

# On-Final

## Anthology Vol. 3



**507th Air Refueling Wing**  
**Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma**

A KC-135R STRATOTANKER REFUELS A-10 LIGHTNING II



mis



**mission: organize, train, and equip combat ready citizen airmen to provide strategic deterrence and global capabilities**





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A KC-135R STRATOTANKER REFUELS AN F-15QA

# **fueling the fight,** **at home and abroad**

The 507th Air Refueling Wing is the largest Air Force Reserve Command flying unit in the state of Oklahoma. The 507th ARW reports to Fourth Air Force and performs daily missions both locally and around the world in support of Air Mobility Command and U.S. Strategic Command's national emergency war order requirements, operating out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The wing operates and maintains eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft providing world-wide aerial refueling to U.S. and NATO aircraft in times of peace, war and national emergency. The 507th ARW trains aircrew on the KC-135R, the C-17 Globemaster III, and the KC-46 Pegasus at a geographically separated unit, the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron at Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

Today, the 507th ARW consists of three subordinate groups and 11 squadrons while employing more than 1,100 men and women. The 507th ARW is made up of Reserve Citizen Airmen, many of whom live and work in our Oklahoma communities in addition to their Reserve commitment. Approximately 200 members of the wing are traditional civilian employees or dual status Air Reserve Technicians who serve as a support cadre.

# 507th Air Refueling Wing



**COL. MICHAEL PARKS**

Wing Commander

## CURRENT STRENGTH

- 1,156 Personnel
- 907 Traditional Reservists
- 174 Air Reserve Technicians
- 55 Active Guard Reservists
- 43 Civilians

## LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Tinker AFB -- \$4.55 billion
- 507th ARW -- \$92 million
- 513th ACG -- \$13 million

## UNIT TIMELINE

- 1944** -- 507th Fighter Group activated at Peterson Field, Colorado
- 1972** -- Established at Tinker AFB, flying F-105D Thunderchief
- 1975** -- Transferred from active duty to Air Force Reserve
- 1980** -- Transitioned to F-4D Phantom II
- 1988** -- Transitioned to F-16A/B Fighting Falcon
- 1994** -- Converted to 507th ARG flying KC-135R
- 1994** -- Redesignated as 507th ARW
- 1996** -- 513th ACG activated
- 2005** -- Aircraft increased from 8 to 12
- 2007** -- Reserve/Air National Guard Association begins
- 2012** -- Force Structure proposal to 8 KC-135R
- 2015** -- Guard association discontinued, AFRC continues
- 2019** -- KC-46 Pegasus delivered to Altus AFB, Oklahoma





# groups&squadrons

## OPERATIONS GROUP

### **465th Air Refueling Squadron**

### **507th Operations Support Squadron**

### **730th Air Mobility Training Squadron, Altus AFB, Oklahoma**

Operates eight Boeing KC-135R aircraft. Reservists, both pilots and boom operators, fly and maintain worldwide mission-ready status and regularly deploy in support of contingency operations and incorporates traditional operations support functions such as Intelligence, Aircrew Flight Equipment, Combat Crew Communications, Operations Plans, war plans and flight records maintenance. The 730th AMTS is charged with training aircrew on the C-17, KC-135R, KC-46. The Reservists in the unit work next to active duty Airmen of the 97th Air Mobility Wing, training aircrew members for Air Education and Training Command.



## MAINTENANCE GROUP

### **507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**

### **507th Maintenance Squadron**

These units maintain all eight KC-135R Stratotankers and are responsible for periodic inspections, fabrication repairs, propulsion, aerial refueling boom maintenance, aircraft fuel systems and aerospace ground equipment. From installing replacement parts to building a replacement from scratch in order to restore the structural integrity of the aircraft, they work to ensure the safety of the Airmen who fly them. More than just directing essential maintenance operations, they implement crucial aircraft systems checks, deliver combat support and perform air operations all around the world.



## MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

### **507th Civil Engineer Squadron**

### **507th Force Support Squadron**

### **507th Logistics Readiness Squadron**

### **507th Security Forces Squadron**

### **72nd Aerial Port Squadron**

These units are responsible for providing air base ground defense and protecting weapon systems and support personnel. They train and equip engineering teams for worldwide combat support performing rapid runway repair, structural bomb damage repair, firefighting and crash rescue. They aid in transportation, supply, contracting, fuels, maintenance training and plans. Additionally, units load, unload and process airfreight arriving from and departing to locations worldwide, provide personnel management and services support such as lodging, fitness, food, recreation and mortuary affairs.



## MEDICAL SQUADRON

### **507th Medical Squadron**

The 507th MDS monitors the medical, dental and mental health of all members in the 507th as well as the personnel in the 513th ACG. Major focus areas are maintaining processes and records for annual physical and dental assessments, currency in immunizations and monitoring occupational environments. Other program responsibilities include training initial first-aid care, CPR training, gas mask fit testing and heightening awareness of suicide and prevention. The medical squadron operates out of Tinker Air Force Base's 72nd Medical Group and integrates with the staff. If mobilized, the medical technicians are trained to support a fixed or mobile field hospital site.



## KC-135 STRATOTANKER



### Mission

The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 60 years. This unique asset enhances the Air Force's capability to accomplish its primary mission of global reach, as well as refueling support to Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. The KC-135 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

### Features

Four turbofans, mounted under 35-degree swept wings, power the KC-135 to takeoffs at gross weights of up to 322,500 pounds. A cargo deck above the refueling system can hold a mixed load of passengers and cargo. Depending on fuel storage configuration, the KC-135 can carry up to 83,000 pounds of cargo.

Nearly all internal fuel can be pumped through the flying boom, the KC-135's primary fuel transfer method. One crewmember, known as the boom operator, is stationed in the rear of the plane and controls the boom during in-flight air refueling.

A special shuttlecock-shaped drogue attached to and trailing behind the flying boom may be used to refuel aircraft fitted with probes. Some aircraft have been configured with the multipoint refueling system, which consists of special pods mounted on the wingtips. These KC-135s are capable of refueling two receiver aircraft at the same time.

### Background

Air Mobility Command manages an inventory of 414 Stratotankers, 70 of which are operated by the Air Force Reserve.

The Boeing Company's model 367-80 was the basic design for the commercial 707 passenger plane as well as the KC-135A Stratotanker. In 1954, the Air Force purchased the first 29 of its future 732-plane fleet. The first aircraft flew in August 1956 and the initial



production Stratotanker was delivered to Castle Air Force Base, California in June 1957. The last KC-135 was delivered to the Air Force in 1965.

Of the original KC-135As, more than 415 have been modified with new CFM-56 engines produced by CFM-International. The re-engined tanker, designated either the KC-135R or KC-135T, can offload 50 percent more fuel, is 25 percent more fuel efficient, costs 25 percent less to operate and is 96 percent quieter than the KC-135A.

Under another modification program, a re-engined tanker with the TF-33-PW-102 engine was designated the KC-135E. In 2009, the last KC-135E retired from the inventory.

Through the years, the KC-135 has been altered to do other jobs ranging from flying command post missions to reconnaissance. KC-135s are used for special reconnaissance and Air Force Materiel Command's NKC-135As are flown in test programs. Air Combat Command operates the OC-135 as an observation platform in compliance with the Open Skies Treaty.

The KC-135R(RT) aircraft continue to undergo life-cycle upgrades to expand their capabilities and improve reliability. Among these are improved communications, navigation, autopilot and surveillance equipment to meet future civil air traffic control needs.

#### General Characteristics

**Primary Function:** Aerial refueling and airlift

**Prime Contractor:** The Boeing Company

**Power Plant:** CFM International CFM-56 turbofan engines

**Thrust:** 21,634 pounds each engine

**Wingspan:** 130 feet, 10 inches (39.88 meters)

**Length:** 136 feet, 3 inches (41.53 meters)

**Height:** 41 feet, 8 inches (12.7 meters)

**Speed:** 530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet (9,144 meters)

**Ceiling:** 50,000 feet (15,240 meters)

**Range:** 1,500 miles (2,419 kilometers) with 150,000 pounds (68,039 kilograms) of transfer fuel; ferry mission, up to 11,015 miles (17,766 kilometers)

**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 322,500 pounds (146,285 kilograms)

**Maximum Transfer Fuel Load:** 200,000 pounds (90,719 kilograms)

**Maximum Cargo Capability:** 83,000 pounds (37,648 kilograms), 37 passengers

Pallet Positions: 6

**Crew:** Three: pilot, co-pilot and boom operator. Some KC-135 missions require the addition of a navigator. The Air Force has a limited number of navigator suites that can be installed for unique missions.

**Aeromedical Evacuation Crew:** A basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added for aeromedical evacuation missions. Medical crew may be altered as required by the needs of patients.

**Unit Cost:** \$39.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

Date Deployed: August 1956

**Inventory:** Active duty, 153; Air National Guard, 171; Air Force Reserve, 72







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NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## Business efforts strengthen airpower

### Air Force to allow longer braids, ponytails, bangs for women

January 2021

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NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



## Yellow Ribbon goes virtual

### Repayment dates for tax deferral

## Commander's Holiday message

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NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## Key spouses bring resources to families

### AF updates fitness scores

### KC-46A candidate bases announced

U.S. AIR FORCE

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NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## Reservist saves motorcyclist's life

### Board to hold commissioning

### AMTS trains next generation



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NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## Patriot Family Day 2021 Announced

### Tinker opens new control tower

### LRS fuels integrates with special ops

### AF adds tactical cap & maintenance duty uniform



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NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



# On-Fin

NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



## Reservists save life of Tinker team

August 2021

# On-Final

NEWS FOR THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## B-2 raises spirits at Tinker

### Patriot Family Day postponed to April 2022

### Installation commander updates mask policy







# TRUE STORIES

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A brief glimpse at some of the heroic, adventurous and awe-inspiring accomplishments carried out by the dedicated Air Force Reservists of the **507TH AIR REFUELING WING**



# Change of Command

Col. Michael Parks takes command of the 507th Air Refueling Wing

Col. Michael Parks succeeded Col. Miles Heaslip as the commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing here in a change of command ceremony Nov. 8, 2020.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony, which took place at 9 a.m. in Hangar 1030.

Col. Parks, who is currently active duty will take command of the 507th ARW, an Air Force Reserve Command Unit, while remaining active duty.

“My admiration for you as Reserve Citizen Airmen will never falter,” said Parks.

“[Wing leadership] will serve you by prioritizing your quality of service and maintaining a wing where Airmen want to drill.”

As the incoming 507th ARW commander, Parks will lead more than 1,100 Reserve Citizen Airmen in three subordinate groups and 11 squadrons, who support daily missions both locally and around the world for Air Mobility Command and U.S. Strategic Command's national emergency war order requirements.

Heaslip, who served as commander from June 2018 to November 2020, praised the Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing for their many accomplishments during his tenure as commander, including being awarded 4th Air Force's 2019 Raincross award.

“This wing is a family, they work together and get it done,” said Heaslip, who will move onto 4th Air Force headquarters at March Air Reserve Base, California.

Col. Parks was commissioned following his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Since then he has served as the following: command pilot, staff service, chief of safety, director of operations, squadron commander and vice wing commander.

“I am honored to now be an Okie, and I am humbled to be your commander,” Parks said.

Command Chief, Fourth Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. Cynthia Villa, family and friends were in attendance to show their support for the new commander, as

well as the following Team Tinker leaders: 72nd Air Base Wing commander, Col. Paul Filcek, Chief Master Sergeant Keith Scott, 72nd Air Base Wing command chief, 552nd Air Control Wing commander, Col. Alain Poisson, and the commander of the 513th Air Control Group, Col. James Matthey.





# Structures saves \$1M

Reservist structural technicians save  
Air Force more than one million dollars

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**R**eservists with the 507th Maintenance Squadron repaired a KC-135 Stratotanker engine cowling in-house that sustained damage by a bird strike Sept. 21, ultimately saving the Air Force more than \$1 million.

Structures section chief, Master Sgt. Harold Fulghum, along with Senior Airman Acacia Shelton, an aircraft structural technician, devoted 192 hours of labor over three weeks to fabricate the part in-house.

Fulghum described the lengthy fabrication process, which included removing and reinstalling 600 rivets and fasteners.

"We originally started off just replacing one segment, but later found another section that needed further repair," said Fulghum. "This required the entire inlet lip to be removed so we could replace the two segments."

Fulghum's experience spans 22 years in the 507th MXS structures shop, and Shelton has served for 3 years.

In September, the safety office initially categorized the incident as a Class B mishap, which means repairs would be in the range \$500,000 and \$2 million. The replacement part was originally estimated to cost \$1.2 million.

"When we got done with it, the total repair was about \$25,000 to replace both segments," Fulghum said. "Our repair drove the mishap from a Class B to a Class D mishap, which is a range of \$20,000 to \$60,000 in repair costs."

In addition to saving taxpayer's dollars, the repairs were completed ahead of schedule and the engine has been reinstalled and is fully operational, according to 507th Maintenance Group commander, Lt. Col. Karwin Weaver.

"The amount of initiative our Airmen have is impressive," said Weaver. "They were able to dig in, do the research and save the Air Force a significant amount of money."

According to the Air Force Safety

center, 69,471 U.S. Air Force wildlife strikes were reported between 1995-2011 with an associated cost of nearly \$478 million including eight destroyed aircraft and 25 human fatalities.



# 730th AMTS Air Mobility Power



**R**eservists from the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, prepare for a training sortie March 4, 2021. The 730th AMTS is a geographically separated unit of the 507th Operations Group, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, whose mission is to train future KC-135, KC-46 and C-17 pilots, KC-135 and KC-46 boom operators, and C-17 loadmasters.

LT. COL. ERICK BROUGH, 730TH AIR MOBILITY TRAINING SQUADRON COMMANDER, PRACTICES LOW LEVEL FLYING IN A C-17 GLOBEMASTER





▲ A C-17 GLOBEMASTER FLOWN BY THE 730TH AIR MOBILITY TRAINING SQUADRON, ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA REFUELS WITH A KC-46 PEGASUS



▲ A STUDENT FROM THE 97TH TRAINING SQUADRON RECEIVES INSTRUCTION FROM A 730TH AMTS LOADMASTER ON HOW TO LOAD A C-17 GLOBEMASTER





# First to Vaccinate

Okie Airmen receive initial COVID-19 vaccine

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**M**ore than 250 Reservists and civilians in the 507th Air Refueling Wing, 513th Air Control Group and 10th Flight Test Squadron here voluntarily received the first of the two-part Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 7, 2021, during the February unit training assembly.

Maj. Scott Blair, 507th Medical Squadron Director of Operations, said the second dose can be administered between 24-42 days after the first dose, adding that the Defense Health Agency has ensured all military treatment facilities will receive enough vaccines to complete the second shot for those who received the first dose of the vaccine during the February UTA.

"Medical squadron personnel coordinated with unit commanders early in the scheduling process to ensure that members being scheduled to receive the first dose during our February UTA would also be available during the March UTA," Blair said.

Coordinating this event was no easy task for the medical squadron, according to Blair.

"This event would not have been as successful as it was without leadership engagement and support," said Blair. "Col. Michael Parks, 507th ARW commander and Col Jim Matthey, 513th ACG commander were instrumental in ensuring members were queried for participation and de-conflicted any scheduling issues that came up."

Parks asked that all Airmen in the wing utilize all of their resources to make an informed decision on whether or not to get vaccinated.

"I want to thank each Okie that educated themselves on the facts of the COVID-19 vaccine and then made an informed decision to receive or to not receive the vaccine," Parks said. "Your education is our key to fight through the pandemic and preserve our capabilities."

On a typical UTA, the 507th Medical Squadron team performs an array of functions from conducting annual physicals, administering vaccines, performing lab testing and reviewing medical records in order to ensure more than 1,700 Reservists are medically prepared to deploy anytime.

"Considering this is outside the normal scope of services we typically provide during UTA weekends, coupled with the fact that we also ran a separate flu shot line in the maintenance hangar at the same time, I would say it went exceedingly well," said Blair.

Adding the COVID vaccine clinic proved to be a challenge, but that didn't stop the MDS from accomplishing their mission.

"Between normal UTA clinic operations on

Saturday, COVID shots and flu shots on Sunday, we delivered nearly 800 shots in arms over the weekend," said Blair.

1st Lt. Aubrey Crawley, 465th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 pilot, explained his reasons for volunteering to receive the vaccine.

"For me, getting the vaccine was an easy decision," Crawley said. "I want to help end the pandemic. I am looking forward to spending quality time with the important people in my life."

Lt. Col. Elaine Boyd, 513th Operations Squadron Director of Operations, said she and her Airmen were very impressed with how efficient the COVID vaccination clinic was conducted, as well as the hospitality and welcoming demeanor of the MDS staff.

"UTAs are always tough for us," said Boyd. "It's a constant battle to try and balance flying and appointments. The flexibility the MDS displayed proves what we can accomplish when we work together."

The Centers for Disease Control says common side effects with either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine can include arm soreness at the injection site.

The CDC has a central portal where people can report any symptoms from the vaccines.



# Demonstrating Air Superiority



**P**ilots with the F-16 Viper and F-22 Raptor Demonstration Teams fly behind a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron assigned to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma March 8, 2021.

The F-16 team from Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, and the F-22 team from Joint Base Langley–Eustis, Virginia, are assigned to Air Combat Command and received fuel from the Okies during their flight back to their home stations after performing at an air show.





▲ AN F-16 VIPER DEMONSTRATION TEAM PILOT FLIES BEHIND A KC-135 STRATOTANKER FROM THE 465TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON, TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA

AN F-16 VIPER DEMONSTRATION TEAM PILOT REFUELS WITH A KC-135 STRATOTANKER FROM THE 465TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON ASSIGNED TO TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA ▶





# Governor Visits Okies

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt visits Okies

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The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma, the Honorable Brian Bingman, Oklahoma Secretary of State and the Honorable Brenda Stanley, Oklahoma State Senator, visited the 507th Air Refueling Wing, here Feb. 5, 2021.

Col. Michael Parks, 507th ARW commander, led the tour through various areas of the wing.

The visit included walk throughs of various 507th ARW shops including the 507th Maintenance Group metals fabrication shop and the non-destructive inspection shop. There the governor was given demonstrations on various techniques and equipment that the 507th MXG uses to keep the aging KC-135R Stratotanker flying.

"It was a great opportunity for our Airmen to shine," said Maj. Cassandra Espy, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. "Disciplined maintenance and innovation will keep this jet flying for years to come."

She added that it was a privilege to show the governor the hard work that goes on in the maintenance group every day.

Stitt then met with Airmen from around the wing and learned about the differences they make every day both in the Air Force Reserve and in the greater Oklahoma community.

Stitt first met Senior Airman Thomas Stege, 507th Force Support Squadron radio frequency transmission systems technician, who recently saved a man's life using the lifesaving techniques he learned during his Air Force Reserve readiness training.

Next, Stitt met with Lt. Col. Alvin Bradford, 507th Medical Squadron commander, who is an emergency room doctor rotating through multiple Oklahoma City Hospitals on the front line of the COVID-19 crisis and spearheading the COVID-19 vaccine distribution within the wing.

Lastly, Stitt met with Tech. Sgt. Nathalie Hamilton, 507th AMXS crew chief, who was recently selected to commission as an officer and begin training to be a future KC-135 pilot.

"These Okies are representative of what being a Reserve Citizen Airmen is all about," Col. Michael Parks, 507th ARW commander said. "They serve not only their local communities on a daily basis, but also wear the Air Force uniform and serve their country globally. The ability to share their stories and highlight their hard work to our governor is an honor."

Stitt, Bingman and Stanley then toured a KC-135. They asked questions and heard about the Okie refueling mission that keeps various aircraft airborne and provides airpower at a moment's notice.

"These individuals are in our community...

and they serve their country," Governor Stitt said. "The Reserve unit is a huge asset. They are a critical mission for the Air Force that makes all those F-16s look cool."

Stitt concluded that he was proud of the team.

"This reserve unit is a huge asset to Oklahoma City and to Oklahoma as a whole," Stitt said. "We are so proud of our military men and women."





# Sharks in the Water

Business efforts strengthen  
airpower and relationships

**A**n aircrew from the 507th Air Refueling Wing here combined resources with the fellow reservists from 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, to conduct a business effort refueling training mission within central Florida's airspace Jan. 25-29.

Business effort training missions ensure aircrew from multiple platforms receive necessary upgrade and competency training required to remain mission capable. The 507th ARW Okies and the 482nd FW Makos successfully performed a multitude of refueling sorties designed to increase their combat readiness capabilities.

Refueling took place over Avon Park Air Force Range, a 106,000-acre area that provides the Makos with access to target bombing training. Since World War II, Avon Park has hosted training missions for enemy target missiles, law enforcement emergency driving skills and combat search and rescue.

KC-135R Stratotanker aircrews are trained to conduct in-flight refueling operations for strategic bombers, reconnaissance aircraft, airlift and fighter aircraft, as directed by the Department of Defense, anytime and anywhere. Successful execution strengthens U.S. military operations and national objectives.

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Robinson, 465th Air Refueling Squadron chief in-flight refueling specialist, said business efforts are the foundation of a versatile unit, providing opportunities for crewmembers to interact outside of the day-to-day management of flight operations.

"Confidence becomes the basis for how a unit like the Okies separates itself from other units," said Robinson. "Each member in operations and maintenance has a critical role in building and mentoring future aircraft commanders and ensuring the right decisions are made and ultimately, that the mission is accomplished."

Robinson has more than 30 years of experience on the KC-135 and is responsible for the training, upgrading and certification of 18 in-flight refueling technicians, or boom operators.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Milburn, 507th Operations Support Squadron director of operations, said working with other Reserve units solidifies the Air Force Reserve's ability to provide combat ready air power at a moment's notice.

"Planning a business effort with another unit not only provides training for both aircrews, but also gives us a chance to work with a unit we may not work with very often," said Milburn, a command pilot with more than 20 years of experience flying KC-135 refueling missions. "That way, when we deploy, we are ready for anything."

Col. Adam Meyers, 482nd FW vice commander, said the Air Force is the envy of our counterparts worldwide because of our unique ability to come together as a system that makes us the premier airpower.

"In my 25 years of flying the F-16, I can count on one hand the number of combat sorties I've flown that didn't somehow involve aerial-refueling," said Meyers, who assists with leading over 2,500 Airmen,

while seamlessly integrating 11 tenant units as vice commander of a reserve host installation. "You just don't go to war without the whole team."

"For this particular training cycle, having a dedicated KC-135 from the Okies took every F-16 sortie for us, and effectively turned it into two or three," Meyers said. "That's literally doubling or tripling the training not only our pilots are getting each time as they prepare to deploy, but also the ground forces that were here for Close Air Support training."

Meyers, a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours and 400 combat hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, said that training with the 507th was integral to squeezing the most of out of each mission, ensuring each both units kept up necessary qualifications and highlighted the capabilities of Reserve combat air power.

Meyers' perspective as the 482nd FW vice commander was unique as he flew a sortie with the Okies.

"We've got a long relationship with the Okies," said Meyers. "I can recall specific conversations I've had with some of their boom operators over Afghanistan. That, and given the opportunity to work with fellow Reservists, why would the best not work with the best?"





# So Fresh, So Clean

'Clean Corridor' ensures mobilization success

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**M**ore than 50 Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing here, departed for a deployment in early April along with four KC-135R Stratotankers.

This deployment marks the first major mobilization since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Col. Michael Parks, highlighted the wing's ability to step up in these unique circumstances.

"Unlike previous mobilizations, every step of the deployment process incorporated COVID-19 mitigation protocols to ensure the safety and welfare of our Airmen," Parks said. "The Okie team fought through the pandemic to protect the Airmen, their families, and Tinker Air Force Base while still delivering combat forces on time."

The Okies are integral to the overseas mission and bring critical airpower and support to worldwide operations.

"Our Reserve Citizen Airmen enable our nation to fly, fight, and win with airpower anytime, anywhere, by providing lifesaving COVID-19 assistance, logistical support overseas, base defense support at overseas installations and KC-135 operations and maintenance," said Parks.

The wing took several steps to ensure the safety of the deployers. Ms. Julie Hudson, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics plans superintendent, worked with the members here as well as the units downrange to keep the COVID-19 risk as low as possible.

"The aviation deployment packages were approved for in-residence restriction of movement prior to departure, and the members were required to adhere to strict CDC guidelines," Hudson said. "Every member was also subject to on-site COVID-19 testing prior to reporting for processing."

507th MXG deployment manager, Ms. Angela Dail, processed the deployers through a clean corridor as they prepared to board the jet ensuring the standards set forth during the restriction of movement were upheld during the mobilization.

"The clean corridor provides a sterilized area that meets CDC recommendations and maintains our passengers' safety," Dail said. "It is essential that these standards are upheld until the deployers reach the area of

responsibility."

With new challenges to overcome, the Okie team came together to improve and design processes to keep Reservists safe and ensure mission readiness and combat-ready Airmen to the combatant command.

"While many of our Airmen are deployed, the wing remains busy with our home station mission and our commitment to accelerate readiness," Parks said. "We seek to provide unwavering care for the families of our deployed Reservists."





# Support is Key

Key spouses bring resources  
to Reserve families

The 507th Airman and Family Readiness Center here conducted a seminar for the 507th Air Refueling Wing's key spouses May 15, 2021.

The workshop offered an opportunity for current key spouses to meet, network and discuss how the program can grow, according to 507th A&FRC director, Sharon Lochman.

"Since everyone is already trained on the program, we spent this time learning about each other and about other opportunities," said Lochman. "We also did some brainstorming on how we can increase communication, market the program and advertise resources and future meetings to continue the momentum."

Key spouses are an integral part of all Reserve units because they promote communication between leadership and families and ultimately build resilience and a sense of community, regardless of where Reservists may live.

"Key spouses attend commanders' calls and squadron events to connect with new members and families to maintain regular contact to help share information regarding base, wing, unit and community events," Lochman said. "The spouses also work with our office to provide information to families during difficult situations, assist with squadron events and coordinate support for deployed members returning home."

At the event, key spouses received briefings on the missions of both the 507th ARW and 513th Air Control Group, as well as a brief from a Military One Source representative on services available to them.

"In the past, key spouses have been mostly deployment support, but with our ongoing operations tempo, world events and the need for more connectivity with our personnel, the goal is to move beyond that role and serve as a conduit between commanders, helping agencies and the families of our service members," Lochman said. "Family involvement and interaction promotes retention and resiliency and we want to ensure they know that we are here for them."

With increased communication and

trust, key spouses are in a better position to provide assistance and resources to families.

"We want to equip our key spouses with the tools to prevent unexpected hardships and never miss out on available resources," Lochman said. "Relaying information, resources and events to the key spouse team at networking events like this enables them to put these resources to use in their unit."

Spouses who attended the event also discussed the importance of having key spouses in each unit, according to Ali Parks, the 507th ARW key spouse and wife of Col. Michael Parks, 507th ARW commander.

"Having seen the difference a key spouse can make, there is not a more rewarding and important position that directly gives back to families or that builds upon our Reserve sense of community and belonging," Parks said. "Key spouses do pass along information to families, but more importantly, they listen and talk to our families when they need to lend a sympathetic ear or to hear a familiar voice."

The 507th A&FRC is currently expanding the Okie key spouse team, according to Lochman.

"We are always looking for volunteers to add to our key spouse team," Lochman said. "Having a bigger group helps give unit family members more contacts when they need them the most."

To get started as a key spouse, contact the A&FRC at 405-734-6278 for more information.





# Northern Exposure

Co-pilots train in Alaska

**T**hirteen personnel with the 507th Air Refueling here went to Alaska in July to refuel F-22s assigned to the 90th Fighter Squadron.

The group of Reservists, consisting of three co-pilots, two aircraft commanders, and two boom operators of the 507th Operations Group and six 507th Maintenance Group maintenance personnel, traveled to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, for a week over the summer.

According to the 465th Air Refueling Squadron director of operations and aircraft commander, Lt. Col. Marv Ashbaker, this business effort was designed to give the co-pilots more hands-on experience flying the tanker.

"Exposing the co-pilots to a variety of different airfields, receivers and airspace environments is integral to their training and eventual transition from co-pilots to aircraft commanders," said Ashbaker.

According to KC-135 co-pilot 1st Lt. Duncan Sutherland, it was his first trip to Alaska with the Okies and it was even more unique because he was formerly a fuels system engineer for Lockheed Martin and worked with the F-22 for two years.

"Traveling to Alaska was an enriching experience for me," said Sutherland. "Of course, the scenery flying over Alaska was beautiful, but we also had fun sightseeing and there were some cool receivers. So now, being a tanker pilot and getting to refuel them from the other side was awesome."

Sutherland said due to the recent deployment, the unit's flying hours have decreased due to limited aircraft availability and he appreciated the opportunity to gain flying hours. Sutherland expects to reach his hour limits as a co-pilot within the next two to three years before being upgraded to aircraft commander.

According to 1st Lt. Aubrey Crawley, 465th Air Refueling Squadron current operations officer, a business effort like this requires extensive coordination with other units with the intent to meet training needs, not only for the 507th ARW but for other units striving to meet flying goals.

"Communication is key and crucial, especially other current operations shops," Crawley said. "Tankers and their fuel are a limiting factor right now for training and are in high demand. F-22s have currencies and missions they have to accomplish as well year-round, and our tankers facilitate accomplishing their training needs."

Crawley is currently a co-pilot and will be upgraded to aircraft commander in the coming months. The 507th ARW is planning a trip in the near future, which will act as a type of pre-

evaluation to the aircraft commander upgrade course for Crawley.

"I think we do a really good job here at the Okies from an operational and training standpoint," said Crawley. "Our operational mission is going 365 days a year, and we plan trips and training scenarios designed to give co-pilots the opportunity to further their training, ultimately leading to upgrade opportunities."

Overall, the 507th Air Refueling Wing's trip to Alaska exposed the co-pilots to a various scenarios not available in Oklahoma or surrounding states, enabling the unit to deliver 153,000 lbs. of fuel to 14 receivers.



# We've Got (B-2) Spirit



**A** B-2 Spirit assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, flew to Tinker for a static aircraft tour for 350 civilians and contractors at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, July 30, 2021.

More than 700 personnel support the operational mission of the aircraft and the tour allowed them to see the jet in real life and meet the pilots and maintenance crew of the aircraft they sustain and improve until it's eventual sunset.



# Okie Honors

2020 Wing Annual Award Winners



## Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Mary Begy  
507th Air Refueling Wing



## NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Trevor Hardesty  
507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



## SNCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Vincent Peralta  
507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



## CGO of the Year

1st Lt. Aubrey Crawley  
465th Air Refueling Squadron



## Civilian of the Year

Nathan Bingham  
507th Force Support Squadron  
*\*Not pictured*



# Hometown Heroes

## Okies save life of Tinker teammate

**T**hree Reserve Airmen from the 507th Force Support Squadron here worked together to save the life of a contractor electrician following a near fatal electric shock Oct. 24 during the November unit training assembly.

Senior Airmen Thomas Stege, Victoria Slaughter and Khoa Dang, all radio frequency transmission systems technicians in the 507th Air Refueling Wing, used rapid thinking to resuscitate a member of Team Tinker after he was shocked while upgrading electrical infrastructure on the 507th ARW campus.

"We were in the communications warehouse when we heard a loud pop and then someone screaming," said Stege. "We went around back and saw an electrician on the ground and in distress."

The three Airmen divided up, knowing that acting expeditiously was key to saving the man's life. Stege stayed at the scene, Slaughter ran to the communications office to get help and Dang called for installation emergency services.

"I ran inside to get help and we were able to get ahold of the police," Slaughter said, "When I came back outside, Stege had started CPR."

Stege, who is currently studying health and exercise science at Rose State College in Midwest City, Oklahoma, assessed that the man was not breathing, and with the help of another

electrician, moved the man to a safe area to begin CPR.

"My emergency response training told me what I needed to do," Stege said. "I started doing CPR and continued for about four minutes until security forces arrived. Around that time, he began to breathe on his own and was in and out of consciousness for the next five minutes."

Stege and Dang both enlisted in the Air Force Reserve 2018 and Slaughter joined in 2019.

The Airmen have been submitted for awards for their bravery in a situation that could have turned tragic. Stege has been submitted for the Airman's Medal and the Noncommissioned Officers Association Vanguard Award, awarded to a single member from each of the armed services who has distinguished himself or herself through acts of heroism. Slaughter and Dang have been submitted for the Air Force Commendation Medal with Heroism.

"We are very proud of our Airmen for acting quickly and keeping cool during a crisis," said Maj. Robin Simons, 507th Force Support Squadron commander. "Their heroic actions truly show what being a wingman and Reserve Citizen Airman is all about."

Once the electrician was stabilized, he was transported by paramedics to a local hospital for further treatment.





# Reservist saves motorcyclist's life

A Reservist in training to become a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot saved the life of a local motorcyclist on his way back to Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, March 20, 2021.

2nd Lt. Max Atkinson, a student pilot in the 71st Student Squadron at Vance AFB and projected to be assigned to the 465th Air Refueling Squadron here upon graduation, used rapid response and quick thinking to resuscitate a motorcyclist after he was thrown from his motorcycle in an accident on the highway.

"I was traveling northbound on State Highway 74 out of Oklahoma City," said Atkinson. "A motorcycle passed me and rear-ended an SUV."

The man was thrown from his motorcycle roughly 100 feet into the center median of the highway. Atkinson stopped his car and approached the scene to find the motorcyclist face down and unresponsive.

"I am a certified EMT and carry my [medical supply bag] in my Jeep," Atkinson said. "I did a quick scan to triage my focus and he was my top priority."

Atkinson, who became certified as an EMT in 2014, called emergency services and was able to detect a weak pulse. He was then joined by a local nursing student who also stopped to provide assistance.

"He had several broken bones," Atkinson said. "I made the decision to roll him on his back in order to clear his airway and begin CPR."

Emergency services arrived on the scene and firefighters were able to provide supplemental oxygen while the life-saving measures continued. Paramedics arrived shortly after and transported the man to a local hospital.

Atkinson later received an email from the paramedic who had taken over at the scene, Marcus Brushings, to let him know that the man was alive and in critical condition. He stated that without Atkinson's quick actions, the man would not have survived his injuries.

"Not many citizens would have the equipment, skills and bravery to perform life saving actions," Brushings said. "[Atkinson] saved a life and that is one of the greatest honors one can earn."

His heroic actions are being recognized by both his current and future leadership, including 465th ARS commander, Lt. Col. Matthew Biggs.

"Max's amazing instincts, drive and determination are just a few attributes that



demonstrate his commitment to becoming an extraordinary Air Force officer," said Biggs. "The display of integrity and leadership throughout this horrific event certainly proves that Max possesses the tools necessary to excel as an Okie aviator."

Atkinson, a Texas native, was humbled by the recognition of his actions.

"Truly, I didn't do anything beyond what anyone else would have done in my situation," Atkinson said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time with the right skills."

Originally a pre-med major, Atkinson took flying lessons and instantly knew that he wanted to make it a career. He then joined the Air Force Reserve following the example of his grandfather who served during World War II.

"Throughout my training I have had multiple Okies go above and beyond to help support me," Atkinson said. "I can't wait to come back to such a storied and unique unit."

# Home Sweet Home

Okies return to their families after deploying around the world





## COMMON ACRONYMS & JARGON

### **AFRC** *Air Force Reserve Command*



AFRC provides the Air Force approximately 20 percent of their capability at four percent of the total Air Force budget. The Air Force Reserve performs two missions no other military service does: fixed-wing, aerial-spray missions and hurricane forecasting. AFRC also supports the space program,

flight test, special operations, aerial port operations, civil engineer, security forces, intelligence, military training, communications, mobility support, transportation and services missions.

### **AGR** *Active Guard Reserve*

National Guard and Reserve members who are on voluntary active duty providing full-time support to National Guard, Reserve and Active Component organizations for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing or training the Reserve Components.

### **ART** *Air Reserve Technician*

A full-time Department of Defense civilian who is required, as a condition of employment, to be an Air Force Reservist and perform the same duties as a civilian as he/she does during monthly Reserve training.

### **AT** *Annual Training*

The minimum period of Active Duty Training or Annual Field Training the Reserve member must perform every year.

### **BOOM**

The long arm lowered from a KC-135 in flight that allows the refueling of other aircraft, also short for an in-flight refueling technician, or boom operator.

### **CATM** *Combat Arms Training and Maintenance*

Security Forces personnel who train base populace on the use of small arms, oversee, maintain and repair all small arms in the U.S. Air Force inventory.

### **DEFENDER**

Nickname for security forces squadron personnel.

### **D&TF** *Development and Training Flight*

D&TF prepares Air Force Reserve members mentally and physically for the transition from civilian to military life through academic and fitness-based awareness programs.

### **FALCON**

Nickname/call sign of the F-16A. This airframe was flown by the 507th ARW until 1994.



### **FOURTH AIR FORCE**

March Air Reserve Base, California, and its subordinate units are responsible for "strategic reach forces," which includes aerial refueling and long-range, strategic airlift missions.

### **HOSE & DROGUE**

The hose is a flexible, retractable tube that trails from an aircraft during aerial refueling. The drogue, a small parachute, stabilizes the hose during flight and acts as a 'funnel' for the probe of the aircraft being refueled. The KC-135Rs used by the 507th ARW can use either a boom or a drogue to refuel.



### **ISO** *Isochronal inspection*

An extensive examination and maintenance of an entire airframe and systems that seek to increase the overall performance and safety of the aircraft. Can be minor, major or depot level.

### **IMA** *Individual Mobilization Augmentee*

Reservists who augment our active-component counterparts at wings, major commands, combatant commands and government agencies.

### **IRR** *Individual Ready Reserve*

Composed of former active duty or Reserve personnel, these Reservists are not attached to the Selected Reserve, who drill consistently with an organized unit. IRR members can be activated at a moment's notice by the president in times of grave national emergency.

### **LOGGIE**

Nickname for logistics readiness squadron personnel.

### **OKIES**

An endearing term for anyone past, present and future who serve in the 507th Air Refueling Wing.



### **PAX**

A simple, shortened term for aircraft passengers.

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## PEGASUS

Nickname/call sign of the KC-46A recently delivered to the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron. The KC-46A is the Air Force's newest refueling aircraft.

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## PHANTOM

Nickname/call sign of the F-4 fighter jet. The F-4 was flown by the 507th ARW until the switch to F-16s.

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## PME *Professional Military Education*

Refers to the professional training, development, and schooling of military personnel.

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## PORT DAWG

Nickname for aerial port squadron personnel.

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## PRIME BEEF

Nickname for civil engineer squadron personnel.

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## RUTA *Rescheduled Unit Training Assembly*

When needed, Reservists can reschedule a unit training assembly.

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## TDY *Temporary Duty*

Used to describe a temporary duty location other than ones permanent station.

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## THUNDERCHIEF / THUD

Nickname/call sign of the F-105D Thunderchief supersonic fighter-bomber used by the Air Force. Capable of Mach 2, it conducted the majority of strike bombing missions during the early years of the Vietnam War.

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## TR *Traditional Reservist*

TR's are Reservists who work and perform readiness training with their Reserve unit one weekend per month (24 days), plus an additional two-weeks of active-duty training per year.

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## UTA *Unit Training Assembly*

A UTA is a required, two-day, monthly training period for Reservists, usually scheduled for the first or second weekend of each month. Commonly called drill.

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POL RECEIVES JET-A FUEL FROM A BARGE ▲

SECURITY FORCES CONDUCT HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TRAINING ►





▲ A KC-135R STRATOTANKER REFUELS AN B-52 STRATOFORTRESS





## 507TH ARW HEADQUARTERS

WING COMMANDER  
Col. Michael Parks

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT  
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Nicholas

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF  
Lt. Col. Amanda Hacman  
2nd Lt. Mary Begy  
Master Sgt. Grady Epperly  
Tech. Sgt. Lauren Kelly  
Staff Sgt. Jasmine Czajka  
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