

AUGUST 2018

ON-FINAL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

RIMPAC EDITION

Reserve unit sends 'A-team'



COVER

RESERVE UNIT SENDS 'A-TEAM' TO RIMPAC

A 154th Wing Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 Raptor pilot from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, performs in-flight refueling with a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana, off the coast of Hawaii during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise July 17, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

4-6

UPDATE: POST 9/11 GI BILL 8

COMMENTARY:
EFFECTIVE LEADERS EMBRACE CHANGE 12

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 15

AFI 36-2903: NEW RULES TO SERVE BY 19

THIS MONTH

Family Day and Car Show 7

AFRC Safety Note 9

On the Okie Radar 10

A Closer Look:
Staff Sgt. Krystal Wolfe 11

August Promotions 13

9/11 and POW-MIA
Memorial Run-Ruck-Walk 14

Job Announcement: WIT Member 16

Alpha Warrior Battle Event 17

Recruiting Corner 18



1 9 4 8 - 2 0 1 8
RESERVE
WINGS OF HERITAGE, SHAPING THE FUTURE

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LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

Reserve unit sends 'A-team' to RIMPAC

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison



The 507th Air Refueling Wing from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, sent a team of more than 100 Reserve Citizen Airmen and four KC-135R Stratotankers to Hawaii, June 27 to Aug. 2, in support of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

The team consisted primarily of pilots, boom operators and maintainers, but also included a small support cadre of administration, medical, life support, intelligence, squadron aviation resource management and communication technicians.

The 507th Operations Group commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth Humphrey, explained that outside of a deployment, RIMPAC offers one of the best controlled training opportunities for a tanker unit and allows for unit personnel to gain valuable leadership experience.

“Training includes getting out of town with

a large number of personnel to support tanker operations, setting up a working facility and flying missions in a joint service, international environment,” Humphrey said. “This type of exercise harkens back to the past when we, as a single wing, deployed en masse to a location and operated.”

The 507th ARW maximized RIMPAC as a training opportunity by rotating personnel and aircraft halfway through the exercise, resulting in two cycles of Airmen attaining an away-from-home-station experience. By July 30, 507th ARW’s RIMPAC team offloaded 1.9 million pounds of fuel and flew more than 147 hours, with more to go until the end of the exercise.

According to Humphrey, the dialogue and experience received at RIMPAC go far beyond normal training for operations and maintenance

[Continued on next page](#)

Two U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets from Carrier Air Wing Two, assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), fly over the Pacific Ocean alongside a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, while participating in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 10, 2018.

Airmen. 507th ARW personnel had the chance to work alongside multi-national partners from across the Pacific Rim, members of the U.S. military's sister services and Airmen from different Air Reserve Component units.

Twenty-five nations, 46 ships and five submarines, and about 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise; providing a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants to ensure the safety of sea lanes and security of the world's oceans.

Humphrey said that, as in previous years, the 507th ARW filled the role as the lead tanker unit in RIMPAC; combining Air Force active duty and reserve personnel from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana, and the 507th ARW's geographically separated unit, the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron from Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

"The comradery that comes out of working long hours and executing our assigned mission with multiple units stands out as one of the best parts of RIMPAC," he said. "I've always been a proponent of the idea that unit cohesion in an increased operations tempo goes a long way in improving mission effectiveness and

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hardy, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, rolls a fire extinguisher into place near a 97th Air Mobility Wing KC-135 Stratotanker from Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise July 16, 2018.



Staff Sgt. Donnie Walters, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, marshalls in a 97th Air Mobility Wing KC-135 Stratotanker from Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise July 16, 2018.

future retention. RIMPAC gives us an opportunity to do just that."

However, the process of building unit cohesion sometimes comes with a little competition.

507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Corey Still, who has attended almost every RIMPAC since 2004, explained that maintainers keep track of how often each unit's KC-135s fly.

Maintainers take ownership of their aircraft, so it makes a small statement when one is grounded for maintenance, Still said.

Despite the friendly competitiveness, maintainers set those feelings aside in order to help crews from other units get their issues resolved.

"It's a team effort," he said. "Whenever something breaks, maintainers from all the tanker units here will go out and combine their expertise in order to get that

aircraft back up in the air. At the end of the day, we're all one team with the same goal."

Still explained that together they have to successfully maintain six KC-135s in support of aerial refueling to Navy, Air Force and coalition partners to help ensure the requirements of the exercise are met.

"The Navy determines how many KC-135s they need for RIMPAC and it's a testament to the 507th ARW that we keep getting invited back every two years," he said.

According to Still, it's likely the 507th will be invited back for the next exercise, however this is his last RIMPAC with the unit as he's been selected to fill a chief master sergeant's position at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

Still said that he hates to leave the Okies, but couldn't have asked for a better send-off than going to RIMPAC one last time with the Airmen of the 507th ARW.



Master Sgt. Chris Read, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, performs post-flight maintenance on a 434th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana, during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 16, 2018.



A U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet refuels over the Pacific Ocean from a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 10, 2018.

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 8TH

1100-1530 - HANGAR 1030

UPDATE

Story by Department of Defense News



(U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Luis Loza Gutierrez)

The Department of Defense issued a change to its policy on the transfer by service members in the uniformed services of Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to eligible family member recipients.

Effective one year from the date of this change, eligibility to transfer those benefits will be limited to service members with less than 16 years of total active-duty or selected reserve service, as applicable.

Previously, there were no restrictions on when a service member could transfer educational benefits to their family members. The provision that requires a service member to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged in the policy.

“After a thorough review of the policy, we saw a need to focus on retention in a time of increased growth of the armed forces,” said Stephanie Miller, director of accessions policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. “This change continues to allow career service members that

earned this benefit to share it with their family members while they continue to serve.”

This change is an important step to preserve the distinction of transferability as a retention incentive, she added.

If service members fail to fulfill their service obligation because of a “force shaping” event -- such as officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion or enlisted personnel involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, such as high year of tenure -- the change will allow them to retain their eligibility to transfer education benefits even if they haven’t served the entirety of their obligated service commitment through no fault of their own.

All approvals for transferability continue to require a four-year commitment in the armed forces and, more importantly, the member must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of election, officials said.



Air Force Reserve Command

August 2018

Safety Note

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

There's more to riding a motorcycle than making it go!!!! When operating a motorcycle you must always be vigilant. Always drive for the other guy, even when there is no one there; this could be a life saving technique. Helmets are required to be worn by all military personnel and AF civilians performing duty on or off the installation. Helmets are also required to be certified to meet current standards of the country you are riding in.

“PROTECT YOUR HEAD! Don't End Up Dead”



KAYAK SAFETY

People like kayaking because it is fun. What makes it fun? That depends on the type of kayaking the person enjoys. You can kayak to sightsee, for the rush as in whitewater kayaking, or fishing. What ever the reason you should always be prepared for the unexpected accident. The best way to prepare yourself for the unexpected is being aware of the risk. If you are aware of the risk it's more manageable.

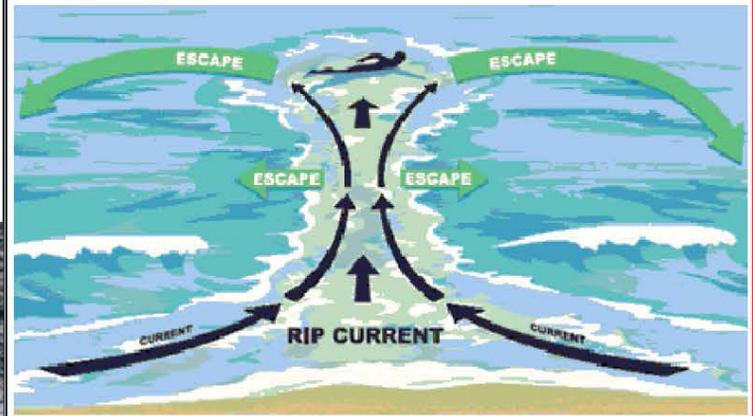


Welcome Back



WATER SAFETY

What's the best way to fight the heat? Water. On a hot day nothing is better than a trip to the beach. But beware of the rip currents. These are powerful currents of water flowing from the shore. Weather doesn't have to be bad in the area you are visiting to experience rip currents. When you get to the beach ask about the local conditions. If you get caught in a rip current try not to panic and swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current. Once you are free, swim toward the shore.



MISHAPS UPDATE

So far, this summer the Air Force has experienced 50 motor vehicles mishaps. Forty-three were lost workdays, one serious injury and four were fatal.



AUGUST UTA AUG. 4-5

GREEN DOT TRAINING - AUG. 4
HILL CONFERENCE CENTER @ 1300

507 ARW COMMANDER'S CALL - AUG. 5
BASE THEATER @ 1500

GREEN DOT TRAINING - AUG. 5
HILL CONFERENCE CENTER @ 0900

ALPHA WARRIOR BATTLE RIG EVENT - AUG. 20-21
GERRITY FITNESS CENTER

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY CELEBRATION - AUG. 31
HILL CONFERENCE CENTER @ 0900-1500

SEPTEMBER UTA SEP. 8-9

FAMILY DAY - SEP. 8
HANGAR 1030 @ 1100

9/11 & POW/MIA MEMORIAL 5K OR 2K - SEP. 14
ALS SOCCER FIELD @ 0700

SEPTEMBER (CONTINUED)

9TH ANNUAL OKIE SILVER SQUADRON REUNION
SEP. 28-29

-REUNION BBQ BUFFET DINNER - SEP. 28
HANGAR 1030 @ 1700

-OKIE BRUNCH - SEP. 29
DEL CITY VFW/AMERICAN LEGION @ 0800

-BANQUET DINNER - SEP. 29
TINKER CLUB @ 1700

OCTOBER UTA OCT. 13-14

CIV OF QTR DUE - OCT. 15

NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 3-4

GLOBAL THUNDER

OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT - NOV. 30
DEL CITY AMERICAN LEGION/VFW @ 1800

DECEMBER UTA DEC. 1-2

Do you have an event to add?

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

A CLOSER

LOOK

Staff Sgt. Krystal Wolfe

**507TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON
COMMAND SUPPORT STAFF**

WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

In 2009, I graduated high school two years early at 16 years old.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE MILITARY?

I started my career in 2012. I was young mom and I wanted better for myself and my son.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Hearing “thank you” from my cops for making sure they’re taken care of.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

Invasion of my personal bubble.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

After I become a military training instructor, my ultimate career goal is to make Chief Master Sergeant.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

For fun I enjoy trying new places to eat, working out, and traveling.



Staff Sgt. Krystal Wolfe stands for a photograph July 30, 2018, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Gleason)

Commentary

Effective Leaders Embrace Change

By Lt. Col. Kimberly Howerton
507th Air Refueling Wing Process Manager

There is a quote from a wonderful first grade teacher I worked with for several years who encouraged her students to attempt tasks that they found challenging. She wanted to teach them that it is better to try and fail than to never attempt anything.

“If you can’t make a mistake, you can’t make anything,” she would say.

With these simple words, she challenged her first-grade students to boldly step out into the world.

At first, it may sound like a negative phrase, but for the students of first grade teacher, Ms. Haynes, it was inspiring. It was the voice of reassurance.

In 2017, squadron revitalization teams visited Air Force bases to spread the word that the Air Force needed to be rebuilt from the bottom up. I felt that our leadership was taking a page from Ms. Haynes’ book, because Airmen soon responded with suggestions on how to improve readiness and lethality.

Everyone was asked to step out, take a risk, share ideas and express concerns—to be an agent of change.

It is exciting for all Airmen to see how leadership seeks to improve and innovate our capabilities, readiness and lethality.

Continuous Process Improvement is structured to improve and innovate our processes; and it’s in constant motion around us.

For instance, assembly line workers rotate jobs at intervals, which serves two purposes: One, it keeps the individual worker from developing repetitive motion injuries and reduces mistakes, and two, swapping out regularly prevents complacency and keeps them actively engaged.

Too often Airmen become comfortable with



(Courtesy U.S. Air Force graphic)

completing tasks and processes “the way we’ve always done it.” Unfortunately, repetition can lull the most dedicated Airman into complacency.

Leaders must empower Airmen to seek innovative ways to complete tasks, support process improvement and update work areas and equipment in order to accomplish the mission.

Having experienced the Air Force from pre-computer and Internet days, I’ve seen the benefits of accepting and embracing change.

I would challenge leaders at all levels to look at processes and begin asking these questions:

When was the last time we reviewed our processes?

Did we consider the needs of our customers and our Airmen?

Do we incorporate new methods and techniques?

Often times, we brush off new equipment, technologies, innovations and even younger Airmen with fresh ideas because we don’t want, or feel the need, to change.

Leaders seek change. It is only when we open ourselves to it that we lead the force.

Our Air Force Reserve units have a continuous process improvement practitioner to help leaders at all levels bring positive change. Be a leader and seek them out today.

August

PROMOTIONS



SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT
FABIAN BECERRA, 507 CES



MASTER SERGEANT
JESS COX, 970 AACS
ALLAN SMITH, 507 MXS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT
GARETH BROOKS, 72 APS
PAUL STRAILY, 513 AMXS
DONALD WALTERS, 507 MXG
EDDIE JACKSON, 507 MDS
TALANDA THOMPSON, 507 FSS



STAFF SERGEANT
LIZBETH, KOWALSKI, 513 OSS
JARRETT TALBOTT, 507 MXG
MISTY STRATTON, 513 ACG
CHARLES NJARAMBA, 507 LRS



SENIOR AIRMAN
JOHNNY KHENG, 72APS
ANDY PEREZ, 72 APS
BROOKS KEESEE, 513 OSS
CODY CRABB, 513 MXS
ASHLEY PATRICK, 507 LRS



AIRMAN
MALAYA HOLMAN, 507 MDS

Team Tinker Presents:

NEVER
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9.11.01

9/11 & POW-MIA Memorial
5K or 2K Run/Ruck/Walk

Airman Leadership School Field
September 14, 2018
0700-0900



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14 // ON FINAL

August 26 is WOMENS EQUALITY DAY

Story by Master Sgt. Chris Hymes
507th Air Refueling Wing
Equal Opportunity Office



(U.S. Air Force graphic by Steve Thompson)

Women's Equality Day is celebrated in the United States on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States' Constitution.

This amendment granted women the right to vote for the first time and was a result of the women's suffrage movement. Although the amendment was first introduced in the Congress in 1878, it wasn't until May of 1919 when two-thirds of the Congress voted in favor of the amendment and it was sent to the states for ratification.

Women's Equality Day was first celebrated in 1971 after the Congress passed a resolution to mark the occasion annually. The purpose behind the creation of this holiday was to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in society and to recognize the hard work and sacrifices made by the pioneers in the suffrage movement.

To commemorate this special occasion, the

507th Air Refueling Wing's Equal Opportunity Office will be hosting a day of celebration from 0900-1500, August 31, 2018, at the Hill Conference Center. The tentative documentary schedule is as follows:

- 'Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony'--
- 'One Woman, One Vote'--
- 'Iron Jawed Angels'--
- 'Miss Representation' (*adult language*)--

There is also a voter registration drive from 0900-1500. Please come by and fill out a registration form if:

- (a) You are a US citizen, Oklahoma resident and at least 18 years old (*also eligible if turning 18 prior to November 6*)
- (b) You need to change your name or address since you last registered, or
- (c) You wish to change your political affiliation

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

WING INSPECTION TEAM MEMBER

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Inspector General Office is looking for subject matter experts to augment the capabilities of our Wing Inspection Team.

The overall purpose of the WIT is to provide an accurate self-assessment to commanders regarding the health and surety of their programs in relation to mission execution and sustainment.

Not only will you be making a difference in your wing, you will also have opportunities to continue learning about the bigger picture of our wing's mission.

You could have the opportunity to be part of a robust team which works on behalf of the 507 ARW Commander to ensure our wing is continually mission ready.



So, if you are motivated and want to make a difference in our wing, talk to your commander regarding recruitment.

If you have questions regarding WIT membership, call the IGI office at 734-4259.



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THE ALPHA WARRIOR BATTLE RIG EVENT
 ALPHA WARRIOR PRO-ATHLETE FAMILIARIZATION DEMONSTRATION

AUGUST 20-21, 2018 // GERRITY FITNESS CENTER

REGISTER BY 15 AUG: ADULTS (18+) SIGN UP AT GERRITY FITNESS CENTER // YOUTH (4-12) SIGN UP AT YOUTH CENTER

MEET ALPHA WARRIOR PRO ATHLETES WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR EVENTS!



SARA HEESSEN

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

3:00 - 4:30 PM • Battle Rig Familiarization at Gerrity Fitness Center
 4:45 - 5:45 PM • Autograph Signing/Meet & Greet at Tinker Exchange

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

2- 4 PM • Adult & Youth Battle Rig Competition at Gerrity (Awards to follow)



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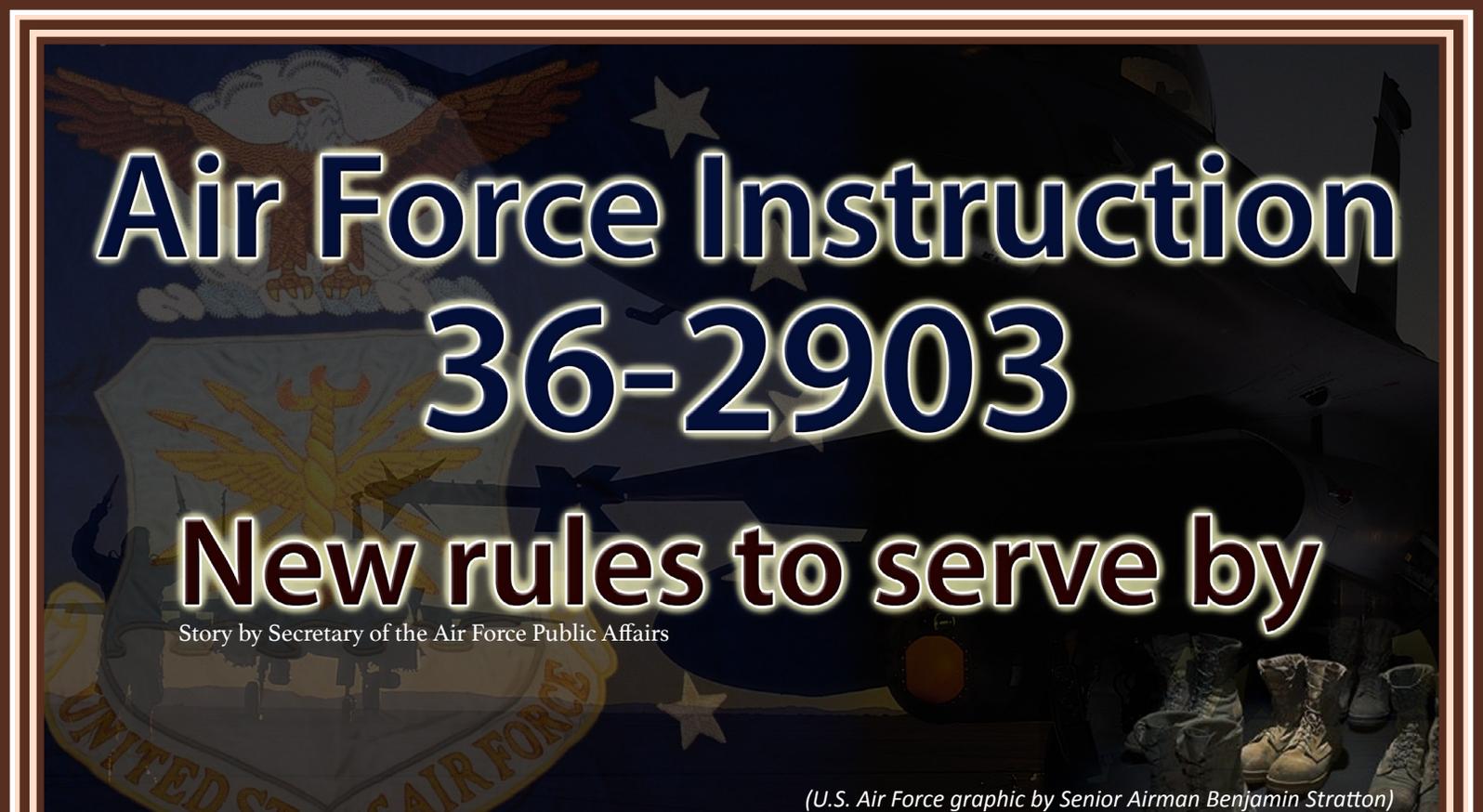
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Air Force Instruction 36-2903

New rules to serve by

Story by Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

(U.S. Air Force graphic by Senior Airman Benjamin Stratton)

The Air Force announced a series of uniform updates to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, effective July 13, 2018.

“These changes stemmed from the 100th Air Force Uniform Board, which incorporated direct feedback from Airmen,” said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel, and Services. “There are additional Uniform Board initiatives that are ongoing and still being analyzed for consideration and implementation by senior leaders.”

The notable changes are, but not limited to:

PHYSICAL TRAINING GEAR

- Short- and long-sleeved solid white, black or light gray form fitting undershirts may be worn and visible under the short-sleeved shirt.
- A balaclava (black) may now be worn with PT gear while performing physical fitness activities outdoors.

OUTER GARMENTS, HEADGEAR, RANK INSIGNIA AND ACCESSORIES

- While off duty in civilian clothes males are authorized to wear earrings on or off installation.
- Females are authorized to wear round or square white diamond, gold, white pearl or silver earrings as a set with any uniform combination.
- Eyeglasses and sunglasses may have a small logo that can contrast with frame color or lenses. Conservative, clear, slightly tinted or photosensitive lenses are also authorized.
- Airmen may wear either a sling style backpack or two strap backpack.
- Handbags for all uniform combinations will be solid black leather or vinyl without ornamentation with black or white stitching.

GROOMING AND APPEARANCE STANDARDS

- No minimum hair length for females, but up to a maximum bulk of three-and-half inches from scalp, allowing for proper wear of headgear.
- Females are also authorized locs, which must be lightly fused or interwoven to present a neat, professional appearance.

DRESS UNIFORM

- All enlisted personnel may wear three-and-a-half inch or four-inch chevrons.
- All or some ribbons and devices may be worn on service dress uniform.
- All, some or no ribbons and devices may be worn on blue service uniform.

**For complete list of changes,
CLICK HERE**

A U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet from Carrier Air Wing Two off the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), prepares to refuel over the Pacific Ocean from a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 10, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

