

507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group, U.S. Air Force Reserve

March 2013

Vol. 33, No. 3

# On-final

## Non-destructive inspection Lab

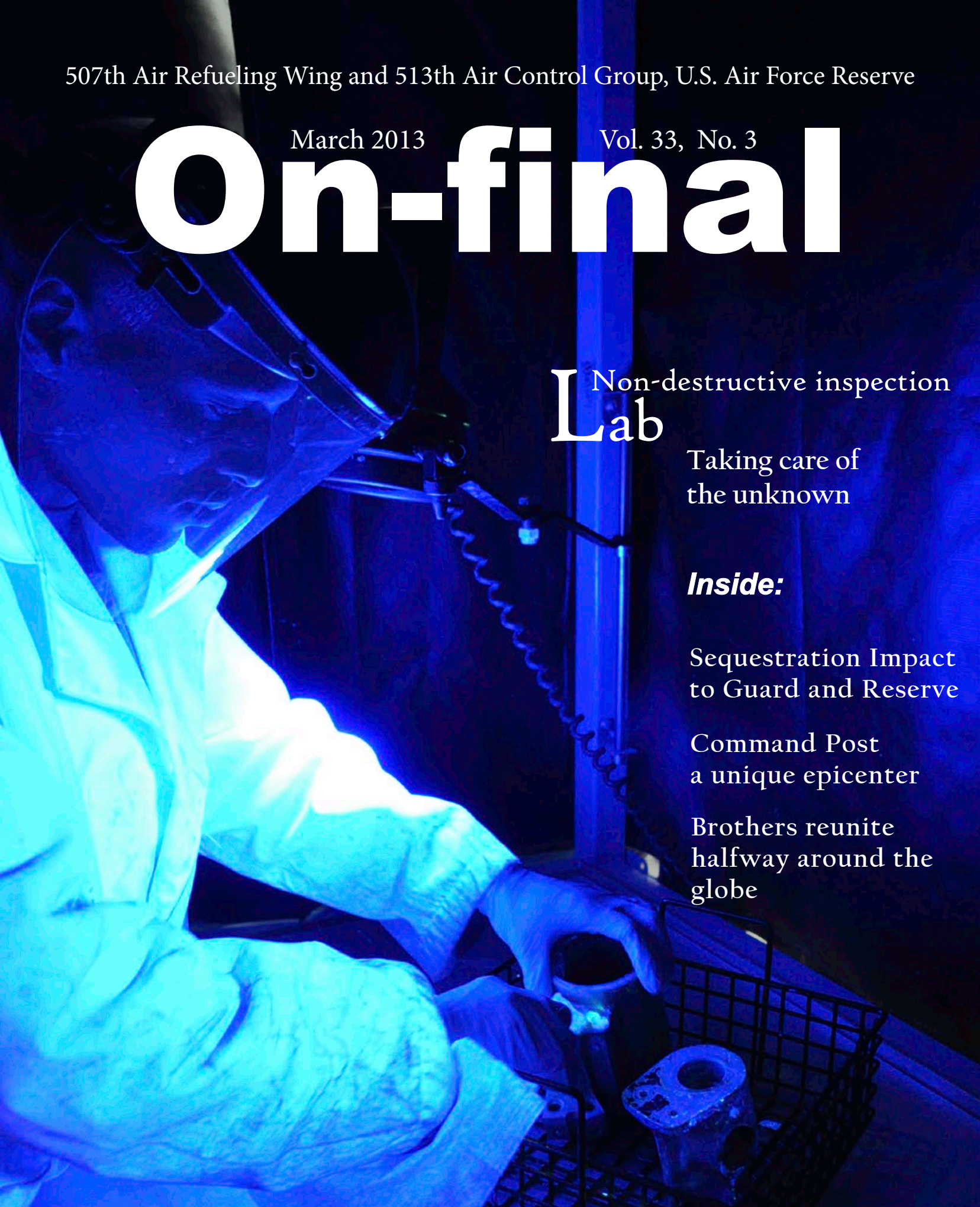
Taking care of  
the unknown

### *Inside:*

Sequestration Impact  
to Guard and Reserve

Command Post  
a unique epicenter

Brothers reunite  
halfway around the  
globe



# Sequestration will impact Air Force Guard and Reserve

by Capt. Jon Quinlan

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla.** -- Air Force Reserve Command officials estimate automatic budget cuts triggered by sequestration will result in a reduction of up to 18 percent of flying hours and affect the command's 13,000 civilians with more than 300 of those here in the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group.

Sequestration is a provision in budget law that triggered major across-the-board spending cuts effective on March 1.

Of the 13,000 AFRC civilians who would be affected by furlough, nearly 9,000 are air reserve technicians -officer or enlisted Airmen who work the same job as a full-time Title 5 federal civil service employee and as an Air Force reservist.

The ART program was developed as a means to provide cost savings for DOD. The command relies on the program's full-time manning to train, maintain readiness and provide continuity to the wings' missions.

Additionally, nearly 1,000 Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard civilians and technicians may also be impacted with some of those coming from the 137th Air Refueling Wing, an associate unit with the 507th.

Department of Defense Comptroller Robert F. Hale told reporters at a Pentagon news conference that the department will cut virtually every program and investment, and that almost all civilian employees will feel the pain.

Jessica L. Wright, the acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said that sequestration and the continuing resolution -- a temporary funding measure for the federal government that's set to expire March 27 -- also will have a devastating effect on military personnel.

"Everything is going to be affected, should sequestration go in effect," Wright said. "That's a guarantee. I think that everybody will be impacted by this action. And I think its incumbent upon us to try to ease that where we can."

Air Force and DOD leaders hope to ease the impact of the cuts and are encouraging those affected to use civilian support agencies, like the Federal Employee Assistance Program and Airmen and Family Readiness Centers.

Reserve units here have already taken actions to save money. Units here have slowed spending, instituted a hiring freeze and cut temporary training and non-critical temporary duty assignments.

As for furloughs, the most likely option is one day per week for the last 22 weeks of the fiscal year for a total of 22 work days. One day per week for those affected equals a 20 percent reduction in pay during the furlough period which would end in September, according to DOD analysts.

These furloughs will affect the vast majority of DOD's almost 800,000 civilian employees, Wright said. Tinker Air Force Base has approximately 14,000 civilians that will be impacted, according to Air Force Sustainment Center figures. Some of those are traditional reservists that work in AFSC as civilians.

"The bottom line is furloughs would not actually start for DOD employees until late April," Hale explained. Limited exceptions will be made for the purposes of safety of life and health.

Local commanders reiterate that the mission will continue even as sacrifices will be made.

"We will take care of the people who take care of our mission," said Col. Jeffrey McGalliard, 513th Air Control Group commander.



**Tech Sgt. Michael Dudzinski, 137th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard marshals a KC-135R Stratotanker here Feb. 6. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Jon Quinlan)**

- 13,000+ AFRC, 14,000+ Tinker civilians could see furloughs
- Reduction of up to 18 percent in AFRC flying hours
- Cuts include cancellation of the USAF Thunderbirds
- Over 300 civilians and ARTS in the 507th ARW and 513th ACG
- Nearly 1,000 Oklahoma National Guard impacted

## On-final

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's public affairs office, which is located at 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 9, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., 73145-8726. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

**For more information on sequester and furloughs go to AFRC Stra8Talk site at**

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/str8talk/index.asp>



# Brothers from 465th ARS and U.S. Army reunite 6,000 miles from home

by Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

**INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey** -- Military professionals often depend on each other to watch their backs. These experiences can bond them eternally as brothers or sisters in arms. However, for some service members, the bond is deeper than just a uniform.

Two brothers currently stationed in Turkey support separate, yet equally critical missions. Their brotherly bond led them from their small hometown in Texas to the armed services, where they take to the ground and air supporting NATO missions throughout Turkey and the world.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Gilson and his brother U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sean Gilson recently had a brief reunion for the first time in three years while Stephen was waiting to move on to Gaziantep with his unit. Stephen, the NCO in charge of training

in the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery unit from Fort Sill, Okla., is currently deployed to Turkey as part of the NATO Patriot mission requested by the Turkish government to deter potential threats near the Turkish-Syrian border.

As luck, or coincidence, would have it, Sean, a boom operator from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron at Tinker AFB, Okla., is on a two-month deployment to the 90th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron here.

Sean is one of over 130 members from the 507th Air Refueling Wing to depart Tinker on Jan. 7, 2013. The reservists will support a broad spectrum of air refueling missions coming in and out of the area of operations.

"I told my mother where I was deploying to, and I hadn't talked to my brother in a while. She just told me he might be near where I was," said Sean. "Because of both of our operations tempo, we don't really get to see each other much so it's been good to see him while we're both here."

The brothers have had their share of extended separations from family and friends while meeting the needs of their services, but the Gilson family is accustomed to short visits and quick goodbyes. Several of their family members served in the military throughout the years, from a grandfather who fought in WWII to their father who retired from the Army. Service was instilled early in the Gilson siblings, and they knew when to answer the call.

"I left college to join the Army on

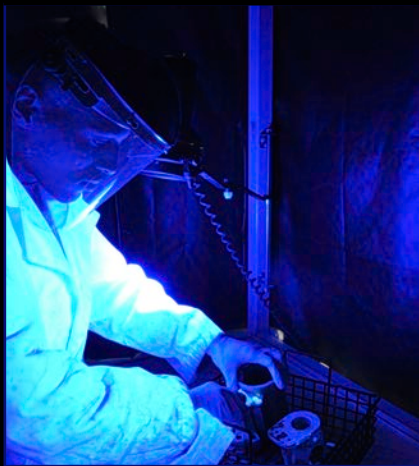
Sept. 11," Stephen said. "I just knew what I was going to do. It was always Army for me."

While at his first post at what is now Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Stephen was among the first wave of Soldiers to deploy to Iraq in support of



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Gilson (left) and U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Sean Gilson are both currently deployed to Turkey in support of NATO operations, including the Patriot mission. The brothers were recently able to spend a short time together before Stephen moved on to Gaziantep, Turkey. Stephen's unit, the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery unit from Fort Sill, Okla., is manning Patriot missile sites throughout Turkey. Sean is deployed from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron in Tinker, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Marissa Tucker/Released)

### Cover Photo



Tech Sgt. Steven Smith, 507th NDI shop chief looks for unseen cracks under the black light. Roughly 300 inspections are performed monthly by the team of five in the non-destructive inspection lab. (Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Operation Iraqi Freedom. After making the transition from civilian to Soldier he knew he made the right decision, and his family agreed.

"There are eight siblings all together, and most of them have served in the military," Stephen said. "Our dad is retired Army, so we knew what it was like to serve. Our parent's instilled [service] in us early."

Sean entered active duty in 2005, and has deployed eight times in support of operations such as Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. At least two times while deployed, he missed

See brothers on page 6





Feature/News

# Fear of the unknown, nothing to fear at all

Story and photos  
by Senior Airman  
Mark Hybers



# 507th MXS NDI lab inspects parts for safety

Most people associate fear of the unknown with something negative, but for one shop within the 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, the unknown is what makes it an integral part of the mission.

In this case, the unknown is cracks in metal or sheet metal parts off the KC-135 Stratotankers and it's exactly what members of the non-destructive inspection (NDI) lab look for when they come to work.

Each morning Tech. Sgt. Steven Smith, NDI shop chief, pulls up a computer program called G081 to see what requests have been submitted. Most requests are submitted from the sheet metal shop and can be anything from a bolt off a wheel to testing one of the wings.

The process for testing cracks is not an easy one but it is a critical piece to the overall inspection and maintenance mission.

"NDI plays a big role in the readiness of the aircraft," said Senior Master Sgt. Larry Spradling, 507<sup>th</sup> fabrication flight chief. "The inspections they perform show defects that are not detectable by the human eye. It's a very important part of the process."

There are five tests performed by the NDI shop: The penetrant test, magnetic particle test, ultrasonic test, eddy current test and the x-ray test. Smith matches the information

in G081 to a technical order (TO) to perform the correct test.

"The TO breaks down everything you need to know about the inspection – which of the five tests to perform, details about the part or parts being tested, calibration settings and much more," said Smith.

Many of these inspections are time consuming and require a great

minute before making its way into a large drying machine. From there, it's off to an enclosed area to be inspected under a black light. Cracks appear as a green line under black light testing.

Not all parts are easily removed from the aircraft for testing, however. For these parts the NDI lab is equipped with portable equipment. The mobility comes in very handy

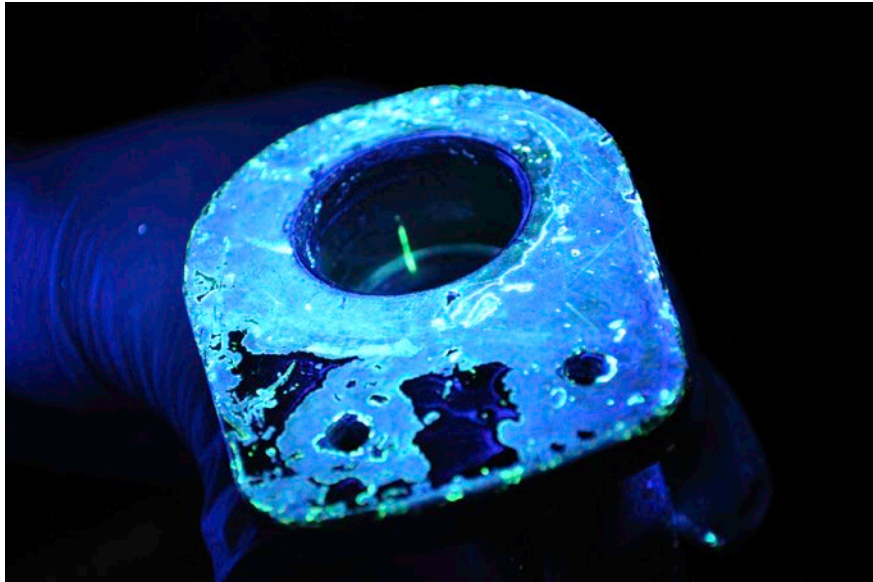
especially during an Isochronal Inspection (ISO). The ISO is an in depth inspection that tests an aircraft from top to bottom, inside and out.

"The NDI guys are able to come out to the aircraft during an ISO and perform bulkhead tests," said Master Sgt. Jason Lawson, 507<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Repair/Reclamation shop chief. "They perform inspections on all of our hardware, on or off the plane. They really do a lot for us," he said.

All-in-all, this team of five performs roughly 300 inspections per month. Whether it's a bolt off a wheel or an x-ray on the wing, every inspection is handled with precision down to the thousands of an inch.

"We take this stuff very seriously," Smith said. "If we miss something, it could be catastrophic."

So, don't be afraid of the unknown – at least not when it comes to cracks on a KC-135 that aren't visible to the human eye. There's a little known crew in a lab testing for it right now.



The non-destructive inspection lab uses a black light during the final step of the penetrant test in order to detect unseen cracks. The green line in the center of this hydraulic reservoir represents a crack that is not visible to the human eye under normal light. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

deal of preparation before the inspection actually happens.

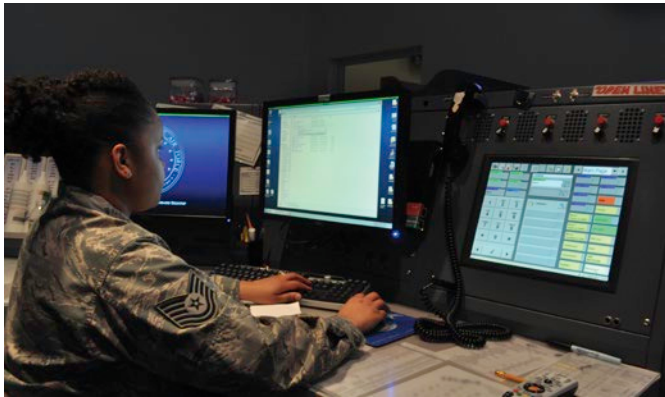
Take for instance, the penetrant test. Once cleared of oils and dirt, the part is dipped into a penetrant solution and then sits to dwell (set up) for a period of time. Dwell times vary depending on the part. Once the penetrant soaks into the part it's rinsed off with water. From there the part is rinsed with an emulsifier, which is a soap-like substance. The part is rinsed off with clean water and then dipped into a developer for about a

# Guard, reserve command post, a unique epicenter

by Capt. Jon Quinlan

507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

It's 12:30 a.m. in the command post and a radio mounted on Tech. Sgt. Lakesha Bailey's console lights up and blasts without warning thru the speaker, "Exercise, Exercise, Exercise, Sooner Control, this is Okie 34 we are declaring an in-flight emergency and



Tech. Sgt. Lakesha Bailey, 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing command post controller and training manager works from her console here Feb 14. The 137<sup>th</sup> ARW, Oklahoma Air National Guard and 507<sup>th</sup> ARW's "Sooner Control" command post is the only co-located guard and reserve command post with a nuclear mission in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

request emergency personnel and fire rescue at runway three zero zero. We have four souls on board." The calm but deliberate response from Sergeant Bailey is, "Copy all, working."

This aircraft emergency response scenario is not uncommon for the guard and reserve command post controllers and is just one aspect of the type of work these Airmen perform daily, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

A crew of 10 guard and reserve personnel makes up this unique command post team which works in 12 hour shifts serving as the epicenter of information for the 507<sup>th</sup> and 137<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wings.

The "Sooner Control" command post is the only co-located guard and

reserve command post with a nuclear mission in the Air Force.

"We are a full-time, 24/7 command and control node, directly responsible to the commander and serve as the focal point of operations," said Master Sgt. Bryan Chamberlain, 507<sup>th</sup> ARW command post superintendent. "Our team executes command directives in support of homeland security, national defense, and Air Force operations."

Command post controllers man a console which is integrated with computers, radios, telephones and alerting systems. Right next to the controllers are hundreds of checklists detailing various actions from tornado emergency response to nuclear event actions.

"I take seriously the responsibility of directing nuclear response to enemy threats and possibly saving the lives of the American people and those I love," said Sergeant Bailey, 507<sup>th</sup> ARW command post controller and training manager.

"Responding quickly to any type of emergency can make the difference between life and death.

The 507<sup>th</sup> and 137<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wings operate the KC-135 Stratotanker and can be called up at a moment's notice to refuel other aircraft defending the U.S. or its allies. Any notification of this nature would come straight to the Sooner Control command post and direct to Baileys console.

Controllers arrive 15 minutes before their shifts to receive the change-over briefing, conduct inventory and security checks according to Bailey. Their day to day duties consist of flight following aircraft, submitting operational reports, dissemination of weather warnings/watches, and emergency actions.

The Sooner Control command post team has a lot of day to day responsibilities but the overall theme of their duties is responding to emergencies. If there is an in-flight emergency the controllers are the first to respond, the first to get the help and the first to notify the command.

"I love the number one purpose of a controller which is to receive, decode, and respond to emergency action messages," Bailey said. "It's great being part of this joint team making it happen."

## brothers from page 2

crossing paths with his brother in the area of responsibility by a few days.

"We've had a few near misses," Sean said. "We seem to always miss each other just by a little bit, but that's just the military."

In continuing the family tradition, the brothers will provide support for both the Patriot and several other NATO

missions throughout Turkey and Southwest Asia during their time here. Though only united for a short time, both were glad for the opportunity to spend time together - a rare occasion even though they live within three hours of each other in Oklahoma.

"We barely get to see each other in the states," said Stephen. "I'm just glad I got a chance to hang out with him before I headed out."

# Maintenance Operations Flight gets new commander

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Amee Howard assumed command of the 507th Maintenance Operations Flight from Maj. Carl Jones during an assumption of command ceremony here, Feb. 3, 2013.

Howard remains at the 507th after serving the last three years as the Maintenance Group executive officer.

"She has done great work for us in the past," said Col. Jeffrey Pickard, 507th maintenance group commander. "I know that she's going to do even better things for us in the future."

During the ceremony, Howard said she's looking forward to the challenge of her new leadership role and added being a good leader has nothing to do with rank.

"It's about getting the right people to do the right thing and we already



Lt. Col. Amee Howard, right, and Col. Jeffrey Pickard, 507th Maintenance Group commander, left, stand at attention for the playing of the national anthem during the 507th Maintenance Operations Flight assumption of command ceremony, Feb. 3, 2013. Lt. Col. Howard assumes command from Maj. Carl Jones. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

have a great team in place," she said.

Lt. Col. Howard began her career in 1997 and served eight years on active duty. She served her final two years of active duty here at Tinker Air Force Base as a flight commander in the 552nd Computer Support Squadron before transitioning to the Air

Force Reserves.

After serving five years as flight commander, communications and information systems, 513th Operations Support Flight, Howard moved to the 507th Maintenance Group.

Howard, a native of Orangevale, Calif., received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Aviation Computer Science from Embry-Riddle University and later received

her Masters of Arts degree in Curriculum Instruction with an emphasis on Instructional Technology.

Maj. Jones took command of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in 2012 after serving just over a year as MOF commander.

# Total force mission continues

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 137th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard maintenance and operations crews launched multiple missions here Wednesday, Feb. 6.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing is the first Air Force Reserve unit to serve as a host wing for an associate Air National Guard wing. Aircrew and maintenance members from Oklahoma's 137th Wing are currently serving as equal partners with the 507th. Under the associate wing concept, the Air Force Reserve and 507th ARW retain operational control of the assigned KC-135R aircraft while the members of the 137th ARW help fly and maintain those aircraft.



Tech Sgt. Jonathan Sanders monitors KC-135R engine start up for a 137th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard evening mission here Feb. 6. The mission of the 137th ARW and 507th ARW continues daily providing air refueling worldwide. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Jon Quinlan)



# Reservist's dream comes true: *The Cooking Crew Chief*

by Senior Airman Christina Barbe  
507<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

A KC-135 Stratotanker dedicated crew chief here is not only ensuring our aircraft get safely in the air, but also ensuring his customers get some tasty food.

Senior Airman Johnny Ordonez has been cooking for as long as he can remember and loving every minute of it after getting the idea originally from his grandmother. On

December 12, 2012, Ordonez opened his new Mexican restaurant called La Fonda Café located in the Shepherd Mall in Oklahoma City.

La Fonda Café, meaning "the hotel" in Spanish, is a family endeavor. Ordonez's mother Maria Gutierrez, sister Judy Ordonez and his future brother-in-law Chris Daughtry have all come together to make it possible.

His grandmother's idea several decades ago was to open a little hotel restaurant deep in the heart of Mexico. This never came to be, until now, when her family made this 25-year dream possible.

"This has been just a dream for so long," said Ordonez. "It's great we were finally able to make this happen."

Together the Ordonez family hopes to inspire and feed mall guests and workers. They strive to provide a delicious yet quick meal so everyone can eat on their lunch break.

Ordonez and Daughtry have

future plans to expand their business to a taco truck making it easily accessible to the public as well as members on base.

"Less Tex, more Mex," is how Daughtry describes the overall feel of the food. In order to set themselves apart as a one-of-a-kind Mexican café, Ordonez said the new expanded café's focus is on fresh vegetables, meats and local baked goods.

Their current menu is infused with recipes passed down from Ordonez's grandmother as well as new ones created on a daily basis. Though they have a constant menu of tacos, chorizo, quesadillas, burritos, and tortas, Ordonez said they are always trying new dishes and salsa blends.

"I joined the Air Force Reserves to fulfill my duty to our country," said Ordonez. "It's scary to leave your dream and passion behind for a deployment, but if I have to, I know I'm leaving it in good hands."

LaFonda Café serves its customers breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday.

Senior Airman Johnny Ordonez, 507<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is proof dreams come true with a little help from your family.



## Safety is not by chance

# Preparing for tornado season

by Tech. Sgt. Regina Rector

507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Safety Manager

Preparing for an emergency can be a life-saving effort, especially if it is the life of you or your loved ones. Objects can be replaced but lives cannot.

To properly prepare you for a tornado, the Red Cross recommends these steps to help keep you informed:

During any storm, listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about watches and warnings.

Know your community's warning system. Communities have different ways of warning residents about tornados, with many having sirens intended for outdoor warning purposes.

Pick a safe room in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.

Practice periodic tornado drills so everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching.

Consider having your safe room reinforced. Plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection can be found on the FEMA Web site. Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged limbs from trees.

Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind

and become a projectile.

Tornado danger signs to watch for include: Dark, often greenish clouds—a phenomenon caused by hail, wall clouds—an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm, debris clouds, large hail, funnel clouds—a visible rotating extension of the cloud base and a roaring noise often described as the sound of a freight train.

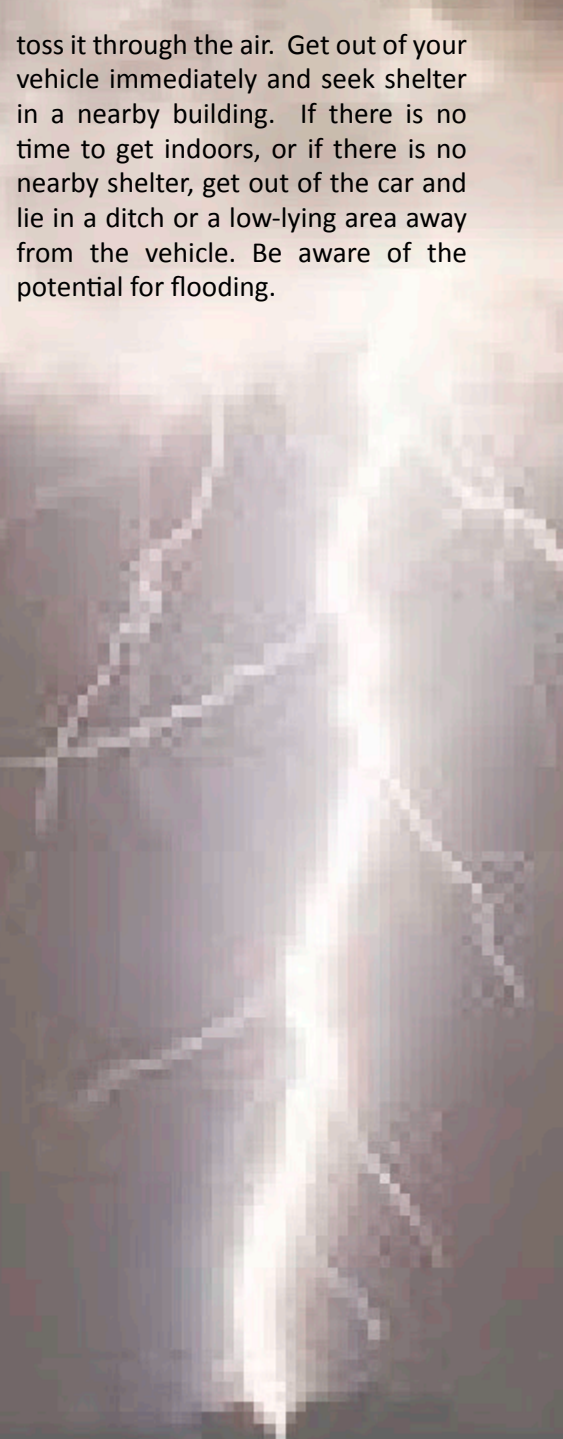
Know the difference between a Watch and a Warning. A tornado watch means conditions are right for the formation of a tornado. Stay alert, and be prepared to take shelter. A tornado warning means a tornado has been spotted in your area.

If you're in the path of a tornado, seek shelter immediately! Head for the basement and take cover under a heavy table or workbench. If you don't have a basement, go into a windowless room in the center of the house. If that's not possible, stay away from windows and cover yourself with a rug for protection against flying glass and debris.

If you're away from home, your best bets are basements or interior corridors of office buildings, tunnels, underground parking lots or subways. Avoid auditoriums, upper stories of office buildings, trailers and parked vehicles. And stay away from windows.

Do not drive during tornado conditions or try to out-drive one. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift a car or truck and

toss it through the air. Get out of your vehicle immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building. If there is no time to get indoors, or if there is no nearby shelter, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or a low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be aware of the potential for flooding.



# Altus AFB, local community partner to 'grow' mechanics

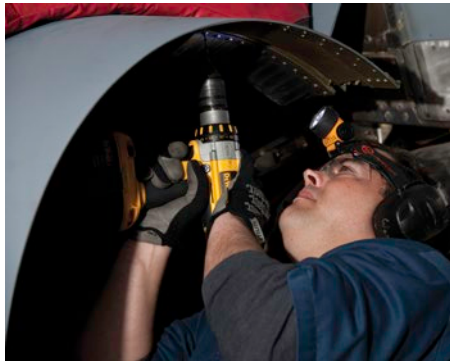
by Senior Airman Kenneth W. Norman  
97th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

**ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFNS)** -- Altus, Okla., is known for its agricultural community and an Air Force base. Together, they are not only growing crops, they are "growing" mechanics through the Grow Your Own Mechanic program.

The GYOM program is an aircraft maintenance technician internship program. It was developed in 1999 under the Student Education Employment Plan in cooperation with the Southwest Technology Center's Aviation and Aerospace program providing skilled, aerospace jobs to the local area.

"We were one of the first programs in the Air Force to take advantage of the Student Education and Employment Program," said Michael Prater, the 97th Maintenance Directorate resource management flight chief.

The SWTC, located in the city of Altus, provides the initial aircraft technical training courses in airframe and aircraft engine skills to the mechanic candidates. From there, the 97th MXS provides hands-on experience, building aircraft mechanics. After successfully completing the program, graduates may have an opportunity to work as a Department of Defense employee at Altus AFB.



**Shaine West removes a screw from the finger seal of the no. 3 engine on a KC-135 Stratotanker at Altus Air Force Base, Okla. West completed the Grow Your Own Mechanic program and is now working full-time for the 97th Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kenneth W. Norman)**

"We identify the students with an end target position in the 97th MXS, so that they can grow from their trainee-apprenticeship program all the way through to the end at that same position," Prater said.

More than 161 GYOM candidates have been hired between 1999 and 2012, and 93 of those are still active. For one of those candidates, this program has made his dreams come true.

"I think it is a great opportunity," said Bernabe Mejorado Jr., a 97th MXS work leader. "Coming from where I'm from, it was just a dream to be able to work on planes. Now, it is a dream come true for me."

Mejorado first came to Altus to work in the cotton fields and then earned a job in a meat processing plant, working full-time while completing the GYOM program.

"When I was working in the fields, there was a military plane that flew by us and I was like 'There goes my plane,' and my cousin told me 'One day, man,'" Mejorado said. "So when I first started working on the planes, it was beautiful for me."

The 97th MXS is currently hiring mechanics through the GYOM program, but the process is very selective and depends on job vacancy.

"We are hiring, but we are being very selective of our hiring processes," Prater said. "We are trying to hire the very best for the future."

## March 2013 Promotions: Congratulations to the following 507th Air Refueling Wing members.

### Airman

**AB DAVIS, NICHOLAS AMN**  
72 APS

**AB MARSH, JAMES M. AMN**  
35 CBCS



### Airman 1st Class

**AMN CARTWRIGHT, MASON**  
P. **A1C** 507 AMXS



### Senior Airman

**A1C OJELADE, SARAH SRA**  
507 MOF

**A1C COX, CORY M. SRA** 507  
MSG

**A1C LUSTER, PEYTON A. SRA**  
507 CES 13-Mar-13



### Staff Sergeant

**SRA ROTHER, LONDON P. SSG**  
507 AMXS



### Technical Sergeant

**SSG HARDWICK, DAWN TSG**  
513 MXS

**SSG JACKSON, SHAMIEKA**  
**TSG** 513 MXS

**SSG MURRAY, ADAM M. TSG**  
507 CES



### Master Sergeant

**TSG FILER, TERRENCE M.**  
**MSG** 507 CES

**TSG BECERRA, FABIAN A.**  
**MSG** 507 CES



### Senior Master Sergeant

**MSG SMITH, AARON M. SMS**  
35 CBCS

**MSG DAVIE, BRIAN L. SMS**  
1 ASF





## Around the Wing

**Air Force Reserve Commander  
to speak at Reserve Officers'  
Association banquet  
April 6 at the Tinker Club**



**Lt. Gen. James "JJ" Jackson  
Air Force Reserve Commander**

**The Reserve Officers' Association Department of Oklahoma cordially invite all members of the 507th to its annual convention banquet which will be Saturday, 6-April beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

**The social begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be promptly served at 7:00 p.m. Lt. Gen. Jackson, Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, will be the guest speaker for the evening. The banquet will be at the Tinker Club and Military mess or semi-formal service dress is suggested. The cost will be \$33 and will consist of a buffet-style dinner including prime-rib or chicken.**

**Reservations are highly encouraged and may be made through Maj Carl Jones, Maj Jeremy Overton, Maj Layne Wroblewski, Capt Jennifer Collins or Capt Jon Quinlan**

**Or click here for e-invite:**

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/mv/anim.cfm?i=1452338&c=036547087854>

## A Brief History of the 507th Air Refueling Wing

**by Tech Sgt. Katie Murphy**  
*507th Air Refueling Wing Historian*

The 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, with a fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers performing air refueling operations around the world, holds one of the most robust and diverse histories of any wing in the Air Force and Reserve Command. First established in 1944 as the 507<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, the unit's primary mission was flying P-47N Thunderbolts as long-range fighter escort from Ie Shima, in the Pacific Theater during WWII. As the 463<sup>rd</sup>, 464<sup>th</sup>, and 465<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadrons arrived in theater, they primarily conducted air interdiction and fighter-bomber missions throughout the Pacific, earning a Distinguished Unit Citation for 16 enemy kills over Korea in 1945. As the war wound down, the 507<sup>th</sup> was inactivated and stayed dormant.

In 1955, the unit emerged from sleep, reactivated as the 507<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group (Air Defense) and remained activated until 1968. This time the unit and single flying squadron, the 438<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron resided at Kincheloe Air Base in

Michigan and performed an air defense training mission in F-89 Scorpion (1953-1957), F-102 Delta Dagger (1957-1960), and F-106 Delta Dart (1960-1968) aircraft. The group participated in training and exercises geared towards the maintenance of air superiority in the heat of the Cold War. During this period, the group was redesignated as a wing for the first time (1961).

In 1972, the Air Force again called on the 507<sup>th</sup> briefly, and for less than a year, the Air Force Reserve's 507<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group resided at Tinker AFB, with the first fighters (F-105 Thunderchiefs) assigned to the Reserve in over 20 years.

In 1975, the unit was reactivated in the same mission and has remained active since. However it has seen numerous additional changes in name and mission leading to the current refueling mission. The 507<sup>th</sup> has flown F-4 Phantom IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons, and currently flies the KC-135R under the 465<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron at Tinker AFB and the Challenger 601 under the 1<sup>st</sup> Avionics Standards Flight at Will Rogers ANGB, OK.



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