

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

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# On-final

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The wing gathers for a group photo during the October Unit Training Assembly. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

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**On-final**  
**Editorial Staff**  
 Commander..... Col. Brian Davis  
 Chief, Public Affairs.....Maj. Jon Quinlan  
 NCOIC Public Affairs.....Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason  
 Information Chief.....Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor  
 Editor, *On-final*.....Senior Airman Mark Hybers  
 513th ACG PA.....Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer  
 Historian.....Senior Airman Krystin Trospen

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**Cover Photo**

A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle receives fuel from a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 507th and 137th Air Refueling Wing over northern Iraq after conducting airstrikes in Syria, Sept. 23, 2014. These aircraft were part of a large coalition strike package that was the first to strike ISIL targets in Syria. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Bruch/Released)



*Maj. John Kearns, left and Lt. Col. Marvin Ashbaker prepare a KC-135R Stratotanker for takeoff during the recent Global Thunder exercise. Flight crews remained on alert during the exercise in preparation for no notice missions. Global Thunder is an annual exercise led by U.S. Strategic Command. Its purpose is to demonstrate the capability to generate aircraft for the nuclear enterprise. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)*

## Tinker units support large scale command and control exercises

by Maj. Jon Quinlan

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Elements of the 507th Air Refueling Wing and the 552nd Air Control Wing participated in U.S. Strategic Command's annual field training and battle staff exercise, Global Thunder 15 and North American Aerospace Defense Commands exercise Vigilant Shield 15, Oct. 20 – 29 Oct.

The total force effort from the Reserve and Active Duty brought KC-135R Stratotanker and E-3 Airborne Warning and Control support and provided unit training in global command and control operations to deter and detect strategic attacks against the U.S. and its allies.

Alert crews and the command post were busy once the first message was delivered, according to the 507th Operations Support Squadron's plans shop. Operations and maintenance crews had KC-135s prepared for short notice launches all week. All KC-135R alert jets launched on time and provided 100 percent of their tasked fuel offload to aircraft in support of the nuclear exercise.

"The United States' ability to maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent is foundational to our national security and contributes to the security of our allies and partners," said Adm. Cecil D. Haney, U.S. Strategic Command commander. "This exercise, and our continued

focus on maintaining key capabilities and skills, ensures USSTRATCOM's strategic forces remain relevant and ready, 24/7, providing flexible and credible options for the President and the Department of Defense."

Exercise Global Thunder is conducted in concert with North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command's exercise Vigilant Shield 15, which aims to train participants in homeland defense.

Both exercises provide battle staff training designed to exercise all command mission areas in space, cyberspace, missile defense, combat-ing weapons of mass destruction,

*See Exercise on page 7*

## Wingman now a part of BMT culture

**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS)** -- Glamorized during the '80s movie 'Top Gun,' the concept of a wingman was to always keep the lead pilot safe, even at the cost of veering off to fight the enemy. For the past few years, "wingman" has become a pledge, promise and commitment between Airmen to take care of themselves and those around them.

Today, at the Air Force's only basic military training unit at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas, the term is taking on an even different meaning. A Wingman leads by example and takes action when needed, and the term is also used here as a way to take a stand against sexual assault.

Col. Michele C. Edmondson is the commander of the 737th Training Group and the Air Force's basic military training program. She says that, while there have been challenges over recent years, with allegations of sexual assault and sexual misconduct among military training instructors and trainees, she feels that using the wingman concept is a positive step in meeting those challenges head on.

"Airmanship and wingmanship are huge, but to me ... it's also about dignity and respect," Edmondson said. "That goes for how each Military Training Instructor, or MTI treats a trainee. How every trainee treats every other trainee. How every trainee treats an MTI. How I treat every MTI ... and trainee. A lot of the past wouldn't have been an issue if everyone would have treated each other with dignity and respect."

Today's trainees are assigned a wingman on day zero of training. If one trainee needs to go anywhere,



*A military training instructor gives instruction to a trainee and his wingman during a formation at Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jeffrey Allen)*

their wingman is required to accompany them. Additionally, each Airman carries a "wingman card" on their person at all times. On the card it has the name of their wingman as well as emergency phone numbers to the trainee/student hotline and their sexual assault response coordinator.

The card says, "I will never leave my wingman. I will look out for possible self-harm or unprofessional relationship indicators to my wingman. I have a duty to report any indicators that may hurt my wingman or bring discredit to the United State Air Force."

According to Col. Trent H. Edwards, the commander of the 37th Training Wing, wingmanship isn't just another slogan or cumbersome program. "The other thing we are expressing to the trainees is the need to take care of each other. If you see

your wingman in trouble you have to do something – you are obliged to do something and take care of each other. That then extends to the family of professional Airmen"

But Edwards says, that while wingmanship is important, it's just as important to match the right people to the right job and get the right number of people to avoid the long hours and stressful situations.

"We've included more MTIs so they aren't working 80 hours a week under very stressful conditions," Edwards said. "Most importantly, we have implemented a professional development program for our MTIs and resiliency programs so that they understand the environment that they are in."

To assist leadership with the

*See Wingman on page 8*

# Small team plays vital role in dental readiness

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

A small team of dentists and dental assistants at the 507th Dental Flight has the challenging task of treating some 1,000 Airmen here.

They complete approximately 50 annual dental exams over the course of a typical two-day unit training assembly.

Dental Flight Commander, Lt. Col. Randall Griffin, oversees two general dentists and seven dental assistants.

The goal is to perform routine oral exams to ensure airmen maintain optimal oral health in order to be deployment ready, not to provide treatment. Airmen are placed into a deployment classification, which range from class 1 to class 4. Class 1 and 2 mean the airman is able to deploy, and class 3 and 4 mean further treatment is necessary to bring the patient into a deployable status.

If any abnormalities or caries are present, the patient must follow up with their civilian dentist. For those without dental insurance, TRICARE offers a voluntary dental plan to reservists and their families.

In addition to the 507th ARW, the Navy reserve also operates out of the dental clinic and examines approximately 30 patients per training assembly weekend.

Along with the oral exam, x-ray radiographs are captured to screen for any caries that the dentist may not see immediately upon visual inspection or that are under the gum line.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Donald Kern, a Navy reserve dental assistant, explains some advantages of the mili-



**Master Sgt. Melissa Long, Dental Hygienist in the 507th Medical Squadron, annotates the patient's dental record while assisting Lt. Col. (Dr.) Randall Griffin during an annual exam on Oct. 4 2014 at Tinker Air Force Base. On a typical UTA weekend, the dental team examines approximately 50 patients. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason)**

tary's decision to upgrade to digital x-rays versus the old system that used film.

"Taking x-rays digitally reduces the amount of radiation exposure to us and the patients by 90 percent. Also, with digital images, military dentists can diagnose and treat dental issues anywhere, even in deployed locations," Kern said.

According to 507th Medical Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Carolyn Newhouse, the medical squadron's three missions are to support national objectives, support

humanitarian efforts, and make sure all members of the wing are ready to deploy.

Newhouse said she's impressed with the members of the dental flight's initiative to branch out into other areas outside of the dental clinic and help out as needed.

"It's really cool that they are not only performing dental tasks, but they go above and beyond and help out other squadrons and the wing," Newhouse said. "They are also keeping our patients at an outstanding 98% class 1 and 2 rating."

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## Chaplain's Corner



### "Tradition"

by Chaplain (Capt.) John Weston

It is almost Thanksgiving, and I need no other words to evoke what just came to your mind if you are an American who has grown up stateside. Smells, foods, parades, football, lazy naps on the couch and hot, hard work in the kitchen are all part and parcel of Thanksgiving. Even if we aren't "traditional" in our way of doing things, we do what we've done in the past out of a desire to create meaning.

Meaning is behind what we do as a family unit and as an Air Force. Humanity needs rituals and continuity with the past. The positives of this are dearly held memories, wonderful meals, family togetherness and a sense of thankfulness in the spirit of the holiday. The negatives are the expectations. We expect a home cooked meal – but who prepares it? Who does the work? We expect

that we will have a house big enough to accommodate the family – but who bought it, and maintains it? We expect that we will have the money to buy all the things in that massive roll of newspaper ads in the floor after football. But who determines how much we spend?

Keeping up with expectations can often ruin the traditions we are supposed to enjoy. At the holidays, we are usually reminded somehow of what hasn't worked more than what has. Uncle Fred lost his job this year, they don't make that red onion dip we've had since 1972, or the cousins couldn't come in from Florida. As Americans, we have high expectations, and it's led to high achievement as a nation. But we are all still human beings, and we need to recognize that. A scientific study recently found that the key to happiness was (drum roll please) lowered expectations. The less a person expects or demands, the happier they are with what they receive. As high achieving Air

Force types, that can be hard for us to manage, but the real key is to keep an eye on what formed these traditions in the first place – thankfulness, gratitude, and meaning.

If this year you can't be with your family because of TDY, deployment or geographical separation of another sort, focus on making meaning, not on expectations. Remember a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving? You had the Peanuts gang working together to create a version of Thanksgiving for themselves. Their food was not quite up to adult standards, but their creation of meaning for their little group was flawless. This Thanksgiving, meet with the family you have – in ABU and in civilian clothes. Where you are at, be thankful and create the day you want to have with those you care for. Thanksgiving is about gratitude, not perfectly met expectations. Maybe that's something we can all be thankful for.

### Exercise from page 4

intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance with primary emphasis on nuclear command and control.

Global Thunder provides participating components, task forces, units, command posts and bomber wings opportunities to train and assess joint operational readiness to deter, and if necessary defeat, a military attack against the U.S. and to employ forces as directed by the president.

Nearly all units across Tinker AFB participated in Vigilant Shield as

base security and protection measures were in place across the board. Force protection changes, building security, operational security procedures and more were all exercised, according to exercise directors.

Crews from the 963rd Airborne Air Control Squadron deployed crews, maintenance, staff, and E-3 AWACS to support the exercise at Goose Bay, Canada. The crews flew multiple sorties executing tactical command and control in support of the Air Sovereignty Long Range De-

tection Team with the Canadian Air Defense Sector, according to 552nd ACW officials.

The crews took advantage of the training opportunities to perform defensive counter air and offensive counter air missions with Canadian CF-18s and U.S. F-15s while support air refueling control with KC-135s, according to the 552nd Operations Group. Additionally, maintenance personnel achieved an impressive 100% aircraft maintenance utilization rate during the exercise.

## Air Force Reserve Recruiting Team

For information give us a call or click on the photo to send an email (web version only).



CMSgt Steven Fousek  
Flight Chief  
Tinker AFB, OK  
Office (405) 734-5331  
Cell (405) 409-4784

SMSgt Jennifer Tucker  
Assistant Flight Chief  
Wichita, KS  
Cell (316) 295-7060



TSgt David Barber  
Enlisted Accessions  
Wichita, KS  
Cell (316) 295-7479

MSgt Craig Cloward  
Lead/In-Service Recruiter  
Tinker AFB, OK  
Office (405) 739-2980  
Cell (405) 409-5170



MSgt Colin McDonald  
In-Service Recruiter  
Tinker AFB, OK  
Cell (405) 409-6943

MSgt Cole Chamberlain  
Enlisted/ISR  
Altus AFB, OK/Sheppard AFB, TX  
Office (580) 481-5123/(940) 676-3382  
Cell (580) 481-8237



TSgt Matt Quackenbush  
Enlisted Accessions  
Midwest City, OK  
Cell (405) 409-5811

MSgt Brian Mobley  
In-Service Recruiter  
Wichita, KS  
Office (316) 759-3766  
Cell (316) 295-7864



MSgt Stewart Frazier  
Enlisted Accessions  
Moore, OK  
Cell (405) 409-6311

## Wing News

Wingman from page 5

oversight of the new programs, chief master sergeants, flight commanders, operations officers and first sergeants were added into every squadron.

Another change was bolstering the female MTI corps to ensure there is appropriate oversight for female flights, similar to mentorship efforts for male trainees.

“There will be at least one female available to every female flight,” said Master Sgt. Chrissie Slifer, a military training instructor. “That way (a trainee) will have a female to turn to, or a strong female role model.” This is the wingman concept executed on a much larger scale.

To ensure MTIs have the experience and maturity to lead, mentor and mold trainees, they are now required to hold the rank of technical sergeant or master sergeant.

BMT also continues to update its infrastructure to help make the environment safer for both trainees and MTIs. Both the Airman Training Complex, or ATC, and the recruit housing and training dormitories, or RH&Ts, underwent major physical and procedural changes.

According to Slifer, another key change to BMT has been the use of MTI offices. Once a place for MTIs to stay overnight, beds have been removed and MTIs are no longer allowed to stay there. During the hours of darkness, a Charge of Quarters, or CQ, helps to maintain the safety and security of all trainees.

The ATC provides a separation between MTI offices and trainee living areas. Under this concept, outward facing MTI offices are lined with windows making it visible from the main hallway. The offices have two points of entry – one from the

main hallway and the other through the trainee’s living area -- and whenever an office door is opened, it sends an alarm to the CQ.

Currently, the older dorm offices are still located inside the trainee’s living area; however the solid doors have been replaced by windowed doors, allowing full visibility into the office.

Another issue addressed was the lack of standardized training for MTIs. About two years ago, the 323rd Training Squadron became the primary training squadron for all instructors.

“When instructors get here they go through their normal Air Force military instructor school,” Roberts said. “When they are done with that, in the past it used to be that they would be a student with the flight and it was kind of like ‘baptism by fire.’ (MTIs) would just get destroyed.

According to both Roberts and Slifer, the instructor training curriculum has seen some major changes over the past couple of years. Though much of it is still focused on how to lead a flight, there has also been an emphasis on sexual assault prevention training, reporting procedures and various other situational based training.

“This was a complete culture shift making sure the trainee is protected and making sure the MTI is protected,” Slifer said, “just like a good wingman.”

The use of the wingman concept has since evolved from its beginning, during the days when staying with a pilot often meant the difference between life and death. For today’s Airmen, however, the idea remains much the same. It is the notion of keeping fellow Airmen safe by making sure someone always has their back.

## Wing News

# Video: Medical Squadron brings flu shots to Airmen



Unit Training Assembly Weekends are very busy for the 507th Medical Squadron and with Flu season upon us, it can make it difficult for Airmen to get to the hospital to get their required flue vaccination. This year, the immunizations staff recognized this and decided to take their show on the road.



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing participated in the First Sergeants 5K run during the October Unit Training Assembly. Dozens of runners suited up to enjoy an afternoon run. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

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

### To Senior Airman:

A1C CORPORON, NICHOLAS SRA 507 SFS



A1C COY, JESSE J. SRA 72 APS

A1C TAYLOR, JAY E. SRA 72 APS

### To Staff Sergeant:

SRA BAKER, ALEX B. SSG 513 MXS



SRA BEY, NASR A. SSG 970 AACs

SRA BURROW, MARK W. SSG 513 MXS

SRA CORRIVEAU, BRETT A. SSG 507 FSS

SRA DYKES, WILLIAM D. SSG 970 AACs

SRA MARTIN, DAVID J. SSG 513 MXS

SRA MCAULAY, MICHELE T. SSG 507 MDS

SRA ROBERTS, ERIC J. SSG 507 SFS

SRA WRIGHT, JORDAN A. SSG 513 AMXS

### To Technical Sergeant:

SSG BOYLE, SAMUEL T. TSG 507 SFS



SSG MCNAMARA, PHILLIP TSG 35 CBCS

SSG TACK, WILLIAM J. TSG 35 CBCS

SSG TRUETT, RAHSAAN J. TSG 507 LRS

### To Master Sergeant:

TSG BAKER, RICHARD H. MSG 507 AMXS



TSG KUBILIS, ROGER P. MSG 507 LRS

TSG MULLINGS, RYAN A. MSG 507 AMXS

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507th Air Refueling Wing commander, group commanders and squadron commanders greet members of the Air Force Reserve Command Inspection team Friday, Oct. 31. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Mark Hybers)