

On-final



U.S. AIR FORCE

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

MAY 2010 Vol. 30, No. 5



Memorial (Toad) Hall gives way to more parking for the Reserve campus. Photo by Tech Sgt. Melba Koch

A Marathon? Really?

Why do people feel the need to run? That's a question that I've asked myself over the years. On April 25th, I, along with 25,000 of my closest and craziest friends, converged upon downtown Oklahoma City to be a part of the 10th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. What an absolute phenomenal event and experience. The race is a delicate blend of both celebration and remembrance, a time to reflect, a time to heal and a time to focus on the future, living life to its fullest. What a beautiful day we had on this Run to Remember! The running corrals were packed and all runners were extremely polite and talkative, for 0630 on a Sunday morning...it's a good thing I had my coffee. Then we were off! Slowly, the river of runners began to flow over the starting line and through the course, expanding and filling the roadway to its banks. It was at that moment, the magnitude of the race hit me. Not only was I impressed by the number of runners but I was truly inspired by all that were busy working behind the scenes of the event. Volun-

teers are, no doubt, the backbone for continued success of this event, committed to encouragement for all participants. When it comes to spectators, OKC has the BEST! I'm still unsure if the spectators were there for the runners or if the runners came out to see the spectators, but, all-in-all they were enthusiastic, to say the least. I guess you could say I was inspired to perspire, so we continued pounding the pavement for all the reasons we do the things we do.

As many of you know, given the choice, I would rather be sound asleep in the comforts of my bed on most days at 0630. Getting up to attend the UTA is one thing but running in a marathon? I must be losing my mind. But wait, UTAs are far from easy and yet, you continue to participate month after month, year after year. What drives someone to be a member of the Air Reserve Component? That's another question I've asked myself over the years. But each and every month, you, the true patriots of this country, continue to inspire me. You focus on what needs to be done, the re-

quirements of the mission, performing to the best of your ability. Just like the participants in a marathon, you support each other providing encouragement and guidance when needed; realizing consistency and momentum are the keys to achievement along with victory. And let's not forget, you are all volunteers and the backbone for continued success of the United States Air Force. With the upcoming inspections, we're approaching the home stretch of our own marathon. There are still a few loose ends that need to be tied, but all-in-all, you know where the loose ends are located, and what still needs your attention. You'll continue to increase your stride reaching the finish line true to form, satisfied with your accomplishments.

Stay focused and safe, we're almost there!

One more thing...if you've never been a part of the OKC Memorial Marathon, you don't know what you're missing. April 2011 is just around the corner!

Sincerely,

Command Chief Tina Long

Why I Ran

**By Staff Sgt. Christina Lindstrom, USAFR
507th Medical Squadron**

In 2005, I registered and ran the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon...my first. I wept three times over the 26.2 mile course. The first time was around mile marker 10...('What was I thinking?! I don't even cover this distance driving to work!) The second time was when I passed the banners with the names of the bombing victims. And the third was when I crossed the finish line...I'm an ordinary person who just accomplished something quite extraordinary.

A little background...I was active duty from '82-'86 and reenlisted in 2004. Foremost, it was because I wanted to serve my country, but also because I missed my military family. We all share a bond that you probably will not find in the civilian sector.

Now, if you've ever been in the hospital and have to wind your way through the maze of hallways that lead to the dental clinic, you'll come across a plaque with a picture of an attractive, young woman in a white uniform. Her name is LaKesha Richardson Levy. On the morning of April 19, 1995, she was at the Murrah Federal Building getting a Social Security card.

PAGE 2

She was one of 168 people murdered that day when a crazy man decided to seek vengeance against our government.

Tinker lost two military members that day. A1C Cartney McRaven and A1C Levy, but it was LaKesha that I passed every day on my way to work.

I learned a lot about her. She was assigned to the 72nd Medical Group, worked in the lab and had been at Tinker for only two months. Her birthday was July 25 and was 21 when she died. She was daughter to Constance Favorite, wife to Corey Levy, and mother to Corey Levy, II, who was only two at the time. They found her nine days after the bombing and her remains are interred in an above ground vault in New Orleans. There was also some controversy about her leg...you can read about that on your own.

This year I ran the Half Marathon, in her honor. I only wept once this time...on Classen Blvd., between NW 37th and NW 38th Streets, when I saw a banner with the name of the military sister that I lost.

They called this the 'Run to Remember'...I hope we never forget.

"Readiness Is OUR Number One Priority"

MAY 2010

A new perspective on life and death, part 4

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Jones
Wing Chaplain

As military members, we know the value of planning and preparation. We plan and prepare for all kinds of contingencies and possible events. For example, during last month's UTA our wing practiced what we would do if a tornado was coming toward our campus. The point was to see if we were prepared to respond properly in the event of a tornado.

When it comes to our own deaths, however, most of us are woefully unprepared. I've seen this countless times as a hospice chaplain. The patient and the family haven't talked about what that loved one's wishes are concerning medical treatment and end-of-life care, much less what to do after that person has died. Unfortunately this lack of planning and preparation usually crashes down on the spouse or children like a rock slide. So what are some things you can do to prepare for your own medical emergencies and even death, so that your family is placed in the position of having to guess what you would want done or not done?

First, TALK to your family about what your wishes are regarding emergency medical treatment and end-of-life

care. Be specific about what you do and do not want done and talk about different scenarios. If you have elderly parents, you may want to discuss their wishes with them so you'll be informed about what they would want.

Second, research and prepare ADVANCED DIRECTIVES. Advanced Directives may consist of (1) a LIVING WILL and (2) a MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY (POA; also known as a Healthcare Proxy). A Living Will is an advanced directive that directs your family and healthcare providers through the medical treatment you wish to receive if you are unable to communicate your wishes. A Medical POA is an advanced directive that allows you to select a person you trust to make decisions about your medical care if you are temporarily or permanently unable to communicate and make decisions for yourself. This includes not only decisions at the end of your life but also in other medical situations.

Our wing JAG office can answer your questions or give you assist regarding these documents. Please note that each state has specific laws regarding living wills and medical POAs. In some cases, state-specific forms

may be necessary. You may not even need a lawyer to prepare these forms. To get more information contact the 507th JAG office. To get state-specific forms and instructions you can also contact your state's public health department or office on aging as well as any local hospital or hospice organization.

More next month.



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Volume 30, No. 5 MAY 2010

**507th Air Refueling Wing
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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tinker-Air-Force-Base-OK/507th-Air-Refueling-Wing/457927390281?ref=ts>

pared, 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 Sunday of the UTA .**

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.

Farewell 513th friends; hello Okies

By Lt. Col. Anthony D. Vallera
513th AMXS/CC

As I prepare to transition to a new job in a new unit, I can't help reflect on the many wonderful memories I have of the professionals I've had the pleasure of working with over the years in the 513th Air Control Group. There is no question in my mind that our operators and maintainers are the best team of AWACS warriors in the U.S Air Force. I have witnessed firsthand how valuable your years of experience and skill in maintaining and operating this complex weapon system are to the security of the nation. The active duty Air Force knows this well and calls on the 513th for help when the pressure's on because they know without a doubt you guys can pull it off when the chips are down. You have proven time and time again over the years that nobody comes close to the 513th ACG. From Northern Watch, to ONE and OEF, to your splendid support of the unit's most recent AEF to conduct counter drug operations, just to name a few. You always make it look easy and never complain. Your technical experience is the 513th ACG's trump card. What takes the other guys hours to accomplish, you do in minutes. When they're faced with a tricky aircraft repair, or a complicated ops dilemma, you're the experts they call for help. And it's not because you're some kind of super human geek squad. It's simply because you've been there and done that. Seen the same problems and challenges over and over again throughout the years, and without

a doubt, you know what it takes to get the job done. Long after our active duty brethren have moved on to some other important Air Force assignment, reservists like you will still be here keeping things on an even keel. Experience is a wonderful thing, and it doesn't come easy, nor is it cheap. It takes many years and a lot of sweat to develop an expert AWACer. When I was a toddler I remember mom saying "Anthony, don't touch the stove, it's hot." Well how in the world do I know what hot is without feeling it? The point is, there is a better way to learn what hot means without getting third-degree burns. Sort of like mom's, it's your job as reservists to keep our active duty friends from getting burned. I think it's safe to say that's what makes you so vital to the total force equation. You guys definitely know what hot means and I know you'll be here to protect America when things heat up again. I'll miss the 513th and the awesome aircraft you maintain and fly, but most of all I'll miss the people I've been so lucky to meet and work with since I joined the unit in 2001. I'll still be at Tinker on drill weekends over at the 507th MXG. Stop by to say hello if you're in the neighborhood. Thanks for all you've done to make my job exciting and enjoyable. I'm extremely proud to have worn the 513th ACG patch.



Lt. Col. Anthony Vallera

To my new friends in the 507th Maintenance Group, I am excited to begin a new journey with you. You are well known for excellence in the maintenance arena throughout Air Force Reserve Command and I am honored to have the chance to work with you as your deputy group commander. In the coming weeks I will visit the shops and areas where you work, attempting to become familiar with a new cast of professional Airmen. As I do, please do not hesitate to fill me in on the critical functions you perform, including any difficulties you may be experiencing. In that way I can focus my energy on issues that are important to you and our group's ability to maintain its outstanding reputation for maintenance excellence. Remember, it's my job to provide the resources and support you need so you can generate safe, reliable aircraft for our aircrews to fly and successfully accomplish the 507th Air Refueling Wing's critical mission. My goal is to help make the 507th the best-kept secret in Air Force maintenance. With your help, I know it can be. I look forward to serving with you.

Air Force officials announce uniform policy changes

Air Force officials announced uniform policy updates April 12 resulting from recent Air Force Uniform Board decisions.

The following policy modifications are effective immediately, unless otherwise stated.

The tucking of trousers on utility uniforms into boots will remain optional. This reverses a mandatory tuck-in requirement previously announced by the 98th Air Force Virtual Uniform Board. When tucked in or bloused, the trouser must be even and draped loosely over the top of the combat boot to present a bloused appearance.

Air Force officials encourage all Airmen to affix name, rank and service designator tapes instead of waiting for the Oct. 1 mandatory wear date.

Changes also allow the women's side-slit mess dress skirt to continue to be worn as an optional item.



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

	01-02 May 10	
05-06 Jun 10		10-11 Jul 10
*24-25 Jul 10		11-12 Sep 10

As of April 26, 2010

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

MAY TRAINING PLANNER

Fri, 30 Apr 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, 01 May 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 w/Col Glass 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 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1400-1500 Training Mgr Meeting Wing CC Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

Sun, 02 May 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
 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 Tng for Supervisors Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Tng 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/Maj. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

Fri, 04 Jun 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

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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

File for pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
06 May	14 May
10 May	17 May
13 May	21 May
18 May	26 May
20 May	28 May
24 May	01 Jun
27 May	04 Jun
01 Jun	09 Jun
03 Jun	11 Jun

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.

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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)

Armed Forces Day is celebrated on May 15

Many Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces. Armed Forces Day is also part of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May.



On Aug. 31, 1949, Louis Johnson, who was the United States' Secretary of Defense, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The event stemmed from the armed forces' unification under one department -- the Department of Defense. The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support for Marine Corps Day but supports Armed Forces Day too.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. The theme for that day was "Teamed for Defense," which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the day was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job was performed and the role of the military in civilian life.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. The theme for that day was "Teamed for Defense," which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the day was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job was performed and the role of the military in civilian life.

Mother's Day is May 9

Mother's Day in the United States is annually held on the second Sunday of May. It celebrates motherhood and it is a time to appreciate mothers and mother figures.

Mother's Day is not a federal holiday. Organizations, businesses and stores are open or closed, just as they are on any other Sunday in the year.

The origins of Mother's Day are attributed to different people. Many believe that two women, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis were important in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day in the U.S. Around 1870, Julia Ward Howe called for Mother's Day to be celebrated each year to encourage pacifism and disarmament amongst women. Mother's Day has become a day that focuses on generally recognizing mothers' and mother figures' roles.



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Memorial Day is celebrated on May 31

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formally known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season.

It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half mast from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials to honor everyone, who has died, and those, who have died in military service, in particular. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is combined with Jefferson Davis' Birthday in Mississippi.

Memorial Day has become less of an occasion of remembrance. Many people choose to hold picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday. All non-essential Government offices are closed, as are schools, businesses and other organizations. Most public transit systems do not run on their regular schedule. Many people see Memorial Day weekend as an opportunity to go on a short vacation or visit family or friends. This can cause some congestion on highways and at airports.



Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers, who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women who died in any war or military action.

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Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II. Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends. This meant that, from 1971, Memorial Day holiday had been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date.

(Information on this page obtained from www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us)

First Quarter winners announced

Capt. Carl Jones, maintenance officer with the 507th Maintenance Group, is the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter.

Jones was hand-picked as the lead maintenance officer for a 61-man team deployed for an AEF at Andersen AFB, Guam. He oversaw the forward deployments of aircraft and personnel to five operational locations with 100 percent success. The mission capable results rate was over 90 percent and an unprecedented 99 percent sortie efficiency rate for the duration of the deployment.

He completed five Defense Acquisition University Logistics and Management Courses this quarter, despite the deployment. Jones achieved Advanced Open Water Scuba certification in pursuit of instructor qualification to teach locally.

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gaspar, superintendent of Intelligence, 507th Operations Group, is the Senior NCO of the Quarter.

During this quarter, Gaspar filled the vacant senior ART position (0-5 billet) for more than four months, ensuring 100 percent continuity. He also led COMSEC/security programs to an 'Outstanding' rating during the 72nd ABW inspections and was lauded by the inspectors.

Gaspar spearheaded the reissue of the Wing restricted area badges, a 72nd ABW commander directed program that is on track for completion ahead of schedule.

During this quarter Gaspar completed nine hours toward a bachelor's degree in Management; on track for 2011 graduation. He also took the initiative to organize a squadron cook-out to foster esprit-de-corps among nondeployed unit members. He currently serves as the 507th Top 3 vice president.

NCO of the Quarter is Staff Sgt. Michael Bilharz. He is a fire protection journeyman with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Bilharz is a superb leader, says Lt. Col. Ernest Goodman, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. He was selected by Kirkuk Regional Air Base leadership to train a 16+ member Honor Guard team; participating in 12 group ceremonies.

While at Kirkuk, Bilharz reviewed contractor equipment requests and identified admin errors, saving more than \$500,000.

Bilharz is a warrior athlete. He was one of top five finishers out of 97 runners in the 8.15 mile KRAB OIF Army Great Aloha Run while deployed. He also was a member of KRAB fire muster team challenge; victorious with best time overall against the Army/Irai Air Force. Bilharz developed the KRAB Color Guard, volunteering more than 60 hours of his personal time and dedication. This earned him praise by the group commander.

Airman of the Quarter is Senior Airman Paul Phillips, air transportation specialist with the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron. "Airman Phillips is a true transporter," said Maj. William Young, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron commander. He served as a load transportation chief/material handling equipment operator and provided air



Pictured, from left, Capt. Carl Jones, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gaspar, Chief Master Sgt. Gary Bourisaw (for Staff Sgt. Michael Bilharz), and Senior Airman Paul Phillips.

lifeline to 3 million Haitians with 150 high-visibility relief missions. He's a 5-Star Senior Airman ... hand-picked to work ground operations support for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff aircraft and provided personal tours to military leadership.

Phillips is also a dedicated Airman; he was recognized by the deployed team chief for completing Airman Leadership School while pulling 12-hours shifts in Haiti.

Serving as a youth mentor, Phillips guided/taught life skills to 21 troubled teens and provided for 17 kids to attend cheer/sports camps and developed a successful mentoring program for local area middle school at-risk youth.

Chief Master Sgt. Doyle (Rod) Garrison, Superintendent for the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, retired April 10, 2010.

He entered military service on April 9, 1975 with the 507th Tactical Fighter Group and spent his entire career with the 507th.

Pictured at right, Lt. Col. Eric Eggers, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, presided over Chief Garrison's retirement ceremony.



Master Sgt. John Hansen, Jr. retired April 10, 2010. He entered basic training in June 1977 and came to Tinker after aircraft maintenance jet engine school, spending the rest of his career with the 507th. Pictured at left, Lt. Col. Eric Eggers, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, presents Hansen with his retirement certificate.

Master Sgt. Clifford Cox began his military career in the Army on May 22, 1970, retiring April 11, 2010 with more than 29 years service. He served more than seven years as an Infantry Soldier.

From 1978 to 1988 Cox took a break from the military. At that time he returned to the military, only this time it was the Air Force. In August of that year he joined the 507th Tactical Fighter Wing as a weapons system specialist. When the Wing transitioned to the KC-135 Cox became a metals technician. Lt. Col. Sandra Brooks, left, presided over Cox' retirement ceremony.



CHANGE OF COMMAND



Lt. Col. Thomas Hudnall accepts command of the 465th Air Refueling Squadron on April 10, 2010 from Col. Gregory Gilmour, 507th Operations Group commander.

Hudnall was the former commander of the 507th Operations Support Flight.

Hudnall entered the Air Force as a graduate of Louisiana State University's ROTC program in 1988. He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1997 and is a Command Pilot with more than 4,300 hours, including over 1,000 in combat and combat support. He has flown the T-37, T-38, EC-135Y/N and the KC-135 aircraft.

Lt. Col. Richard Peterson accepts command of the 507th Operations Support Flight on April 10, 2010 from Col. Gregory Gilmour. Peterson was the former director of Operations, 465th Air Refueling Squadron. Peterson received his commission from Officer Training School after graduating from the University of Texas, Austin. Peterson is a Command Pilot with more than 2,700 military flying hours, including combat in Bosnia, and 7,200 civilian. He has flown the T-37, T-38, A-10 and KC-135R.



Col. William Mason, pictured with Col. Gregory Gilmour, is presented a Meritorious Service Medal during ceremonies on April 10, 2010. He relinquished command of the 465th Air Refueling Squadron on April 10, in preparation for his new assignment as commander of the 434th Operations Group, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana.

Mason is a Command Pilot with more than 5,300 hours. He has flown the T-34C, T-2C, TA-4J, T-44A, E-6A, E-6B, B707 and KC-135 R aircraft.

New hangar construction

Construction of a new 26,000 square foot facility is underway next to the fuel cell hangar. Completion date of the \$10 million KC-135 maintenance hangar is scheduled for December 2010.

Photo by Chris Dobbs



On-final R-News

Volunteers needed for Community Outreach event

If you are interested in being a part of our annual HRDC campaign, click on link below and forward the information to Senior Master Sgt. David Liszeski.

You will be contacted prior to the event with project details. The goal is to change into civilian work clothes, work two hours following May's Saturday drill to help a disadvantaged homeowner near tinker. http://www.rebuildingtogetherokc.org/volunteer/docs/VOLUNTEER_PROFILE.doc.

For more information, contact Sergeant Liszeski at 734-7638 or by cell phone at 226-7401.

Air Force Suicide Prevention Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration has founded a national suicide prevention hotline to ensure veterans in emotional crisis have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors. Veterans can call the Lifeline number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and press "1" to be routed to the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society supports the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance, sponsoring education assistance programs and offering an array of base community enhancement programs that improve quality of life for Airmen and their families.

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

