



OCTOBER 2015

N-FINAL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

A group of people, including a man in a military uniform, are standing in a circle outdoors on a grassy area. They are wearing silver heat-reflective suits. The man in the center is wearing a military uniform with "MESKE" and "U.S. AIR FORCE" patches. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

**CLIMBING FOR
FREEDOM:
REMEMBERING 9/11**

NEW COMMANDERS TAKE THE REIGNS

**FAREWELL:
31-YEAR VETERAN RETIRES**



Vol. 35, No. 7 // 2015

OCTOBER

COVER 9/11 Fire Climb

First responders and fire fighters with the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron hold hands during a moment of silence in remembrance of those that lost their lives during the 9/11 attacks, Sept. 12, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

COVER PHOTO by Maj. Jon Quinlan **p. 12**

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

507th Mission Support Group and the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron each appoint a new commander.

PHOTOS by Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor and Maj. Jon Quinlan **p. 4**

GASPAR RETIREMENT

A long career journey comes to a close

PHOTOS by Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor **p. 10**

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WING COMMAND CHIEF
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

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DESIGN/LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. LAUREN GLEASON

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

Lt. Col. Richard Ropac



ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

Maj. Kenneth Joseph

TOP: Lt. Col. Richard Ropac, 507th Mission Support Group commander, passes the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron guidon to Maj. Kenneth Joseph Sept. 13, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. As the new 507th CES commander, Joseph will command more than 130 Reserve CE personnel in these career fields: Electrical Systems, Electrical Power Production, HVAC/R, Pavements and Construction Equipment, Structural, Water and Fuels System Maintenance, Pest Management, Engineering, Operations Management, Fire Protection and Emergency Management. Photo by Maj. Jon Quinlan

RIGHT: Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, hands the 507th Mission Support Group guidon to Lt. Col. Richard Ropac Aug. 9, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. As the 507th MSG commander, Ropac is responsible for the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron, 507th Security Forces Squadron, 507th Force Support Squadron and the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor



Flag Football

Jim Matthey, Ryan Clary, Joe Huizar and Jay Harris of the Reserve Gold intramural flag football team prepare to hike the ball in a game against the 424th Supply Chain Management Squadron Sept. 29, 2015, at the football field at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Congratulations to the Gold team, who tasted victory with a score of 24-8. (Photo by Senior Airman Jeffery Dahlem)



Reserve RECRUITERS



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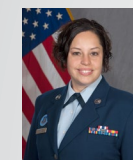


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Line Recruiter
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Cell (405) 409-6311

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

TUESDAY NIGHT FLAG FOOTBALL // Schedule //All games held at football field//



Tues., Oct. **06**
@5:30 p.m.
WHITE vs. 552 MXS

@6:30 p.m.
GOLD vs. 552 OSS

Tues., Oct. **13**
@ 5:30 p.m.
WHITE vs. U.S. Navy

@ 6:30 p.m.
GOLD vs. 72 LRS

Tues., Oct. **20**
@ 5:30 p.m.
WHITE vs. 424th

@6:30 p.m.
GOLD vs. U.S. Navy

Tues., Oct. **27**
@ 5:30 p.m.
WHITE vs. **GOLD**

A CLOSER



Staff Sgt. Sarah Haggard

DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FLIGHT
PROGRAM MANAGER
507TH AIR REFUELING WING

"WHETHER
YOU THINK
YOU CAN,
OR CAN'T,
EITHER
WAY--
YOU'RE
RIGHT."

LITTLE KNOWN FACT:

I enjoy long walks on the beach. Really, I enjoy finishing tasks whether I'm at work or at home.

WHEN DID YOU GO TO BMT?

I left for basic training May 3, 2011.

WHAT IS YOUR CIVILIAN JOB?

I am an auditor and internal investigator for the State of Oklahoma.

CAREER GOAL?

My goal is to grow up and become an officer one day. Throughout my career, I strive to treat others the way I want to be treated; something my mom always instilled in me.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

After watching the movie Home Alone, I decided I wanted to be an actress. I also had a dream of playing sports professionally since I enjoyed most sports as a kid.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I enjoy teaching new members the basics and the overall picture of what they can accomplish in the Air Force Reserve.

Staff. Sgt. Sarah Haggard poses on her 2008 Suzuki GSX 650F sport bike Oct. 2, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. She purchased the bike in 2013, and says she prefers driving it more than a car because it is fuel efficient and takes her where she needs to go faster. (Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

October PROMOTIONS

TSG NEWTON, LINDSAY D., 507 FSS

MASTER SERGEANT



SSG BELL, HEATHER A., 507 LRS
SSG BENNETT, MIRANDA R., 507 FSS
SSG GREER, STEFANIE M., 507 CES
SSG LUNA, CHRISTINA M., 513 MXS
SSG PHILLIPS, PAUL E., 72 APS
SSG WATSON, BRIAN, 507 AMXS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

SRA BAKER, FRANK E., 507 MDS
SRA CARROLL, TYLER J., 507 AMXS
SRA CRAWFORD, STEPHEN J., 507 AMXS
SRA FLANERY, LINDSAY G., 513 MXS
SRA GARRISON, CRAIG R., 507 OSS
SRA GARRISON, RACHAEL E., 507 OSS
SRA MANDEVILL, ZACHARY, 507 CES
SRA MOONEY, ARIC A., 513 AMXS
SRA ONCO, JOEY W., 507 AMXS
SRA THOMSON, KEVIN L., 507 AMXS

STAFF SERGEANT



A1C GORTON, TAMI J., 72 APS
A1C MANLEY, PHILLIP, 507 MXS
A1C MILKOWSKI, KIRSTEN, 507 AMXS
A1C VALTIERRA, VICTORIA, 507 FSS
A1C WILLIAMS, WHITNEY, 507 LRS



SENIOR AIRMAN

AMN RICHIE, MERCEDES M., 513 AMXS
AMN STINSON, BERL L., 507 SFS
AMN THOMAS, MICHEAL T., 507 SFS

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS



SENIOR MASTER SGT. GASPAR'S RETIREMENT



*"Thank you for all the help
and **support I received** at the
507th ARW and the 513th ACG
for the past 18 years."*

LEFT: Lt. Col. Michael Morrisette, 507th OSS Commander, presents Senior Master Sgt. Gaspar with his farewell plaque to commemorate his 17 years of service in Oklahoma Sept. 12, 2015 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.
BELOW: Co-workers say their farewells to Senior Master Sgt Gaspar and his wife.
Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason



SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT GASPAR

Served 31 years, enlisted on Sept. 19, 1984 and retired Sept. 19, 2015
From Fall River, Massachusetts
Spent a third of his career in Maine
Served on Active Duty, in the Guard, and the Reserve
Held jobs in a administration, personnel, and intelligence
Spent 17 years in the great state of Oklahoma
Retired in Monett, Missouri, with his wife, two cats, and dog, aka his "boys"
Currently working at an information technology firm

A SOLEMN TRIBUTE TO 9/11



LEFT: Firefighters gather to say a prayer before the fire climb on Sept. 12, 2015. This year marks 6 years that the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron has carried out the memorial climb.

RIGHT: Firefighters climb the fire training tower for 56 minutes, commemorating the lives lost on 9/11.

BELOW: Firefighters grab equipment to carry up and down the fire training tower during the 9/11 fire climb. The 507th CES performs the fire climb annually to pay their respect to the fallen.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY MAJ. JON QUINLAN

This year marks the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and firefighters from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron honored the occasion with their 6th annual fire climb Sept. 12 to remember the victims and heroes who perished that day.

Several members donned firefighter gear and traded packs of equipment as they climbed up and down the fire-training tower at the end of Reserve Road. They carried hatchets, oxygen tanks, fire hoses and the U.S. flag. Emergency medical technicians kept time to ensure the

firefighters participating could complete the 18 laps within 56 minutes, the amount of time it took the South Tower of the World Trade Center to collapse after it was struck by an airliner.

The fire climb is a way to pay proper respect to the heroes of the day and the victims. Not only was there silence, prayer and reflection but each member was able to get a glimpse of what it was like on that day to climb those stairs and attempt to get help to those that need it. Expect the event to continue for years to come in the 507th Air Refueling Wing, according to event planners.



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

December 5, 2015

Please join us for this year's annual awards banquet
December 5th, 2015,
at the Sheraton Hotel Reed Conference Center, located
at
5750 Will Rogers Road, in Midwest City, Oklahoma,
73110

Military attire is Air Battle Uniform with morale shirt or flight suit, and
civilians are asked to wear business casual

Social Hour will begin at 1830, with dinner to follow at 1900

Tickets for E1-E4 are \$25
E5-E8 are \$35
E9 and Officers are \$45

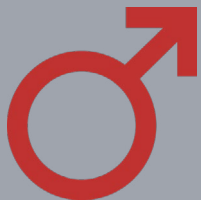
Please contact Master Sgt. Trevor Senechal to purchase tickets at:
trevor.senechal@us.af.mil

507TH AIR REFUELING WING TOP FITNESS SCORES

MALE:

SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN D. SWAIM
507TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

100



FEMALE:

MASTER SGT. PATRICIA MORA
507TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

97



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



By Ch (Capt.) Keith Rogers



1 Corinthians 9:24-25

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

As football season begins in Oklahoma, the heat and the smell of freshly-cut grass brings back memories of high school football practice. Getting ready for the first game each year was a punishing experience; the coach blasted his whistle compelling us to sprint, and chanted, "Fourth quarter, don't quit!"

Practice paid off on game day, because victory was achieved by the team that practiced with more discipline and intensity.

Our great effort was all for a temporary reward. As a football team, we loved to win; we even made it to the semifinals. Once that glorious season ended, we began preparing for a new season once again.

For the Christian, the scriptures teach us that we run a race to win a crown that lasts forever. In life, it's not easy to always do the right thing or go the extra mile for someone. How often do we go through the motions without making any real effort to help others or better ourselves? If one professes to be a Christian, then the goal should be to bring glory to God in each area of life.

Look at your life. Are you striving to do your best by taking care of yourself and those around you? Or, are you merely going through the motions?

Make a change. Run the race in a way that will glorify God, because that type of victory will last longer than a football season.

YELLOW RIBBON SECURITY TEAM:

Ensuring **attendees** and their families stay safe

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Matthew Burke

As a stream of visitors walks across brightly colored carpet in an immense hotel in Orlando, Florida, a man in a suit directs them to a registration table. He does this for scores of people over a 3-hour period at the start of an Air Force Reserve Yellow Reintegration Program training event.

“Professional, yet courteous,” said Master Sgt. Bryant Hamlor, describing the type of



Top Right: Security detail team member Tech. Sgt. Hector Flores walks the main corridor at an Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon event Sept. 27, 2015. Flores is a member of the 507th Security Forces Squadron and was part of an 8-person security detail responsible for 900 participants at the event.

Right: Tech. Sgt Hector Flores and Ron DeBusk, both from the 507th Security Forces Squadron, talk to Yellow Ribbon participants Sept. 27, 2015. Yellow Ribbon promotes the well-being of Reservists and their families by connecting them to resources before and after deployments.



demeanor he and other security team members strive to project at each Yellow Ribbon training weekend. “We want people to know we’re here and that their loved ones are protected.”

Hamlor works multiple conferences per year in addition to serving as a security forces action officer with the 459th Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. He has provided security at Yellow Ribbon events since 2010.

More than 900 people – Reservists and those closest to them -- attended this event Sept. 25-27 in Florida. Yellow Ribbon promotes the well-being of Reservists and their families by connecting

them with resources before and after deployments.

“The primary purpose of the security detail is to ensure the safety of children in the childcare area,” he said. “We want parents to know that, although the childcare process is unfamiliar, it’s very secure.”

The safety of the participants is of paramount importance to the 8-person security detail at this event and allows the attendees to focus on receiving information from the resource providers there.

“This is my first Yellow Ribbon event, and it’s funny that the first one I attend it’s through a security detail,” said Tech. Sgt. Hector Flores of the 507th Security Forces Squadron.



By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor
507th Sports Reporter Extraordinaire

It’s that time of year again, as training camps begin around the National Basketball Association.

Among those teams tipping off camp this week is the Oklahoma City Thunder, and the Thunder come into this season with high hopes of bringing the city their first professional sports championship.

New head coach Billy Donovan comes to the team from the University of Florida, where he won two national championships. Donovan replaces Scott Brooks, who led the team to the NBA Finals in 2012. The Thunder have not been back since, and Donovan will be looked upon to help the team take that final step.

Health will be another factor, as the Thunder will get small forward Kevin Durant back from a foot injury that sidelined him for most of last season.

Durant, combined with point guard Russell Westbrook, form one of the most devastating duos in the league. Power forward Serge Ibaka also comes back from a knee injury that took him out for last season’s final month.

There is a lot of excitement surrounding the Thunder, but with that excitement comes desperation and angst among the locals.

Durant, Westbrook and Ibaka have been together for seven years, and the window to get a championship is getting closer to being shut by the day.


The rumor mill also has the city worried because there is a chance Durant leaves the team after this season. The 2013-’14 league’s most valuable player is in the final year of his contract and can become an unrestricted free agent after this summer.

While staying in Oklahoma City

is seen as the most likely choice, the Washington Wizards and Los Angeles Lakers have been thrown around as a potential landing spot for Durant. Fueling the speculation is the fact Durant is from the Washington, D.C. area.

The closing window, combined with the possibility of Durant leaving, makes this season maybe the most important for the Thunder since the franchise moved in from Seattle before the 2008-09 campaign.

The talent is in place for a deep run. They have a new coach that knows a little bit about winning championships. For those reasons, among others, now is the time for the Thunder to roll towards that elusive title. It won’t be easy having to go through the NBA’s Western Conference, but Oklahoma City has all the ingredients to get there.

A firefighter from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron is shown in profile, wearing a silver reflective helmet and jacket, carrying a blue quilted hood, and holding a red fire hose. He is climbing a white metal fire training tower. In the background, another firefighter is visible, and the scene is set outdoors with trees and a building under a clear blue sky.

**A firefighter from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron carries a hose up the fire training tower during the annual fire climb in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks. This is the sixth year the 507th CES has held the memorial event.
(Photo by Maj. Jon Quinlan)**