

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

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# On-final

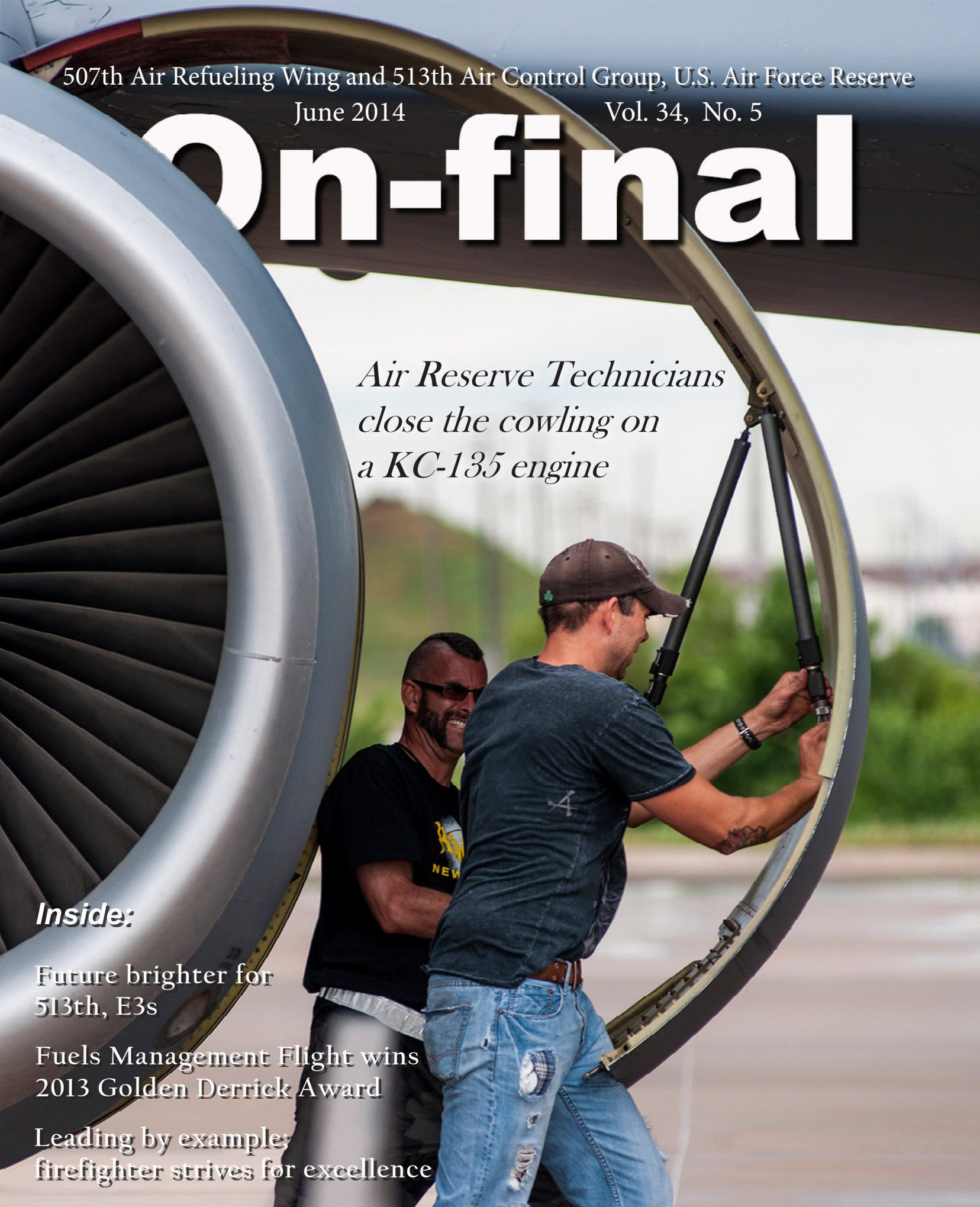
*Air Reserve Technicians  
close the cowling on  
a KC-135 engine*

## ***Inside:***

Future brighter for  
513th, E3s

Fuels Management Flight wins  
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Leading by example:  
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## On-final

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Staff Sergeant Ryan Harris, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron stands in as aircraft marshal as he prepares a KC-135R Stratotanker for takeoff during a recent aerial refueling mission. Through a series of hand and arm signals or light signals for nighttime flying, the marshal tells the pilot to keep turning, slow down, stop or shut down engines. The marshal also signals an aircraft out of its current spot to taxi and prepare for take-off as well as lead the aircraft into its parking spot. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

### Cover Photo



After performing engine tests on a KC-135R Stratotanker, Senior Airman Tim Hardy, left, and Tech. Sgt. John Sanders prepare to close the engine cowling. The 507th Air Refueling Wing's engine shop performed tests on all four engines as part of routine monthly maintenance. Hardy and Sanders are both Air Reserve Technicians with the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)



# Future brighter for 513th, E-3s

by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer

513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

The futures of the 513th Air Control Group and the seven E-3 Sentry AWACS planes slated for retirement are one step closer to being ensured after Rep. Tom Cole of Moore secured more than \$90 million for operations and maintenance, parts and personnel in a House defense spending bill May 30 in Washington.

The bill, which prohibits the Air Force from retiring any of the E-3 AWACS aircraft or deactivating any units associated with the airframe, passed an appropriations subcommittee and is on its way to the House Appropriations Committee. If the committee approves the bill, it will be

sent to the full House for a vote.

“While there is still much work ahead, including similar consideration and action by the Senate Appropriations Committee, we are on the right track in preserving these critical assets that keep both our nation and world safe,” Cole said in a statement.

The spending bill follows a House authorization bill that passed May 22, saving the Reserve’s only AWACS unit and three out of the seven aircraft slated for retirement. Rep. Jim Bridenstine of Tulsa, who visited the 513th May 13, pushed the amendment in the authorization bill.

“I fought to keep the 513th alive, and I won in the committee,” Bridenstine said during his visit to the unit. “We cannot get rid of the only Re-

serve command and control in the Air Force.”

The House bill also shifted funds within the budget to keep the A-10 fleet, maintain all 11 of the Navy’s aircraft carriers and upgrade Army M-1 Abrams tanks, all line items that were not budgeted in the administration’s 2015 spending request.

On May 22, the Senate Armed Services Committee completed markups of the Senate’s version of the budget, which requires the Air Force to keep all seven E-3 AWACS aircraft and Airmen at Tinker. Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking member of the committee, led the charge to preserve the Airmen and aircraft.

“I am proud that we stayed

*See Future on page 13*



# Fuels Management Flight wins 2013 Golden Derrick Award

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 507th Fuels Management Flight was awarded the American Petroleum Institute’s 2013 Golden Derrick Award May 4 at the May Unit Training Assembly Commander’s Call. The award, presented by 507th Air Refueling Wing Commander, Col. Brian S. Davis, is the first in wing history.

The award is a yearly competition amongst all fuels management flights across the Air Force Reserve Command and is based on more than just fuels management. The criteria include direct mission support, innovative management and quality of life programs.

In a written statement announcing this year’s winner, AFRC Director of Logistics Brig. Gen. Gary Blaszkiewicz said the selection process was difficult because of the exemplary performance of the nominees; however, the level of excellence displayed by the 507th Fuels Management Flight proved second to none.

“This is a monumental accomplishment for the members of our 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight,” said Col. Joseph Revit, the 507th Mission Support Group commander. “They competed against their peers across AFRC and because of their professionalism, abilities, performance, and dedication, they came out on top.”

Direct mission support accomplishments included supplying 5.3 million pounds of jet fuel with zero mishaps, meeting 102 training goals and having zero safety discrepancies,



**Technical Sergeant Brian Gunther, 507th Fuels Management Flight receives the American Petroleum Institute’s 2013 Golden Derrick Award from Col. Brian S. Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander at the May Unit Training Assembly commander’s call May 4, 2014. The award is given to the best fuels flight in the Air Force Reserve Command each year and is based on direct mission support, innovative management and quality of life programs. It’s the first Golden Derrick award received in wing history. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor)**

just to name a few.

According to Lt. Col. Trina Hood, the 507th LRS commander, the fuels shop also excelled in several innovative management areas.

“They created demonstration videos, comprehensive multi-period checklists for UTA training events and developed their own checkpoint worksheet,” Hood said. “A lot of effort goes into creating their annual training plan, but it pays off big when they are out on the flight line supporting the warfighter with top-notch service.”

The team from the fuels shop also had a busy year in the quality of life programs area. They were part of seven veteran events and dedicated over 200 hours in the City Rescue Mission food pantry – delivering an

estimated 156,000 pounds of food to families in need. They also volunteered time for disaster relief after the record-breaking EF-5 tornado ripped through Moore.

“I think it sends a clear message that fuels is a dependable portion of the total support package required to launch each flying mission, thereby enabling the 507th ARW to maintain our wartime readiness posture,” Revit said. “Our assigned fuelers should be proud of their accomplishments and this should serve as an example for others to emulate.”

Hood said training is the key to their success and the fuels members are nothing short of experts in their field.

“They are the pride of logistics!”



# Leading by example; firefighter strives for excellence

by Staff Sgt. Lauren C. Gleason  
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**M**ichael Bilharz picked through debris less than 24 hours after the tornado ripped through the area. The streets he walked down were barely recognizable, strewn with battered roofing shingles, sections of splintered wooden fences, and broken pieces of ordinary household items that resided peacefully in neighborhood homes the day before.

Rain softly fell on the wreckage as Bilharz and one family searched for their five-year old daughter's blanket.

"For over an hour we picked through the debris to locate the young girl's pink baby blanket," said the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native.

Bilharz, 32, and a fellow firefighter traveled from Texas to conduct a follow-up search and rescue mission before escorting families back to their flattened homes in Moore.

The two firefighters were the only ones on scene except the gas company and other emergency personnel.

"It was meaningful to be there and help her devastated family locate something good among the wreckage," Bilharz said about his experience.

Bilharz, a master sergeant and a fireman with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, said he enjoys lending a hand to people in need.

"As firefighters, our business is helping people, so when the opportu-

nity arose eight years ago, I jumped at the chance to become a fireman," he said.

Bilharz's selfless service was recognized by Moore Fire Department Fire Chief Gary Bird and was also noticed by the Air Force Reserve Command.



**Master Sergeant Michael Bilharz and fellow fire fighter stand at the ready while deployed in 2009. (Photo by Col. Leonard Dick, 506th Air Expeditionary Group Commander)**

Col. Brian S. Davis, the 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, presented the 2013 Fire Officer of the Year award to Bilharz on May 4.

Of the 28 AFRC fire flights competing for the award, Bilharz was selected for his remarkable job performance and exceptional contributions to the fire service.

"He has excellent military bearing, and he steps in and takes care of business," said Lt. Col. Patricia Pet-

tine, 507th CES commander.

Bilharz's mentor played an integral part in his career and motivated him to guide newer Airmen on the path to success.

"He genuinely cares about the junior enlisted, and although he may not admit it, he has the natural ability to lead and motivate Airmen," Pettine said.

"I try to set an example for the younger guys and get them recognized for their accomplishments," he said.

Since selected as assistant chief of training, he has trained fellow squadron members on a variety of subjects. His personal favorite is professional development and writing, which he regrettably refers to as a dying art.

"Keeping your audience interested during lectures is one of the most important elements of teaching," Bilharz said. "All students have an on and off switch. I try whatever I can to keep them in the on position, because once they switch off, it's nearly impossible to teach or lead them."

When not performing his Reservist duties, Bilharz carries out his civic duty as a firefighter for the Farmers Branch Fire Department in Gunter, Texas. In 2011, the city named him Firefighter of the Year. He is currently completing the Fire Science Management degree program from American Military University.

Despite the praise his work has earned him, Bilharz doesn't think he deserves any special recognition.

"Being awarded is an honor, but I work hard because that's just the way I am."

# Celebrate National Men's Health Week June 9-15

by the Centers for  
Disease Control and Prevention

Men can make their health a priority. Take daily steps to be healthier and stronger. Take a bike ride, toss a ball, eat less salt, and try more veggies. There are many easy things you can do every day to improve your health and stay healthy.

## Get Good Sleep

Insufficient sleep is associated with a number of chronic diseases and conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and depression. Also, insufficient sleep is responsible for motor vehicle and machinery-related accidents, causing substantial injury and disability each year. Sleep guidelines from the National Sleep Foundation have noted that sleep needs change as we age. In general, adults need between 7-9 hours of sleep.

[Sleep and Sleep Disorders](#)

## Toss out the Tobacco

It's never too late to quit. Quitting smoking has immediate and long-term benefits. It improves your health and lowers your risk of heart disease, cancer, lung disease, and other smoking-related illnesses.

Also avoid being around secondhand smoke. Inhaling other people's smoke causes health problems similar to those that smokers have. Babies and kids are still growing, so the poisons in secondhand smoke hurt them more than adults.

## Move More

Adults need at least 2½ hours of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (such as brisk walking) every week, and



**National Men's Health Week June 9-15, 2014**

muscle strengthening activities that work all major muscle groups (legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders, and arms) on two or more days a week. You don't have to do it all at once. Spread your activity out during the week, and break it into smaller chunks of time during the day.

## Eat Healthy

Fruits and vegetables are sources of many vitamins, minerals, and other natural substances that may help protect you from chronic diseases. Limit foods and drinks high in calories, sugar, salt, fat, and alcohol. Choose healthy snacks.

Nutrition for Everyone

Eat Less Salt - What You Can Do

## Tame Stress

Sometimes stress can be good. However, it can be harmful when it is severe enough to make you feel overwhelmed and out of control. Take care of yourself. Avoid drugs and alcohol. Find support. Connect socially. Stay

active.

## Stay on Top of Your Game

See your doctor or nurse for regular checkups. Certain diseases and conditions may not have symptoms, so checkups help diagnose issues early or before they can become a problem. Get the Preventive Medical Tests You Need

## Men: Stay Healthy at Any Age (AHRQ)

Pay attention to signs and symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, excessive thirst, and problems with urination. If you have these or symptoms of any kind, be sure to see your doctor right away. Don't wait!

## Find Affordable Healthcare

Federally funded health centers around the United States provide care, even if you have no health insurance. You can get health care and pay what you can afford, based on your income.



## 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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## Air Force News

# Commission seeks service members' compensation preferences

by **Alphonso Maldon, Jr.**,  
*Chairman, Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission*

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The commission tasked by President Barack Obama and Congress to modernize military compensation and benefits programs is seeking input from service members on their preferences.

Alphonso Maldon Jr., chairman of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, said understanding service members' compensation preferences is central to the commission's effort to craft modernization recommendations.

"Our primary goal is to ensure the uniformed services can maintain the most professional all-volunteer force, provide for a high quality of life for the members of the uniformed services and their families, and ensure that compensation and retirement systems are financially sustainable," he said. "Our fundamental objective is to craft an integrated compensation and personnel system that will continue to be valued by service members, provide flexibility for the uniformed services, and be cost effective."

To obtain these preferences, the commission will survey a number of active-duty, National Guard and Reserve service members during the next few months, with plans to survey retired service members as well. The

survey will ask participants to value individual elements of their compensation package in relation to each other, Maldon said.

"If you receive this survey, please take it," he added. "However, the survey is not the only way to let us know your preferences." People can provide input on the commission's public website, <http://www.mcrmc.gov>, and written comments may be mailed to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, Post Office Box 13170, Arlington, VA 22209.

"These tools are powerful ways to ensure we are aware of your preferences and concerns," Maldon said.

Over the past year, he noted, the commission has benefitted from meetings with service members, veterans, retirees and their family members. "Additionally," he said, "representatives of the uniformed services, military and veterans service organizations, and other subject-matter experts have greatly added to our understanding of the breadth of current military compensation and benefit systems. These engagements have reinforced what we've always known: Our people are the strength of our uniformed services."

Maldon added, "We honor your service and ask for your continued input and support as we move forward with this important endeavor."

"Like the 507th ARW  
on Facebook"

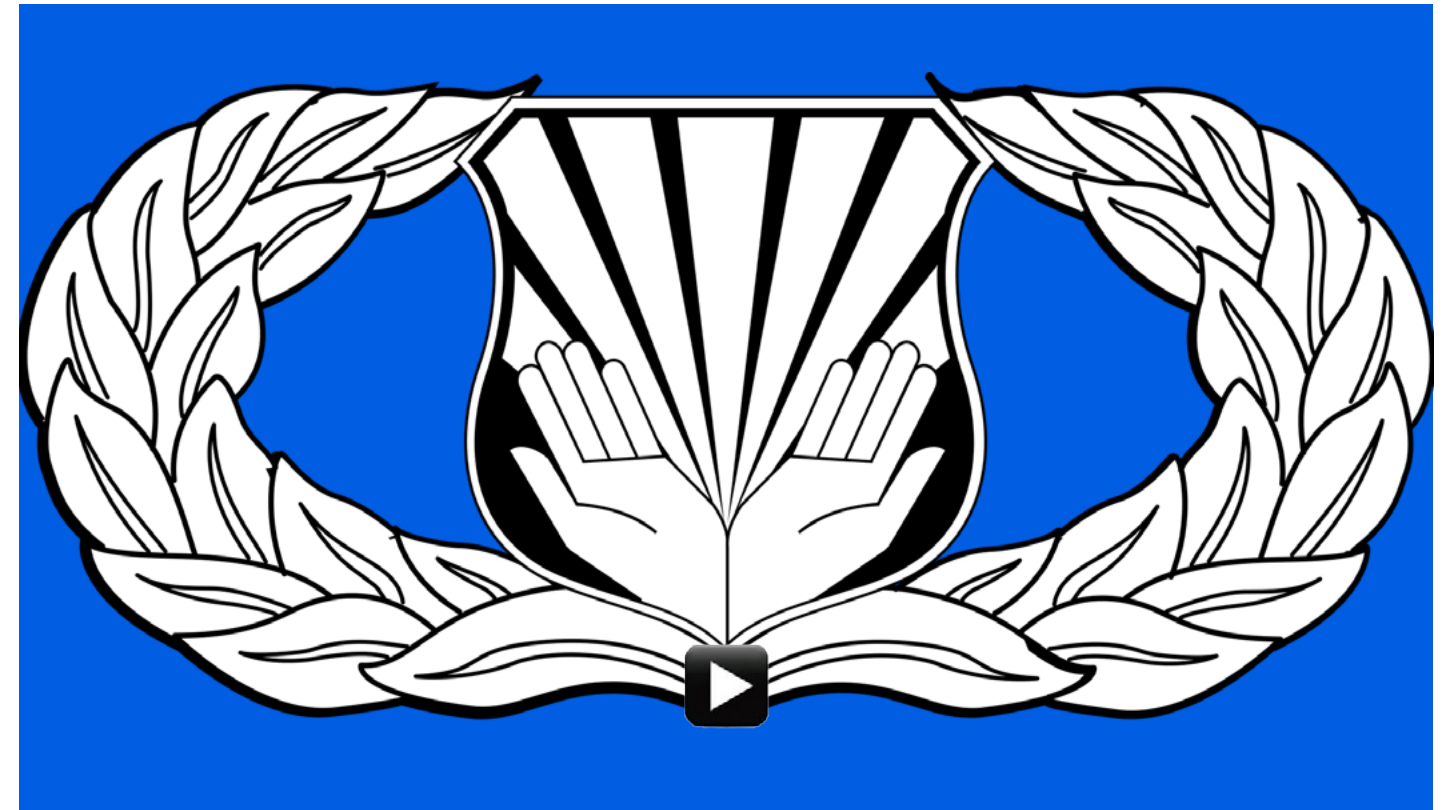


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## Wing News

# Chaplain's Corner Video



## Chaplain's Corner



by Chaplain (Capt.) John Weston  
What makes you happy? Is it having what you need, or having what you want? One has an end doesn't it? If you get food, clothing and shelter, you can be content. But wants can last forever, and however many you fill up, there are always more to be made and filled. We have to be careful not to connect our happiness to wants, because they can always change, even for us, the ones who want something!

That's why, despite all its trying, the Air Force cannot make you, or order you to be, happy. Why? Happiness is internal. It's something you carry within you even in the midst of changing circumstances. In his sermon on the mount, Jesus spoke about what makes a person blessed – not what makes them appear blessed, but what makes them blessed. In his section of what we call The Beatitudes, he says "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for

righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." – Matthew 5:6. Jesus knew that your satisfaction is an interior matter, not an exterior one. Christianity says if we pursue the right things, we will be satisfied. Today you will have to look inside and answer the question: Am I happy? Do I have what I need? Am I unhappy because of what I want?" You can't know the answer unless you ask the question. God bless you in your questioning.



**Aeromedical evacuation technicians Senior Airman Kyle Henry and Senior Airman Stephanie Pitts of the 137th Oklahoma Air National Guard Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron run operational checks on medical equipment to be used during a joint medical and refueling mission on May 29th, 2014. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)**



## 137th Oklahoma Air National Guard medical team trains aboard a KC-135

**by Staff Sgt. Lauren C. Gleason**

*507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

Eleven members of the 137th Oklahoma Air National Guard Air Refueling Wing flew a combination training mission aboard a KC-135R Stratotanker for patient care and in-flight refueling training on May 29th, 2014.

Nine 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron members practiced medical scenarios and aircraft emergencies while two pilots and a boom operator from the 185th Refueling Squadron simultaneously provided in-flight refueling for multiple F-16 fighter jets.

“We had a phenomenal day of training,” said 1st Lt. Jessica Dodson, who led the team as the medical crew director.

Capt. Chris Lane, mission clinical coordinator, said utilization of realis-

tic exercises is critical to maintaining skill levels of the medics on board.

“It’s cyclical,” Lane said. “We train at home for what we see in combat, and what we see in combat we bring home to incorporate into our training missions.”

Two registered nurses and three medical technicians make up the aeromedical evacuation team. As part of their training, flight nurses and medics attend flight school and survival school.

“In addition to our roles as medics, we also respond appropriately to aircraft emergencies such as rapid decompression of the cabin and fire and smoke on board,” Lane said.

The medical scenarios range from treating minor pain to managing patients experiencing post-traumatic stress.

“It’s a great learning environ-

ment,” Lane said. “We provide each other constructive criticism and use it to sharpen our knowledge and skills when providing combat care.”

The team provides in-flight care to wounded warriors in theater as well as their flight home.

“From takeoff to landing our primary concern is the safety and comfort of our patients,” Dodson said.

The team deploys regularly and all their medical equipment is fully operational, making the transition from a training mission to a real world mission seamless in the event of an emergency.

According to Dodson, taking care of wounded warriors and bringing them home is the most rewarding aspect of serving in the military.

“I think I have the best job in the Air Force,” Dodson said.

## Wing News

# Organizers planning ‘incredible’ Star Spangled Salute

Tinker Public Affairs

The skies over Tinker Air Force Base will be filled with the “sounds of freedom” June 21-22 as the United States Air Force Thunderbirds headline the 2014 Star Spangled Salute Air Show and Open House.

This performance is one of 38 in America for the Thunderbirds this year. The free event is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and co-hosted by Team Tinker, the Eastern Oklahoma Tourism Council, Aerospace America and the city of Midwest City.

“Our event organizers are planning an incredible air show with the generous help from private sectors and community partners,” said Tinker AFB airshow director, Maj. Zach McKissick. “During our current fiscally-challenged climate, support from our partners is crucial to making this Air Show a success.”

In addition to the Thunderbirds, the following will perform:

Randy Ball and the MIG-17 will make an appearance. He performs throughout North America, from Canada to Mexico. He has flown more than 1,000 performances. The Commemorative Air Force’s Lady Liberty A-26 will also make an appearance. Lady Liberty is owned by the American Airpower Heritage Museum. The group is totally dependent on the volunteer efforts of its members, donations from generous donors and sponsors as well as proceeds from air show appearances.

Pilot Justin Lewis of Lewis and Clark Performance will show the crowd the US Fleet Tracking Micro-

jet. Since its conception in the 1970’s, the “World’s Smallest Jet” has been performing for airshow audiences all over the world.

Oklahoma City’s own airshow pilot Justin Baker will also perform. “The thing I enjoy most about flying air shows is the look on the kids face when I ask them if I can give them a signed post card to send to a friend. I didn’t grow up with aviation, but after my first flight in 2005 I knew what I needed to do for the rest of my life,” Mr. Baker says on his blog.

Greg Koontz, flying a J-3 Piper Cub, will demonstrate that comedy isn’t just for the stage. Mr. Koontz has been performing in airshows since 1974, when he joined Colonel Moser’s Flying Circus and learned his trademark maneuvers.

The T-33 Heritage foundation will fly Lockheed’s “Shooting Star.” The

foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission to share aviation history with younger generations by highlighting America’s Korean War-era aircraft, honoring the brave young Airmen who flew the first generation of jet aircraft.

The Trojan Phlyers (sic) will bring the T-28 Trojan. The Phlyers are a group of aviation professionals dedicated to preserving the rich history of the North American Aviation Company’s T-28 Trojan. The pilots of Trojan Phlyers perform formation and solo aerobatics, and appear each year at air shows and events across the nation.

The Oklahoma Museum of Flying, based in Bethany, will fly the P-51 Mustang fighter and the B-25 Mitchell bomber. The group is dedicated to maintenance and operation of its aircraft, keeping them airborne

*See Salute on page 13*



**The Air Force Thunderbirds will headline Tinker’s Star Spangled Salute Air Show and Open House June 21-22. Organizers say this year’s air show will also feature the largest collection of static displays in Star Spangled Salute history. Including the always-popular tours of the E-3 Sentry, visitors will be able to see aircraft such as the B-1B Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress, C-17 Globemaster, CV-22 Osprey, E-6B Mercury, KC-135 Stratotanker, T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan, T-38 Talon and more. (Air Force photo by Dave Faytinger)**





## What is your favorite summer activity?



Technical Sergeant Gabe Padilla  
507th Operations Support Flight

"I like to go camping at Lake Texoma with my friends. We like to grill, chill out, have a few cold beers and cocktails and enjoy life on the lake."

"I enjoy jogging to stay fit and for fun, I like to spend time with my family poolside. I enjoy being by the pool because I like to relax outdoors and get a tan."

Major Chuck Hicks  
507th Operations Support Flight



Major Donna Mae Williams  
465th Air Refueling Squadron

"At my house, we like to relax in our backyard and let our little boys play in the bouncy house. We also visit the Myriad Botanical Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City, it's free and the boys love it."

### Salute from page 11

so future generations can continue to enjoy these historical aircraft.

This year's show will feature the largest collection of static (ground) displays in Star Spangled Salute history, including the B-1B Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress, C-17 Globemaster, CV-22 Osprey, E-6B Mercury, KC-135 Stratotanker, T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan, T-38 Talon and more. Tours of the E-3 Sentry AWACS are always a big draw. Residents who see the "plane with a big disk on top" flying over Oklahoma City will have a chance to learn about the Sentry's vital national defense mission.

There will also be flybys, formations and demonstrations from other current and historical military aircraft like the E-3 Sentry, KC-135, E-6B, T-38.

In addition there will be several activities and attractions geared toward a younger audience, including a "Kid Zone" with inflatables and activities available all day with the purchase of a wrist band. Organizers always want to make the Star Span-

gled Salute a wonderful event for the entire family.

Food and drink concessions will be available at various locations throughout the show areas. Free water will also be available to the public at clearly marked stations.

Live music will be included in this year's event. Oklahoma's own "Lower 40" will perform on the Land Run Records stage near the entrance to the airshow and the static displays. Jake Bowers will open the day of music followed by "Lower 40."

The show, parking and shuttle service from the parking areas is free. Drivers will be able to follow signs from Interstate 40 and Interstate 240, directing them to base entry points. Base access and parking will be through the Lancer Gate on Douglas Blvd and the Piazza Gate off of S.E. 74th Street. Security checks will be conducted prior to visitors loading the shuttles and may be conducted at any time on the installation.

Demonstrations and entertainment subject to schedule change. For more information visit [www.tinker.af.mil/](http://www.tinker.af.mil/) airshow.

### Future from page 4

within budget caps and fully funded military readiness," Inhofe said in a press release. "As we face an increasingly dangerous world, I am also pleased that we were able to increase funding for our nation's missile defense and ensured full funding for AWACS, an essential airplane for detecting enemy aircraft."

In February, the Department of Defense proposed a budget of \$495.6 billion with the Air Force requesting \$109.3 billion. The Air

Force also announced a reduction of 3,300 Reservists, 400 Air National Guardsmen and 16,700 active-duty Airmen and the retirement of the U-2 Dragon Lady and A-10 Thunderbolt II fleets.

In a hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III said the current fiscal situation has forced the Air Force into some very difficult decisions.

"No one takes this lightly, but we feel it's necessary to at least try and create some savings," Welsh said.

### June 2014 Promotions: Congratulations to the following 507th Air Refueling Wing members

**To Airman 1st Class:**  
AMN RICHARDSON, ERIC A1C 507  
MXS



**To Senior Airman:**  
A1C LEMLEY, JOSHUA B. SRA 507  
AMXS  
A1C JONES, JOSIAH M. SRA 507 FSS  
A1C MARSH, JAMES M. SRA 35 CBCS  
A1C MRAZ, SHERIDAN L. SRA 507 MDS  
A1C ROGERS, CHASE M. SRA 507 MXS



**To Staff Sergeant:**  
SRA DUNNING, MICHAEL J. SSG 507  
AMXS  
SRA HICKEN, JEFFERY D. SSG 507 CES



**To Technical Sergeant:**  
SSG BLACK, CHRISTINA L. TSG 507 SFS  
SSG CLEMMONS, LISA M. TSG 465 ARS  
SSG FOX, JUSTIN D. TSG 507 AMXS  
SSG HOLLOWAY, CINDY D. TSG 507 OG  
SSG NGUYEN, THIEN D. TSG 507 CES  
SSG RAY, DOUGLAS H. TSG 35 CBCS  
SSG SALLEE, MICHAELLE TSG 465 ARS



**To Master Sergeant:**

TSG ERFORD, WYATT A. MSG 72 APS  
TSG GRACIA, ULYSSES L. MSG 507 CES  
TSG PATTERSON, MICHELLE A. MSG  
35 CBCS  
TSG SCHAEFER, DANIEL R. MSG 507  
MDS



Col. David W. Robertson, the 513th Air Control Group commander, said he understands the challenging situation that Airmen of the 513th have found themselves in.

"I know this has been a very difficult time for the men and women of the 513th ACG," Robertson said. "However, I would encourage patience as the budgeting process continues and changes are made. Stay optimistic and continue to do the mission with the usual 513th excellence."





Master Sgt. Robert Ahern, right, 137th Oklahoma Air National Guard Maintenance Squadron, relays information to the cockpit as the pilot tests the rudder and flaps during a pre-flight check while Senior Airman Eric Bandell looks on. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)