

# On-final

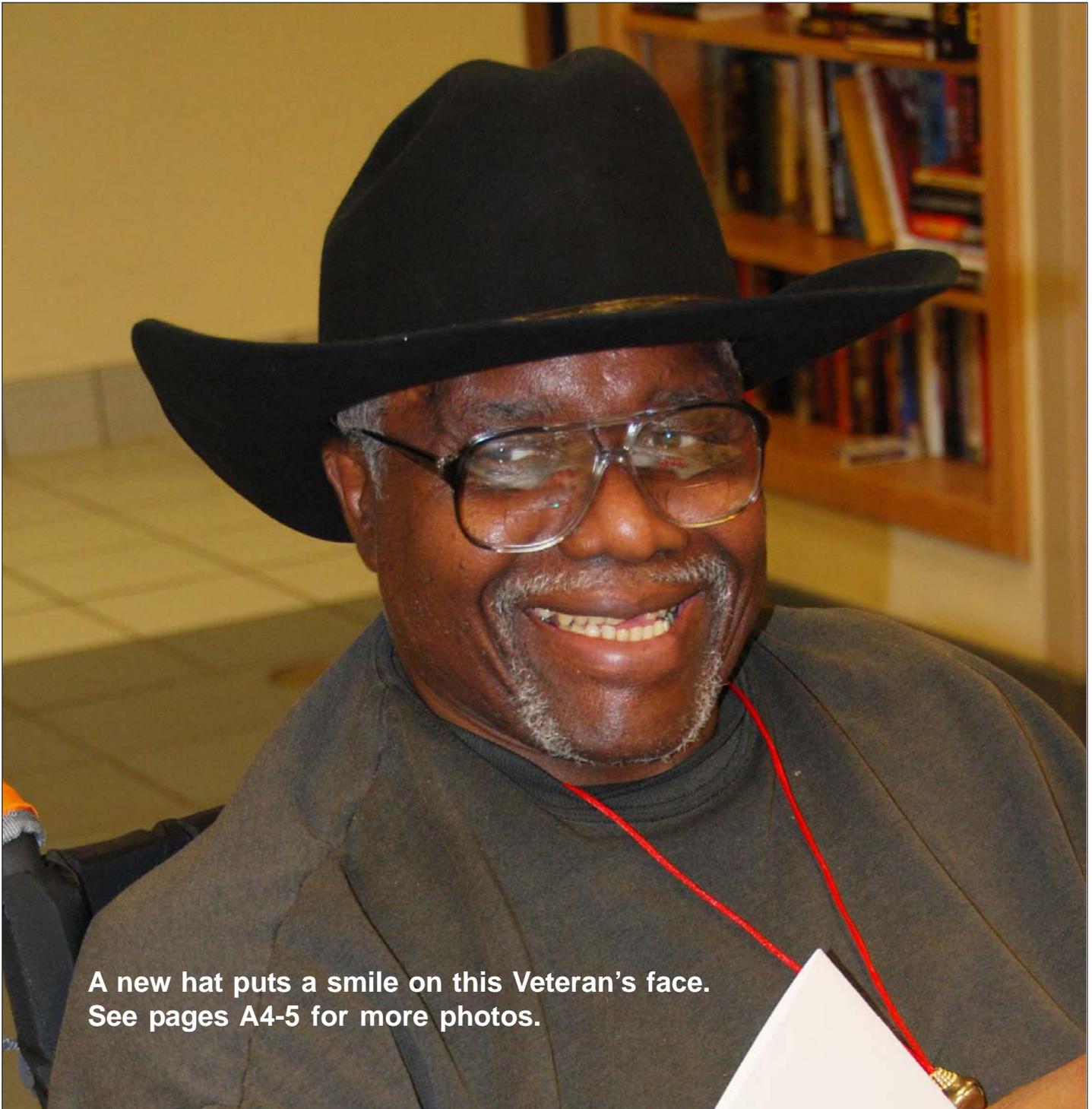


**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing - 513<sup>th</sup> Air Control Group**

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

JANUARY 2010 Vol. 30, No. 1



A new hat puts a smile on this Veteran's face.  
See pages A4-5 for more photos.

# It takes all of us ....

**By Lt. Col. Bonnie Tremblett  
Wing Performance Manager**

What took months of planning and effort culminated in the third spot on the local NBC affiliate recently. For 30 seconds we watched proudly as the 507th Air Refueling Wing sent six aircraft and 156 of our finest warriors downrange, away from their families and homes, during an especially tough time of year, in support of our nation's continuing contingency operations. What struck me most profoundly was what Col. Randall "Arlo" Guthrie, former 507th ARW vice commander, said when he was deployed to Manas years ago. He said, "...it's amazing that it takes all of us...and everybody has to know their part." I recalled his words as I watched all of the moving parts it takes, pulling off a major deployment, coming into play at the exact right place in space in time.

In the aftermath of the single greatest snowfall on record for the state of Oklahoma, on Christmas Day of all days, we awoke to a thwarted terrorist attack on our nation; tragically reaffirming the enemy is among us and will likely try again, if not succeed, to attack this nation. Locally, in 14.1 inches of snow, we watched maintainers configuring jets as well as shoveling flightlines, roads and sidewalks for the impending deployment. Services Flight was ordering custom-made box lunches, Command Post was verifying message traffic and monitoring weather, operators were mission planning, the lawyers and the Command Chief were traveling in from afar; fuels flight was ensuring fuel loads were correct, the medical squadron was shoring up medical requirements, personnel specialists were finalizing CED orders, log planners were loading DCAPES, UDM's were giving mobility folders a last check, Public Affairs was taking photographs, escorting media and issuing the press release, transportation division reserved buses and stake trucks and prepared routes and timing sequences, the chaplain gathered his thoughts, praying for our success, and our deployers were packing in preparation for a long time away from home and families.

On "game day" all of our planning came together. Deployers and their families were met by Senior Airman Chandra Caddell, Log Plans Apprentice, who managed the deployment sequence with utmost precision. Colonels Bunting and Gilmour, Command Chief Long and Chaplain Magnus spent time with and spoke to every chalk, providing encouragement and thanking one and all for their service. Tech Sgt. Jon Mullin, Vehicle Operations Craftsman and SrA Breyden Miller, Vehicle Operations Journeyman, ensured transportation requirements were solid and safely drove all PAX out to the aircraft. Staff Sgt. Stephanie Heath, Tech Sgt. Tyesha Francis and Senior Airman Aubree Sandburg delivered all in-

flight meals while boom operators briefed all passengers, maintenance readied all jets and ops executed preflight checklists. As the last jet taxied out, I could not help but feel anxious; what seemingly ended months of planning for 30 seconds of air time was really only the beginning. After all, when our jets land and the "Okies" get to work, the reality is it will continue to take "all of us" to defend our nations sovereignty and to protect our way of life. Lest we forget, we all play a part in that.



**Master Sgt. Takesha Williams and Lt. Col. Thomas Hudnall, first shirt and commander for the 507th Operation Support Flight, listen to briefings prior to their deployment in December.**

# More than 150 unit members deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom

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

More than 150 Air Force reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing deployed Dec. 27 and 28 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

On Dec. 27, a small advance team deployed, leaving their home wing here and traveled to Guam AB. On Dec. 28, Guam aircrew members from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron and aircraft maintainers from the 507th Maintenance Group deployed with several aircraft for 60 days in support of OEF and world-wide commitments. In all, roughly 80 members deployed to Guam.

Also on Dec. 28, a 30-member contingency of activated Operations and Maintenance Airmen deployed to support South West Asia Theater operations for a 60 day AF Reserve Command Air Expeditionary Force rotation.

Near the end of January, reservists from the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron will be deployed to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan for a six month tour of duty. The 72nd Aerial Port Squadron personnel load, unload, and process airfreight arriving from and departing to locations worldwide.

According to 507th Logistics Readiness officials, by the end of 2010, over 300 wing Airmen will have deployed.

In June, more than 60 Civil Engineer Squad-

ron Airmen will deploy to the SWAT. Logistics Readiness officials said, typically the 507th ARW has an additional 100-150 Airmen volunteering to support an array of overseas and stateside missions throughout any given year.

"The 507th ARW supports a volunteer and AEF deployment tempo that rivals and exceeds other Air Force Reserve and active duty organizations," said Col. Jeffery R. Glass, 507th ARW commander. "Our best thoughts go out to these deployers as they serve in critical roles. As a Wing, each of us needs to remain committed to providing those in harm's way the very best home base support."



Prior to departure on their deployment, unit members attend briefings on what to expect while gone.

## On-final

Volume 30, No. 1 JANUARY 2010

**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 Specialists -**

Staff Sgt. Zach Jacobs

This funded Air Force Reserve Command magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of *On-final* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air

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

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. **Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition.**

**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.

## New record set for 2009 Operation Holiday Spirit

The Tinker Reserve and Guard campus' OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT enjoyed its' most successful season in 2009, since the programs' inception 11 years ago in 1999. A record 212 attendees at the annual Steak Supper event helped raise \$18,000 (another record), which assisted 20 Reserve and Guard families that needed help during the Christmas holiday. "Our biggest boost this year came from two sources," said OHS Chairman, Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins. "The 137th ARW had almost 40 people attend the supper, and The Ross Group, a civilian company from off base, donated \$2,500 to the effort and also had 12 attendees at the supper. It was amazing to see the civilian community - led by The Ross Group and FSBA (Frankfurt-Short-Bruza Associates), support OHS." Both civilian companies heard about OHS and wanted to give back to the military and help out. Several other donors, including Bob Gaspar, the Parrot Heads and Liszeski Plumbing, also continue to make the OHS effort continue to grow year by year. "We started out with 45 people at the supper in 1999," explained Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Lowman, OHS co-chairperson, former Okie and currently assigned at McConnell AFB. "We've come a long way in only 11 years." OHS's goal for 2010 is 250 people at the supper, and \$20,000 in donations.

### Stats over the years

In the last 11 years, 159 Guard and Reserve families have been helped.

In the last 11 years, more than \$91,000 has been raised at the OHS supper.

In the last 11 years, more than 1,500 people have attended the OHS supper.

In the last 11 years, more than 2,900 stockings have been filled for the Salvation Army.

In the last 8 years, more than 1,600 gifts have been given to the 300 residents at the Norman Veterans Center, which was adopted by the Reserve campus.



Baskets and boxes of toys and non-perishable food items were part of the donations received this year from the FSBA.

### Chaplain's Corner

## My New Year's Resolution

By Chaplain (Major) Dwight Magnus  
Wing Chaplain

A boy told his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hung over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?" The dad replied, "Two." "No," the son replied. "There's three frogs and one decides to jump, how many are left?" The dad said, "Oh, I get it, if one decides to jump, the others would too. So there are none left." The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three. The frog only DECIDED to jump." Does that sound like last year's resolution? Great inspiration and great resolu-

tions, but often times we only decide, and months later we are still on the same limb of do-nothing.

You know, when you think about it, all New Year's Resolutions basically fall into 3 categories. They deal with:

1. Things to make us look better and live longer. (Longevity) 2. Things to make us have more. (Prosperity) 3. Things that will help us to get along with everyone. (Peace)

This is my yearly resolution: Matthew 6:33: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Whatever your resolutions, have a blessed 2010!

## 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.

**For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte Epps in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY (FLPP)

Reservists may apply for FLPP by submitting a written request for FLPP testing to his/her commander. FLPP I requires you to be on a tour of duty that requires the language. FLPP II 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 14-25, 2010. 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

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
*24-25 Jul 10	11-12 Sep 10

As of Jan. 4, 2010

**August UTA has been moved to \*24-25 Jul to accommodate UCI inspection.**

# JANUARY TRAINING PLANNER

## Fri, 8 Jan 2010

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, ATN Room

## Sat, 9 Jan 2010

**Unit Designated** **Sign In** **Unit Designated**  
 0730-1230 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203  
**0800-1600** **MPF-See Page A3 for specific times**  
 0900-0930 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC 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 Mgr Meeting Wing CC Conf Room  
**Unit Designated** **Sign Out** **Unit Designated**

## Sun, 10 Jan 2010

**Unit Designated** **Sign In** **Unit Designated**  
 1200-1600 **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 HazCom Trng for Supervisors Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm  
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Trng Bldg 1043, Rm 203  
**1300, by appt.** **CDC Testing** **Bldg 11043, ATN**  
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
**1300** **SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Maj. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5  
 1400 - 1445 Top 3 General Meeting Base Theater  
 1500 - Wing Commander's Call Base Theater  
**Unit Designated** **Sign Out** **Unit Designated**

## Fri, 5 Feb 2010

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, ATN Room

## Sat, 6 Feb 2010

**Unit Designated** **Sign In** **Unit Designated**  
 0730-1230 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203  
**0800-1600** **MPF-See Page A3 for specific times**  
 0900-0930 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC 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 Mgr Meeting Wing CC Conf Room  
**Unit Designated** **Sign Out** **Unit Designated**

## Sun, 7 Feb 2010

**Unit Designated** **Sign In** **Unit Designated**  
 1200-1600 **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 HazCom Trng for Supervisors Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm  
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Trng Bldg 1043, Rm 203  
**1300, by appt.** **CDC Testing** **Bldg 11043, ATN**  
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm  
**1300** **SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT**  
 1400-1500 IG period w/Maj. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5  
**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	1330-1400	Drug and Alcohol	SG
Saturday	1400-1430	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Saturday	1445-1515	OPSEC Training	OG
Sunday	0800-0815	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0815-0830	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0830-0930	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	0945-1015	Counter Intel/Awareness	SF
Sunday	1015-1045	Human Relations	EO
Sunday	1300-1600	First Duty Station (dates TBD)	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

<b>File for pay by:</b>	<b>Receive Direct Deposit by:</b>
07 Jan	15 Jan
11 Jan	19 Jan
14 Jan	22 Jan
19 Jan	27 Jan
21 Jan	29 Jan
25 Jan	01 Feb
28 Jan	05 Feb
02 Feb	10 Feb
04 Feb	12 Feb

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

**\*\*New MPF Hours\*\***  
**Open Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. - noon**

### Saturday UTA

Open 0800 - 1600

Newcomers have priority until noon DEERS/CAC/DEP IDs/F(SGLI) will be processed at Bldg. 460 for newcomers until noon. Other services will be filtered in between newcomers. NOTE: Your wait could be long during newcomer processing.

### Sunday UTA

Open noon - 1600

## BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is:	Then Forward Listing to Unit 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:

Staff Sgt. Jamie Pander, Education and Training Advisor      Ms. Kimberley Silkwood, Testing and Education Advisor (Civilian)

# 507th Wing members celebrate



Santa helper Bryce Starr passed out children's Christmas cards to the residents.



Lt. Col. Richard Curry met up with an old friend and resident of the Norman VA Center at the annual Christmas party.

Photos by  
Lt. Col.  
Richard Curry,  
Tech. Sgt.  
Melba Koch,  
Staff Sgt.  
Zach Jacobs  
and  
Student Intern  
Chris Dobbs



The annual party was a great time for families to gather with their loved ones. The Reserve campus has adopted a majority of the 300 residents at Christmastime since 2003. Children from local schools make Christmas cards to hand out at the party. In 2009 the residents started receiving a birthday card from the reservists and continue to receive Valentine and Veterans Day cards.

# with the Norman VA Center



Maj. Dennis Sivert, Lt. Col. Richard Curry and Maj. (Chaplain) Dwight Magnus were among unit members who helped the Veterans celebrate Christmas.



Above .... The Christmas party didn't stop domino action among the Norman Veterans Center residents.  
Right ... Kailee Starr gives one of the residents a hug during the Christmas party. Children and pets bring smiles to the residents even when there's not a party to attend.

# Take precautions in Oklahoma's winter weather

By Master Sgt. Gary Bristol  
507th ARW Safety Office

Winter weather for Oklahoma has come early this year.

Long-range weather forecasts indicate unit members may be driving on snow and icy roads more than usual. As temperatures drop, drivers may encounter road and weather conditions needing their prudence, patience, and preparation.

The key to winter driving is cautious confidence. You have to ask yourself how you feel about taking on icy and snowy road conditions. If the answer is you're thrilled or frightened, you probably should not venture out.

Having confidence begins with knowing your car is mechanically sound.

Besides vehicle maintenance, store a winter driving kit in your car's trunk. This kit should contain tools and accessories needed should cold weather mishaps occur. Include a small snow shovel, warning flares or a triangle, flashlights and jumper cables, snow brush, ice scraper, a blanket for warmth, and a bag of cat litter for traction.

It's a good idea to always keep a full tank of gas in the car. If you're stranded you may need to run your engine for heat.

Just getting out of the driveway can be a chore for many winter drivers. Clearing paths behind your car's drive wheels and spreading cat litter in those paths will help provide traction and build momentum to drive through snow-covered areas.

If necessary, rock your vehicle back and forth until you start moving, but avoid spinning wheels to escape heavy snow. It only digs you deeper.

You must be able to see and to be seen, and that means making sure your windows, mirrors, and lights are clear of snow. With heavy snowfall, drivers need to remove snow from car hoods, roofs, and trunks. This prevents snow accumulations from flying off as you drive. To make yourself visible, travel with the lights on, especially in inclement weather.

Once on the road, always keep road conditions in mind. Highways may appear clear, but could have icy layers that affect stopping and steering. Keep an 8-second interval between you and the car in front. While driving, train your eyes farther down the road than normal. This will allow you to anticipate changes and adjust your course gradually.

Controlling steering and acceleration are important under winter conditions. By using gentle pressure on the gas and precise steering movements, most drivers can retain road traction and avoid skids. However, if a skid does occur here are the most effective ways to regain control: Don't panic.

- Take your foot off the brake; ease off the accelerator.
- Shift into neutral (automatic transmission) or out of gear (manual transmission).
- Look and steer in the direction the car front needs to go.
- Counter-steer just before the rear wheels stop skidding

until you are going in the desired direction.

Be prepared for a rear-wheel skid in the opposite direction for rear-wheel-drive vehicles if you overcorrect at first.

Engage the gear once the vehicle is straight, apply gentle pressure to the accelerator, and resume course. Brakes also affect the way you come out of a skid. Regular brakes provide the best grip just before they lock up. Push the brakes until they are about to lock up, then release and repeat. This also alerts other drivers that you're slowing down.

However, this braking process does not work with antilock brakes. Apply gradual pressure as in conventional braking, but don't pump because it works against the anti-lock system.

Finally, know the conditions before you go. Fog is quite common this time of year. On Dec. 15th, a fog bank rolled into the city area, and visibility got as low as 350 feet.

The best advice in fog:

- If you drive into a patch of fog, slow down gradually so the car behind you has time to slow too.
- Turn on your low beams; high beams cause more glare
- To heighten your awareness in your murky surroundings, open your window part way and turn off the radio.
- Turn on your windshield wipers and the defroster.
- Stay patient and don't pass.
- Use the right side of the road for guidance.
- If the fog gets too dense, pull off the road, leave your headlights on, start the flashers, turn on your interior lights, and sound your horn occasionally.

Finally, know the conditions before you go. Drivers should assess road and weather conditions and plot their journeys before heading out by listening to radio or television newscasts.



**Snow and winds up to 60 miles per hour in the middle of the afternoon on Christmas eve made it difficult to see across the street in this neighborhood.**

**From IT to CE to CRO**

# 507th CE officer makes the jump

**By Staff Sgt. Zach Jacobs  
507th ARW Public Affairs**

Some might consider a jump from mechanical engineering to civil engineering an interesting career move. Others might say another jump from the suit-and-tie industry of civilian information technology to the rough-and-tumble profession of a military combat rescue officer, or CRO, is, to put it nicely, unusual.

Yet 2nd Lt. Jon Nicolas says his decision to become a CRO might be unusual, but it is also a calling.

“There is no mission, in my opinion, of a higher calling than that of saving lives and rescuing people,” says Nicolas, adding that that is what drew him to this unique field.

This 29-year-old graduate of Texas A&M’s Corps of Cadets majored in mechanical engineering.

He joined the Air Force Reserve in 2007, becoming a CE officer with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron.

He has done global information technology consulting for IBM for the past five years, but a five-month-long deployment to Iraq in 2008 changed his outlook on life and his career.

“After my deployment, I knew I wanted to make the Air Force my full-time occupation,” says Nicolas. “I learned about the CRO program while in Iraq and made becoming a CRO my ultimate goal.”

Although Nicolas has been accepted to enter the selective CRO training program, he is awaiting the transition to active duty to begin training. But once that happens, one of the longest and most mentally and physically demanding training programs in the Department of Defense awaits him.

The CRO training program is nearly two years long, and includes courses like parachute water survival; the Army’s Airborne, Combat Divers, and Freefall Parachutist Schools; regular and advanced SERE (Search, Evade, Rescue, and Escape) training; and personnel recovery training.

Needless to say, CRO is not a job for the faint of heart (or

body). But Nicolas is getting himself ready for that by working out five to six days a week by swimming, running, and doing CrossFit training courses.

He says the training is “pretty physically demanding,” and that the wash-out rate for this training is very high.

Regardless, Nicolas is “excited to have the opportunity to chase this dream,” and has the utmost support from his family, IBM, and his CE leadership.

Nicolas says, “Without the leadership’s support, this dream would not be possible.”

So while Lieutenant Nicolas’ choice to become a CRO is indeed unusual, those whose lives he will save will be grateful for his choice.



**2nd Lt. Jon Nicolas**



## January promotees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Promoted to</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Robert Loveland	SMSgt	1st ASF
Elizabeth Condon	TSgt	35th CBCS
Joshua Holdridge	SSgt	465th ARS
Jason Charvoz	TSgt	507th MOF
Matthew Belanger	TSgt	507th AMXS
Jeffrey Hand	MSgt	507th AMXS
Eric Liftee	TSgt	507th CES
Roger Simon	SSgt	507th LRS
David Dickson	CMSgt	507th MSG
Michael Pau Gallo	SrA	507th MXS
Trevor Hardesty	SrA	507th MXS
Mario Palumbo	TSgt	507th SFS
Terry Pate	TSgt	507th SFS
Bradley Brierton	SrA	513th AMXS
Patricia Stubbs	SSgt	513th AMXS
David Mowatt	AIC	513th AMXS
James Gasaway	MSgt	513th MXS
Christopher Maples	SSgt	513th MXS
Ruben Magness	MSgt	72nd APS
Tiffany Marie Ray	SSgt	72nd APS
Cornelious Barnett	TSgt	72nd APS
Corey Lambrecht	SSgt	72nd APS
Ryan Barnard	MSgt	970th AACS
Porter Prince	SSgt	970th AACS
Jeffery Holdridge	SMSgt	507th MXG

# Air Force rugby makes it six in a row

Air Force punctuated another dominant run in the Armed Forces Rugby Championship by beating Army 34-0 in last November's title match at Stewart-Watson Field. In five tournament games, Air Force outscored its opposition a whopping 226-3.

"It feels great," said Air Force second-row player Ty Terrazone, named the game's co-MVP by his teammates, along with fly half John Feely. "This team was special. We had a lot of young guys, but some veterans like me, as well ... It's good to come out and dominate like we do, and have fun doing it."

Air Force's sixth straight gold medal came in equally convincing fashion as it did a year ago, when the team outscored the other service branches by a 248-19 clip.



**Air Force head coach Dan Lockert and his players celebrate the team's sixth straight Armed Forces Rugby Championship title Nov. 13 at Fort Benning, Ga. Photo by Vince Little**

## On-final R-News

### USAFServices.com launches new Air Force community web site

**By Master Sgt. Stan Parker  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON - Air Force officials have launched a new Web site to meet social and informational needs of Airmen, civilians, retirees and their families.

The entire Air Force family: all Airmen, married and single; spouses; children; Air Force civilians; and retirees are invited to log on to <http://www.usafservices.com>, the official community Web site of the Air Force. The Web site enables users to add friends, send messages, and update their personal profiles to notify family and friends about themselves.

Registered users will find the site allows for real-time socializing through the use of private or public chats according to Mrs. Eliza Nesmith, Airmen and family services chief.

Active duty, retirees, Reservists, Guardsmen, Department of Defense employees and others who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System may register as users on the site.

Air Force officials' weighed the decision to discontinue GI Mail. Over the past few years, officials have noticed the feature was an important tool for families to stay in touch, while others used it for their official mail or even to pay bills.

"We are very sensitive to drawing down that capability ... but the social networking and contact with family during a deployment is going to be an easy and important part of [usafservices.com](http://usafservices.com)," Ms. Nesmith said, noting a messaging feature, forums and a real-time.

While there is no capability or contact list link between Air ForceCrossroads/GI Mail and the new [usafservices.com](http://usafservices.com) Web site, users can click on the Webmaster link to solicit help.

### 507th ARW recruiters

<http://get1now.us>

#### Tinker AFB, OK

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



#### Tinker AFB, OK

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



#### Moore, Norman, OK

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



#### Midwest City, OK

Tech Sgt. Adam Thomas  
(405) 733-7639  
Master 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

Staff Sgt. Senecca  
Collins  
(918) 250-3400

#### McConnell AFB, KS

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

