

ON FINAL

MAY 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



**RESERVE DEFENDERS
KEEP WATCH IN AFGHANISTAN**

COVER PHOTO

SECURITY FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

Senior Airman Micheal Thomas, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group security forces member, provides armed overwatch for contractors and air advisors performing maintenance on an Afghan Air Force MD-530 Light Attack Helicopter, April 16, 2017, at Kandahar Air Wing, Afghanistan. Thomas is deployed with other Citizen Airmen from the 507th Security Forces Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa)

COVER PHOTO : U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa

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VICE WING COMMANDER
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FRONTIER CITY EDUCATION DAYS



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing traveled to Frontier City, an amusement park in Oklahoma City, for Outdoor Education Days May 4-5, 2017, where more than 8,000 school-aged children from across state of Oklahoma came to learn about technology, the Air Force Reserve and other career opportunities. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



Reserve
RECRUITERS



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



Click the Get 1 Now logo to
visit the peer referral website
and start earning today!

EVERY RESERVIST IS A RECRUITER. RECOMMEND A QUALIFIED FRIEND TODAY.

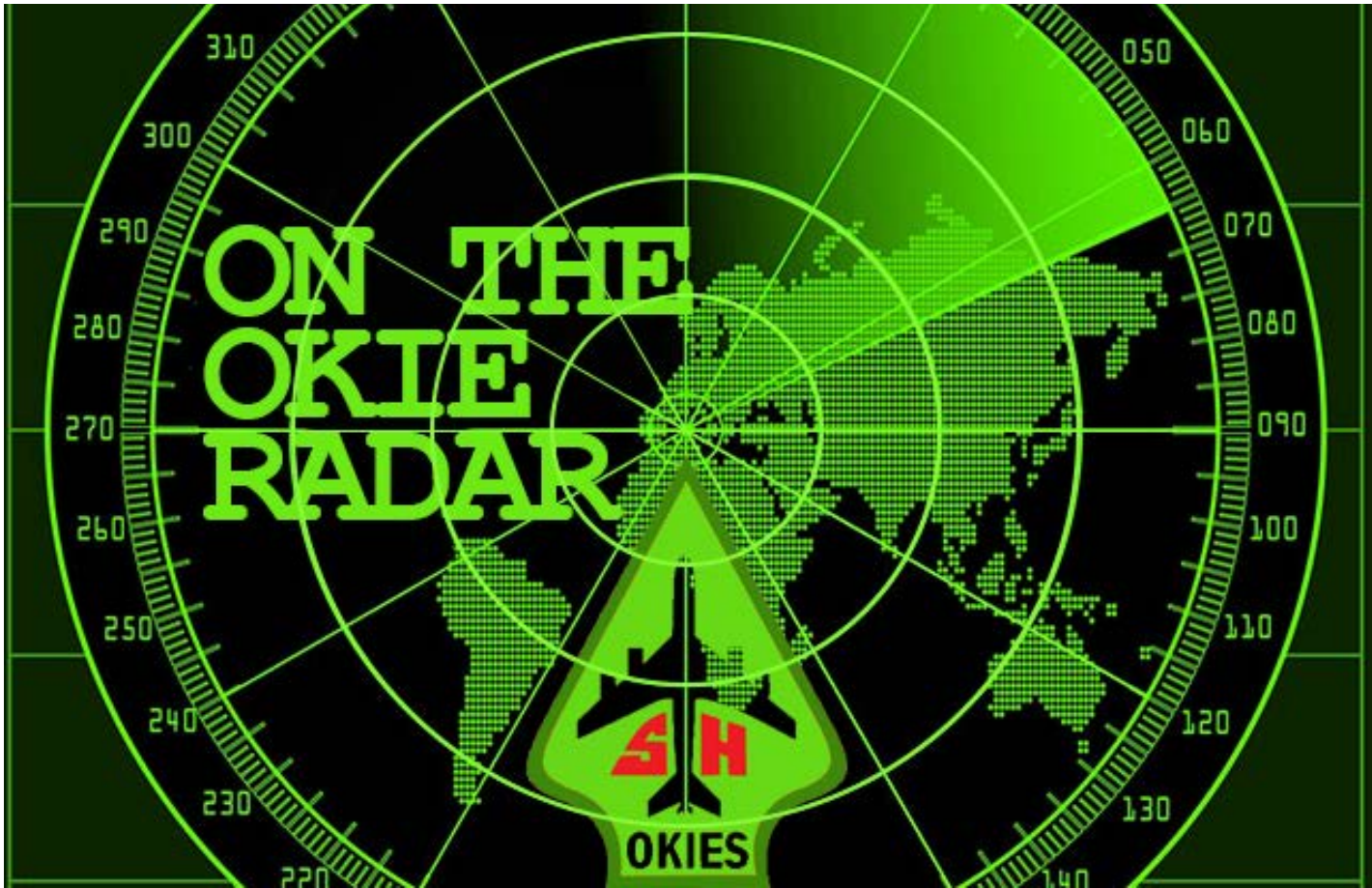
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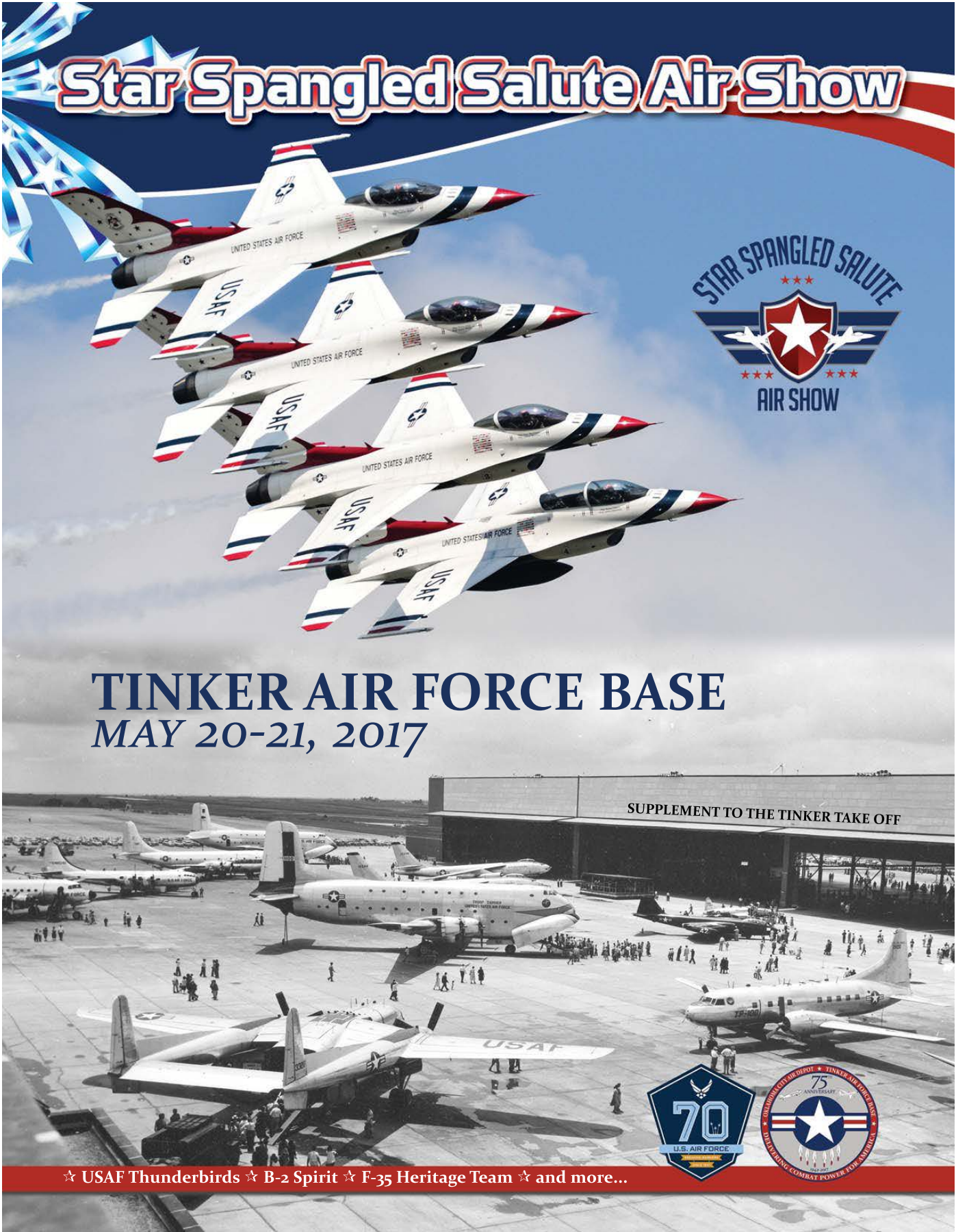
IOS USERS



ANDROID USERS



MAY UTA MAY 6-7 COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 BASE THEATER MAY 7 STEP II PACKAGES DUE MAY 19 STAR-SPANGLED SALUTE AIR SHOW MAY 20-21	JULY UTA JULY 8-9 (If Needed) CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER DUE JULY 15 AUGUST UTA AUG. 5-6 2ND QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE NLT 1200 AUG. 6 COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 BASE THEATER AUG. 6
JUNE UTA JUNE 3-4 OKC DODGERS ARMED FORCES DAY JUNE 2 CHIEF MASTER SGT. BROWN'S RETIREMENT CEREMONY, HANGAR 1030 @ 1000 JUNE 3	SEPTEMBER UTA SEPT. 9-10 OCTOBER UTA OCT. 14-15 GLOBAL THUNDER 3RD QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE NLT 1200 OCT. 9
	NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 4-5



VIDEO: Midwest City 75th Anniversary



Take a moment to enjoy this video celebrating Midwest City and Tinker Air Force Base's 75th Anniversaries as shown at the 75th Anniversary Gala Friday, April 28th, 2017. We are so proud of our storied and unique history and are looking forward to all the future has to offer. (Video/Midwest City Chamber of Commerce)

AIR BASE WING WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER, COL. KENYON BELL

The 72nd Air Base Wing welcomed Col. Kenyon Bell as their new commander, as he assumed command from Col. Stephanie Wilson May 1, 2017, at the Tinker Club. The Air Force Sustainment Center commander, Lt. Gen. Lee K. Levy II, presided over the ceremony and Chief Master Sgt. Melissa Erb, the new 72 ABW command chief, served as the guidon bearer. As the new commander, Col. Bell will be responsible for a \$311 million operating budget and more than 3,000 personnel, providing base operating and direct operational support to the Air Force Sustainment Center, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex, 552nd Air Control Wing, Navy Strategic Communications Wing One, 507th Air Refueling Wing, and 45 other associate units. Bell also supports the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Information Systems Agency, Defense Finance and Accounting Service and 38th Cyberspace Engineering Installation Group. (U.S. Air Force photo/Kelly White)



Senior Airmen Felix Victor, 552nd Air Control Networks Squadron, Jaren Kirkendoll, 72nd Force Support Squadron, and Taylor Hill, 963rd Airborne Air Control Squadron, all members of the Tinker Air Force Base Honor Guard traveled to Blanchard, Okla., to teach Cub Scout Pack 234 how to properly conduct a flag folding ceremony. On average, the Tinker Honor Guard recognizes veterans at 45 funerals and 15 color guards per month, and their area of responsibility spans approximately 38,000 square miles throughout the state. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Heath)

OPERATION K.U.D.O.S.

KIDS UNDERSTANDING DEPLOYMENT OPERATIONS

Tinker children learn about deployment processing during Operation Kids Understanding Deployment Operations April 22, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Through partnerships with 33 base organizations and sponsors, the Airman and Family Readiness Center and 172 volunteers conducted a mock deployment for 145 Tinker children and 165 parents. The goal of Operation K.U.D.O.S. is to build resiliency and understanding within Airmen's families regarding deployments and to educate them on various support agencies available to them before, during and following deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

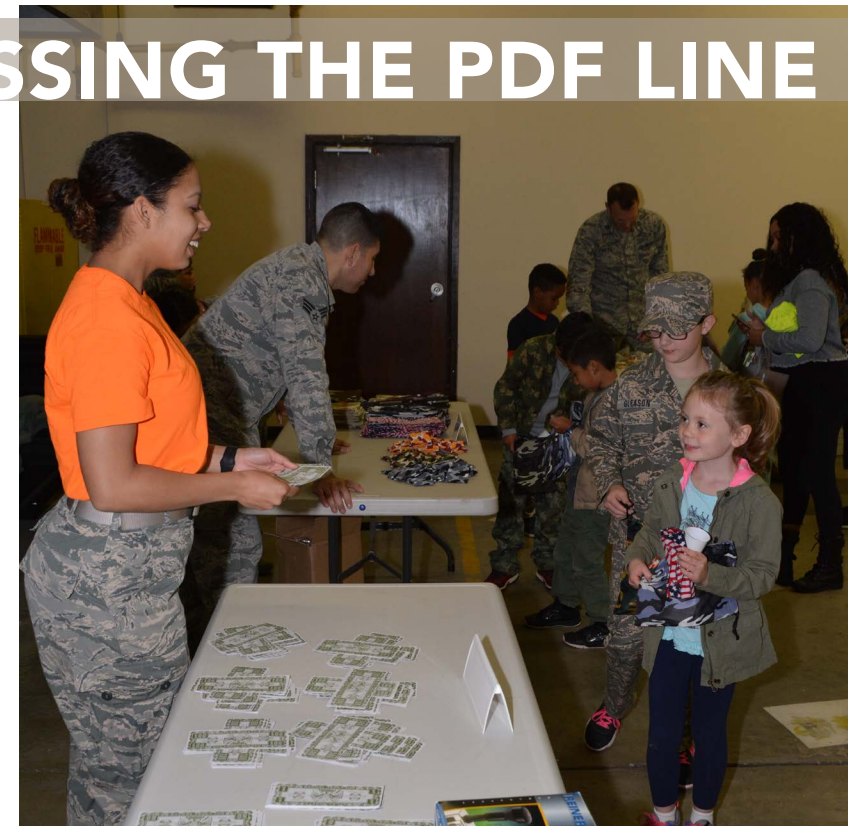




OBSTACLE COURSE



PROCESSING THE PDF LINE



Tinker children learn about deployment processing during Operation K.U.D.O.S. April 22, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. This year, the 507th Air Refueling Wing partnered with the Tinker Airman and Family Readiness Center to make the day a success. Through a partnership with 33 base organizations and sponsors, the Airman and Family Readiness Center and 172 volunteers conducted a mock deployment for 145 Tinker children and 165 parents. The goal of Operation KUDOS is to build resiliency and understanding within Airmen's families regarding deployments and to educate them on various support agencies available to them before, during and following deployments. The children received orders to travel to Base X, processed the deployment line, marched to the aircraft, arrived at Base X where they experienced a few aspects of deployment, and finished the day off with welcome home party with lunch and games. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



TRAVELING TO BASE X



ROAD MARCH



WEAPONS TRAINING

18 LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP:

GEN. COLIN L.
POWELL,
US ARMY, RETIRED



The following leadership principles were presented by Gen. Colin Powell to the Outreach to America Program, at the Sears Corporate Headquarters in Chicago:

LESSON 1

“Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off.”

LESSON 2

“The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.”

LESSON 3

“Don’t be buffaloeed by experts. Experts often possess more data than judgment. The Elite can become so inbred that they produce hemophiliacs who bleed to death as soon as they are nicked by the real world.”

LESSON 4

“Don’t be afraid to challenge the pros, even in their own backyard.”

LESSON 5

“Never neglect details. When everyone’s mind is dulled or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant.”

LESSON 6

“You don’t know what you can get away with until you try.”

LESSON 7

“Keep looking below surface appearances. Don’t shrink from doing so (just) because you might not like what you find.”

LESSON 8

“Organization doesn’t really accomplish anything. Plans don’t accomplish anything, either. Theories of management don’t much matter. Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved. Only by attracting the best people will you accomplish great deeds.

LESSON 9

“Organization charts and fancy titles count for next to nothing.”

LESSON 10

“Never let your ego get so close to your position that when your position goes, your ego goes with it.”

LESSON 11

“Fit no stereotypes. Don’t chase the latest fads. The situation dictates which approach best accomplishes the team’s mission.”

LESSON 12

“Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.”

LESSON 13

“Powell’s Rules for Picking People” Look for intelligence and judgment and, most critically, a capacity to anticipate, to see around corners. Also look for loyalty, integrity, a high energy drive, a balanced ego and the drive to get things done.”

LESSON 14

(Borrowed by Powell from Michael Korda) “Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand.”

LESSON 15

“Part I: “Use the formula P 40 to

70, in which P stands for the probability of success and the numbers indicate the percentage of information acquired.”

Part II: “Once the information is in the 40 to 70 range, go with your gut.”

LESSON 16

“The commander in the field is always right and the rear echelon is wrong, unless proved otherwise.”

LESSON 17

“Have fun in your command. Don’t always run at a breakneck pace. Take leave when you’ve earned it. Spend time with your families.” Corollary: “Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard.”

LESSON 18

“Command is lonely.”

General Colin L. Powell, U.S. Army, Retired, is one of the most admired and respected leaders in America today, and was a professional soldier for 35 years. During that time he held many different command and staff positions. His last assignment, from Oct. 1, 1989, to Sept. 30, 1993, was as the 12th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest military position in the Department of Defense. During this time, he oversaw 28 military and political crises, including Operation Desert Storm in the victorious 1991 Persian Gulf War. In 2001, Powell became the first African-American U.S. secretary of state, under President George W. Bush.



A CLOSER

Senior Master Sgt. Takesha Williams

**CIVILIAN DUTY: 507TH AIR REFUELING WING
BUDGET ANALYST**

**RESERVE DUTY: 913TH AIRLIFT WING
3A FUNCTIONAL MANAGER**

Senior Master Sgt. Takesha Williams, 913th Airlift Group functional manager at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., poses for a photo April 24, 2017. The Oklahoma City native has served in the Air Force for nearly 24 years and currently works as a budget analyst as a civilian in the 507th Air Refueling Wing Financial Management Office. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

A Citizen Airman in the 507th Air Refueling Wing here won the Combat Airlifter of the Week award April 25 from the 913th Airlift Group at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

As a civilian, Takesha Williams is a budget analyst in the 507th Air Refueling Wing Financial Management office. As a senior NCO, Senior Master Sgt. Williams is a 3A Functional Manager at Little Rock AFB.

Williams joined the 507th ARW in 1992 as a traditional reservist in an administrative clerk position. In 2001, she served as an air reserve technician as an administrative support assistant for two years. She acquired a civilian position in the Financial Management office in 2002, while continuing to serve as a traditional reservist. In 2005, she took on the duty of a 1st Sgt., and continued her duties until 2015. In 2011, she joined the 913th Airlift Group at Little Rock AFB as a traditional reservist after serving in the 507th ARW for 19 years.

In her free time, the Oklahoma City native enjoys volunteering and is a fitness fan. Williams is a longtime volunteer coordinator for the annual Oklahoma City Memorial

Marathon recruiting volunteers to serve as road guards for the event. From its inaugural race in 2001 with just under 5,000 participants, the event now hosts over 24,000 runners and walkers from every state and several foreign countries.

With 24 years in service under her belt, her goal is to continue mentoring Airmen and eventually become Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force.

Williams was awarded the Combat Airlifter of the Week award for exhibiting the Air Force core value of service before self.

“Ensuring the development of our Airmen is my first and most important priority,” said Williams. “Investing in the future of our Airmen is what continues to make this Air Force the best ever.”

Williams is one of the original founding members of Detachment 1 under the 22 AF which became the 913th Airlift Group in 2014. She was instrumental in the development and growth of the unit, serving as the first Development and Training Flight Commander, a 1st Sgt. for multiple squadrons and currently as the 3A Functional manager. (Master Sgt. Jeffery Walston contributed to this story)



May PROMOTIONS

BARRY ALEXANDER, 513 MXS

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT



LIBRADA SMITH, 507 ARW
VINCENT PERALTA, 507 AMXS



MASTER SERGEANT

SEAN CARTER, 507 MXS
MICHAEL GENTRY, 507 FSS
LEON PENNYFEATHER, 507 OSS

TECHNICAL SERGEANT



ETHAN GRIFFITH, 72 APS
NATHALIE HAMILTON, 507 AMXS
DANNY THOMAS, 507 SFS
ERIC RICHARDSON, 507 MXS
ROBERT WOODWARD, 507 MXS
RICHARD FRANZ, 507 OSS
KEYONTAE TRIPLETT, 513 AMXS



STAFF SERGEANT

KATHERINE BILSBURY, 507 MDS
RUTH ORTIZ, 507 CES
ALEC DONNDELINGER, 507 LRS

SENIOR AIRMAN



MELODY COLLINS, 507 MDS
CALEB MCCAIN, 507 MDS
KIONA ROLLINS, 507 MDS
AUSTIN WATLINGTON, 513 AMXS
MELISA WALLACE, 507 LRS



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

RESERVE DEFENDERS KEEP WATCH



Tech. Sgt. Hector Flores, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group security forces member, provides armed overwatch for contractors and air advisors performing maintenance on an Afghan Air Force Mi-17 Military Transport Helicopter April 16, 2017, at Kandahar Air Wing, Afghanistan. Flores is deployed with other Citizen Airmen from the 507th Security Forces Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa)



Tech. Sgt. Hector Flores, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group security forces member, provides armed overwatch for contractors and air advisors performing maintenance on an Afghan Air Force Mi-17 Military Transport Helicopter April 16, 2017, at Kandahar Air Wing, Afghanistan. Flores is deployed with other Citizen Airmen from the 507th Security Forces Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa)

By Maj. Jon Quinlan,
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

A group of Citizen Airmen from the 507th Security Forces Squadron here deployed March 31 to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, to support the Afghan Air Force in their fight against insurgents in support of NATO's Resolute Support mission.

For the next six months, the team of Reserve defenders will be part of a Fly Away Security Team while in Afghanistan. Air Force FAST teams are made up of Security Forces Airmen who travel with aircraft to provide extra security around unsecured foreign airfields.

As a civilian, Senior Airman Casey Jardot of the 507th SFS is a research technician at an oil and gas company. This is his second deployment. He left the Marine Corps to join the Air Force Reserve, and said he is excited to go downrange to perform a vital security



Senior Airman Micheal Thomas, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group security forces member, provides armed overwatch for contractors and air advisors performing maintenance on an Afghan Air Force MD-530 Light Attack Helicopter, April 16, 2017, at Kandahar Air Wing, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa) mission.

"It's important because we are there to show a presence of force and relieve active duty," Jardot said. "We do so much as Reservists. We've got to go to the fight."

Part of the fight is protecting personnel, multi-million dollar aircraft and sensitive equipment. When air missions depart, security forces travel with the aircraft to protect the mission and provide full security overwatch at forward operating bases.

The defenders also provide security for air advisors while training and advising Afghan security forces at Kandahar Air Base.

According to the 507th SFS unit deployment manager, Tech. Sgt. Kathelene Mercado, the Airmen trained for several months in preparation for this deployment. As Reservists with civilian careers and families, time management and prioritization of training are key elements in preparation for deployments.

"This mission still exists. The threat is still real," Mercado said. "We sent

out a well-trained team to accomplish the mission."

The commander of the 507th SFS, Maj. Richard Martin II, said farewell to both groups as they departed Oklahoma City, stating that he would go anywhere at any time with his deploying team.

"They sacrifice a great deal," Martin said. "It never ceases to amaze me as long as I've been doing this job. I watch mothers and fathers hand over their infants and toddlers to go do something they feel very strongly about. That sacrifice they make for the greater good is tremendous."

Fellow defenders from the 507th SFS joined the Airmen at the airport to show their support and to bid them farewell. When Jardot and his team boarded the plane, he said even though he felt sad to leave his family, he felt anxious to support the mission.

"My hopes are to execute my job to the best of my ability, deliver the commander's intent, watch my brothers' backs and come home safe," he said.

CHAPLAIN'S

CORNER



SUCCESSFUL MOTHERS ARE NOT THE ONES WHO HAVE NEVER STRUGGLED. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO NEVER GIVE UP, DESPITE THE STRUGGLES. -SHARON JAYNES



Cutting the ribbon April 6, 2017, on the new Tinker Club Heritage Room are, from left, 72nd Mission Support Group Commander Col. Michael Green; Laura Culberson, past president of the Tinker Heritage Foundation; Col. Stephanie Wilson, commander of 72nd Air Base Wing; Marti Ribeiro, Tinker Heritage Foundation secretary; and Senior Master Sgt. James Randol of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron.

SPORTS commentary



(Graphic courtesy of analytics.vidhya.com)

SPORTS: MORE THAN AN ESCAPE

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor
Sports Reporter Extraordinaire

In today's world, there aren't many things that can drive a person's passion like the topic of sports. In cities everywhere, fans identify themselves with their teams, to the point where you would think they actually play for them if you didn't know any better.

I would never get onto someone for being passionate about the team they root for, because I'm also one of those people. The question we have to ask ourselves is: When does passion become maniacal?

I can understand screaming at a television when our teams make a mistake, but throwing the remote and breaking the monitor? That's probably too far. I can see booing players at the local stadium or arena, but throwing beer bottles and food in their direction is probably the wrong way to show your displeasure.

Maybe social media is a fan's avenue to show their unhappiness. How many times have we seen someone use Twitter and Facebook to talk about a player costing him or her the championship in their fantasy football league?

Needless to say, we have to look at ourselves and remember we fans don't play for the teams

we root for. If we want to be upset because these players make millions of dollars and we felt like we wasted our money for a ticket, that's one thing. Fighting fans of the opposing team that won that day's game? That's probably over the top, along with being worth a trip to jail.

In the grand scheme of things, sports is supposed to be a release from the daily realities of life. When we are in a bad mood, watching a game can cheer us up.

Having said that, there are occasions where sports are more than just a game. For that fan who wishes to meet their favorite player, they probably wouldn't know that player if it wasn't for sports. We also can forget about the times when we have used sports to help us cope with unspeakable tragedies.

Those are the moments where sports can become more than just a game. Any time we can use something positive to give us a temporary release from real life, it's a big help.

So what does sports mean to you? I hope they provide you an outlet after a hard day's work. As long as TVs, computers or smartphones aren't being broken, that passion will never go too far.

(This is Taylor's final sports story, and we wish him well on his transition to his next base.)



TOP: Citizen Airmen from 507th Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Flight practice modular firefighting April 1, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. BELOW: Col. Dana Nelson, 507th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, poses for a photo with fire fighters from the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron April 1, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Callie McNary)

