

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

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On-final

*Christmas cheer
delivered to vets*

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Top safety award



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On-final

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Grounded and frozen - a typical scene around the 507th Air Refueling Wing's flight line for several Unit Training Assembly weekends. Due to inclement weather and budgetary concerns, the January UTA marks the first full "back to business" weekend since September 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Cover Photo



First Lieutenant Cristi Jordan, 507th Operations Group, listens to a veteran during the Norman Veterans Center Annual Christmas party, Dec. 23. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

513th Air Control Group welcomes new commander

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Colonel David Robertson assumed command of the 513th Air Control Group Friday Jan. 10, 2013, during a ceremony held in the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron auditorium.

Colonel Robertson comes to the 513th ACG after serving two-and-a-half years as Chief, Battle Watch Branch, Force Generation Center, Robins AFB, Ga.

Colonel Robertson is no stranger to Tinker AFB, having served as a student with the 552nd Training Squadron, and working in various positions with the 964th and 966th AACS before moving over to the 513th ACG. He has more than 3,500 flying hours in the E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.

During the ceremony, Colonel Robertson discussed his priorities as the new commander: Air Force core values, Total Force Integration, and Family.

Having worked alongside the men and women of the 513th in the past, Colonel Robertson said he's seen firsthand the core values demonstrated time and again.

"We've flown many missions over a lot of countries and I've seen integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do demonstrated consistently every single time," Colonel Robertson said.

Colonel Robertson also spoke at length about total force integration. He said due to budget challenges, it's the way the Air Force gets its mission done now and the way it will continue to get done in the future.



Colonel David Robertson, left, assumes command of the 513th Air Control Group from presiding officer, Col. William Lyons, assistant vice commander and chief of staff, 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, during a ceremony in the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron auditorium Friday Jan. 10, 2014. During the ceremony, Robertson laid out his top three priorities as new commander: Air Force Core values, total force integration and family. Former 513th ACG commander, Col. Jeffrey J. McGalliard currently serves as Commander, 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

"I can't think of a better example of TFI than right here at Tinker Air Force Base," he said. "Team Tinker, the 513th, 507th, 552nd and the 137th (Oklahoma Air National Guard), we live and breathe TFI here every day - that's how we get the mission done."

Colonel Robertson went on to say the 513th already has a great relationship with their sister wing at the 552nd and "if we strike the right balance of these three priorities, then we will be successful as a team, as a family and as an Air Force."

Colonel Robertson finished his Bachelor of Arts in English Composition at the University of Florida

in 1992 and his Master of Business Administration at Oklahoma City University in 2004.

Colonel William A. Lyons, assistant vice commander and chief of staff, 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, served as presiding officer.

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Jet fuel switch saves big bucks

by Mike W. Ray
Tinker Public Affairs

Saving 2 cents a gallon when filling the fuel tank of your car, pickup or SUV is just a proverbial "drop in the bucket." You'd save about a quarter, maybe a half-dollar. A 2-cent savings in jet fuel, though, equates to more than half a million dollars for Tinker Air Force Base and U.S. taxpayers.

Tinker is one of several Air Force bases switching from JP-8 to Jet A fuel, which is 2 cents per gallon cheaper and is available from more sources. The conversion program is intended to "reduce the cost of fuel and improve energy security," the Air Force explained.

Tinker consumes approximately 2.3 million gallons of jet fuel each month, or 27.6 million gallons annually, according to John R. Rucci, functional director in the 72nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Fuels Quality Flight.

"The much larger commercial fuel supply chain gives the Department of Defense more operational flexibility and increases procurement competition to reduce fuel costs," the Air Force related. "Additionally, the DOD can become more efficient by eliminating portions of" the JP-8 supply chain.

JP-8 and Jet A both are kerosene-based aviation fuels. They have the same energy content, density range and flash point (100 degrees Fahrenheit minimum, the temperature at which the fuel ignites). JP-8 is the current military specification jet fuel, while Jet A is the commercial standard jet fuel. "They can be intermixed

in the same tank at any ratio," Mr. Rucci said.

The difference in the two fuels is their freezing points (minus-40 degrees Centigrade for Jet A, minus-47 degrees Centigrade for JP-8) and additives required for military aircraft. JP-8 contains three fuel additives: Fuel System Icing Inhibitor, which lowers the freezing point of water that's inherently found in fuel and which inhibits the growth of microbes; Static Dissipater Additive; and Corrosion Inhibitor/Lubricity Improver.

The Jet A issued on military installations includes the trio of additives in the same concentrations prescribed in JP-8 specifications because some military aircraft still require them, the Air Force reported.

While the gasoline burned in your car, pickup or van has an "anti-knock" octane rating, jet fuel is rated by its Btu's (British thermal units, a measurement of heat), Mr. Rucci said.

The fuels switch is an Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century initiative that was approved five and-a-half-years ago. The Air Force Petroleum Agency and the Defense

Logistics Agency Energy began the initiative four years ago by conducting a demonstration at four Air Force locations.

According to the AFPA Jet A Team, 31 Air Force bases have transitioned to commercial Jet A with additives. Tinker is among the bases that will switch to Jet A fuel in 2014. The switch-over is scheduled for mid-January, Mr. Rucci said.



An Airman with the 507th Air Refueling Wing prepares to fuel an aircraft prior to take off. Tinker will soon switch from JP-8 fuel to the cheaper and more readily available Jet A fuel. (Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Tinker Reservist receives Air Force Reserve Command's outstanding safety civilian of the Year award

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Master Sergeant Regina Rector received the 2013 Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding Safety Civilian of the Year award here Dec. 7, 2013.

The recognition was presented for outstanding achievement in ground

award for the second time," she said. "It takes the support of my supervisor, the wing and the functional at Air Force Reserve Command to make this possible."

During the past year, Rector was directly responsible for 80 percent improvement to the wing's fall protection program, including new rescue

exceptional safety culture foundation for the wing.

Safety is more than a cultural foundation for Rector, however, it's personal.

"I'm not just a safety professional, I'm a warrior too. I want the Air Force to have the superior advantage in war and humanitarian missions," she said. "Superiority does not always mean a quantity advantage, it also means a quality advantage. A great safety culture prepares a unit to have both a quantity and a quality advantage."

Rector has been a ground safety manager for five-and-a-half years, starting her career with the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan. Her military career started while serving as an active duty Army medic.

Sergeant Rector says her future and her goals are simple; self-improvement professionally on a daily basis and assisting the unit where possible. She said those simple goals have a ripple effect.

"It's my greatest desire to see the unit successful in their mission and safety every day and I believe my simple goals will provide an opportunity for that success."

plans, equipment, and inspection regimens. Moreover, her initiative to blend associate wing safety inspection programs reduced duplication of effort by 73 percent.

According to the citation received for the award, Rector provided training to 34 unit safety representatives and 200 wing supervisors, creating an



With wind chills dipping well below 32 degrees, Master Sgt. Regina Rector, left discusses cold weather safety on the flight line with Tech. Sgt. Rodolfo Ando, 507th Maintenance Squadron during a pre-flight inspection recently. Rector is the Air Force Reserve Command's 2013 Outstanding Safety Civilian of the Year Award winner. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

safety from Oct. 1, 2012 through Sept. 30, 2013. During this time Rector served as the 507th Air Refueling Wing's Ground Safety Manager.

This marks the second time Rector has received this honor and says it takes a supportive chain to receive such an award.

"I'm humbled to receive this

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Looking into the eyes of a vet: Angel Tree project brought holiday gifts to 300 veterans

by Maj. Jon Quinlan

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Looking into the bright eyes of a World War II Marine Corps vet, I intensely listened as he described his experiences during the war. His voice cracked a bit as he detailed those days so many years ago.

The gentleman was in his 90's but still was able to vividly describe to me what being a veteran is all about. Sacrifice, service, dedication, mental toughness; these words best describe the efforts of thousands of veterans. Three hundred of them currently live in the Norman Veterans Center only 25 minutes from Tinker

AFB.

Some of our Reservists, Guardsmen and I made the drive to visit these humble veterans Dec. 23 for their annual Christmas Party. Members of the reserve units here helped raise the money to buy most of the presents for these veterans and they have been doing it since 2000. The best part of the program dubbed, "Angel Tree" was going to the veterans and handing them their gifts personally.

As we passed out Christmas presents, food and a little holiday cheer, I realized that I received a gift too. I got the chance to learn that service to our

country does not come without cost and should never be taken for granted. I learned every vet has a special place in his or her heart for our servicemen and that we, as younger generation service members must carry out a responsibility to take care of these warriors. I learned to listen, and I learned to respect these veterans no matter what their age or condition.

The Marine vet thanked me for listening to his story. His story is like so many of those veterans before us, who made it possible for us to serve today and for our nation to be free.

I hope they had a Merry Christmas, I know that I did.



Chaplain's Corner



The New Year is here! Many of us are looking to the 2014 year to make changes in our lives. In our culture we have the New Year's resolution. This is the time of year that is filled with hope and excitement of a fresh start for many. I wanted to take a moment to look at the most common resolutions that are made each year and ask if you share any of them. 1. Get in shape. 2. Get out of debt 3. Eat better. 4. Start a New Career/Job. 5. Spend more time with family.

All of these items have value in their own right and in many cases lead to less stress and more hap-

piness in one's life. To seek any one of these goals is a good endeavor. If you are like most people, you have tried to achieve one in the past and have not met that goal. Most people wonder why they have such a hard time reaching their goals. The answer might be a whole host of things: will power, desire wanes, some external circumstance happens and we do not have the means to meet a goal.

In Ephesians, Paul offers the believer some encouragement: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 therefore do not

be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." Certainty the will of God is to glorify Him in all areas of life. Therefore it is wise to view each goal as an opportunity to bring praise to God. That will also bring more joy in your life.

Whatever your goal for the New Year may be, I pray that you will be successful and bring much praise to God.

"Do not consider painful what is good for you."—Unknown.

"The secret to change is not to focus on fighting the old but to focus all your energy on building the new." -- Unknown.

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 News AF uniform policy changes allows morale t-shirts, badges, limitless athletic shoes

by Staff Sgt. David Salanitri

Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Operating
Location - P

The Air Force updated the policy governing uniform wear Jan. 17, with a goal of not financially burdening Airmen.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III approved several updates to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Dress and Appearance, with many of the changes coming directly from Airmen.

During the past year, Welsh prompted Airmen to make their voice heard through the Every Dollar Counts campaign, held last spring, and suggestions made directly to him during base visits or comments to the uniform survey board itself.

"The policy changes revolve around three areas," said Col. Patrick Doherty, Director of Air Force Services who has oversight of the uniforms and awards and recognition branch. "The first area of policy changes is focused on heritage, team building, esprit de corps and unit pride.

The second is recognizing and valuing Airmen's experiences, qualifications and job performance, allowing Airmen to wear what they have earned. The last area is a group of common sense approach inputs from Airmen in the field that senior leaders thought were great ideas."

There are dozens of updates to the AFI, including the following:

Morale T-shirts/patches representing individual squadrons that were worn in the past to increase unit pride are now authorized to wear on Fridays. Squadron color T-shirts may

be worn with the ABU or flight suit when in-garrison or on-station during unit temporary duty assignments and contingency deployments. Shirts must be one color throughout the squadron, and may have only a small squadron patch over the left chest. Wing Commanders can authorize personnel from different units to wear the same color T-shirts to facilitate esprit de corps and team building.

For example, maintainers, life support personnel and flight doctors are allowed to wear the color T-shirt of the flying squadron they support. Also, authorized is the in-garrison Friday wear of morale patches and nametags that have tasteful nicknames or call signs on flight suits. Unit commanders have approval authority for morale patches and nametag naming conventions.

Earned Air Force and other services' badges are authorized to wear, but only the command insignia pin is mandatory. This reverses a previous decision to prohibit wear of qualification badges and various patches on ABUs, to eliminate the need to remove and replace badges for deployment or permanent change of duty station moves.

In recent years, Airmen deployed to Afghanistan wore the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern. The OCP is flame retardant, treated with insect repellent and also used by the Army. Following this evolution, the ABU has become primarily an in-garrison uniform, according to Air Force senior leaders.

"The increased wear of the ABU

See Uniform change on Page 9

Safety is not by chance

by Master Sgt. Regina Rector

507th Ground Safety Manager

According to Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a strong safety and health culture is the result of a positive workplace attitude from the top leadership to the new hire. It also includes involvement and buy-in of all members of the workforce, mutual, meaningful and measurable safety and health improvement goals, policies and procedures that serve as reference tools rather than obscure rules, personnel training at all levels within the organization, and responsibility and accountability throughout the organization. The 507th Air Refueling Wing has a great advantage to develop a strong safety culture when they mentor all individuals within their organization to believe they have a right to a safe and healthy workplace, to develop each person to accept responsibility for ensuring his or her own safety and health, and to train all individuals have a duty to protect the safety and health of others.

The leadership at all levels concept is essential to a positive workplace attitude from the top leadership to the new hire. Leadership does not have to come from the top level of the unit. It is present in all members' level involvement by teamwork and communication during tasks. It takes courage to stop a task before someone is hurt or damage is done. It takes resolve to make the necessary changes in processes and procedures to produce safer results, measurable goals and reference tools.

They say that common sense is

Wing News

learning from one's mistakes, wisdom is learning from other's mistakes. Mentorship is an active tool to help equip the next generation leadership with wisdom. Mentorship helps with involvement and buy-in of all members of the workforce. If we did not have mentorship, we would lose experience and knowledge. We cannot keep our experience and knowledge to ourselves. It is crucial to pass it on. If we are not careful, we will repeat history by having the same mishaps over and over again.

Training all individuals will help with the professionalism in the unit. A great professionalism is to be a living example of integrity, responsibility and accountability throughout the organization. The best professionals are those who are in charge of the situation, as opposed to letting the situation be in charge of them. Training all individuals will help with the professionalism in the unit.

Uniform change from Page 8

in-garrison, coupled with Airmen's long-term desires to wear the qualification badges and the command insignia they have earned, makes authorized wear on the ABU a logical step," said Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services.

A list and examples of all newly approved badges authorized for wear on the ABU is located in attachment five of AFI 36-2903.

The Air Force physical training uniform no longer has color restrictions for athletic shoes. Airmen are now also authorized to wear black socks with their athletic shoes.

Cell phones no longer have



507th ARW Safety Excellent Effort Award

507th Security Forces Squadron made extra effort in cleaning their sidewalk last December 2013 UTA during a facility spot inspection. They get the recognition for their efforts this month. The 507 ARW Safety Excellent Effort Award is for recognition for a job well done in the unit's safety program. It includes any program management elements or facility spot inspection.

to be black, as long as they're not worn on the uniform or attached to a purse.

Changes came directly from the field and major commands, said Cox.

"The changes are the result of months of the Chief of Staff listening to what Airmen had to say about ABUs and other uniform wear policies," Cox said.

Airmen can expect to find the optional badges on the AAFES website by mid-July to early August. The commander's insignia pin will be mandatory once the cloth pins go on sale at AAFES.

For more information, please view Air Force Instruction 36-2903.



After losing a friendly bowl game wager, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Corporon, right, wears an Oklahoma University Sugar Bowl championship shirt provided by Tech. Sgt. Lindsay Newton. (Courtesy photo)



Senior Master Sergeant Bob Gaspar, 507th Operations Group intelligence superintendent, stops a point blank shot from Oklahoma City Barons hockey player, Bradley Hunt during a floor hockey game January 14, 2014 in the Maintenance Squadron hangar. Hunt was one of four Barons players to volunteer for the game here as part of a winning raffle by 507th Civil Engineering Squadron's Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Bostwick. Five members from the 507th and 137th Oklahoma Air National Guard Air Refueling Wings participated in the game as dozens more took time to come watch. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

**Jan. 2014 Promotions:
Congratulations to the following 507th
Air Refueling Wing members**

To Airman:

AB ARBUCKLE, TYLER R. AMN 507 SFS

AB MIER, RONNIE M. AMN 513 OSS



To Airman 1st Class:

AMN DAUGHERTY, TANNER B. A1C

35 CBCS



To Senior Airman:

A1C BAIRD, COLLACE W. SRA 507 MXS

A1C CARTWRIGHT, MASON SRA

513 AMXS

A1C CONSTABLE, JAY A. SRA 507 AMXS

A1C FEATHERSTONE, JASON R. SRA

35 CBCS

A1C SMITH, HARLAN H. SRA 507

AMXS

A1C TSCHACHER, NICHOLA SRA 507

MXS

A1C WELLS, MELISSA SRA 970 AACS

A1C WREN, TOSHA R. SRA 507 MDS



To Staff Sergeant:

SRA LADD, SHAYLON L. SSG 507 OG

SRA TRIANO, TRACEY A. SSG 72 APS



To Technical Sergeant:

SSG GREEN, JOSHUA TSG 507 MXS

SSG LAWSON, ANTHONY R. TSG 72

APS

SSG POWELL, WILLIAM R. TSG 72 APS



To Master Sergeant:

TSG EPPERLY, GRADY L. MSG 507 ARW

TSG SKAGGS, COLLEEN A. MSG 507

ARW

TSG STERN, CAMERON D. MSG 513

AMXS

TSG SUBIETA, KRISTIE J. MSG 507 MDS



To Senior Master Sergeant:

MSG BOHANNON, CHRISTOPHER

SMS 507 ARW

MSG GONSALVES, STEVEN SMS 507

LRS

