

AUGUST 2015

ON-FINAL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



**VISIT FROM
COMMAND
CHIEF KIRKSEY**

A FAREWELL TO 137 ARW

**MISSION COMPLETE:
RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT**



Vol. 35, No. 5 // 2015

AUGUST



COVER

AFRC Command Chief Visit

Everything you ever wanted to ask AFRC Command Chief Kirksey

COVER PHOTO by Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason
STORY by Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor **p. 10**

HOMECOMING

507th Reservists return home after deployments in June and August 2015.

PHOTOS by Maj. Jon Quinlan/ Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason **p. 6**

FEATURE

Why the Guard left to start a new mission at Will Rogers Airport

By Maj. Jon Quinlan **p. 4**

THIS MONTH

Softball Schedule

6

Closer Look: Master Sgt. Pharr

8

What is DDR?

18

EVENTS

Obama's Visit

14

Static Aircraft Tours

16

Family Day

17



Obama's Visit
14



Homecoming
6



Guard's Final Flight
4

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WING COMMAND CHIEF
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

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SOONER 26, SIGNING OFF

*Firetrucks douse a Reserve KC-135 with water to commemorate the final daytime flight of the 137th Air National Guard at Tinker Air Force Base June 24, 2015.
Photos and story by Maj. Jon Quinlan*



A historic chapter is now closed as one of the first Air Reserve Component Associations between the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard formally ended June 30 after a successful eight year partnership between the 507th and 137th Air Refueling Wings.

The ARC association ended with an Oklahoma Air National Guard crew's final training flight on a Reserve KC-135, logging the last flight hours under the historic association.

"The 507th ARW's association with the Oklahoma Air National Guard has been a model of Total Force

integration success," said Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander. "Our formal association has now ended, but the ongoing relationship between the Guard and Reserve in Oklahoma will certainly continue for years to come."

During the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure and Total Force Integration process, the 507th Air Refueling Wing was selected to become one of the first Air Force Reserve units to serve as a host wing for an associate Air National Guard wing. Aircrew and maintenance members from the 137th ARW moved from Will Rogers Air National Guard Base and started flying and maintaining the KC-135 as equal partners

in 2007 at Tinker Air Force Base.

During the association's past eight years, the wings combined have amassed more than 13,500 flying hours, according to Lt. Col. Mark Hole, 185th Air Refueling Squadron director of operations. The partnership successes included an Excellent rating in the 2012 Nuclear and Conventional Operational Readiness Inspection, 86 percent KC-135 Mission Capability Rating, successful deployments to Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Gelsenkirchen Air Base, Germany, and exercise support missions in the Rim of the Pacific exercise.

"From the beginning, members of the Guard and Reserve laid the foundation that made the association work and made it so successful," said Davis. "A total partnership in all areas and at all levels was key. It was the people who made it work. Every unit had a story of teamwork and overcoming obstacles."

Going forward, the 507th ARW will continue to fly and maintain the KC-135R Stratotanker for Air Force Reserve Command. The 137th will transition to Air Force Special Operations Command operating the MC-12 Liberty for the Oklahoma Air National Guard out of Will Rogers.

AROUND THE WING

ESGR//Boss Lift

During the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve boss flight, more than 30 bosses of guard and reservists got the opportunity to see an air refueling mission between a 507th KC-135R Stratotanker and an E-4 Nightwatch June 12, 2015. This is the first boss flight in two years and all the participants gained a better understanding of the mission of the 507 ARW.



Reserve RECRUITERS



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



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

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MSgt Adrian Randles
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Tulsa, OK
Cell (918) 271-1677



MSgt Cole Chamberlain
Lead/In-Service Recruiter
Sheppard AFB, TX
Cell (405) 409-6943



TSgt Keith Hassell
Line Recruiter
Midwest City, OK
Cell (405) 409-5811

For information on opportunities in the AF Reserve, give one of our team members a call today.

OKIES SOFTBALL // Schedule



Weds., August **12**
5:30 p.m.
@ Champ. Field
Okies vs. 137 ANG MXS

Thurs., August **13**
7:30 p.m.
@ Champ. Field
Okies vs. 373 TRS

Thurs., August **20**
5:30 p.m.
@ Field #1
Okies vs. DISA

Thurs., August **27**
7:30 p.m.
@ Field #1
Okies vs. Thumpers

A CLOSER

LOOK



August PROMOTIONS

Master Sgt. Natalie Pharr

NCOIC, 507 FSS Education and Training

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS:

I have two CCAF degrees, and by spring semester I'll have a bachelors in accounting. And, I am terrified of sharks!

MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS AN AIRMAN?

Getting the opportunity to be on the base Honor Guard team at Peterson AFB, Colo.

I sharpened up my military customs & courtesies, and most importantly honored those who have bravely served our country. It was a humbling and proud experience.

CAREER GOAL?

My goal is to make a difference and keep finding ways to positively impact lives. I joined to serve and that's what I plan to continue to do.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

For as long as I can remember,

I've always wanted to be a meteorologist. I attended the University of Oklahoma seeking a degree in meteorology, and while attending, I found my true calling of accounting. I know it sounds a bit boring and dorky to most, but I love it!

WHEN DID YOU JOIN?

I left for basic the day before my 18th birthday.

CIVILIAN JOB?

I'm an Air Reserve Technician in the 507th FSS Wing Training Office.

"MY GOAL IS TO KEEP FINDING WAYS TO POSITIVELY IMPACT LIVES."

MSG GLOVER, ALPHONZO 513 MXS
MSG RABEL, CULLEN W. 507 MXS

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT



TSG HARDWICK, DAWN R. 513 OSS
TSG JUDD, CHRISTOPHER 730 AMTS
TSG PHARR, NATALIE E. 507 FSS

MASTER SERGEANT



SSG FIORITTO, MARK 730 AMTS
SSG FOSTER, DAVID J. 513 MXS
SSG JUDGE VIRION, SAMANTHA M. 507 SFS
SSG KIM, CHRISTOPHER B. 507 MXS
SSG MUNOZ, ELVIRA 72 APS

TECHNICAL SERGEANT



SRA BLANKENSHIP, ROBERTA 513 AMXS
SRA CARTE, FALLON W. 507 CES
SRA ENDSLEY, NICHOLAS 513 MXS
SRA LEWIS, ZACHARY M. 507 CES
SRA MASIWEMAI, MICHAEL 35 CBCS
SRA REDMOND, COURTNEY N. 513 OSS
SRA ROSAS MORALES, ERNESTO 507 LRS
SRA THEE, ANTHONY K. 72 APS

STAFF SERGEANT



A1C CROSS, BRISHAWNNA 72 APS
A1C DORRELL, TRAY 507 MXS
A1C MILLARD, HUNTER C. 970 AACCS



SENIOR AIRMAN

AMN LANGLEY, DALTON R. 507 LRS



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

AFRC COMMAND CHIEF:

CHIEF MASTER SGT. CAMERON B. KIRKSEY

“WE ARE THE SMALLEST, MOST WIDESPREAD, FULLY-TASKED AIR FORCE THAT WE HAVE EVER BEEN.”

Chief Master Sgt. Kirksey visited the 507th Aug. 7-9 2015 to connect with Reservists and discuss hot topic issues. For more of the interview, visit our homepage at www.507arw.afrc.af.mil

HOW IS THE RESERVE COMMAND PLANNING ON FUNDING SEASONING TRAINING PROGRAM, OR STP, ORDERS FOR AIRMEN FOLLOWING TECHNICAL TRAINING?

STP is allocated \$120 million each year. This year, we changed the process for allocating funds by going back to the drawing board and having discussions with our wing commanders about the need for earmarking STP funds in such a way that the commands know which funds are allocated specifically for STP.

Want to know more about Chief Kirksey? Check out his biography [here](#).

HOW DO YOU THINK THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GUARD/RESERVE RETIREMENT SYSTEM WILL AFFECT AIRMEN?

Less than 40 percent of every Airman who serves walks away with a retirement. Certainly, we looked at other approaches so every Airman can walk away with something. We don't want any less of a benefit than what we currently earn. We are analyzing the changes to see the positives as well as the pinch points. We feel these changes are certainly justifiable to ensure that the member is duly paid for the time served.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MOST BENEFICIAL NEW CHANGE IN THE ENLISTED EVALUATION SYSTEM (EPRS) FOR RESERVISTS?

For me, the greatest benefit is being able to gauge actual performance. Before, 83 percent of all Airmen eligible to receive a rating received a five. With the new enlisted evaluation system, the focus is on leadership, job performance, and who we recommend for promotion. Coupled with the new performance feedback form, we will be able to easily identify the strong swimmers who are deserving of promotion.

WILL THERE BE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESERVISTS TO DEPLOY IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Eighty-five percent of my community is part-time. We are the smallest, most widespread, fully-tasked Air Force that we've ever been. The current ops tempo will be our steady state, our new norm. We went back to drawing board to analyze the deployment process, and devised Reserve Component Periods, or RCP's. RCP's are no longer UTC-driven, but rather a bucket system where the squadron as a whole is deployed, returned home and reconstituted. It adheres to the mobilization to dwell time we are in line with.

WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR VISIT TO THE 507 ARW?

When I walked into the Friday afternoon staff meeting, I received a warm welcome and took note of the attendance; it was the largest staff meeting I had attended on my base visits. The energy in the room was so accommodating, and I could only imagine what the rest of the wing would be like.

We started off at 7 o'clock, rolled right into the meeting and then went out to meet the Airmen. Everybody was full of energy on a bright Saturday morning; we had good conversations about issues important to the Airmen. Morale is high, and everyone appeared to be in good spirits. Things are clicking on the right cylinders here in the 507 ARW.



COMING HOME



TOP LEFT: Col. Douglas Gullion and Col. Brian Davis salute the 507th Air Refueling Wing Airmen coming home from deployment June 23, 2015.

507 ARW Airmen reunite with their loved ones following deployments on June 23, 2015 and August 6, 2015.



FROM TOP LEFT:
A U.S. Marine
helicopter lands at
Tinker; President
Obama greets
Tinker Airmen July
15th, 2015; A secret
service agent directs
a presidential
support team off the
flightline; Obama
waves at a group
of Reservists and
civilians before his
departure July 16th,
2015.

OBAMA LANDS IN SOONER STATE

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. LAUREN GLEASON
TOP RIGHT PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CALEB WANZER



STATIC DISPLAYS:

providing **the public** with an **insider view** of the **mission**

Let's go back to the time when we were about to become Air Force members, and think about how we would have felt if we had a chance to go inside an actual military aircraft.

That's what a mass of future Airmen were able to do, as the group went inside a KC-135R Stratotanker during a tour July 23 on the flight line at the 507 ARW.

The 507 ARW conducts tours of the aircraft to different groups, such as future



Top Right: New enlistees from Joplin, Mo. pose for a photo in front of a KC-135R July 23, 2015. Below: Staff Sgt. Grant Andrus, a crew chief with the 507th AMXS, briefs airmen on the mission of the wing July 23, 2015.



"I wish I had the chance to get a look at a jet before I came into the service."

Photos and Story
By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor

enlistees into the Air Force and Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp members.

Congressional visitors and local civic leaders can also board the jet to take a look around.

Static displays are intended to show what's inside the tankers, and to provide a better sense of the mission of the wing and what tasks Reservists perform on a daily basis.

"I'm glad the new enlistees were able to come out and get a tour of the jet," said Staff Sgt. Grant Andrus, a crew chief assigned to the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "I like being able to show others what we do."

The future Airmen were invited to climb in the cockpit and lay down in the boom operation area. They were also encouraged to ask any questions about the operation of the aircraft and the operational Air Force.

"They are lucky to see inside the aircraft first hand," said Airman 1st Class Nathan Wright, also a crew chief assigned to the 507 AMXS. "I wish I had the chance to get a look at a jet before I came into the service."

The group of enlistees traveled to Tinker from Joplin, Mo. and will attend basic training aduring the summer and fall.

2015

FAMILY DAY & CAR SHOW

STATIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS
LIVE MUSIC
BOUNCE HOUSES
FACE PAINTING
VENDOR BOOTHS
CAKE WALK
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

TO ENTER A VEHICLE, CONTACT
KOKO: (813) 679-5400

POC'S: CAPT BURNET, SMSGT SMITH, MSGT COLLINS
CONTACT @ 734-3269

HANGAR 1030 - SEPT. 12TH - 1230-1600

The 507 ARW Car and Bike show is scheduled to be held in the AMXS parking lot in front of Hangar 1030. Cars, motorcycles, trucks or SUV's will make up the three classes, and each class will be eligible for the best in class award. Set-up will be from 1130-1145.

TO SIGN UP, PLEASE EMAIL THE MAKE, MODEL, AND YEAR OF YOUR VEHICLE TO
EFKLIDIS.KOKOVIDIS@US.AF.MIL.



CHAPLAIN'S

CORNER

By Ch (Capt.) John Weston

By now, you've heard about the four pillars. Like a mechanic troubleshooting a broken engine, you can use the four pillars to pinpoint the aspects of your life that need extra attention.

PHYSICAL

Physical fitness is necessary to carry out your Air Force duties. But you can also do it to stimulate the brain and ward off sadness and depression. If fitness is a daunting task for you, view it as a free mood lifter that will help you excel in life. If you have injuries that limit your mobility, you may be susceptible to depression. Talk with your doctor to find suitable solutions.

SOCIAL

Don't let social media sites fool you into thinking that they are "healthy" social networks. Humans need face-to-face interaction. Hearing the tone in a voice and recognizing facial expressions are key indicators of unusual behavior. We need a support system during hard times and to celebrate with during good times.

SPIRITUAL

The AF defines spiritual fitness as the "ability to adhere to beliefs, principles or values needed to persevere and prevail in accomplishing missions." From a chaplain's perspective, people need a reason to do what they do; the answer as to why you serve your country. Chaplains are here to protect the religious freedom of all people of the United States - so use your freedom to find the answers to the bigger questions that the Air Force cannot answer. You were made for a purpose that will extend beyond military duty; find out what that is.

MENTAL

We are encouraged to be resilient and bounce back from stressors but I've observed that people under stress are encountering new circumstances. Every one of us is living today for the first time. If you feel unlike yourself, please call or visit a chaplain in for a face-to-face visit. Military One Source is available to schedule an appointment with a counselor in your local area. Remember, struggles are different for everyone, and there is no shame in seeking help. You can feel better and find a new way forward.

Ask yourself these questions: Have you had enough rest and exercise? Why did you originally join the Air Force? Have you talked to someone who can listen to you closely? Do you have friends you can share feelings with? You can make your way down the list to find what you are missing. Help is not too far away.



Drug Demand Reduction:

It's not just swag



A Senior Airman at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. base initials a specimen bottle verifying the sample belongs to him. DDR tests screen for THC, cocaine, heroin, opiates, opioids, amphetamines, morphine, benzodiazepine, and spice. Photo courtesy of Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

Story by Tech. Sgt. Christina Hymes
DDR Program Manager

Ask if they understand why it's dangerous to do drugs. Ask them if they know what punishment military members receive who get caught doing drugs. Finally, ask them what they know about drugs.

You may be surprised to find out how drug savvy our young children are. Do they know anyone who does drugs? Do they talk about drugs at school? Has anyone ever offered them drugs? What would they do if someone did?

It might just look like a cup, or a pen, or a key chain, but it's more than that; it's a conversation starter.

Education really is the best prevention. So stop by our table and grab something to shove in your pocket, and remember...it's NOT just swag.

We are all looking forward to Family Day. It's an opportunity to bring your loved ones here to Tinker and to show them what you do; to introduce one world to another. Every year, the DDR (Drug Demand Reduction) Program has a table during Family Day and we hand out promotional items, or swag. You'll grab cups, pens, key chains, with our logo on them as you pass by. You don't really want to talk to us and I get it: You've heard all the slogans, like "Just Say No" and "Give Hugs, Not Drugs", so what more could I teach you?

Well, this year can be different. When you get home and empty out your pockets, show your family the swag you picked up.

Ask your kids if they know what DDR stands for, and if they know that the military performs tests to screen for illegal drug abuse.

Lt Col. Joe Defenderfer of the 507th Operations Support Squadron reunites with his family on the flightline at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., June 23, 2015.

