

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

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On-final



Structure Of The Air Force *RESHAPING THE FUTURE*

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Commission visits
Tinker to look at total
force integration

Total force integration -
Not just a phrase

Maintenance Group
Superintendent ends
34-year career



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On-final

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Maintenance crews from the 507th, 137th Air Refueling Wings and the Hawaii Air National Guard prepare to launch, tail 38880 for the last time. As part of the force structure changes authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act last year, this KC-135 is one of four wing aircraft being relocated this summer. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Cover Photo



The National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force visited Tinker Air Force Base Aug. 20 to get insight from local Airmen. Four of the eight members were at Tinker looking at the inner workings of the reserve/guard and active duty/reserve associations. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Commission visits Tinker, gains insights from Airmen



Retired Gen. Raymond Johns Jr. speaks to members of the 507th and Oklahoma Air National Guard 137th Air Refueling Wings during a visit to Tinker Air Force Base on Aug. 20, 2013. Johns, a former Air Mobility Command commander, is part of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force. The commission is speaking with Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and active-duty members about future force structure. The commission held several question and answer segments to get the perspective from the ground level. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

By Maj. Jon Quinlan

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force visited with National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active-duty members here Aug 20 to get their perspectives on how best to shape the future force.

The commission was established by Congress earlier this year to study the Air Force's three components to determine if and how the structure should be modified to best fill current and future mission requirements with available resources. This independent analysis and the commission's recommendations are due to the president and Congress by Feb. 1, 2014.

Reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing along with their Air

See Commission on Page 8

The end of an era, 507th Maintenance Group Superintendent retires after 34 years

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

In 1978, a 20-year-old construction worker from Colorado Springs Colo., decided to stop commuting from Colorado Springs to the Kansas border so that he might find a more steady paying career in the United States Air Force.

August 9, 1978, Steven Wright left for basic training to embark on a career spanning five decades—a career he never really thought possible.

“To be honest with you, I didn’t really have my sites set too high,” Wright said. “I thought at the time I might do 20 years and hopefully reach master sergeant and get out.”

That 20 year goal not only almost doubled in length but also turned into two retirements.

Upon completing basic training, he went into aerospace ground equipment school at Chanute AFB, Illinois for 12 weeks and was then assigned to the 552 Airborne Warning and Control System Component Repair Squadron.

Wright didn’t just pick up a life-long career at Chanute, he also met his wife there. The two were married in January, shortly after completion of school and have shared the journey ever since.

After four years of active duty, he decided it was time to dedicate more time to his family.

“I deployed too much,” Wright said. “I came home from a deployment and my daughter started screaming bloody murder because she had no idea who I was. That’s when I knew my active duty time was over.”



Chief Master Sergeant Steven Wright, USAFR
August 9, 1978 - July 19, 2013

After a brief three month separation in service, where he worked as a tire buster, automotive salesman with Montgomery Ward, Wright entered the reserves and was hired on as an Air Reserve Technician. He came over to the AGE shop as a non-powered mechanic.

“It was such a different world for me,” Wright said. “On the active duty side we had to stay at work until a certain number of generators were working. I came to the civilian side, and you had to go home at the end of your shift every day.”

Wright transitioned quickly however, and became instrumental in the crossover from F-16 to tanker. He became the project manager, leading the 2.2 million dollar renovation to building 1030 to get it ready for the KC-135s.

“That was a big project. We worked out of trailers across base,” he said. “It took 18 months to complete

and a large part of that project was getting the flight line and fuel work finished. There was a lot of concrete added to that flight line to withstand the weight of a tanker.”

That experience proved quite valuable as he took on the project manager role for the new ISO dock hangar 1053.

Wright does not consider either of these to be his biggest achievement. In 1999 he was tasked with refurbishing the F-4D and the F-105 in order to put them in the air park at the Air Depot gate.

“I was always disappointed I never got to work on the 105,” said Wright. “But I was put in charge of refurbishing the one at the front gate and that is one of my biggest accomplishments. That will be there for people to see long after I’m gone. It’s a piece of history.”

August 3, 2008 another career

See Retirement on Page 12



Chaplain's Corner



by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Keith Rogers
507th Air Refueling Wing Chaplain Office

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

As football season begins in Oklahoma the heat and the smell of fresh cut grass brings to mind the memory of high school practice.

Getting ready for the first game each year was a punishing experience as coaches would blast their whistle compelling us to a new sprint, in inevitably followed by a chant of “fourth quarter, don’t quit.” It was that time that paid off when game day came around the team that practiced with more discipline and intensity was the victor. This great effort was for a reward that was temporary. As a football team we loved to win even made the semifinals, however the glory of that great season was over when the next August came and we were preparing again. For the Christian the scriptures teach us that we run a race that leads to a crown that

will last forever. This life is a hard place to always do the right thing or go the extra mile with someone. How often do we seemingly go through the motions not making any real effort to help others or better ourselves? If one professes to be a Christian then the primary goal they should have is to bring glory to God in each area of life. Look at your life are you striving to do your best, taking care of those around you and your self, or are you going through the motions? Make a change; run the race in a way that will glorify God. That victory will last longer than a football season.

Many Blessings
Ch Rogers

National Commission reviews 'life-cycle' manpower costs

by Col. Bob Thompson
Air Force Reserve Public Affairs

Members of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force interviewed current and former senior defense leaders Aug. 27 about one of the service's major expenses.

The commission sought information about the "fully-burdened life-cycle manpower costs" of active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen. Shrinking defense dollars coupled with raising manpower costs could determine how much Air Force the country can afford. The manpower costs for each component could affect the commission's recommendations about the force.

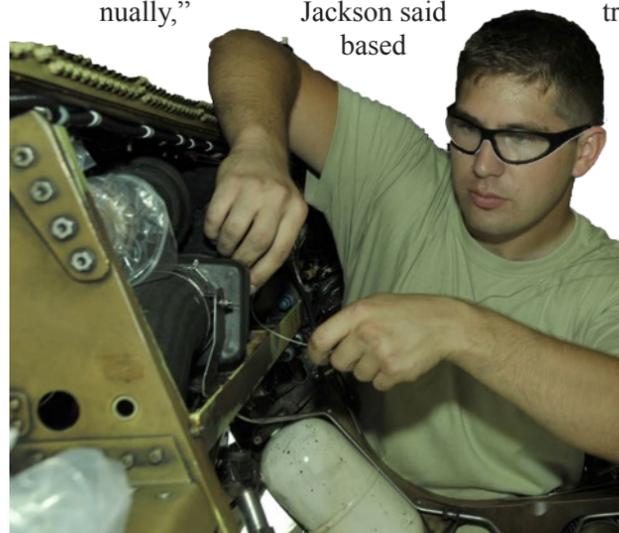
"The Air Force Reserve supports the Reserve Forces Policy Board findings that the cost of a reserve component member is about one-third that of their active component counterpart," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Appointed by the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act, the commission is reviewing the Air Force's structure to determine if and how it should be changed to meet future missions and funding challenges. The commission's report and recommendations are due to the president by Feb. 1, 2014.

Numerous studies have analyzed manpower costs, but the Department of Defense and various think

tanks have yet to agree. If members of the commission can help establish the right cost model, they will be able to recommend to Congress the most cost-effective and operationally efficient ratio of active and reserve component forces.

"Reserve component manpower costs are about 34 percent of an active-duty officer and 37 percent for an active-duty enlisted member annually," Jackson said



The Reserve Forces Policy Board findings show the cost of a reserve component member, like Airman First Class James Brewer, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., is about one-third that of an active component counterpart, according to AF Reserve Command officials. (U.S. Air Force file photo/Senior Airman Jacob Jimenez)

on a computer program called the "Individual Cost Assessment Model."

"The earlier the member affiliates with the reserve component, the lower the overall life-cycle cost," he said.

The model captures the cost of career events. These include recruitment, training, permanent-change-of-station moves, deployments, promotions, transitions between reserve

categories, changes in component affiliations such as active duty to Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, separations and retirements.

The model accounts for base pay, housing and subsistence, medical and retirement costs, training costs, moving costs, and other compensations, entitlements and benefits. The Individual Cost Assessment Model captures the initial accession and training costs of an active-duty member who may transition to the Air Force Reserve, retaining that initial investment for the nation.

"We need to move toward an agreement on manpower costs," said Jackson. "This will allow for an 'apples to apples' comparison and establish common ground, moving the discussion forward to shape the Air Force's future structure."

The commissioners asked Jackson to provide insight into which day-to-day missions of the Air Force could potentially be shifted to the Air Reserve Component.

"The Air Force Reserve maintains a diverse portfolio of capability in all 13 Air Force core functions," Jackson said.

"Future mission set migration could include rapidly-evolving areas such as space; cyberspace; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; as well as more traditional mission sets such as Rapid Global Mobility and Global Precision Attack."

Jackson was asked his opinion on merging the Reserve and National

See Life-Cycle on Page 13

Major changes to AF tuition assistance, delays expected

by Secretary of the Air Force and 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Reservists applying for tuition assistance in fiscal 2014 will see several changes in both eligibility for and administration of the program.

Due to these changes, the application window for classes beginning on or after Oct. 1 will not open until Sept. 9 to allow for system updates.

The cornerstone of the Air Force's FY14 program will be supervisor involvement. Airmen who apply for TA will be required to obtain supervisor approval for all requests. Supervisors may deny requests for Airmen in any level of upgrade training, if the Airman will be TDY or will be PCSing during the academic term, if the Airman is enrolled in PME or for any other factors the supervisor determines would impede the Airman's ability to complete the course.

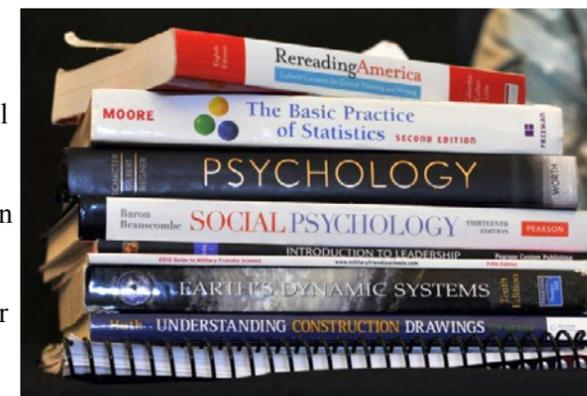
Locally, Reservists will be impacted and need to be aware of the new rules.

"Tuition Assistance requested after class start date will not be approved and unfortunately not exceptions will be made," said Senior Master Sgt. George Piper, 507th Force Support Squadron Education & Training Superintendent. "We are looking to work closely with the senior Air Reserve Technicians to ensure proper approvals are in place before TA requests are submitted."

Other changes include requests for TA for foreign language courses will only be approved if they are part of a degree or are on the approved

language shortage list. TA will not be approved for Airmen seeking a degree at the same level as they currently hold, with a few exceptions in support of certain graduate foreign language/affairs programs, cyber law master's degrees and multiple Community College of the Air Force degrees for Airmen who hold multiple enlisted Air Force specialty codes.

"Air Force leaders worked very hard to develop a TA program that



Tuition assistance is immediately available to service members. Airman looking for more information can go to the 507th FSS SharePoint site for more information at: <https://org.eis.afmc.af.mil/sites/1139/507ARWeducation/default.aspx>. (U.S. Army photo by David Vergun)

provides the best opportunities for Airmen and meets Air Force needs. Higher education continues to be a cornerstone of Airmen's development at all levels," said Kimberly Yates, the Air Force Voluntary Education chief. The Air Force instruction for voluntary education will be rewritten to reflect these changes.

Failing to meet Air Force standards will impact an Airman's eligibility. TA requests from Airmen who have unfavorable information files,

failed/overdue physical fitness testing, received referral performance reports or are on a control roster will automatically be denied.

The fundamental financial benefits of TA are unchanged. Airmen who are approved to receive TA may receive up to \$4,500 per fiscal year and a maximum of \$250 per semester hour including tuition and allowable fees.

"The changes to TA in FY14 require Airmen and their supervisors to more actively engage in managing academic pursuits and goals," said Russell Frasz, the director of Force Develment. "This will help leaders ensure Airmen take advantage of academic opportunities while balancing their goals with mission requirements."

The Air Force Virtual Education Center will undergo significant modifications to accommodate these changes, which has driven a delay in the opening of the application window for FY14 courses from Aug. 1 until Sept. 9.

"The delay will help us test the system and ensure it is user friendly and will work smoothly for Airmen," Yates said.

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Commission from Page 4

Reserve Component association partners, Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th ARW, came together to provide the commissioners a unique look at the KC-135 association through briefings, tours and discussions.

Reservists in the 513th Air Control Group provided the commissioners a look at the E-3 Sentry and detailed how their classic association with the active-duty 552nd Air Control Wing has garnered success, especially in support of the combatant commanders in deployed theaters.

"We're here to listen and learn," said the Honorable Dennis M. McCarthy, the commission's chair, a retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant general and a previous assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon. "You've got some great people here, and that's no surprise."

Along with McCarthy, three other commissioners visited Tinker AFB. They are former Oklahoma Adjutant General, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry (Bud) M. Wyatt III, retired Air Force Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., and Dr. Janine A. Davidson.

During the visit, the commissioners ate breakfast with junior grade Airmen. Wyatt later recalled a theme that came out of the breakfast with one guardsman telling him, "I want to be trained to get into the fight, to do the mission," said Wyatt. "They want to be part of the operational force."

The executive director of the commission, Dr. James Blackwell, highlighted that the visit to Tinker and all visits are important steps in gathering information so the commission can make the best recommendations.

"Once again we have heard from the Airmen about the real impact of transforming the Air Force. What we

heard today is confirming what we have heard at other visits," Blackwell said. "We have seen different perspectives here and you can really tell the Airmen speak with a lot of conviction."

Tinker AFB has all members of the total force team, guard, reserve, active duty and a robust civilian workforce. This made Tinker a prime location for the commission to see total force integration in action and to see details about the unit associations.

"One thing that was unique about our visit to Tinker is that here your tanker units (507th and 137th ARWs) have a real unique association," Blackwell said. "It's the first time the commission has seen an ARC association, and it provided us with a lot of valuable information."

The commission held an off-base hearing in Midwest City, Okla. next to the base. They first heard from squadron commanders and superintendents from the active, guard and reserve units on Tinker. Next they heard from state and local community leaders as well as members of the public.

U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin each addressed the panel highlighting the importance of the commission's visit and their recommendations in the defense of the nation.

"The commissioners heard something else here for the first time. The military has been accustomed, in a



Citizen Airmen of the 507th and Oklahoma Air National Guard 137th Air Refueling Wings listened to the mission of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force from Retired General Raymond Johns, a congressional appointee for the commission. The commission held several question and answer segments to get the perspective from the ground level. They are also interested in the total force integration, the reserve/guard association here and the future possibilities of such associations. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

decade of wartime decision making, to focusing on effectiveness," executive director Blackwell said. "Now for the foreseeable future, the Air Force has to focus on a steady state that will emphasize peace time cost effectiveness. That message seemed to resonate with commissioners."

The NCSAF will continue to visit with more units with future visits scheduled for Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

(Barry Willey, NCSAF public affairs contributed to this story)

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AMC commander praises Tinker's Air Reserve Component association

by Maj. Jon Quinlan

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Reservists and Guardsmen showcased the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard's first unit association during a joint visit by the commander of Air Mobility Command here Aug. 6.

Gen. Paul Selva met with Airmen, toured facilities and praised the Reserve's 507th Air Refueling Wing and the Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th ARW for their total force mission successes.

"Your stats are awesome, your mission performance is awesome, and your relationship speaks for itself," said Selva. "Having an association that works speaks volumes. Showing the association multiplies combat power speaks volumes. The fact that you just crushed the [inspector general] inspections speaks volumes."

During the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure and Total Force Integration process, the 507th and the 137th ARWs began their partnership forming the first Reserve/Guard association in the Air Force.

With more than 100 existing Total Force associations, there are currently only two between the Guard and Reserve. One is at Tinker, and the other is the C-130 association at Niagara Airport/Air Reserve Station in New York. The Tinker association brought the two units together to provide KC-135 air refueling, airlift and aeromedical evacuation missions worldwide.

"We are now on our second generation of leadership, that's grown up with associations as the normal way of doing business," Selva said. "It's about multiplying combat capability, and it's making iron (aircraft)



Gen. Paul Selva, Air Mobility commander greets Airman 1st Class Harlan Smith, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during joint visit to the 507th and 137th Air Refueling Wings, the first Reserve/Guard associated unit in the Air Force. During the visit the General met with Airmen, toured facilities and praised the citizen Airmen for their total force mission successes. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Lt. Col. Kimberly Howerton)

more effective when we have to use it. Here the Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard association is actually working the way it's built."

Air Force associations are not new but they can provide cost savings for the Air Force by merging combat capabilities, which is very important in today's budget climate.

The 507th and 137th ARWs successes have largely been possible due to the men and woman at the ground level making the association work, according to Col. Russell Muncy, 507th ARW commander.

"From the beginning we laid the foundation that makes the association work and makes it successful," Muncy said. "A total partnership in all

areas and at all levels is key. In every unit there is a story of teamwork and overcoming obstacles."

One such story is from the maintenance teams. The KC-135 mission capability ratings are consistently high. MC rates measure aircraft availability for mission effectiveness and is generally used to measure fleet health and maintenance productivity. From July 2012 to May 2013 the KC-135 MC rate was 86 percent for the wings.

Day to day it is nearly impossible to identify Guard from Reserve maintenance members. The pro-super position is charged with supervising all the maintainers on the flight line. This position in the past was filled by a reservist. Now the position is held by a guardsman.

The story is much the same in the medical units. During last year's operational readiness inspection the 507th Medical Squadron joined up with the 137th Medical Group and the 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to provide expeditionary medical care during the inspection and exercise. Their partnership had challenges but proved to be rewarding.

"We had a monumental task of bringing our units together even though all our unit type codes looked very different," said Senior Master Sgt. Doug Mason, 137th MDS and wing planner for the deployed expeditionary medical squadron. "The best part of working together was getting to know the people and learn what their skills were and how to best integrate those skills to fill any mission gaps. Bringing together the units really clarified our perspective in providing medical care."

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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Reserve/Guard News Air Guardsmen return from Southwest Asia

by Lt. Col. Kimberly Howerton

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
Fourteen members of the 137th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia here on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The guardsmen were a mix of maintenance and operations personnel supporting air refueling missions in the central command air of responsibility.

In addition to being greeted by family and friends, they were also welcomed back by Gen. Paul Selva, Air Mobility Command commander, and Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, the Adjutant General, Oklahoma National Guard.

With family members surrounding them, Deering thanked the members for their service while welcoming them back to Oklahoma.

“One thing I’m probably most proud of in the Reserve component is building the family piece, the family force, and you are part of our force. I want to thank your families,” General Deering said. “I know they’ve missed birthdays, baseball games, missed holidays and you continue to support them and allow our Airmen and soldiers to serve, and for that I’m eternally grateful. Your Airmen and your sacrifice are no different.”

He closed his comments telling them, “God bless you, have fun, and enjoy this reunion time.”



Staff Sgt. Anthony Welden receives huge welcome home hugs and tears from wife and children after returning home from Southwest Asia Tuesday Aug. 6. Welden and about 13 other members from the 137th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard spent nearly 70 days overseas in support of combat operations. Returning members were not only greeted by loved ones, but also by Gen. Paul J. Selva, commander, Air Mobility Command, and Maj. Gen. Myles L. Deering, the adjunct general, Oklahoma National Guard. After being thanked for their efforts, they were released to spend well-needed time with family and friends. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Around the Wing Total Force Integration, more than just a phrase

by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer

513th Air Control Group public affairs

Some active-duty Airmen serve for years without working alongside a reservist, but Airmen of the 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) have day-to-day experience.

For Capt. Ashlyn Smith, a navigator with the 966th, ‘total force integration’ is more than just a hot-button phrase. Smith works as an instructor teaching with Maj. Antwaun Hunter, a reservist with the 970th AACS.



Capt. Ashlyn Smith, a navigator with the 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron, answers a question during a check ride with reservist Maj. Antwaun Hunter, 970th AACS. Hunter is temporarily assigned to the active-duty 966th to help train student navigators on the E-3 Sentry aircraft. (Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

Hunter is temporarily assigned to the 966th to help train Airmen fly the E-3 Sentry aircraft. He transitioned from active duty to the Reserve four years ago.

“Active-duty guys switch out ev-

ery couple of years to go on to bigger and better things,” Hunter said. “We reservists stick around a lot longer and are able to keep more continuity.”

“We have approximately seven instructors from the 970th working with us right now,” 966th Commander Lt. Col. John Bartoli said. “We’re very similar where it counts. They’re great partners.”

The Reserve and active-duty squadrons at Tinker Air Force Base have what Bartoli calls “goal congruence,” making a partnership beneficial for both units.

“The relationship does a couple things,” 970th Director of Operations Lt. Col. Steven England said. “We free up their active-duty instructors to work within their squadrons or deploy by backfilling the [training unit]. It’s a win for us because we can send our reservist instructors over there to get that training experience.”

The relationship doesn’t stop with training. The flying squadron’s parent units, the active-duty 552nd Air Control Wing and the Reserve’s 513th Air Control Group, were tapped for a joint Combined Unit Inspection in November.

To Lieutenant Colonel

MAJ FORMAN, CHRISTOPHER D, 1st ASF
MAJ HAWLEY, JAMES MICHAEL, 1st ASF

MAJ IHRIG, PAUL ROBERT, 507 OG
MAJ JONES, JOSEPH ROGER, 970 AACS
MAJ LYNN, ALLEN PAGE, 513 OSF
MAJ MAGNUS, DWIGHT LEE, 507 ARW
MAJ SPENCER, JACK DAVID, 507 ARW



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

To Airman:

AB CHITWOOD, JAY R. AMN 72 APS
AB FRY, AMBRA L. AMN 507 SFS
AB JONES, CYLE S. AMN 507 SFS
AB PEREZ, MARTIN G. AMN 507 FSS
AB ROBERTS, CHRISTY AMN 72 APS



To Airman 1st Class:

AMN ALLISON, ERIC D. A1C 507 SFS
AMN MARSH, JAMES M. A1C 35 CBCS
AMN MINER, TYLER J. A1C 507 MDS
AMN NEWCOMER, MATTHEW G. A1C 35 CBCS
AMN SPRATT, TYRESHA K. A1C 507 MOF



To Senior Airman:

A1C CANNON, DUSTIN T. SRA 970 AACS
A1C HILL, SAMUEL P. SRA 513 MXS
A1C LEE, LYNUEL SRA 507 MXS
A1C MOONEY, ARIC A. SRA 513 AMXS
A1C NASH, TIAJUANNA L. SRA 72 APS
A1C SELLERS, BENJAMIN S. SRA 35 CBCS



To Staff Sergeant:

SRA CISNEROS, ASHLEY SSG 507 CES
SRA PERALTA, MARK A. SSG 507 AMXS
SRA PHILLIPS, PAUL SSG 72 APS
SRA UPTON, SHANE L. SSG 513 MXS



To Technical Sergeant:

SSG CHENEY, RYAN C. TSG 507 SFS
SSG DOBSON, DUSTIN L. TSG 507 CES
SSG GOSS, GRANT J. TSG 507 LRS
SSG HOLCOMB, DANIEL J. TSG 507 MDS
SSG LEWEY, JERRY C. TSG 507 MDS
SSG MURRAY, THOMAS A. TSG 507 SFS
SSG SIGLER, KARISA D. TSG 970 AACS
SSG STROPE, JERRY L. TSG 35 CBCS



To Master Sergeant:

TSG BELL, ROBERT S. MSG 513 MXS
TSG CLEVINGER, DONALD MSG 507 LRS
TSG DAVIS, PRESTON L. MSG 507 LRS
TSG TODD, PATRICIA R. MSG 507 MDS



Retirement from Page 5

milestone was reached. Wright became the Maintenance Group Superintendent.

“I never really thought I would ever put on senior master sergeant, let alone becoming a chief,” said Wright. “I really shattered my goals several times over the course of my career.”

Chief Master Sergeant Wright spent the last five years of his career leading the maintenance group. He said, not being able to go hands on with his troops everyday was one of the hardest transitions.

“I think the best way to lead your troops is to be in the fire with them and lead by example,” he said. “Taking a 20-year-plus veteran and sticking them into a fuel cell along-side an Airman is training that you can’t put a value on. No technical order or no book can replace that.”

Maintenance Group Commander, Col. Jeffrey Pickard said Wright brought strong, logical leadership



Barbara Wright, wife of retired Chief Master Sergeant Steven Wright, receives a certificate of appreciation from 507th Air Refueling Wing Commander, Russell Muncy for 34 years of loyal commitment as an Air Force spouse (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

to the group and always stepped in where he was needed.

“During the absence of the command chief (Brown), he always seamlessly took over and provided outstanding leadership and vision, no matter what was going on,” Col. Pickard said.

Wright also said that there are very few people left in the reserves that are like him.

“To spend 34 years in the same unit is just not heard of anymore,” he said. “An ART has to be here all week long and not miss Unit Training Assembly weekends. They are the example and trainers for the traditional reservists and almost always do it for less pay than they can get on the straight civilian side.”

Summing up his career, Chief Wright said it’s been a fantastic 34 years. He took every course he could get his hands on to advance his career. He also said a little luck and a little skill got him where he needed to go.

“I seemed to always be in the right spots at the right times with the right men and women mentoring me,” he said. “I watched, I followed and I mimicked.”

As for the future, well, it’s still up in the air for Wright.

“I don’t think my wife is ready for me to be retired and home full time yet,” he said with a hearty laugh. “I have a couple of things lined up that could keep me employed and busy for a few more years.”

From the flight line, to the maintenance hangars and shops to the air park at the front gate, there is a piece of Chief Wright’s legacy left behind.

“It’s bittersweet leaving. It’s going to be very sad, but you know when it’s time and after 34 great years, it’s time.”

Life-Cycle from Page 6

Safety is not by chance

Sports Safety: Helmets Save Heads by Deborah Nurmi

From bicycling to boxing, skateboarding to soccer, each sport requires its own safety equipment to prevent sports injuries. Depending on the sport, this could mean special shoes that grip the ground; pads to protect wrists, shins, and knees; or mouth guards to shield the tongue and teeth. For bicycling, as well as many other sports, the most common piece of sports safety gear is a helmet. It may also be the most important. Of those killed in cycling accidents in 2008, for example, 91% were not wearing helmets.

The Right Helmet for Your Sport

When choosing a helmet, it’s important to select an activity-appropriate helmet, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). For example, skateboard helmets are designed to absorb high-speed impact and cover more of the

head than bicycle helmets. Bicycle helmets, however, have greater ventilation to make them more comfortable for long rides.

How to Choose a Bicycle Helmet

When selecting a bicycle helmet for your child, fit and visibility are key considerations; cost doesn’t have to be. They found that the inexpensive helmets provided just as much protection as the expensive models.

Be sure the helmet fits. It should gently touch the head all the way around but should not be too tight, and it should not move more than 1 inch in any direction.

Be sure the helmet stays on. Tighten the straps, then tug. The helmet should not pull off.

Look for a CPSC sticker on the helmet. The CPSC sticker ensures the helmet meets U.S. helmet safety standards.

Choose a bright or reflective color. Bright colors, patterns, or reflective coloring make it easier to see your child in low light or rain.

Guard.

“All three components - active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard - are crucial to our nation,” he said. “We have different [administrative control] lines and authorities; however, that is OK. All three bring something to our nation’s defense, and that diversity serves the nation well as we have seen most recently as readiness cuts went into effect due to the sequestration.”

The commission is led by the Honorable Dennis M. McCarthy, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant general and the previous assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon. The vice chair is the Honorable Erin Conaton, a former under secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and a former under secretary of the Air Force.

“As the Air Force looks to the future, one thing is clear,” said the general. “Our men and women wish to continue serving and putting their combat-tested, operational experience to use. The Citizen Airmen of your Air Force Reserve are ready and continue to play a key role in the Total Force of today and the future Air Force in 2023.”

Jackson cited recent surveys by the Defense Manpower Data Center, which confirm that the vast majority of reservists and guardsmen wish to continue to serve and that their employers still strongly support them.

CHAPLAIN’S REFLECTION

What / Who is my life organized around? What are my Ambitions? A good start is the following list of characteristics or “spiritual muscles”

- Humility
- Gratitude
- Forgiveness
- Providing Protection
- Trust
- Hope
- Perseverance / Resilience
- Self-control
- Patience
- Kindness

This is not an all-inclusive list, but it is a good starting point. These are all characteristics are encouraged in the Air Force. So take a good inventory of yourself and commit to improving in even one of the areas above. You will be glad you did.

*****507 ARW/HC 734-1912 Basement of HQ Bldg, Suite 3*****





Goodbye old friend:

Top left, A 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 gets pulled into the hangar to be inspected and have decals removed in preparation to be transferred to Hickam Field, Hawaii. **Middle left,** Aircrew members from the Hawaii Air National Guard, Hickam Field, Hawaii, go through final pre-launch procedures Friday Aug. 30 as this KC-135 prepares for its journey to its new home. **Top right,** the 507th Air Refueling Wing decal is no longer visible as this Stratotanker prepares to depart for its new home at Hickam Field, Hawaii. **Above,** Master Sgt. Travis Fowler, 507th Maintenance Squadron spends a final few moments with a KC-135 he worked on for years. The 507 ARW is moments away from being removed in preparation for its new home at Hickam Field, Hawaii. **Left,** Members of the 507th and 137th Air Refueling Wings watch as their KC-135 leaves Tinker AFB for the last time. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Mark Hybers and Maj. Jon Quinlan)

