

# ON FINAI

JUNE 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



**OKIES BRING THUNDERBIRDS  
TO TINKER**



**COVER PHOTO**

**U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS**

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly over Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., May 18, 2017, before landing for the Tinker 75th Anniversary Star Spangled Salute Air Show. The 465th Air Refueling Squadron refueled the Thunderbirds on their journey to the base. The event was free and open to the public.

COVER PHOTO: Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

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**VICE WING COMMANDER**  
Col. Dana N. Nelson

**WING COMMAND CHIEF**  
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

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LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. LAUREN GLEASON

# RESERVE GOLD WINS AGAIN



Reserve Gold won the intramural flag football championship for the second year in a row May 23, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Reserve Gold's win is the fourth consecutive intramural flag football championship in which an Air Force Reserve unit has taken home the first place trophy. (U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Caleb Wanzer)

## 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.



DOWNLOAD THE  
**MOBILE APP** TODAY  
TO START EARNING  
REWARDS:



IOS USERS



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<p><b>JULY UTA JULY 8-9 (If Needed)</b> CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER DUE JULY 15</p>
<p><b>AUGUST UTA AUG. 5-6</b> 2ND QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE NLT 1200 AUG. 6</p> <p>COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 BASE THEATER AUG. 6</p> <p>ATSO FAMILIARIZATION TRAINING (CHECK EMAIL FOR SCHEDULE)</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER UTA SEPT. 9-10</b> A "ROYAL" FAMILY DAY @ 1200 HANGAR 1030 SEPT. 9</p>

<p><b>OCTOBER UTA OCT. 14-15</b> ATSO EXERCISE</p> <p>3RD QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE OCT. 9</p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 4-5</b> GLOBAL THUNDER</p> <p>OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER UTA DEC. 2-3</b></p>
<p><b>JANUARY UTA JAN. 6-7</b></p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 3-4</b></p>
<p><b>MARCH UTA MAR. 3-4</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have an event to add?</b> <a href="mailto:507arw.pa2@us.af.mil">Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil</a></p>



# A Royal FAMILY DAY

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, @ 12:00 p.m. in Hangar 1030

*Featuring:*

- Food trucks \$
- Refreshments \$
- Snow Cones \$
- Face Painting \$
- Static Aircraft Displays
- Live DJ
- Car Show
- Snag-a-Fish \$
- Glitter Tattoos \$
- Jail \$
- Cake Walk \$

SEE YOUR 1ST SGT. TO REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
- Pie in the Face \$
- Hot Dog Eating Contest
- Tug-o-War
- Obstacle Course
- Pull Up Competition
- Speed Pitch
- Bounce Houses and more!



Please join us for a day of fun, and feel free to dress up as your favorite princess, prince, king, queen or any other royalty of your choice!

Contact Chief Master Sgt. Mark Smith, Master Sgt. Angie Vereb or Ms. Denise Lawson in the 507th MXG with questions.

## VIDEO



Citizen Airmen of the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., competed in their annual rodeo May 6, 2017, in a show of learning, team-building and esprit-de-corp. Five teams of Airmen completed five tasks within a certain time, while being evaluated for safety, proficiency and knowledge. (U.S. Air Force video/Maj. Jon Quinlan/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

Story by Senior Airman Callie McNary

Citizen Airmen from the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron here participated in a squadron-wide rodeo competition May 6, 2017, to exhibit mission capabilities, increase unit cohesion and boost squadron morale.

The daylong rodeo competition divided Port Dawgs from across the squadron into teams as they competed in five aerial port exercises, followed by a barbeque lunch.

Participants were pooled from the squadron's four sections with element leads judging the competition.

"The purpose of this kind of practice is to train our Airmen on their jobs," said Master Sgt. Randy Owens, 72nd Aerial Port Squadron competition judge.

"So, by making it fun for these guys, they don't realize they're training," Owens said.

The rodeo began with a safety brief in the form of a quiz with points awarded to teams with the correct answers.

Afterwards, the teams began the first of four timed exercises designed to showcase skills in job-related tasks and heavy equipment expertise.

"It's nice to be able to get out here with people from different sections and see who has the best abilities and see all of our

strengths playing together," said Senior Airman Brishawanna Cross, 72nd APS aerial porter and team member.

After the contestants completed the exercises, the judges conferred to calculate points while all members of the squadron ate a barbeque lunch.

Overall, many Airmen voiced the event was less about who would go on to win the competition, and more about being with their team and showcasing what they are trained to do.

[Click here to see more videos and photos of the Citizen Airmen in the 507th Air Refueling Wing.](#)

## New commander **takes charge** of maintenance

Story by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

The 507th Maintenance Squadron here gained a new commander May 6, 2017, during a change of command ceremony in Hangar 1030.

The 507th Maintenance Group commander, Col. Travis Caughlin, presided over the ceremony, where Lt. Col. Erin Cook relinquished command and Maj. Melissa Jones assumed command.

"It has been a privilege and an honor to serve with you guys for the last 19 months," Cook said, who will now move on to her next assignment at Travis Air Force Base, California. "Command is a very unique opportunity that you don't always get. There have been some challenging people to work with, and I would like to thank them. You don't get the opportunity to grow as a leader without overcoming some hardships."

This is not the first time that Jones has served in a commander role, according to Caughlin. In the past as the senior ranking officer, Jones stepped up as acting commander to lead the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 507th MXS.

"When you hear the term, 'acting commander,' there is no such thing," said Caughlin. "You're either the commander or you're not," Caughlin said. "The great job she did as the AMXS and MXS commander made her a quick choice for our new squadron commander."

Caughlin outlined the importance that the maintenance squadron plays in maintaining fleet health.



Col. Travis Caughlin, 507th Maintenance Group commander, hands the guidon to Maj. Melissa Jones, 507th Maintenance Squadron commander, May 6, 2017, during the 507th MXS change of command ceremony at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason) [Click for more photos.](#)

**"In maintenance, we run two races ALL THE TIME: We either run a sprint, OR A MARATHON."**

"In maintenance, we run two races all the time: We either run a sprint-or a marathon," Caughlin said. "The marathon is run by the maintenance squadron."

After taking command of the 507th, Jones shared a piece of history that she recently

discovered over the past month: Her grandfather served in the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment in WWII.

"When my grandfather was in the 507th, he was shot several times," said Jones.

Jones addressed the current state of Reserve duty, and the possibility of more frequent deployments overseas to support contingency efforts in the area of responsibility.

"I feel very honored that I get to be a commander during this period," Jones said. "We are going to maximize our drill time and be ready to respond."

# U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS COMING IN **HOT**

*Seven U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly in formation over Lake Arcadia behind a Reserve KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, 507th Air Refueling Wing, May 18, 2017, prior to landing at Tinker Air Force Base for the 2017 Star Spangled Salute Air Show. The 465th Air Refueling Squadron refueled the Thunderbirds on their way to Tinker. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)*

# OKIES SUPPORT STAR SPANGLED SALUTE AIR SHOW



The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds practice May 19, 2017, for their big performance at the Star Spangled Salute Air Show at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The free air show was held May 20-21, 2017, and commemorated the 75th Anniversary of Tinker AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



Three U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly in formation over Oklahoma behind a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, 507th Air Refueling Wing, May 18, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



A family from Moore, Okla. watch the aerial demonstration by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds May 20, 2017, during the Star Spangled Salute Air Show at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The show drew more than 100,000 spectators, and officials closed the gates after reaching parking capacity. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



A record-setting crowd watches the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds May 20, 2017, during the Star Spangled Salute Air Show at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. More than 60,000 spectators visited the following day, May 21, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Christopher Anders, Civil Air Patrol)



Grandson of Maj. Gen. Clarence Tinker, Tinker Air Force Base's namesake, Phil Tinker, gets a lesson on how to operate the boom from Chief Master Sgt. Phil Brand on a Reserve KC-135 Stratotanker May 18, 2017, assigned to the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, 507th Air Refueling Wing, as they fly over Oklahoma City after refueling the Thunderbirds. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



# SENIOR AIRMAN AARON CALCOTE

72nd Aerial Port Squadron



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. GRADY EPPERLY

AMN

# SENIOR MASTER SGT. CHAD BOLDING

507th Security Forces Squadron



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# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST QUARTER AWARD WINNERS

## NCO OF THE QUARTER TECH. SGT. DEREK BRYANT, (NOT PICTURED)

507th Maintenance Squadron

# 2ND LT. JACOB MORGAN

72nd Aerial Port Squadron



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G  
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# Master Sgt. Lorena Bolding

**SUPERINTENDENT, FORCE SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT,  
507TH FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON**

### WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I absolutely love my riding lawnmower because it's peaceful and I like cutting grass. It's my zen.

### WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

My family and I love to visit the lake and live the lake life.

### AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I wanted to be a dancer on Solid Gold. It was a TV show in the early 80s, similar to Soul Train, and they had the best dancers.

### WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE MILITARY?

In 1994, I joined the Navy and I joined the Air Force Reserve in 2009.

### WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

I would like to serve overseas again because I love the different cultures and experiences.

### WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The people and my customers. I like to help people.

### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN A MOVIE?

My favorite character is Forrest Gump because he's awesome.

### WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

People who impede traffic in the left lane.

### WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT 'CLOSER LOOK'?

[EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION HERE.](#)

*Master Sgt. Lorena Bolding strikes a solid gold pose June 2, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. As a child, Bolding dreamed of being a dancer on TV. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)*



# June PROMOTIONS

JUSTIN HENRY, 507 AMXS  
JAMES GASAWAY, 513 MXS  
MARSHALL HUNTER, 507 AMXS



**SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT**



JOE HUIZAR, 970 AACs  
RUSTIN RAINBOLT, 513 OSS

**MASTER SERGEANT**

ADAM SANDERS, 72 APS  
MICHKALA DEFOREST, 72 APS



**TECHNICAL SERGEANT**

ETHAN POLLOCK, 507 MXS  
CASEY JARDOT, 507 SFS  
JAY CHITWOOD, 72 APS  
TYLER MINER, 507 MDS



**STAFF SERGEANT**

AUSTIN GARNER, 507 AMXS  
JONATHAN CASTILLO, 507 LRS

**SENIOR AIRMAN**



ASHLEY PATRICK, 507 LRS



**AIRMAN**

# Reserve leaders testify

By Lt. Col. Denise Kerr

Senior leaders from the military reserve components testified before the House Appropriations Sub-Committee for Defense on readiness and the President's fiscal year 2018 budget request May 24.

Congresswoman Kay Granger, R-Texas, chairwoman of the HAC-D and Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, D-Indiana, ranking member, led the hearing and listened to the reserve chiefs discuss their budget priorities and operational readiness. The committee questioned the panel on their top issues, pay and benefits disparities, and deployments.

"Your Air Force Reserve operates with 16,000 fewer Airmen, and 220 fewer aircraft than we did in Desert Storm," said Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "The stress of our size, the steady state operations tempo and our funding shortfalls keep us challenged but we remain a lethal, combat-ready force, composed of amazing and resilient airmen and families."

Nearly 70,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen support the nation in military and humanitarian operations around the world. Last year, the AFR responded to more than 10,000 Air Expeditionary and volunteer taskings across the U.S. and in 30 foreign countries.

"The Fiscal Year 2018 President's budget request continues our efforts to build readiness and capability by adding 800 positions across our rated, space, cyber and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions," said Miller. "The budget request, with additional Overseas Contingency Operations support, begins to fund weapon system sustainment closer to required levels, ensuring we can produce the exercise, training, and combat sorties needed to



Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, testifies before the House Appropriations Committee on the National Guard and Reserve budget during a hearing May 24, 2017, in Washington, D.C. With Miller were Lt. Gen. McMillan, Commander of the Marine Corps Forces Reserve; Vice Adm. Luke McCollum, Chief of the Navy Reserve; and Lt. Gen. Charles Luckey, Chief of the Army Reserve. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

sustain the best Air Force in the world."

On May 23, President Donald J. Trump sent Congress a proposed defense budget request of \$639.1 billion. The Air Force's portion of the FY 18 budget request will help with filling critical gaps, improving lethality and readiness recovery.

"We must continue to leverage our strengths and always partner with the active component to successfully field new weapon systems, as we have with the F-35 and KC-46, and support space, cyber, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions," said Miller, in her written testimony.

Reserve components also receive funding through the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation for weapon systems modernization and recapitalization. In FY 17, \$105 million in NGREA provided F-16 all-

weather targeting pods, enabled KC-135 defensive systems, and updated A-10 digital displays and personnel recovery equipment for the Pave Hawk helicopters.

Miller stressed the need for a stable and predictable budget, which will ensure the AFR is a combat-ready operational reserve.

Congressman Steve Womack, R-Arkansas, said he understood that funding can resolve a lot of issues and asked each reserve chief to list their top priorities.

"The two things I think are the most important for the Air Force Reserve are the critical skills manning, particularly our pilot shortage and our need for cyber professionals," said Miller. "On the cyber front, industry is just pulling them – we can attract them and train them, but we don't always keep them.

# Facebook PHOTO CONTEST Winners



(Courtesy photo/Victoria Butcher)



(Courtesy photo/Shawn Erikson)

We asked our followers on Facebook to submit their favorite photos from this year's Star Spangled Salute Air Show.

Thank you for your submissions.

Here are the Top 3 photos.

Send us a message anytime at [www.facebook.com/507arw](http://www.facebook.com/507arw)



(Courtesy photo/Laurie Miller)

# CHIEF'S FINAL COMMANDER'S CALL



Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, 507th Air Refueling Wing command chief, addresses, congratulates and coins Airmen during commander's call May 7, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Brown served as command chief for five years and will retire in July 2017. (U.S. Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Grady Epperly)



## Leadership commentary

# IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

By Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown,  
Command Chief, 507th Air Refueling Wing

**I**n my closing days wearing the uniform I have had a chance to reflect on my time with the 507th and how great of an opportunity this has been for me. Some areas that we worked to improve included the training process, multiple levels of communication, the creation of the Tinker Development and Training Flight, a rebuild and structure of the First Sergeants and Chiefs council, as well as changes to awards programs and family day in an attempt to put focus where it truly counts...on our Airmen!

When I was a young Airman, the guidance I received was direct: Build jet engines. My mindset was to be great at my job, period. The problem is I didn't know where that guidance came from or if it was simply implied. I didn't realize until later in my career how much this restricted my capability to support the mission. Contacts had to be made in areas outside of my comfort zone to provide resources to my Airmen; this is when I recognized that I was raised in a silo and didn't know it.

So, how do we get things done as a flight, squadron, group or wing? Communication is the key element. We must be able to communicate and build relationships to help our Airmen in our specific sections throughout the wing. We do this through the Tinker Reserve Enlisted Advisory Council, the Top 3, the First Sergeants Council and the Chiefs Group. Attending these groups has little to do with retrieving information and a lot to do with building relationships, relationships that can help you provide for your Airmen. Doors seem to open a lot easier with a friendly and recognizable face.

It is critical that Airmen at all levels in their careers learn the importance of communication and relationship building at the earliest stage. It will go a long way in providing resources to our Airmen so they can "work the magic."

What ideas generated action that made an impact on our Airmen? How about the Super UTA; this was brought up in a Top 3 meeting by Master Sgt. Kim Koldste from her past experience in the Air National Guard. Or changes to family day in an attempt to provide more variety depending on which group is leading the event. Communication has led to multiple examples of improvements such as child care during the UTA, resource exchanges, lodging and DFAC improvements, manpower, promotion, education and training discussions to include STEP II, STP and CCAF requirements. Like I stated above, there is information discussed or retrieved, but the most important part of these councils is the relationship building to expand your network.



Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Brown, 507th Air Refueling Wing command chief, as a young Airman in 1984, and present day, 33 years later. Brown served as command chief for five years, and will retire in July 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Hopefully you all have enjoyed General Colin Powell's Leadership Principles as discussed at last month's commander's call; I was told several of you printed out specific examples. Use his leadership and incorporate it into your sections. Get involved with wing level councils so you can establish outside contacts to help you help your Airmen. Learn from others successes and mistakes and continue to progress in a proactive manner.

Final thoughts; I have found a great return on investment by empowering our Airmen and having faith in their capabilities as supervisors and leaders. Get out of your comfort zone and build those relationships so you can provide your Airmen the resources they need. You will be impressed!





A view of four U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds flanked alongside an Okie KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, 507th Air Refueling Wing, as they await refueling May 18, 2017, on their journey to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., for the 2017 Star Spangled Salute Air Show. The Okies refueled the Thunderbirds on their journey to the base. The air show commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)