The official publication of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and the 513th Air Control Group

Vol. 31, No. 10

Tinker Reservists Reflect On And Remember 9/11

Oct 2011

PLUS:

Tinker Reserve Holiday Programs Kick Off
Wing Celebrates Family Day 2011
Colonel Glass, Chief Long Bid 507th ARW Farewell

Commentary

Moving On... by Col. Jeffery R. Glass Commander, **507th Air Refueling Wing** I cannot believe that I arrived at the 507th more than five years ago; the time has flown by. The wing has gone through numerous changes and challenges during my time here.

We have embraced the push to everything electronic; we were the first wing to do decorations on vPC-GR, as well as the first wing to volunteer to move the inspection process to MICT. Through this, we taught ourselves how to build OPR/EPRs and push them through vPC-GR. By working all of these new processes we have greatly improved the wing.

Before we started, we had individuals that had gone 20 years without a decoration. We have fixed that process and have caught up on all backed up decorations. Our performance report process was hard broke, though the changes will have continually led Fourth Air Force with the least amount of late OPR/EPRs. By going to MICT, our UCI was the best in the 507th history. We still have to get better on all of these processes, but with all of your hard work, I know we can get closer to a perfect rating.

Five years ago when I assumed command, I was repeatedly told how ready this wing was for war. But shortly after the ORI, we found that the wing needed some improvement. You all embraced the effort and through a lot of hard work greatly improved the wing to the outstanding mission ready status this wing is at today. I expect to see great results in the upcoming ORI this year.

The wing has continually amazed me in the volunteer spirit that it displayed. We averaged almost 400 deployments per year in support of AEF taskings. That percentage of the wing per year is as great as any reserve or active duty unit and you continue to go over and over again without complaining. You are all true American patriots. Please thank your employers and families for the support they have given all of you for this great number of deployments you fill.

I have been at 12 locations during my career and at each base one can hear how great the civilian community support is at each location. I can tell you all that the support here in Oklahoma is second to none.

Lastly, I must thank my wife Kim, without whose support



I would not have been able to accomplish everything that I have here and with my career. I would also like to thank her for the hard work she has done to support the wing, everything from cooking potato salad for a thousand people at Family Day to calling families of deployed members. I would also like to pass on to the 507th ARW her thanks for letting her be part of the team here.

As I move on with my career, I will always consider myself an Okie.

On the cover...

Bilharz Tech. Sgt. Mike and Senior Airman Patrick Broadway, Chase Blair and Matthew Whitson stand vigil at the Tinker Air Force Base Wright Flyer Memorial Park on the morning of Sept. 11, 2011. As part of the base's commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, these and other Airmen stood vigil in shifts at the park's flagpole for a 24-hour period starting at 11 a.m. the day before. Read about some Tinker reservists' memories of and reactions to 9/11 on pages 6-13.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Vencill)



My Farewell... by Chief Master Sgt. Tina M. Long Command Chief, 507th Air Refueling Wing Five years, two months and 19 days ago – it seems like yesterday – Colonel Glass told me he had selected me to be his command chief.

I resigned my position as an ART to join the majority within AFRC and become a traditional reservist. I accepted the honor with delight and humility. Although I'm highly biased, I believe Colonel Glass and I have made a great command team. Together, we have seen the wing through the many challenges, peaks and valleys of these past years. It is not possible to go through times like those we've faced here in the wing without building incredible working relationships, sharing the duty of uplifting *esprit de corps* and making unforgettable friendships. It will be my cherished privilege to hold onto those for the rest of my life.

Colonel Glass, I appreciate your confidence in me and my abilities. You and Kim are my trusted confidants and true comrades, for your leadership and friendship I pledge my never-ending gratitude.

To my fellow TR, wing vice commander Colonel Mahon, thank you for your ability to keep things on the lighter side while demanding accountability within the wing. (And, of

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



course, the use of your wall locker has been greatly appreciated.) In all truth, working with the entire command staff has been the best experience of my career and an absolute pleasure. Thanks for keeping me straight and somewhat on time...you all ROCK!

To the group commanders, group superintendents and chiefs, my admiration for your devotion to duty and fortitude of spirit is immeasurable. You're all great leaders who I know will transition the wing through the ORE and ORI with skill and ease. Although some of you, (Lt Col Lutz) think I'm (perhaps) not in my right mind, you've all been supportive advocates of my direction and stance with our enlisted members.

To the men and women of the 507th ARW, it has been an absolute honor to stand beside you as your command chief. You've been to all corners of the world supporting major conflicts, operations and natural disasters. You've delivered everything asked of you on time and on target, with skill, precision and with a dignified smile. You never cease to amaze me and because of that, I am proud to be one of you, an "SH Okie", Forever Ready, Always There!

As I move on to another position, I will always treasure memories of the 507th for what has truly been the highlight of my career.

Finally, as Colonel Glass always reminded us about families – without them and their support, we would not be able to do the things that we do. This is something that I believe in wholeheartedly. And so, to my husband Randy, thank you so much for all the encouragement and support you've given to me over these wonderful years. You have been my cheerleader, my rock and my best friend. For that, I love you with all my heart.

News

Officials announce launch of three Tinke

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

Officials from the 507th Air Refueling Wing, the 513th Air Control Group and the Norman, Okla., division of the Oklahoma Veterans Center declared last month the start of three holiday outreach projects for 2011.

Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, executive officer for the 513th ACG, said that preparations were underway for Operation Holiday Spirit to provide for Tinker reservist and Oklahoma Air Guard families.

Mr. Glen Williams, recreation therapist with the Norman veterans center, requested donations for the Angel Tree Project benefitting residents there.

And Chaplain (Maj.) Dwight Magnus, wing chaplain for the 507th ARW, received empty Christmas Santa Stockings from the Salvation Army's Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Command to fill for needy children.

OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Hawkins, the chairman of OHS, said the program began in 1999 as a way to help needy Reservist families at Christmastime. Since then, reservists and Guardsmen have donated more than \$115,000 to purchase food and gifts for Airmen who need help around the holidays.

Donations come from members throughout the 507th and 513th, said Hawkins, but the biggest source of funds is the OHS annual steak supper fundraiser. Usually scheduled on the Friday night before each



▲ Maj. Dwight Magnus (left), wing chaplain of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, and Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs, 507th Air Refueling Wing public affairs specialist, load up giftfilled stockings to take to the Salvation Army's Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Command on December 6, 2010. Local reservists and their families filled more than 220 stockings with toys for needy children in the local area last year. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Rich Curry)



▲ Col. Jeffrey R. Glass (left), commander of the 507th Air Re of the Oklahoma Veterans Center open a gift on December Refueling Wings and the 513th Air Control Group have donat as part of the Angel Tree Project. (U.S. Air Force photo)

December's monthly UTA, attendees get a complete steak supper for \$25 per person. 100% of the proceeds benefit OHS and, thus, Oklahoma Air Guard and Tinker Reserve families in need.

According to statistics, monetary donations to OHS have increased more than eightfold since 1999; the first year's donations totaled \$2,714, but the donation tally for 2010 was \$23,489. Last year, 235 people gathered to share a meal and raise funds for OHS. Altogether, 186 Guard and Reserve families have benefited from OHS since its inception.

"The location of the annual fund raiser steak supper is up in the air, due to the growth of the event," said Hawkins. However, he said the event is scheduled for Friday, December 2, at 6 p.m.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Started as a joint project in 1996 between Tinker reservists, soldiers with the 95th Training Division out of Fort Sill, Okla.,

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er reserve signature holiday projects



fueling Wing, helps a resident of the Norman, Okla., division 21, 2006. Since 1999, members of the 507th and 137th Air ed gifts to residents of the veterans center at Christmastime

and some local churches and businesses, ATP gives gifts around Christmastime to residents of the Norman, Okla., division of the Oklahoma Veterans' Center.

The process is simple: wing members select one or more veterans to sponsor, purchase and wrap their requested gifts, then bring them back to the wing. Volunteers take those gifts to the veterans' home in Norman to distribute on the home's annual holiday party.

Originally, sponsors chose the veterans' names and requests from tags or slips of paper hanging from a tree in the lobby of the wing headquarters building. Since last year, however, due to there being so many veterans in need, their information is now stored in a spreadsheet.

Regardless of the way it is run, the ATP is "a wonderful thing for our veterans," says Glen Williams, a recreational therapist for the veterans' center. "They've been doing this for several years," said Williams, adding that the staff and residents there appreciate what ATP does.

The deadline for donating gifts for the ATP is Friday, December 16. Volunteers are scheduled to take the gifts out to the veterans' center December 19, the following Monday. And veterans' center officials plan to hand out the gifts December 20.

CHRISTMAS SANTA STOCKINGS

Magnus said the 507th ARW has been involved with the Salvation Army's Christmas Santa Stockings project for about 10 years, adding that the wing is currently the sole contributor of stockings from personnel on Tinker Air Force Base.

The stockings go to less fortunate children in the Oklahoma City metro area, said Magnus.

To participate, members may visit the chaplain's office in the basement of the wing headquarters building, pick up a stocking and an information list, then fill the stocking with gifts on the list for children who need them.

The chaplain's office staff will then deliver the filled stockings to the Salvation Army just before Christmas to deliver to children in need.

To take part in Operation Holiday Spirit, the Angel Tree Project or the Christmas Santa Stockings drive, contact your respective unit's POC. A complete list of POCs is on page 20.



▲ Chief Master Sgt. Steve Wright (left) from the 507th Maintenance Group, acknowledges a bidder while Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gaspar from the 507th Operations Support Flight announces the bidding level on an auction during the Operation Holiday Spirit steak supper fundraiser on December 3, 2010. Members of the 507th and 137th Air Refueling Wings and the 513th Air Control Group met at the Del City, Okla., VFW hall to raise money for OHS through auctions for items such as the autographed University of Oklahoma football helmet shown in this photo. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Ten Years Later

Tinker reservists reflect on and remember Septe Story by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs

A memorial flag is illuminated near the spot where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Brandan W. Schulze)

ember 11, 2001



To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America on 9/11, three Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and another from the 513th Air Control Group shared their 9/11 stories with the On-final.

What was your rank and duty title/position on 9/11?

CAPT. BENJAMIN YODER, 465TH ARS assistant chief of wing plans: I was a staff sergeant and an instructor for airborne missions systems (AWACS).

MAJ. DENNIS SIVERT, 507TH LRS commander: I was a major and commander of the 507th Security Forces Squadron.

SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT S. HALL, 513th OSF operations superintendent: I was a staff sergeant and a scheduler for surveillance.

How did your morning start out?

SIVERT: I had a typical commute to my job at the VA medical center.

HALL: My truck broke down in front of the Oklahoma City fire department station by the old GM plant.

SENIOR MASTER SGT. RODNEY MESENBRINK, 507th MXS propulsion flight chief: Very normal. I attended my usual meetings and had an equipment class that morning.

How did you hear about the attacks?

MESENBRINK: The instructor <code>[interrupted our training]</code> class, shut all the doors and told us what was happening and that the class was canceled and we needed to return to our duty stations.

YODER: While listening to the radio on my normal commute to work, I heard a report that an airplane flew into



A solitary firefighter stands amidst the rubble and smoke in New York City in this undated photo. Days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, fires still burned at the site of the World Trade Center. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Watson)

An unidentified rescue worker surveys a portion of the fuselage of United Airlines Flight 175 on the roof of WTC 5 in this undated photo. UA Flight 175 struck the South Tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. (FEMA news photo)



the World Trade Center. At the time I had just finished my private pilot's license at the University of Oklahoma flight school. My initial thought was how difficult it would be to actually fly into a building.

HALL: I had gone into the fire department to borrow a set of jumper cables, and one of the firefighters said someone just flew his airplane into one of the Twin Towers in New York. No one realized at that moment we were under attack. So I stood in their day room for a couple of minutes and watched the report, then went back out and was able to start my truck and then headed back to the squadron. Several members had started gathering around the TV at the squadron, as the second plane struck the other tower, and we knew then something horrible was going on.

What was your initial reaction and feeling?

YODER: I was disgusted at how blatant an error it was for a pilot to fly into a building by accident. Knowing what it would take to make that big of an error, I couldn't believe that it happened. Then I gave pause for the outside chance that the pilot had a stroke or something out of the ordinary.

 $\it SIVERT:$ My initial reaction was that this was definitely no accident and the

collision avoidance systems on a modern aircraft wo warning to veer away from the towers. I also though the World Trade Center and the jihadists in that yea one day to complete their mission.

As the SFS commander, I stayed in my car, called my assistant ART at the time, then-Tech. Sgt. David Die heading to Tinker immediately. I then called my bos that due to the unusual circumstances, I was heading He understood completely. By the time I arrived at n had hit the Pentagon. We all knew then that this wa began an immediate telephone recall to all of our sq on their status and see if they would perhaps have in knew the security measures were about to dramatica attacks.

HALL: My initial reaction was like the firefighter's; fly into a building that big and not mean it, when the reporter was still reporting that it appeared someone believed to be a private plane into the tower.

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uld have provided ample ht about the 1993 attack on r stating they would return

v office on base to let my ckson, know that I was as at the VA and told him to the base to lend a hand. my office, the third plane a planned attack. We uadron members to check nmediate availability, as I lly increase based on these

how does someone just e sky is clear? The news e had flown what was ◀ (Left to right) Staff Sgt. Aimi Mlekoday, Chief Master Sgt. James Young and Master Sgt. Wendy Ellyson of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron and ROTC Cadet Brodie Ellyson stand vigil at the Tinker Air Force Base Wright Flyer Memorial Park on the morning of Sept. 11, 2011. As part of the base's commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, these and other reservists stood vigil in shifts at the flagpole for a 24hour period starting at 11 a.m. the day before.

Senior Master Sgt. Jodie Schaefer, operations management superintendent for the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, wears fire fighting gear while climbing stairs to commemorate firefighters' efforts on 9/11.



▼ Firefighters from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron climb stairs at the training watch tower.

507th Air Refueling Wing firefighters, to remember the firefighters and first responders who climbed 100 flights of stairs in the Twin Towers on 9/11, themselves climbed 100 flights of stairs in full firefighter equipment at the training watch tower on September 10, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photos)



What happened the rest of the day?

HALL: We all were glued to the TV the rest of the day saying nothing.

MESENBRINK: When I got back to my office and found out what was really happening, we started to get all <code>[our refueling]</code> jets ready to go if they were needed. And, of course, some left that very afternoon.

YODER: I arrived at work five minutes later and saw everyone huddled around the TV watching the coverage. Just a moment later we all watched in horror as the second plane hit the second building. We first saw it as a live shot of the first building. It caused confusion. We couldn't figure out how they could replay the accident while we were watching the building burning.

Then it was clear it was a second plane and the other tower. Once that happened, all hell broke loose. We immediately

postured for attack. It only took 15 minutes for an "all-hands" briefing that put us in DEFCON 4. The atmosphere was frantic with anger towards the unknown offender. *SIVERT:* The initial shock of the day's events kept everyone glued to the television to get more and more information on the attacks. Of course, the towers collapsed under the intense heat and weakened

structure, adding more disbelief that this was really happening on American soil.

I attended the Tinker Air Force Base CAT and the increased measures to go immediately to FPCON Delta prevented anyone from entering or leaving the base for several hours. There were still news reports of the missing passenger jet and where it was headed after the FAA grounded all flights in the US. (I received two phone calls from two prior members who had left the SFS, asking me if they could immediately return to a duty status within our squadron. One of them -- Senior Master Sgt. Daryl Flanders -- is still serving with us today.)

After ascertaining that none of our squadron was in New York or Washington and that they were all OK, I attended several meetings at the base crisis action team and remained on-call to them for emergency message traffic. I was also corresponding with the Fourth Air Force on our status and making phone calls on their behalf to assist in locating critical personnel. I'm not sure when I left that day, but I know it was well after midnight.

What did you do when your day ended and you finally got home?

 $\Upsilon ODER$: That day was the longest day I can remember. After returning home, my wife and I didn't talk except to express horror at the sight of what happened. A national pride and resolve was building and we simply reflected without words.

SIVERT: When my staff and I ensured there was no immediate message traffic to answer, I drove home dog-tired and hugged my (then) wife. I called my daughter, who lives in San Antonio, to let her know I was fine and checked on her status. I took a shower and tried to sleep, but could not. I found myself channel-surfing to keep up with the latest news channels on the unfolding events of 9/11. I think I finally drifted off to sleep for about three hours before heading back to the base the next day.

What did you think would happen in the future after the attack?

MESENBRINK: It was tough coming to work the next day,

"It changed all of us for the rest of our lives to know that a group of terrorists can do those types of things to innocent people."

-Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Mesenbrink on the effects of 9/11

especially having to wait several hours to even get to the gate. I didn't really know what to expect for our future at that time. The stress level for all of us was high not knowing what was about to happen next. $\Upsilon ODER$. There were po

YODER: There were no thoughts of increased operations tempo. We didn't know who was behind this for a long time. As such, once we found out,

we didn't fear increased ops tempo because it wasn't a nation state. Air Force and AWACS warfare was not geared toward this type of engagement.

SIVERT: One thing I knew for sure was that the base security would indeed change to a restrictive posture where, at least initially, it would be virtually impossible to get civilians and vendor shipments on base for routine business. Only after listening to President Bush as he addressed the nation that day did I realize that SF would be deploying en masse. What we did not know at the time was for how long and exactly where we would deploy. But, we would find that out soon enough...in fact, I was heading to 4 AF by the middle of October, 2001.

How did 9/11 change your duties/job or your way of life?

MESENBRINK: It changed all of us for the rest of our lives to know that a group of terrorists can do those types of things to innocent people.

YODER: That day shaped my Okie career. Without knowing it, my life changed from what was shaping up to be a normal tanker pilot career — pulling alert and doing business efforts — to deployments every 14 months. My life and career are now Southeast Asia-centric, and I don't foresee a change anytime soon.

Chaplain's Corner

Commentary: Having a bad day?

by Chaplain (Maj.) Dwight Magnus 507th ARW Wing Chaplain

A recent request for sick leave to the U.S.S. *Saratoga* read:

Dear Captain, When I got home I found that my father's brick silo had been struck by lightning, knocking some of the bricks off at the top. I decided to fix the silo, and so I rigged up a beam, with a pulley and whip at the top of the silo, and hoisted a couple of barrels full of bricks to the top.

When I got through fixing the silo there were a lot of

bricks left over. I hoisted the barrel back up again, secured the line at the bottom, and then went up and filled the barrel with extra bricks. Then I went down to the bottom and cast off the line. Unfortunately, the barrel of bricks was heavier than I was and before I knew what was happening, the barrel started down and jerked me off the ground. I decided to hang on, and halfway up I met the barrel coming down and received a severe blow on the shoulder. I then continued on up to the top, banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers jammed in the pulley.

When the barrel hit the ground it busted the bottom, allowing all the bricks to spill out. I was now heavier than the barrel and so started down again at high speed. Halfway down I again met the barrel and received severe injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground I landed on the bricks, getting numerous painful cuts from the sharp edges.

At this point I must have lost my presence of mind because I let go of the rope. The barrel then came down and struck me another heavy blow on the head, putting me in the hospital for three days. I respectfully request five days extension of leave.

Guess this guy needs to brush up on his ORM. But we have all had tough days, the ones that go from bad to worse. How should we handle them?

Peter reminds us to "cast all our cares/anxieties on Him (God), because He cares for you." I hope you have a great sense of the love of God, who does care about our bad days and our good ones.

THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN. I AM A WARRIOR. I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN. MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN. I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE, A TRADITION OF HONOR, AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN, Guardian of Freedom and Justice, My Nation's Sword and Shield, Its Sentry and Avenger. I defend my country with My Life.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN: Wingman, Leader, Warrior. I Will Never Leave an Airman Behind, I Will Never Falter,

AND I WILL NOT FAIL.





►▲ Families of the Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing gather in the wing's main hangar to eat lunch and relax at the Wing Family Day on September 10, 2011. The wing puts on a Family Day celebration annually to thank the Airmen's family members for the sacrifices they make throughout the year.

▲ Airman 1st Class Taelor Hardesty (right) notifies his 507th Security Forces Squadron coworkers about another person he's "arrested," Maj. Stan Young, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron commander. 507th SFS personnel raise funds for their squadron's morale fund by "arresting" members of the wing and putting them in a makeshift "jail" for a dollar per minute. The "jail" netted the 507th SFS morale fund almost \$500.

Family Day 2011 included plenty of attractions for people of all ages.

▲ Two eventgoers showed off their karaoke skills on stage.

► Attractions for children included a football toss, face painting and inflatable bounce castles.

b Boy Scouts and their adult leadership from the local area volunteered to serve food to Airmen and their families at Family Day 2011.

(U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs)

507th ARW's Fam





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those who love those who serve

ily Day 2011 celebrates efforts, sacrifices of Airmen's families







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507th ARW commander completes his ' SATURATED SE

Col. Jeffrey R. Glass, commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, was recently selected to be the e requirements for Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters in Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

On Sept. 26, Glass took his last flight in a KC-135 Stratotanker as wing commander. And as per tradiwomen of the 507th ARW met Glass on the runway to congratulate him in a very wet way on his final fli-Glass was showered with more than water; he got sprayed with sparkling wine, a fire extinguisher and, five years of leadership of the 507th ARW. (*Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Zach Jacobs*)

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▲ Glass drives his KC-135 Stratotanker through a stream of water shot out by a Tinker Air Force Base firefighter crew.

• Glass moves his aircraft to its parking spot on the reserve runway.

► **V** Glass stands in a puddle of water after having been doused with a bucket of water by his fellow crewmembers while still on the aircraft.

◄ Glass tries to avoid getting doused with a bucket of water on the flightline after getting out of the aircraft.

fini flight,' gets a

director of strategic planning programs and

ition for what's called a "fini flight," men and ght as commander of the wing.

, above all, congratulations and thanks for his







▲ Col. Jeffery R. Glass (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long (center), commander and command chief of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, respectively, chat with Mike Devenitch, the vice commander of the Oklahoma State Veterans of Foreign Wars organization at the POW/MIA breakfast at the Tinker Club Sept. 16, 2011. The breakfast is an annual event that honors those taken as prisoners of war, or those who remain missing in action. (Photo courtesy of Tinker AFB Public Affairs)

► (Left to right) Kitty Purry, Chief Master Sgt. Randy Long, singerentertainer Katy Perry and Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long pose backstage at Perry's Tulsa, Okla., concert on September 17, 2011. As part of the Air Force Reserve's Get One Program, Tina Long referred two people to a Reserve recruiter and received tickets to the Perry show, which was cosponsored by the Air Force Reserve. (Photo courtesy of Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long)



Around the Wing



◄ (Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Scott Lair, Master Sgt. Adrian Smith and Tech. Sgt. Garrett Sherman examine a check sheet for a live aircraft fire with an unidentified evaluator as part of fire training on Tinker Air Force Base Sept. 10, 2011. The trainees are wearing their aircraft rescue suits. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Vencill)

▶ Staff Sgt. David Morris (left) and Senior Airman Cory Drain perform hazardous material/chemical training at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., on Sept. 10, 2011. Part of the training involves identification of the chemical and mitigating the chemical spill. The haze was from a smoke machine and dry ice. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Vencill)



And Finally...



A Master Sgt. Tony Anderson recently ran the 15th annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on Sept. 17, 2011. Out of 2,517 finishers, Anderson finished 36th amongst active duty participants and 101st overall with a time of 3:17:27. The photo above is of Anderson finishing the 2008 Flying Pig Marathon in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 4, 2008. (Photo courtesy of Tony Anderson)

Angel Tree Project POCs

507th ARW: TSgt Zach Jacobs, 734-3078 507th MSG: TSgt Kay Terrapin, 734-6369 507th MXG/507th MOF: MSgt Jay Smith, 734-5871 507th CES: SMSgt Jodie Schaefer, 734-0761 507th FSS: SSgt Natalie Pharr, 734-7075 513th ACG: TSgt Jennifer Malzer, 734-6446

Operation Holiday Spirit POCs 507th ARW: MSgt Takesha Williams, 734-7207 507th MXG: CMSgt Steve Wright, 734-2573 507th OG: MSgt Beth Collins, 734-3269 507th MDS: MSgt Marie Pollard, 734-2575 513th ACG: LtCol Ralph Hawkins, 734-6778 137th ARW: MSgt Lorie Stephens, 405-720-5178

Christmas Santa Stocking POCs Ch. (Maj.) Dwight Magnus, Ch. (1st Lt.) John Weston, TSgt Michelle Tharpe, TSgt Patrick Garrison, 734-5632



August 4-5

September 8-9

*UTA dates subject to change