an opening for the position of Chaplain Assistant. This is a staff sergeant slot. A Chaplain Assistant must be able to work cordially and respectfully with people of all religious faiths as well as

with those who have no religious faith. If you are interested or have questions, contact Chaplain Dwight Magnus for application requirements at 734-5632 or by e-mail at dwight.magnus@tinker.af.mil.

Oklahoma Resolution recognized Tinker, Wing

Ten years ago one of the most destructive tornadoes in Oklahoma history struck central Oklahoma including Tinker Air Force Base.

In mere minutes, the May 3, 1999, twister with its ghastly mile-wide funnel caused approximately \$16 million in damage at TAFB and ultimately claimed the lives of five Tinker personnel, one a member of the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Despite their own devastation, Tinker AFB personnel stepped into rescue mode and aided the ailing community performing lifesaving actions and dispatching fire department, security forces, and emergency medical response teams and emergency shelter facilities.

In recognition of their efforts, Oklahoma State Senator Cliff A. Aldridge issued an Oklahoma State Senate resolution on April 29, recognizing the men and women of Tinker Air Force Base for their heroic efforts.

Editors Note: This story was first printed in the June 1999 issue of the On-Final.

Tinker Team rushes to assist tornado victims

**By Capt. Rich Curry
Public Affairs Office**

An F5 tornado ripped through central Oklahoma Monday night, May 3, along a miles-long path of destruction that stretched 35 miles from Norman, Oklahoma past north Oklahoma City.

The twister flattened hundreds of homes and killed 44 people. It also left thousands of people homeless.

For those in its path it meant total devastation. Within min-

utes after the tornado had passed, Tinker Air Force Base and the 507th Air Refueling Wing threw open its doors, with military members both active and reserve alike arriving to hurriedly put together a makeshift hotel for hundreds of people left with literally nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

According to Lt. Col. Rich Curry, 507th ARW Public Affairs Officer, "It is an honor to have the State Senate recognize Tinker AFB and the 507th ARW members by name in this resolution."

"The devastation we saw in the aftermath of the storm took your breath away," Curry said. "It was so widespread and so complete — to see homes scraped completely away from their foundation leaving just a concrete slab behind." "But it was during the hours immediately following the tornado that we witnessed something truly incredible happen here on base. As a team, we responded without hesitation. Phone lines were down, yet hundreds of Tinker employees, civilian and military, voluntarily reported for duty to do whatever was needed to support this community. This resolution shows the State is proud to have Tinker AFB as a member of their community."

Immediately after the storm had passed, 507th members took a unit KC-135 out of their hangar. Dozens of trucks rolled up to the hangar doors bringing with them the basics of survival to those inside. Inside the hangar, volun-

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**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 -
Maj. Bill Pierce**

**On-final Editor -
Tech Sgt. Melba Koch
Public Affairs Specialist -
Tech Sgt. Kristin Mack**

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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.

Speaker talks about courage following attack

by Tech Sgt. Kristin Mack
507th ARW Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Israel Del Toro has always been a fighter, but it's his relentless spirit and sense of humor that keeps him going strong despite all of the odds he has faced while battling the severe burn injuries he suffered during an attack from the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2005.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing had the honor to hear his courageous story at the



Tech Sgt. Israel Del Toro speaks at the yellow ribbon integration program held on April 4.

Wing's most recent yellow ribbon integration program held at Rose State College April 4, 2009.

The sergeant was one of the guest speakers at this event held for Wing members returning from deployment as part of a reintegration program. As the audience sat with fascination listening to the Sergeant's story there were eruptions of laughter due to the Sergeant's innate ability to include humor in every part of the story.

He spoke of the intensive training he completed at the beginning of his career to become part of the elite Tactical Air

Control Party (TACP) group. His schooling included airborne and survivor school before becoming a jump master. Then he attended air assault school and through all of it he excelled among his peers and always strived a little more.

"I really pushed myself and volunteered for competitions (during training)," said Del Toro. "I finished the three-year training program in two years," he said.

Upon completion of the training

TACPs are assigned to Army units where they advise ground commanders on the integration and execution of air and space power on the battlefield. At Del Toro's first assignment he was stationed at Pope Air Force Base in South Carolina for six years, before being deploying around the world, as this high demand position requires.

He deployed to Korea and Iraq before receiving orders to his dream assignment in Italy. With a new wife by his side he was just

beginning to settle down in his career and enjoy the local sites before receiving orders to Afghanistan for a six months tour. Even though it put a little strain on his marriage, Del Toro knew this was his duty, and headed off to his assignment with dignity and pride.

Being part of an elite few in his field he was the Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) on the mission with the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion of the 503 Infantry Brigade in Southern Afghanistan. He worked alongside two companies and a scout team while setting out to complete 25-30 missions.

On Dec. 4, 2005, while the sergeant was on one of the many missions assigned during his tour, he was accompanying a new second lieutenant and recent graduate of West Point. When the lieutenant saw a man on the hill he got in his truck and took off, Del Toro and the other troops soon followed right after.

"When you're out there you're all teammates taking care of each other," said Del Toro. "You also must always be aware of your surroundings-never stop or get distracted," he said.

By the time they got there the enemy was gone. After they crossed the creek on their return back Del Toro felt something hit his left side. When he got out of his truck he was engulfed in flames.

"I tried to run but got tired and collapsed-my body started shutting down," said Del Toro. "I couldn't stop thinking about my wife and son."

The lieutenant came by his side and said, "DT, you're not going to die- you have to be there for your son," then helped them both jump in the creek. They called for help and after arriving at the hospital the last thing he remembered before slipping away was the doctor cutting off his favorite watch.

When Del Toro woke up in March 2006 he was told by doctors that he suffered 80 percent burns on his entire body and only had a 20 percent chance of living. He would have to remain in the hospital for two years and may not walk again; at best he would be on a respirator for the rest of his life.

"I had people who flew in to visit me from all over the world," said Del Toro. There were Chiefs that would visit and also help with my family. I was supposed to die three times in the hospital but made it through."

Del Toro began progressing quickly and was out of the hospital and back

Continued on Page 6

40 years of service

Cardoni prepares for his retirement years

by Tech Sgt. Melba Koch
507th ARW Public Affairs

With a military career spanning 40 years here at Tinker Air Force Base, Master Sgt. John Cardoni, the Inspection Section Dock Chief with the 507th Maintenance Squadron, retires this month. Cardoni joined the military June 27, 1969 and officially retires May 18, 2009.

“I was not ready for college,” said Cardoni. “I was also looking for a trade at which to work and earn some money for a car and school.”

Cardoni’s entire military career has been with the Reserves. And he has seen many changes in the Reserve since he joined. His original unit was the 937th Military Airlift Group, flying the C-124 Globemaster II. “When we converted to the F-105 Thunder Chief, we became the 507th,” continued Cardoni.

When asked what goals he set for himself in his position, John quickly said, “My main goal was and still is to do my job and make my boss’s job easier.”

“And that is exactly what John has done as a co-worker and friend,” said Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Mitchell, his supervisor. “I hate to say ‘employee or subordinate’ because I always have felt we were co-supervisors; him taking care of me and our flight and me filling in the gaps taking care of him and the flight,” continued Mitchell. “I must say that he is a Gruff Ole ‘Wolf man’ that will be greatly missed and those will be big shoes to fill with his retirement,” concluded Mitchell.

“One of my most memorable accounts of Master Sergeant Cardoni’s career was in the fighter aircraft days when he would wear a wolf’s mask,” said Chief Master Sgt. Joe La Fitte, 507th Maintenance Squadron Superintendent. “He would ride his bike up and

down the flight line and scare the day-lights out of you! From that day on, he was A.K.A. ‘Wolfman,’” said the chief.

Cardoni has held a variety of positions over the years, including a crew chief on reciprocating engine and jet engine aircraft, an egress technician, a weapons loader, an inspection dock technician and currently as inspection section dock chief. He became an Air Reserve Technician (ART) 30 years ago.

When asked if he could do one portion of his career over again, what would it be, Cardoni left us hanging with, “That’s hard to answer because if I had a second shot to do something, I would probably end up in prison.”

Cardoni’s advice for younger Airmen: To some I would say you are doing what I wish I had done at your age, and to others I would just say RUN!

As far as retirement plans, Cardoni says he has nothing specific in mind but

to just keep busy for the first 30 years or so. After that “I’ll just take it easy.”

“The work I did as an egress technician was personally the most satisfying in that four aircrew members flying our F-4 aircraft successfully ejected from a disabled aircraft, utilizing the escape system that I helped maintain,” said Cardoni. He deployed once



Master Sgt. John Cardoni

with the unit in 2003 for four months. His deployment took him to Masirah Island Oman during operations Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom.

Cardoni is thankful he has family that supported him along this journey. “I am of Italian and German decent; half my family was praying for me and the other half wanted to go with me,” he said. “But in all seriousness, my wife Robin has been there all the way. She would hold down the fort at home whenever I had to go on various trips around the world,” concluded Cardoni.

The Year 1969

- * Average cost of a new house ... \$15,550
- * Average income per year ... \$8,550
- * Average monthly rent ... \$135
- * Average cost of a new car ... \$3,270
- * Gas per gallon ... 35 cents
- * First man landed on the moon
- * Richard Nixon was President of the United States
- * US Air Force closed its Project (Blue Book)
- * The Beatles released their final album Abbey Road
- * Sesame Street makes its debut on PBS
- * Popular Films: The Love Bug, Easy Rider, Funny Girl
- * Popular Singers: The Rolling Stones, James Brown, Johnny Cash
- * Born this year: Catherine Zeta-Jones and Brett Favre



513th Air Control Group Commander

By Col. John Trnka

Col. Mittuch will be missed

Most of you have heard by now, but on Sunday morning of the April UTA, Col. Steve Mittuch was killed riding in the back of a taxi on his way to the Atlanta airport. A drunk driver took his life, driving the wrong way on a highway, selfishly stealing a talented officer, a loving husband, son, brother, uncle, friend. It was a freak incident, but it was no accident. Someone chose to drink and drive, a choice that killed and injured innocent people.

Dell Robertson and I attended Steve's memorial service at Hill AFB, where Steve was commander of a Maintenance Group. One of his squadron commanders read a selection of e-mails Steve had sent out to his Group over the last couple of years. "Standards" was the recurring theme — enforcing standards in others and ourselves. Ironically, he was killed by someone who ignored such a basic standard: "Don't drink and drive." I'm comfortable with "standards" standing as Steve's legacy, not just to this unit, but our Air Force.

Though he left three years ago, no one had a greater impact on this unit than Col. Steve Mittuch. He, along with a

handful of others, began this unit 13 years ago. What he helped build has proven its value time and again. The 513th would not be the unit it is today without Steve's influence. We mourn his loss and his tragic, senseless death. I cannot explain why the accident happened; I won't try. I leave you with the words of Isaiah 40:31: "...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary."

In lieu of flowers, Steve's wife Cinde has requested donations to Layton Christian Academy, (801) 771-7141 ext 540 2352 East Hwy. 193, Layton, UT 84040

If you would like to write to her, the address is: Cinde Mittuch, c/o 419 FW, 5649 Industrial Lane, Bldg 513, Hill AFB, UT 84056



Col. Steve Mittuch

Unit holds yellow ribbon integration program for deployment returnees

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home in May 2006, after only two months, 22 months ahead of schedule.

"When I looked at myself at the mirror I looked like a monster and broke down," said Del Toro. "I thought about my son and wondered if he would be afraid of me.

"After arriving home my son came running out and he stopped, looked, and gave me a big hug," said Del Toro. "It was the best hug I've ever had."

After Del Toro returned home he continued therapy at Brooks Army hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He has endured multiple surgeries, skin grafts and physical therapy as part of his rehabilitation program.

In June 2006, shortly after his release from the hospital, he accepted a purple heart from General T. Michael Moseley,

then Chief of Staff for the Air Force. General Moseley also told him he had a story to tell, and urged him to tell it.

"The day of the ceremony I worked hard to be able to walk to the stage and accept the award," said Del Toro. "It hurt, but I did it. I wanted to show my family and friends I'm strong."

Del Toro continues to tell his story to people around the country speaking to military groups, sports teams and children sharing his inspirational experi-

ence. He gets stronger every day through his fiery, upbeat attitude, treatments and unwavering support of his friends and family.



Unit members and spouses attended the yellow ribbon integration program on April 4.

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. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY (FLPP)

Reservists may apply for FLPP by submitting a written request for FLPP testing to his/her commander. FLPP I requires you to be on a tour of duty that requires the language. FLPP II 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. Charlotte Epps or Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman in the MPF Education Office at 734-7075 for instructions on how to apply for FLPP.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Reserve members are eligible to apply for TA for Distance Learning and In-Residence courses to further their education up to a Master's Degree.

The basic enrollment requirements are that you must:

Be a participating member in good standing (no UIF, Article 15, etc.).

Retainability: Officers - two years; Enlisted - ETS after course completion.

Enrollment form must show course number/title, credit hours and cost of tuition.

Complete TA forms in our office PRIOR to class start date.

Payment occurs after satisfactory course completion. **You must provide a paid receipt and your grade NLT 60 days after course completion.** TA reimbursement amounts are set at 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Masters) or 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Bachelors). **For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps or Ms. Kim Silkwood in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.**

AFRC NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The success of the Air Force Reserve NCO corps depends on their ability to apply leadership and management skills learned primarily in a civilian setting to a military environment. Not all of today's mid-level NCOs have extensive first-hand supervisory experience in a reserve environment; therefore, the instruction in this course is intended to improve the students' military supervisor capabilities and understanding of their positions as related to the USAFR. We focus on individual improvement which is ultimately the real source of organizational excellence and success. 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. Address Changes** - You no longer have to go to 4 different screens/areas to update your address!!!
- 2. Point Summaries** - Point Summaries can also be viewed and printed.
- 3. Record Review RIPs** - You will now be notified via e-mail, on your birthday, to log on to vMPF to review your RIP.
- 4. Awards and decorations** - You can also get a picture display of your awards and decorations.

HOT TOPICS :

All testing (paper and computer) must be scheduled by sending an e-mail to 507.msf.dpmt@tinker.af.mil with the time and date that you would like to test and include the course number.

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)

FY 09-10 UTA SCHEDULE

06-07 Jun 09	11-12 July 09
01-02 Aug 09	12-13 Sep 09
03-04 Oct 09	07-08 Nov 09
05-06 Dec 09	09-10 Jan 10
06-07 Feb 10	06-07 Mar 10
10-11 Apr 10	01-02 May 10
05-06 Jun 10	10-11 Jul 10
07-08 Aug 10	11-12 Sep 10

As of April 27, 2009

Fri, 1 May 2009

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1500 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1066, OG Conf Room
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1043, ATNRoom

Sat, 2 May 2009

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203
0800-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0900-0930 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Wg Commander's office
 1300-1400 Wg. Career Advisor Trng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

Sun, 3 May 2009

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 1130-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium
 0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm
0750- by appt CDC testing Bldg 1043, ATN Room
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1130 Suprv Safety Trng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng To Be Determined
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Trng Bldg 1043, Rm 203
1300. by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5
 TBD TOP 3 General Meeting TBD
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

Fri, 5 June 2009

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1500 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1066, OG Conf Room
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1043, ATNRoom

Sat, 6 June 2009

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203
0800-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0900-0930 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Wg Commander's office
 1300-1400 Wg. Career Advisor Trng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

Sun, 7 June 2009

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 1130-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium
 0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm
0750- by appt CDC testing Bldg 1043, ATN Room
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1130 OSHA10 for Sfty Com Mbrs Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng To Be Determined
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Trng Bldg 1043, Rm 203
1300. by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5
 TBD TOP 3 General Meeting TBD
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

OCCUPATIONAL SURVEYS

These surveys provide information essential for developing personnel programs, classifying occupations, and developing training programs. The Wing Survey Control Monitor (SCM) works with the Unit Training Manager (UTM) to ensure surveys are completed. AFI 36-2623, paragraph 2.7 makes completion of these surveys mandatory for all Air Force Reserve members. It is extremely important these surveys are completed by the suspense date. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Kim Silkwood 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	EO
Sunday	1300-1600	First Duty Station	EO

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 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 the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1030, 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.

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

Military Pay

File for pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
05 May	13 May
07 May	15 May
11 May	18 May
14 May	22 May
18 May	27 May
19 May	29 May
20 May	01 June

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

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is:	Then Forward Listing to Commander in:	Recertification due by end of month in:
1	November	January
2	December	February
3	January	March
4	February	April
5	March	May
6	April	June
7	May	July
8	June	August
9	July	September
0	August	October

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

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

Contributing Editors:

Tech. Sgt. Stacy Morton, Education and Training Advisor (ART) Tech. Sgt. Joy O'Boyle, Education and Training Advisor
 Staff Sgt. Elecia Shearer, Education and Training Advisor Ms. Kimberley Silkwood, Testing and Education Advisor (Civilian)

Service organizations are for all citizen Airmen

**By Lt. Col. Steve Seaman
513th Operations Support
Flight Commander**

Like its' fellow organization, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or VFW, is FOR veterans. The difference between the two is simple: any military member, past or present, can affiliate with the Legion. Any military member, past or present, that has fought a war on foreign soil, can affiliate with the VFW (or even both organizations).

The VFW can trace its lineage back as far as 1899, when veterans of the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection formed organizations to help wounded soldiers upon their return to the U.S. from military duty. Today, there are over 9,000 VFW posts world-wide, with a membership boasting more than 2.5 million veterans. Their motto: "Honor the dead by helping the living," still rings true today.

In the late 1940's, Mr. George Epperly donated the land which would become the future site of the new Del City VFW. The original location was on Tinker Diagonal. PFC Billy A. Krowse Post 9969 was chartered on April 29th, 1949, with an inaugural membership of 30 veterans.

Mr. Melvin Taylor approached the VFW in 1960 with a land "swap" proposal, and the deal was consummated on Aug. 30th, 1961. Within a year, the current VFW building was completed at its' VFW Drive location near Sunnyslane and I-40. Ten years later an addition to the building was made, doubling its' size – and finishing what has been ever since, the current "V."

The largest membership for VFW Post 9969 was in 1971-72, with over 1,500 active members. Today, the "V" has 469 members. Like its fellow fraternal organizations, membership is slowly

dwindling. The young, modern military member has a difficult time understanding how the VFW can benefit them.

When a current or prior military member joins, their membership is honored at every VFW post world-wide. If there's a Post where you are TDY, deployed, or at on vacation, you are more than welcomed there. Despite the age differences, many members find solace in being able to talk to other veterans about experiences that only veterans can understand.

From WWII to the Global War on Terrorism, fellow members know the hardships and challenges service personnel have faced or will face, and they're there to provide a valuable but laidback support structure.

VFW membership automatically connects you with valuable professional and social networks. On any given day you may find doctors, lawyers, law enforcement and business people at your local Post, to name a few.

You never know when your affiliation with the Post and fellow members may come in handy. The Post is also

there if you experience a tragedy or a seemingly hopeless situation.

The VFW offers several military assistance programs, to veterans and spouses alike. Post 9969 assisted in the submission of 396 disability claims since July 1st of last year, with a 98 percent success rate. Surviving spouses also have a lot more benefits and options available to them as well.

They also sponsor three educational programs annually. The first is the Voice of Democracy audio essay program for high school students. The grand prize is a \$35,000 scholarship. Next is the Patriots Pen program, a written essay, and

middle school contest with \$10,000 awarded to the winner, and the Teacher of the Year awards to teachers in the K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 classes.

"We would love nothing more than to increase our membership with the younger troops," said current VFW Quartermaster Gordon Wheeler, who is also a two-time former Post 9969 Commander. "We enjoy seeing the 507th Okies and the 513th Thumpers visit us during UTA weekends. If we could get a surge of membership from those outfits and the new Air Guard units on Tinker, the new folks could get involved, work their way into leadership positions, and truly send this Post in the direction they would like to see it go in the future."

The Del City "V" sponsors unit UTA and non-UTA events, sporting event "watch" parties, occasional meals and the annual Operation Holiday Spirit steak supper. You don't have to be a member to stop in and see what it's all about.

Currently, there are 17 veterans recognized on the Del City Veterans Memorial, including one killed in World War II (who Post 9969 is named after), 14 killed in Vietnam, one in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and one recently in Operation Enduring Freedom. PFC Krowse was killed in action and buried in

Belgium. Five years later, his remains were moved, and he now is laid to rest in Springfield, Missouri – his mothers' childhood home. His mother, a charter member of the VFW Post 9969 Ladies Auxiliary, lived in Del City until her passing.

The annual membership fee is \$30, and like the Legion, a lifetime membership is also available. And many members affiliate with both organizations. "Being a member as a young troop has its advantages and rewards," says current member, Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long, 507th Command Chief Master Sergeant. "It's a club for military personnel – past or present and future."



HRDC hosts 1st Annual Reserve Enlisted workshop

Tinker Reserve Human Resource Development Council will host its first annual workshop titled "I am an American Airman... What's in it for me?" to help promote member benefits awareness.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing's HRDC will be conducting its first ever Tinker Reserve Enlisted Workshop from 7 – 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at the Tinker Air Force Base Chapel building 5701, located near the base theater which shares the same parking lot. Just look for the HRDC sign the day of the event.

The workshop coordinator is Senior Master Sgt. David Liszeski, HRDC Senior Enlisted Co-Chair. The speakers selected will be from the Veterans Administration, the Air Force Sergeants Association, our very own Chaplain (Maj.) Dwight Magnus and a special guest speaker who will be revealed in a following announcement. Space is extremely limited and the workshop will only be able to host 50 applicants. Breakfast finger foods will be provided.

Liszeski who is also the 507th Mis-

sion Support Group Career Assistance Advisor has stated the WIIFM workshop will be the first of its kind on the Reserve campus and is a must attend for those members who are in their first or second enlistment or are not sure whether to reenlist or are eligible to retire and want to know more about the benefits of staying in the Reserve.

The workshop will be sponsored by the Tinker Reserve Top 3, Operation Holiday Spirit, The Tinker Reserve Enlisted Advisory Council, The Air Force Sergeants Association, the Moore Chamber of Commerce and private contributors. "The WIIFM workshop is a three and a half hour program. "It will be an excellent event and I highly recommend this workshop. The typical member who attends will improve their understanding of the resources that are available to them and, may positively affect their decision to stay in the military. Our workshop won't be as in depth as a full blown, three day workshop, but we will hit some of the highlights of education, recreational, travel, medical, re-

irement, etc., and motivate people to look deeper into the benefits of military service," Liszeski said.

Because of limited seating, the HRDC is requesting that people register early by getting in touch with your First Sergeant, Senior ART or Unit/Group Career Assistance Advisor. The HRDC point of contact for registration and information regarding the WIIFM workshop call Staff Sgt. Richard Shaw 507th Services Flight, at 734-3676. "We really want people who aren't familiar with all the benefits associated with being in the Air Force Reserves to know more. If you do have questions regarding education benefits, how to save big bucks on vacation and travel, retirement planning or whatever, please register to attend the WIIFM workshop in September. You will not go away disappointed or empty handed. Help be a positive mentor and tell someone about the workshop today." concluded Liszeski.

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



Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Zach Anderson (formerly Senior Airman from the Public Affairs Office) receives his pin-on from his fiancée (and now wife) Renee and his Mother on April 14th.



Capt. Michael Wells
Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

Air Force Reserve selects top enlisted Airmen

by Staff Sgt. Celena Wilson
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Force Reserve Command honored its top Airmen for 2008 in a ceremony April 1 in Atlanta.

The command selected four reservists to represent it in the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen and First Sergeant of the Year competitions. They now compete against Airmen from other major commands and agencies.

Seventeen Airmen vied for the command honors. They included unit reservists, individual mobilization augmentees and Regular Air Force Airmen. Four Airmen competed in the airman category, five in the NCO category, five in the senior NCO category and three in the first sergeant category.

AIRMAN: Senior Airman Channel H. Bolton-Scholl is an aircraft maintenance specialist with the 446th Maintenance Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. The Eugene, Ore., native joined the Air Force Reserve in March 2005. She is currently a crew chief performing Home Station Check inspections on the C-17A Globemaster III.

She volunteered to deploy to Christchurch, New Zealand, to support Operation Deep Freeze missions in January 2008. As the flying crew chief, she assisted aero-medical people in setting up litter stanchions to transfer critically injured National Science Foundation people from Antarctica to New Zealand.

Airman Bolton-Scholl attends Willamette University in Salem, Ore., where she is pursuing a degree in business administration.

NCO: Tech. Sgt. Phillip M. Balson is a network infrastructure craftsman in the 35th Combat Communications Squadron at Tinker AFB, Okla. This traditional reservist is a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., and joined the Air Force Reserve in 2003.

Sergeant Balson has taken part in every unit exercise and volunteered for two deployments to Southwest Asia in 2005 and 2008. During one deployment, he volunteered 25 hours in the Air Force theater hospital. He also played a key role in planning and putting on the expeditionary communications squadron's combat dining-in."

In 2007 he received an associate's degree in electronic system technology from the Community College of the Air Force. He plans to earn a bachelor's degree in business management.

SENIOR NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Gregory D. Taylor is a flight chief in the 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Maxwell AFB, Ala. The Decatur, Ala., native spent four years in the Regular Air Force before joining the Air Force Reserve

in 1992. In civilian life, he is an electronics technician with SCI Systems, where he has worked since leaving active duty.

He has volunteered to serve as a primary crew chief on several Air Expeditionary Force deployments supporting Operations Joint Forge, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. He recently became the 908th AMXS superintendent.

In 2008, he completed his CCAF associate's degree in aircraft maintenance technology. He is enrolled at Columbia Southern University, working toward a bachelor of science degree in management and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

FIRST SERGEANT: Senior Master Sgt. James Felton Jr. serves in the 445th AMXS at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

He enlisted in the Regular Army after graduating from Messick High School in Memphis, Tenn., in 1981, and then transferred to the Ohio Army National Guard in 1984.

After a six-year break in service, Sergeant Felton joined the Air Force Reserve in 1997. He is a business leader who has created several small businesses and founded a non-profit organization, which supports inner-city youths.

In 2006, Sergeant Felton became the first sergeant of the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Two years later the 445th Airlift Wing's command chief master sergeant selected him to be the 445th AMXS first sergeant.

As an active member of the Wright-Patterson AFB First Sergeant and Top Three Council, Sergeant Felton participates in fundraising drives for a variety of charities and good causes.

He holds a bachelor's degree in organizational management and dual master degrees in leadership and finance. He also teaches business and finance at the collegiate level. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)



**Tech Sgt. Phillip Balson
NCO of the Year**

2nd Quarter award winners announced

Master Sgt. Justin Hopkins, an inflight refueling technician with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, was named the Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Hopkins considers mission first. He volunteered to fill an active duty AEF shortfall and deployed to Qatar for 60 days. He is combat proven; flew 120-plus combat hours and off-loaded 800,000-plus pounds of fuel, which kept Coalition Air Forces aircraft in the fight.

Hopkins is the only Ops Group boom operator that is fully mission qualified on both KC-135 Multi Point Refueling Squadron and T model aircraft, which expanded mission effectiveness. During this quarter he enrolled in Course 12 and is two-thirds complete. He also completed three aircraft upgrade qualifications which enhanced his leadership and technical skills.



Hopkins coaches a youth soccer team, volunteers to work Operation Holiday Spirit and with the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon and works with his local church.

NCO of the Quarter is Staff Sgt. Ricky Buettner, a security forces jour-

neyman with the 507th Security Forces Squadron.

Buettner was one of two out of 643 eligible Airmen rewarded and allowed to attend NCOLDC course in Hawaii. He performed labor-intensive preventative maintenance on 40 sets of night vision



goggles back from Iraq which preserved \$180,000 in assets.

He streamlined squadron commuter travel order processes and developed standard operating procedures. This slashed the return rate and boosted retention. He identified the need to update a classroom servicing 1,000 per year and rewired the entire audio/visual network, saving \$500.

Buettner demonstrated his base pride by forming an Airman's working group to pursue a base beautification project. They picked up and removed 20 bags of trash. He coordinated with the base and wing to orchestrate a first-ever unit fundraiser bake sale, raising more than \$300 for unit coins/morale projects.

Airman of the Quarter is Airman First Class Ryan Burkitt, an intelligence apprentice with the 507th Operations Group.

During this period, Burkitt attended

an innovative automated intelligence systems course and trained eight intelligence troops and transformed briefing products. He volunteered for an intensive Survive, Evade, Resistance, Escape course and gained valuable mission planning and EPA techniques to support advanced aircrew intelligence training.

Burkitt was a staff assistance visit prep standout. He researched and compiled 62 key intelligence documents and built a robust classified library from scratch.

Burkitt completed 30 hours of a Rosetta Stone language program, study-



ing Arabic to advance his intelligence capabilities. During this time he also completed six hours toward a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, earning a 4.0 grade point average.

He's a wing motivator for fitness activities and volunteered at the VA home, providing members with companionship and activities, true service before self ethic.

Tinker Team rushes to assist tornado victims

Continued from Page 3

teers began to set up food lines and more than 300 cots as bus after bus rolled up to the hangar doors bringing even more survivors of what will most likely become known as the worst tornado disaster in history. Their stunned faces were met with open arms and warm kindness.

“We’ve tried to do everything we can to support the disaster relief efforts,” said Col. Mark Pillar, 507th Air Refueling Wing Vice Commander.

All across Tinker Air Force Base, military members rushed to help throughout the evening hours. Search and rescue teams formed to search the rubble. Medical technicians reported to both the base hospital, the base gym and to the 507th hangar to provide care for those injured. At the 507th hangar, one of two set up on the base, a makeshift processing line was formed to register people’s names so others could know their loved ones were still alive. Standing at the perimeter of what once was Del City, only 100 feet away from the base, twisted homes could be seen in the glare of military light-alls.

There, across the road where a thriving residential community once stood, was nothing but splinters and rubble. The tornado, which had earlier been headed directly for Tinker, swerved at the last minute, plowing its deadly way through the heavily populated area. The tornado skirted the perimeter of the base then thrust on northward through Midwest City, immediately north of the base, again de-



Col. John Fobian comforts his horse that was injured by the twister. The base stables were located on the northwest corner of the base and completely destroyed.

stroying everything in its path. The fence that once stood, separating the base from the community lay flattened on the ground, from the tornado’s blow.

The survivors’ stories were heart wrenching. “I lost everything.” “Thank God, my wife and children are alive.” Others commented: “I was never so scared in my life.”

By 3 a.m. most of the survivors had bedded down in their cots to fitful sleep and the dread of what awaits them in mornings light.

Two hundred and 20 victims affected by the tornado were housed in a hangar Monday night. By Tuesday night, however only 38 people remained. Several more were able to find alternate housing during Wednesday. By Wednesday evening less than 10 people were left.

On Wednesday, May 6, the victims displaced by the tornado were relocated from hangar to an alternate relief shelter at Jordan Jr. High School, Midwest City, located at 5 McArthur Drive.

“Most of the people who had stayed with us were able to make other arrangements with their family or friends. “We helped those remaining with us on Tuesday to get back into the housing area to try to salvage some personal belongings,” said Col. John Fobian, acting commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing.



Families displaced by the tornado try to occupy their time with card games while taking shelter in Hangar 1030.

Reflections on an Air Force deployment

Continued from Page 2

ously deploy. According to The Air Force Times, between Sept. 1, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2006, 30 percent (420,800) of the 1.4M DoD service members had served multiple tours. The AF Times also reported that 42 percent of Airmen have had multiple tours, compared to 25 percent of the other services-but wait...the reason is the other services have longer deployments. Marines have been deploying for seven-month tours and Soldiers for 15-month tours (recently changed to 12 months) since OEF and OIF kicked off, and Sailors have always sailed for six-12 month expeditionary tours (ship duty, mate!). But the Air Force is catching up. Although the standard Air Force deployment is four months, 45 percent of all slots now are six months long, with many Commanders/Command Chiefs/ Superintendents spending a year in the desert.

Reserve/Guard contributions. In March 2005, almost 40 percent of OIF personnel came from the reserve components (Population Reference Bureau, March 2005). A GAO report (GAO-06-1068, Sep 2006) showed that more than 531,000 reservists have been mobilized in support of GWOT and 71 percent of those (378,000) deployed. And this number doesn't count the tens of thousands from every service who voluntarily deployed on active duty. One AF Times snapshot: on Sept. 30, 2006, 4,302 (17 percent) out of 24,833 total Airmen deployed were Guardsmen and reservists. Guard and reserve account for 29 percent of Airmen who deployed from 2001. Every service has substantially lent its reserve and Guard forces to our war on terror.

What point am I making? Reservists from all services have served their fair share and more since 9/11. Whether involuntarily or voluntarily serving, we might as well be considered an "operational" vs "strategic" (waiting for the "big" one) force. Our skills are current and sharp. Today's uptempo is the only tempo many military personnel know since joining; for example, in the Air Force, the average service time for active duty military officers is 11 years and for enlisted, eight years. But Congress give us more military personnel authorizations if the current deployment tempo is expected to continue. Fancy, smart equipment, UAVs, and sensors help, but infantrymen throughout history know one has to have sufficient (define that!) boots on ground to conquer and control territory for nation building/shaping. That effort also takes Airmen launching aircraft and Coastguardsmen and Sailors patrolling seas. Troops are tired of short dwell times before deploying again. That strain has affected retention because 55 percent of our DoD military is married and mama (or daddy) is

tired of saying good-bye to us and being left to raise kids alone.

4. Battle rhythm. Establishing a battle rhythm is recommended because it allows you to schedule at least some of your day (the next point). For those lucky enough to be working from a static location with force support amenities like education, fitness and recreation centers, if you will identify what your personal and professional goals are at the beginning of a deployment and make time to accomplish them, you will be pleased. Whether it's physical fitness, spiritual growth, working in a new area of your AFSC/MOS, studying for increased rank or skill level, volunteering, saving money for a big ticket item, learning a language, taking college classes or losing weight, set goals, try to fit them in your day and stick with it. Stretch yourself.

5. Leaner "tooth to tail" ratio now than 20 years ago. During Operation DESERT SHIELD, many units deployed to SW Asia with as many weapons, munitions, mobility spares kits and equipment as they could take. Why? No one knew how long the first Gulf crisis would last and there was little faith in one's service supply system being able to sustain a unit forward deployed somewhere in Saudi Arabia's huge desert. Today, technology has given us good shipment tracking ability with tools like Radio Frequency Identification Tags, the Air Force's Standard Asset Tracking System, and the Single Mobility System. No need to order parts several times over because they might get lost in a supply system.

6. Priorities for leaders. Col. Max Mendoza, HQ AFRC/A7Z, identified three deployment priorities and advises leaders to apply them:

a) Quality of Mission. The right mission for the right Airmen with tactics, techniques, and procedures that return all Airmen back alive and well

b) Quality of Work. Give Airmen tools and resources that allow the mission to be accomplished successfully

c) Quality of Life. A place to sleep, eat, unwind, and to renew body and spirit.

7. Optimism is contagious. And necessary.

8. Forward deploying makes one feel relevant, needed. You're using your skills to spread freedom at a critical place. In CONUS, I work as a federal civilian at an Air Logistics Center, supporting the warfighter. Deployed, I am the warfighter; if not at the tip of the spear, near it. Whether one deploys to a CONUS or OCONUS location for 120, 179, 365 days or more in a military or civilian capacity, we are needed to support our nation's humanitarian, peacekeeping, anti-terrorism and other missions. Its important work and our nation needs us. Remember-we are at war!

Parting Shot



Your Tinker Reserve Enlisted Advisory Council at work

The Enlisted Council members prepare to select the winning quarterly packages for the 2nd quarter of 2009. The council meets monthly to talk about issues pertinent to the morale and welfare of our enlisted force. You are highly encouraged to join the Council and have a voice within the campus. Meetings are held each Sunday of the UTA at 9 a.m. in the 507th ARW Conference Room.

On-final R-News

VA welcomes veterans home with new Web site, blog

The Veterans Affairs Department has launched a new “Returning Veterans” Web site to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

The Web site at <http://www.oefoif.va.gov> focuses on the needs and questions of returning veterans, and will feature videos, veterans’ stories and a blog where veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore, officials said.

Senior officer changes

Senior officer changes in Air Force Reserve Command this spring include the following:

Maj. Gen. Martin M. Mazick (former 507th ARW commander) from commander of 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., to vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., April 14.

Maj. Gen. James T. Rubeor from deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve in the Pentagon to commander of 22nd Air Force, Dobbins ARB, April 3.

Brig. Gen. Howard N. Thompson from mobilization assistant to the Air Force chief of staff in the Pentagon to deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve in the Pentagon in March.

Col. Richard W. Scobee from commander of the 944th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz., to commander of the 301st FW, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, April 5.

Col. Michael G. Popovich from vice commander to commander of the 944th FW, Luke AFB, April 4.

507th ARW recruiters <http://get1now.us>



Tinker AFB, OK

(In-Service Recruiter)
Tech. Sgt. Melissa Melichar
(405) 739-2980



Tinker AFB, OK

(Senior Recruiter)
Senior Master Sgt.
Michael Seals
(405) 734-5331



Moore, Norman, OK

Tech. Sgt.
Jackie Harris-Sanchez
(405) 217-8311



Midwest City, OK

Master Sgt. Michael Comfort
Staff Sgt. Adam Thomas
(405) 733-7639
Tech. Sgt. Marcel Jacques
(405) 733-9403



Altus, OK

Master. Sgt.
Ronald Gregory
(580) 481-5123



Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. Stephan
Kimbrough
(316) 759-3766



Tulsa, OK

Tech Sgt. Bill
Joseph
(918) 250-3400



McConnell AFB, KS

Master Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough
(In-Service Recruiter)
(316) 759-3766
Staff Sgt. Jason Sommers
(316) 681-2522

