

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

July 2014

Vol. 34, No. 6

On-final



THUNDERBIRDS HEAT UP TINKER AFB

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507th reservists
train to survive

Star Spangled Salute
equals Star Spangled Success

Softball season begins
Okies off to slow start



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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's public affairs office, which is located at 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 4, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., 73145-8726. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Cowlings on a KC-135R Stratotanker are open waiting on a routine inspection by 507th Maintenance Squadron technicians as a severe storm moves into the local area. Oklahoma has seen a number of severe storms in the area within recent weeks. Maintenance crews resumed work once the threat of lightning passed. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Cover Photo



A U.S. Air Force Thunderbird takes off in preparation for the Thunderbirds portion of the aerial show at the Tinker Air Force Base Open House June 21, 2014. The open house was the first in more than four years and attracted nearly 160,000 visitors. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

SecAF: Total force readiness has atrophied

by Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, (AFNS) -- While elements of the Air Force are always prepared to meet the country's readiness needs, total force readiness has deteriorated, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James told the Defense Writers Group here June 18.

Nearing the six-month mark of her term as the Air Force's top official, James touched on appropriately balancing the readiness of the force as part of her three top priorities.

"The readiness of today ... is just absolutely crucial," she said. It means having the right training and equipment, she said, and it means

having people prepared to step up to the plate no matter what.

"Today, if necessary to go do what the nation would call upon us to do, we're dealing with the situation in Iraq," she said. "If we had been together a month ago, you might have been very interested in talking about Ukraine. The point is you never know what is going to happen. The point is you've got to be ready. Our readiness in the Air Force, as a total force over the years, has atrophied -- that is to say the full spectrum of our readiness."

Parts of our Air Force are enormously ready at all times, James said, and those are the ones that would be put forward first.

"But I'm concerned with our entire readiness," she added. "We

need to get that readiness up."

James said the readiness of tomorrow means the platforms and technologies of tomorrow. "You know we have our three top acquisitions programs," she said. "We have other programs as well, and we've got to appropriately invest in those so that 10, 20, 30 years from now, we remain the world's best Air Force."

Getting that balance correct is important, James said, but it is a difficult business, because it all comes down to money and where it will be spent in a tough budget environment.

"In order to pay for some of these priorities we're trying to reduce some of our aging aircraft like the A-10 [Thunderbolt attack jet, also called Warthog], for example," she said.

"We don't know whether Congress

See Total Force on page 8

507th reservists train to survive

by Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

More than 70 reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing demonstrated their ability to survive and operate under hostile conditions on June 8 at the Glenwood training area north of Tinker Air Force Base.

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Bohannon led the ATSO exercise, which evaluates Airmen on the proper wear of MOPP gear, self-aid and buddy care, decontamination techniques, and post attack reconnaissance, or PAR, procedures.

PAR teams were evaluated on their knowledge surveying the area following the mock nerve agent attack, guided by the AFPAM 10-100, or Airmen's Manual. The manual outlines step-by-step how to complete a ground attack report, and proper procedures for responding to various situations in the field.

One inspector, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gaspar, said the exercise is beneficial because Airmen need a chance to participate in a realistic environment in order to sharpen their skills.

"In my opinion, the most beneficial aspect of the training is donning the MOPP gear and getting real hands-on experience that will prove useful in the event of an attack," said Gaspar.

The chemical gear is solely for training to ensure safety in the real world environment, while the M50 field mask is used during real world chemical, biological, radiological,



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing demonstrate the ability to survive under hostile conditions during the June Unit Training Assembly here. More than 70 members took part in the yearly exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

nuclear and explosive incidents and in training.

In light of recent changes to the defense budget, training was conducted here on base instead of traveling to another location.

"Today's survival training is part of our new way of training and preparing for our mission," Bohannon said. "We do it all at home which saves time, money, and manpower."



Chaplain's Corner



by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dwight Magnus

The human heart yearns for freedom. Yet so many promise pathways to freedom that frustrates and enslaves us. True spiritual freedom does not come when we have the ability to do whatever we want, when we want. No, it comes when we submit ourselves to God.

Paul put it this way:

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to

death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Peter summed it up this way:

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

So really, we have two choices: to be slaves of sin, or slaves of

righteousness. The New Testament has a great picture for us in this regard – the bond servant. The bond servant is one who chooses willingly to submit to the authority of another. Paul willingly submitted his desires to God, any on many occasions referred to himself as God's bondservant.

How can we be bondservants that have true freedom?

Start with submission and obedience to God. It is amazing how freeing those actions are.

Freedom!

Thunderbirds

highlight Tinker AFB
Star Spangled Salute



Tinker Air Force base opened its gates to the public for the Star Spangled Salute Air Show and open house June 21-22 for the first time in more than four years. The two-day event went off without a hitch and saw an estimated record 160,000 spectators. Visitors saw several aircraft on static display to include: a B-1 Bomber, B-52, E-3 Sentry, KC-135R along with several others. The Air Force Academy Wings of Blue Jump team opened the show as a member holding the American flag parachuted onto the runway, followed up by more than 10 hours of aerial show. Each day culminated with an hour-long performance by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers

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Reserve News

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will agree to this at the end of the day, but we have to make those tough decisions [and] reduce force structure in some areas in order to pay for this.”

James told the defense writers that the other two priorities she remains focused on are taking care of people and maximizing taxpayer dollars.

“People are the foundation of everything that we do,” she said. “And taking care of people means a lot of things. It’s a big portfolio.” It means recruiting, retaining and developing people, James said, and shaping the force so the right people are in the right jobs going forward.

Part of shaping the force, she said, will come by downsizing through both voluntary and involuntary means.

“This has been quite an issue that we have been dealing with,” James said. “It’s on the minds of a lot of our airmen, and so I’ve been talking about this as I’ve been traveling across the Air Force. The goal is to use voluntary as much as possible [and] to use involuntary when we must to get it over with so that we are appropriately shaped in the next 14 [to] 15 months, and then we’re done and move forward.”

James said appropriately balancing the active duty, Reserve and National Guard components also is part of taking care of people.

“As we’re reshaping and downsizing,” she said, “we want to take advantage of the best capabilities

of all three of those components and the fourth component as well: our civilians.”

The secretary also said another part of taking care of people is ensuring their dignity and respect in an appropriate climate in the Air Force.

“As you could imagine, sexual assault has been something I’ve been tracking on quite a bit as well over the last six months,” she added. “It’ll continue to be a top priority of mine going forward.”

James said that coming from the business world, her third priority is making every dollar count in a “tough” budget environment. This involves keeping programs on schedule and on budget as much as possible, she said, while attacking headquarters spending and getting to an auditability stage for the Air Force’s books.

“We’re also trying to bubble up ideas from the field through what we’re calling the ‘Make Every Dollar Count’ campaign,” James said.

The secretary stressed that her job is to ensure the Air Force is prepared to answer the nation’s call, today and in the future.

“My overall job ... is to train, to equip and to organize the Air Force so that we can help the nation respond to whatever contingency we’re asked to respond to in what is still a very, very dangerous world,” James said. “It’s to prepare the Air Force today for that, as well to make sure that we’re on the path to do that 20 and 30 years from now.”

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Wing News

Incentive flight allows Airmen a chance to witness an aerial refueling

by Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing had the opportunity to fly on a KC-135R Stratotanker June 6, 2014 at Tinker Air Force Base. The flight, known as an incentive flight, is designed to give Airmen the chance to witness an aerial refueling – the wing’s primary mission.

“The refueling mission is to supply global support to all NATO and US in-flight capable aircraft,” said

“The refueling process seemed easy when they were explaining it to us in the conference room, but when you actually see it happen, it doesn’t seem easy at all”
-- Chaplain (Capt.) John Weston

Staff Sgt. Steven Bowman, a 465th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 boom operator. “We also get to train people within base agencies working with the Airborne Warning And Control System and Take Charge And Move Out (TACAMO) aircraft.”

Before getting aboard the KC-135R, incentive flight recipients assembled in the 465th conference room for a briefing on safety features and procedures. The briefing included what to do in case of an emergency



A U.S. Navy E-6 Mercury receives fuel from a KC-135R Stratotanker during an incentive flight June 6, 2014 at Tinker Air Force Base. The incentive flight gave Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing the opportunity to see a refueling in person. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor)

and where to locate oxygen masks, which were directly above the seats.

Once the plane was at cruising altitude, passengers were free to get up and walk around. They were required to walk around with the oxygen mask on his or her person at all times.

When the KC-135R was preparing to provide fuel, two Airmen at a time went down to the boom area to watch the process. After lowering the boom, the Navy E-6 Mercury aircraft flew underneath the KC-135R to connect with its aerial refueling receptacle, which is located just above the cockpit.

The Airmen who work at the 465th ARS are constantly on the go, but for Bowman, the pace is one of the many things he likes about the job.

“The travel’s really great and so is the unit atmosphere,” Bowman

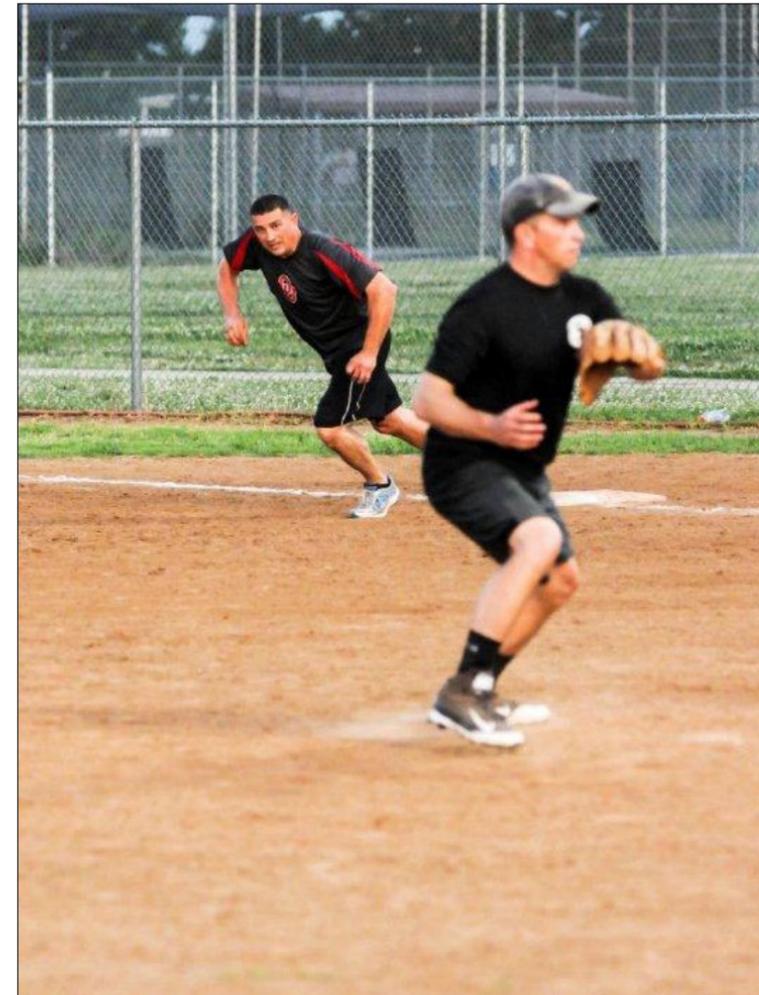
said. “Also, it’s nice to work hand and hand with the pilots. This job never gets boring.”

After witnessing the aerial refueling, the passengers developed a better understanding for the amount of work and skill that goes into aerial refueling.

“The refueling process seemed easy when they were explaining it to us in the conference room,” Chaplain (Capt.) John Weston said. “But when you actually see it happen, it doesn’t seem at all.”

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Okies softball season off to a slow start



Photos by Senior Airman Mark Hybers

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

The Okies softball season got off to a rough start June 26 with a drubbing at the hands of the Navy's VQ-7 Roughnecks on Champ Field at Tinker AFB.

After weeks of rain cancellations, the Okies took the field with a new coach at the helm and few returning starters. The lack of playing time

as a team showed as the Okies were quickly disposed of in the first of a twin bill, 14-0.

The nightcap resulted in the same score, however, new skipper Tech. Sgt. Dustin Staude said they played better as a team despite the score.

"The first game we knocked a lot of rust off and got the jitters out," Staude said. "I think as a first time coach I have a lot to learn about the non-player side of the game."

The Roughnecks are not the Okies' biggest rival; however, Staude said they always play tough and have really stepped up their game this year. As for the Okies, Staude said just getting back to the basics and practice time should help a great deal.

"We just need some softball 101," he said. "We have two weeks between games which gives us plenty of time to practice and get more familiar with each other on the field."

Staude said the veterans all played well as expected. The newcomer, Senior Master Sgt. Richard Stull, came ready to play and pitched a very good game despite the score.

The first two weeks of the season have been pushed back due to rainouts - including a double header against the Okies' main rival, the 513th Air Control Group's Thumpers. The double header is rescheduled for

mid-August.

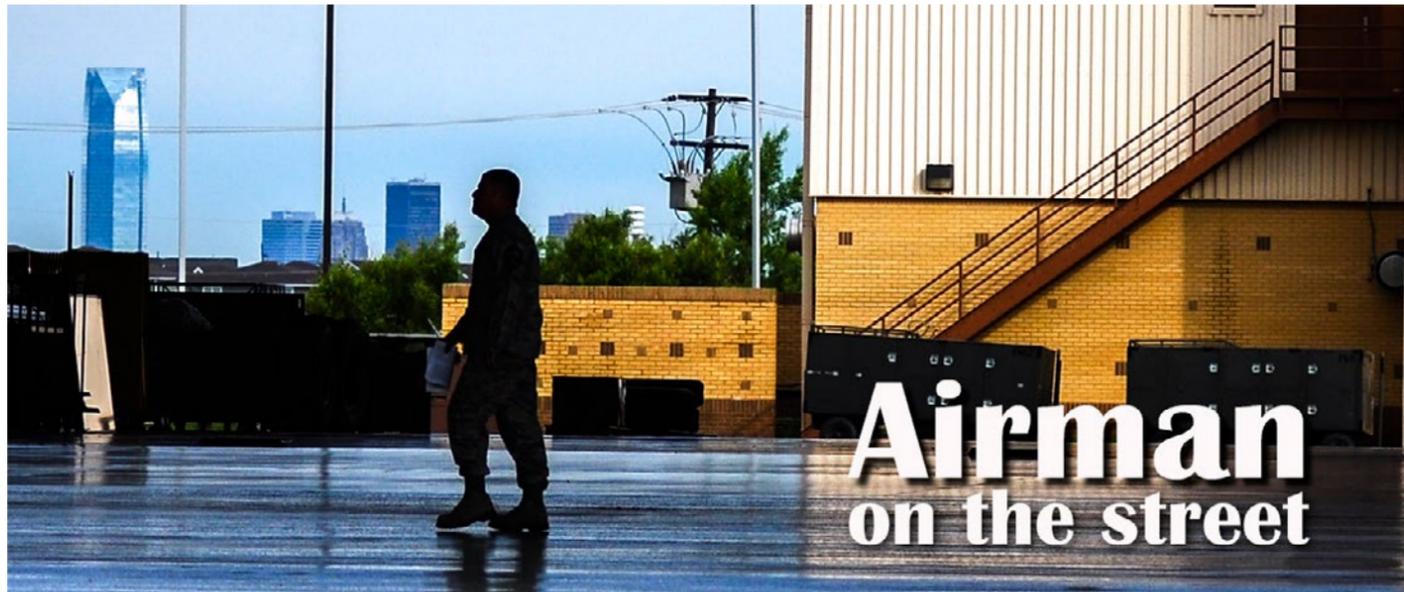
Despite the 0 and 2 start, the Okies are only two games out of first place with a lot of ball yet to play.

"I think we will put together a much better game against Contracting," Staude said.

That game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on July 10.

2014 Softball Standings

Thumpers	2-0
Mojo Sports	2-0
VQ-7 Roughnecks	2-0
AMXS Eagles	0-2
Okies	0-2
Canadian Blue Jays	0-2
Contracting	0-0



What's the most interesting experience you've had at work?



Senior Airman Celeste Sutton
507th Maintenance Group

“While working in retail, I had to calm down an enraged customer who didn't agree with our store's return policy. She was upset that she couldn't return a rug that she owned for over a year.”

“When I worked at Will Rogers Airport, I met actor R. Lee Ermey, best known for his role as smart-mouthed Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in the movie, Full Metal Jacket.”

Tech. Sgt. Jason Dail
507th AMXS



Master Sgt. Ronald Huggins
507th AMXS

“One morning when I was a KC-135 crew chief, I witnessed the tail assembly break off and fall down on the ramp after being struck by a huge lightning bolt.”

101 Critical Days of Summer: A car is not a child's toy

by Steve Serrette
72nd Air Base Wing Safety Office

When the outside temperature is 93 degrees, even with a window cracked, the temperature inside a car can reach 125 degrees in just 20 minutes and approximately 140 degrees in 40 minutes.

Children should never be left alone inside a car, even for a few minutes. From 1996 through 2000, more than 120 children -- most of them ages 3 and younger -- died from heat stroke after being trapped in a car. In summer 1999, an average of one child every four days died after being trapped in a car parked in the searing heat. And this unpardonable travesty against children still continues to this very day.

Many parents mistakenly think they can leave a child in a vehicle while running a “quick” errand. Unfortunately a delay of just a few minutes can lead to tragedy. Heat is much more dangerous to children than it is to adults. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's core body temperature can increase three to five times faster than that of an adult, causing permanent injury or death.

“Extreme heat affects infants and small children disproportionately,” said Martin Eichelberger, M.D., director of trauma surgery at Children's National Medical Center and president of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. “Heat rapidly overwhelms the body's ability to regulate temperature. In a closed environment, the body can go into shock and circulation to vital organs will begin to fail.”

Safety in your driveway While parked in a driveway, a car can be especially hazardous. Unlocked cars pose serious risks to children

who are naturally curious and often lack fear. Once they crawl in, children don't have the developmental capability to get out. More than a third of deaths reported last year occurred when children crawled into unlocked cars while playing, they became trapped and perished in the sweltering heat.

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign warns parents to be especially vigilant about their children's safety on days when temperatures are 80 degrees or higher by offering the following safety precautions to combat heat-related injuries in cars.

- Never leave a child in an unattended car, even with the windows down.
- Teach children not to play in or around cars.
- Always lock car doors and trunks even at home.
- Be wary of child-resistant locks. Teach older children how to disable the driver's door locks if they unintentionally become entrapped in a motor vehicle.
- Check to make sure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination
- Don't overlook sleeping infants
- Watch children closely around cars, particularly when loading and unloading.
- Make sure you check the temperature of the car seat surface and safety belt buckles before restraining your children in the car.
- Use a light covering to shade the seat of your parked car. Consider using windshield shades in front and back windows.

If a child gets locked inside a car, get him out and dial 9-1-1 or a local emergency number immediately.

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

To Airman:
AB RICHIE, MERCEDES AMN 513 AMXS



AB WILLIS, JASMINE AMN 72 APS

To Airman 1st Class:
AMN BUSTAMANTE, STEVEN A1C 507 FSS



AMN CHITWOOD, JAY R. A1C 72 APS
AMN FENNEL, NIA N. A1C 507 MXG
AMN FRANZ, RICHARD T. A1C 507 OSS
AMN LEDBETTER, SHEENA R. A1C 513 MXS

AMN PEREZ, MARTIN G. A1C 507 FSS
AMN SANDERS, QUINTON M. A1C 507 FSS

AMN SHAFFER, BRENT D. A1C 507 FSS
AMN VALTIERRA, VICTORIA A1C 507 FSS

AMN WOODWARD, ROBERT A1C 507 MXS

To Senior Airman:
A1C ALLEN, SADA B. SRA 507 MDS
A1C ARGO, LUCAS T. SRA 507 CES
A1C BURKS, KEVIN D. SRA 507 FSS
A1C DAVIS, NICHOLAS D. SRA 72 APS
A1C FISHER, HARRY E. SRA 507 MDS
A1C HINES, JOSHUA E. SRA 507 AMXS
A1C MINER, TYLER J. SRA 507 MDS
A1C YOUNG, BRIDGETTE SRA 507 FSS



To Staff Sergeant:
SRA COBB, CHRISTOPHER SSG 507 MXS
SRA FERREE, SEAN C. SSG 507 MXS
SRA MEYER, JENNIFER M. SSG 507 CES
SRA SANTIAGO, LAURA S. SSG 507 MDS
SRA SHAW, SPENCER F. SSG 507 CES
SRA SMITH, ALLAN A. SSG 507 MXS



To Technical Sergeant:
SSG BROWN, BAHATI J. TSG 507 AMXS
SSG DAHLBERG, ERIN L. TSG 507 MDS
SSG RAMSEY, TIFFANY C. TSG 507 FSS
SSG WOLERY, BRADLEE D. TSG 507 MDS



To Master Sergeant:
TSG BROWN, JASON A. MSG 507 ARW
TSG GIBB, DANIEL E. MSG 513 OSS
TSG GRAHAM, SEAN D. MSG 72 APS
TSG LONG, MELISSA M. MSG 507 MDS



To Senior Master Sergeant:
MSG PROKUP, JOHN C. SMS 72 APS
MSG SUMLIN, DEMETRIOS SMS 72 APS





A pilot from the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds flies over the 507th Air Refueling Wing flight line Thursday June 19, 2014 as they practice for the upcoming airshow. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Mark Hybers)