

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

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Rim of the Pacific

Civil Engineer Squadron
builds home for Navajo

Services' members simulate
mock deployment kitchen



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On-final

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The boom pod on a KC-135R Stratotanker awaits an F-16 for refueling during the Rim of the Pacific exercise July 26, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

Cover Photo



A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot communicates with the boom operator on board a U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, during in-air refueling July 26, 2014, near the Hawaiian Islands as a part of Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

Reserve units provide robust refueling, command and control operations during RIMPAC 2014

by Maj. Jon Quinlan

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

More Than 60 Reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group joined over 25,000 military personnel from 22 nations during a two-week operation supporting the 24th Rim of the Pacific 2014 exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Over 200 military aircraft participated in this biennial multinational maritime exercise. RIMPAC is hosted by U.S. Pacific Command and is an exercise designed to enhance international cooperation for the secu-

rity of the world's oceans.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing and Airmen from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron provided a sizable portion of the total fuel off load flying four KC-135R Stratotankers during the exercise. The 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron flew the only E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft and maintenance teams from all reserve units played a vital role making it all come together, according to unit leadership.

Okies were joined by military forces from around the globe to include the Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, People's Republic of China,

Japan, Tonga, Brunei, and more.

"Exercise planning efforts began over a year and-a-half ago, so this TDY deployment has been a culmination of many individual efforts and months of planning for the entire staff involved," said Lt. Col. Ken Humphrey, 465th ARS director of operations. "We couldn't have made any of this possible without their help."

The 465th ARS joined forces with refueling crews from Hawaii and Kansas Air National Guard and the 909th Air Refueling Squadron from Kadena Air Base to provide robust air refueling cells during the exercise.

"As lead tanker unit for the exercise, our combined ops and maintenance team did an outstanding job - never missing a mission," Humphrey said. "Teaming together with an active duty unit from Kadena, we supported daily air refueling missions coordinating with tanker units from Hawaii, Kansas and even Canada."

Okies also joined up with the Reservists from the 970th AACS who also brought their A-game providing a large chunk of the airborne command and control.

"What we were able to accomplish was huge," Lt. Col Brent Vander Pol, 970th AACS commander said. "We were able to get our secure link

up and running, providing all of the other allied assets with everything we could see. For us to get and stay connected to the Navy, that's a huge win for us."

Navy communications Sailors flew on the E-3's first mission and worked directly with aircrew members to set up Link 16 capability. Link 16 is a secure network that allows U.S. and allied ships and aircraft to share tactical information.

Vander Pol said that the staff members of the air operations center were surprised by the amount

of data that the E-3 provides. Even though the E-3 Sentry wasn't the only AWACS to participate in RIMPAC, it provided the largest radar picture.

"We were able to work with the reservists from the 507th and had a lot of mutual support," Vander Pol said. "At the end of the day, it was just a bunch of guys from Oklahoma helping each other out."

Vander Pol added, maintenance teams from both reserve units; both KC-135 and AWACS played a critical role in getting all our sorties off the ground and making the mission come

together.

For all citizen Airmen the mission at RIMPAC was much more than just a routine training opportunity.

"Everyone in the unit realized that this trip was a chance for us to shine and to tell the story of our Reservists," Vander Pol said. "We certainly got the attention of our joint and allied partners with what we were doing." (Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer, 513th Air Control Group contributed to this report)



U.S. Air Force Maj. Matthew Biggs, a pilot with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, checks instruments on board a KC-135 Stratotanker on July 26, 2014, in support of Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, 2014 near the Hawaiian Islands. RIMPAC, a U.S. Pacific Command-hosted biennial multinational maritime exercise, is designed to foster and sustain international cooperation on the security of the world's oceans. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



Maintenance reservists from the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, walk off the flight line after launching an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft July 24, 2014, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

Strategic agility is the future of the Air Force

by Staff Sgt. Torri Ingalsbe

Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Operating Location

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- As the Air Force prepares for new challenges and opportunities of the coming decades, it faces sobering 21st-century realities: global centers of power have become more distributed and the terrorism threat more dispersed. Most importantly, the emerging environment is demonstrating a trend that could prove to be the defining one of current times: the accelerating pace of change.

Thus, the Air Force's ability to continue to adapt and respond faster than the potential adversaries is the greatest challenge it faces during the next 30 years.

To meet the challenge, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III have developed a strategic framework that will guide Air Force planning and resourcing over the next several decades. The framework has three main elements: a long-term future look that provides the vectors and imperatives necessary to guide planning activities, a 20-year resource-informed plan, and a 10-year balanced budget, based on fiscal projections.

The first document of the trilogy, "America's Air Force: A Call to the Future," is the cornerstone guidance for a unified path to the future. The document emphasizes the need for strategy-driven resource decisions.

"The five core missions of the Air Force are not going to change. These missions are what the combatant commanders and the nation expect us to provide, but the way we think about how they are provided has to change..."
Gen. Mark A. Welsh III

But more important is the courage to make bold change, because Airmen must think and do things differently to thrive in the 21st century.

In an era defined by rapid change, the institution that can keep pace in its processes, thinking, and actions will be the one best poised for success in deterring conflict, and winning should a fight be required. This is what "A Call to the Future" refers to as strategic agility.

Agility combines the attributes of flexibility and adaptability to leverage speed. The rate at which the Air Force develops capabilities needs to increase to match the pace of change and the opportunities to incorporate new technologies and improve existing systems.

James explained further that, "In addition to strategic agility, our nation demands an Air Force capable of harnessing diverse ideas and perspectives. Diversity, total force integration, and building internal and external partnerships provide the nation with the Air Force it expects,

deserves, and needs."

The most important responsibility of a military service is to provide decision makers with viable solutions for the challenges of tomorrow and, true to Air Force heritage, it will meet that challenge. The Air Force will continue to deliver enduring, responsive airpower for national security through both the strength of Airmen and the responsive and effective application of global vigilance, global reach, and global power for America.

As Welsh stated earlier in 2014, "The five core missions of the Air Force are not going to change. These missions are what the combatant commanders and the nation expect us to provide, but the way we think about how they are provided has to change.

The Air Force must have the strategic agility required to successfully respond to the complex challenges that will confront our nation."

Air Force 30 year strategy: http://airman.dodlive.mil/files/2014/07/AF_30_Year_Strategy_2.pdf

Tinker Reservists build hope and homes for impoverished Navajo

by Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Forty reservists from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron partnered with a Native American charity to construct homes for Navajo living on

vice members and units to prepare for wartime missions while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

The CE team made a positive change in the quality of life for residents of the Navajo Nation reserva-

507th CES.

Two teams comprised of airmen from various specialties, such as HVAC, utilities, electrical, power production, pest control, and structures, took part in the IRT.

"We performed tasks outside our specialties when necessary, which offered opportunities for airmen to hone their skills in a way that is not possible back at the unit," McLaughlin said.

The team fabricated three homes in a warehouse, installed insulation and sheetrock, and traveled to several home sites to perform earthwork and install electrical, plumbing and septic lines.

First Lieutenant Christopher Yates said the expertise of the senior enlisted was the foundation of the mission.

"Working closely with experienced non-commissioned officers gave me valuable knowledge that I can use to manage my people more effectively," he said.

Water and fuel system maintenance technician Senior Airman Talisa Edmundson said the most rewarding part of her annual tour was witnessing first-hand the appreciation of the residents on the reservation, of which 56% live below the poverty level according to the SIF's website.

"I helped run water and electricity to homes that lacked infrastructure. It was really special to provide necessities to the Navajo that some have lived their whole lives without,"

See Homes on page 9



Six members of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron perform earthwork with shovels and a backhoe at a home site on the Navajo Nation reservation in Gallup, N.M. in July. The team partnered with a local charity and constructed homes for impoverished Indians as part of Innovative Readiness Training. (U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Christopher Yates)

a southwestern reservation as part of Innovative Readiness Training in June and July.

IRT is a DOD program that serves a dual purpose by providing real world training opportunities for ser-

tion and gained experience through on the job training.

The officer in charge of the June rotation, Maj. Brian McLaughlin, felt that the New Mexico project was an excellent training opportunity for the

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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Wing News



Senior Airman Taiwan Jackson serves corn to one of the many reservists to come through the make-shift forward deployed dining facility July 12 here. Approximately 100 meals were prepared by members of the 507th sustainment services flight in a mock deployed set up. The services flight performs the set up and tear down once a year as part of their training requirements. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Reservists prepare and serve meal in a mock deployed dining facility

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

Reservists from the 507th Sustainment Services Flight set up grills, a tent and a food line, feeding nearly 100 Airmen in a mock deployment scenario July 12 here.

Setting up the single pallet expeditionary kitchen is a yearly training requirement for the services flight and according to Senior Master Sgt. Mikula Labbe, sustainment services flight superintendent, must be up and ready to serve in six hours or less.

“We use this set up when we deploy to a bare base,” said Senior Master Sgt. Mikula Labbe. “The first

thing our Airmen get is a meal ready to eat and then we use the deployed setup and serve the unitized group ration meals.”

The UGRs come as a pre-packaged meal and meet Air Force dietary standards but do not include perishables. UGRAs are also included and have perishable foods such as steak, chicken and vegetables. Labbe said some food, like fresh salads or fresh baked cookies, must come from local vendors.

Sustainment Services Flight Commander Capt. Renette Hilton said although the SPEK is not a mobility item, it’s still a very beneficial part of

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Wing News

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The Southwest Indian Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization in Gallup, N.M. that primarily serves Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, and other pueblo tribes. The charity aims to restore self-reliance and pride among the most affected by poverty. Various types of support are provided exclusively to Native Americans, with priority given to families with dependent children, handicapped, and elderly.

In 2013, SIF used proceeds totaling more than 19 million dollars to fund 23 new home builds, as well as to support Native Americans via education, jobs, food, and clothing.



Four members of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron install a new drain for an existing home on the Navajo Nation reservation in Gallup, N.M. in July. The team partnered with a local charity and constructed homes for impoverished Indians as part of Innovative Readiness Training. (U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Christopher Yates)



Chaplain's Corner



by Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth Rogers

Being a politician can be a tough job, it is one of the few careers my parents told me to never get into. The balance between serving the people and following through on ones convictions often brings internal and external conflict. One of the most successful politicians I have ever read about is the Old Testament prophet Daniel. His fist role in civil service was forced upon him; he and a group of his friends were captured by an enemy government and made to study in their schools to prepare for a life of political office. Throughout his

career he had success time and time again yet he was constantly tested. Perhaps the most famous story of Daniel is when he was thrust into a den of hungry lions as a result of jealous rivals trying to get him out of the way of their political ambitions. After a full night of being in the den of hunger lions Daniel was found in perfect health without a scratch. Daniel had the favor of both God and the King.

We can learn a lot about resilience and faith by looking at Daniel, time and time again he was asked to compromise his convictions, had he done so his life would have been in much safer. Yet due to his priorities and faith he did not fail, he kept to his

values and through faith he overcame life threatening obstacles. Daniel refused to take easy way out. He and his friends stood strong and not only survived but thrived in a hostile and foreign land. When you are faced with a choice to do what is right or what is popular, I urge you to land on the side of right. When you are encouraged to violate your personal convictions, don't! Stand by your faith and trust God for the strength to carry on through the task. When the end of your career or life comes you will not regret the time you stuck to your guns kept your faith and did not violate your most sacred values.

Reservists learn leadership skills along side active duty counterparts at Tinker Airman Leadership School

Airman Leadership School class 14-F class leader Senior Airman Kallima Scott, 507th Force Support Squadron, learns how to drill and command three flights for reveille and retreat on July 31st at Tinker Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



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

In addition to active duty, Reservists, Guardsmen, and Navy sailors also have the opportunity to attend Tinker Airman Leadership School, a five week course designed to prepare E-4's for promotion.

Class 14-F class leader, Senior Airman Kallima Scott, is a traditional Reservist in the 507th Force Support Squadron. She chose to attend the school in-residence over completing the distance learning course so she

could gain hands-on experience and have the chance to learn from fellow future NCO's and the instructors.

Scott, who as a civilian works for the Federal Aviation Administration, says she is impressed with the knowledge she has gained from her instructor, Staff Sgt. Samantha Long.

"I've already learned methods for adjusting my leadership style to fit varying personality traits, and that will help me be a better supervisor in the Reserves and also in my civilian job."

Her responsibilities as a class

leader include maintaining accountability of the students and handling systemic issues within the three flights.

The school gives the 36 students the tools they need to be successful supervisors through instruction on communication, professionalism, and teamwork, while providing a forum that naturally lends itself to networking with other service members who work in vastly different work centers on base.

Tech. Sgt. Catherine Colly, Senior ALS instructor, says her favorite as-

pect of instructing is seeing how the students interact with each other using the methods she teaches in class.

"Students from all over the base share and discuss their own experiences, which educates their peers and helps open up their eyes to things may have never seen in their own workplace."

In 2012, the ALS course material was revised to incorporate relevant changes gathered from feedback

provided by students and instructors.

The future leaders learn public speaking skills, how to prepare and execute briefings, and how to command a flight during drill, but in the new curriculum more emphasis is placed on sharpening conflict management skills and getting hands-on experience performing supervisory duties such as performance reports.

ALS Commandant Master Sgt. Stuart Saunders says instructing is not an easy job and is continuously impressed with the four instructors he

supervises.

"The instructors put in a lot of hours instructing and shaping our future NCO's because they understand that being able to make an impact at this level is an amazing opportunity," Saunders said.

He places priority on building camaraderie and morale within the flights and presents awards to the top performers to encourage competition and pride through weekly fitness challenges.

Saunders, a former ground radar technician, enjoys the school house environment because he can reach out to the junior enlisted and make a positive difference through mentoring and instructing.

"It is rewarding when graduates call or stop by to describe how they have utilized the skills they learned in class in their careers," Saunders said. "I have the best job in the Air Force right here."



Staff Sgt. Justin Stewart, Tinker Airman Leadership School Instructor, observes and gives instruction to all three flights of ALS class 14-F during drill practice July 31. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



What is your favorite social media?



Colonel Brian S. Davis
Commander 507 ARW

"My favorite social media site is Facebook. I use it to keep up with the 507th ARW's Facebook page."

"I was on Instagram, but I deleted all my social media accounts because I got tired of keeping up with them."

Senior Airman Tray Bowie
507 ARW Administrative Assistant



Chief Master Sergeant Steven Fousek
Flight Chief

"I use Facebook to post pictures of my cute kids to show to my family and friends."

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services training.

"It gives our Airmen an opportunity to be able to put up the SPEK and the tent and use it instead of waiting to be deployed," Hilton said. "We backfill deployed active duty members so we don't take the SPEK with us, it's for home station use in the event of an emergency."

If the deployed location has been set up for two years or more, the active duty deployed services flight will have a brick and mortar dining facility, Labbe said. A BEAR 500 unit is set up if the location is less than two years old.

"That unit is set up to feed 550 people," she said. "There is also a variation to that unit that deploys with washers and dryers."

The services flight trains with the 137th Oklahoma Air National Guard two or three times a year during Unit Training Assembly weekends. Labbe said 507th reservists get training on the deployed equipment but are not able to train in the brick and mortar

facilities.

"Since we are a tenant unit, the dining facility is not a requirement for us," she said. "The guard services flight is responsible for feeding their members on drill weekends, so we get the vital training needed to work out of a brick and mortar dining facility."

Labbe went on to say the set up and tear down is very different between the SPEK and a brick and mortar location.

"Once the meal is finished, the cleanup and tear down begins. The Babington Airtonic Burner, used to keep food warm, is also used to produce hot water for dish cleanup," she added. "The entire set up is then broken down and stored on a pallet ready for the next use."

Labbe and Hilton said this training could not have been smoothly executed without the leadership and help of Master Sgt. Tamika Ferguson, Airman 1st Class Brent Shaffer, Senior Airman Taiwan Jackson and Airman 1st Class Quinton Sanders.



Reservists from the 507th Air Refueling Wing received a hot lunch in a mock deployment scenario July 12 here. The lunch, served by the 507th sustainment services flight is part of an annual training requirement. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

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

To Airman:

AB CORREA, JORGE L. AMN 507 FSS



To A1C:

AMN ARBUCKLE, TYLER R. A1C 507 FSS
AMN HEARN, DIAMOND A1C 507 LRS



To Senior Airman:

A1C BRYANT, SAMUEL SRA 507 MXS
A1C JDAWSON, DESHAYLA J. SRA 507 SFS
A1C KHILE, TABITHA G. SRA 35 CBCS
A1C LACY, ZACHARY K. SRA 507 AMXS



To Staff Sergeant:

SRA HARMON, ERIC D. SSG 507 AMXS
SRA NEWELL, CHRISTOPHER SSG 507 LRS



To Technical Sergeant:

SSG DORIN, ROLFE J. TSG 72 APS
SSG FAVALORA, TONY G. TSG 507 SFS
SSG HAYES, TRAVIS R. TSG 507 SFS
SSG PETERSON, BENJAMIN M. 507 AMXS
SSG STEGE, DAVIN L. TSG 507 CES
SSG RAY, DOUGLAS H. TSG 35 CBCS
SSG SALLEE, MICHAELLE TSG 465 ARS





A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon flies off the left wing of an U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, before in-air refueling July 26, 2014, near the Hawaiian Islands. This mission is part of Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, 2014. RIMPAC, a U.S. Pacific Command-hosted biennial multinational maritime exercise, is designed to foster and sustain international cooperation on the security of the world's oceans. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer/Released)