

ON FINAL

MARCH 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

A woman in a military uniform is hugging a young boy in a red shirt. The woman is wearing a camouflage uniform with a name tag that reads "Sgt. [unreadable]". She has a black watch on her left wrist and a ring on her left hand. The boy is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and blue glasses. They are standing on an airfield with other people and vehicles in the background.

**OKIES RETURN
FROM TURKEY DEPLOYMENT**



COVER PHOTO

OKIES RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT

Senior Airman Brandy Hill of the 465th Air Refueling Squadron hugs her son Lukas following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. More than 90 Reservists deployed in December 2016 in support of air operations at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, against the Islamic State group.

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

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Quarterly Award Winners

Fourth Quarter 2016

Airman of the Quarter Tyler Franz of the 507th Operation Support Squadron poses for a photo with actor R. Lee Ermey. (Courtesy photo)



Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th ARW commander and Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, 507th ARW command chief, present the award for NCO of the Quarter to Tech. Sgt. Cristina Moreno of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Feb. 3, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Callie McNary)



Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th ARW commander and Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, 507th ARW command chief, present the award for Company Grade officer of the Quarter to Capt. Christopher Nutt of the 465th Air Refueling Squadron Feb. 3, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Callie McNary)



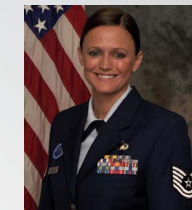
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<p>MARCH UTA MARCH 25-26</p> <p>NORI MARCH 22-29</p> <p>UEI MARCH 30-APRIL 5</p>	<p>JUNE UTA JUNE 3-4</p> <p>JULY UTA JULY 8-9 (If Needed)</p> <p>AUGUST UTA AUG. 5-6</p> <p>SEPTEMBER UTA SEPT. 9-10</p>
<p>APRIL UTA APRIL 1-2</p> <p>QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE NLT 1200 APRIL 2</p> <p>CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER DUE APRIL 15</p>	<p>FY18 UTA Schedule</p> <p>Oct. 14-15 Nov. 4-5 Dec. 2-3 Jan. 6-7 Feb. 3-4 March 3-4 April 5-8 (Super UTA) May 5-6 June 2-3 July 14-15 (If needed) Aug. 4-5 Sept. 8-9</p>
<p>MAY UTA MAY 6-7</p> <p>COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 BASE THEATER MAY 7</p>	

Uniform policy changes for air reserve technicians



Senior Airman Adam Dkhili, Headquarters Air University A4/6, Logistics and Communications computer programmer searches for a new set of summer weight Airman Battle Uniforms at clothing sales. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christopher Stoltz)

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- Air Force Reserve Command has directed all air reserve technicians will wear military uniforms while on duty in order to facilitate cohesion between the Reserve and active-duty components.

This change affects ARTs represented by the bargaining unit and will take effect April 17.

"The interaction between active duty and Reserve components has been seamless for years," said Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander. "Wear of the military uniform reflects that AFRC is an integral part of the Air Force and a vital part of the Total Force."

Unlike traditional reservists, ARTs are "dual status" employees who hold full-time Department of Defense civilian positions on the condition they maintain membership in the Air Force Reserve.

According to Air Force policy, the Air Force has required ARTs to wear the military uniform while performing civilian duties in their military technician position since August 2007. However, here at Tinker AFB, ARTs represented by the American Federation of Government Employees Council 214 bargaining unit were required to negotiate the implementation of the uniform policy.

Now that negotiations are complete, the Air Force has met its obligation with the national unions.

The Air Force Material Command and AFGE C214 memorandum of agreement states employees are expected to be in uniform while on duty.

The MOA outlines several provisions to include:

-Employees may change into and out of uniforms before or after

their shift.

-Wearing the military uniform does not subject ARTs in civilian status to the UCMJ.

-ARTs will continue to be subject to civilian rules and requirements while in civilian status.

-While in civilian status, ARTs will be required to adhere to military uniform and grooming standards, customs and courtesies, etc.

-ARTs who do not adhere to military standards will be subject to discipline under civil service rules.

-Bargaining unit position ARTs in a civilian status will continue to be represented by the union while in uniform.

For more questions regarding this policy change, contact your supervisor or your union representative. You can also reference Air Force Instructions 36-703, 36-801 and 36-2903.

Following the yellow ribbon road

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota, / Published January 24, 2017

DENVER -- The superintendent of a Minnesota security forces unit joined his Airmen at an Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event here Jan. 20-22 after attending a previous one that convinced him of its value.

"I was hesitant the first time I attended but quickly saw the benefits of the program and made it a goal of sharing my experience and encouraging others to attend," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Bier of the 934th Security Forces Squadron at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station. "Most security forces members are type-A personalities and it's against their nature to ask for help or attend something created to help them."

Yellow Ribbon promotes the well-being of reservists and their loved ones by connecting them with resources before and after deployments.

"(It) has so many beneficial aspects to it, but sometimes it's more about building relationships," said Bier, who attended the event following a deployment to the Middle East. "The program allows (Airmen and their families) to interact with others who are going through the same thing."

An added benefit, he said, is that the program allows Airmen to connect with co-workers away from monthly drill weekends.

"(Yellow Ribbon) gives us time to do just that with our family present," said Bier. "That bond makes it much easier to reach out for help before or after a deployment if it is needed. Friends and family often don't know what military members and their families go through when they are deployed, so building relationships with people who have experienced the same thing is critical."

Senior Airman Erik Quamme, 934th SFS unit training manager, was initially skeptical about attending but did due to encouragement from his leadership.



Senior Master Sgt. Mike Bier, 934th Security Forces Squadron superintendent, stationed at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minnesota, and his guest Stephanie Woodward, participate in a breakout session at a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event in Denver, Jan 22, 2016. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program promotes the well being of Reservists and their families by connecting them with resources before and after deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Mota)

He said the program has been beneficial for him and his family.

"Attending has really helped build a support team for my family," Quamme said. "I'm glad my leadership encouraged me to attend, and it has really been a good experience for my wife."

Each year the Air Force Reserve trains 7,000 reservists and family members in education benefits, health care, and retirement information via Yellow Ribbon while providing breakout sessions that include resume building, anger management, couples enrichment, financial management and much more.

As a senior leader and supervisor, Bier said that he speaks with squad leaders and junior NCOs about the program and encourages them to attend and pass the information down to their Airmen.

"If I can get the squad leaders to at-

tend and see the benefits of the program they are more likely to encourage their Airmen to attend," Bier said. "Even if it's not going to benefit them, it might benefit their families."

Quamme encouraged pre- and post-deployers to try the program at least once.

"I'll definitely be using my experience to encourage others to attend," he said.

Bier said "it's all about taking care of your people."

"If I can help someone in the future through my experiences than that's what I want to do," he said. "I don't care what makes them decide to attend as long as they receive the benefits the program has to offer."

For more information about the program and upcoming events, reservists should contact their unit's Yellow Ribbon representative.

VIDEOS



OKIES RETURN HOME

By Senior Airman Callie McNary
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Ninety-four Citizen Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing returned from their deployment to Incirlik, Turkey, in support of Operation Inherent Freedom with KC-135R Stratotanker air refueling support.

The Airmen were deployed for roughly two months beginning in December of 2016 and spent their holidays supporting continuing operations against ISIS

in the region. These ninety-four Reservists are a mixed group of operators and maintenance professionals.

The regular Air Force Reserve Command deployment lasts six months, however, in an effort to keep home-station trained Airmen working together, this deployment lasted 60 days and will be followed by a second deployment this summer.

For now, welcome home, Airmen.



Senior Airman Nathalie Hamilton, a crew chief with the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, opens her arms to hug her mother following a deployment Feb. 17, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. More than 90 Reservists deployed in December 2016 in support of air operations at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, against the ISIS. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



Friends and family members await the arrival of their Airmen following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Senior Airman Tyler Franz of the 507th Operations Support Squadron hugs his family members following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Franz was awarded the 507th Air Refueling Wing Airman of the Year award for 2016 while he was deployed.



Staff Sgt. Brittany Webb of the 465th Air Refueling Squadron hugs her son, Gaberiel, and greets her other children, Malina and Isaiah, following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Aiden Teague holds a sign while waiting for his father, Senior Airman Kevin Teague of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, to come from a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

OKIES RETURN HOME

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. LAUREN GLEASON



Staff Sgt. Morgan Marriott of the 507th Maintenance Squadron opens her arms to greet her daughter following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Senior Master Sgt. Durk Smith of the 465th Air Refueling Squadron hugs his wife following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Staff Sgt. Adrian Condit of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron embraces a loved one following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



Staff Sgt. Shannon Hielscher of the 507th Maintenance Squadron hugs his daughter following a deployment Feb. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

A CLOSER

LOOK



By Senior Airman Callie McNary
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The air is thick with anticipation as enlisted Citizen Airmen stand in starched blues. They don't dare sit down for fear a wrinkle will blemish their uniform before meeting the board that will decide the fate of their Air Force career.

These Airmen are participating in the Tinker Air Force Base Reserve Deserving Airman Commissioning Program, which vets applicants for the final selection. Upon selection, the Airmen will attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and graduate as second lieutenants.

Airmen with a bachelor's degree or higher, with one year accomplished in the Air Force and among other requirements are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the 507th Force Support Squadron.

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT STUFF: Deserving Airman Commissioning Program



Enlisted Citizen Airmen participating in the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program await their turn to meet the commissioning board Feb. 4, 2017 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Callie McNary)

Congratulations to our 2017 DACP Board Selectees

Master Sgt. Michelle Bonilla, 513th Air Control Group
Master Sgt. Robert Mills, 507th Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Jennifer Pipkin, 507th Medical Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Adrian Alatorre Padilla, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Culwell, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Brian Foreman, 507th Force Support Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Gregory Green, 507th Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Carrie Tinker, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Kathelene Mercado, 507th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Ryan Barnes, 507th Air Refueling Wing Command Post
Staff Sgt. Joshua Blaine, 507th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Sarah Haggard, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron
Staff Sgt. Stephen Potter, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron
Staff Sgt. Tavarus Powell, 507th Force Support Squadron

Senior Airman Chelsea Glasscock, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron
Senior Airman Dominique Hall, 507th Maintenance Group
Senior Airman Deborah Taiwo, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron

March PROMOTIONS

EMMITT WASKOM, 513 AMXS



SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

JAYNE ALEXANDER, 730 AMTS
ERIN SROUFE, 507 CES



MASTER SERGEANT

STEVEN YOUNG, 507 SFS
MARCUS ROBELLO, 513 MXS
REGINALD CURRY, 970 AACS
RICHARD MIXON, 507 AMXS
KYLE PERMAN, 507 AMXS
CORY DRAIN, 507 CES
RYAN BARNES, 507 ARW
KALLIMA SCOTT, 507 FSS
CELESTE SUTTON, 507 MXG



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

TYLER ARBUCKLE, 507 SFS
JASON ALEXANDER, 507 MXS



STAFF SERGEANT

SHIANNA KINNETT, 507 AMXS
BRIAN FIELDS, 507 SFS
TRISTAN JENKINS, 507 MXS
KOBE KIESEL, 513 OSS
PRABODH THAPA, 507 CES



SENIOR AIRMAN

CMSAF: Airmen say goodbye to Cody, welcome Wright



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright speaks during his appointment ceremony on Joint Base Andrews, Md., Feb. 17, 2017. Wright succeeds Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody, who retires after 32 years of service, as the 18th Airman to hold this position. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

April 1, 2017.

The attention shifted to Wright as he stood on the stage.

His service jacket, with chief stripes and a command chief star in the center was exchanged for the CMSAF stripes which stand out as a highly distinguished symbol, representing all Airmen.

The exchange of the coat and service cap symbolizes the weight and consequence of assuming the responsibilities of the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force position.

“Chief Wright held a variety of senior enlisted positions...each time, providing his signature wisdom and a steady calm for a host of Air Force leaders,” Goldfein said.

“The mantle of leadership of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force will test you and will tire you...but when it’s all said and done, and our Airmen have you to thank for supporting what matters most. You will look back and know it was worth every moment and effort.”

Wright is no stranger to guiding Airmen, serving in leadership positions throughout the Air Force, he is able to bring his experience to the new position.

“Chief Wright has been leading our enlisted force and advising commanders at every echelon, from squadron to major commands,” said acting Secretary of the Air Force Lisa Disbrow. “He has been the voice of Airmen at home and down range.

By Staff Sgt. Hailey Haux, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- An American flag, the symbol of freedom, served as the backdrop in a vast aircraft hangar. The bleachers were filled to the brim with Airmen, families and well-wishers from all around the Air Force who came to bid farewell to the 17th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody and welcome the 18th CMSAF Kaleth O. Wright during a transition and retirement ceremony Feb. 17, 2017 at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

The position of CMSAF has been in effect for 50 years now; a position that shapes how Airmen grow...a position of honor.

“Chief Cody not only upheld the standards demanded of the position, he did it with grace, adopting the entire Total Force as members of his family,” said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein.

“He epitomized the ‘servant leader,’ choosing to lead his Airmen personally, face-to-face, shoulder-to-shoulder.”

Goldfein listed a number of accomplishments by Cody during his tenure as the highest enlisted Airman saying he is passionate about ensuring Airmen are prepared for the fight and that he excelled in his duties in the care of Airmen.

“What we are going to miss about our Air Force is you. We’re going to miss the Airmen, we’re going to miss their families,” said Cody, addressing the crowd. “We have served our entire adult lives together, we have grown up with you, (and) we have been through all of it with you.”

Cody said the legacy of the 17th CMSAF isn’t about him, it’s about all the men and women all around the world, along with their families, doing what they do every day for the nation.

During a formal reading of orders, Cody, after 32 years of service to our country, was officially retired, effective

Tinker welcomes AMC IG Brig. Gen. James Jacobson

Brig. Gen. James Jacobson is the Inspector General, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He leads a selectively manned unit inspecting the command’s readiness by validating and verifying Commanders’ Inspection Programs; oversees unit effectiveness inspections, nuclear surety inspections, and nuclear operational readiness inspections for 68 active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units worldwide, totaling over 118,000 personnel. He ensures a command-wide environment of continuous improvement, efficiency, safety, and responsiveness to the needs of the command’s people and organizations.

Brig. Gen. Jacobson is a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has commanded operational units at the squadron and wing levels and is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in various mobility aircraft. Prior to his current position, Jacobson was the Chief of Program Integration Division, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C. and has served in prior assignments on the Headquarters U.S. Air Force, U.S. Africa Command, and numbered-air-force staffs.



(Courtesy photo)

Brig. Gen. James Jacobson, Air Mobility Command Inspector General, shakes hands with Lt Col Richard Ropac, 507th Mission Support Group commander while Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th ARW commander and Col. Dana Nelson, 507th ARW vice commander look on March 23, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Callie McNary)



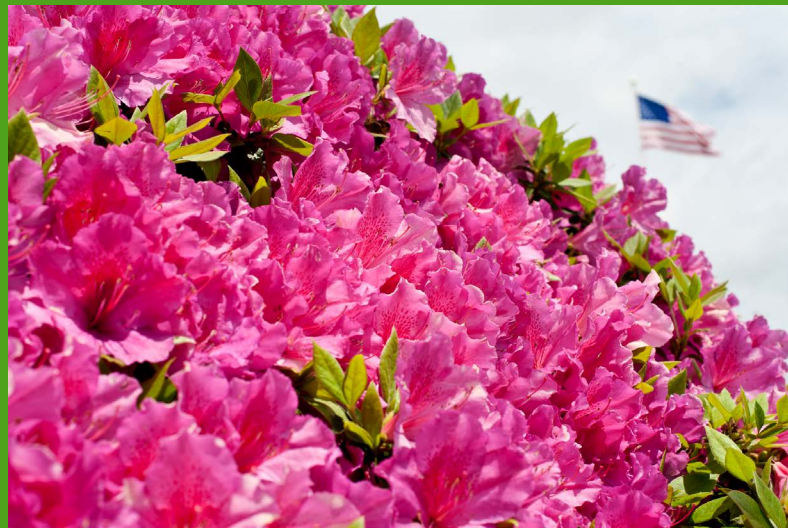


CHAPLAIN'S

CORNER

By Ch (Capt.) Keith Rogers

Spring: A season for everything



Fishing, flowers, baseball spring training, March Madness, St Patrick's Day, and inspections. Spring is an exciting time of the year. We are reminded by the blooms on the trees and the new greenness of the grass of the life coming out of the winter season. In life we experience seasons; pay attention to the season you are in and give thanks for it, or give thanks this season will one day end. King Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time

to uproot; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and time to build; a time to weep and time to laugh; a time to mourn and time to dance." This March, take time to reflect upon where you are in life. What season of life are you in? Is this a joy-filled season for you? Have you been in pain or mourning due to a loss? Reflect and take a moment to be thankful for the joy in your life. If you are in pain or grieving, trust God in this season and look to the future with hope and to the past with fondness. Embrace the gift that life is, and give thanks.

SPORTS commentary



THE DRAMA OF MARCH MADNESS

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor
Sports Reporter Extraordinaire

We are now in the month of March, and that means it's time to dive into the chaos of the NCAA Basketball Tournament, or what we fondly call, "March Madness."

The regular season concluded March 6, and with its closing came the opening of the popular single-elimination month-long tournament fueled by fan participation. Including all 68 professional basketball teams with their rankings based off the regular season, basketball fans fill out their tournament brackets on websites, bar chalkboards, and put their money where their mouth is by betting for their "picks." Where the true madness happens, however, is when teams are brutally eliminated after having millions of fans place their March Madness hopes in them while lowly-seated teams come up from behind and upset the tournament. This is the true difference between March Madness and the regular basketball season: the fabled upset.

During the regular season, the term "upset" really doesn't apply. It might when you look at the actual rankings, but there probably isn't a game where many people are surprised by the results. We still see court storming and jubilation at victory, but it still doesn't qualify for what we'd call an upset.

So, what does this mean for the tourna-

ment? It means there are a lot of good teams, but not necessarily the one or two great teams that are looked at as favorites to win the championship in April in Phoenix. It also means tensions are at an all-time high and fans are primed for an upset.

This also means we are all going to need a little bit of luck when it comes to picking who will be the team left standing when all of the chaos is done. Example at the time of my writing this, the favored teams were Duke and Villanova but have already been eliminated from the tournament. So, queue up the excitement as we go to our next seeded teams of Kansas and North Carolina. But, truly who will win? It's anybody's guess which means fans will get an exciting tournament and even, dare I say it, a possible upset!

This edition of the tournament is sure to be filled with games that will bust brackets and have us wondering what we were thinking when we originally made those picks. All it really means is the more things change, the more things stay the same. The drama, the fun, and the bragging rights are a staple of the March Madness tournament. The unpredictability will never go away, and that's a great thing.

So let's embrace the unknown. Sit back at home or your favorite bar, and watch the drama unfold. March Madness is upon us, and it can't happen a moment sooner.

Staff Sgt. Tim Hardy of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hugs his wife following a deployment Feb. 17, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. More than 90 Reservists deployed in December 2016 in support of air operations at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, against ISIS. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

