

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

October 2013

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# On-final

*Command post runs  
successful training*

**Inside:**

507th Maintenance Group  
gets new commander

Security forces deploys





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## On-final

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Technical Sergeant Robert Mills stuffs Tech. Sgt. Dustin Staude in the championship game of the 3 on 3 basketball tournament during Family Day September 7. Jet Life and ISO Boys were the two teams in the championship game. Jet Life consisted of Staude, Tech. Sgt. Nick Charles and Senior Airman Joshua Blaine. ISO Boys consisted of Mills, Master Sgt. Shaun Loeffler and Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams. Mills block of Staude's shot was not enough as Jet Life came from behind to edge ISO Boys. Family Day takes place every September with food, games, a dunk tank, booths and tours of various aircraft. It's one way the wing is able to give back to the men and women of the 507th for another year of hard work and dedication. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

### Cover Photo



Airman 1st Class Christopher Capraro, 137th Air Refueling Wing Command Post, Oklahoma Air National Guard and Staff Sgt. Erik Orr, 507th ARW Command Post set up Anti-Jam communication equipment while Airman Natalie Gates, 507th ARW CP runs the checklist in support of the training here Sept. 13. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

## Most AF Civilians and Reservists return to work

FROM AIR FORCE NEWS SERVICE

10/7/2013 - WASHINGTON (AFNS)

In accordance with a memo Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel released Oct. 5, the Air Force recalled most of the nearly 104,000 Air Force civilian Airmen placed on emergency furlough due to government shutdown including over 2,900 Tinker employees and over 250 full time Reserve Airman and civilians in the Air Force Reserve units here made up of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group.

In his memo, Hagel stated that immediately after President Barack Obama signed the Pay Our Military Act into law, he directed DOD's Acting General Counsel to determine whether he could reduce the number of civilian personnel furloughed due to the shutdown.

After consulting with attorneys from the Department of Justice and the Department of Defense, the secretary said the Pay our Military Act does not permit a blanket recall of all civilians.

However, he said, DOD and DOJ attorneys concluded that the law does allow the DOD to eliminate furloughs for employees whose responsibilities contribute to the morale, well-being, capabilities and readiness of service members.

According to DOD guidance for implementation of the Pay our Military Act, in addition to already excepted civilians, civilian Airmen who contribute to the morale, well-being, capabilities, and readiness of service members should also be removed from furlough status. Previously furloughed employees that fall in this category will return to work



In accordance with a memo Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel released Oct. 5, the Air Force will recall most of the nearly 104,000 Air Force civilian Airmen placed on emergency furlough due to government shutdown. However, a significant number will not yet be able to return. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

beginning Monday. Upon return to work, they may only perform "excepted" duties which encompass those duties necessary for the protection of life and property, so there will continue to be ongoing impacts due to the government shutdown.

"You've heard that we are bringing back many of our civilian teammates, but a significant number of them will not return. That is not what we or OSD wanted; however, the DOJ/OMB/DOD negotiated position on the interpretation of the law does not eliminate furloughs all together and leaves many of our civilian Airmen left behind," said Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning. "Everyone's work supports our Airmen, but the mechanics of the legislation is the driving force of who comes back, not the value of the work. This is unfair and simply a disruptive situ-

ation for you and your families. From day one, our primary focus has been to rapidly get as many people back to work as soon as possible; and we will continue those efforts. We are a team, a family -- always have been. We will not be a fully-functioning organization until the last member returns."

Today supervisors began notifying Air Force civilian employees who will return to work next week. The Air Force is utilizing all possible means of communication including supervisor contact, social media, Air Force Personnel Center and AF.mil.

For current government shutdown information, visit AF.mil's Government Shutdown page, the Air Force Portal and/or contact the Air Force Personnel Center Total Service Center at 800-525-0102. (507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs contributed to this story)

Lieutenant Colonel Travis Caughlin, right, accepts command from Col. Russell Muncy, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander during a change of command ceremony held here September 8, 2013. Caughlin comes to the 507th Maintenance Group after serving as deputy commander for maintenance, 917th Fighter Group, Barksdale AFB La. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)



## New commander takes the reins of 507th MXG

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Lieutenant Colonel Travis S. Caughlin took command of the 507th Maintenance Group from Col. Jeff Pickard during a change of command ceremony here September 8, 2013.

Lt. Col. Caughlin comes to the 507th after serving two years as the deputy commander for maintenance, 917th Fighter Group, Barksdale AFB, La. The 917th is the only independent unit-equipped fighter group in Air Force Reserve Command.

Outgoing commander, Col. Pickard had high praise for his successor.

"If you don't know this guy, he's one of the smartest maintenance guys in AFRC," he said. "He's definitely the right guy for this job."

Caughlin is also no stranger to total force integration – the guard,

reserve partnership. He stood up the aircraft maintenance component of the first reserve TFI to the Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis AFB, Nev. Caughlin said this couldn't have been done without a great supporting cast.

"As you sit and reflect about how you got there," Lt. Col. Caughlin said, "you realize it's not so much about you, it's about all those around you – supporting you."

Colonel Pickard took command of the 507th Maintenance Group in July 2011. Since then, the maintenance group has the highest mission capability rating in AFRC and third best in the fleet – a feat Pickard says could not be done alone.

"You guys are awesome maintenance professionals," he said. "None of this would be possible without your hard work and dedication."

Caughlin comes to the largest Air Force Reserve flying unit in the state of Oklahoma and says a dream come true and he's up for the challenge.

"For many years I have wanted to be a part of a tanker unit because they run the Expeditionary Air Force," Caughlin said. "I look forward to joining you on this fantastic journey."

Caughlin entered the Air Force in 1987 as an aircraft crew chief and was commissioned in 1995 through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Texas, San Antonio in 1992.

Colonel Pickard, who started his career in 1980, leaves the 507th MXG to take command of the 349th Maintenance Group, Travis AFB Calif.

## “Okie” security forces provide security while deployed



**Security Forces Members respond to a training scenario involving a wounded Airman as part of a field training exercise conducted at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. The 507th Security Forces Squadron conducted similar training in preparation for their deployment this month. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Capt. Zachary Anderson)**

by Maj. Jon Quinlan  
507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

More than 20 Security Forces Reservists left for Southwest Asia in September to provide security to the region.

The deployed Citizen-Airmen are all from the 507<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron and they were looking forward to the opportunity to serve according to leadership.

“Our reserve security forces teams are well trained and are consistently poised to handle this deployment,” said Tech Sgt. Ricky Buettner, Assistant Security Forces action officer. “For our guys, being away from family is always hard but they are commitment to serving the call to duty by serving our nation.”

The SF teams spent several months in training for this deployment with exercises at home station

and at other temporary duty locations stateside.

So far this year, nearly 200

Reservists from the 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing have deployed to locations around the globe.



**Staff Sgt. Joseph Aaron, holds his M4 carbine rifle at the ready during building entry and clearing training. More than 20 Security Forces Reservists left for Southwest Asia in September to provide security to the region. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Capt. Zachary Anderson)**

## Employer support of the guard, reserve week a success

ARLINGTON, Va. -- President Barack Obama signed a proclamation declaring September 22 - 28, 2013, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. The week recognized the important contributions employers have made in supporting the military service of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

“The men and women of the National Guard and Reserve demonstrate an unfaltering commitment to our Union and our people. On the field of battle and here at home, they place themselves in harm’s way to protect our freedoms, our lives, and our communities,” proclaimed President Obama.

Emphasizing the critical support employers provide, the President stated, “Alongside our Reservists and National Guard members, the employers who put them to work provide extraordinary support and flexibility. Our Nation is forever grateful to businesses that help service members advance their civilian careers, and ease transitions between military and civilian life.”

The 18th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony highlighted major contributors. The ceremony was hosted at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. Em-



ployer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) formally recognized 15 employers that were named recipients of this year’s Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense’s highest honor for employer support of National

Guard and Reserve employees. The 2013 award recipients represent large and small businesses, as well as public sector agencies. They have distinguished themselves from a field of nearly 2,900 nominations submitted by Reserve Component Service members. These employers have gone above and beyond their legal obligations to military employees, offering

formal and informal initiatives that ensure service members and their families are taken care of throughout all types of military service. The recipients’ measures of support included creating special hiring programs, providing personal support to families such as home maintenance, and continuing full benefits, salary, and additional paid leave options during deployment.

The Presidential Proclamation can be read at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/09/20/presidential-proclamation-national-employer-support-guard-and-reserve-we>

Locally if you would like to nominate your employer for special recognition for their support of your military service go to the following website: <http://www.esgr.mil/PA/>



## Commander discusses future of Air Force Reserve

by Col. Bob Thompson

*Air Force Reserve Public Affairs*

**NATIONAL HARBOR, Md.** – Discussing the future of the Air Force, senior military and industry leaders gathered at the Air Force Association's 2013 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, Md., Sept. 16-18.

More than 5,000 U.S. and allied-nation Airmen along with corporate and media representatives attended the annual event to discuss challenges and financial austerity facing the Air Force and aerospace community.

"The most important thing we have is our Airmen," said [Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson](#), chief of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and commander of [Air Force Reserve Command](#) at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

"Our Reserve Component programs retain the Air Force's investment," said Jackson. "Retaining 'Airmen for Life' saves recruiting, training and education dollars."

As senior leaders make structure and budgetary decisions, they will be adjusting the active component and reserve component mix.

The Air Force Reserve is part of every Air Force core mission. However, the future roles and missions of the Reserve Component will be a key part of leveraging the cost advantages while keeping the right balance of Air Force capability and capacity.

"The biggest challenge to Air Force Reserve is funding and how we keep 'Tier One' ready," said Jackson during a conference breakout session.

"Tier One" means being ready now. Currently, Air Force reservists train to same standards as regular component Airmen and prepare to



**Chief of the Air Force Reserve Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson tells the Air Force Association 2013 Air and Space Conference that when the Air Force fills combatant commander requirements, every single Airman should be in that planning. All three components bring something to the table. "Together, we provide Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power better than anyone else," he said. More than 5,000 attended the 3-day event at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, Md., Sept. 16-18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya)**

deploy in 72 hours or less.

"We need to figure out which missions are best suited for the Air Force Reserve," said Jackson. "We need to do what's best for the Air Force. Take mission sets and put them into the component that can make the best use of them. Mission and functional areas also need to be big enough for a force development pyramid so our Airmen can clearly see their path to success."

In many cases, the Reserve Component reduces life-cycle costs to the Air Force by recruiting and retaining reservists who have leading-edge, high-tech skills that they use in their

civilian jobs. These reservists bring valuable insight and innovation to military programs.

"Citizen Airmen want to serve," Jackson said. "They want to put their combat-tested operational experience to use."

"Together, we provide Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power better than anyone else," Jackson said. "Three components are what the Air Force needs to get the most capability and capacity out of it. Three components actually helped to mitigate some of sequestration's effects."

## Reserve pilot takes fitness higher

by 1st Lt. Lori Fiorello

*446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

**MCCHORD FIELD, Wash.**

Whoever uses the excuse, "I don't have time to exercise," never met Maj. Michael Masuda, 313th Airlift Squadron, C-17 instructor pilot and devoted triathlete.

"My passion started while I was on active duty," said Masuda, who still has that new Air Force Reserve scent. "We'd fly for hours, land then go straight to our rooms for crew rest and wake up and do it all over again, for days at a time."

Masuda decided not to let his chaotic flying schedule interfere with his health and wellness and discovered a new passion.

"It's challenging in the flying world to maintain my fitness routine" said Masuda. "I started to run as a means to get out and see the local areas [where we landed]. The more I ran, the more interested I became in other physical activities, which evolved to where I am today [with triathlons]. I became interested in the Olympic distance competitions because it's a faster race and you have more of an opportunity to compete worldwide and travel internationally."

Masuda keeps active while on the road and squeezes out workouts in the air ... onboard a C-17, of course. In between pilot rotations, he ventures to the back of the cargo department and performs his own plyometric workout consisting of pushups and pull-ups.

That's only one of the various ways he finds time for filling the gaps during his trips. After wheels down and landing procedures are complete, Masuda hits the pavement with an-



**Maj. Michael Masuda, C-17 instructor pilot with the 313th Airlift Squadron, here at McChord Field, Wash., leads the pack throughout his physical fitness assessment during the Reserve drill weekend, July 13. Masuda, an unyielding triathlete, set the bar in the mile-and-a-half portion of the test, running it under eight minutes and brought home the "gold" during his PFA, passing it with a perfect score of 100. (U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Lori Fiorello)**

other set of wheels.

"I bring my bike on trips with me and have cycled everywhere around the world from [the Republic of] Cyprus to Diego Garcia," said the dedicated athlete.

Masuda constantly trains to compete, which involves vigorous training with a coach, averaging from 16 to 18 hours per week. He also participates in local races, competitions and open-water swims. Masuda attributes his ability to follow his competition dreams to his career shift in joining the Reserve.

"As a Reservist, I've been able to pursue my hobbies and interests; I have the luxury of working around my schedule," said the Seattle resident.

Masuda recently competed in the U.S. National Championships for Olympic Triathlons in Milwaukee, Wis. finishing in the top 12 percent overall.

The race consisted of a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilometer bike, and 10-kilometer distance run. Although he isn't faster than a speeding bullet, his latest two-hour and 10-minute race time, suggests he's ready to attack. The eager athlete plans to participate again next year hoping to qualify to compete at the world level.

"I just want to see where the sport takes me," he said humbly. "I'm simply enjoying my experience now."

## Wing News

# Reserve Units reschedule October Unit Training Assemblies



**Reserve Units reschedule October Unit Training Assemblies**  
513th ACG UTA now 19-20 Oct. -- 507th ARW Oct UTA pushed to 23-24 Nov.

### by 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group have rescheduled their October Unit Training Assemblies due to the ongoing budget uncertainties.

**The 513 ACG 5-6 Oct UTA is rescheduled to 19-20 Oct.**

**The 507 ARW 5-6 Oct UTA is rescheduled to 23-24 Nov.**

"Due to the uncertainty of the current budget and funding issue, prudent planning dictates that we move the 507th ARW's October's UTA from 5-6 Oct to November," said Col. Russell Muncy,

507th ARW commander. "Current planning is that we will not have a UTA in the month of October and will have two UTAs in November."

Please contact your unit chain of command with questions regarding these changes or any personal rescheduling.

Schedule for the 507th ARW:

- 2-3 Nov UTA:
  - In conjunction with Global Thunder exercise
  - Commanders Call on Sunday, 3 Nov
  - Annual Awards Banquet rescheduled to 23 Nov

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## Reserve News

# 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 PCS-ing 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 no 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 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.

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>.

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

#### To Airman:

AB LAWSON, LELAND AMN 507 CES  
AB RICHARDSON, ERIC R.. AMN 507 MXS  
AB SPELLINS, CRISTIAN AMN 507 CES



#### To Airman 1st Class:

AMN CORPORON, NICHOLAS. A1C 507 SFS  
AMN DAVIS, NICHOLAS C. A1C 72 APS



#### To Senior Airman:

A1C JORDAN, RACHAEL E. SRA 465 ARS  
A1C RABON, THOMAS SRA 507 MXS



#### To Staff Sergeant:

SRA BRYANT, DEREK SSG 507 MXS  
SRA CAMPBELL, ANTHONY SSG 507 SFS  
SRA JONES, CATHRYN C. SSG 35 CBCS



#### To Technical Sergeant:

SSG TUCKER, BENJAMIN TSG 507 SFS



#### To Master Sergeant:

TSG ARREDONDO, RONALD L. MSG 507 AMXS



**Let us know what's going on in your shop. Call the Public Affairs Office at 734-3078**



Airman 1st Class Christopher Capraro, 137th Air Refueling Wing Command Post, Oklahoma Air National Guard and Staff Sgt. Taream Roberson, 507th ARW Command Post set up Anti-Jam communication equipment while Airman Natalie Gates, 507th ARW CP runs the checklist in support of the training here Sept. 13. The combined command post team spent a week training to use the mobile communication equipment which provides worldwide, anti-jam, secure voice capabilities for the command and control team. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)