



ON THE COVER JOE 16

Tech. Sgt. David Whisenhunt of the 507th Security Forces Squadron mans the entry control point on the flight line at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., while KC-135R Stratotankers taxi in response to an exercise input during the June Operational Exercise June 5, 2016.

COVER PHOTO by Maj. Jon Quinlan STORY on p. 16

THIS MONTH

Super Family Day Flyer

ACE Academy I2

Daddy's Home I4

Okies arrive at RIMPAC 19



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WING COMMAND CHIEF Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS Maj. Jon Quinlan

SUPERINTENDENT Master Sgt. Grady Epperly

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EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

Why is employer support important? Almost half of our military force resides in the Reserve Component which is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The men and women who serve in the Reserve Component are unique in that they also have civilian employers. Support of America's employers and the employees they share with the Nation ensures the viability of the all-volunteer force, and thus our national security.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees with ESGR as the principal advocate within DoD. ESGR does this by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and resolving conflict between employers and service members. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

WHO WE HELP

ESGR works with all employers and all Guard and Reserve service members.

WHAT WE DO

More than 4,700 volunteers and support staff are located in all 50 U.S. states, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia to provide the following services:

ADVOCATE

ESGR advocates relevant initiatives on behalf of employers, service members and their families. We promote the importance of employer support through regular communications to military leadership, and serve as a communication link between employers and the DoD.

RECOGNIZE

ESGR recognizes employers who practice human resource personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve with a series of DoD employer awards.

INFORM

ESGR informs and educates service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Statutory authority for USERRA resides with the Department of Labor, and ESGR serves as a neutral, free resource to employers and service members. Information on the many resources is available at www.ESGR.mil.

MEDIATE

Trained ombudsmen provide information and mediation concerning the USERRA law. ESGR has hundreds of trained volunteer ombudsmen throughout the country ready to provide free mediation. Many conflicts arise due to a misunderstanding rather than a purposeful violation of the law, and ESGR can assist in resolving these issues and more.





WWW.ESGR.MIL 1-800-336-4590 FACT SHEET 1 / ESGR-B123 / 12_2011



Reserve RECRUITERS



Senior Master Sgt. Donald Cantrell Flight Chief

Tinker AFB, OK Office (405) 734-5331 Cell (405) 409-4784



Master Sgt. Derrick Mills In-Service Recruiter Tinker AFB, OK Cell (405) 409-5170

Master Sgt. Colin McDonald In-Service Recruiter Tinker AFB, OK Office (405) 734-5555 Cell (405) 409-4784



Tech. Sgt. Keith Hassell Line Recruiter Midwest City, OK Cell (405) 409-5811





Tech. Sgt. Nickelette Parrish Line Recruiter

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

EVERY RESERVIST IS A RECRUITER



4 // ON-FINAL 5 // On-Final

507TH AIR REFUELING WING'S

DATE: Saturday, August 6, 2016

TIME: Wingman Hour 5:00 p.m., Combat Begins at 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hangar 1030

ATTIRE: Flight Suits, BDUs or ABUs, new, old or modified

R.s.v.p. by July 22



View Invitation



E-1 THRU E-4 \$6.00 E-5 AND E-6 \$12.00 E-7 THRU E-9 AND 0-1 THRU 0-4 \$15.00 0-5 AND ABOVE \$20.00

CATERING PROVIDED RY R.I'S **Chicken wings** French fries Soft drinks

Please complete your R.s.v.p. first, then see a First Sergeant/Representative to purchase admission:

507 AMXS: MSgt Kimberlee Koldste, 739-5375

507 CES: MSgt. Juan Escobar, 734-7428 507 FSS/MSG/HQ:

SMSgt Ronald Pyles, 734-6408

507 MDS: MSgt Donald Clevenger, 582-6702

507 MXG: SMSgt Jay Smith, 734-0108 507 SFS: MSgt Robert Mussyal, 734-9161 507 LRS: MSgt Tom Lord, 739-2288 507 OSF/465 ARS:

MSgt Robin Moseley, 734-3269

513 ACG:

MSgt Angela Leddy, 582-6730 35 CBCS: MSgt Darrin Oglesby, 734-0108

72 APS: MSqt Chris Brigan, 739-2081

AUG. 7

SEPTEMBER UTA SEP. 10-11

- 507TH ARW SUPER FAMILY DAY @ 1200 IN HANGAR 1030 SEP. 10

JULY

-RIMPAC EXERCISE JULY 1-31

AUGUST UTA AUG 6-7

-COMBAT DINING-IN @ 1700 IN HANGAR 1030 AUG. 6

-3RD QUARTER AWARDS DUE BY 1200 AUG. 6

- COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 BASE THEATER

OCTOBER UTA OCT 15-16

- 4TH QUARTER AWARDS DUE OCT. 1

NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 5-6

-COMMANDER'S CALL @ TBD BASE THEATER NOV. 6

DECEMBER UTA DEC.3-4

ANNUAL AWARD PACKAGES DUE NLT 1600 DEC. 3

*DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR UP-DATES, CHECK THE 507TH WEBSITE HERE.

6 // ON-FINAL 7 // ON-FINAL





Senior Master Sgt. Donald Cantrell

507TH AIR REFUELING WING RECRUITING FLIGHT CHIEF

WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I was a traditional reservist in the 507th Security Forces Squadron from 1991-2004. That was the best job ever.

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE MILITARY?

I left for Basic Military Training on May 23, 1988.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

Right now, my fun is completing the weekend "honey-do" list. When I get to work, that's my break from doing work around the house. Once the list is complete, I'll be off to golf, hunt, and fish (in that order).

AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I wanted to follow the family tradition and be an attorney.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

I am happy with my station in life, I am able to finish my career where it began more than 28 years ago at Tinker Air Force Base.

WHAT IS YOUR CIVILIAN JOB?

I am a full-time Active Guard Reserve recruiter.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Helping the next generation of Airmen. It's exciting to see the transformation from the time they join to when they return from Basic Training.



PROMOTIONS

GIBB, DANIEL E., 513 OSS CLARK, THOMAS D., 970 AACS STRAWDERMAN, HAROLD D., 507 MXS

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT





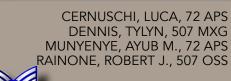
HODSON, GREGORY S., 72 APS VANTREESE, BRIDGET, 72 APS

MASTER SERGEANT

CASTILLO, JONATHAN, 507 MDS RAMIREZ, LINDA W., 507 MDS ROLAND, ROGER N., 35 CBCS SINGER, RYAN C., 507 ARW SMITH, ALLAN A., 507 MXS WILSON, ISAAC M., 35 CBCS

TECHNICAL SERGEANT





STAFF SERGEANT

GIBBY, CHRISTOPHER, 507 SFS JENNINGS, ELIZABETH C., 513 AMXS

SENIOR AIRMAN



CASTILLO, JONATHAN A., 507 LRS



AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

MENDOZA MADRID, JASMIN, 970 AACS

AIRMAN





Story by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

n June 23, nine students got the chance to fly on an aerial refueling mission here as part of a week-long aviation camp.

The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, founded in 1976, holds an Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy every year, designed to provide middle and high school youth with exposure to opportunities in aerospace and aviation.

Maj. Cory Glenn, a pilot with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron here, is also the director of the ACE academy.

The objective of OBAP's ACE Academy is to motivate youth of any race to become educationally prepared for life and to increase participation in aviation and aerospace through exposure, training, mentoring and scholarships, according to Glenn. "The academy is structured and tailored to provide exposure to the

TOP: Maj. Cory Glenn, pilot with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, gives his students a tour of the KC-135 June 23, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. BELOW: Nine students pose for a photo before their flight June 23, 2016. Photos by Tech Sqt Lauren Gleason





An ACE Academy student experiences sitting in a cockpit June 22, 2016. Nine students with the ACE academy toured aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base, Will Rogers World Airport, the Oklahoma Air National Guard Facility, the Navy at Tinker Air Force Base, and the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center during their week-long aviation camp. Photo by Maj. Cory Glenn

history of aviation, fundamentals of aerodynamics, air traffic control procedures, aerospace technologies and introductions to aviation careers."

Dwayne Tulloch, a member of OBAP since 2012, is an active member of the organization and helped raise money for scholarships while serving as a board member in Daytona Beach. To date, OBAP has awarded \$4.8 million in scholarships to more than 470 diverse recipients nationwide.

"I enjoy participating in the ACE camp because I can mentor youth and make a difference," said Tulloch. "If my goal of becoming a commercial pilot helps inspire one student to pursue aviation, then my job is complete."

The camp consists of six days of events, with the first day consisting of an orientation for parents and students, where the students receive a syllabus of expectations. On day two, the students explored Will Rogers World Airport, visiting the Air National Guard facility, the OKC Air Traffic Control facility and other aviation businesses.

The students received a mission briefing at the 507th Air Refueling Wing on day three, followed by a flight where they experienced an aerial refueling mis-

sion

On day four, they toured the Federal Aviation Administration headquarters for a behind-the-scenes look at operations for major airline carriers.

On day 5, the students traveled back to Tinker to view the Navy's specialized mission at Tinker and to experience a flight simulator. They ended the day with a trip to the Oklahoma City Air Logistic Complex to see how our aircraft fleet is overhauled and updated.

On the last day, the students flew on a civilian aircraft and viewed static displays, and wrapped up the festivities with a graduation ceremony.

To be eligible for the free academy, applicants are required to submit an application along with an essay expressing why they are interested in aviation, as well as a copy of their school transcript with GPA. Since its inception 1992, the academy has reached 30,000 students.

OBAP's international membership of more than 3,000 professionals includes astronauts, commercial pilots, military aviators, maintenance technicians, flight instructors, air traffic controllers, flight attendants and students.

12 // On-Final



Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

amilies, friends and Air Force Reserve leaders lined up June 11 to greet thirteen Citizen Airmen of the 507th Maintenance Group here upon returning home from a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

Master Sgt. Robert Mills of the 507th Maintenance Squadron here had a special guest waiting to meet him: his two-month old baby boy who was born during his deployment.

Mills' wife, mother, and two sons anxiously awaited his arrival back from his third deployment, just one week before Father's Day.

Robert's wife, Jordan Mills, said deployments come with many challenges. She said she relied on the tremendous support from her family.

"My mom and mother-in-law got me through," Jordan said. "I couldn't have done it without them."

Mills said he didn't let the distance keep him from being involved in his son's birth.

"It was interesting going through the whole birth over the phone," Mills said. "My mom gave the playby-play."

Master Sgt. Shaun Erickson of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hugs three of his children June 11, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., following his return from a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

When asked about their plans they had for the evening, Mills said he and his family planned to eat the one kind of cuisine that was not available at the dining facility: Mexican food.

Mills said he was also excited to get a good night's sleep and take his kids to the park.

"It's going to be nice to get home and help out with little Luke." Mills said.

Jordan offered some advice for military spouses coping with a loved one's deployment.

"Pray as often as you can," Jordan said. "And watch a lot of Netflix."

Col. Travis Caughlin, 507th Maintenance Group commander, greeted the Airmen and gave them a warm welcome.

"We are very proud of the great work that they did," Caughlin said. "We're glad to see them back home."

The deployed team provided KC-135R maintenance in support of Central Command's combat operations, where Mills served as coordinator on the flightline.



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. James Bradshaw kisses his wife, Senior Airman Jammie Bradshaw, both with the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., June 11, 2016, following a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. BELOW, LEFT: Master Sgt. Robert Mills of the 507th Maintenance Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., meets his two-month old son for the first time June 11, 2016, upon his return from a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. BELOW, RIGHT: Tech. Sgt. Allen Hockenbroch, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., reunites with his family upon his return from a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

The 507th Air Refueling Wing here employs more than 1,110 Citizen Airmen who operate and maintain eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft and provide worldwide aerial refueling to U.S. and NATO aircraft in times of peace, war and national emergency.



Following a deployment, Airmen are required to report in to complete paperwork, and then are allowed leave for about a month to recuperate and to reunite with family.

The Air Force Reserve's Yellow Ribbon Program helps military members maintain resiliency during all stages of deployment, which is integral to the morale and welfare of Airmen and families.

Yellow Ribbon is a series of events designed to provide members and families with essential resources prior to departure, a level of stability and support during deployment, and successful re-integration techniques after the deployment cycle ends.

Many of the Citizen Airmen who returned on Saturday plan to use the program following leave.



14 // On-Final



Staff Sgt. Shantel Ellis, 507th Air Refueling Wing command post controller, coordinates with maintenance during the June Operational Exercise at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., June 2, 2016. Command post controllers, along with maintenance professionals in the maintenance operations control center, were by running numerous checklists, relaying command information, tracking aircraft, answering radio and phone calls while dispatching crews. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Story by Maj. Jon Quinlan

More than 1,100 Citizen Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing here came together for an intense five-day exercise June 1-5 in order to evaluate the wing's operational readiness, with emphasis on the wing's nuclear support and deterrence mission.

The local exercise named June Operational Exercise 16, or JOE 16, gave Citizen Airmen the opportunity to hone their skills and allowed the wing inspection team to be certified and mentored by Air Mobility Command and Air Force Reserve Command inspectors.

This is the first exercise run by the newly-formed wing inspection team under the direction of the Inspector General Inspections office. With the AMC certification, the 507th WIT team is fully trained to lead and evaluate on future readiness exercises in house in accordance with the Air Force Inspection System.

"Our team developed the entire scenario from start

to finish," said Senior Master Sgt. Jamie Horn, 507th ARW director of exercise plans. "This exercise provides our wing the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to perform this mission in a timely and safe manner."

The WIT team members are considered the experts in their functional areas. The WIT team is made up of more than 60 Citizen Airmen in the unit. They are all specially trained to provide scenarios that will provide the best training and evaluate wing members in most functional areas.

While the exercise was integral for the WIT team to obtain certifications, the exercise also showcased the wing's readiness.

"These types of exercises are of the utmost importance to ensure that our wing is trained and ready on a daily basis," said Horn.

Aspects of the exercise focused on the KC-135R aerial refueling support of U.S. Strategic Command, with focus on the wings nuclear support mission, which is

vital to strategic deterrence and stability, according to USSTRATCOM officials.

Several operations were evaluated during the exercise, including maintaining aircraft, preparing aircraft for alert and immediate response, unit deployment readiness, suspicious activity, and self-aid buddy care with a large emphasis on command and control.

The 507th ARW Command Post, Maintenance Operations Center and specific squadron points of contact played a significant role in ensuring the exercise was conducted smoothly and safely.

"The Command Post is at the center of the operation," said Master Sgt. Jason Brown, 507th ARW Command Post. "As we receive orders from [higher headquarters] and ensure those orders are carried out. Based on HHQ directives, we notify the CAT and generated aircrews of increasing world situations."

Command post controllers along with maintenance professionals in the Maintenance Operations Control Center were tested by running numerous checklists, relaying command information, tracking aircraft, answering radio calls and phone calls and dispatching crews.



Three 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker alert aircraft prepare to launch in support of the June Operational Exercise 16 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Master Sqt. Grady Epperly)

JOE 16 challenged the Reservists, and developed relationships and partnerships that allowed the wing to identify successes and shortfalls.

"We learned valuable lessons after the exercise, and now we have a way forward to improve our operations," said Horn.

Superior Performers for JOE 16 are, Master Sgt. Rodger Carr, 507th Maintenance Group, Tech. Sgt. Jo Delorenzi, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, Staff Sgt. Shelby Zimmerman, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Bobby Jackson, 465th Air Refueling Squadron. The superior team was the 507th Security Forces WIT team.

507th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces members plan to secure an area of the Tinker AFB, Okla. ramp June 2, 2016, in anticipation for three KC-135 Stratotankers to drive during June Operational Exercise 16. JOE 16 areas of inspection included maintaining aircraft, securing critical assets, processing personnel and cargo, responding to and launching alert aircraft, running command post operations, and many other critical tasks. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sqt. Grady Epperly)





Courtesy graphic by News Channel 4, KFOR Oklahoma City

OKIE AIRMEN RESPOND TO DURANT'S EXIT

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

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany (July 14, 2016) – By now, we have all heard about Kevin Durant leaving the Oklahoma City Thunder to join the Golden State Warriors via free agency.

Durant's decision leaves the Thunder, who were a victory away from reaching the NBA Finals last season, virtually in limbo for the foreseeable future as they try to deal with the aftermath from losing the 2013-14 NBA's Most Valuable Player.

Word of Durant's departure not only impacted the citizens of Oklahoma City, it also drew reactions from members of the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, who are completing annual tour requirements overseas. On both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, the news wasn't exactly welcomed.

"If Durant would have returned, I

think the Thunder would have went a little bit deeper than the Western Conference Finals next year," said Master Sgt. Christopher Webb, NCO in-charge of vehicle operations in the 507th LRS. "Now, this puts OKC in a precarious situation because they made moves thinking he would come back."

Tech. Sgt. Latece Christmon, who is a vehicle operations specialist at the 507th LRS, was also not a fan of the choice Durant made to join the Warriors.

"He took the easy way out," said Christmon. "I would have been fine if he went to any other team, but he joined a team that was better than the team he was on.

"If I lose to someone, I'm not going to join them. As a matter fact, I want to beat them."

Fans of the Thunder share many of the feelings Webb and Christmon have, but as is the case with many things in life, there is a business aspect. This is something Staff Sgt. Terry Cooper, also a vehicle operations specialist in the 507th LRS, figures into the equation.

"I understand people are upset, but at the end of the day, he is a free agent," said Cooper. "He didn't cut out of his contract, and he's grown. His decision is for him, not everybody else."

Durant signed a two-year, \$54.3 million contract with Golden State, in which he can opt out after next season. This means there could be room for a return to the Thunder, and the same conversation could be held this time next year.

As of July 12, the schedule for the 2016-17 regular season has not been released, but all indications say it won't be a nice return to OKC when Durant pays a visit with his new team.

OKIE AIRMEN ARRIVE AT RIMPAC



A KC-135R Stratotanker operated and maintained by Citizen Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing arrived in Hawaii July 7, 2016 to support the Rim of the Pacific Exercise also known as RIMPAC. The Oklahoma Reservists will join forces with over twenty-six nations, 49 ships, six submarines, about 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel who are participating in RIMPAC from June 29 to Aug. 4 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships between participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. This is the 25th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech Sgt. Aaron Oelrich)

By 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM-Citizen Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling

Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., arrived in Hawaii July 7, 2016, to support the Rim of the Pacific Exercise, also known as RIMPAC.

The Oklahoma Reservists join forces with other forces from twenty-six nations, 49 ships, six submarines, about 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel who are participating in RIMPAC from June 29 to Aug. 4 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.

The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships between participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2016 is the 25th exercise in the series that began in 1971.

Adm. Scott Swift, U.S. Pacific Fleet command-

er, and Vice Adm. Nora Tyson, U.S. 3rd Fleet commander and exercise RIMPAC Combined Task Force commander, explained the exercise is a one way cooperation between partners and allies promotes continued prosperity in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

From building partnerships to promoting safer sea lanes and experimentation to innovation, Tyson said there is one thing for certain.

"I think I can speak for each of the international leaders here and the more than 25,000 personnel taking part, when I say that we are excited to get this exercise underway," Tyson said. "We're looking forward to a great exercise with our friends and partners, and we all recognize that the time and the effort that went in to planning and executing this complex exercise will result in a naval force that is collectively more capable of keeping our oceans safe and global commerce moving . RIMPAC 2016 will certainly help us meet those expectations."

18 // On-Final

