

# ON-FINAL



FEBRUARY 2018

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



OKIES GO *HAWAIIAN*  
FOR SENTRY ALOHA

## COVER

### OKIES GO HAWAIIAN FOR SENTRY ALOHA

A 154th Wing Hawaii National Guard F-22 Raptor from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, approaches a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., in preparation for aerial refueling Jan. 22, 2018, in support of Exercise Sentry Aloha in Hawaii.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison

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LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

# OKIES GO HAWAIIAN FOR SENTRY ALOHA

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison



*Crew chiefs from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., Senior Airman Samuel Bryant, 507th Maintenance Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Justin Nichols, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, prepare a KC-135R Stratotanker for flight Jan. 19, 2018, at Kona International Airport, Hawaii.*

**507<sup>th</sup>** Air Refueling Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen flew 10 aerial refueling missions in a KC-135R Stratotanker Jan. 10-24, in support of Exercise Sentry Aloha, hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Sentry Aloha is an ongoing series of combat exercises conducted by the HIANG several times a year. This iteration



involved more than 900 personnel and nearly 40 aircraft from five other states. The 154th Wing is the largest Air National Guard wing in the U.S.

Other visiting units included E-3 Sentry support from the 513th Air Control Group, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, F-16 Falcons from the 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska, and F-15 Eagles from the 144th FW, Fresno Air National Guard Base, California.

*(Continued on next page)*

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According to 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, Staff Sgt. Zachary Ludwig, the 507th ARW KC-135R Stratotanker has refueled most of these aircraft types during Sentry Aloha, but success didn't come without a few challenges.

"We've had a couple of minor maintenance issues," Ludwig said. "But as a team, we come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, so we were able to fix the problems with minimal impact to the mission."

507th ARW Reserve Citizen Airmen also performed aerial refueling with F-22 Raptors from the 199th Fighter Squadron, part of the 154th Wing, and the 19th Fighter Squadron, 15th Wing, JBPHH, Hawaii.

According to 465th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135R pilot, 1st Lt. Brenden Valenti, from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, participating in the exercise provided real-world training for all Airmen.

*RIGHT: A 354th Fighter Wing F-16 Fighting Falcon from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, approaches the boom of a KC-135R Stratotanker Jan. 24, 2018, in preparation for aerial refueling during Exercise Sentry Aloha in Hawaii.*

"Anytime we go support an exercise or another unit outside of Oklahoma, the flight protocols are slightly different," he said. "The last thing we want is for certain skill sets to atrophy, so being here has given invaluable experience to keep everyone capable and ready."

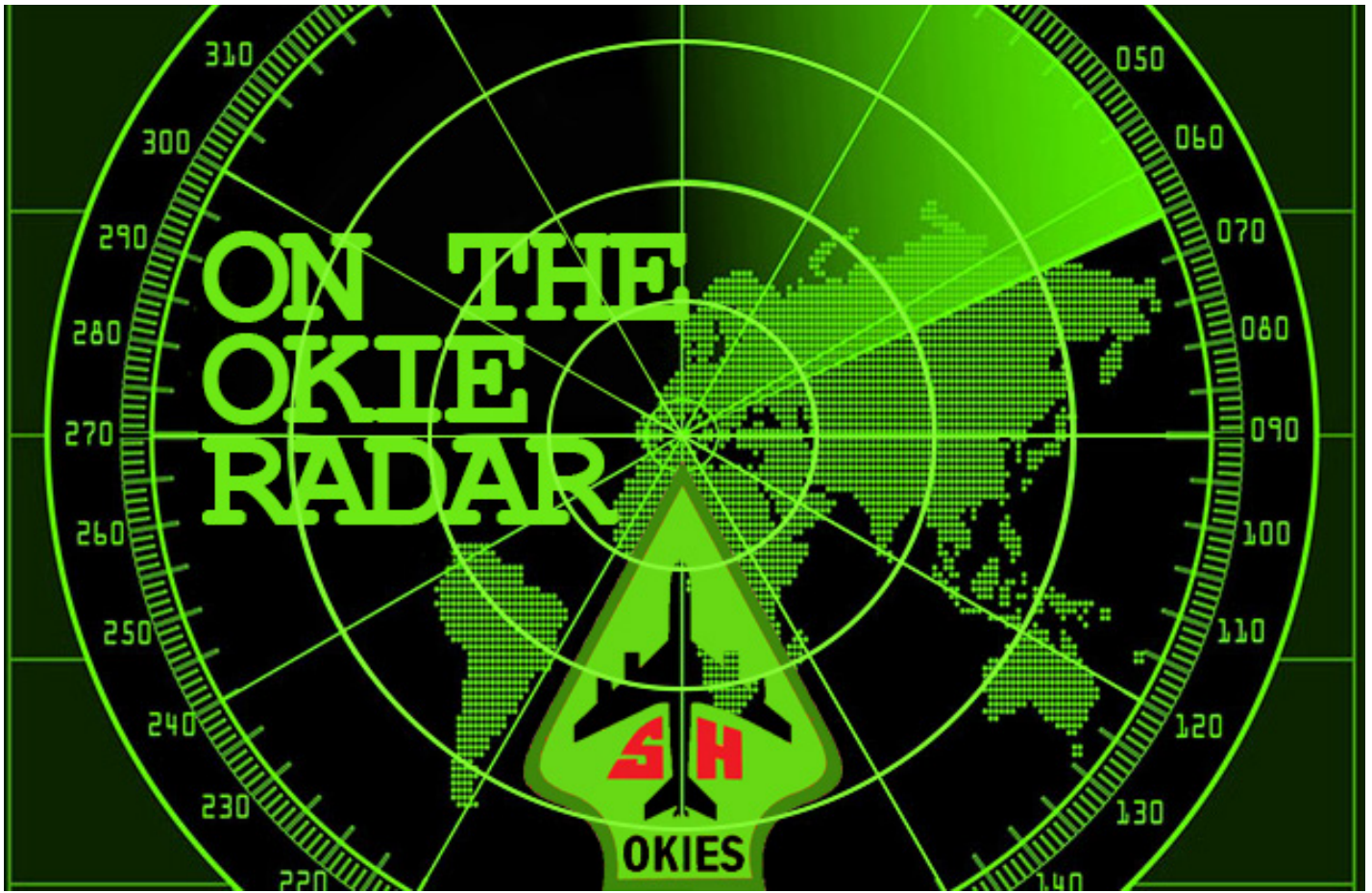
Valenti also said that Sentry Aloha allowed different organizations the opportunity to interact.

"We had active duty, Guard and Reserve all working together to support the mission," Valenti said. "And for new Airmen like me, it gives us a chance to see how the lines disappear in order to get the job done. We're all Airmen and it's one team, one fight."

The other participating units were the 552nd Air Control Wing, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; 185th ARW, Colonel Bud Day Field, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa; and the 149th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Kelly Field Annex, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.



*ABOVE: Chief Master Sgt. Steven Robinson, 465th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., monitors fuel delivery on a KC-135R Stratotanker Jan. 22, 2018, Hawaii. RIGHT: Two 154th Wing Hawaii National Guard F-22 Raptors from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, fly alongside a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., Jan. 22, 2018, Hawaii.*



**FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 2-4**  
**(FEB. 2 WILL BE ANNUAL TOUR)**  
 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET @ 1800 - FEB. 3  
 SHERATON REED CONFERENCE CENTER

COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 - FEB. 4  
 BASE THEATER

**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

**Do you have an event to add?**  
[Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:507arw.pa2@us.af.mil)

**MAY UTA MAY 5-6**

**JUNE UTA JUNE 2-3**

**JULY UTA JULY 14-15 (if needed)**  
 CIV OF QTR DUE - JULY 15

**AUGUST UTA AUG. 4-5**

**SEPTEMBER UTA SEP. 8-9**

**Do you have an event to add?**  
[Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:507arw.pa2@us.af.mil)



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## CIVILIAN RESERVE CITIZEN AIRMEN FURLOUGHED

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*During a lapse of appropriations, some civilians in the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., received furlough paperwork Jan 22, 2018.*

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs  
*Story and graphic by LAUREN GLEASON*

**C**ivilian Reserve Citizen Airmen in the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base were furloughed Jan. 22 following a government shutdown Jan. 20 due to a lapse in appropriations.

The furlough ended on the evening of Jan. 22, when President Trump signed a short-term continuing resolution. The CR temporarily funds the government through Feb. 8. The bill stated “employees furloughed as a result of any lapse in appropriations which begins on or about January 20, 2018, shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation, for the period of such lapse in appropriations, as soon as practicable after such lapse in appropriations ends.”

A minimum number of employees needed to accomplish mission activities necessary to national security were excepted from the furlough. Excepted members received notification through their respective chains of command.

Most Air Reserve Technicians were excepted from the furlough to support our national security, meaning most ARTs reported to work and support-

ed the mission as usual. ARTs were notified by their supervisors if they were furloughed.

“We understand that a furlough is distressing to our civilian teammates,” Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th ARW commander said. “Please continue to be good wingmen and help each other through these uncertain times.”

According to AFRC, a lack of a budget or continuing resolution will force another furlough, creating serious uncertainty and disruptive financial effects on an already stressed workforce of thousands of civilian Reserve Citizen Airmen.

In the event of another shutdown, group leadership will issue letters to employees subject to the furlough with instructions on what to expect and procedures for returning to work once the shutdown ends. If you are furloughed, stay up to date with the news. Your leadership will contact you regarding when to return to work. Updates will be posted on Facebook and Twitter.

*(Continued online)*

*“Please continue to be good wingmen  
and help each other through  
these uncertain times.”*

*Click here for the full story*

A CLOSER

LOOK

Master Sgt. Shannon McNelley

35TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

RADIO FREQUENCY TRANSMISSIONS SYSTEMS CRAFTSMAN

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

I tried out for American Gladiator: Armed Forces edition. I didn't make it, but I tried out.

**WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?**

I love fast cars and landscaping, because I like the adrenaline and I love a nice looking yard. I actually bought a super charged military edition Roush Mustang while I was overseas.

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

I wanted to be a pilot, because my father was career Air Force.

**WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?**

I would like to make senior before I retire and possibly go on one more deployment.

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

I love the troubleshooting and problem solving, because if one way doesn't work then we can always find another way.

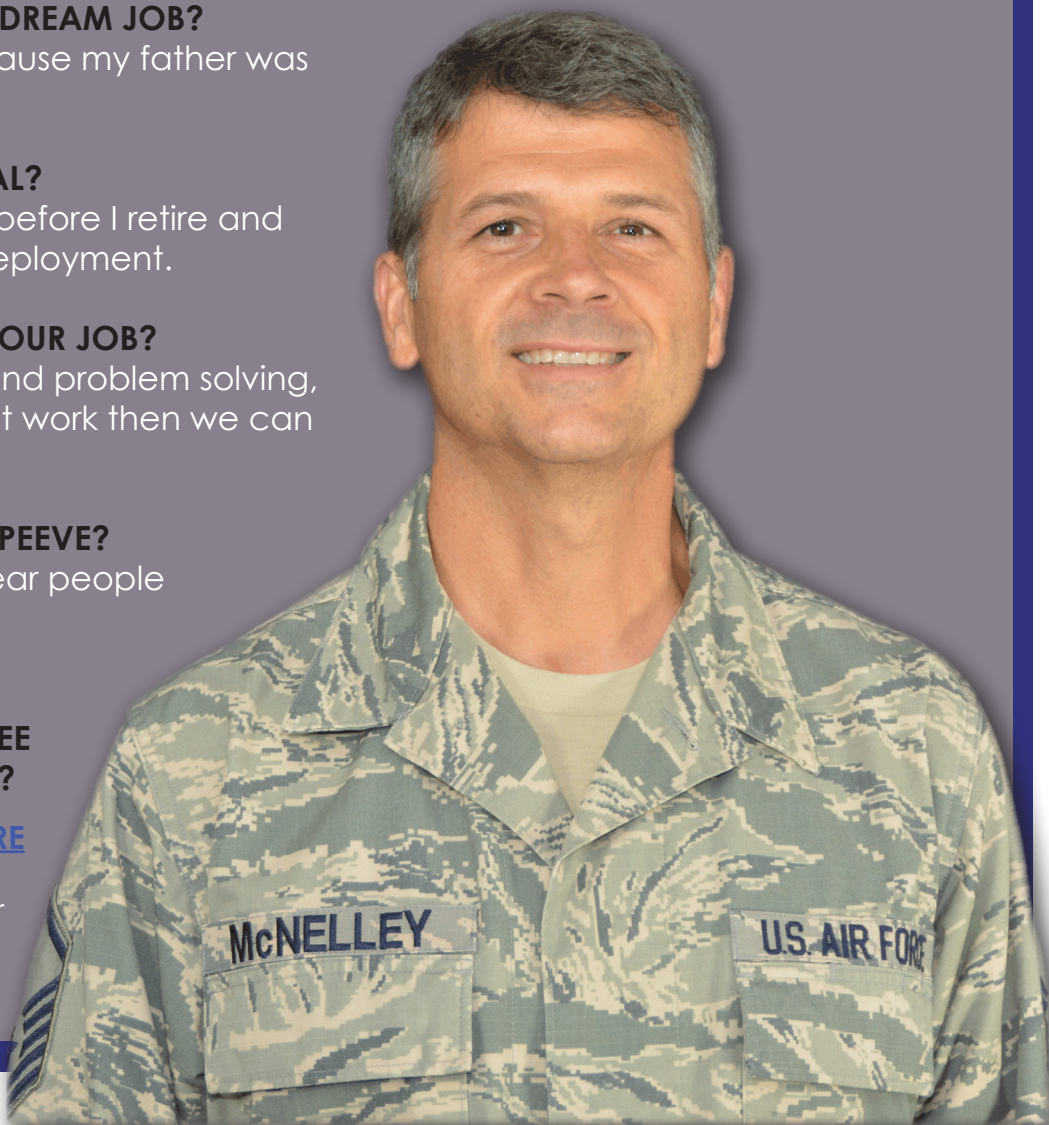
**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?**

I don't like being able to hear people chew their food.

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

[EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION HERE](#)

*Master Sgt. Shannon McNelley stands for a photo Jan. 30, 2018, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)*





**W**ith the holidays behind us, we've all got a lot on our minds. Incidents at work tend to increase during times leading up to holiday breaks and upon returning; as people rush to get out the door and do not always have their minds on the job at hand. Many folks may not have their minds on safety, so be on the lookout for those who aren't paying attention. Additionally, *slow down* and don't let it happen to you— during the UTA, or at your civilian jobs.

In addition, all Airmen are encouraged to take a proactive safety interest in unsafe winter weather conditions, such as cold temperatures and ice. Take steps to stay informed of the local weather to make proper preparations and operational risk management decisions.

Don't become a statistic:

## SLOW DOWN LOOK AROUND STAY READY

by Lt. Col. Kenneth Joseph  
507th Civil Engineer Squadron commander

### *Look around,*

plan ahead and drive cautiously. Avoid driving when tired and never drink and drive.

This year, I encourage each of you to use the tools available to ensure our readiness; ARCNet and AEFOnline. My expectation is that every one of you log into these sites and assess your own readiness at least once a month. I recommend starting Saturday of the February UTA if you have not already.

### *Stay ready.*

Ensure you know when you are due and take control of your own readiness. Let's start this year with a bang; by having all of our members compliant and ready in Individual Medical Readiness, fitness, training and all training stats.

Now let's all have a great UTA, then we can move on to having a safe start to 2018.



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

# February PROMOTIONS



## MASTER SERGEANT

HECTOR FLORES, 507 SFS



## TECHNICAL SERGEANT

TRAVIS MESKE, 507 CES  
ROBERT MAYHEW, 507 SFS  
RANDY JACKSON, 507 SFS



## STAFF SERGEANT

TEQUINA FERNANDEZ, 507 CES  
CENECIA BOOKER, 507 SFS  
VIOLET DUNCAN, 507 SFS  
DALLAS SMITH, 507 AMXS  
KAYCEE GRAHAM, 507 AMXS  
NIA FENNELL, 507 FSS



## SENIOR AIRMAN

ONAN DUMAS, 513 MXS  
AUSTIN WATLINGTON, 513 AMXS  
STEPHEN ELDER, 507 CES  
KIONA ROLLINS MINK, 507 MDS  
DEMETRIS LOFTON, 507 LRS  
CALEB MCCAIN, 507 MDS



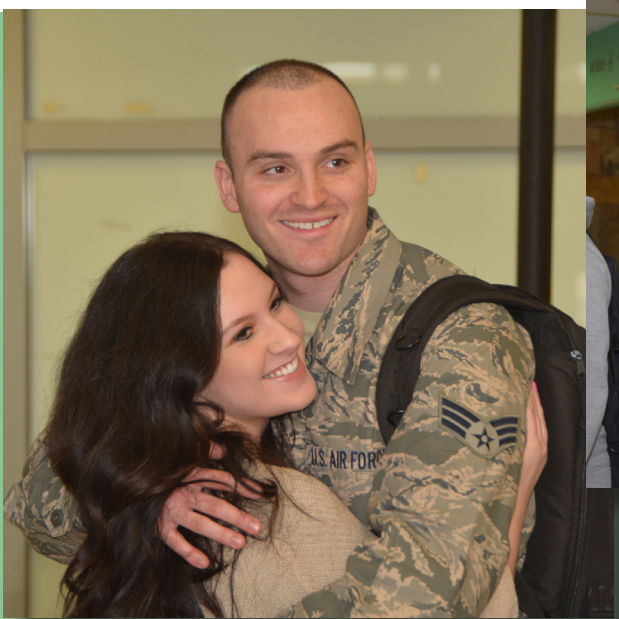
## AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

SAMUEL MURIUKI, 72 APS

# WELCOME HOME, DEPLOYERS

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

**R**eservists with the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., return home after deployment Jan. 17-29, at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. Welcome home, Okies!





Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

# JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 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.

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



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS BROADCAST JOURNALIST

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

Responsible for 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 copy editing 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.

# NEW BEGINNINGS

LT. COL. CLIFF VAUGHN, 465TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON COMMANDER, *RETIRES* AFTER 29 YEARS IN THE AIR FORCE. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**



Lt. Col. Cliff Vaughn, 465th Air Refueling Squadron commander, participates in a retirement ceremony Jan. 6, 2018, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., after 29 years of service. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Grady Epperly)

Deanna Vaughn, wife of Lt. Col. Cliff Vaughn, 465th Air Refueling Squadron commander, marshalls in a KC-135R Stratotanker piloted by her husband after his last flight with the Air Force Jan. 7, 2018, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Cliff Vaughn served in the Air Force for 29 years. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)



Lt. Col. Cliff Vaughn, 465th Air Refueling Squadron commander, is doused with water following his final flight with the U.S. Air Force Jan. 7, 2018, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

# Reserve RECRUITERS

GET **1** NOW



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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

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# TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CHANGES

Story courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

Recent policy changes are making it easier for Air Force Reservists to meet mandatory Transition Assistance Program requirements.

“All Reservists on orders for 180 consecutive days or more are congressionally mandated to complete transition requirements before their orders end,” said Mandie Holovach, Air Force Reserve Command’s Transition Assistance Program manager.

The mandatory transition requirements are to attend a pre-separation briefing, a transition Goals, Plans, Success (GPS) workshop, a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing and a capstone event.

“There were a lot of people who spoke up about the mandatory TAP requirements and their voices have been heard,” Holovach said. “Within the past year, there have been some policy changes that make it easier for Reservists to complete their mandatory requirements.”

There are new exemptions in place for the pre-separation briefing and the VA benefits briefing.

If a member has completed a pre-separation briefing within the last five years, he or she does not have to complete another pre-separation briefing.

“Before this exemption was announced, the pre-separation briefing was only good for one year, which meant each time the member came off orders, he or she would have to accomplish another briefing,” Holovach said.

A second exemption stipulates that if a member has completed a VA benefits briefing within the last three years, he or she does not need to re-accomplish another VA benefits briefing.

The three-day Department of Labor workshop that is held during the five-day transition GPS workshop is a mandatory requirement for all Reservists.

However, if a member has a full-time job, is registered in a full-time higher education program

or has been to the Department of Labor workshop previously, the member is exempt from attending another Labor Department workshop.

In addition to these exemptions, TAP officials have made completing the mandatory requirements easier by providing members a virtual option for completing the transition GPS workshop and VA benefits briefing.

“Members are welcome to attend at their local Airman and Family Readiness office in person or virtually through the Joint Knowledge Online website,” Holovach said.

Reservists can also complete the pre-separation briefing in person or virtually through YouTube video.

The Transition Assistance Program helps service members and their families successfully navigate through the transition process by providing them with information about the transition services, benefits and resources available to them.

The workshop program also provides members with job search skills, tips on resume writing, networking, interviewing and labor market research. There are even optional two-day tracks available for service members and their dependents, including an entrepreneur training track, a higher education track and a career technical training track.

TAP is not just a program focused on employment. It is an asset to connect members and their families to critical benefits and entitlements. And with the current exemptions, it can be completed within one day.

For more information on TAP, Reservists may contact their local Airman and Family Readiness office or visit <https://afrc.eim.us.af.mil/sites/A1/A1R/A1RY/SitePages/TAP.aspx>. Virtual TAP courses are available at <http://jko.jfcom.mil/>.



# Chapel Services



Ch. (Lt. Col.) Dwight Magnus, 507th Air Refueling Wing Chaplain, leads an invocation May 15, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

## UTA Weekends

### Protestant Service:

**Sunday @ 0730 Bldg. 1056  
(970 AACS Auditorium)**

### Catholic Mass:

**Sunday @ 0730 Bldg. 1059  
(465 ARS Briefing Room)**

**Contact the 507th ARW Chapel Staff at 734-1912. The office is located in Bldg. 1043, Rm. 4**



Your Tinker Center of Religious Excellence stands ready to develop and nourish your spiritual fitness. Our team is passionate, well-trained and equipped to meet your needs. We have a variety of great opportunities right here on base for you. There is a place for you here at Tinker Chapel. Come connect with us!



### CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL FITNESS

#### WEEKLY MASS

Mon, Wed, Fri	1130
Saturday	1700
Sunday	0900

#### CONFESSION

Saturday	1530-1630 (or by appt)
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#### WEEKLY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monday	1900 (Retreat in Daily Life)
Thursday	1300 (Ladies Rosary Guild)
Friday	0930 (CWOC, first Friday)
Sunday	1000 (Pre-baptism, last Sunday)
Sunday	1030 (Pre-K-12th Class)

### PROTESTANT SPIRITUAL FITNESS

#### SUNDAY

Sunday School	0930
Worship Service	1100
Wee Church	0930/1100 (6 mo-3yrs)
Children's Church	1100 (4 yrs-11 yrs)

#### WEDNESDAY

Community Dinner	1800 (Sep-May)
Men's Bible Study	1900
Women's Bible Study	1900
Youth of the Chapel	1900 (6-12 grade)
Children of the Chapel	1900 (4yrs-11yrs)
Wee Church	1900 (6 mo-3yrs)

**CONTACT US @ 405-734-2111**

**GLORIFYING GOD. SERVING AIRMEN. PRODUCING EXCELLENCE.**



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ARW

*A 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., is prepared for flight on the Kona International Airport flightline in Hawaii, Jan. 19, 2018. The 507th ARW's air and maintenance crews flew the KC-135R to Hawaii in direct support of Exercise Sentry Aloha. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)*