

ONLINE FINAL

JANUARY 2016

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 37TH AIR REFUELING WING



**ANNUAL AWARD
WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**ANGEL TREE
FOR VETERANS**

**FUEL SYSTEMS SHOP
KEEPS JETS FLYING**



Vol. 36, No. 1 // 2016

JANUARY



Angel Tree
16



Security Forces



Annual Awards
20

COVER

NORMAN VETERANS CENTER

Staff Sgt. Ashley White, Senior Airman Talisa Edmunson, and Staff Sgt. Sarah Haggard of the 507th Air Refueling Wing take a photo with Veteran Robert Black, a Purple Heart recipient, Dec. 22, 2015, at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Okla.

COVER PHOTO by Maj. Jon Quinlan

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WING COMMAND CHIEF

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Giving back to our Veterans



This Christmas marked the 19th year that the 507th Air Refueling Wing sponsored Veterans for the Angel Tree Christmas Party at the Norman Veterans Center. Twenty Veterans had their wish lists filled by generous members of the 507th ARW. In addition to filling wish lists, members of the 507th ARW, the 1st Aviation Standards Flight and the 513th Air Control Group also contributed nearly \$700 in donations to the Veteran's Benefit Fund, which is used to pay for costs associated with field trips and other recreational activities. Thank you to everyone who participated, and to the 25 people who attended the party. Photo by Kelly Davis

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

RESERVE BASKETBALL // Schedule

// All games held at Gerrity Gym basketball court //



Weds., Jan. **13**
@ 6:00 p.m.
Reserve vs. 72 MDG

Weds., Jan. **27**
@ 6:00 p.m.
Showtime vs. Reserve

Mon., Feb. **8**
@ 5:00 p.m.
Sheet Metal vs. Reserve

Mon., Feb. **17**
@ 6:00 p.m.
552 AMXS vs. Reserve



"I not only want to build a warrior airman, but also a good citizen."

By Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

The 433rd Training Squadron is recruiting NCOs to serve as Reserve Military Training Instructors to train tomorrow's Airmen at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Reservists between the ranks of Staff Sgt. to Master Sgt. can not only serve as instructors in the traditional Reservist capacity, but also through the active guard Reserve (AGR) and air reserve technician (ART) programs.

Serving as an MTI is a phenomenal broadening opportunity for NCOs to develop leadership skills while earning special duty credit, said Lt. Col. Janette L. Thode, 433rd TRS commander.

"Where else does an NCO get to take 50 civilians, instill discipline in them, teach them core values, mold them into a cohesive team and ultimately transform them into Airmen?" asked Thode. "We are searching for that special NCO."

According to Tech. Sgt. James MacKay, an MTI from the 321st Training Squadron, Reservists typically perform their unit training assemblies once a quarter, for a total of four mandatory UTAs per year. However, there is flexibility in annual tour days, and Reservists can break up their annual tour in varying increments, as long as the 39-day per year requirement is met.

MacKay said he left a lucrative civilian career for the opportunity to mold the next generation of Airmen.

"It's the most rewarding thing I've done in my adult life," said MacKay, an Air Force veteran with 18 years of service between serving on active duty, in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

"The most rewarding aspect is having the ability to take these young men and women and build character in them," said MacKay.



Military Training Instructors from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, attend the 927th Air Refueling Wing's August Unit Training Assembly to inform MacDill Reservists of special duty opportunities. U.S. Air Force Photo By Staff Sgt. Adam C. Borgman

"I not only want to build a warrior airman, but also a good citizen."

36,000 Airmen graduate from BMT per year, which breaks down to 3,000 a month or 750 a week. There are about 5,000 trainees on the base at any time.

"From a reservist's perspective, it gives you an amazing opportunity to hone leadership skills, because you're dealing with

50-70 trainees per flight and they all have different issues," said MacKay. "Many 1st Sergeants have served as MTIs."

Basic training is 9.5 weeks long: The first week is dubbed "Zero Week", reserved for in-processing and issuing uniforms, followed by 7.5 weeks of training, and ends

See **INSTRUCTORS**, page 18

Security Forces Airmen eligible for \$20K in bonuses

By Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

Reservists interested in joining the Security Forces career field are eligible to receive an enlistment bonus of up to \$20,000 for committing to a six-year enlistment, and prior-service Airmen interested in retraining into the field are eligible for a bonus of up to \$15,000.

According to Master Sgt. Eric Kiddie of the 507th Security Forces Squadron here, there are many long-term benefits to joining the SFS team in addition to securing the bonus check.

"Working in the security forces career field helps Airmen continue their careers down the road, especially those interested in pursuing a criminal justice degree," said Kiddie.

507th SFS commander 1st Lt. Christopher Yates said that he couldn't pass up opportunity the retrain into the career field.

"I joined security forces to stay close to home while being part of something bigger," said

Yates, a former member of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron. "Defense is the reason why I joined the military in the first place. This is a direct way to do that for the Air Force."

Another incentive to make the switch to SF is the extra days of seasoning training, or STP, he said.

Usually, Airmen receive only 30 days of STP orders following tech school, but Airmen can utilize 139 days of STP orders to gain hands-on experience following initial training.

"We have a great relationship with the 72nd SFS," said Yates. "We have the opportunity to get our Airmen trained up with their active duty counterparts while on STP orders."

According to Kiddie, joining the unit is a useful stepping

A combat arms training and maintenance instructor at walks down the line at the firing range before allowing the 507th Security Forces Squadron to fire their M-4 carbines for weapons qualification Oct. 3, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

See **BONUS**, page 18

January PROMOTIONS



ALLEN, MARK, 507 AMXS
 PYLES, RONALD G., 507 FSS

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

BUCHHOLZ, ADAM, 507 AMXS
 TAYLOE, CORY R., 513 AMXS

MASTER SERGEANT



WOODS, JACOB D., 507 AMXS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

HIGGINS, KELLY S., 970 AACs
 KOKOVIDIS, EFKLIDIS, 507 AMXS
 MESKE, TRAVIS T., 507 CES

STAFF SERGEANT



BOLLES, WALTER M., 513 OSS
 MONTGOMERY, AMANDA M., 1 ASF
 NGUYEN, JOHNNY P., 507 CES

SENIOR AIRMAN



AMN ANTHONY, TAYLOR, 507 LRS

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS



A CLOSER LOOK

**Tech. Sgt.
 Harold Fulghum**

**507TH MAINTENANCE GROUP
 STRUCTURAL SECTION CHIEF SUPERVISOR**

“Just about everything I’ve wanted to do in life, I’ve done.”

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I farm--I have ten acres and I’m currently building a new house for me, my wife and kids.

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE AIR FORCE?

I’ve actually been in three branches: I was in the Marine Corps from 1984 to 1994, then the Florida Army National Guard, then in 2010 I joined the Air Force .

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

Retirement. I plan to stay in the Reserve until I hit 60, or when they force me out. I have a 13-year break in my service history, which set me back a little bit. I love being in the military.

WHAT IS A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I’m pretty open; I don’t have any little known facts.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

When I was a little kid, I watched a lot of emergency shows and wanted to be a paramedic. I also wanted to be a truck driver, which I did. Just about everything I’ve wanted to do in my life, I’ve done. I am fortunate.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

In all honesty, it’s the people--the camaraderie. I still keep in contact with people I knew in the Marine Corps.

Reservists selected to lead active-duty units

By Philip F. Rhodes, Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Three Air Force Reserve officers have been selected to lead active-duty units under the voluntary Extended Active Duty tour program.

EAD tours assign Reservists to active duty units to help meet active force requirements. The assignments are part of a larger initiative to leverage Total Force capabilities that includes assigning active-duty officers to lead Air Force Reserve units.

Reservists recently selected to command active duty units are:

Col. Michael Hernandez, 482nd Fighter Wing vice commander, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, will command the 325th Fighter Wing, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

Lt. Col. Matthew Bianchini, 514th Maintenance Squadron commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, will lead the 736th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Dover AFB, Delaware.



Col. Michael Hernandez, 482nd Fighter Wing vice commander, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, will command the 325th Fighter Wing, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, as one of three Air Force Reserve officers who have been selected to lead active-duty units under the voluntary Extended Active Duty tour program. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Aja Heiden)

portunity the Air Force is giving me to lead the wing," he said. "This is another example of the Air Force's commitment to the Total Force." The selections are part of a growing crossflow of active-duty and Reserve members, as several active duty officers are filling billets in the Air Force Reserve. Col. Robert Bruckner is a RegAF officer and the 919th Special Operations Wing (AFRC) vice commander, Duke Field, Florida. Lt. Col. Stuart Rubio is an AD member from AMC's squadron commander list and will lead 815th Airlift Squadron (AFRC), Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

Several other Reservists are completing tours in active duty command billets. Col. Jim Lackey just finished a tour as the

active duty vice wing commander at Vance AFB, Oklahoma; Col. Robert Graham is currently the 436th Airlift Wing vice commander at Dover AFB, Delaware. They join a growing list of Reserve officers serving as vice, operations group, and squadron commanders where the Air Force Reserve has associate units.

"These actions serve to strengthen the Air Force enterprise to help build the future force we need," said Jackson.

Integrating Air Force Reserve and active-duty Airmen falls in line with Total Force Initiatives outlined in the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force that calls for increasing integration of Reserve, Guard, and Active Component

Airmen at headquarters and units, and increasing the number of integrated or multi-component ("associate") units. The Air Force "unequivocally relies on three strong components," states Deborah James, Secretary of the Air Force, in the 2015 USAF Posture Statement. "The Air Force is absolutely committed to leveraging the distinct and complementary characteristics of its Total Force more effectively...and to do that, Airmen must be postured to operate cohesively and seamlessly as one team."

Col. Dawn Wallace, director of Air Force Reserve Senior Leader Management, said the "One Air Force" objective directs increased opportunities for component integration. "It is less about supporting the use of Reservists in active duty positions, and more about the Total Force integration and leveraging the strengths of each component and individual talent," she said.

Each of the Air Force Reserve selectees brings extensive experience to the positions and go through a rigorous screening process. Candidates are selected by their Development Teams and must be on the AFRC Command Screening Board list. The names are then vetted and approved by a panel of general officers. After that, the active duty command screening board considers them for assignment to fill command opportunities.

Both Knapp and Bianchini come highly qualified. With a combined 52 years of maintenance experience on multiple airframes and multiple deployments to Southwest Asia, they understand the rigors and responsibilities of command.

"Wing commanders have to have faith and hire us based on record only," said Knapp about the selection process.

"I'm excited and energized," said Bianchini, a maintainer for 27 years. He served 12 years as an enlisted guidance and control technician, got commissioned in 1998 and has held command positions at two Reserve wings, served as a Pentagon action officer and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. "This is an awesome opportunity that I hope opens more doors for other Reservists."

The Kirtland assignment brings familiarity, but a different perspective for Knapp. He walked the hangars at Kirtland as an enlisted guidance and control technician working on MH-53 and H-3 helicopters in the 1990s. After commissioning in 2002, Knapp served as a Traditional Reserve logistics officer and was an airframe and power plant mechanic in between his Reserve duty. He went on to become an Air Reserve Technician, deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 and led maintainers as a squadron commander at MacDill AFB, Florida. "I think we are forging new ground [with the EAD program] that will open opportunities that didn't exist in the past", he said. "Anything is possible. I'm beyond excited and ready to go do this job."

"This is an awesome opportunity that I hope opens more doors for Reservists."

Maj. Albert Knapp, Air Force Reserve Command Directorate for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection executive officer, will command the 56th Maintenance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

They join Lt. Col. Michael Giedt, who is currently on an EAD tour as deputy commander of the 23rd Maintenance Squadron, Moody AFB, Georgia.

"Their selection speaks highly of their qualifications and continued outstanding performance," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, Air Force Reserve Command commander and chief of Air Force Reserve. "I am confident they will excel in these command opportunities."

Hernandez is the first Air Reserve Component colonel in recent history selected to lead a regular Air Force wing. His career has been a blend of Total Force assignments. He spent 16-and-a-half years on active duty, is a former active duty F-22 squadron commander and has racked up more than 2,900 flying hours in the F-22, F-16 and T-38. "I'm thankful for the op-

CHAPLAIN'S

CORNER

By Ch (Capt.) Keith Rogers

NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS



Looking back, how do you feel last year went for you? Was it a great year, or was it filled with heartbreak and pain? What are you looking forward to in 2016: A new job, additions to family or starting a new routine? Perhaps you just want to get through the year, no matter where you are in life or what you are facing. Remember this: you have a family in the Air Force. Your brothers and sisters care about you. We work hard and take pride in being the Okie family.

For Christians who serve, you not only have the Air Force family, but the family of God. In John 10:10, Christ says, "10 the thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

I want to encourage you this year to affirm your beliefs, and to commit your plans, hopes and dreams to the Lord. Paul writes in Philippians 3:24, "14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Let this verse be life to you seeking let the hope of Jesus ring in your life.

Lastly, I encourage you to look around and seek out others who are having times of trouble and remind them of their faith and family. Walk with them for a while. I know this will bless you and them.

DEPLOYED OPERATIONS MADE POSSIBLE BY FUEL SYSTEMS SHOP

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

Deployed maintenance teams sometimes discover a problem so big that they must call on the help of their home station partners.

That's exactly what had to be done Dec. 6, when a deployed KC-135R Stratotanker with a major fuel leak returned from Southwest Asia to the 507th Maintenance Squadron here for repairs.

According to Master Sgt. Cameron Dinger, 507th Maintenance Squadron fuel systems shop chief, members attempted to repair the fuel leak at the deployed location, but were unable to pinpoint the cause of the leak.

"Deployed members suspected that the center wing integral tank may have been leaking into the cell's cavity," said Dinger. "The aircraft was sent home because the equipment to test for a leak of that nature was not available on station while deployed."

Through careful coordination between the 507th Maintenance and Operations Groups and the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, the tanker crossed the globe and arrived back home.

"The return took several days because they had to isolate a large portion of the



Staff Sgt. Sean Carter, a fuel systems technician with the 507th Maintenance Squadron, installs a pressure plate on an empty fuel cell taken from a KC-135R center wing tank in order to check the cell for a leak Dec. 15, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The KC-135 has six fuel cells in the center wing, four cells in the forward body, and five cells in the aft body, for a total of 16 fuel cells. The wings of the aircraft also hold fuel that is pumped directly into the wings, filling nearly the entire wing structure.

fuel system, preventing them from flying with more than a certain fuel load," said Maj. Melissa Jones, 507th MXS director of operations.

Members of the 507th MXS fuel systems shop removed the problematic fuel cell from the center wing and entered the center wing integral tank to inspect for damage that could be the cause of the leak.

"We removed the cell, then isolated the cavity it was installed in, and pressurized

the center wing," said Dinger. "Pressurizing the center wing allowed us to enter the cavity to search for a leak from the integral tank into the cell area," said Dinger.

No leak was found in the integral tank itself, but the cause of the leak was discovered: A deep scratch was found in the sealing surface, leading to a slow leak of fuel. The team sanded out the scratch, leaving a smooth surface and ensuring an airtight seal.

The cell that was believed to be leaking was removed, pressurized and tested and no leak was found. This led the team to concur that the scratch found in the seal of the integral tank was indeed the issue.

Once all the components were reinstalled on the aircraft, all of the fuel systems were tested and checked for functionality, said Dinger.

"Cases like these highlight the necessity for coordination between us and the units in the area of responsibility," said Jones. "It took a lot of coordination between our maintenance and operations team to safely fly the aircraft home and return it to a mission capable status."



Staff Sgt. Sean Carter, left, and Tech. Sgt. Joshua Green, right, fuel systems technicians with the 507th Maintenance Squadron, install pressure plates on an empty fuel cell Dec. 15, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The removable cells are made of nylon fabric that is less than 1/16 of an inch thick yet can hold seven tons of fuel. The KC-135R is capable of transferring more fuel in eight minutes than a gas station could pump in 24 hours.



**Story and photos
by Maj. Jon Quinlan**

Michael Johnson, an electrician with the 564th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepares wiring for installation of new liquid crystal displays in a KC-135 cockpit at Tinker Air Force Base Dec. 22, 2015. The new displays are part of the latest KC-135 Stratotanker upgrade called Block 45 which will be retro fitted into Air Force Reserve Command jets in the 507th Air Refueling Wing starting in Feb. 2016.

KC-135R Stratotankers operated by the 507th Air Refueling Wing are scheduled to be the first Air Force Reserve Command tankers to be retrofitted with the new KC-135 Block 45 upgrade at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex here in February 2016.

The latest KC-135 upgrade, called Block 45, will completely remodel the inside of the flight deck with new liquid crystal display or LCD panels, a new radio altimeter, new auto pilot, new digital flight director and other computer module updates.

The first round of aircraft modifications are complete and jets are being flown out of McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. Due to the changes in the cockpit, aircrews will be required to obtain certifications in the upgraded jets to resume daily operations.

Block 45 is the third series of major modifications designed to add capability to the aging KC-135 fleet. The KC-135 is often referred to as the “work horse” of the air refueling fleet, and these aircraft must stay mission capable for many years. This upgrade keeps the KC-135 fleet updated and viable as the Air Force is in the process of acquiring the newest air refueler, the KC-46A Pegasus.

Air Force Reserve pilots in the 465th Air Refueling Squadron here said they are excited about the new upgrades which will increase situational awareness for the aircrews and overall safety during aerial refueling missions.

According to the Legacy Tanker Division here which manages the Block 45 program, the \$910 million program is vital in keeping the KC-135 fleet flying for the next 20 years.



Members of the 564th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare a KC-135R Stratotanker to be retrofitted with the new KC-135 Block 45 upgrade. KC-135s operated by Air Force Reserve Commands 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. will begin upgrade February 2016.

Col. Martin O’Grady, Legacy Tanker Division chief, said the upgrade reduces equipment failures and promotes operational efficiency.

“The modification to the KC-135 is important for several reasons,” said O’Grady. “The upgrade allows for more efficient air traffic management activities, improves system safety by creating key system redundancy and reduces the logistics footprint by using more reliable avionics components.”

Reliability and availability of parts and gauges is another reason for the upgrade as some components are no longer manufactured for the 50-year old aircraft.

Daniel Witt, a Senior Avionics Engineer in the Legacy Tanker Division, highlighted the importance of avionics upgrades that will allow the KC-135 to have a fully

digital integrated cockpit. The glass LCD will replace numerous flight instruments that are nearly obsolete.

“These upgrades significantly improve reliability, reduce maintenance actions, and provide supportability beyond 2030,” Witt said. “We also get updates on the software that will allow us to continue to support the KC-135 in the future.”

O’Grady said the program has truly been a team effort.

“This is a program with multi-organization stakeholders including Air Mobility Command, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. and our industry partner Rockwell Collins,” said O’Grady. “Without stakeholder collaboration, we would not have been successful.”

Modification of approximately 400 KC-135s began in 2014 and is scheduled to be complete by 2026.

Veterans Center Angel Tree: celebrating with Vets for 19 years

Volunteers share their stories



Tech. Sgt. Herbert Briscoe speaks with a resident's sister Dec. 22, 2015, at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Okla. This year marked the 19th year that the 507th Air Refueling Wing has participated in the annual Christmas party at the center. 25 volunteers delivered gifts to 20 Veterans and nearly \$700. Photos by Maj. Jon Quinlan

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Ashley White of the 507th Air Refueling Wing assists a Veteran while opening a gift Dec. 22, 2015, at the annual Norman Veterans Center Angel Tree party. Through the Angel Tree program, 25 volunteers delivered gifts to 20 Veterans and nearly \$700 collected from the 507th ARW, the 1st Aviation Standards flight, and the 513th Air Control Group.



Staff Sgt. Sarah Haggard of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, poses with Veteran Richard Guthrie, Dec. 22, 2015, at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Okla. Guthrie served more than 20 years in the Air Force and in addition to multiple deployments, Guthrie logged more than 22,000 flight hours flying over Vietnam, Korea and Libya.

VETERANS: THE REAL SUPERHEROES

by Tech. Sgt. Herbert Briscoe

Approximately 300 Veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars live at the Norman Veterans Center. These men and women come from all walks of life, and I consider them to be superheroes.

It's a special feeling to deliver gifts to the residents and to show them others appreciate their service to our country.

When we arrived at the front door, a Vet waited for us to enter just to visit with us. He is wheelchair-bound, and one of the few remaining WWII veterans. More than 71 years ago, he and his unit landed on Omaha Beach in France on D-Day. He was two weeks away from turning 21, and he said his first thought was that he wouldn't live to see his birthday.

After fighting on the warm beaches in Normandy on his birthday, he spent Christmas of 1944 fighting in a bliz-

zard at the Battle of the Bulge, and later was awarded the Purple Heart. I was honored to be able to listen to him recount his experiences.

Sometimes we feel like we have it rough, but talking with the Veterans helps put things in perspective. Many of these Veterans lived away from home for one or two years, rarely getting to communicate with family. Airmen of today have 24-hour dining facilities, television, and internet and recreation time while on deployment, tours that typically last no longer than six months.

The men and women who have served our great nation have made many sacrifices, and some have sacrificed all. It was a great privilege to attend the Angel Tree party. I feel blessed to receive the gift that money cannot buy; time spent visiting and listening to the experiences of the servicemen and women that came before us.

Listening and laughing: Making friends with Veterans at the center

by Tech. Sgt. Chris Cowell

This was my first time my family and I went to the Veteran's center to celebrate Christmas. As soon as we walked into the facility, we were greeted by the friendly staff, and the Vets made us feel relaxed and right at home.

The residents had unique and interesting personalities. While listening to their stories, we begged for more details about their lives and military service.

In one of the units, we met a veteran who served in the Vietnam War as a switch board operator, Mr. Eddie Washington. Eddie was a witty fellow who was full of jokes. I could tell he loved to paint, so I asked him what he enjoyed painting the most. He said, "I'll paint anything I can get a hold of," and when he opened his gifts, he found several car and airplane models and fresh bottles of paint and glue.

After speaking with Eddie, we spent some time with a WWII Vet named Fred. Fred was known for playing the harmonica at the Veteran's Center, and he played tunes for us on his new harmonica in between enjoying his cheese and crackers and cutting up with his daughters who were there to visit.

At the Christmas party downstairs, Mr. and Mrs. Claus stopped by to distribute gifts to

the residents as they celebrated with music and snacks. I was introduced to Sergeant, a smaller resident of the K-9 variety, and more therapy dogs who went around to the guests looking to be loved on.

While we were downstairs, I introduced myself to Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Betty Daniels. Jim served in the Navy on the USS Henrico. He said the ship's mission during the war was carrying Marines and other personnel across the Atlantic Ocean. The couple retired here in Edmond, Okla., and Betty commutes from home three times a week to visit her husband at the center. We made a genuine connection, and I plan to take my family to visit them soon.

I left the center with mixed emotions: I felt a sense of pride knowing that we did something good by bringing smiles and gifts to those who deserve it, but I also felt sad because many members of our unit missed out on a wonderful opportunity to give their time to the Veterans. They weren't there to give a friendly hug, share a little smile, or give a small Christmas gift to someone who probably could use one during the holidays.

Next year we plan to return to visit the men and women who have given so much to us. These people are America's true heroes and deserve all the love we can give them.

INSTRUCTORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

with "Airmen's Week," a week of instruction that serves as a transition between BMT and technical training school.

Misconceptions about the training program prevent some of the sharpest NCOs from volunteering, according to Tech Sgt. Jesse Garcia, an MTI with the 433rd TRS.

To be eligible, applicants must: Be a Staff Sgt. promotable to Tech. Sgt., Tech. Sgt. promotable to Master Sgt. or be a Master Sgt; have at least four-years from high year of tenure; have a skill-level commensurate with pay grade; have 42-months retainability from RNLTD; have an overall of 5 on last three EPRs; have no record of disciplinary action such as an Article 15, UIF or control roster; have a current fitness test composite score of 80 or higher; and have passing fitness test scores in the past 12-month period.

"If you enjoy being a good supervisor and mentoring troops, being an instructor is by far the best hands-on training you'll ever get," said MacKay.

Contact Tech. Sgt. Jesse Garcia at Jesse.Garcia.18@us.af.mil for details.

BONUS, CONTINUED FROM P. 7

stone for Airmen and their careers.

"Enlisting in this field gives Airmen a broad range of knowledge," said Kiddie. "Security Forces is made up of different areas, ranging from law enforcement and K-9 to combat arms or investigations. Obtaining experience in these fields sets Airmen up to apply to be a member of the Office of Special Investigations, the local police department, the FBI or the U.S. Marshal Service.

Technical training is conducted at the Security Forces Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Over the course of 65 academic days, students learn about missile security, convoy actions, capture and recovery of nuclear weapons,

law enforcement, directing traffic and nonlethal tactics such as using pepper spray and pressure points on a body.

The course recently changed from 51 to 65 academic days, and although standard training aspects remain, the revised course was designed to increase the students' proficiency levels.

The new course eliminated the computer-based training that students were required to take at their first duty station, allowing the students to get actual hands-on experience while still at the Academy.

If you are interested in Security Forces, contact Chief Master Sgt. Steven Fousek at 734-5331 for career opportunities in the Reserve.

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND NEWS

1st Aviation Standards Flight realigned

The 1st Aviation Standards Flight, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was relieved from their current assignment with the 507th Air Refueling Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla., (4th AF) and realigned with the 413th Flight Test Group, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia (22nd AF).

Air Force Reserve Command announced organizational assignment changes that will realign several units within the command's numbered air forces.

Two organizations were reassigned

Dec. 10. The 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, was reassigned from Fourth Air Force, March Air Reserve Base, California, to 22nd AF, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

The 13th Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale AFB, California, will be relieved of its current assignment with the 940th Operations Group (4th AF) and reassigned to the 726th Operations Group, Creech AFB, Nevada, under 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, in February, 2016.

A Bombardier Challenger flown by a 1st Aviation Standards Flight crew, flies over McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The 1st ASF is a small team of Reservists performing critical inspections to ensure aircraft take off and land safely in locations all around the world. They are the only military members in the world qualified to inspect McMurdo Station. Courtesy photo



SPORTS NEWS



BY TECH. SGT. CHARLES TAYLOR, 507TH SPORTS REPORTER EXTRAORDINAIRE

After seventeen weeks of the reality TV show we call the National Football League regular season, it's time for the playoffs to begin this weekend. Picks for who will win Super Bowl 50, which takes place in Santa Clara, Calif. Feb. 7, is anyone's guess. There isn't a team that stands out of the 12 remaining as the favorite, which makes this year's version of the playoffs even more enticing.

Could it be the Carolina Panthers who rise up? If we want to go by regular season records, this would be the team to go with. The Panthers were 15-1 during the season, giving them the home-field advantage in the NFC. Quarterback Cam Newton, who is expected by many to be named the NFL's most valuable player, leads a team that has won 19 of their last 20 regular season games dating back to last season.

If anyone wants to see a player finish his career with a Super Bowl ring, the Denver Broncos may be the pick. The Broncos were 12-4, good enough to have home-field advantage in the AFC. They finished with the same win-loss record as the New England Patriots, but won the tie-breaker by beating the Patriots head-to-head. The player who is at the end of his career is QB Peyton Manning. Manning won a title during his days with the Indianapolis Colts, but many people believe he has come up short more often than not. One more ring, and those critics may be silenced.

Looking for a wild-card? The Seattle Seahawks may

be the team to pick. Even though they are the sixth-and-final seed in the NFC, the Seahawks still have a lot of players from the team who won the Super Bowl in 2013 and almost won it again in 2014. With all of that experience, not too many people want to play Seattle, especially considering they won six out of their final seven games to finish the season.

Speaking of experience, who has more than the Patriots? Any team that has Bill Belichick as their coach and Tom Brady as their QB always has a chance. I would be crazy if I forgot to mention the fact New England is the defending Super Bowl champions, and it will take somebody's A-game to pry the title from them.

Other teams who are in the playoffs are just as dangerous. The Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers have quarterbacks who have won Super Bowls leading them. The Arizona Cardinals and Cincinnati Bengals want to improve upon disappointing finishes to from last season. The Minnesota Vikings and Kansas City Chiefs want to show their regular seasons weren't a fluke, and the Washington Redskins and Houston Texans are out to prove they're not just in the playoff because they won horrible divisions.

With all of the storylines, it will be fun to see which team will hoist the Vince Lombardi Trophy at the conclusion of the tournament. Who is your pick to win Super Bowl 50? Let us know on facebook.

Tara Randol, a first grade teacher at Broadmoore Elementary in Moore, Okla., and wife of Master Sgt. James Randol from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, holds her Spouse of the Year award with Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

SPOUSE OF THE YEAR

TARA RANDOL



Senior Airman Jennifer Wallace, a maintenance management analysis technician with the 507th Maintenance Group, accepts her award for Airman of the Year with Jan Davis from Tinker Federal Credit Union, Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, and 507th ARW Command Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, Dec. 5, 2015 at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

SENIOR AIRMAN
JENNIFER WALLACE



James Steinmann III, Logistics Compliance Manager with the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, displays his Civilian of the Year award alongside Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

JAMES STEINMANN III



Master Sgt. Thomas Lord, 1st Sgt. from the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, holds his 1st Sgt. of the Year award with Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, and 507th ARW Command Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

1ST SGT. OF THE YEAR

MASTER SGT. THOMAS LORD



Staff Sgt. Chandra Caddell, a logistics plans and resources technician with the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, holds her NCO of the year award with Karl Wasserleben, Kathy Smith, and Jan Davis of Tinker Federal Credit Union, Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander and 507th ARW Command Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

NCO OF THE YEAR

STAFF SGT. CHANDRA CADDELL



Master Sgt. Angela Rooney, Quality Assurance superintendent with the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, accepts her SNCO of the Year award from Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, and 507th ARW Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR

MASTER SGT. ANGELA ROONEY



Capt. Brandon Lewis, 507th Command Post officer in charge, accepts his award for Officer of the Year from Col. Brian Davis, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, and 507th ARW Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

CAPT. BRANDON LEWIS



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

2015 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Tara Randol, Capt. Brandon Lewis, Karl Wasserleben, Kathy Smith, Staff Sgt. Chandra Caddell, Jan Davis, Master Sgt. Angela Rooney, Col. Brian Davis, Master Sgt. Thomas Lord, James Steinmann III, Senior Airman Jennifer Wallace and Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown pose for a group photo at the Wing Annual Awards Banquet Dec. 5, 2015, at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

