

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

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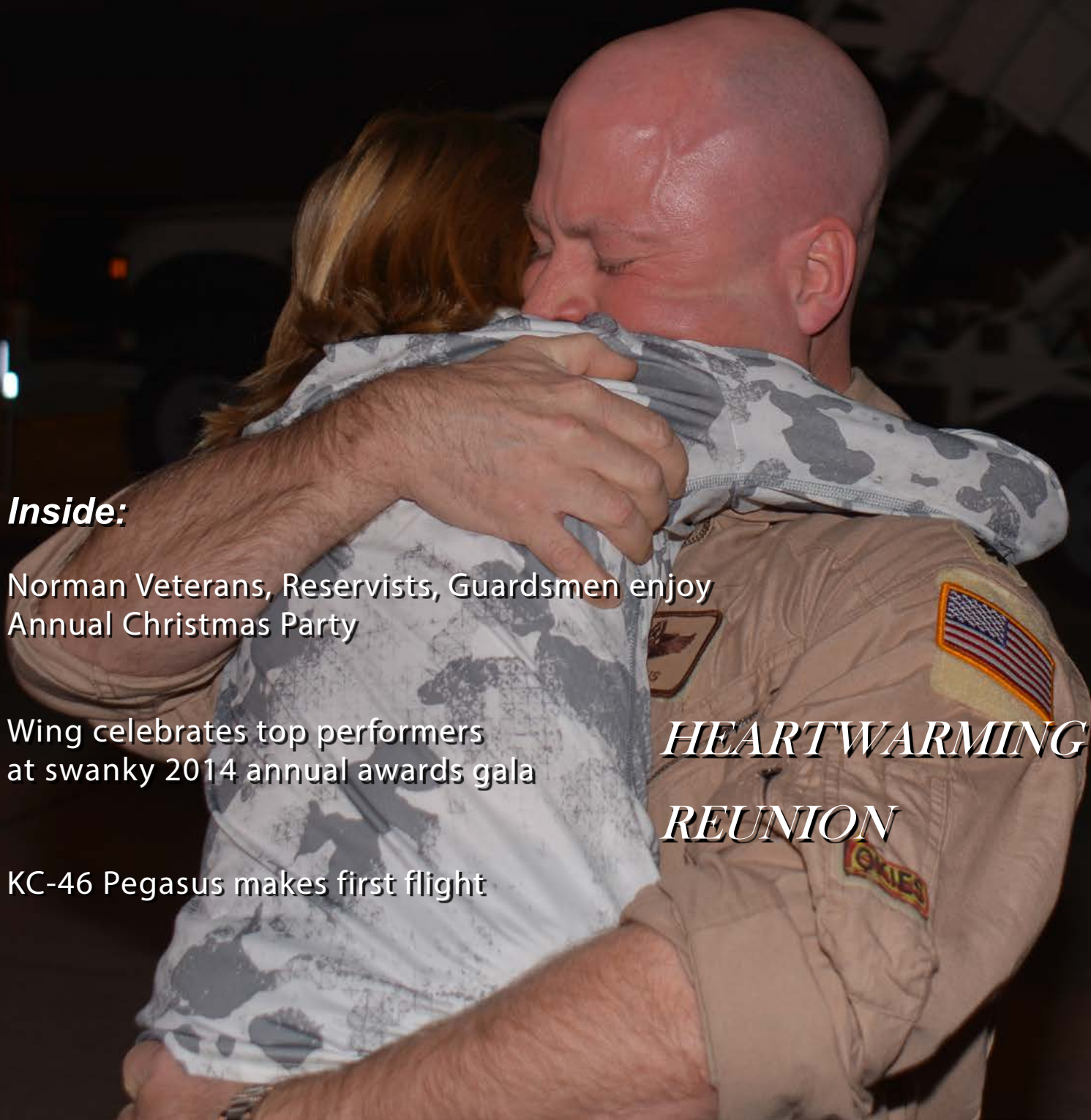
Norman Veterans, Reservists, Guardsmen enjoy
Annual Christmas Party

Wing celebrates top performers
at swanky 2014 annual awards gala

KC-46 Pegasus makes first flight

HEARTWARMING

REUNION





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More than 30 members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing greet their families after returning from a four month deployment to Southwest Asia supporting refueling operations in the U.S. Central Commands area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

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 Trosper

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Cover Photo

Lt. Col Benjamin Evans, 465th Air Refueling Squadron embraces his son after returning from a deployment in Southwest Asia here Dec. 11. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



A World War II vet thanks Senior Master Sgt. Gary Wagner, 507th Maintenance Squadron for the Christmas gifts during the Annual Norman Veterans Center Christmas Party Dec. 22. Wagner and more than 25 other Reserve and Guard Airman spent the day with the vets to listening to stories, making jokes and celebrating the holiday. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

Norman Veterans, Reservists, Guardsmen enjoy Christmas Party

by Maj. Jon Quinlan
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Through donation support the Reserve campus here rose over \$1,500 and purchased hundreds of gifts for the Veterans living at the Norman Veterans Center then personally delivered those gifts at the veterans Christmas party Dec. 22.

This marks the 18th year of the “Angel Tree” program and the support is well received by vets and employees at the center. The VA coordinator spoke to the volunteers before the party thanking them for their service.

“Thank you all for your wonderful efforts to make our veteran’s Christmas special,” said Jeannene

Wade, activities director at the center. “Tinker is truly a friend to our veterans and we appreciate all of you so very much.”

Local volunteers were joined by more than 25 Guard and Reserve Airmen to help open the presents, hand out food, spend some time listening to stories and chatting with the residents.

“The vets were surprised at how many gifts they received. They enjoyed all the love which really put a smile on their face,” said volunteer Trina Walter, 507th Operations Group administrative assistant. “One veteran said this was the best Christmas present he had ever gotten...the joy on his face was priceless.”

This year there was a healthy mix of veteran reserve members and new

unit members. For some it was their first time to visit the Norman Veterans Center residents.

“A veteran was telling me that he is so happy to see young people taking up the mantle to serve our country,” said first time volunteer, Senior Airman Atueayu Wilson, 507th Force Support Squadron. “With so much going on in the world today, it’s nice to feel something positive for once...but he hates our uniforms.”

Jokes from the veterans and the service members were flowing during the event. Military service rivalries and OSU/OU rivalries were alive and well during the visit. One Army Veteran and staunch Oklahoma University fan had to defend his OU comforter gift from a barrage of jokes from a



A group of Reserve and Guard Airmen pose for a photo before the Annual Norman Veterans Center Christmas Party Dec. 22. (Courtesy Photo)

fellow vet and OSU fan. Army/Air Force jokes were abundant as some of the veterans enjoyed the opportunity to have some fun.

The Veterans Administration operates more than 1,400 sites of care, including 232 Veterans centers. Since the first vet center opened, more than 2 million veterans have been helped. Every year, the Vet Centers serve more than 130,000 veterans and accommodate more than a million visits by veterans and family members.

The Norman Veterans Center opened in 1996. The 239,000 sq. foot facility has a 301 bed capacity to serve both male and female Oklahoma wartime veterans.



(Right) 1st Lt. Cristi Jordan, 507th Operations Group helps a resident of the Norman Veterans Center open a gift Dec. 22. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



Boeing and the U.S. Air Force successfully completed the first flight of the KC-46 tanker test program today. The plane, a Boeing 767-2C, took off from Paine Field, Wash., at 9:29 a.m. (PST) and landed three hours and 32 minutes later at Boeing Field. The aircraft will receive its military systems following certification. (photo courtesy of Boeing)

KC-46 Pegasus makes first flight

by Daryl Mayer
88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- The KC-46 Pegasus development program completed its first flight of Engineering, Manufacturing and Development (EMD) aircraft #1 Dec. 28.

EMD #1 is a provisioned 767-2C freighter and the critical building block for the KC-46 missionized aerial refueler. The maiden flight took off at 9:29 AM PST from Paine Field in Everett, Washington, and landed at 1:01 PM PST at Boeing Field in Seattle.

Reservists in the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron may play a role in training the aircrews of the new KC-46 when they start to arrive at Altus AFB, Okla. Getting the jet ready for operations is a tedious processes but this a great step in that direction.

“Getting in the air is a critical step in the development of this important capability for the warfighter,” said Brig. Gen. Duke Z. Richardson, the program executive officer for tankers at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center.

“The team at Boeing has done a remarkable job creating an entirely new aircraft that will soon become the backbone of our ability to project power anywhere in the world.”

The 767-2C freighter is the initial step toward producing a KC-46. The aircraft will undergo additional finishing work s at the Boeing facility such as installing the refueling boom and other military specific equipment. The first flight of a KC-46 (EMD #2) is expected in the Spring of 2015.

“Today’s flight is a key step in the next generation of tankers,” said Col. Christopher Coombs, the KC-46

system program manager. “We know flight testing will lead to some discovery; today’s flight kick-starts that work. There is an aggressive schedule going forward into the Milestone C decision point for approval to start Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP), but we remain cautiously optimistic we can meet the mark.”

The Air Force contracted with Boeing in February 2011 to acquire 179 KC-46 refueling tankers to begin recapitalizing the aging tanker fleet. This flight is an early but important step toward meeting the required assets available date -- a milestone requiring 18 KC-46 aircraft and all necessary support equipment to be on the ramp, ready to support warfighter needs, by the August 2017 timeframe. (507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs contributed to this report)

Reservists Fill Christmas Santa Stockings for Needy Children

by Tech Sgt. Michelle Tharpe
507th Air Refueling Wing Chaplain Office

This year the 507th Air Refueling Wing Chaplain’s office collected 132 stockings and 4 angel gifts from reservists for needy children in the local Oklahoma City area.

Each year when these stockings are brought to the Salvation Army’s collection area from local outreach programs, they are matched up with a donated bicycle for a needy child. Liz Banks, Director of Special Services for the Salvation Army Central Area Command, stated that over 1000 of these bicycles were assembled for local children and it was hoped that about that many stockings would be dropped off to match up with the bicycles. I discussed with Ms. Banks the possibility of collecting bicycle

Chaplain (Capt.) John Weston sorts Christmas Stockings for needy Children (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Mark Hybers)



locks next year, since many children may not have a safe place to keep their bikes. The Salvation Army also collects Angel Tree gifts for children and senior citizens, stockings for residents at the VA hospital and other institutions, and gifts for individuals

in their shelters. They hope to meet or exceed the amount of over 5500 stockings and gifts distributed to members of the Oklahoma City area last year. Thank you to all members of our Reserve community who helped out this year!



Chaplain’s Corner



Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun - A Hero

Emil Joseph Kapaun (April 20, 1916 – May 23, 1951) was a Roman Catholic priest and United States Army chaplain who died as a prisoner of war in the Korean War.

The 1st Cavalry Division made the first amphibious landing in the Korean conflict on July 18, 1950. In late August, Kapaun was assigned to duty as Chaplain of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. He soon participated in the fighting on the Pusan perimeter in South Korea. From there, since mid September, Kapaun and the division were constantly on the move north-

ward. On October 9, the division crossed the 38th parallel into North Korea and advanced within 50 miles of the Chinese border. He constantly ministered to the dead and dying while performing baptisms, hearing first confessions, offering Holy Communion and celebrating Mass from an improvised altar set up on the front end of a jeep. He constantly would lose his Mass kit, jeep, and trailer to enemy fire. He told how he was thoroughly convinced that the prayers of many others were what had saved him so many times.

He was captured and taken prisoner by Chinese soldiers during the Battle of Unsan near Unsan, North Korea, on November 2, 1950. He and other mem-

bers of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment taken prisoner were marched 87 miles to a temporary prison camp at Sombakol near the permanent camp in North Korea where they were later held. Kapaun was able to persuade some prisoners, who had ignored orders from officers, to carry the wounded. Kapaun developed a blood clot in one of his legs besides having dysentery and pneumonia. Weakened as the months passed, he managed to lead Easter sunrise service on Sunday, March 25, 1951. Kapaun’s Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded by the U.S. Army to the Medal of Honor after his death.

AFSO-21 helps improve processes for Reservists

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

Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century, is a program to increase efficiencies and while this program is not new, it is starting to take shape and improve operations in the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

AFSO-21’s objective is to establish a continuous process improvement that leans on the collective experience in the community and utilizes best practices, best tools and techniques to increase success.

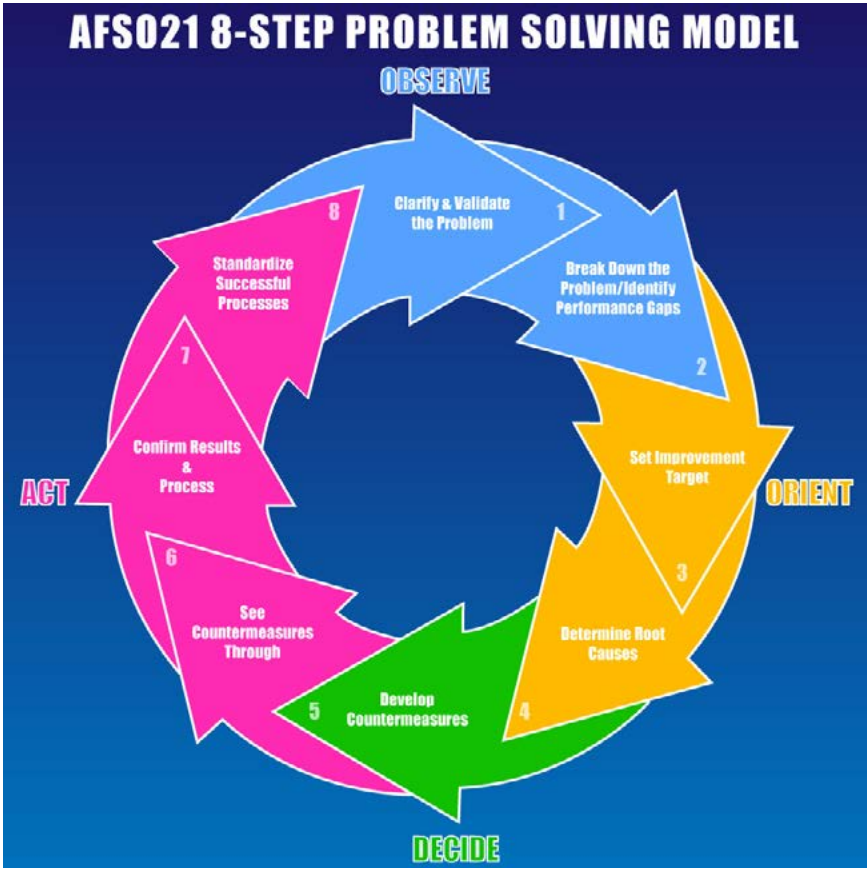
There are many desired effects of AFSO-21, which include increasing productivity of the people, improve response time, increase agility, sustain safe and ensure reliable operations.

“We’re looking at ways we can simplify processes so people can get their jobs done in a faster and in a more efficient way,” said Lt. Col. Kimberly Howerton, process manager at the 507 ARW.

One part of AFSO-21 is a rapid improvement event. This month’s rapid improvement event focused on how to improve the performance report process. Late EPR and OPRs is a challenge commanders and the process manager wanted to look at. With November statistics showing the wings EPR’s were sitting at 16 percent overdue, something had to change and the AFSO-21 team took over.

“The statistics don’t tell the full story. They let us know where the numbers are, but they don’t help us determine why our numbers are there,” said Howerton. “One of the things we want to teach is how to get deeper in our facts and numbers and then figure out how to use that data to fix the problem.”

Making sure things are right on



This graphic depicts the eight step problem solving model for Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century. AFSO-21 is starting to take shape and improve operations in 507th Air Refueling Wing. (U.S. Air Force Graphic)

a performance report can take some time when the deadline approaches but it’s essential to get it right the first time according to the process improvement team.

“When you’re writing an EPR or OPR, you want to give it your best because this is the person’s career,” Howerton said. “What you write determines their promotion and everything else that happens in the future.”

Statistics are just one of the topics covered in the event. Individuals of all ranks and experience levels come together to share ideas with each other and discuss topics from different perspectives. The ultimate goal: improve the process.

“One of the things about rapid

improvement is that it doesn’t matter what is on your sleeve or collar. What matters is what’s in your brain and what your ideas are,” Howerton said.

Howerton stressed this program is not intended to cut into the work force. “It’s not about taking away jobs, but making your jobs more effective,” Howerton said.

Many participants of the rapid improvement event came away realizing that by looking at a problem from different perspectives it helped them come up with ideas on how to improve processes. Howerton said that more events will be on tap to help make the wing more efficient in the future.

Wing News



What was your New Year’s Resolution?



“To get into better shape and complete my master’s degree in management.”

Master Sgt. Beth Collins
507th Operations Support Squadron



“To be more positive and hike on the Yosemite Trail.”

Tech. Sgt. Michaelle Sallee
465th Air Refueling Squadron



“Just to be a better version of myself.”

Senior Airman Richard Nimakoh-Boadu
507th Maintenance Operations Flight

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

To Senior Airman:

A1C ACKERMAN, ALYSSA J. SRA 507 MDS
A1C LYNN, SIR WALTER R. SRA 72 APS



A1C MILLARD, TIMOTHY D. SRA 507 AMXS

A1C NJARAMBA, CHARLES SRA 507 LRS

A1C SPELLINS, CRISTIAN SRA 507 CES

A1C TALBOTT, JARRET SRA 507 MXG

A1C THOMAS, CHELSEA D. SRA 507 FSS

To Staff Sergeant:

SRA BALDWIN, RAYMOND E. SSG 513 MXS



SRA HIELSCHER, SHANNON A. SSG 507 AMXS

To Technical Sergeant:

SSSG CALDWELL, CHRISTOPHER T. TSG 507 CES
SSG CALDWELL, CHRISTOPHER T. TSG 507 CES



SSG PALEC, RONIE P. TSG 513 MXS

To Master Sergeant:

TSG BALDWIN, BRIAN J. MSG 970 AACs
TSG MENDOZA, MELISSA M. MSG 507 FSS



TSG ROBISON, WENDY G. MSG 513 AMXS

TSG STARK, MATTHEW D. MSG 513 AMXS

Wing celebrates top performers at swanky 2014 annual awards gala

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

(Editor's note: This story is written in a 1920's journalistic style for fun) An annual awards banquet was held under the auspices of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, of which Col. Brian S. Davis is commander. The gala began in the evening of Dec. 6th, when some two hundred Airmen of the world's greatest air force patronized the swanky Sheraton Hotel ballroom at 5750 Will Rogers Road in Midwest City.

The early comers strolled into the joint before 6:30pm and certainly looked keen in their get-ups, wearing mess dress and semi-formal blues uniforms. The social hour continued until 7:00 p.m. with guests ordering cocktails from the gin mill and shot the breeze.

Tech. Sgt. Angela Leddy and Senior Airman Mark Hybers were the Masters of Ceremony for the evening's festivities, and they were both live wires! Master Sergeant Angela Thompson performed the National Anthem, much to the delight of the audience.

Chaplain Keith Rogers offered the invocation, praying that a good time would be had by all that evening.

In a somber moment, the emcees led the crowd in a silent toast to pay special tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in action, and

to the success of the efforts to account for them.

Distinguished guests in attendance were Lt. Col. Kenneth Humphrey and his keen wife; Colonel Travis Caughlin and his lovely wife; Col. Joseph Revit and his stunning wife; Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown and his delightful wife; and last but not least, the host of the evening, Col. Brian Davis and his charming wife and beautiful daughter.

Community partners from the city of Moore came to celebrate as well; Ms. Kathy Gillette of the Moore Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Jan Davis, Branch Manager of Tinker Federal Credit Union were the cat's meow and brought goodie bags for the annual award recipients.

A delicious meal was presented for all to enjoy, consisting of lemon chicken piccata topped with capers, rosemary roasted mashed potatoes, autumn vegetables, fresh garden salad, and decadent cake for dessert, as well as a vegetarian option.

After dinner, emcees Senior Airman Hybers and Tech. Sgt. Leddy razed the guests cracked jokes, before getting down to the Real McCoy: the annual award winners.

Col. Davis expressed his appreciation for the outstanding efforts of the top performers in the wing and thanked everyone for joining him for such a swell evening. A good time was had by all!



Spouse of the Year

Mrs. Christine Nichols

Civilian of the Year

Mrs. Kimberley Silkwood

Airman of the Year

Staff Sgt. Will Beary

NCO of the Year

Tech Sgt. Heather Bennett

NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Adrain Smith

First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt. Darrin Oglesby

CGO of the Year

Capt. Britnee McIntyre

MXG 2014 Billy Hughes Memorial Award,

Master Sgt. Marcus W. Bentley



Retirement of a legend

Commander's administrative assistant retires after 46 years of service. Carol Reynolds retired in December from federal service. She will be missed by many.



Welcome Home

More than 30 members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing greet their families here Dec 11 after returning from a four month deployment to Southwest Asia supporting refueling operations in the U.S. Central Commands area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)