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

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# Reservists return home from Southwest Asia

## Inside:

"Aviators" television show comes to Tinker

Security Manager of the Year

Mechanics, pilots carry out mission together



# Inside:

Commander's commentary
Airmen return home
Fear and loathing
Security Manager of the Year
"Aviators" comes to Tinker

8

# **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. Master Sgt. Mark McGougan, 465th Air Refueling Squadron is welcomed home by his wife. McGougan is one of about 51 507th Air Refueling Wing members returning home from Soutwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)





Capt. Adam Steichen receives a hero's welcome from his two daughters, and wife Rose after returning home from his deployment to Southwest Asia on Saturday March 16, 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Jon Quinlan)

# From the Commander 507<sup>th</sup> ARW Commanders Commentary

#### by Col. Russell Muncy

507th Air Refueling Wing commander

sequester and the budget uncertainties around the wing. As I have shared with you over the last 30 days, these with the exception of 1969 and 1998budget issues will continue for the man need to be prepared for the tough strategic calls that will be made at all levels of government; however, there few years back and one that we are is some news that came out last week that may help us.

by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the decision was made to delay implementation and reduce the number of civilian furlough days for which has contributed greatly to a na-Department of Defense civilians to no more than 14 work days for this FY. Expectations for potential implementation of a furlough would be to start notifications no earlier than early to mid-May, and furloughs would not begin until mid to late June. Please use this added time to prepare for a furlough if and when one is directed. There are several employees here that are already being proactive and have managed to make changes that have resulted in some remarkable savings.

wing level we have already had to make some tough calls and cuts to our be wondering why the DoD portion spending. Many temporary duty assignments and orders were canceled or modified. While this is unfortunate, we must continue to be good stewards of the tax payer's dollar and ensure our expenditures are in line with our mission priorities and the sequestration guidance. I'm asking should not be surprised to know that all of you to look hard at your pro- the DoD has been identified to make cesses and search for additional ways its fair share of budget reductions.

compromising mission effectiveness.

You may ask why are we where There is a lot of talk about the we are today? The United States Government has carried a national debt for many decades. Since 1961, 2001, the federal government has carforeseeable future. We as citizen Air- ried a yearly deficit that has added to the national debt. With the economic challenges our country experienced a still recovering from today, government revenues went down and spend-As was previously disseminated ing increased in an attempt to bring a fragile economy out of recession. During this time, our national deficit increased to over \$1 trillion annually tional debt that now stands at \$16.5 trillion and continues to rise. Economists point to two ways to tackle the problem which are to raise revenue or to reduce spending or a combination thereof. Efforts have been made to tackle the federal government's budgetary challenges.

Unfortunately, agreements were not reached and sequestration took effect on 1 Mar. With the implementation of sequestration, the federal government is required to cut \$85B As many of you know, at the in spending in FY2013. The DoD portion of this is \$47B. You might makes up over half of the required reductions.

The reductions are only targeting discretionary spending, and the Department of Defense makes up approximately 50 percent of the discretionary federal budget. As such, we that we can be more efficient without These budget cuts would essentially



Col. Russell Muncy 507th Air Refueling Wing Commander

be spread across all of our accounts. Additionally, since sequestration is a 10 year plan, continuing budget adjustments could impact us for years to come.

Bottom line, we need to continue to treat the taxpayer's dollars as frugally as we treat our own family's money. Please continue to do what you can in your work centers to reduce spending and improve efficiencies. Also, do your part to conserve in your personal budget as well. Be critical of new purchases. Look for cost saving measures. Look for creative ways to save money. Use the time we have wisely to prepare.

I have no doubt that despite these financial difficulties, you will continue to be the driving force of what makes this wing so great. The 507th ARW will continue to be the standard bearer and provide the best product possible worldwide. Thanks for what you do and please continue to remain flexible and combat ready.

# Reservists return home from Southwest Asia



Tech. Sgt. Shaun Erickson receives an overwhelming greeting by his children. His twin daughters and son greet their father with teary eyes after their first-ever separation. Erickson returns home after more than two months in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

#### by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Fifty one members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing returned home from a deployment to Southwest Asia on Sunday March 17, 2013.

The returning members make up about one third of the total number deployed on Jan. 7. They come back after supporting a broad spectrum of air refueling missions in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The cold, windy, cloudy day didn't keep family members, some sporting green in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, from coming out and waiting on their loved ones as planes flew in all afternoon.

For some families, this deployment marks the first separation from their spouse or children.

"It's really great to see him and it's great to see this reunion with the kids," said Rose Steichen, wife of Capt. Adam Steichen. "This was the first deployment for our youngest daughter. She's daddy's little girl."

This deployment is also the first separation for Tech. Sgt. Shaun Erickson and his son and twin daughters.

"We talked about it a lot at home," Kristyn Erickson, Shaun's wife said. "There were a lot of tough days during the time Shaun was gone, but we managed."

Erickson, a member of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, didn't know he was not going straight home after a long, hard deployment.

"We are going to get ice cream at Orange Leaf," said one of Erickson's twin girls.

The remaining 80 plus 507th members remain in place carrying out the refueling mission.

# Fear and loathing on the Tinker trails

#### by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The drive down Reserve Road is fairly long and slow, leaving lots of time for us to glance at the running trails. For many of us, there is a good deal of fear and loathing at the thought of running those trails, or running anywhere for that matter.

tends to bring anxiety levels to the HISTORY: surface for most. Driving down Reserve Road in the mornings, you might find yourself looking at the trails and thinking, "I'm going to bring my gear tomorrow and go for a run." Then vour heart rate spikes and breathing becomes more rapid and shallow, and then the next thought is "well, I have a lot going on at work tomorrow and it's supposed to be pretty cold outside, so maybe I'll just bring my stuff next week."

Ah. The heart rate comes back to ing cloud of cigarette normal, the breathing regulates once again. There, that's much better.

Life seems to run in cycles and with it so do our exercise habits. Once the winter cold sets in, most of us stop going outside to get exercise, opting instead for the nice cozy La-Z-Boy.

While I have all the cold weather attire I need, most winter days I find myself staring at it in my closet and longing for days of the warm morning summer a scene out of John Carpenter's "The sun.

Then I slip into my spandex running pants, warmer wind pants over those, three layers on the top half, hat and gloves and I'm off for a run in the cold. Brrr.

winter off. If I don't run on these cold

winter days, I'm doomed come Fit to Fight day. It's not cold weather that's to blame for my lack of running prowess. That's probably just an excuse to take three months off.

I am an odd creature in that I really enjoy running, but I am average on my best day. I plod along gasping for air as if I just sprinted 400 yards – and Running at any time or any place then I start my second quarter mile. ries. The trails, which I knew were de-

> I'm not really sure why I'm such a bad runner. Frankly, I'd like to blame it all on my parents. Growing up, there was never a moment when I could walk into any room of our tiny little apartment without waving my hands to cut through the waftsmoke. Surely that has a long term effect on the lungs, right?

At least the apartment had about 800 square feet to disburse the smoke. No such luck when we had to take a car ride. Like most kids, I sat in the I fall somewhere in the middle. middle of the back seat so I could see out the front window of the car – always pretending I was driving. After 10 or 15 minutes, the car looked like Fog." Surely that has a long term effect on the lungs, right?

Fast forward a few years and I find myself a young Navy seaman cutting through the wind as only an 18 year old with a Marlboro in his mouth can! You see, I'm the guy that can't Hmm...perhaps my parents can't physically afford to take the entire shoulder all the blame for my lack of running prowess.

Fast forward 11 more years. Two packs-a-day and the lung capacity of a gnat and I finally put the Marlboros down for good.

#### **MODERN DAY:**

When I joined the Air Force Reserves and came on to the base for the first time, the Tinker trails just off Reserve Road was one of my first memo-



Senior Airman Mark Hybers, 507th Air Refueling Wing, puts aside fear and loathing of the Tinker trails, off Reserve Road, as he finishes a two-and-a-half mile run on a cold windy day. Running the trails in the harsh winter weather is a necessity to remain in shape while preparing for Fit to Fight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenneth Colby

signed for running, provided me with a great deal of fear and loathing. Keep in mind, three Presidents have been in office since the last time I ran further than from my La-Z-Boy to the refrigerator.

After finishing Knowledge Operations School last year, I began seasonal training program orders. Putting aside my fear of the trails. I went out a couple times a week to enjoy a good run.

Those mornings out there with various other groups proved quite enjoyable. Small packs stretching, setting Garmin GPS watches, getting ready for 30 minutes of grueling plea-

See Loathing on page 7

# Wing News 507th members named Security Manager of the Year

#### by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Two members of the 507th Security Forces Squadron received the 72<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing 2012 Security Manager of the Year Award during the Tinker AFB quarterly security manager meet-

ing held here on Feb 20, 2013.

Master Sgt. Eric Kiddie and Tech. Sgt. Ricky Buettner received the award for going above and bevond their normal security manager duties, while helping the 507th Air Refueling Wing through its yearly inspection. Kiddie and Buettner received zero write-ups during the inspection – a feat very few organizations achieve each year, said Merle Norman, base

specialist.

vear was better than ever.

Buettner said staying balanced between security management and normal day to day activities is very dif-



507th Security Forces Squadron received the 72nd Air Base Wing 2012 Security Manager of the Year award on Feb. 20, 2013. (U.S. Air information protection Force Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

#### Loathing from page 6

sure.

I typically stay towards the back of these packs knowing it's futile for me to try to stay up front with the good runners. And besides, if I run slowly, then I have time to enjoy what the trails have to offer.

So, with my extremely bright running clothes on, I head down the trail following the pack.

Most mornings the trail offers many visuals and smells. I can close my eyes and know where I am just by the smell alone. Crossing over the wood bridges in the shade, the scent of wet leaves becomes overpowering.

Snniiiiiiiffffff, ahh. Some mornings, I am graced by a rabbit popping out of the woods and effortlessly leaving me in its dust. I have a love hate relationship with that rabbit – while it might take me away from random thoughts, possibly stressrelated, I get quite riled up thinking about a seemingly insignificant animal that can obliterate me like that.

Those beautiful mornings quickly turn to colder, darker more dreary mornings as winter encroaches on our happy-go-lucky trail days. The packs of bright clothed, Garmin toting runners thin out to nearly nothing, as we all prepare for the frigid, windy Okla-

"Kiddie has always stayed on top

ficult.

"It's a real challenge to do our day of his stuff," said Norman, "But this to day job and stay on top of security management," he said.

> Norman went on to say Kiddie and Buettner are also exceptional trainers, ensuring 100 percent of their people

Master Sgt. Eric Kiddie, left, and Tech. Sgt. Ricky Buettner from the

are trained and their training is documented.

The award is given each year to the security manager who's initiative, integrity and personal conduct along with inspection status goes above and beyond the normal expectation. Kiddie and Buettner are the first security managers from the 507th in over 10 years to win the basewide award.

"It's quite an honor," said Kiddie. "Receiving the award re-enforces the effort that Tech. Sgt. Buettner and I put into our daily duties."

homa winter.

Now it's mid-March and the days are growing longer and the dreary winter is pushing back, giving way to the warmer temperatures.

Driving down Reserve Road this morning, thoughts of that rabbit sitting somewhere in the woods chuckling at my car driving by, as it waits to see me plodding down the trail so it can burst out of the tall grass and toy with me again, run through my head.

My heart rate spikes as I write this because I know it's time for another summer of fear and loathing on the Tinker trails.



# Crew from television show comes to Tinker AFB Highlights KC-135 Stratotanker, E-3 Sentry mission

vision series "The Aviators" came to sode airing this fall.

The film crew of four spent two didn't cost us a penny' days at Tinker filming the KC-135 and guard, reserve and active duty components and the specific mission capabilities of the jets and crews.

Airmen from the 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refu-552nd Air Control Wing and Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th Air Refueling Wing were active participants.

The film crew hailing out of Toronto. Canada, came very prepared for to be a very cohesive team." the type of fast paced, cramped film-E-3 missions.

"Executing the schedule for the Lund said. film crew took a total force effort of guard, reserve and active duty. We sion briefs and pre-flight inspections ular online video subscription sites. had a lot of support from both sides of on both the KC-135 and E-3 Airborne

the KC-135 Stratotanker and the E-3 a huge role in communicating our around it was a good experience." Sentry missions for an upcoming epi- Air Force missions to the public and

Within five minutes of arriving at boom operator position. E-3 missions in order to highlight the the front gate, the crew unloaded and began filming 507<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Mainte- tense the boom operator's position is," nance Squadron members while they worked on a KC-135.

eling Wing, 513th Air Control Group, efficient the maintenance process small office." seemed to be," said Anthony Nalli, executive producer. "They were all interesting people, the latest aircraft in different areas working on different things at the same time. They seemed

Director of Photography, Devin ing needed to effectively demonstrate Lund, who has been with the show ed States with an audience of over 9.3 what the men and women do without since season one was quite surprised hindering any part of the KC-135 or at the size of the aircraft. "There is going to be a ton of great video here,"

before the aircraft leave the ground. Major Mark Povec, 465th Air Rebe part of a KC-135 crew.

fueling Squadron Pilot had the oppor- ed to air sometime in October, accordtunity to interview with the film crew ing to the producers. as they documented what's it's like to "The film crew was outstanding http://www.theaviators.tv/

A crew from the popular PBS tele- the flight line." said Capt. Jon Quin- when it came to the interview. It was lan, Chief, 507<sup>th</sup> ARW Public Affairs, great to highlight our ops and maintehere March 20-21, 2013 to highlight "This documentary coverage will play nance teams." said Maj. Povec. "All

> A highlight during the filming for recruiting our future aviators. Plus it Megen Andersen, production coordinator, was finding out more about the

"I was really surprised how incise and attentive during the mission "We were really surprised at how while working on their stomach in a

> The "Aviator" series focuses on and coolest technology, both civilian and military. It's currently filming for the fourth season, set to air this fall.

The series airs weekly in the Unitmillion in almost 3.6 million television households as reported by Nielsen ratings during the show's second season. Additionally, the show has more than The Aviators crew filmed mis- 2 million views or downloads via pop-

While the show mainly airs on the Warning and Control System to get a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) the feel for what goes into these missions show is now running in some areas on the Discovery Channel.

The episode filmed here is expect-

For more information on "The Aviators" visit their website at:

A COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER.

## Wing Feature

# Mechanics, pilots carry out missions together

#### by Brandice J. O'Brien

Tinker Public Affairs

Unlike other base units, pilots and 137th Air Refueling Wings have a unique relationship. Oftentimes, when a KC-135 Stratotanker is in the air, at maintains.

get there's a lot of people behind the scenes who make these things get in that has personnel there who are qualithe air," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff "JD" aircraft mechanics with the 507th and Nash, 507th ARW crew chief, "Without us, they don't have anything to fly. ARW production superintendent. It's give and take."

least one mechanic is with the jet he month, two to three mechanics -- including crew chiefs, engine and/or avi-A tradition carried from the Army onics specialists -- will accompany the Air Forces and World War II, the task jet. Their responsibilities are to refuel

Master Sgt. Robert Ahern, a 137th Air Refueling Wing crew chief, left, and Airman 1st Class Mykal Short, a 507th Air Refueling Wing ISO Dock crew chief, hook up a name basis. Most of us are pretty tow bar and make sure the sheer pin is installed to be able to tow a KC-135 Strato- good friends and we trust each tanker to the trim pad for engine runs. The 137th ARW. an Oklahoma Air National Guard unit, is a partner unit with the 507th ARW. The Airmen of both units work KC-135 pilot and 465th Air Reside-by-side to ensure the planes are well-maintained for mission capability. (Air fueling Squadron chief of current Force photo by Kelly White)

is necessary for the aging KC-135s.

lots. A lot of times, I think they for- -- that might occur during the flight.

the aircraft, carry out pre- and post- you still want to be friends with them "I see too much where people flight inspections and stay on top of think the Air Force is all about the pi- any issues -- bird strikes and worn tires

"We may or may not land at a base fied to inspect our aircraft," said Senior Master Sgt. John Nugent, 507th

Sergeant Nash said it's not uncom-Roughly three to five times a mon to land at a fighter base where personnel know little about tankers. The most common challenges the crew run into with these missions are logistical issues -- arranging fuel stops and parking.

> It's a job the mechanics take seriously. "This is a 200,000-pound aircraft with 80,000 pounds of gas going up in the air and I have three lives who depend on me at a minimum every day it leaves the ground," Sergeant Nash said. "That's not to mention what we fly over every day. If one of these goes down, it can make a big smoking hole in the ground. We take this very seriously and very personally."

Overall, the relationship between the mechanics and pilots is a respected and well-revered one. There are challenges and occasional disagreements, but the relationships as a whole are strong.

"We're usually on a firstother," said Maj. Mark Povec, operations. "Even though there's the officer-enlisted separation,

so you can build a trust with them and know they've taken care of the aircraft we're borrowing from them."

#### by Col. Bob Thompson

Air Force Rserve Public Affairs WASHINGTON - TRICARE has affordable healthcare programs available for all Air Force Reserve retirees - includ-

ing "gray-area retirees" and actively-participating Air Force reservists, no matter what orders they are on.

Reservists that retire before age 60 are eligible for TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage while they are in the "gray-area." This is the waiting period between retiring from active service and collecting their Air Force Reserve retire-

ment pay at age 60. While on active duty orders for more than 30 days, Citizen Airall are covered men

by TRICARE Prime. However, re- for servists could find themselves with no healthcare insurance when they are in between active duty orders. To ensure coverage for themselves and their families, reservists can enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select.

Both TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Retired Reserve provide comprehensive health coverage tributed to this report.)

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Currently, the monthly premiums for TRI-CARE Reserve Select are: \$51.62 for the reservist only; and \$195.81 for reservists and their families. The monthly premiums for TRICARE Retired Reserve are: \$402.11 for the retired reservist only; and \$969.10 for the retirees and their families. At age 60, TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage ends and retirees are eligible for additional coverage through TRI-CARE Prime, Standard, or Extra. Currently, the yearly premiums for TRICARE Prime are: \$269.28 for the individual plan; and \$538.56 family package. the At age 65, all Americans come To find out more or to enroll in (507th ARW Public Affairs con-

including: emergency care; outpatient visits; preventive care such as wellness exams and immunizations; hospitalization; maternity care; mental/ behavioral health; and prescriptions. TRICARE TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla,--TRICARE representative Jim Rookard takes a medical application at the 72nd Medical Group facility here April 1. Reservists may be eligible for TRICARE medical benefits under TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Reserve Select. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers) under Medicare coverage. Also, Medicare health insurance covers people under 65 with certain disabilities. TRICARE's programs for reservists, go to: www.tricare.mil/trs.

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# Reserve and Wing News



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

Airman 1st Class AMN EVANS, JADIE K. A1C 507 OSF AMN WATTS, BRANDON A1C 507 AMXS

Senior Airman A1C ARTIS, AMBER L. SRA 507 MDS A1C BLAINE, JOSHUA T. SRA 507 MXS A1C COX, CORY M. SRA 507 MSG A1C DAHLEM, JEFFERY SRA 35 CBCS A1C RIDDICK, LINTON W. SRA 507 MXS



**Technical Sergeant** SSG WALL, DOUGLAS TSG 513 MXS

**SSG** WHISENHUNT, DAVID N **TSG** 507 SFS

**Master Sergeant SG** ODPARLIK. MICHAEL **MSG** 970 AACS

**ISGT** PALUMBO, MARIO D **MSG** 507 SFS

Senior Master Sergeant **MSG** BOLLING, JAMES H. **SMS** 507 SFS













## Around the Wing

#### Air Force Reserve **Recruiting Team**

For information give us a call or click on the photo to send an email (web version

only).



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**TSgt Senecca Collins** Enlisted Accessions Tulsa, OK Office (918) 250-3400 Cell (918) 271-1677



Cell (405) 409-6311 **TSgt Nathan Gilroy** Enlisted Accessions

Wichita, KS Office (316) 684-1713 Cell (316) 295-7479



MSgt Jackie Sanchez Lead Recruiter Moore, OK Office (405) 794-0495 Cell (405) 409-6943



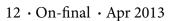
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by Tech. Sgt. Regina Rector 507th ARW Ground Safety Manager

Are you getting ready to run outside? Has the warmer weather encouraged you to get off the treadmill and



out of the gym? Here are some tips to help prevent mishaps while running outside:

#### When to wear your head phones as you run.

If you wear head phones during your run or walk, please, ensure you remove your headphones when you are going on the roadway, to include have the chills or cease to sweat, STOP crossing the street. When you are in the roadway environment, you present yourself as a hazard to yourself and vehicle traffic. The Air Force Safety Center defines the roadway as a "strip of land dedicated for the conveyance of vehicles, including the shoulder and median when present, as well as parking lots since vehicles traverse that strip of land as well." When you are using headphones, they impair recognition of emergency signals,

alarms, announcements, approaching vehicles, human speech and outside noise in general. It is less hazardous to you and others to use your headphones when you are running on the base trail or the side walk. This is mandatory in accordance with AFI 91-207. **Heat Injury** 

Once you have had a heat injury, you will be forever susceptible to another heat injury. The best way for you to never become a heat injury victim is to know your limits and stay within them. Avoid dehydration by pre-hydrating before your run and drinking water during your run. Thirst is not the adequate indicator of dehydration. Avoid running outside if the heat is above 98.6 degrees and the humidity is above 70-80%. Use shaded areas to run and wear sunblock of at least 15 spf.

If you do feel dizzy, nauseated, RUNNING. Find yourself some shade and hydrate with water and/or fluid replacement. A heat stroke is the worst heat injury to have because it is lifethreatening medical emergency, requiring emergency medical treatment. It is when the body fails to regulates its own temperature and the body temperature continues to rise. Symptoms of heatstroke include mental changes and skin that is red, hot and dry, even under the armpits.



## Wrap-up