

# RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

## AF Cuts Civilian PT Testers For Budget Reasons

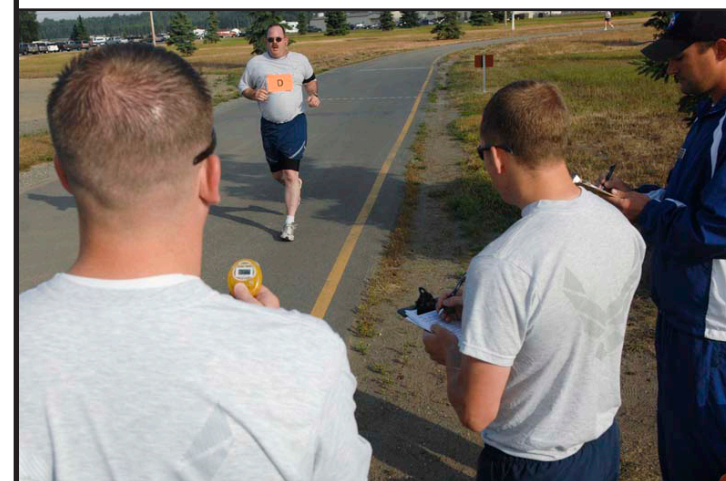
by Markeshia Ricks  
Staff Writer, Air Force Times

The civilian PT testers that airmen love to hate are getting the ax.

Eliminating the nearly 300 jobs is part of an Air Force-wide money-saving reorganization that will cut at least 13,500 civilian positions in the next year, according to two personnel officers, Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso and Maj. Gen. Sharon K.G. Dunbar. The generals outlined the restructuring in a Nov. 3 interview.

“The Air Force still values the capability provided by fitness assessment coordinators, but given fiscal restraints, we have to adjust our resources to live within our means,” said Dunbar, who oversees force management policy.

A few of the test-giver jobs are already vacant; the testers on the job have been told to find other work. How soon they need to move on is something that the Air Force hasn’t decided yet, said Grosso, director of manpower, organization and resources.



USAF Photo – Senior Airman David Carbajal

What is certain is that airmen — most likely physical training leaders — will go back to counting push-ups and sit-ups, clocking the run and taking waist measurements, although probably not for members of their own unit, Dunbar said. Again, there’s no start date for the changeover.

“We’re going to maintain the integrity of the fitness program, in terms of the rigor and the integrity of the testing process,” Dunbar said. “What we’re mindful of, though, is the additional duty burden that we put upon the airmen.”

## Christmas Party

Don’t forget about the 513 ACG Christmas party this Saturday! The party starts at 1800 at the Sheraton Reed Conference Center. Tickets are \$45.

MSgt Angel Cervantes, along with the rest of the Surveillance shop, thanks everyone that participated in the fundraiser to make the event possible.

## CC Maintenance Visit

Col. Jeffrey McGalliard was immersed in the maintenance world last UTA as he visited two shops within the 513th maintenance squadron. The first stop was the fuel cell, where maintainers showcased the confined space training program. Back in building 230, MXS members helped Col. McGalliard understand the work that goes into keeping each E-3 Sentry in the air.



Tech. Sgt. Gregory McAboy of the 513 MXS shows Col. Jeffrey McGalliard a section of the tail on a hangared E-3 Sentry on Nov. 6.

## This UTA in History

Dec 3, 1967 — 53-year-old Lewis Washkansky receives the first human heart transplant at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Washkansky, a South African grocer dying from chronic heart disease, received the transplant from Denise Darvall, a 25-year-old woman who was fatally injured in a car accident. Surgeon Christiaan Barnard, who trained at the University of Cape Town and in the United States, performed the revolutionary medical operation.

Dec 4, 1945 — In an overwhelming vote of 65 to 7, the U.S. Senate approves full U.S. participation in the United Nations. The United Nations had officially came into existence on October 24, 1945, when its charter was ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories.



# INTERESTING TIMES

by Lt. Col. Matt Conrad  
Commander, 970 AACs



I love Chinese food. So much so, it has become a part of my routine when I am in OKC. My days at the China House, however, may be numbered based on the fortune I received in the cookie. It said, "May you live in interesting times." I recoiled with disdain. These times are interesting enough, and frankly I could use a little routine, a little predictability, a little more mundane would be just fine with me. I then recalled a sermon I heard the week before, in which I was reminded that "character is only built through adversity." Really? Seriously? I just had my 46th birthday and I think my character is just fine, thank you. Why now? What is the cookie trying to say to me? I shudder to think.

As reservists, most of us value time and predictability. The cookie warned me that while

**Our job, no matter what the environment, is to be ready to accomplish the mission when we are called upon.**

predictability may be an easier path, it may not be the path we are destined to follow. Before taking over as commander, the former commander described the unit as a "self-licking lollipop." While in many aspects this may be true, in others, not so much. I would say that interesting is a better description. Apparently, we are headed for more interesting times. Our job, no matter what the environment, is to be ready to accomplish the mission when we are called upon. We will continue to do just that. We will do it together. A phrase I use frequently

in the other job seems somewhat appropriate: "Please, keep those seat belts fastened, just in case we encounter any unexpected turbulence." So buckle up, because it maybe a little bumpy, unpredictable, or interesting up ahead.

Anyone up for Chinese?



# READ TO THINK

## What happens when the phone in your hand is smarter than you?

by Bob Wendover

*The Center for Generational Studies*

In a Wall Street Journal editorial this week, Peter Funt, of Candid Camera fame, tells of surveying a class on college media about their reading habits. When asked, two students of forty indicated that they read a daily print newspaper. When he expanded the question to include on-line newspaper sites, a total of five hands were up. In asking where they get



their news, he was told that the "important stuff" is relayed by text, tweet, and other social media. The question is in what depth and with what nuance? Many of the challenges we face today can be traced directly to the shallowness of the news produced. USA began this trend in the early eighties and the impatience of digital media has perpetuated the belief that any issue, regardless of its complexity can be reduced to a couple hundred words.

At 56, my bias is to gather much of my information via print media. It troubles me no end to see the demise of articles of substance about the critical issues of our time. Sure, there is still an abundance of periodicals which drill down into complex issues. But the readership of this media skews heavily toward older individuals. With 140 characters becoming the standard of communication, how can expect young people to be responsible thinkers when it comes to issues facing all of us?

One of my favorite questions has always been, "What does it mean?" when teaching college students. Sadly, that question leaves many of them speechless. Sure, they can regurgitate what they find on line. But ask them to synthesize based on what they've read and you get a blank stare. How can we, as a society, hope to thrive if we are producing generations that never embrace the reading necessary to thinking critically about the issues that affect all of them every day? Regardless of your political persuasion, the solution to every one of these challenges is complex and nuanced. When those in the "next great generation" reduce the debate to texts and tweets, it impairs their ability to act in a meaningful way. We cannot trust the future to those in elected office or in the media who, after all, are in the business of making money not informing the electorate. Please, I beg of you, READ!



# 513 AMXS Member Leads AF to 8th Rugby Title

Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Allen, of the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, led the Air Force Rugby team to yet another title at Fort Benning, Ga. The following is an article written about the championship game held on Nov. 5.

by Alex Goff  
Rugbymag.com

This was the Air Force’s 8th straight championship. Led by captain Jeremy Allen, who played despite a torn biceps, Air Force continued to follow their tough-minded, wide-open style of play. Outside center Marcus Satavu scored 15 minutes in to put his side up 5-0, and then his midfield partner Cameron Freeman ran over just two minutes later. Jesse Swanson’s conversion made it a 12-0 Air Force lead before 20 minutes were up. Coast Guard fought back and were on the attack inside the Air Force half when Freeman nabbed a Coastie pass and ran 60 meters for the try. With Swanson’s conversion, Air Force led 19-0. Flyhalf John Feely made it 26-0 by halftime, but Air Force was not done.



SMSgt Allen (center) carries the ball during the 2011 Armed Forces Rugby Championship. Photo courtesy of SMSgt Allen.

Scrumhalf Daniel Griffen got the USAF started in the second half, and Freeman scored his fourth and fifth before Satavu and prop Bran Lemay went over. Swanson hit five conversions, but Freeman was the scoring hero of the day, with four tries.

“I was very pleased with the performance,” said Head Coach Wayne Kinsel. “Excellent execution of the Air Force rugby game plan was one of the seven pillars my staff and I preached throughout our camp, and our guys certainly accomplished this in the final.”

Despite some impressive individual stats, Kinsel said the win was a team effort. “The scores were set up with perfect support by the entire team,” he said. “Our rucks and set pieces were a key in securing ball possession. We ensured to stick to our game plan and dictate field position and played most of the game in the Coast Guard’s half of the pitch.”

Joining Freeman as co Man of the Match was Austin Dowling, who led the forward. Freeman, added Kinsel, didn’t just waltz over for tries. The center broke at least one tackle on every score, and was outstanding on defense as well.

This final was something of an end of an era. The Armed Forces Rugby Council have voted to change over to 7s after this year. Privately some coaches have said they don’t love the idea – these teams have been playing 15s for years – and they love the tournament as is.

“We, the Air Force team, will embrace the move and work very hard to dominate in 7s as well,” said Kinsel. “Also, the USAF has the turn to host the tournament next year. Even though 15s is no longer going to be a part of the official Armed Forces Rugby Tournament, we plan to hold an Inter-Service 15s event to continue our annual meeting of all the ruggers who work extremely hard to make their all Service rugby team.”

The move to an Air Force base hosting the tournament makes some sad to leave Fort Benning. “The Armed Forces Rugby Tournament is an outstanding event,” said Kinsel. “Mr. Ken Wetherill from Ft Benning’s MWR staff ensures all the teams are taken care of and that the tournament is second to none. He deserves a large applause from all the military rugby players and staff who had the chance to compete in this tournament the past four years at Ft Benning. The Army should be proud of their irreplaceable asset in Ken.”

## In The Spotlight



Master Sergeant Jeff Athey

**Unit:** 513th Air Control Group

**Job title:** Superintendent of Intelligence

**Hometown:** Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Place I’d like to visit:** Caribbean Islands

**Favorite part of my job:** Satisfaction of knowing that in some small part, the intel I provide may have helped keep members of our unit out of harm’s way.

**Biggest pet peeve:** Lazy people

**Little known fact about me:** I periodically sing specials at my church.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th:** The genuine compassion shown by members of our unit when my mother passed away.

**If I had a superhero ability, it would be:** Photographic memory with perfect recall.



Major Gia Wilson-Mackey

**Unit:** 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**Job title:** 513th Maintenance Operations Officer (or MOO).

**Civilian job:** Interpreter for the deaf.

**Hometown:** Don’t really have one because my dad was in the Navy. I mostly grew up in Milton, Fla.

**Little known fact about me:** I was enlisted for 8 years as an electrical & environmental troop.

**Favorite part of my job:** Working with motivated people.

**If I had a superhero ability, it would be:** Reading people’s minds selectively.

To suggest someone to be featured in the next issue, email 513acg.publicaffairs@tinker.af.mil.