

On-final

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Wing, subordinate units name annual award winners

by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Five Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing were named Airmen of the year, and another five Airmen took home awards from their units for outstanding performance at the wing's annual awards banquet on November 6, 2010.

The wing awardees were:

- Airman of the year: Staff Sgt. Shawn R. Shaw, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- Noncommissioned officer of the year: Tech. Sgt. Amy P. Preskitt, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron

- Senior noncommissioned officer of the year: Master Sgt. Alvin M. Kuper, 465th Air Refueling Squadron

- First sergeant of the year: Master Sgt. Phillip A. Baker, 507th Medical Squadron

- Company grade officer of the year: Capt. Benjamin R. Yoder, 465th Air Refueling Squadron

Those in the enlisted categories will now compete



Photo by Capt. Robert Atkins

Attendees and award winners of the 507th Air Refueling Wing's 2010 annual awards banquet pose for a group photo at the Tinker Club on November 6, 2010. FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Capt. Benjamin Yoder, 465th Aerial Refueling Squadron; Staff Sgt. Shawn Shaw, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Phillip Brand, 507th Operations Group; Master Sgt. Phillip Baker, 507th Medical Squadron; and 1st Lt. Jacqueline Stauffer, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron. BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Col. Jeffery R. Glass, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander; Karl Wasserleben, manager of the Tinker Air Force Base branch of Tinker Federal Credit Union; Brenda Roberts, staff executive director of Moore, Okla., Chamber of Commerce; Jan Davis, branch manager of Tinker Federal Credit Union's Moore branch; Command Chief Master Sgt. Dwight D. Badgett, command chief of Air Force Reserve Command; and Command Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long, 507 ARW command chief.

at 4th Air Force for the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Other units in the 507 ARW gave their annual awards that night.

The 2010 Billy Hughes Award was given to Senior Master Sgt.

Richard W. Stull of the 507th Maintenance Squadron.

The 72nd Aerial Port Squadron also named their 'Port Dawgs' of the year:

- Airman: Senior Airman Bridget Van Tresse

- Noncommissioned officer:

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wing commander to host breakfast with junior enlisted

Col. Jeffery R. Glass, commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, has invited wing junior enlisted members to discuss issues with him at an upcoming breakfast on Sunday morning of the January 2011 UTA.

The meal is scheduled to take place at the Vanwey Dining Facility on Jan. 9, 2011, at 6:30 a.m.

All wing enlisted members ranked Airman Basic through Staff Sergeant with less than one year time in grade are invited.

They should be through the serving line and in their seats prior to the start time.

Tech. Sgt. Wyatt Erford

- Senior noncommissioned officer: Master Sgt. Joseph P. Melichar

And the 507th Security Forces Squadron named Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Latendresse the Defender of the Year. **OF**

'Tis better to give: reservists donate to wing families, veterans

by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

For the past ten years, reservists of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group have stepped up in two special ways to ensure families in the wing and local veterans are not forgotten during Christmastime.

Two of the wing's signature

holiday programs, Operation Holiday Spirit and the Angel Tree Project, have put smiles on the faces of needy members of the wing and of residents of the Norman, Okla., Veterans Center.

And 2010 was no exception. Col. Jeffery R. Glass, 507 ARW commander, said he is proud of how his wing gives to

others.

"Overall, the wing is incredible in giving to the community and its own members," said Glass.

He added that he is "so impressed" with the wing's ability to give.

Operation Holiday Spirit began in 1999 to help reservists afford a decent Christmas for their families. Since 2009, local

businesses, on-base groups and clubs, steak supper fund raiser attendees and other individuals' contributions totalled \$91,705.

But even with a slow economy, OHS funds reached an all-time high in 2010. Monetary donations, an auction of donated items and 235 steak

see **BENEFIT**, page 4

How to retire early from Reserve (really!)

by **Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs**

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Reservists play an important role in the defense of our country. And many of us serve as long as our active duty counterparts, often taking deployments that not only keep us from our families and homes, but also our civilian jobs.

With the passage of a 2008 law, those deployments and other periods on active duty can bring reserve retirement a bit earlier.

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act amended Title 10, USC Section 12731, a law dealing with military retirement eligibility age.

Basically, it means that starting on Jan. 29, 2008, 90 total days that a reservist spends on active duty in a fiscal year reduces that reservist's reserve retirement day by 90 days.

Although any reservist, regardless of rank or military branch, may apply active duty time to an early retirement, there are restrictions on what types of service apply.

For example, involuntary mobilization, voluntary active duty, RPA, MPA and calls to active service in times of war or national emergency are examples of qualifying service.

But annual tour, captive status and active guard reserve (AGR) service are a few types of service that do not qualify.

And with early retirement, the usual benefits (commissary, exchange and services) will apply, but medical benefits are deferred until age 60.

Master Sgt. Christine Reed, the noncommissioned officer in charge of unit administration for the 507th Air Refueling Wing, recently took advantage of this law. She mailed copies of orders that reflected her active duty service since January 29, 2008, to the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

Reed said she had lots of copies of her active duty orders to send to ARPC to verify her active duty service. However, she said, the effort was well worth it, because she later

received an email from ARPC that said that her retirement had been reduced by a whopping 15 months!

So how does she feel about retiring in August 2012?

In a word, "thrilled!"

"I've got a long list of things to do," said Reed, naming travel, reading, quilting and "being a grandma" as the important items on that list.

If you have active duty service you would like to apply to roll back your reserve retirement date, mail signed copies of all your certified active-duty orders to the following address:

HQ ARPC/DPPR
6760 East Irvington Place
Denver, CO 80280

Once the review is complete, you will be notified of the earliest date you can start to draw reserve retired pay.

For more information about this policy, call Headquarters, ARPC at 800-525-0102, or click the link for the Virtual Personnel Command-Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) on the Air Force Portal. **O-f**

Commentary: suicide prevention about being involved, not intrusive

by **Lt. Col. John R. Thomas**

10th Space Warning Squadron

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. -- Today more than ever, we hear about the increasing suicide rate in the military. Our senior leaders are trying to figure out how to address this epidemic across the Air Force.

I say, at the most basic level, it comes down to leadership, and leadership is about relationships. In this environment of doing more with less, I believe we've lost some of the luxury of getting out from behind our emails and taskers and doing the important part - spending time with our Airmen.

But this is absolutely impera-

tive, because the truly lasting legacy every leader will leave is with the Airmen they lead, not with the unit or mission they belong to at the time.

For the most part, we have come to grips with drinking and driving. We won't hesitate to take car keys away from a fellow Airman, or offer to drive him or her home. We feel almost comfortable telling a wingman he or she has had too much to drink, because we know the results could negatively affect that person's Air Force career.

But the sad fact is we have Airmen dying, and not for the reason they joined, but because we feel it's "intrusive" to delve

into their personal lives.

Being involved starts with feedback, both formal and informal, and includes opening up the lines of communication for that feedback to flow both ways.

It means getting to know the Airman, his family, the reason he joined the Air Force, his goals and dreams, and so forth.

It means making yourself available both on the field and off, and not letting yourself be distracted by emails and taskers.

It means having a relationship that allows for early detection of issues affecting that Airman's life.

And then it means acting

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**507th Air Refueling Wing
Editorial Staff**

507 ARW Commander
Col. Jeffery R. Glass

Chief of Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Richard A. Curry

Dep. Chief of Public Affairs
Maj. Bill Pierce

NCOIC, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Grady Epperly

On-final Editor
Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs

Student Hire
Chris Dobbs

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

when something isn't as it should be.

My message to you as a supervisor and a leader is that it's about being "involved" and not about being "intrusive." When you develop a relationship with your Airmen, your involvement will not be intrusive.

I challenge every supervisor and leader out there to be deliberate about the time you spend with your Airmen.

Build a relationship, be involved, and leave a truly lasting legacy. **O-f**

Wing hosts employer support flight on Dec. 3

by 507 ARW Public Affairs

Employers of 507th ARW reservists were given a glimpse of a refueling mission during an Employer Support flight on Dec. 3rd.

The 507th ARW sponsors employer support flights helping better acquaint business leaders with the mission of the Air Force Reserve. Employers experienced briefings on unit history, mission effectiveness, safety, and their role in the mission. "We offer these flights as a way of educating our employers reinforcing to them how their support of our members is critical," said Lt. Col. Rich Curry, 507th ARW chief of public affairs.

Employer support flights are just one way reservists show appreciation to their employer for the time they are able to be away from their civilian jobs and participate in Reserve activities. In addition to these flights reservists can recognize their employers by nominating them for several awards offered through The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization.

According to www.esgr.org, the ESGR conducts awards programs designed to recognize employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force. Employers qualify for recognition demonstrating leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

Every employer nominated for recognition will receive the Patriot Award, and will then be eligible for consideration for other awards (Above and Beyond Award, Pro Patria Award, Freedom Award) and recognition based on their level of support described in

the nomination narrative. The local ESGR state committee receives copies of submitted nominations for state

recognitions.

The 507th ARW Public Affairs office plans to host another Employer Support Flight this

summer. Watch the *On-final* for more information on this event. **O-f**

Father's memory honored on recent employer support flight

by Lt. Col. Richard Curry

Chief, 507 ARW Public Affairs

It had been 61 years since its last military flight.

And Cecilia Ainsworth figured 61 years was long enough for her father's pilot logbook to be grounded.

On December 3, Ainsworth, a production management specialist with Tinker's 421st Supply Chain Management Squadron, brought her father's pilot flight logbook with her during an employer support orientation flight held by the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Employer support flights are routinely conducted by the 507th to provide reservists' employers the chance to witness the wing's air refueling mission and develop a greater appreciation and understanding of how important their support of the Air Force Reserve is to national defense.

Ainsworth said her father, Hulan Lee France, died in 2004, but "would have been thrilled to learn I was getting the opportunity to fly on a KC-135R Stratotanker and watch an aerial refueling mission." She said she decided to "bring the memory of my father with me" during the flight.

Hulan France entered the Army Air Corps in June 1940, receiving training at Ft. Sill, Okla., Jefferson, Mo. and in Florida.

He served overseas in 1943 in the China, India & Burma Theater and was honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps in September of



Photo by Maj. Bill Pierce

1945, receiving the American Defense Service Medal, the China-Burma-India Theater (C.B.I.) Ribbon with two battle stars and a Good Conduct Medal.

After a brief transition, France went back to the Army Air Forces to attend Officer Candidate School. His graduation ceremony was at Indocination Division Air Training Command in San Antonio, Texas, on June 28, 1947.

His pilot logbook's first entry date was on March 15, 1948, during an undergraduate pilot training mission flying an AT-6D at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

The logbook totaled roughly 375 flight hours of entries for a variety of aircraft missions, including the T-6, TB-25S, TB-25J, C-45, C-47 and C-54 aircraft.

But this flight would hold one last surprise for Ainsworth.

"When we fly employers my

wing places each person's name in a hat to select two people to ride in the cockpit during the takeoff and landings," said Maj. Bill Pierce, the wing public affairs officer.

The luck of the draw favored Ainsworth, who sat in the boom operator's seat during takeoff.

After the mission, Col. Michael F. Mahon, 507 ARW vice commander and pilot for the mission, had the honor of updating her father's flight logbook with two additional hours aboard a KC-135R Stratotanker (see above photo).

For Ainsworth, the experience will be a memory to treasure. In an email to public affairs staff she said, "Thank you so much for Friday's flight. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute. This will be something I'll remember always! My father would be so thrilled!" **O-f**

'TIS BETTER TO



LEFT: Volunteers hand plates of food to attendees of the 2010 Operation Holiday Spirit fund raiser steak supper. The event drew 235 attendees altogether, a record crowd.

U.S. Air Force photo courtesy of Chief Master Sgt. Steven Wright



ABOVE: Chief Master Sgt. Steven Wright (LEFT), superintendent of the 507th Maintenance Squadron, holds a University of Oklahoma football helmet as Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gaspar of the 507th Operation Support Flight auctions the helmet off at the annual Operation Holiday Spirit steak supper fund raiser. The helmet, autographed by OU head coach Bob Stoops, quarterbacks coach Josh Heupel, running backs coach Cale Gundy and former OU quarterback (and former U.S. Congressman) J.C. Watts, fetched \$1,025 for Operation Holiday Spirit.

U.S. Air Force photos courtesy of Chief Master Sgt. Steven Wright

BENEFIT from page 1

supper tickets totaled \$23,889 this year.

“It gets better every year,” said Glass of the annual steak supper fund raiser. “It’s the most fun party you can go to that is still in a military setting.”

2010 was also the second year for the 137th Air Refueling Wing, an associate wing from the Oklahoma Air National Guard, to participate in Operation Holiday Spirit.

Glass said the 137th taking part “helps teamwork between the two wings even more.”

Ultimately, OHS benefitted 27 families in the 507 ARW, 137 ARW and 513 ACG.

“This is the best program at any military unit I’ve ever been in,” said Glass.

Meanwhile, 507 ARW and 513 ARW reservists took part in the Angel Tree project for the tenth consecutive year.

The Norman, Okla., division of the Oklahoma Veterans Center is home to nearly 300 military retirees from

RIGHT: Master Sgt. Deborah Kidd (LEFT), first sergeant for the 507th Security Forces Squadron, reaches for a quick drink during a lull in serving at the 2010 Operation Holiday Spirit steak supper fund raiser. Tickets for the steak supper raised \$5,875 for the project.



GIVE...

Hundreds donate to wing families, veterans

all branches of service, and participants in its Angel Tree project give gifts directly to those retirees each December.

Glen Williams, a recreational therapist and the activities director for the Norman veterans' home, said the Angel Tree project has been going for more than 20 years, and that it seems to get bigger every year.

Williams said that although more groups and organizations, like Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, are giving gifts to the Norman veterans, "the last few years, it's been (the) 507th all the time."

Only the 507th and 513th give a gift to every veteran, said Williams, and "60 to 65 percent" of all gifts given come from the 507th and 513th.

This year, members and associates of the wing purchased gifts for 286 residents of the veterans' home, and several wing members personally gave gifts to those veterans.

Master Sgt. Christine Reed, the noncommissioned officer in charge of unit administration for the wing and an Angel Tree

participant for the past ten years, said there has been "lots more activity" this year than in years past.

Reed said that once the announcement for Angel Tree went out to the wing, "right off the bat" more than 25 groups and individuals selected multiple veterans' names.

Reed also said that although the last veteran's name had been selected just after Thanksgiving, there were still "inquiries for (veterans') names a week later."

Glass said that he usually purchases the last few gifts left over for the Angel Tree project, but said that when he went to sign up for the gifts, "there was nothing left at the end."

Glass said that taking part in the Angel Tree project is "humbling," adding that the wing members "are their families."

"This is a chance for us to make Christmas happen for them." **OF**



Photo by Chris Dobbs

Local Boy Scouts, the Okie Twisters motorcycle club, and members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group visited military veterans at the Norman, Okla., division of the Oklahoma Veterans Center on December 22, 2010, to give gifts as part of the center's annual Angel Tree Project. More than 280 veterans received a gift from local donors.

BOTTOM LEFT: Master Sgt. Daniel Bostwick (left) of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron chats with a resident.

TOP: Maj. Dwight Magnus (right), chaplain with the 507th Air Refueling Wing, helps a veteran open a gift.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs, Master Sgt. Carla Barber, Tech. Sgt. Eva Giesbrecht, Chaplain (Maj.) Dwight Magnus, Tech. Sgt. Jackie Harris-Sanchez, Master Sgt. Wendy Ellyson, Lt. Col. Rich Curry and Staff Sgt. Aaron Folsom pose for a group photo after giving gifts to veterans.



Photo by Chris Dobbs



Photo by Chris Dobbs

OPERATIONAL READINESS TRAINING UPDATES

by **Lt. Col. Bonnie Tremblett**

507 ARW Performance Manager

and **Lt. Col. Ken Humphrey**

507 ARW Chief of Plans

In case you haven't heard, the 507th Air Refueling Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection date has been changed from March 2012 to June 2012. Both Air Mobility Command and Fourth Air Force communicated the change:

"...Due to the realignment of AEF under the new B-band structure, both the 137th and 507th ARWs moved to a new band, thus making a March 2012

ORI impossible to conduct...507 ARW ORI has been rescheduled for 9-16 Jun 12 with the 161 ARW..."

What does this mean for our planning? Although we'd been working with the 164th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard, it means we'll now work with the 161st Air Refueling Wing out of Phoenix, Ariz.

Additionally, the 161st plans to participate in the Operational Readiness Training Program with readiness safeguard cadre from Volk Field, Wisc. 507 ARW and 137 ARW senior planners are scheduled

to meet their 161st counterparts in Phoenix. Their ORTP dates vary a little from what we had planned; regardless, we'll work together to either adjust our dates or theirs.

In the meantime, update your calendars for these new confirmed ORI dates and pass the information along to your people.

Our ORTP is scheduled for February 8-13, 2011, at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base.

ORTP attendees need to know the following information:



U.S. Air Force photo

TOP RIGHT, OPPOSITE PAGE: The M-50 Joint Service General Purpose Mask is the latest version of masks to be included with Air Force chemical gear. It offers the same level of protection against chemical, biological, and radiological threats as its predecessor, the MCU 2, but takes advantage of technological advancements such as a wider view, easier access to the drinking tube and an additional filter.

The additional photos are from the 507th Air Refueling Wing's operational readiness exercise at Alpena, Mich., in March 2007.



U.S. Air Force photo



U.S. Air Force photo

ORI/ORTP PREPARATION

- Hours are approximately 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.
- Tinker personnel will drive their POVs to the site.
- Hot lunch will be provided daily.
- Absolutely no personal cell phones are allowed.
- Tobacco use will be permitted only in designated areas.
- A command post phone number will be provided for all participants in case of emergency.
- The Exercise Evaluation Team, as well as readiness safeguard cadre and members of the 164th and 137th, will be on site to assist and observe.

Those selected for ORTP 1 and/or ORTP 2 training will need to bring/have the following:

- Airman's Manual (AFMAN 10-100)

- Reflective belt
- Web belt and canteen with water
- Military ID (a display armband will be issued at a later date)
- All Air Force-mandated computer-based training complete
- Mobility training gear, including the M-50 protective mask (shown in an image just below the end of this story).

ORTP selectees will be scheduled for and attend fitting, issue and training appointments for the M-50 protective mask. They should contact their respective unit schedulers or UDMs to make appointments.

While there are 100 new M-50 masks here on base in central storage, and all 507th members must accomplish a new mask fit test, ORTP 1, 2 and 3 participants will receive them first.

Those who have spectacle inserts will need to bring a prescription (not older than one year) to the base hospital for new inserts to be ordered.

Finally, remember that we are all guests at WRANGB, and need to put our best foot forward and be proud of our unit and what we bring to the fight.

Also, talk to your employers and your families and know we are thankful for their support. We will need it as we continue to ramp up for our 2012 ORI. Hopefully not much else will change; however, change is, after all, constant.

If you need additional information, ask your supervisor and read the periodic ORI/ORTP columns in future issues of the *On-final*. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding in this dynamic Air Force environment. **Of**



U.S. Air Force photo



U.S. Air Force photo



U.S. Air Force photo



U.S. Air Force photo

December - January promotions

Senior Airman:

Cullinan, Joseph E. 507 CES
 Drain, Cory R. 507 CES
 Lawrence, Tyler L. 513 AMXS
 Taber, Darryl A. 72 APS
 Tatro, David A. 507 CES

Staff Sergeant:

Anderson, Lena 507 AMXS
 Ison, Jaramei R. 507 SFS
 Routzahn, Carl E. 513 AMXS
 Staude, Tricia A. 507 MOF
 Tolson, James E. 513 MXS
 Wright, Patrice A. 507 FSS

Technical Sergeant:

Borquaye, Claudia 507 LRS
 Holland, William S. 513 AMXS
 Tate, Justin S. 970 AACs

Master Sergeant:

Carr, Travis S. 507 MOF
 Green, Jon W. 1 ASF
 Munsanto, Jevon T. 513 MXS



Photo by Lt. Col. Rich Curry

A different sort of sleigh Maj. Dwight Magnus, chaplain with the 507th Air Refueling Wing, and Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs, 507th Air Refueling Wing public affairs specialist, load up gift-filled stockings from the wing headquarters building to take to the Oklahoma City Area Command Salvation Army on December 6, 2010. Local reservists and their families filled more than 220 stockings with toys for needy children in the local area this year.

What do you think of the new *On-final*?

Do you like the changes you've seen from editions past? Are there changes or additions you'd like to see?

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs staff wants to hear from you! This is, after all, your paper.

We are also accepting questions for the "Ask a chief/colonel..." and "Getting fit to fight..." columns.

Please email your questions and/or comments to 507arw.pa2@tinker.af.mil.

507TH AIR REFUELING WING RECRUITERS

Master Sgt.
 Melissa Melichar
 (in-service recruiter)
 Tinker AFB, OK
 (405) 739-2980



Senior Master Sgt.
 Marvin Greene
 (senior recruiter)
 Tinker AFB, OK
 (405) 734-5331



Staff Sgt.
 Senecca Collins
 Tulsa, OK
 (918) 250-3400



Tech. Sgt. Jackie
 Harris-Sanchez
 Moore/Norman, OK
 (405) 217-8311



Master Sgt.
 Marcel Jacques
 Midwest City, OK
 (405) 733-9403

Tech. Sgt.
 Adam Thomas
 Midwest City, OK
 (405) 733-7639



Master Sgt.
 Ronald Gregory
 Altus, OK
 (580) 481-5123

