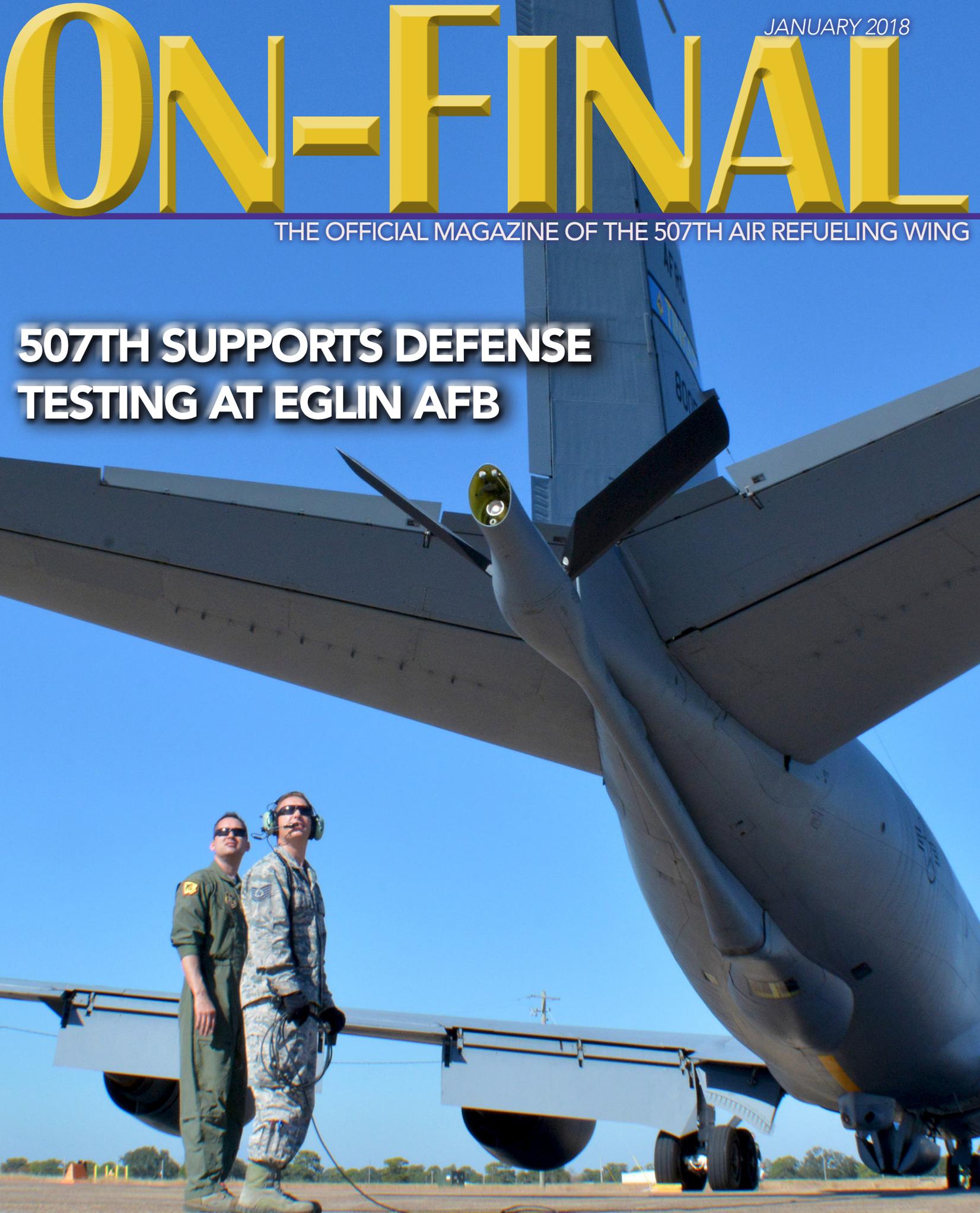


JANUARY 2018

ON-FINAL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

507TH SUPPORTS DEFENSE TESTING AT EGLIN AFB



COVER

507TH SUPPORTS LAIRCM TESTING

Tech. Sgts. Michael Dunning, crew chief, and Eric Harmon, avionics technician, with the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., observe flight operations while preparing a KC-135R Stratotanker for flight at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 28, 2017.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison

14

AFRC TESTS KC-135 DEFENSE SYSTEM 4

CITIZEN AIRMAN PROVIDES CRITICAL AID 9

NEW RETIREMENT SYSTEM TAKES EFFECT 11

NEW YEAR, NEW EPR POLICY 20

COMMENTARY: INTENTIONAL SAFETY 22

THIS MONTH

Civilian of the Quarter Awards 6

Annual Awards Banquet 7

On the Okie Radar 8

Construction Notice: Gott Gate 10

OHS Receives Charitable Donation 13

A Closer Look:
1st Lt. Adrian Mack 16

January Promotions 17

22nd Annual Angel Tree 18

Rock Solid Warrior 19

Job Announcements 21

International Partners Visit Okies 23

Recruiting Corner 24

Contents of the On-final are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's public affairs office, which is located at 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 114, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., 73145-8726. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



WING COMMANDER
Col. Douglas Gullion

VICE WING COMMANDER
Col. Dana Nelson

WING COMMAND CHIEF
Chief Master Sgt. David Dickson

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Maj. Jon Quinlan

SUPERINTENDENT
Master Sgt. Grady Epperly

PHOTOJOURNALISTS
Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason
Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison
Senior Airman Callie McNary



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. SAMANTHA MATHISON

AFRC TESTS KC-135 DEFENSE SYSTEM

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison



A 507th Air Refueling Wing aircraft maintenance team installs a Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures pod onto the underside of a KC-135 Stratotanker Oct. 25, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

A 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, is fulfilling a critical role within the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard in the testing and fielding efforts to employ an operational Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures-based pod defensive system.

The LAIRCM modification is designed to autonomously detect, provide warning and employ countermeasures against shoulder fired Man-portable air defense system missiles. Earlier LAIRCM versions are currently employed on other aircraft, such as the C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III, but it's been in the works for more than five years for use on the KC-135.

According to Air Force Material Command KC-135 equipment specialist, Master Sgt. Anthony Burch, it's been a long process because of documentation and safety related tasks involved in configuring the aircraft to use LAIRCM.

"When I became part of the program four years ago, it was the generation two pod and it's evolved over the years to generation three," Burch said. "As a result, we're going to be the first Air Force platform to get the latest and greatest version of LAIRCM."

The core mission of the KC-135 is to provide aerial refueling capabilities in order to maintain global reach for the U.S. Air Force, while serving a secondary mission of transporting patients during aeromedical evacuations.

"The main purpose of the LAIRCM system is to save the aircraft and all personnel inside," Burch said. "With LAIRCM on the KC-135, we can actually get closer to the fight because it offers protection against adversaries. The aerial refueling tracks can be closer to the fighter jets to reduce the time it takes for them to refuel and get back to the mission."

According to the KC-135 LAIRCM Program Office manager here, Raymond Berhalter, the new LAIRCM system is portable, modular and transferable to maximize flexibility in utilization, and can be installed on an aircraft in approximately 10 minutes.

When installed on the aircraft, the LAIRCM system can identify missile threats and defeat them, according to Berhalter.

The missile-warning sensor detects a missile, while an onboard computer determines whether...

(Continued on next page)



Staff Sgt. Matthew Schubert, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, prepares a KC-135 Stratotanker for flight Nov. 30, 2017, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

and Air Force Reserve Combat Planning Council (CPC), according to Kissire.

“The 507th’s role in the KC-135 LAIRCM program is a perfect example of warfighters helping to meet a warfighter driven requirement,” he said. “The combined efforts of the KC-135 System Program Office, the ANG, the AFRC Test Center and AFRC ensure that our Reserve Citizen Airmen remain relevant and ready for emerging challenges ahead.”

**“Our Reserve
CITIZEN AIRMEN
remain relevant
and READY
for emerging
CHALLENGES
ahead.”**

(Continued from last page)

...the missile is a threat to the aircraft.

If a threat is imminent, the tracker locks onto the missile and fires a laser to defeat the threat. The process is automatic and only takes a few seconds.

“Although many platforms have various forms of LAIRCM, the KC-135 is the first operational U.S. Air Force aircraft to field the latest configuration of LAIRCM; the LAIRCM Block 30,” Berhalter said. “Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command and the National Guard Bureau will determine which aircraft will receive the modification and deployment of the mission kits.”

AFRC’s National Guard

Tech. Sgt. Eric Harmon, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, inspects the area of the KC-135 where the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures pod attaches to the underside of the aircraft Oct. 25, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

and Reserve Equipment Appropriation program manager, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kissire, said that timing of future ANG and AFRC KC-135 LAIRCM modifications will be determined once testing is complete and the production contract is awarded.

The effort is a result of critical requirements identified at both the Air National Guard Weapons and Tactics Conference (WEPTAC)



CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER AWARD WINNERS

1ST QUARTER

Carol Davis

507th Force Support Squadron
Civilian Personnel Liaison

Carol Davis, 507th Force Support Squadron civilian personnel liaison, receives the 2017 Civilian of the Quarter award for the first quarter from Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Dec. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



2ND QUARTER

Lauren Gleason

507th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs Operations Chief

Lauren Gleason, 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs operations chief, receives the 2017 Civilian of the Quarter award for the second quarter from Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Dec. 19, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)



THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING PRESENTS



2017

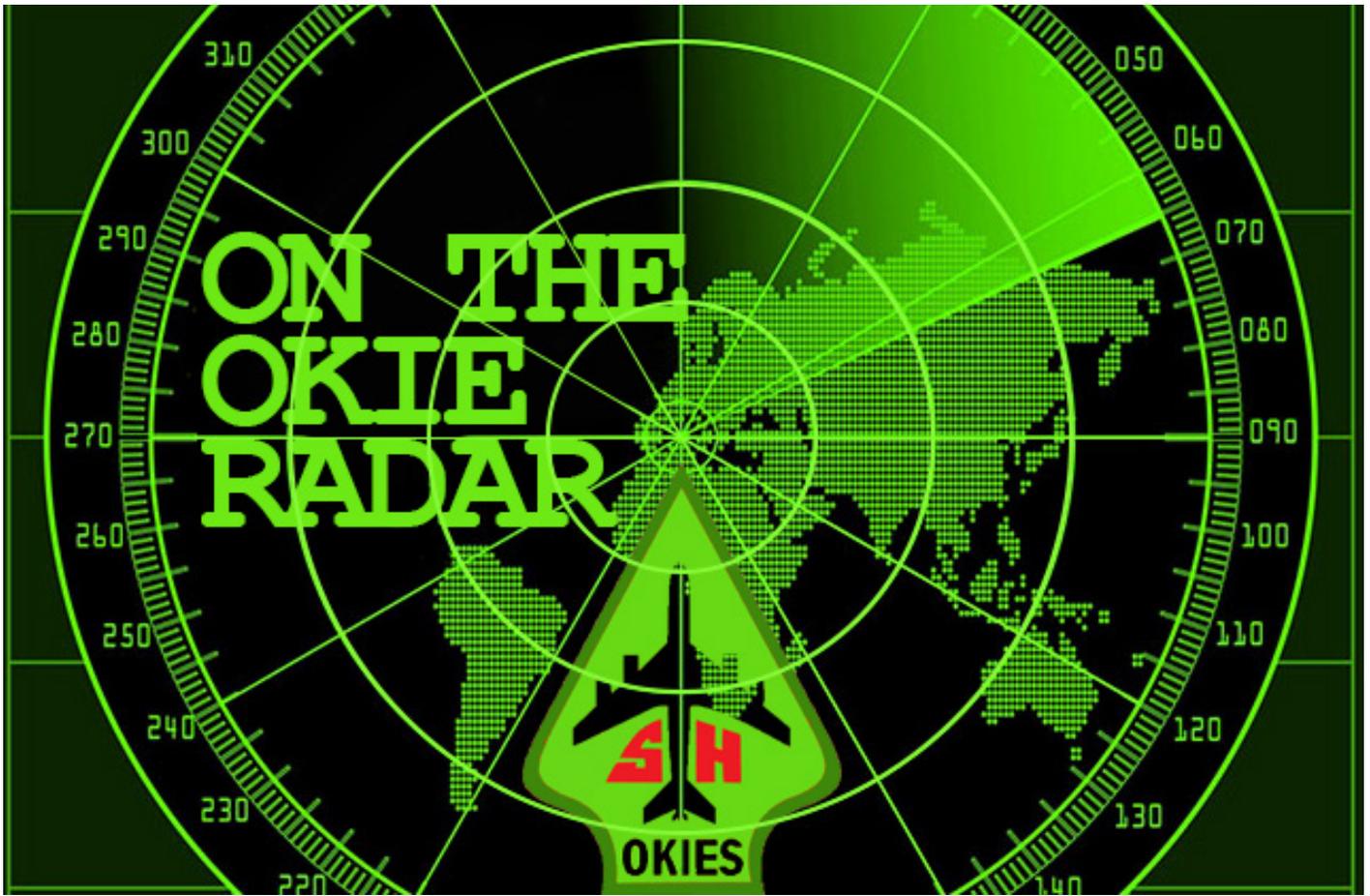
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018
AT 6:00 P.M.

SHERATON REED CONFERENCE CENTER
5750 WILL ROGERS RD.
MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110

R.S.V.P. BY JAN 19, 2018
MILITARY: SEMI FORMAL/MESS DRESS
CIVILIAN: FORMAL



JANUARY UTA JAN. 6-7

CBRN SURVIVAL SKILLS TRAINING
BLDG. 1115
@0800 ☎ @1300 - JAN. 6
@0800 ☎ @1300 - JAN. 7

WIT TEAM TRAINING @0800 - JAN. 7
AMXS CONFERENCE ROOM

ANNUAL AWARDS PACKAGES DUE @2359 - JAN. 14
CIV OF QTR DUE - JAN. 16

**FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 2-4
(FEB. 2 WILL BE ANNUAL TOUR)**

COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 - FEB. 3
BASE THEATER

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET @ 1800 - FEB. 3
SHERATON REED CONFERENCE CENTER

**MARCH UTA MARCH 2-4
(MARCH 2 WILL BE ANNUAL TOUR)**
ATSO EVENT

APRIL "SUPER UTA" APR. 5-8
CIV OF QTR DUE - APR. 15

MAY UTA MAY 5-6

JUNE UTA JUNE 2-3

JULY UTA JULY 14-15

Do you have an event to add?

[Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:507arw.pa2@us.af.mil)

Citizen Airman provides critical aid following wreck

Story by Master Sgt. Grady Epperly

An off-duty Reserve Citizen Airman with the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, provided lifesaving assistance to a motorcyclist who suffered critical injuries following a vehicle accident in Norman, Oklahoma, Nov. 2, 2017.

Senior Master Sgt. Corey Still, 507th AMXS aircraft maintenance unit superintendent, witnessed a motorcycle collide with an SUV while driving with his family.

Still said he stopped traffic in the heavily-traveled area before responding to the scene.

“I was the first person to reach the motorcyclist who was completely unresponsive,” he said. “Another bystander wanted to take the motorcyclist’s helmet off, but I knew that was a bad idea from self-aid and buddy care training.”

Still said he then instructed a bystander to call 911.

“After I made sure the motorcyclist was in a stable position I checked on the SUV driver,” Still said. “She was trapped in the driver seat and was starting to panic, so I cut the side airbag out with my pocket knife and assisted her to the passenger side of the SUV.

According to Still, he performed a health check on the woman and four children then directed them to a safe area away from the road.

Still said he returned to check on the motorcyclist who had started to regain consciousness, so Still and another helper held him in place and assured him that paramedics were on the way.



Senior Master Sgt. Corey Still, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft maintenance unit superintendent, wields a torque wrench while posing for a photo Dec. 20, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

The motorcyclist suffered major injuries while the driver of the SUV was treated for minor injuries. The four children in the vehicle were not injured.

“I do think my military training played a big role in first aid,” said Still. “Thanks to the training I have received, I was able to take control of the scene until the first responders arrived.”

507th ARW command chief, Chief Master Sgt. David Dickson, lauded Still’s actions in responding to an emergency situation.

“Senior Master Sgt. Still did everything right,” said Dickson, who was a security forces defender for more than 17 years. “These simple but critical actions very well could have saved the motorcyclist’s life and prevented further injury.”

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

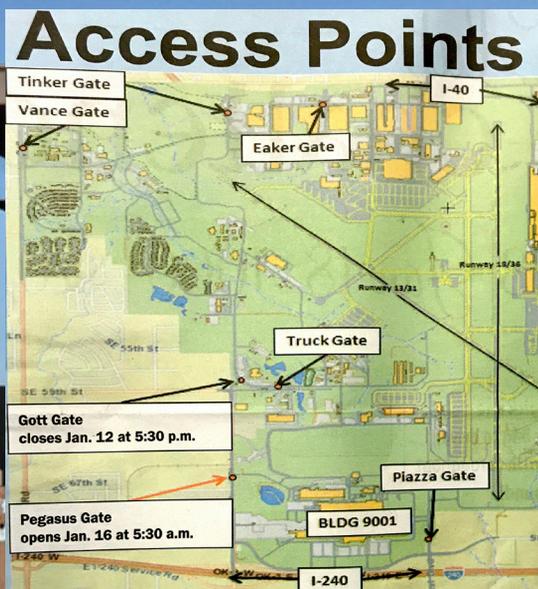
GATE CLOSURE

Gott Gate Closed January 12 @ 1730 through November 2018

The newly constructed Pegasus Gate, located south of the Gott Gate on S. Air Depot Blvd., will open Jan. 16 and will maintain operational hours 5:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Pegasus Gate will not be open during Unit Training Assembly weekends.

A traffic light will be installed on S. Air Depot Blvd., accompanied with signage clearly designating the location of Pegasus Gate as well as alternate routes on the installation.

Personal vehicles will be able to access the Pegasus Gate from S. Air Depot Blvd., a quarter of a mile south of the Gott Gate. Pegasus will facilitate one inbound and one outbound traffic lane, and include a guard shack and facilities.



(U.S. Air Force image/Mark Hybers)

10 // ON FINAL



(Image courtesy of militarypay.defense.gov)

EFFECTIVE NOW

Story by DoD News, Defense Media Activity

One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the last 70 years goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018, with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System, known as BRS.

The new system blends aspects of the traditional defined benefit retirement pension system, with a defined contribution system of automatic and matching government contributions through the Thrift Savings Plan.

All new entrants into the uniformed services on or after Jan. 1 will be enrolled in this new retirement system, Pentagon officials said. The uniformed services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

Nearly 1.6 million current service members will have the option to remain in the current legacy “high-3” retirement system or to choose the BRS when the opt-in period for eligible service members opens Jan. 1. Opt-in eligible service members from all seven of the uniformed services will have an entire year to make their retirement system election. The open period for the majority of service members is from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2018.

Service members will need to visit one of these designated resources to opt into BRS:

-- Army, Air Force, Navy: MyPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

-- Marine Corps: Marine Online (<https://www.mol.usmc.mil>).

-- Coast Guard, NOAA Commissioned Corps: Direct Access (<https://portal.direct-access.us>).

-- U.S. Public Health Service personnel should contact the USPHS Compensation Branch.

Service members who believe they are eligible to opt in, but do not see the opt-in option available online should contact their local personnel/human resources office to verify eligibility, officials said.

The decision to opt in is irrevocable, officials emphasized, even if a service member changes his or her mind before the Dec. 31, 2018, deadline. Eligible service members who take no action will remain in the legacy retirement system, they added.

Prior to opting in, officials recommend service members take advantage of resources to make an informed decision on implications specific to their situation. The Defense Department endorses several training and informational tools to support a service member’s decision, including the BRS Opt-In Course, the BRS Comparison Calculator and numerous online BRS resource materials.

Service members can receive no-cost, personal support from an accredited personal financial manager or counselor available at their installation’s military and family support center or by calling Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647.



The U.S. Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

Active Component



Saving with the New Blended Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, service members can get **automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions**, as well as a mid-career compensation incentive, in addition to **monthly retired pay for life**. All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system, but may choose to opt-in to the new Blended Retirement System.

Pre-2018 Retirement System:



Annuity

2.5% x Years Served x Retired Pay Base
after completing 20 years of service

Blended Retirement System Components

1 Automatic and Matching Contributions

Automatic contributions are seen immediately



You Contribute	DoD Auto Contribution	DoD Matches	Total
0%	1%	0%	1%
1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
3%	1%	3%	7%
4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%

The DoD automatically contributes 1% of your basic pay to your **Thrift Savings Plan** after **60 days of service**.

You'll see matching contributions at the start of 3 years through the completion of 26 years of service, and...

You're fully vested—it's yours to keep—after completing 2 years of service and it goes with you when you leave.

2 Continuation Pay

Received at the mid-career point



You may receive a **cash payment** in exchange for additional service.

3 Full Retired Pay

Received after completing 20 years of service



Calculate your **retired pay base** by averaging **the highest 36** months of basic pay.

You'll gain this monthly annuity for life after completing 20 years of service.

Your Retirement System

Options for Collecting Your Retired Pay



Full retired pay as a monthly annuity

or



Lump sum

+



Reduced retired pay as a monthly annuity

50% or 25% of monthly retired pay annuity bumps back up to 100% at full retirement age (67 in most cases).

If you joined the service or signed a contract to serve:

BEFORE
January 1, 2006

You'll be grandfathered into the pre-2018 retirement system.

AFTER
December 31, 2005
BUT BEFORE
January 1, 2018

You'll have the choice to enroll in the Blended Retirement System or remain in the pre-2018 retirement system.

AFTER
December 31, 2017

You'll be automatically enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.

Operation *Holiday* Spirit receives charitable donation



(U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

The employees of Frankfurt-Short-Bruza Architects and Engineers in Oklahoma City donated more than **\$10,000** Dec. 18, 2017, to Operation Holiday Spirit, a private organization that helps military families in need. Members of OHS are made up primarily of Reservists from the 513th Air Control Group and 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Gene Brown, FSB Federal Market Principal (far left), and Steve Shrum, FSB Chief Financial Officer (far right), stand for a photo with Joe Wade, 507th ARW facility director (center right), and Ralph Hawkins, 513th ACG executive officer (center left), after delivering the donation.

The money will go towards **19** military families through Operation Holiday Spirit, which has raised more than **\$36,000** this year.

507TH ARW SUPPORTS LAIRCM TESTING AT EGLIN AFB

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 507th Air Refueling Wing here returned Dec. 4, 2017, from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, following testing of the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures system recently installed on the aircraft.

The LAIRCM modification is designed to detect and deflect incoming missiles. As of now, the 507th ARW has the only KC-135 in the Department of Defense configured to use the LAIRCM system, according to Maj. Jason Thomas, National Guard Bureau A5 Mobility Modernization Program manager.

The Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve Command work together through the Air National Guard-Air Force Reserve Test Center, also known as AATC, Thomas said.

The primary

mission of AATC is to modernize the Guard and Reserve legacy fleet.

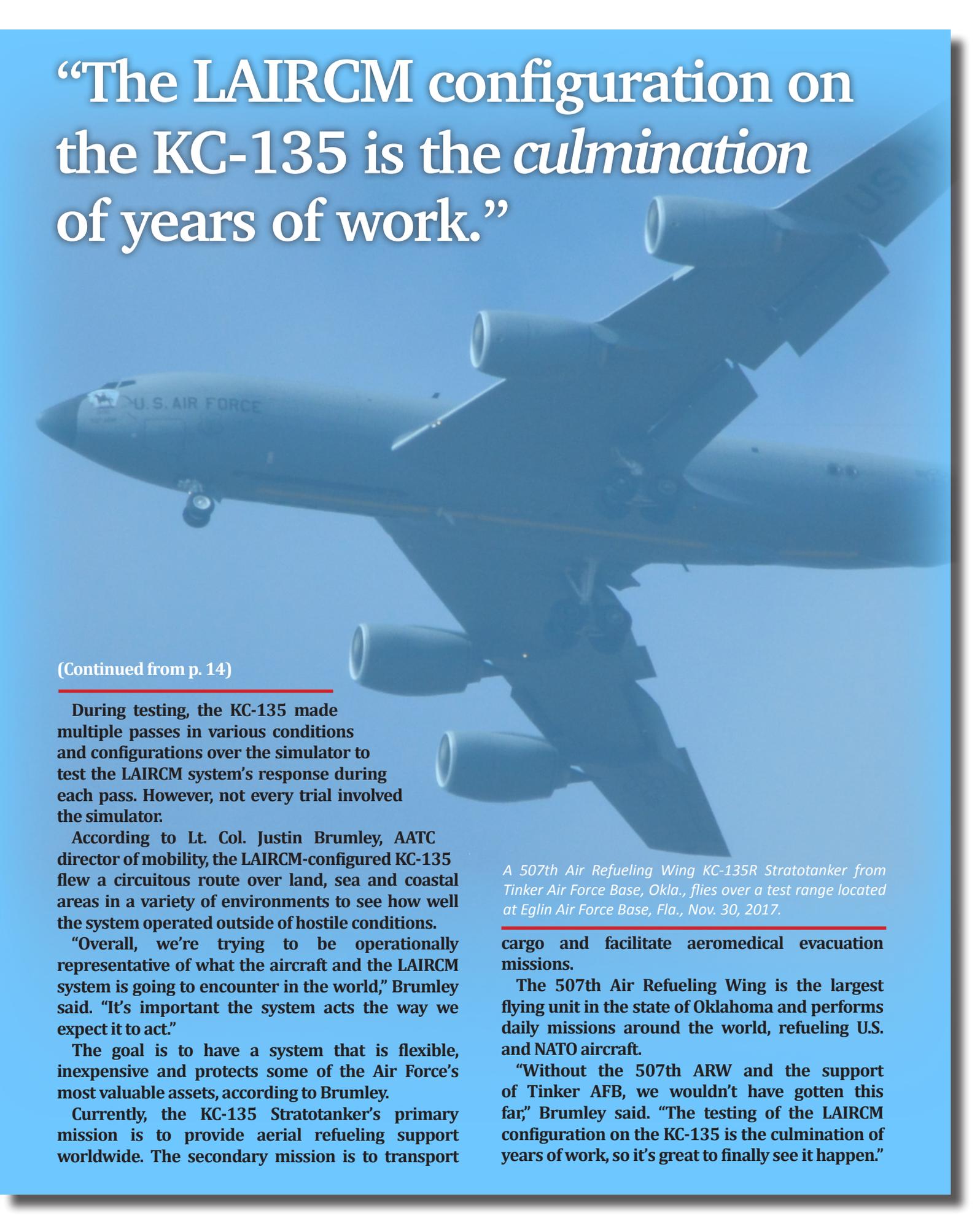
"It's our job to find out what the modern warfighter wants through our Weapons and Tactics Conference," he said. "We reach out to industries so we can find commercial solutions to purchase and then integrate onto our aircraft."

According to Thomas, the LAIRCM-configured KC-135 was flown to Eglin AFB in order to utilize the Multi-Spectral Sea and Land Target Simulator, which is designed to replicate incoming infrared missiles.

"We are integrating LAIRCM with the KC-135 so that the aircraft can provide its own self-protection," Thomas said.

(Continued on p. 15)

A 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., sits on the flight line at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., while a maintenance crew prepares it for flight Nov. 28, 2017.



“The LAIRCM configuration on the KC-135 is the *culmination* of years of work.”

(Continued from p. 14)

During testing, the KC-135 made multiple passes in various conditions and configurations over the simulator to test the LAIRCM system’s response during each pass. However, not every trial involved the simulator.

According to Lt. Col. Justin Brumley, AATC director of mobility, the LAIRCM-configured KC-135 flew a circuitous route over land, sea and coastal areas in a variety of environments to see how well the system operated outside of hostile conditions.

“Overall, we’re trying to be operationally representative of what the aircraft and the LAIRCM system is going to encounter in the world,” Brumley said. “It’s important the system acts the way we expect it to act.”

The goal is to have a system that is flexible, inexpensive and protects some of the Air Force’s most valuable assets, according to Brumley.

Currently, the KC-135 Stratotanker’s primary mission is to provide aerial refueling support worldwide. The secondary mission is to transport

A 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., flies over a test range located at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 30, 2017.

cargo and facilitate aeromedical evacuation missions.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing is the largest flying unit in the state of Oklahoma and performs daily missions around the world, refueling U.S. and NATO aircraft.

“Without the 507th ARW and the support of Tinker AFB, we wouldn’t have gotten this far,” Brumley said. “The testing of the LAIRCM configuration on the KC-135 is the culmination of years of work, so it’s great to finally see it happen.”

A CLOSER

LOOK

1st Lt. Adrian Mack

**507TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS OFFICER**

WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

For 13 years, I was enlisted in the logistics readiness squadron. After six years I switched to aircraft maintenance.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN A MOVIE?

Tony Montana from the movie, "Scarface," because he's a confident and decisive leader who won't take 'no' for an answer.

AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I wanted to be a pediatrician or a teacher because I love to help kids.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

I would like to become a squadron commander.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Taking care of Airmen, because, as prior enlisted, I understand some of the obstacles and challenges maintainers face when it comes to the job.

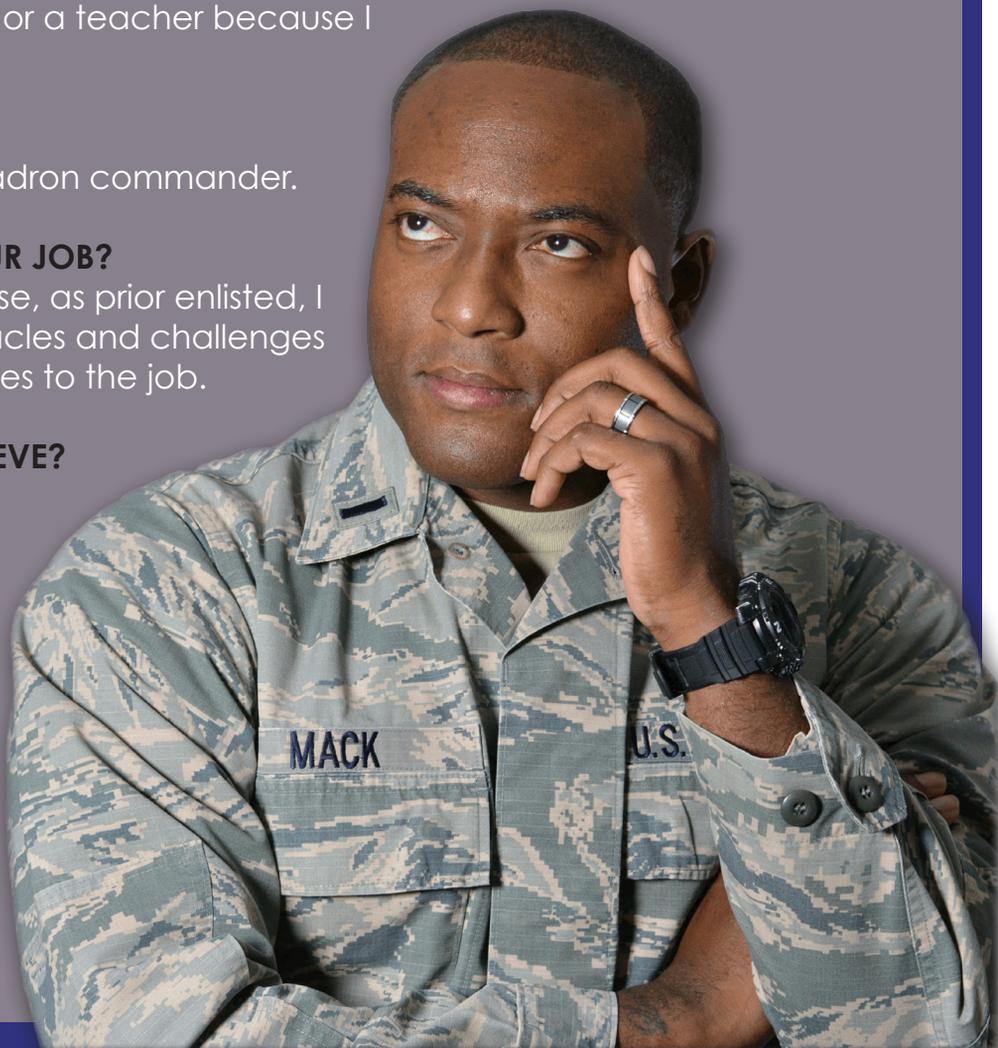
WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

I don't like people who don't take accountability for their actions.

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

[EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION HERE](#)

1st Lt. Adrian Mack stands for a photo Dec. 28, 2017, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)



January PROMOTIONS



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
MALACHI STURLIN, 970 AACs



TECHNICAL SERGEANT
ALEX BAKER, 507 MXS
TREVOR DOCKERY, 507 LRS
MITCHELL MELOT, 507 SFS
HALEY SHERMAN, 513 OSS
ROCKY UNDERWOOD, 507 CES
RORY WITT, 507 CES



STAFF SERGEANT
JORGE CORREA, 507 FSS
PHILLIP CROUCH, 507 MXS
JULIAN HENDERSON, 507 LRS



SENIOR AIRMAN
EVELYN GONZALEZ, 507 MDS
MELISA WALLACE, 507 LRS

WING CELEBRATES 22ND ANNUAL VETERANS ANGEL TREE



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., visit the Norman Veterans Center Dec. 21, 2017, to spread holiday cheer with residents in Norman, Okla. For 22 years, the 507th ARW has sponsored veterans during the holidays as part of the Angel Tree program. This year, 28 veterans received nearly 2,000 dollars in gifts from wing members. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



ROCK SOLID WARRIOR

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

An Airman from the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, was selected as Rock Solid Warrior Dec. 12, 2017, while deployed with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Staff Sgt. Richard Nimakoh-Boadu, 387th Air Expeditionary Squadron reception, staging, onward movement and integration technician was chosen for the award.

The Rock Solid Warrior program is a way to recognize and spotlight the Airmen of the 386th AEW for their positive impact and commitment to the mission.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AIR FORCE?

“I joined because I needed a sense of purpose and wanted to help protect those who can’t protect themselves.”

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL GOALS?

“My professional goals are to keep moving up in rank, cross over to fire protection and get back in school. My personal goals are to take care of myself, open up my own Spanish food truck, live life to the fullest, stay positive and mentally strong.”

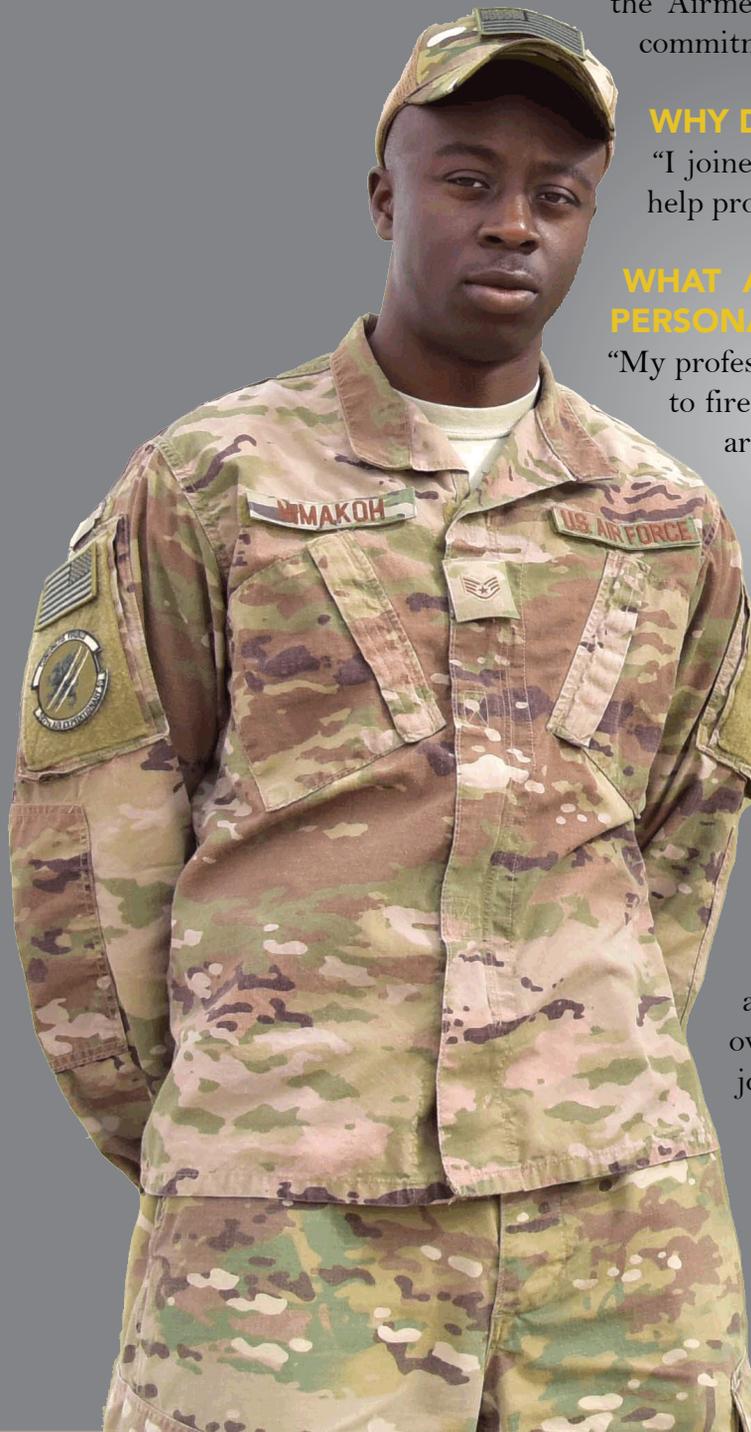
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR MISSION HERE?

“My favorite part of the mission is knowing I am getting members ready to contribute to the fight.”

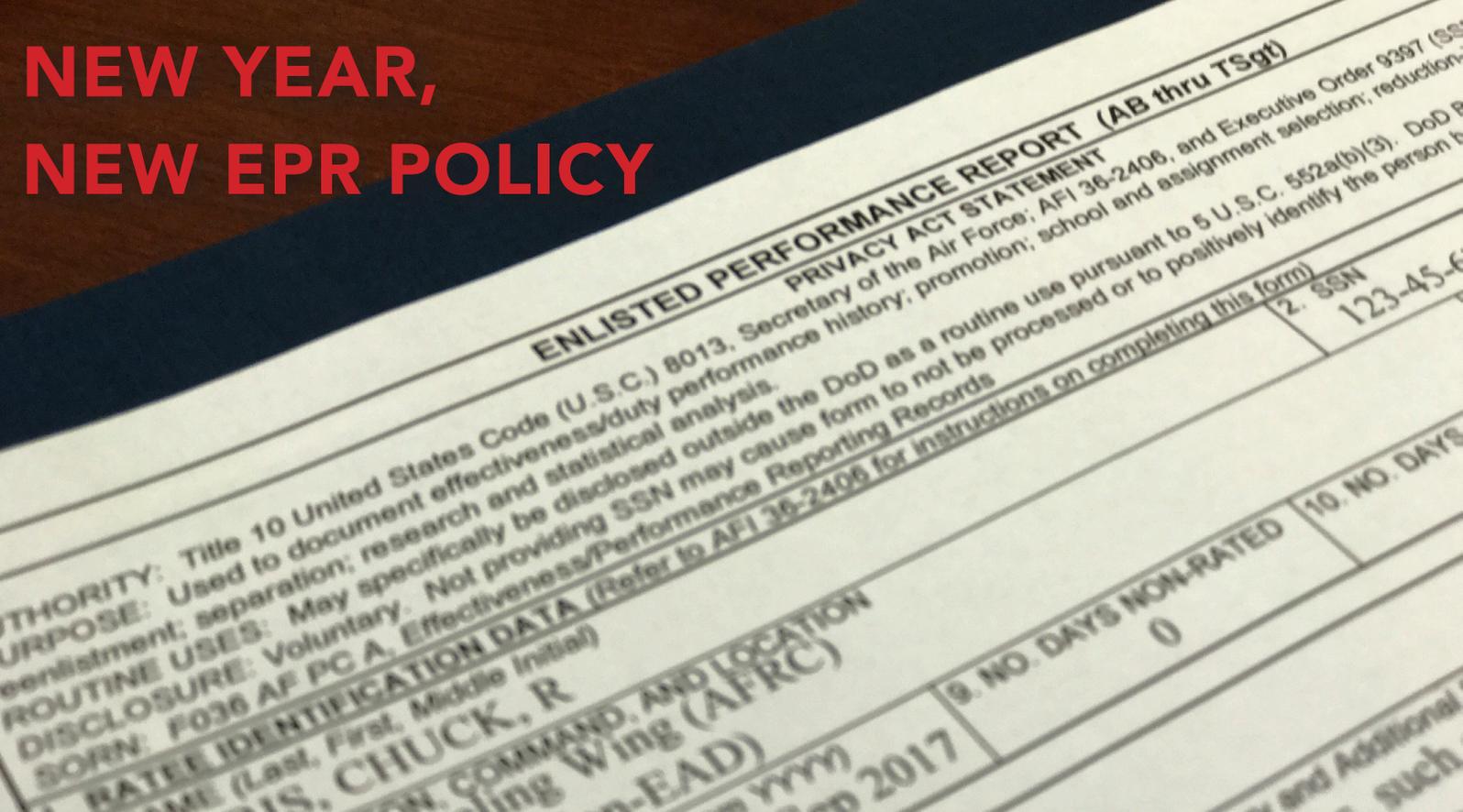
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE HERE AND HOW DO YOU OVERCOME THEM?

“I think the main challenge I’ve faced here is our office is not manned 24/7. So we have members come in and out in the middle of the night or early morning. I overcome it by keeping an open mind, knowing I have a job to do and taking care of my members comes first.”

Staff Sgt. Richard Nimakoh-Boadu. 387th Air Expeditionary Squadron reception, staging, onward movement, and integration technician, poses for a photo Dec. 6, 2017, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. In his spare time, Nimakoah-Boadu enjoys traveling and training others in kickboxing.



NEW YEAR, NEW EPR POLICY



(U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Story by Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials announced Jan. 4, 2018, Enlisted Performance Reports are no longer required for regular Air Force Airmen in the grade of airman first class and below with less than 36 months' Time-In-Service or Air Reserve Component Airmen below the grade of senior airman.

This policy change supports Air Force senior leaders' focus on revitalizing the squadron and saving Airmen time. It is intended to eliminate an unnecessary administrative requirement and empower supervisors, raters and commanders to engage with their Airmen, said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

"While the Air Force values the contributions of all enlisted personnel, the requirement to document performance in a formal evaluation prior to the grade of senior airman is not necessary," said Grosso.

Instead, the Air Force has additional means available to document an Airman's performance and ensure he or she is meeting the training, developmental and experiential skills required to perform as professional Airmen."

Performance feedback and Airmen Comprehensive Assessments are still required. Initial feedback

sessions will occur within 60 days of raters taking over as supervisors and then every 180 days until an EPR occurs.

The removal of EPRs prior to promotion will allow Airmen more time to learn their primary skills and missions before their performance is documented on an EPR, Grosso said.

All active-duty enlisted Airmen will receive their initial evaluation upon reaching their first March 31 Static Close-out Date after either promotion to senior airman, or after completion of a minimum of 36 months' time-in-service, regardless of grade, whichever occurs first. All Air Force Reserve Component enlisted Airmen will receive initial evaluations upon the first March 31 SCOD as a senior airman.

Commanders still retain the option to complete a Directed By Commander evaluation to document substandard performance for those airmen first class and below any time after an Airman reaches 20 months' Time-In-Service. If a Directed By Commander evaluation is written, the Airman will receive a subsequent evaluation the following March 31 SCOD.

More information about the policy change is available at [myPers](#).

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

WING INSPECTION TEAM MEMBER

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Inspection Team is looking for a subject matter expert whose skills, talents and abilities may serve to improve the commander's inspection program.

The 507th ARW WIT is comprised of over 50 subject matter experts who inspect on behalf of the Wing Commander.

The 507th ARW Inspector General Inspections office needs WIT to conduct inspections, providing their technical knowledge and know-how to accomplish more accurate inspection results.

If you are the best of the best and want to make a difference, talk to your commander about joining the Wing Inspection Team and making the 507th Air Refueling Wing stronger. Not only will you be making a difference within your wing, you will also have opportunities to continue learning about the bigger picture of our wing's mission.

There will be a WIT training meeting Sunday, Jan. 7, 2017, at 0800 in the 507th Aircraft Maintenance

Squadron conference room, building 1067. If you are curious about joining the IG subculture, then please attend.

If you have any questions, call the IGI office at 734-4259.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS BROADCAST JOURNALIST

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office is looking for a broadcaste journalist.

Responsible for the recording, documenting and producing videos, Broadcast Journalists represent and communicate the interests of the Air Force. These specialists have a wide array of responsibilities and do everything from writing and editing copy and serving as on-camera announcers to maintaining the archive library to ensure information is saved for future generations.



QUALIFICATIONS

- Traditional Reservist/E-5 slot
- Knowledge of basic communication theory
- Favorable evaluation of a voice audition
- Absence of any speech impediment and ability to read aloud and speak distinctly
- Interview required
- Normal color vision

If you are interested in applying, please contact the Public Affairs office at 734-3078.

INTENTIONAL SAFETY

by Tech. Sgt. Kurt Weisel
507th Air Refueling Wing Safety Office

As we stroll through life, we reach crossroads that are often referred to as good or bad choices. Experience is a wonderful tool to have and, fortunately, the human race has been around for a couple thousand years. So we have some great examples to help us make informed choices.

The quote, “Those who have forgotten history, are condemned to repeat it,” is an idea that echoes through almost every facet of our lives. Our wing safety office is concerned with how you improve your daily choices by integrating lessons learned to ensure you leave work in the same relative condition you arrived in; as well as in your off-duty time.

What does the Wing Safety office do? Why do they bother to send out information?

Safety has three major divisions: Flight, Occupational, and Weapons.

Flight Safety is mainly concerned with aircraft flying operations. As an aircrew member prepares for a mission, they participate in an all-encompassing mission brief, gear check and then a pre-launch briefing at the aircraft with the maintenance personnel responsible for launching the mission. Throughout the sortie, any deviations or mistakes and their solutions are recorded by the crew. After the mission, the entire group debriefs the flight by offering their observations, successes and failures for the group to comment on and learn from. Those lessons are

passed along to other crews fostering the safety mindset that keeps our crews, and those flying with them, safe.

The occupational section is associated with ground safety topics: Is your work environment kept clear of obstructions? Can you safely cook your recent wild game catch over a campfire? Are you practicing archery safely in your free time behind the shop?

In all seriousness though, adhering to Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations is federally mandated. The Air Force at large is legally obligated to keep us safe as we perform our daily jobs. OSHA laws should not be viewed as a nuisance to tie your hands, but rather, they are established based upon historical precedents to keep people safe. Our office ensures the facility you work in is safe, climate controlled and doesn't cause undue stress.

The weapons section is the final section with which we concern ourselves. Now I'm sure many of you wonder how a tanker wing can have

a responsibility with weapons. Well, several support agencies deal with this discipline: Security forces defenders man the perimeter and the gates, aircraft electricians deal with impulse carts, which are electrically activated shotgun shells for fire suppression systems, and lastly, the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron can be tasked with moving explosive cargo.

If I have appreciated anything in taking this position, it is certainly the perspective to be able to see the many different offices and the missions performed to achieve success at the end of the day. Think safe!



(U.S. Air Force graphic/Directorate of Aerospace Safety)

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS: FRENCH ARMED FORCES VISIT OKIES



Members of the French Armed Forces visited with members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and toured a Block 45, KC-135R Stratotanker Dec. 6, 2017. The French delegation learned about the newest KC-135 avionics updates to consider the advantages of the upgrades for the French Air Force's KC-135 aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Reserve RECRUITERS

GET **1** NOW



Senior Master Sgt.
Donald Cantrell
Flight Chief
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-5331
Cell (405) 409-4784



Master Sgt.
Cody Newsom
In-service Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
Cell (719) 243-6709



Master Sgt.
Nickette Hunter
Line Recruiter
Moore, OK
Cell (405) 409-6311



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



Master Sgt.
Brandy Venson
Line/ In-service
Recruiter
Altus, OK
Cell (405) 409-5170



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

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



DOWNLOAD THE
MOBILE APP TODAY
TO START EARNING
REWARDS.



IOS USERS



ANDROID USERS

A Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures system modification pod is attached to the underside of a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., while sitting on the flight line at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 28, 2017. The pod was designed to be attached or removed within approximately 10 minutes by aircraft maintenance crews. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

