

ON FINAL

FEBRUARY 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

A photograph of a reservist in a workshop. The reservist is wearing a tan long-sleeved shirt, camouflage pants, and an orange hard hat. He is kneeling on the floor, working on a metal frame. In the background, there is a workbench with various tools, including a hammer drill, and a stack of metal beams. The floor is concrete and there are some cables and tools scattered around.

**RESERVISTS
BUILD \$3M
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS
CENTER**

COVER PHOTO

CES BUILDS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Five Reservists from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron are expected to complete construction of a 1,500 sq. ft. emergency communications center by April 1.

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COVER PHOTO : U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

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Col. Dana N. Nelson

WING COMMAND CHIEF
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

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CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Maj. Jon Quinlan

SUPERINTENDENT
Master Sgt. Grady Epperly

PHOTOJOURNALISTS
Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason
Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor

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507 ARW PUBLIC AFFAIRS
7435 Reserve Rd, Suite 114
Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. 73145
Phone: (405) 734-3078
Email: 507ARW.PA2@US.AF.MIL
URL: WWW.507ARW.AFRC.AF.MIL

LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. LAUREN GLEASON



Tech. Sgt. Eric Harmon of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron explains the benefits of the Block 45 upgrade to Khoa Nguyen, an engineer with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Jan. 27, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The engineers with AFLCMC partnered with the 507th Air Refueling Wing to learn how operators and maintenance professionals use the new Block 45 upgrades. The engineers use this information to highlight interoperability advantages with partner nations that may use the system in the future. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



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Senior Master Sgt.
Donald Cantrell
Flight Chief
Tinker AFB, OK
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Cell (405) 409-4784



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



Tech. Sgt.
Nickette Parrish
Line Recruiter
Moore, OK
Cell (405) 409-6311



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



Master Sgt.
Adrian Randles
Line Recruiter
Tulsa
Cell (918) 271-1677



Master Sgt.
Arnil Rucker
Line Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
Cell (719) 243-6709

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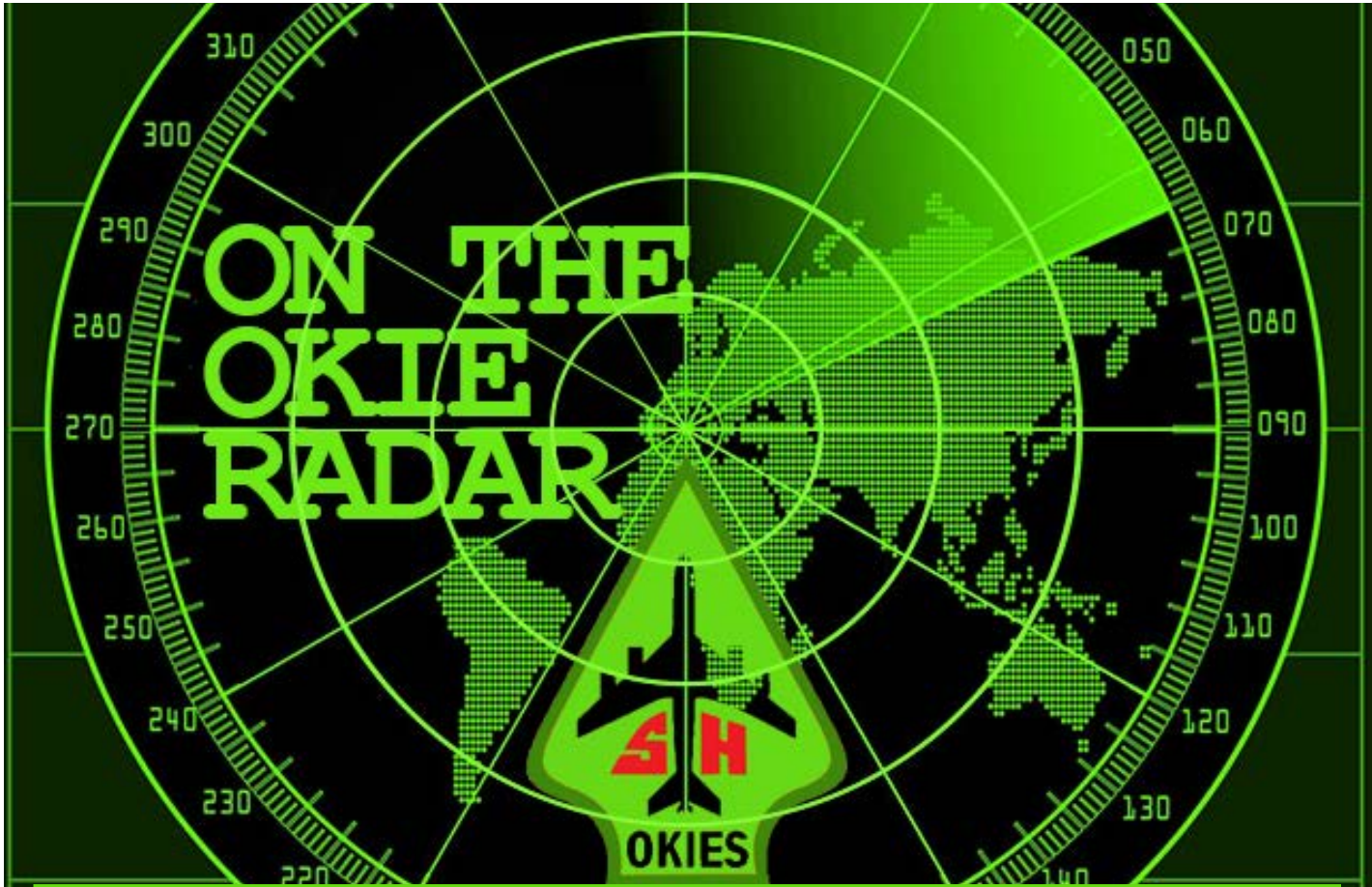
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SUPER UTA
FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 2-5

COMMANDER'S CALL @ 0700
BASE THEATER
FEB. 3

SUPER UTA TRAINING SCHEDULE
AVAILABLE ON SHAREPOINT

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET @ 1830
TINKER CLUB BALLROOM
FEB. 4

MARCH UTA MARCH 25-26

NORI
MARCH 22-29

UEI
MARCH 30-APRIL 6

APRIL UTA APRIL 1-2

MAY UTA MAY 6-7

COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500
BASE THEATER
MAY 7

STAR SPANGLED SALUTE AIR SHOW
MAY 20-21

JUNE UTA JUNE 3-4

JULY UTA JULY 8-9
IF NEEDED

AUGUST UTA AUGUST 5-6

SEPTEMBER UTA SEPT. 9-10

**VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#) FOR THE
LATEST UPDATES**

President nominates Wilson to become Air Force secretary

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- President Donald Trump announced Jan. 23, that he intends to nominate Heather Wilson as Secretary of the Air Force.

In a statement released Jan. 25, Secretary of Defense James Mattis said Wilson, and her fellow military service secretary nominees, have his utmost confidence.

"They will provide strong civilian leadership to strengthen military readiness, gain full value from every taxpayer dollar spent on defense and support our service members, civil-



In this Nov. 6, 2012 file photo, Heather Wilson is seen in Albuquerque, N.M. (AP photo/Jake Schoellkopf)

ians and their families," he said. "I appreciate the willingness of these three proven leaders to serve our country."

Wilson, a 1982 Air Force Academy graduate, currently serves as President of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Lisa S. Disbrow will continue to lead the service until the Senate confirmation process for a new secretary of the Air Force is complete.

THE 507th AIR REFUELING WING PRESENTS

2016 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.
DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

TINKER CLUB BALLROOM
6120 ARNOLD STREET
TINKER AFB, OK 73145

COMMENTARY:

By Lt. Col. Liz Kettler,
507th ARW Director of Inspections

It is no surprise that the wing's Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection and Unit Effectiveness Inspection are fast-approaching. In fact, the NORI is March 22-29 and the UEI is March 30-April 6.

I know you all are prepared, but I wanted to highlight a few things to remember. The 507th Air Refueling Wing is made up of professionals who take pride in their dual mission. Let's show off those capabilities with a "can do" attitude and pass these inspections with flying colors.

For these inspection events, I ask that each unit ensures their personnel are reminded the importance of first impressions. Please clean up your office work area and around your building. No one needs to paint the grass, but we should show pride in our work centers.

All Personally Identifiable Information must be covered with a Privacy Act Data Cover Sheet. Remember to practice proper customs and courtesies. Ensure your uniform is clean and is worn properly. Address your superiors by rank and last name. Watch out for general officer placards on staff vehicles and be ready to salute.

The Air Force Inspection System is governed by AFI 90-201, *The Air Force Inspection System*. The goal of the commander's AFIS program is to detail how self-assessments and self-inspections are used to detect areas of non-compliance.

Gone are the days of costly inspection preparation, with pretty binders that are used as often as a home treadmill; forgotten in the corner and covered in dust. Instead, AFIS focuses on a realistic approach that encourages units to exercise daily self-assessments and inspections.

Under AFIS, every Airman is a sensor. Inspections are necessary to veri-



The 507th Air Refueling Wing is scheduled for a Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection March 22-29, 2017, and a Unit Effectiveness Inspection March 30-April 6, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The inspections will evaluate unit plans, programs and the Management Internal Control Toolset to see how effectively wing personnel use self-assessments to run their shops. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jessica H. Smith)

fy that higher-level guidance is being followed.

Businessman Louis V. Gerstner, Jr. said, "People don't do what you expect, but what you inspect."

agement Internal Control Toolset. If there are guidance areas your unit currently does not or cannot comply with, document it and create a corrective action plan. If necessary, apply

NORI: March 22-29, 2017
UEI: March 30-April 6, 2017

AFIS focuses on each unit being able to assess themselves. With reduction in the force and a continual attitude of doing more with less, it is okay to find areas of non-compliance. In fact, it's expected.

So, embrace the "red." Do your job, and then document it in the Man-

for a waiver.

The success of the Commander's Inspection Program depends on all of us, acting as sensors, to identify and correct areas of non-compliance.

If you have any questions, contact the IGI office at (405) 734-9732 or 2261.

MLK OBSERVANCE: BREAKING BARRIERS THEN, NOW



Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, assistant vice chief of staff and director, Air Staff, speaks at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance in the Pentagon Auditorium, Washington, D.C. Jan 25, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya)

By Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett,
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) - Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, the assistant vice chief of staff and director of staff, was the keynote speaker for this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance at the Pentagon, Jan. 25, 2017.

Joining her in addressing the standing-room-only audience were Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Michael Rhodes, the director of administration, Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer.

In his first public address in the Pentagon since becoming secretary of defense, Mattis shared, "Our armed forces are stronger today because of the perseverance of Dr. King and so many others in this country who have fought for civil rights and equality for all."

Harris reflected on growing up as an Air Force dependent and the impact

King's life and work had on her and recalled the reactions from those around her when he was assassinated in 1968.

"Although even then I didn't quite understand the magnitude of the man he was, what I witnessed from my parents, from our friends, from the television coverage, was the emotion of extreme sorrow and grief," Harris said. "In life and death, Dr. King was a catalyst for change. Righteousness prevailed, and his legacy was forever woven into the fabric of who we all are today. ... While he was a man fighting for justice and equality among all races and all our glorious skin colors, the traits he lived by were colorless."

Harris described how King set the example of how others can be agents of change by applying nonviolence in the face of social injustice.

"He shows us that the commitment and character of the few can alter the course of history of the many," she

said.

She went on to describe similarities between King's teachings and changes in Air Force culture over the years.

It starts with the words "you can't, or it can't be done" she described. If it's said that someone can't be who they want to be, or do something they want to do, "it provokes a powerful response that says 'yes, we can; we can break that barrier.'"

She elaborated that the Air Force takes pride in breaking barriers, from missions such as air and space to cultures such as race and gender.

"Many of these barriers were broken in response to 'you can't'; it started because 'you can't' is incendiary - it's like the fuel that powers our jets and our rockets and our innovative spirits... what evolves are bold and innovative ways to make change and solve problems."

RESERVISTS CONSTRUCT \$3M EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Five Reservists from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron here are expected to complete construction on a 1,500 sq. ft. emergency communications center by April 1.

The ECC is located within Bldg. 7017, which also houses the 72nd Security Forces Headquarters and Station 4 of Tinker Fire and Emergency Services, and is expected to be fully operational before the Star Spangled Salute Air Show May 20-21, according to 507th CES project managers Joe Wade and Senior Master Sgt. James Randol.

“This is an excellent opportunity for us to show active duty what our Reservists can do,” said Lt. Col. Richard Ropac, commander of the 507th Mission Support Group.

The original bid for the facility was upwards of \$6 million, but due to limited facility project funds, the 72nd Mission Support Group and the 507th Mission Support Group collaborated to combine the manpower of the 507th CES and the materials of the 72nd MSG.

“In our resource-constrained environment, this ECC really showcases the exceptional facilities we can build with limited funds and manpower,” said Col. Michael Green, 72nd Mission Support Group commander.

Using fewer funds on construction will allow for the center to receive state-of-the-art equipment, according to 1st Lt. Aaron Wolfe, 507th MSG executive officer.

“Through the efforts of the 507th CES, we are saving the government roughly \$3 million to \$4 million dollars,” said Maj. Kevin Smith of Tinker AFB Fire and Emergency Services.

The ECC will be the first agency to have Next Generation 911 in the state of Oklahoma, an internet-based system that allows digital information such as photos, videos, and text messages to flow seamlessly from the public into the 911 network and then on to emergency responders, according to the 911 website.

“The hardware is approved, but we are still awaiting approval for our software,” said Smith. “Our communications personnel will be installing \$2 million worth of communication equipment in the new facility.”

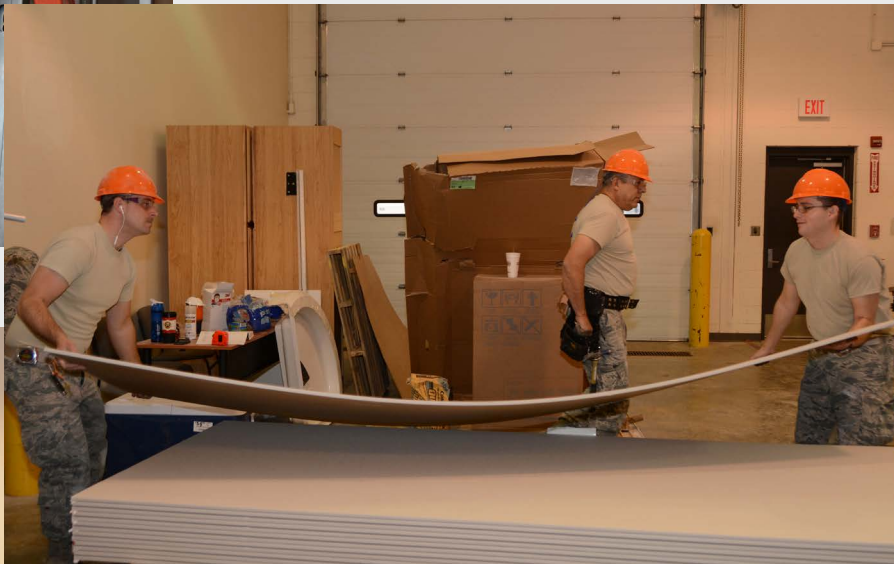
All on-base landline calls will be dispatched at the new facility, and the dispatchers will have the capability to receive and transfer cell phone calls to and from other 911 call centers as appropriate.



The ECC will be run by two security forces controllers, two fire and emergency services operators, and a dispatch supervisor. In 2016, Tinker AFB Fire and Emergency Services responded to 1,345 calls, according to Assistant Chief Brian Farris.

“Once the calls come in, our dispatchers will have the ability to dispatch fire, police, and medical via radio,” said Wolfe. “Emergency Medical Dispatchers are specifically trained to walk callers through potentially life-saving techniques over the phone when seconds matter.”

Five 507th CES Airmen are working full-time on the ECC: Master Sgt. Deric Nixon and Senior Airman Hunter Conatser, heavy equipment operators, Tech. Sgt. Jose Cabral and Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Terry, structures journeymen, and Staff Sgt. Michael Wallace, an electrical systems technician.



TOP: Staff Sgt. Michael Wallace, electrical systems technician, installs metal drywall studs in the new emergency communications center Jan. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The original bid was upwards of \$6 million, but due to limited facility project funds, the 72nd Mission Support Group and the 507th Mission Support Group collaborated to combine the manpower of the 507th CES and the materials of the 72nd MSG.

CENTER: Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Terry and Senior Airman Hunter Conatser of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron lift a sheet of drywall to be installed in the emergency communications center Jan. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

BOTTOM: Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Terry of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron digs a hole to allow for plumbing in the restroom of the emergency communications center Nov. 21, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

A CLOSER



Master Sgt. Deric Nixon

507TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
NCOIC, HEAVY EQUIPMENT SHOP

Master Sgt. Deric Nixon poses for a photo Jan. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I like to play racquetball and chess, read books and go roller-skating.

AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I always wanted to be an architect.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

I would like to serve as the superintendent of the heavy equipment shop.

WHAT IS YOUR CIVILIAN JOB?

I am a former measurement analyst for an oil and gas company in Oklahoma City.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

I enjoy the push to complete a construction tasking and anticipating the positive results of the final product.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER?

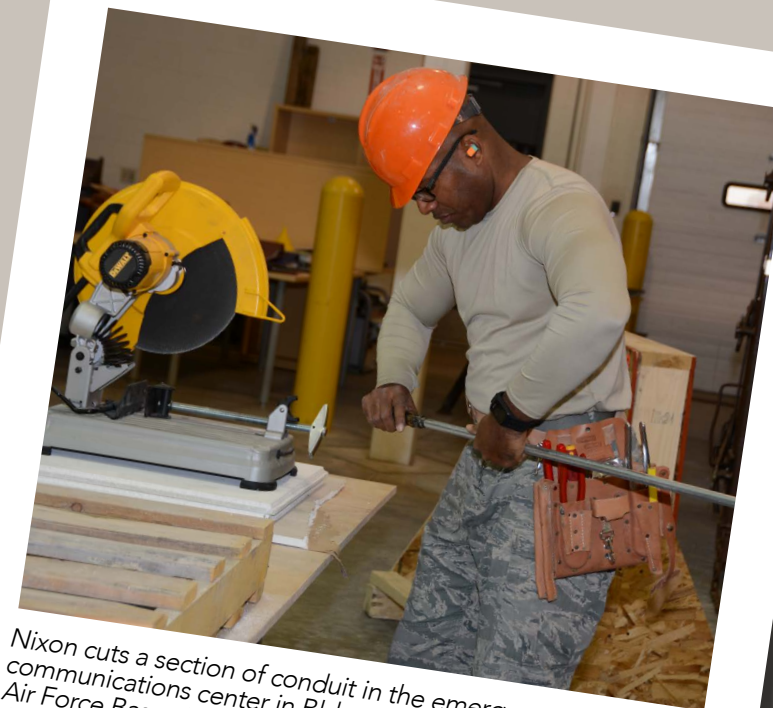
That would have to be the Incredible Hulk. He is the man.

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE MILITARY?

In 1992 joined the Army National Guard and in 1996 I transitioned to the Air Force Reserve as an electrical technician.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

People who talk a big game, but show little effort.



Nixon cuts a section of conduit in the emergency communications center in Bldg. 7017 Jan. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

February PROMOTIONS

TONY SHARP, 507 MXG
MICHAEL WOODS, 507 MXG
GARY CARTWRIGHT, 513 MXS
DANIEL MCDONALD, 513 MXS
TRICIA SANDOVAL, 970 AACs
MATTHEW PEARSALL, 507 MXS
DUSTIN SMITH, 507 CES



MASTER SERGEANT

RYAN CLARY, 513 OSS
ERNEST BOALDIN, 507 SFS
TIMOTHY CROSS, 507 SFS
DANIEL SWINEHART, 507 AMXS
NATHAN SEAY, 513 MXS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

JOSHUA BLAINE, 507 MXS
NICHOLAS TSCHACHER, 507 MXS
TY BREMERMAN, 507 SFS
JERIMIE MCBRAYER, 507 ARW
TYRONE BATES, 507 CES



STAFF SERGEANT

DOMENIK HOHMANN, 72 APS
JUSTIN MILLER, 507 CES
CHRISTON HARRIS, 513 OSS
RACHONE KRAGEL, 507 LRS



SENIOR AIRMAN



JACOB PETTY, 507 CES
AIRMAN

JANUARY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT EXERCISE: JOSE 17

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. LAUREN GLEASON



Staff Sgt. Breyden Miller of the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron prepares to drive a 10K rough terrain forklift to the required destination during a deployment exercise Jan. 8, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Stacks of mobility bags await pickup by members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing during a deployment exercise Jan. 8, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Contractors with the 72nd Logistics Readiness Squadron issue mobility bags to Reservists with the 507th Air Refueling Wing during a deployment exercise Jan. 8, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Members of the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron secure cargo to a pallet in preparation for transport during a deployment exercise Jan. 8, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Reservists with the 507th Air Refueling Wing participated in the exercise in preparation for the upcoming nuclear operational readiness inspection in March 2017.



Senior Airman Ethan Griffith (on left), an air transportation journeyman with the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Manuel Munoz, an aircraft service specialist with the 72nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, x-ray passengers' carry-on items to ensure compliance with air safety regulations during a deployment exercise Jan. 8, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Tech. Sgt. Linda Ramirez of the 507th Medical Squadron hands her mobility paperwork to Staff Sgt. Kallima Scott, a force management technician with the 507th Force Support Squadron, during an exercise deployment processing line Jan. 8, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The 507th FSS ensures Reservists have current emergency contact data and possession of their dog tags prior to deploying.

VALENTINE'S DAY STORIES

FROM THE HEART



Story by Master Sgt. Sean Gilson

Courtesy photo
Center: (U.S. Air Force graphic/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Growing up, I was convinced the world dropped off at the edge of my Texas hometown. I figured that was the reason everyone stayed, and why those who left never came back.

In 2001, however, life began outside that city limit sign. I met Amanda while she was working at a department store. We had instant chemistry. She was in college, and her dad threatened my life if I kept her from graduating on time. We dated for more than three years. Before she graduated, I bought an engagement ring, and then she broke up with me. It was over.

So I did what any broken-hearted man would do—I joined the military.

Before I left for basic training, Amanda realized she really loved me and we rebuilt our relationship. We took a trip to southern California because Amanda wanted to see the ocean. As we walked on the Coronado Island beach, 24 long-stemmed roses

washed up out of the water and onto the gold-flecked sand. I took that as a sign, I asked her to marry me and she said, “Yes!”

Over the next 12 years, we moved from base to base across the country. Over the course of 10 deployments, countless temporary duties, and numerous job changes for Amanda, as she selflessly sacrificed her career aspirations while managing our home and budget. Her faith, resilience, and reliance on the support the Air Force offers its families helped her endure the long months of my deployments without complaint or resentment.

Amanda and I recently embarked on a new adventure: Parenthood. We welcomed our first child, Bradley Ellis, in October 2016 and are busy working on our “Happily Ever After.”

Master Sgt. Sean Gilson is a boom operator in the 465th Air Refueling Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Story by Brandy Ratcliff

Courtesy photo

We should have known immediately that we were in for a journey when we planned a wedding in conjunction with our first permanent change of station. On the way to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, my father passed away and I had to leave my husband to travel to our new home alone. Our challenges were just beginning; when we arrived we learned that while all our possessions were still in transit, my husband’s job had been eliminated.

Our next obstacle was learning that our desire to start a family would be delayed indefinitely due to a medical condition. We soldiered on, explored our options and decided to become foster parents. Our first child was supposed to be an adoption; she joined our home just two weeks before Scott left for a deployment to Iraq. We fostered her for two years awaiting the right to adopt. She is a Native American child, and due to the Indian Child Welfare Act,

we began a six-year long court battle that eventually went to the state Supreme Court, ultimately granting us rights to adopt our daughter. During this period, Scott and I both earned bachelors degrees and briefly fostered three more children.

We decided to give biological children a final try, and following an in vitro fertilization procedure, were blessed with twins. After I gave birth, I was diagnosed with cancer. I had radiation for five days a week for nine weeks, and once we stopped radiation, I learned that I was pregnant, on our own!

Following the birth of our youngest, we decided I would stay home and work on my master’s degree, which I completed in 2015. We are all healthy now with four beautiful children as Scott wraps up his military career.

Brandy’s husband Master Sgt. Scott Ratcliff is an aviation resource manager with the 10th Flight Test Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Ch. (Capt.) John Weston



Coping with change in our chain of command

There's a great saying no one repeats much anymore: "Never discuss politics or religion in polite company."

This is meant to provide a nice atmosphere for people to have fun—it doesn't mean a blanket prohibition on either at any time. As a chaplain, I've got the religion part covered. Let's turn to what Christianity has to say about politics.

Not many organizations change their top leadership every four to eight years the way the Air Force does. You may find yourself trying to explain your position to others, or maybe you're having difficulty with your family's differing views.

The good news is that we don't all have to

think alike.

Anglican theologian John Wesley famously said, "If we cannot think alike, can we not love alike?"

One of the highest aspirations to a Christian is to love one's neighbor as oneself. Those who claim the name of Christ must be gracious in defeat as well as in victory, and likewise while facing a political system that promises plenty of the former and not much of the latter.

What we must do now is be mindful of the respect due to the Commander-in-Chief. The president is the leader of our country. That doesn't mean we have to agree with everything done politically in the White House, nor do we

have to endorse it. But as members of the Air Force, we do have to respect the highest link in our chain of command.

The Christian commandment to love others as we love ourselves means to give mutual respect, kindness and love to one another. Nowhere did Jesus say to love only those who agree with you.

Paul told us that, in so far as it is possible, to be at peace with all men. The first thing we can do to love others is not to take contentious bait put into conversation by those who like to cause controversy. The best way to love your brother or sister is to leave it alone.

From time to time, in private, political dia-

logue may be of use. If you talk with others, be mindful that they have good reason for what they believe, or at least a good motivation in most cases. Be polite and respectful, and if it comes to it, agree to disagree while still caring for the other.

Lastly, be careful out there on Facebook. Every aspect of activity is being recorded, and our grandchildren will most likely be able to read what we ate for breakfast or whom we liked as president. Let's make sure our record shows the people we want to be. Be kind, show love to one another, and be a good wingman. Whether you are a Democrat, a Republican or an Independent—we all wear blue.

Sunday Schedule

7:30 a.m. Protestant Services, 970th AACs Auditorium

7:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 465th ARS Conference Room

TINKER VISITS THE 507TH



Phil Tinker, grandson of Maj. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker, Tinker Air Force Base's namesake, talks to Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin and Senior Airman Josh Hines during a tour of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Jan. 30, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Tinker attended the 75th anniversary kickoff luncheon Jan. 30 at the Tinker Club. The event included a brief history of Tinker AFB, an Osage Nation tribute to Maj. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker, and remarks by Tinker AFB senior leaders. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Tinker AFB 75th Anniversary schedule of events

2017 marks the 75th Anniversary of Tinker Air Force Base. Tinker AFB was named in honor of Maj. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker of Pawhuska, Okla., who lost his life while leading a flight of LB-30 "Liberators" on a long-range strike against Japanese forces on Wake Island during the early months of World War II.

In honor of the anniversary, please join us in the following festivities:

**75th Anniversary
Half-Marathon**

Feb. 25, 2017

Tinker Community Dining-Out

April 7, 2017

Midwest City/Tinker AFB Gala

April 28, 2017

Star Spangled Salute Air Show

May 20-21, 2017

Air Force Ball

Sept. 16, 2017



Tech. Sgt. Jose Cabral, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Terry and Senior Airman Hunter Conatser of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron install a sheet of drywall at the emergency communications center Jan. 19, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt Lauren Gleason)

