

# On-final

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma | April 2011 | Vol. 31, No. 4



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon needs volunteers

Members of the 507th ARW may volunteer as course marshals for the annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon scheduled for Sunday, May 1. The sign-up period ends April 15. For more information, contact Takesha Williams at 405-734-5363.

### Section of road on reserve campus closed until April 11

Reserve Road in front of Bldg. 1053, the new aircraft repair hangar, will be closed until April 11 due to ongoing construction. Traffic in front of Bldg. 1043, the 507th ARW headquarters building, will increase, especially during UTA weekends. Wing officials encourage increased caution and to anticipate detours.

### Wing HRDC plans enlisted workshop

The 507th ARW Human Resources Development Council's career enlisted workshop is scheduled for Monday, July 11. The signup period runs through the June 2011 UTA. All wing enlisted are encouraged to attend, but only the first 50 to sign up will be admitted. More information will follow in later *On-final* issues.

# 507th civil engineers return to native soil

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs

507th ARW Public Affairs Staff

More than two dozen Airmen from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron came home on March 9, 2011, after six months of tough living conditions, back-breaking labor and separation from their families.

The gathering at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, Okla., was a large and happy one, full of family and friends and a few fellow military members from the 507th CES and its parent unit, the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

While away, the Airmen engaged in work operations supporting joint expeditionary taskings, or JETs. Most of them worked "outside the wire" sorties in support of in-theater priorities, helping to maintain the infrastructure required to support the force surge.

But three of the Airmen focused their efforts on improving living and working conditions for other servicemembers stationed overseas.

### "Making the Army's life better"

Senior Airman Shawn Sing, a 507th CES heavy equipment operator for the past four years, left behind his family and his heavy equipment operator job at an Oklahoma-based construction company for a six-month-long stint in



Senior Airman Shawn Sing with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron poses with his wife, Rebekah, and sons Braden (bottom) and Mason in the terminal of Will Rogers World Airport on March 9, 2011, upon his return from a six-month-long deployment to Afghanistan. Sing's family were among more than 50 family members, friends and fellow reservists who welcomed the civil engineers home.

Afghanistan.

Sing arrived in September 2010 and worked in various locations throughout Afghanistan. Spending time at Bagram Air Base, he helped build up a new compound, working with

concrete, tents and electricity. Later he would travel out to smaller forward operating bases, or FOBs, and upgrade living conditions for American

see RETURN, page 6

# Chaplain's Corner: What 'horse' are you riding?

by **Chaplain (Maj.) Dwight Magnus**

507th ARW Wing Chaplain

Two Kentucky farmers who owned racing stables had developed a keen rivalry. One spring, each of them entered a horse in a local steeplechase.

Thinking that a professional rider might help him outdo his friend, one of the farmers engaged a crack jockey.

The two horses were leading the race at the last fence, but

it proved too tough for them. Both horses fell, unseating their riders. But this calamity did not stop the professional jockey. He quickly remounted and won the race.

Returning triumphantly to the paddock, the jockey found the farmer who had hired him fuming with rage. "What's the matter?" the jockey asked. "I won, didn't I?"

"Oh, yes," roared the farmer. "You won all right, but you still

don't know, do you?"

"Know what?" asked the jockey.

"You won the race on the wrong horse!"

The Bible tells us in Matthew 16:26, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

When we get to the finish line of life, we need to be sure we are riding the right horse.

What "horse" are you riding?

**O-f**

# Commentary: Trust but verify

by **Lt. Col. Erik Bowman**

45th Space Wing

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) -- One of the great things about being in the Air Force is the level of responsibility we get at a very young age.

What employer in the commercial world would let a 25-year-old staff sergeant be responsible for the mission success of a \$2 billion satellite?

What other employer would let a young lieutenant just out of college be responsible for an \$80 million aircraft?

As a group, we are entrusted with protecting the lives and liberty of our fellow Americans, and we execute deadly force to do so. We have been given tremendous powers and authorities to execute our mission.

But as Spiderman says, "With great power comes great responsibility." (Yes, I read a lot of comic books when I was younger.) We are responsible for ensuring mission success and protecting the public.

When you do the actual work yourself, you are directly responsible for all aspects of the job, but if you are a supervisor or overseeing contractors, it is more difficult. When someone else does the work, there is a tendency to be complacent and blindly accept what others do.

Yet you are still responsible. You need to make sure the job is being done right. To quote President Ronald Reagan, you need to "trust, but verify."

How do you do this?

The number one way is to

think critically. Avoid taking what is said at face value all the time. Ask probing questions. Get out in the field and observe operations. Break out your old textbook and do some math to check the work.

But you also have to verify what you do yourself. One of the best pieces of advice I've heard came from retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore in the book *We Were Soldiers Once...And Young*.

Every once in a while, you have to ask yourself, "What am I doing that I shouldn't be doing? What am I not doing that I should be doing?"

You may find what you are doing (or not doing) is not value-added or effective in accomplishing your mission.

**O-f**

## April 2011 enlisted promotions

### Airman:

Hardesty, Taelor M. 507 SFS  
Harris, Kevin J. 513 MXS

### Airman First Class:

Davis, Kali M. 507 LRS

### Senior Airman:

Hilderbrand, Jessica R. 35 CCBS  
Sorrels, Tyler 507 CES  
Stewart, Sarah E. 72 APS  
Straily, Paul M. 513 AMXS  
Truelove, David 507 CES

### Staff Sergeant:

Bennett, Miranda R. 507 FSS  
Decker, Jason A. 35 CCBS

Derenbecker, Ryan G. 513 MXS  
Fjeldsted, Justin 507 CES  
Flores, Hector 507 SFS  
Hise, Michael L. 72 APS  
Sallee, Michaelle N. 507 LRS  
Sing, Shawn 507 CES  
Smith, David D. 507 SFS  
Welliver, George H. 72 APS

### Technical Sergeant:

Elliott, Michael A. 507 MSG  
Floyd, Charlie C. 970 AACCS

## On-final

507th Air Refueling Wing  
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513 ACG PA Specialist

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*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

Osgood, Hans W. 507 MSG  
Peckinpugh, Thomas E. 513 MXS  
Stern, Cameron D. 513 AMXS  
Thompson, Chris A. 72 APS  
Thompson, Thomas C. 507 MSG

### Master Sergeant:

Clowdus, Angela D. 970 AACCS  
McNelly, Shannon D. 507 MSG

### Senior Master Sergeant:

Avery, Taunya L. 507 MXS

# Commentary: what our Reserve force brings to the fight

by Col. Steven Chapman

315th Airlift Wing

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. (AFNS) -- As commander of the 315th Airlift Wing here I sometimes wonder how many people actually know what we, in the Air Force Reserve, bring to the fight. We wear the same uniform, we use the same equipment, we maintain the same training requirements and we proudly serve side-by-side on deployments, in times of war and during humanitarian emergencies. We are virtually indistinguishable in just about every way, so why does the Air Force have an active-duty and Reserve force?

In a nutshell, the Air Force Reserve is a force multiplier. Throughout the Air Force you'll find reservists in every career field and every theater of operations. You'll find our reservists working as security-forces members, as firefighters on the flightline, as aircraft maintainers in the hangars and on the flightline, as aircrew

members, as logisticians, as aerial-port specialists, as administrative specialists, as explosive ordnance disposal technicians, as intelligence experts, as medical specialists and more.

While fulfilling about 20 percent of the Air Force's capability, the Air Force Reserve consumes only about 4 percent of the total Air Force budget. The cost/benefit ratio speaks for itself.

There are nearly 72,000 authorized reservists in the Air Force, but who are they? As reservists, they really are not part-time Airmen; they are citizen Airmen who often put their civilian lives and careers on hold to serve in uniform, and they do it in superb fashion.

A typical Reserve aircrew member spends approximately 120 days a year participating, while a maintainer or ground support technician participates approximately 80 days a year. This is a tremendous amount

of time when you consider these same people work roughly 240 days a year with their civilian employer. Add in family obligations and this becomes a balancing act of immense portions.

Reservists must constantly address three key components of their personal and professional lives, often called the reserve triad. A reservist must balance the needs of family and the needs of a civilian employer, and also meet stringent reserve requirements.

While this is a delicate balancing act, the added pressures are taken on freely by reservists. Imagine being called to the base to work on an essential mission, only to discover that your civilian employer is not happy because you have been spending "too much time away" from your job. It happens, and happens a lot.

This balancing act requires clear communication, effective

utilization of the reservist's time (remember, reservists have the same training requirements as all Airmen) and an overwhelming desire to serve. Despite these demands, our reservists answer our nation's call with the same quality and dedication as our active-duty brothers and sisters. Regardless of their career field, I am always impressed by their commitment to serve their country -- in many cases putting their lives on the line while doing so.

After serving in the Air Force Reserve for about 30 years now, I am pleased to see the lines distinguishing active-duty and the Reserve blur, while not losing our "Reserve" identity.

We train the same and we fight the same. We serve for the same reasons: for love of country and freedom.

I am proud of our reservists' ability to answer our nation's call with the same quality and dedication as our active-duty brothers and sisters. **O-f**

# Commentary: a good Wingman is always 'with'

by Maj. Jason Whittle

65th Contracting Squadron

LAJES FIELD, Azores (AFNS)

-- I have three small kids and I still haven't been issued a parenting manual. I've changed many diapers and still struggle.

You'll frequently see my children in mismatched clothes. That's because it was Daddy's turn to dress them. When I cook dinner, it looks more like a college kid's menu -- a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a banana, a cheese stick and some gummy bears.

When I'm tasked to clean the PB&J from my kids' hands, face, ears and hair, you can bet I'll miss most of it (incidentally, PB&J makes great hair gel).

Momma spends a lot of time fixing what I've goofed up. But all I have to do is lie on the floor and the kids come swarming, excited to jump on Daddy. Fortunately, their love isn't based on my skill -- whew! Sometimes I'm the punching bag, or trampoline, or even the tackling dummy. My kids just want to be with me.

We're social creatures, hard-wired to spend time with one another, help each other, talk, listen and enjoy the company of our friends and family.

Social networking sites help us stay in touch with friends, no matter the distance between us. Our cities and towns are full of people and we spend our

days surrounded by others. Yet many people still feel alone, unconnected and dissatisfied. We send emails to our family members, who may be in the same house.

Also, instead of visiting our friends, we exchange their conversation and company for a few typed words sent from phone to phone.

Now there are countless books and courses on leadership, parenthood, friendship and wingmanship. But I'm going to save you some time. There is a foundational truth that runs through all of these books and classes: *with*.

A good leader is *with* his people, talking, listening,

observing and simply being there. Good parents are *with* their children, playing, running, wrestling, and simply being there.

During dark times in my life, through the pain of loss or rejection, my friends have comforted me by being *with* me. I don't remember anything they said, but I remember their presence when I needed them. And your wingmen are by your side; they've got your back no matter the situation.

Put down the laptop, turn off the TV, and go be with people. Talk, listen and care.

"Half the battle is showing up," but sometimes it's the whole battle. **O-f**

# 513th ops superintendent: group's experience is our strength, but here's how to stay strong

by Chief Master Sgt. Carl Butler

513th Air Control Group  
Operations Superintendent

I'm going to share my perspective on what our strengths are and, hopefully, some vision of what we, as the 513th Air Control Group, should do to stay strong.

First and foremost, our ultimate functionality is to provide a surveillance

platform, the capabilities of which far exceed any other system in existence.

We provide that functionality with active reserve technicians that man the fort on a day-to-day basis and ensure the logistical support for traditional reservists are met. The TRs come in on a part-time basis to train and prepare for the day when the proverbial big red button gets pushed.

Without both, we cannot fully realize our potential.

One of our major strengths is our experience, especially given the technical complexity of the platform that we work on. Our experience is the difference between completing a mission during adverse conditions and not completing the mission.

Experience is the difference that ensures the E-3, and

the aircraft being controlled, are always flying as safe as possible. Experience is what helps our maintainers identify subtle symptoms that quickly point them to root causes of problems.

Ever since the 513th was stood up in 1996, experience has been our big selling point. I don't know the exact statics,

see *STRENGTH*, next page

## 513th ACG crew performs Sentry aircraft 'tail swap'

Story and photo by Senior Airman Caleb Wanzer

513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

Members of the 513th Air Control Group returned on February 26 from a mission to support Airmen deployed to Southwest Asia.

The crew, comprised of 10 Air Force reservists and five active duty Airmen from the 552nd Air Control Wing, flew an E-3 Sentry to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia to replace a similar aircraft in need of in-depth maintenance.

The E-3 Sentry aircraft are an integral part of the Coalition effort while deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, directing aircraft above Afghanistan in support of soldiers on the ground.

Replacing the aircraft within maintenance schedules is critical, said Lt. Col. Matthew Conrad, the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron commander.

"The E-3 aircraft are managed on a different schedule than the aircrews, with timelines for each jet to be maintained. If they aren't serviced at the required times, the reliability of the jets would be compromised," he



Maj. Robert Zeese, a navigator with the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, marks a flight training sheet at the navigator's desk on a E-3 Sentry aircraft in this undated photo. As part of a team from the 513th Air Control Group, Zeese helped perform an aircraft exchange, or "tail swap," of a Sentry in need of scheduled maintenance.

said.

"These swaps are a perfect opportunity for the Air Force Reserve to step up and get involved. They provide required flight time for training, allow a short-term way for reservists to contribute to the mission, and help reduce the workload for

our active duty counterparts," said Conrad.

The aircraft is not the only thing that benefited from the mission. Before departing Tinker Air Force Base, the E-3 Sentry was loaded with care packages and mission-essential equipment for the

aircrews and maintenance personnel currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

The care packages were donated from fellow members of the 513th ACG, and were distributed to 513th Airmen currently serving in the deployed location. **Of**

# 513th ACG husband, wife reunite on tail swap mission

Story and photo by  
Senior Airman Caleb Wanzer

513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

A husband and wife from the 513th Air Control Group were recently reunited at a deployed location.

Staff Sgt. Curtis Clowdus, a hydraulics mechanic assigned to the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, met up with his wife, Tech. Sgt. Angie Clowdus, during an aircraft exchange, or “tail swap,” at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on February 19.

A surveillance technician with the 960th Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron, Angie volunteered to deploy only three months after their wedding on October 8, 2010.

Curtis was tasked for a six-day mission to support the 960th EAACS, which operates the E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) airframe in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

“I was the first one off the jet, and she was waiting for me at the bottom of the stairs. It was awesome,” said Curtis about seeing his wife for the first time in two months.

The Clowduses spent part of their two-hour-long reunion on the jet which Curtis and his crew flew over for the tail swap. They also shared a meal at the flightline dining facility, or DFAC.

When asked about the deployment happening so soon after the wedding, Angie said, “We discussed the possibilities and options...and felt like it was the right thing to do.”

“It had been several years since I had deployed, and I felt like I needed to renew my Air Force obligations.”



Curtis said, “I wasn’t mentally prepared for the stress,” he said. “Just being separated was difficult.”

He remains hopeful, however. “We try to do the best we can to communicate with video chat and email,” he said. “I’m really looking forward to her being back home.”

Angie is also able to maintain an upbeat attitude about the separation. “Obviously, deploying is always somewhat difficult, but it was harder less than three months after embarking on a new life

together,” she said.

On the return flight, Curtis was beaming. He said he wished he could have spent more time with Angie, but he added that he was glad that he got any time with her at all.

The newlyweds say they haven’t had the opportunity for a honeymoon yet, but are planning to cruise the Mediterranean Sea when Angie returns from her deployment.

The couple say they are looking forward to “Operation Honeymoon Cruise,” as Angie dubbed the trip. **O-f**

## STRENGTH from previous page

but as I look back at who I was working with in my active duty days, I can think of two people that are now back in the 552nd ACG, and I can come up with about 25 people that are in the 513th.

In short, we have an abundance of experience! And, as such, we offer that great strength to the Air Force mission. The Air Force we live and work in the best there is...anywhere.

So how do we stay strong?

I believe we must honestly assess and bolster our own personal strengths and identify and diminish our weaknesses. In that vein, we must never allow ourselves to become complacent.

We supervisors and leaders must be sure to reward good performers and provide encouragement and proper guidance for all our Airmen. If you cannot provide that encouragement and guidance, then the resulting problems are your own.

When subordinates make mistakes, we must guide them and do not ridicule. We must lead by example and ensure all, whether ART or TR, are performing to the same standards.

And we must promote an environment where perceptions of improprieties, which only serve to break down discipline and morale, do not exist. It is absolutely necessary to maintain good discipline and morale on a daily basis and build upon our experience once that “big red button” is pressed.

**O-f**

## RETURN

from page 1

servicemembers stationed there.

Upon their arrival at one FOB, Sing said the Soldiers didn't have high expectations of the civil engineering Airmen.

"They didn't think we'd do much," said Sing.

Sing said at that time, soldiers ate their meals on picnic benches sitting outside – sometimes in cold, snowy weather – because they lacked proper facilities to eat indoors.

The soldiers also were bunked up in small living quarters that lacked heating and air conditioning. Sing knows this because, while he was working there, he lived in those

quarters and endured the same hardships his fellow brothers and sisters in arms faced on a daily basis.

While there, Sing and his crew constructed a fully functioning dining facility, or DFAC, one where more than 60 servicemembers could sit and be fed at a time. Although the Air Force civil engineers arrived with low expectations, they left with great appreciation from their Army hosts.

Staff Sgt. Elmer Swann, a mechanical electrician for the KC-135 Stratotanker, brought his liquid fuels specialist training to other deployed servicemembers.

Swann and his crew provided soldiers at another FOB an often overlooked luxury: plumbing.

He said these servicemembers had made do without showers, laundry facilities and sinks for long periods of time.

Swann added that they didn't even have proper facilities for going to the bathroom.

So, for 10 straight days, Swann and his crew ran piping from a local water well to a latrine and also to the FOB's technical operations center. This involved trenching nearly 200 yards of rocky earth.

How was it received? Swann said that the Soldiers there were "ecstatic" to be able to have running water, showers and the chance to wash their clothes.

Swann also admitted that his crew went without showers while the construction was going on.

And other servicemembers reaped the benefits of the civil engineers' deployment. Master Sgt. Deric Nixon, an electrician supervisor, was tasked with assigning material, supplies and equipment for other CE troops working at other FOBs, as well as serving as a liaison between the Air Force and other services for building projects.

Nixon said that there were many memorable scenarios during his time there, but one that sticks out to him is when he helped facilitate the construction of a building for a forward deploying surgical team, or FST.

His CE Airmen specially constructed a B-hut for the FST. Normally, B-huts are quickly constructed 18-foot-wide-by-



Family members of Tech. Sgts. William Hunter and Jason Schaefer pose with personalized banners to welcome their loved ones in the terminal of Will Rogers World Airport on March 9, 2011. Hunter, a pavements and equipment journeyman, and Schaefer, a utility systems journeyman, are members of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron.



Staff Sgt. Elmer Swann, a liquid fuels specialist with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, holds his grandson, Carter, in the terminal of the Will Rogers World Airport for the first time in more than six months.



Family members of 507th Air Refueling Wing Airmen gather with homemade signs to welcome their loved ones in the terminal of Will Rogers World Airport on March 9, 2011.

BACKGROUND IMAGE: Airmen with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron walk in silhouette through the terminal of Will Rogers World Airport on March 9, 2011, to meet their waiting family members and friends after being deployed to Southwest Asia for more than six months.

36-foot-long structures used for office space or regular housing, with two doors for entry and exit. However, Nixon's CE Airmen constructed this one especially for the FST, putting doors on every room.

The FST mentioned to Nixon the attention to detail the CE team paid while constructing the B-hut, adding that they put "a lot into their living conditions."

Nixon also said an Army captain, a brigade engineer he worked with, sent out memoranda asking for a permanent Air Force CE presence at his location. "The people and their positive attitudes were so important for that to happen," said Nixon.

**"Anxious to get back home"**

All while the team was making life better for their fellow servicemembers in Afghanistan, they were thinking of the lives and families they left back home.

Swann said the deployment, his first, was a difficult one in the beginning. He called home as often as he could, using the phones at morale, welfare and

recreation (MWR) facilities for 15-20 minutes at a time. He said he also would play cards, work out and listen to music to help pass the time while he was deployed.

Swann said he also liked the steak and lobster meals served on Fridays, known as "Surf and Turf."

Nixon said his family "did well" while he was deployed – his fourth in his career – although he said his wife and daughter were "sad to see me go." They were all able to prepare for the deployment, he said, with the process the Air Force does for its deploying Airmen.

"They're always ready for you to come home," said Nixon. "They do worry, since you're not able to tell them all the information you know about your trip."

Sing, a married father of two young boys, said he contacted his family as often as possible. He said he paid for the online face-to-face messaging service Skype, adding that it lessened the sting of this deployment, also his first. "I don't know

what I'd have done" without Skype, he added.

**"Like a dream..."**

As the time for redeployment neared, and the more often he called home, Sing said the anticipation increased on both ends of the line. "My wife couldn't sleep for the last week" before he came home, he said.

Swann said he was excited to get back home, and that excitement only grew as the time came closer to return. Swann said when he called his family, hearing about "the little things back home, such as the (Oklahoma) weather," made him long to redeploy.

Nixon and his family were also nervous about their upcoming reunion. "They were on edge a bit, especially as the time to return home came, and especially when they'd hear stories about casualties in the news," said Nixon.

But Nixon said he felt happy as the plane took off to bring him and his fellow CE Airmen back home.

Sing said that walking through the airport to see the throng of waiting family members and

friends was "like a dream."

And Swann said, that as he picked up his grandson, Carter, for the first time in six months, Carter "did not let me sit down."

Now that they're back home, they each have plans to unwind and spend quality time with their families.

Sing said that his younger son, Mason, was only a few months old when he deployed, and that he would "need to rebond" with Mason during his time off.

Nixon plans to visit extended family in Kansas City, Mo., and continue the habit of making breakfast for his family every morning. He says it's something he took for granted while he was gone, but now says it is "awesome."

And Swann plans to relax, adjust back to Oklahoma time, watch some television, work on his house and car, and take his son to Six Flags...once his grandson lets him sit down.

**O-F**

Information from Tech. Sgt. Gregory Newman was used in this report.

## Deadline near for public administration award

From AF Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- The deadline for submitting nominations for the 7th Annual Department of Defense David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award to the Air Force Personnel Center is May 1.

This award was created to recognize the contributions similar to those of David O. Cooke during his nearly five decades of federal service with the DOD. During his time in civil service, he was widely recognized as a public official promoting a cooperative spirit among leadership and improving operations.

This award recognizes non-managerial career civilian employees who demonstrate great leadership potential as future federal executives. To be eligible, nominees must have three to 10 years of civilian federal service by Dec. 31, 2010.

Nominees can be serving in any functional area and will be evaluated on their commitment to public service and demonstration of personal and professional integrity.

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, field operating agency, or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures.

Each MAJCOM, FOA or DRU may submit one nomination.

For more information on this and other Air Force recognition programs, visit the AFPC personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center toll-free at 800-525-0102. **Of**

# VA launches PSA for veteran suicide prevention

From Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Department of Veterans Affairs officials are reaching out to veterans in crisis and their families in a new public service announcement to raise awareness about suicide prevention resources, such as the Veterans Crisis Line.

"As more veterans return from Iraq and Afghanistan, the critical need for mental health care is rising," said Sonja V. Batten, the assistant deputy chief patient care services officer for mental health.

"VA is increasing its efforts to reach out to veterans in need and their families, to inform them about available services and programs."

The new television spot encourages veterans in crisis to call the crisis hotline number at 800-273-TALK (8255) and then push 1 on their telephone keypad to reach a trained VA mental health professional who can assist the veteran 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Suicide is preventable," Batten said. "Every veteran suicide is tragic and regardless of the numbers or rates, one veteran suicide is too many. We feel the responsibility to continue to spread the word throughout the nation that suicide prevention is everyone's business."

So far, more than 379,000 people have called the hotline, and more than 200,000 of these callers have identified

Image taken from [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

The above image is a screengrab from the Department of Health and Human Services-funded website [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org). The website offers links for suicidal veterans to chat online with trained professionals, as well as links for resources for veterans.

***“Every veteran suicide is tragic... one veteran suicide is too many.”***

themselves as veterans, family members or friends of veterans. The hotline has led to more than 13,000 rescues of actively suicidal veterans.

The hotline also operates an online Veterans Chat program, which provides veterans, their families and friends with the ability to communicate anonymously online in real-time with a trained VA mental health professional. Veterans Chat can be accessed through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's web page at [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx).

Through the hotline and Veterans Chat, VA can

connect veterans and their families with important services, including suicide prevention coordinators, as well as general inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services at VA medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics.

The hotline was started in 2007 as a partnership between VA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The PSA can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/user/VeteransHealthAdmin#p/u/1/PPL7CAHixQE](http://www.youtube.com/user/VeteransHealthAdmin#p/u/1/PPL7CAHixQE). **Of**

# Recent Supreme Court decisions affect servicemembers, veterans

by **Jim Garamone**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The U.S. Supreme Court has issued three decisions with military connections recently.

In what may be the most contentious of the cases, the court ruled that members of a Westboro, Kan., church have the right to picket at funerals for servicemembers killed in action.

The court reversed a lower court's March 1 decision and decided a reservist had been the victim of bias due to his military service. Also March 1, the court ruled that Veterans Affairs Department deadlines for veterans applying for benefits do not have "jurisdictional consequences."

In the first case, Albert Snyder, the father of Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who was killed in Iraq, sued the Westboro Baptist Church for picketing his son's funeral. A jury found the Westboro group, which says it conducts the protests because God hates the U.S. for its tolerance of homosexuality, liable for inflicting emotional distress on the Snyder family, intrusion upon seclusion and civil conspiracy.

The Supreme Court voted 8-1 to reverse the lower court ruling, saying the Constitution's First Amendment shields the group. The First Amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Also, the court ruled in favor of Army reservist Vincent Staub, who was fired in 2004

from his civilian position as an angiography technician at Proctor Hospital in Peoria, Ill., because of his military obligations.

Mr. Staub sued the hospital under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, which forbids employers from denying employment, re-employment, retention in employment, promotion or any benefit

of employment based on a reservist's military obligations. A jury found the hospital liable, but the 7th Circuit Court reversed the decision.

The Supreme Court reversed the reversal March 1, holding that if a supervisor motivated by antimilitary hostility performs an act intended to cause an adverse employment action, the employer is liable under the law.

In another decision, the court found that the deadline set up by the VA Department for filing supplemental disability benefits does not have jurisdictional consequence. The case, brought by David Henderson, who since has died, hinged on Henderson missing a 120-day deadline by 15 days. The court found for veterans, saying Congress regarded the deadline as a claim-processing rule. **O-f**

## Civilian employees should start education applications early

by **Debbie Gildea**

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - Hundreds of professional development opportunities are available annually for civilian employees. Many of those slots go unfilled, in part because eligible candidates wait until the last minute to prepare and staff their application packages.

For example, annually, 280 Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Training program positions, 100 Squadron Officer School slots, and 180 Air Command and Staff College Distance Learning Master's Program slots are available to civilians, according to Ms. Loretta Brown, civilian leadership development chief here.

Many people are under the impression that participating in the civilian developmental education program is only for senior civilians, or that they will be forced to relocate if they participate. That is not true in most cases.

"There are opportunities for employees at every pay and leadership level, varying from the CALT program to in-residence Air War

College," Brown said. "Only certain programs commit the employee to continued service agreements and relocation. But those programs are primarily senior leadership programs," she added.

The three civilian developmental education levels include tactical, operational and strategic.

Tactical level programs (new employee orientation and CALT) are primarily for new civilian employees, although civilians hired before NEO was implemented are encouraged to complete the seven-module online program. Major differences between NEO and CALT are that NEO is mandatory for all new civilian hires and must be completed within 90 days of accession, while CALT is optional, and only non-prior military employees are eligible.

Operational level programs include Education with Industry, SOS, ACSC DL Master's Program, and Intermediate Developmental Education Programs. Operational level programs exist to educate and develop interested mid-career employees. Each program has individual eligibility requirements, but all are designed to grow future civilian leaders.

Finally, strategic level options include senior developmental

education programs, like Air War College, and strategic leadership education programs, such as the Executive Development Seminar. Strategic level programs exist to prepare high-potential employees for increased responsibility and shared leadership. Again, eligibility requirements differ depending on the program selected, but a common denominator is that strategic level programs are for GS-14 and -15 employees, or their equivalents.

Information on all CDE programs is available on the AFPC Force Development web page at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>. Type *civilian force development* in the search field, and then select the green updated civilian force development homepage link.

Civilian employees who want to grow their careers have education opportunities at every level, said Brown. But to make sure they have every advantage, they need to get started on the application. The civilian developmental education call is open now with applications due to AFPC/DPIFDA by May 1.

For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102. **O-f**

# Reservists, guardsmen take part in ops building beautification project

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs

507th ARW Public Affairs Staff

Some chinquapins have found a new home here on the Reserve side of Tinker Air Force Base.

A chinquapin, by the way, isn't the name of a bird or even a new weapons system, but a species of tree.

More than 25 guardsmen, reservists and family and friends helped plant 59 trees around the new joint Guard-Reserve operations building on a sunny March 10 afternoon as part of a building beautification project.

John Krupovage, the natural resources manager with the 72nd Air Base Wing's Civil Engineer Natural Resources Office and co-supervisor for the project, said the project would normally cost the 507th and 137th Air Refueling Wings about \$17,000.

But due to proper planning and manpower, said Krupovage, the project cost the wings nothing out of pocket.

Krupovage said the trees were planted here on Tinker in the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006 and had been "trained" – pruned and straightened for maximum growth – here on Tinker by base personnel.

Donna Nolan, another project co-supervisor, lent her expertise to the project, volunteering with the base resources office to design the layout and select and prune the trees for planting.

Nolan, the wife of Tech. Sgt. Mike Nolan, a flight engineer with the 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron, has a degree in nature and culture and an emphasis in forest ecology and a minor in anthropology from



(TOP LEFT) A heavy equipment operator drills a hole for a tree to be planted.

(BOTTOM) Donna Nolan, a co-supervisor for the project, uses a reciprocating saw to trim roots off a tree about to be planted. (TOP RIGHT) A volunteer picks up a tree to plant in a freshly dug hole.

The tree planting project involved 59 trees, more than 25 volunteers, two hours and one sunny afternoon to beautify the exterior of the Reserve-Guard operations building on the reserve campouts of Tinker Air Force Base on March 10, 2011.



the University of California at Davis. "I have a degree in trees and people," she said.

Nolan said she specifically chose chinquapins and winged and cedar elms to plant for the project. The cedar elms in particular, she said, would grow very well in Oklahoma's rough soil.

Nolan also said she selected these trees to plant because they are "balanced for fall colors"

and would "increase the total leaf canopy on base."

Krupovage also said the trees would look beautiful once they mature, but said that the trees would do much more than that in the long run.

Krupovage quoted a statistic from the American Forestry Association that a mature adult tree can save a house or building about \$200 per year in costs for air conditioning, air pollution

and storm water control.

Krupovage also said that trees, being the "lungs of the environment," would help remove pollutants from the air and increase the overall environmental health of the base.

At first glance, said Krupovage, most will see the trees for their aesthetic purpose, "but over time, the costs saved should be evident." **O-f**

# 507th, 513th members help raise \$19K for state public television

by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs  
507th ARW Public Affairs Staff

Current and former members and a spouse of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group took part in the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority's annual spring fundraising drive.

Funds received during the statewide network's Festival 2011 pledge drive will enable OETA to purchase future programming.

This year, four 507th members and two 513th members and a spouse fielded phone calls from OETA viewers all over Oklahoma.

And for two of the volunteers, this experience is nothing new. Master Sgt. Takesha Williams with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Claudia Bourquaye of the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron volunteered before at OETA fundraising drives.

Bourquaye said this year she



U.S. Air Force photo

An eight-person group from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group volunteered March 13, 2011 with the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority's Festival 2011 fundraising drive. BACK ROW (left to right): Laura Walker, Tech. Sgt. Zachary Walker, Master Sgt. (ret.) Clifton Howard, Festival 2011 co-spokesman Gayland Stacy, Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, and co-spokesman Rick Leppert. FRONT ROW (left to right): Tech. Sgts. Claudia Bourquaye and Christina Lindstrom, Courtney Hawkins, and Master Sgt. Takesha Williams. 507th ARW and 513th ACG volunteers netted more than \$19,000 in pledges that day.

mainly talked to "older folks" who called in, saying they were "funny and charismatic" to talk to.

Williams said she chose OETA's Festival 2011 because

she "enjoy(s) volunteering my time to worthy causes."

Williams talked to people from across Oklahoma, and even some in towns she had never heard of.

By the end of their Sunday afternoon shift, the Tinker

Reserve group of volunteers garnered more than \$19,000 in pledges from across the state.

Bourquaye and Williams each said they enjoyed their time and would participate again the future. **O-f**



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. (ret.) Clifton Howard

Tech. Sgt. Claudia Bourquaye (left), Tech. Sgt. Christina Lindstrom (center) and Master Sgt. Takesha Williams take phone calls from donors during the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority's Festival 2011 fundraising drive. Bourquaye, Lindstrom and Williams are all members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. (ret.) Clifton Howard

Courtney Hawkins (left), a management assistant with the 507th Air Refueling Wing's command section, adjusts her headset as her father, Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, executive officer with the 513th Air Control Group, fields a phone call from a donor on March 13, 2011, during the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority's Festival 2011 fundraising drive.

# ESGR notes surge in nominations for Employer Support Freedom Award

ARLINGTON, Va. – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, announced a significant increase in the number of Guard and Reserve members who nominated their employers for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the Department's highest recognition given to employers for their outstanding support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. Over the 12-week nomination period that ended in January, 4,049 nominations poured in for a 64 percent increase over last year's total.

"A number of factors likely contributed to the dramatic upsurge in nominations this year, including a growing appreciation among our Reserve Component service members of their employer's pivotal role in our national defense evidenced by supporting them and their

families," said ESGR National Chair James G. Rebholz. "After nearly 10 years of continuous operations, America's employers remain steadfast in their support of Guard and Reserve employees and willing to share the sacrifices of their military service."

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide them outstanding support. Past recipients of the Freedom Award have been recognized for a broad range of initiatives, including maintaining Guard and Reserve employees' full salary, continuing their benefits, and sending care packages and providing assistance to their families while they are deployed.

The 2011 recipients will be announced this summer and honored in Washington, D.C.

at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on September 22, 2011. Recipients of the 2010 Freedom Award met privately with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. ESGR was established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award, please visit [www.freedomaward.mil](http://www.freedomaward.mil) or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-696-1171, ext. 539 or by email at [ESGR-PA@osd.mil](mailto:ESGR-PA@osd.mil). 

## AFRC vice CC to speak at state officers' convention

by 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Craig Gourley, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, will be the featured speaker at the Department of Oklahoma's Reserve Officers Association annual convention scheduled for May 13-14, 2011.

The two-day event, to be held at the Tinker Club, building 5603 on Tinker Air Force Base, will include a motivational speaker at a luncheon on May 14 and a newly developed leadership and professional development seminar afterwards.

Other scheduled speakers include:

- Lt. Gen. Richard Burpee, U.S. Air Force (ret.), former commander of Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center;
- Adm. Gregory Slavonic, U.S. Navy (ret.), former deputy to the Navy chief of information;
- Col. Norman Lamb, U.S. Army (ret.), former Secretary of Oklahoma Veterans Affairs;
- Master Sgt. James Mogren, 72d Security Forces Squadron and Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2010.

Officers and enlisted personnel of all pay grades are encouraged to attend.

For more information about schedule or costs, contact Maj. Layne Wroblewski during 507th ARW drill weekends at 405-734-0367 or at [layne.wroblewski@tinker.af.mil](mailto:layne.wroblewski@tinker.af.mil) or Lt. Col. Richard Stephens, Jr., U.S. Air Force (ret.), any time at 405-622-7022 or [richard.stephens.3@us.af.mil](mailto:richard.stephens.3@us.af.mil). 

## 507th Dental Squadron to conduct mass checkup

by Lt. Col. Rich Curry

507th ARW Public Affairs Chief

The 507th Medical Squadron has scheduled a mass dental checkup for 507th ARW members for Saturday, April 2, in the Heritage Room of the Tinker base hospital.

This event is designed to assist wing members currently in Class 4 dental status to receive a free dental exam. Reservists in a Class 4 dental are overdue for their annual dental exams.

Reservists overdue on examinations will not receive actual dental work at the event, "but it will allow those in Class 4 status the opportunity to identify

the dental work necessary, if any, and to upgrade their status to class 1,2 or 3," said Lt. Col. Bret Anderson, 507 MDS Chief of Dental Services.

Anderson said there are currently about 250 wing members identified as Class 4, a status which prohibits reservists from mobilization and deployment. Members who choose to remain in Class 4 status will be placed in a no-points-no-pay status, or could find themselves discharged.

"We understand that many may be reluctant to have a dental exam in fear of not being qualified due to advanced dental needs

and/or financial hardships," said Anderson. "That's why we hope we have full participation so those with financial issues could also receive advice and information on how to get dental work done.

"Sometimes all they really need is to develop a plan and then follow that plan, getting one thing corrected at a time, to demonstrate they are working to get their dental problems fixed."

Mandatory announcements to attend this event have gone out to all Class 4 reservists, but reservists who need this assistance may stop in on a walk-in basis. 

Feel free to cut out this sample personal [PFT training plan](#) from the Air Force Officer Training School.

## TINKER FITNESS CENTERS

### Gerrity Sports/Fitness:

Bldg. 6004; 405-734-5607  
 Mon.-Fri. 4:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
 Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Sun. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Holidays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Free group exercise classes

*Monday*  
 Combat conditioning, 6 a.m.  
 Kickboxing, 11 a.m.  
 Zumba, 4 p.m.  
*Tuesday/Thursday*  
 Power pump, 11 a.m.  
 Yoga, 5 p.m.  
*Wednesday*

Combat conditioning, 6 a.m.  
 Core strength, 11 a.m.  
*Friday*

Combat conditioning, 6 a.m.  
**Tinker Fitness Ctr. Annex:**  
 Bldg. 216; 405-734-2163  
 Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Closed Sat., Sun. and federal holidays

Free group exercise classes  
 Spin class: Mon./Wed./Fri.  
 6:15 a.m., Tue./Thu. 4 p.m.

**Tinker Fitness Center West**  
 (Tinker Reserve Campus)  
 Bldg. xxxx, 405-734-2227  
 Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m - 5 p.m.  
 Sat.-Sun. 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
 (UTA weekends only)

**Bldg. 3705 Fitness Ctr.**  
 405-734-4664  
 Mon.-Fri. 5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Closed Sat., Sun. and federal holidays

Group class schedule\*  
*Monday*

Yogalates, 3 p.m.  
 Cycling and abs, 4 p.m.  
*Tuesday*

Cardio sculpt, 4 p.m.  
*Wednesday*

Yoga flow, 3 p.m.  
 Zumba, 4 p.m.  
*Thursday*

Boot camp, 4 p.m.  
 \*Cost is \$3/class or \$20/month for unlimited classes.

**All hours subject to change**

Band	Current	Target	Target Training			Target
	Time (1.5 mile)	Time (1.5 mile)	Easy (per mile)	Tempo (per mile)	Interval (per 1/4m lap)	5k Time (3.1 miles)
1	08:00	07:45	06:59	05:29	01:14	16:44
	08:15	08:00	07:12	05:39	01:17	17:16
	08:30	08:15	07:26	05:50	01:19	17:49
	08:45	08:30	07:39	06:00	01:22	18:21
	09:00	08:45	07:52	06:11	01:24	18:53
	09:15	09:00	08:06	06:22	01:26	19:26
	09:30	09:15	08:12	06:32	01:29	19:58
2	09:48	09:36	08:31	06:47	01:32	20:43
	10:12	09:48	08:37	06:52	01:34	21:09
	10:24	10:12	08:54	07:08	01:38	22:01
3	10:36	10:24	09:05	07:17	01:40	22:27
	10:54	10:36	09:15	07:25	01:42	22:53
4	11:06	10:54	09:31	07:38	01:45	23:32
	11:24	11:06	09:42	07:46	01:47	23:58
5	11:36	11:24	09:57	07:59	01:49	24:37
	11:54	11:36	10:03	08:07	01:50	25:02
6	12:12	11:54	10:19	08:20	01:53	25:41
	12:30	12:12	10:34	08:32	01:56	26:20
7	12:54	12:30	10:50	08:45	01:59	26:59
	13:12	12:54	11:11	09:02	02:03	27:51
8	13:36	13:12	11:26	09:14	02:05	28:30
	14:00	13:36	11:47	09:31	02:09	29:21
	14:24	14:00	12:08	09:48	02:13	30:13
9	14:54	14:24	12:29	10:05	02:17	31:05
	15:18	14:54	12:55	10:26	02:22	32:10
	15:48	15:18	13:16	10:43	02:25	33:02
	16:24	15:48	13:42	11:04	02:30	34:06
	16:54	16:24	14:13	11:29	02:36	35:24
	17:36	16:54	14:39	11:50	02:41	36:29
	18:12	17:36	15:15	12:19	02:47	38:00

### To determine your personal training plan:

- 1) Run the 1.5 mile portion of the PFT and record your time here:

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- 2) Find the closest time to yours in the left-hand column of the chart to the left and look across the line to see your training times.

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- 3) Based on the time you are running, the target time is the next appropriate level you should aim for. Trying to do too much too soon will only lead to injury.

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- 4) Stay with your target training until you can run at your paces for a couple weeks, then run another 1.5 mi diagnostic and see where you are.

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- 5) An optimal training week is described in the chart at the bottom. To improve your pushups and situps, do strength training exercises that target the chest, shoulders, arms, and abdominals on your easy or non-running days.

**The easy run (E)** is a recovery run and should be a nice, easy jog for 20 to 40 minutes. This run allows your body to recover from the long run, while still adding miles onto your week, thereby getting your body used to running.

**The tempo run (T)** is a hard, controlled run, simulating the effort of racing. Warm up for 5-10 minutes, then run 1 mile at your tempo pace, walk a lap (400m) to recover. Repeat for a total of 3-5 miles. End with a 5-minute cool-down jog. Bands 7,8,& 9 will run 8 minutes at tempo pace, walk 3-4 minutes to recover, and repeat 3-5 times.

**The interval workout (I)** is run on the track. The difference between this and a tempo run is that a speed workout is faster and shorter. Do a 5-10 minute warm-up jog and then do quarter-mile (400m) repeats. Run 1 lap at your interval pace, then jog 1 lap to rest, then repeat. Jog for 5-10 minutes to cool down and stretch.

**The long run (L)** is critical physically and psychologically to your training program because it builds endurance and overall cardiovascular fitness. It will make the 1.5 mile run seem short and easy. The long run is usually on the weekend, so you have time to run the recommended miles. Shoot for the distance or sustained pace over 60-90 min. The long run is done at the same pace as your easy run.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sunday
1	3miE+Strength	Strength	3mi Tempo	Strength	3x400m I	Rest	4-6mi L
2	3miE+Strength	Strength	3mi Tempo	Strength	4x400m I	Rest	5-7mi L
3	3miE+Strength	Strength	3mi Tempo	Strength	5x400m I	Rest	7-9mi L
4	3miE+Strength	Strength	4mi Tempo	Strength	6x400m I	Rest	8-9mi L
5	3miE+Strength	Strength	4-5mi Tempo	Strength	6x400m I	Rest	9-10mi L

# On-final goes paperless

## Tinker Reserve newsletter goes all-digital after 31 years

by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs

507th ARW Public Affairs Staff

It's the end of an era, but also the beginning of an "e-" era.

After 31 years of publication, the *On-final* has become a paperless publication.

The *On-final*, the official newspaper for the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group, launched its initial issue in 1980 following a previous wing newspaper called the *Thunderchief*.

The 507th was established at Tinker Air Force Base in 1972 and flew the F-105 Thunderchief aircraft. When the wing transitioned from the F-105 to the F-4D Phantom, officials opted to rename the paper so it would not to reflect the weapons system flown but to give it a more general name. Otherwise, the paper would have needed to be renamed several times over the following years.

The factors driving the decision to cease printed versions included recent Air Force instructions prohibiting the use of non-appropriated funding for printing newspapers, as well as the recently released DoD Efficiencies Report, which outlines the need to reduce expenses wherever possible.

"We knew this day would eventually arrive; we just couldn't predict when," said Lt. Col. Richard Curry, chief of public affairs for the 507th ARW. Curry said that he has been involved with publishing the *On-final* for 30 of the past 31 years.

"Because we knew this day would come we tried to provide for a transition, producing both an electronic version and the



Above is an image of the front page of the first issue of the Thunderchief, the newsletter published for the 301st Tactical Fighter Wing. In 1980, the F-4D Phantom would replace the F-105 Phantom Thunderchief as the primary aircraft flown here at the Reserve part of Tinker. Instead of naming the publication after the primary aircraft at the unit -- which would ultimately change twice more over the years -- the name *On-final* was chosen and has stayed the same ever since.

print version of the *On-final* over the past few years."

Reservists receive a message monthly with a hyperlink to the electronic version.

"We hope the *On-final* has proven itself as a valuable communications tool to both commanders and reservists," said Curry. He added that the newsletter also provided additional value as a wing outreach tool.

"We regularly mailed out the paper to local chambers of commerce, state elected officials, Oklahoma congressional representatives and their staff and to former members and retirees who simply wanted to stay connected," Curry said.

Across the Air Force, other wings have already ceased newspaper production and instead produce electronic versions, or have simply gone to a completely web-based

method of communicating their wing news to the general public, said Curry.

"We're moving toward a leaner Air Force and have to accomplish our mission with fewer people," said Curry. "So we may also have to go to a completely web-based system one day."

"That means we wouldn't produce the electronic version anymore."

Curry added, "However, for now the transition to digital may provide our office the opportunity to explore new digital innovations, such as imbedded video on *On-final* pages and page-turn tools to give you the 'feel' of holding a paper copy."

The *On-final* will still be published monthly on the 507th ARW's official website, [www.507arw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.507arw.afrc.af.mil), and digital copies will still be emailed each month to all members of the wing and the 513th Air Control Group.

"For now, we're going to keep the *On-final* going as long as we can," Curry said. **Of**

### UTA SCHEDULE

#### FY 2011

April 2-3

May 14-15

June 4-5

July 9-10

August 6-7

September 10-11

#### FY 2012

October 1-2

November 5-6

December 3-4

\*UTA dates subject to change