

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

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SecAF visits 507th ARW

Reservists return home
from deployment

Tinker AFB a candidate for
Reserve KC-46 main operating

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Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III speaks to Guard and Reserve Airmen during the April Unit Training Assembly at Tinker Air Force Base. Welsh originally expected to leave Oklahoma a day earlier but extended his visit when offered the opportunity to speak with the Airmen serving at Tinker AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)

Cover Photo



Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III addresses Airmen of Guard and Reserve units during the April Unit Training Assembly at Tinker Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



Gen. Mark Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, visits with enlisted Airmen from the 137th and 507th Air Refueling Wings at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, April 11, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward)

CSAF Talks to Guard, Reserve Airmen

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

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – Over 1,000 Guard and Reserve Airmen had the opportunity to listen to U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen Mark A. Welsh III speak April 11 about key issues affecting the Air Force.

After visiting the active duty and civilian force April 8-10, General Welsh and his wife, Betty, extended their visit to Tinker by half a day so they could meet with the Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, 513th

Air Control Group and Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th ARW during their April Unit Training Assemblies.

Speaking to Oklahoma Air Reserve Component Airmen, the general outlined three things all Airmen need to focus on: common sense, communication and compassion for each other.

"We've got to make sure common sense is the first standard we apply, all the time," General Welsh said. "If you have an instruction, a policy or a tech order that doesn't align with common sense, then all those other things are wrong. Let's change them. And we

can. We just gotta think we can."

The general also explained how critical communication is for the force, especially with so many changes in defense being planned and discussed.

"The bottom line is that we have to be able to communicate to each other about what's going on, whether it's about sequestration, whether it's retirement plan recommendations, health care or whatever it may be that's happening," General Welsh said.

The Air Force chief of staff spoke about the importance of

Airmen caring more. Airmen already care about their duties, but they need to care more across the board to get the performance that guarantees a war-winning capability, the general said.

"The people in our unit and families that help us do this job, they're the best people on earth," Welsh said. "It's impossible to care too much about them."

Along with his message, the general told the Guard and Reserve audience that his main purpose of the visit was to say thanks.

"Thanks for who you are," General Welsh said. "Thanks for the work you've been doing around the world since the day you walked into our service and thanks for the things you continue to do to make life better for other people."

Guard and Reserve Airmen in the crowd took the opportunity to ask the Air Force's top uniformed leader several questions regarding the future force structure and reliance on the ARC in the future.

The general said the service is close to achieving the right mix between Guard, Reserve and active duty after analytical reviews and changes in the force. With the current resource-constrained environment, the Air Force is looking to move more hardware and, in some cases, people, to the Guard and Reserve.

"When we can be more efficient and keep the same operational responsiveness and capability, why wouldn't we?" General Welsh said. "So the guidance from the beginning has been, whatever we can push to the Reserve component, we're going to do it."

Before the all call, the general and



An Airmen asks Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, a question during the question and answer portion of the General's visit during the April Unit Training Assembly at Tinker Air Force Base. (U.S Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

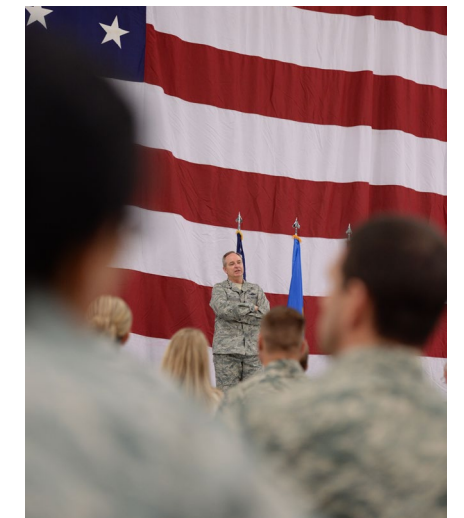
his wife spent time listening to Guard and Reserve Airmen and key spouses personally tell them their individual stories.

"I just had the incredible privilege of sitting with a bunch of Airmen here and learn a little bit about their stories," General Welsh said. "The incredible things that have happened to them, what they've accomplished, make them unique. Everyone in this hangar has a story, and the story is uniquely you. Some of them are uplifting, some of them are sad. Some of them are inspirational. But each one is unique ... so I ask you to please learn the stories."

Airmen overwhelmingly appreciated the opportunity to tell their stories and listen to the message.

"He is truly concerned about the well-being of each and every Airman in the Air Force," said Senior

Master Sgt. Mike Johnson, 137th Maintenance Squadron.



Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, listens to an Airman's question. (U.S Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

Social Media: Unwanted eyes may be watching

by Airman 1st Class Peter Reft
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**EILSON AIR FORCE BASE,
Alaska (AFNS) --**

Social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter and Flickr can provide an instantaneous and highly entertaining feedback stream of your daily activities to friends and family. The latest videos of dogs running with fireworks in their mouths, kittens tumbling in the snow or Internet memes of celebrity humiliations populate the news feeds of people around the world.

With so much content online and so many life events to share, it is easy to forget that unwanted eyes may be watching. Without realizing it, Airmen may unknowingly jeopardize the safety of themselves, their family, their friends or fellow military members.

The Operation Security program aims to reduce the vulnerability of Air Force missions by reducing the vulnerability of critical information.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed National Security Decision Directive 298, which established the National Operations Security program. The opening paragraph in the document states, "Security programs and procedures already exist to protect classified matter. However, information generally available to the public as well as certain detectable activities reveals the existence of, and sometimes details about, classified or sensitive information or undertakings."

"Social networking media is a big one," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Cooper,



the 354th Medical Group OPSEC program manager. "People don't realize that giving certain things out such as 'I have been out to an area of operation for the next six months' just gave the adversaries an indication of military activity.

"Then they can get the demographic information off your profile, figure out where you are and what base you're at. And now they know you're gearing up for deployment and can figure out who's deploying, when and where they're going, and who has what missions."

Another acute danger of Airmen posting to social networks involves smart phones automatically geo-tagging pictures with data that can reveal exact locations of critical assets.

"If a photo of a sensitive airframe, troop movement, building or equipment were to be published, it could give away key information on a possibly critical operation," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Speirs, the

354th Logistics Readiness Squadron OPSEC manager. "Giving away GPS coordinates of military assets can also give potential targets for terrorists or other adversaries."

OPSEC applies to all activities that prepare, sustain or employ forces during all phases of operations.

There are five steps in the OPSEC process -- identifying critical information, analyzing threats, analyzing vulnerabilities, assessing risks and applying countermeasures.

The one step that every military member, regardless of special training, is capable of doing is identifying critical information.

"That's the foundation -- finding out that critical information that adversaries can use to undermine your objectives," Cooper said. "Without that foundation, the program won't succeed."

OPSEC incidents are not limited to on-duty work environments and military tactical operations.

"This is not just a program for

SECAF visits 507th Air Refueling Wing



Lt. Col. Robert Thompson introduces Tech. Sgt. Harold Fulghum, both of the 507th Maintenance Squadron to the Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James during the secretary's visit here March 27. Reserve Airmen briefed the secretary about various issues affecting the reserve component inside a KC-135R Stratotanker during her visit to the 507th Air Refueling Wing. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

while you're on the job or mission," Cooper said. "It's also one you can take home."

Airmen need to be cautious about certain visual indicators that may advertise their absence to potential criminals.

"If you have mail piled up and three or four newspapers on your porch, somebody who wants to break in to your home could be watching for that," Cooper said.

If Airmen realize how those indicators can affect their security, they can apply the proper countermeasures to prevent incidents.

"Taking simple steps such as calling the newspaper to tell them to stop delivering for the next few weeks or having a light switch timer that gives the impression somebody is home is a very good idea," Cooper said.

The OPSEC program encompasses the entirety of military operations that can be affected by military members, civilian workers, friends or family.

"Spreading the knowledge and reasoning behind the program to all involved with the military ensures everyone understands the importance

of maintaining OPSEC with day to day operations," Speirs said.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office encourages you to safeguard your social media information. Use the following guide for guidance on how to secure your sites:

http://www.defense.gov/documents/WEB_Guide_to_Keeping_Your_Social_Media_Accounts_Secure_2015.pdf

The following DOD website provides additional DoD guidance on social media:

<http://www.defense.gov/socialmedia/education-and-training.aspx/>

Tinker AFB selected as candidate for Reserve KC-46A main operating base



A KC-46 conducts in-flight refueling on a B-2 bomber in this illustration. The first KC-46 is expected to fly in 2015. (U.S. Air Force illustration)

Courtesy of Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials announced today Tinker AFB, Oklahoma (507th Air Refueling Wing) as one of the candidate bases for the first Air Force Reserve-led KC-46A location.

The KC-46As will begin arriving at the first Air Force Reserve-led global mobility wing in fiscal year

2019.

“The KC-46A Pegasus aerial tanker remains one of our top three acquisition priorities,” said Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James. “It is absolutely essential that we replace our aging tanker fleet so we have the aircraft necessary to maintain the nation’s global reach for years to come.”

The Air Mobility Command and Air Force Reserve Command will

soon conduct detailed, on-the-ground site surveys of each candidate base. They will assess each location against operational requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, housing, infrastructure, and manpower. Additionally they will develop cost estimates to bed down the KC-46A for each candidate base. Once the site surveys are completed, the results will be briefed to the SECAF and CSAF to select preferred and reasonable

alternatives for the operating location. The Air Force plans to announce the Reserve-led KC-46A preferred and reasonable alternatives and begin the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) in summer of 2015.

“This basing action is another great example of the Total Force relationship the Air Force Reserve Command has enjoyed for many years with Air Mobility Command,” said Lieutenant General James F. Jackson, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

“Bringing the KC-46A online is an important step in recapitalizing a tanker fleet that has been a leader in air refueling for more than five decades,” General Mark A. Welsh, Chief of Staff said. “This new age aircraft will achieve better mission-capable rates with less maintenance downtime, improving our ability to respond with rapid, global capability to assist U.S., joint, allied and coalition forces and better support humanitarian missions.”

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“I want to stress that the tanker units being considered that do not receive the KC-46A will continue to fly



The KC-46A is intended to replace the United States Air Force’s aging fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers and provides vital air refueling capability for the United States Air Force. (Courtesy Photo)

their current aircraft for the foreseeable future,” Welsh said. “Throughout tanker recapitalization, the Air Force is committed to ensuring continued support of combatant commander requirements.”

The Air Force also stressed the importance of its strategic basing process in creating deliberate, repeatable and standardized decisions.

“In this process, the Air Force uses criteria-based analysis and military judgment,” said, Mark A. Pohlmeier, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for installations. “We look forward to the next phase of the process when preferred and reasonable alternatives are announced and our candidate base communities have an opportunity to participate by providing input for the environmental impact analysis.”

The KC-46A will provide improved capability, including boom and drogue refueling on the same sortie, world-wide navigation and communication, airlift capability on the entire main deck floor, receiver air refueling, improved force protection and survivability, and multi-point air refueling capability.



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

April is 'Military Child Month'

by Amaani Lyle
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AFNS)-- To highlight the year-round contributions, courage and patriotism of the military community's youngest members, the Defense Department observes April as the Month of the Military Child, said a Pentagon official.

Established by then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986, the month recognizes some 1.9 million U.S. military children ranging in age from infants to 18 years old, who have one or both parents serving in the armed forces, said Barbara Thompson, the director of DOD's Office of Family Readiness Policy.

"We want to highlight their sacrifices (and) support of the military member in their families, so it behooves us to take time from the busy calendar of our events and recognize military children," she said.

Permanent change of stations, deployments and training activities, among other facets of military life, can present unique challenges to children who must constantly adjust to distance, unfamiliarity and uncertain schedules, Thompson explained.

"That can be a real sacrifice, because each parent is a very important part of that child's makeup," she said. "So we want to make sure that when they move



or change schools, all of those transition times are supported with resources, programs and services."

DOD offers a variety of programs to help military children overcome these challenges, Thompson said. For example, the Child Development Program offers child care up to age 12. Similarly, youth development programs offer older children opportunities for recreation, and character, social and emotional development.

"We want to make sure that children's voices are heard during the Month of the Military Child," she said. "It's a fun time to be with their families (and) to take part in the various activities that the services developed to recognize military children."

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on Facebook"



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Wing News

Reservists Return from Deployment



Staff Sgt. Alan is greeted by his son and wife upon returning from a support mission to Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)



Tech. Sgt. Ty holds his two daughters after returning from deployment in support of operations in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)



Senior Airman Timothy and other reservists at the 507th ARW are greeted by loved ones upon their return home. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)



BY RON BENSON

Who am I? What am I doing? Where do I fit in? In high school, I wanted to be liked. I wanted to be in the "in" crowd. I even tried out for the football team. To this day, I have no idea how I made it, but I did. I got on the team. I was in. But just a few weeks into the season, I broke a toe, which meant I was off the team. I walked around school limping on a wrapped foot, milking the situation for as much sympathy as

Chaplain's Corner

I could. But that did not help. I'd lost my identity. I felt like a loser. That's how quickly our self-image can change when we base it on the circumstances of life. You may identify with your job, family, or lifestyle. You may gain your sense of self-worth by your income, title, or service in the church. You may be "in" something—in love, in the club, in the circle, in the group that's the most popular. But you can be also be "out" very quickly. If our sense of self is based on external evidences, then we have a lot to

lose. Instead, our real selves for the Christian can only be found when we are in Jesus Christ. Then we can realize our full potential, our highest hopes, and our best lives. For Christ followers it is in Christ alone can we find out who we really are made to be.



507th ARW completes first ‘Super Static Day’



Capt. Joe Peters shows Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from John Marshall High School (Oklahoma City) one of the engines on a KC-135R at the 507th Air Refueling Wing during its first ever super static display. The super static display was developed to allow the 507th ARW to more effectively demonstrate its mission to the public. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)

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A Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet sits in the copilot's seat as 2nd Lt. Jarred Logan gives a tour of the cockpit of a KC-135R. There were over 200 JROTC cadets and members of the local chapter of the Civilian Air Patrol who participated in the first ever super static display at the 507th Air Refueling Wing. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)



“Like the 507th ARW
on Facebook”



2nd Lt. Jarred Logan discusses the enviroment during high-altitude missions as he gives Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets a tour of the interior of the KC-135. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)



Senior Airman Efklidis Kokovidis demonstrates the in-flight refueling boom operator controls of a KC-135 to Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets. Cadets from the JROTC programs at John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City and Cabot High School in Cabot, Ark. and members of the local chapter of the Civilian Air Patrol participated in different tours of a KC-135R here at the 507th Air Refueling Wing. (U.S. Air Force Photos/Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)





What did you learn from the CSAF visit?



"It was a great opportunity to see upper leadership show that they care about us. He seemed like a really decent and sincere guy to me."

Master Sergeant Marvin Hudson
507th Operations Support Flight

Senior Airman Trenton Freeman
35th Combat Communications Squadron

"I thought the CSAF was the most knowledgeable person I've heard speak about the Air Force. It was an honor to hear him speak."



Staff Sergeant Sarah Haggard
507 Development and Training Flight

"Being able to listen to the Chief of Staff was an opportunity of a lifetime. He brought insight to caring for individuals and how it is vital to mission success."

Air Force Reserves Celebrates 67th Birthday



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III celebrated the Air Force Reserves 67th birthday by hosting a cake cutting ceremony in the Pentagon, April 6, 2015, Washington, D.C. Also on hand for the ceremony were Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Spencer, Chief of the Air Force Reserves Lt. Gen. James Jackson, and the junior most ranking member of Reserve Affairs (RA) staff, Staff Sgt. Ivanka Vrechkov, who is the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Policy Integration for RA. The reserves were established on April 14, 1948 by President Harry S. Truman, seven months after the active duty Air Force was established as a separate service. Originally the reserves were a standby force for use in wartime and national emergencies. The Air Force Reserves became a Major Command (MAJCOM) in 1973 and began working side-by-side with their active duty counterparts. The reserves also perform unique missions such as pararescue and weather reconnaissance. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Varhegyi)



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

To Airman 1st Class:
AMN WILLIS, JASMINE S. 72 APS



To Senior Airman:
A1C FENNEL, NIA N. 507 AMXS
A1C GUTHRIE, CHANCE H. 507 AMXS
A1C MONROE, AUSTIN M. 507 MXG
A1C PAEZ, ELOISA M. 507 MDS
A1C ROBINSON, TREVIN C. 72 APS
A1C SMITH, DALLAS K. 507 AMXS



To Staff Sergeant:
SRA HOLT, AMBER M. 507 OG
SRA ZIMMERMAN, SHELBY 507 LRS



To Technical Sergeant:
SSG BASOLO, PATRICK W. 507 MSG
SSG DUBLER, JON M. 72 APS
SSG GOHLKE, PRESTON S. 507 CES
SSG HARMON, MADISON N. 730 AMTS
SSG LAMBERT, JARED B. 730 AMTS
SSG TAYLOR, CHARLES A. 507 ARW



OFFICER PROMOTIONS BOARD SELECTIONS

To Major:
Capt COHENOUR, AARON T. 507 MDS
Capt COOPER, ANGELA A. 507 MDS
Capt EBERLE, KURT H. 507 ARW
Capt MCINTYRE, BRITNEE R. 507 LRS
Capt STEICHEN, ADAM J. 465 ARS
Capt TIBBS, WESLEY M. 513 ACG



A supply technician assigned to the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, moves equipment on a fork lift during a temporary duty assignment, March 18th at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. The tracking of items helps the supply warehouse know what items are available to lend out to people participating in deployments and exercises. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)

