

RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



**Football Title Snagged
yet again by Reservists**

PLUS:

How (Not) to Lose Your
Security Clearance

In The Spotlight

From the Top

RABBIT TALES



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Upcoming Events

5 Feb – After UTA – Super Bowl party
at Del City VFW

1 Mar – 1730 – Intramural Coed Softball begins

6 Mar – 1730 – Flag Football begins

2 Apr – 1700 – Monday Night Volleyball begins

7 Jun – Intramural Softball begins

BDUs Wanted

WANTED: 3 used sets of BDUs (Large Long).

Willing to haggle.

Send inquires to 513acg.publicaffairs@tinker.af.mil.

This UTA in History

Feb. 4, 1959 – Lawrence Julius Taylor, one of the best defensive players in NFL history, is born in Williamsburg, Virginia. Taylor went on to play his entire 13-season professional career with the New York Giants and is credited with redefining the position of outside linebacker and terrorizing a generation of NFL quarterbacks.

The New York Giants selected the 6'3" Taylor as the second overall pick in the 1981 NFL Draft on April 12 and that season he went on to be named the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Feb. 5, 1989 – In an important move signaling the close of the nearly decade-long Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the last Russian troops withdraw from the capital city of Kabul. Less than two weeks later, all Soviet troops departed Afghanistan entirely, ending what many observers referred to as Russia's "Vietnam."

By the time the Soviets started to withdraw, over 13,000 Russian soldiers were dead and over 22,000 had been wounded. The Soviet Union also suffered from a very negative diplomatic response from the United States--President Jimmy Carter put a hold on arms negotiations, asked for economic sanctions, and pressed for an American boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay Changes

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP) became a prorated entitlement. Members will be paid this entitlement based off the number of actual days entitled at a particular location/incident.

Prior regulation entitled the member to the full amount of HFP/IDP without being prorated for the number of days the member actually spent in a qualified region. Active and Reserve Component members who qualified, at any time during a month, received the full amount of HFP/IDP regardless of the actual period of time served on active or inactive duty during that month. This ceased Dec. 31, 2011, after the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act was passed.

On the Job



Airman Robert Duncan and another maintainer of the 513 MXS work on a support system for the AWACS radar during the LCAP inspection last UTA. (U.S. Air Force Photo//SrA Caleb Wanzer)

Got Super Bowl Plans?

Del City VFW Post 9969 will once again host a Super Bowl party for Air Force Reservists, their friends and family. With Sunday, Feb. 5, being a UTA for both the 513 ACG and 507 ARW, members can sign out and go directly to the VFW at 4400 VFW Drive - one block north of I-40 and Sunnyslane.

A \$10 donation will get you all you can eat from the grill, as volunteer cooks will prepare the food for serving at 5 pm - right before kickoff. A Texas Hold 'Em tournament begins at 1500 hours, with hand-pool and bean-bag-toss tournaments taking place during the game.

AF Reserve White Team Takes 2011 Flag Football Title

by Mike W. Ray

Staff Writer, Tinker Take-off

The pass reception that tied the base championship flag football game with time expiring was “business as usual” to the Reserve White wide receiver who hauled in the touchdown pass. And the kicker who’s PAT won the game as time expired was a sure-footed kicker all season. Air Force Reserve White captured the base league 2011 fall season title on January 19th by edging the 552nd Medical Group 14-13 on the last play of the game.

Reserve White became the second team in three years to remain unbeaten throughout the regular season and the playoffs alike. The Gym Rats were undefeated in 2009, and repeated as base champs in 2010 although not without a loss that year, Head Coach Ira Anderson recalled. The Jan. 19 title match was as close as the score indicated.

Several players had notable games during the double-elimination playoffs, but arguably the Most Valuable Player was Phillip Thomas of the Navy’s VQ-3 Iron Men, who were eliminated from the playoffs by the 552nd Medical Group. In three playoff games in which the Iron Men competed Jan. 17-18, Thomas threw seven TD passes, scored two rushing touchdowns, and ran back three interceptions for touchdowns. Thomas played football in high school but attended college on a basketball scholarship.



Reserve White = Base Champs, 14-13 win over 72nd Med Group on Thurs 19 Jan 2012. Included in photo is head coach Ralph Hawkins, Floyd Conner, fans Joe Brown, Randy Schell, Lloyd Palmer, and former Thumper Joe Huizar. Not pictured is Jeremy Allen and fan Rob Doty.



The newly-painted, joint Okie/Thumper bus for “off-duty events.”



Thumpers, Okies and friends gathered Thursday night, Jan. 26, for a tailgate event prior to and after an OU hockey game. OU lost the game to Minot State University 3-0.



Where Are They Now?

Senior Master Sgt. Carl Hill (Ret.)



How long did you serve with the 513th?

Roughly 8 years, 1996 – 2004. Crew Chief then Crew Chief Flight Superintendent.

What is your current position?

Lead Planner in the B-1 Planning Office of the B-1 Weapon System Support Center (WSSC).

What was one of the biggest challenges you faced while assigned to the 513 ACG?

Integration between Reserves and Active Duty, it took lots of communication

and explanation of the Reserve/ART rules and how we could assist A/D.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

Our very first TDY to San Antonio, Colonel Suggs and Ramseur and Sgt's Anderson, Letarte, Hernandez, Larouche and I (all reserve members) manned the first TDY off station. I think A/D was surprised we were all able to grasp the a/c that quick since we only had been there 3 months and ready to go off station.

Do you have any advice for current members?

Keep your lines of communication open with your leadership and vice versa. It's the strongest tool in the shed.

Where are you now?

Moore.

Blast From The Past

Recognize any familiar faces?



From the Top

by Col. Jeffrey McGilliard

Commander, 513 ACG

We have a budget for the remainder of FY12 and the good news is that it closely approximates what we expected. During the recent Financial Management Board, your units' leadership had the opportunity to arm-wrestle over their requirements and reached an agreement that will keep us bringing all of you in, as scheduled, for the focused training that leads to the 513th remaining a Tier 1-trained unit, ready for the call.

Speaking of which...while there has been a fair amount of anxiety about the deployment since our forum during the December UTA, I can report that the phone did ring this week, and the news from the Air Staff is that we're moving out in a very short time. As we race into a mobilization that will take up much of the remaining calendar year, I'd once again like to thank you for all you do in the service of our country as Citizen Airmen: always focused, vigilant and professional. There is no doubt, this will be a year of great challenges for us. Let me encourage you to wrap your arms around what lies ahead and help affect it in a way that will best benefit our people while doing our part to help the enemy "die for HIS country," to borrow a line from George S. Patton.

At the end of the day, as the only AFRC location for our weapon system, we are more like a family than most other military units, and your commanders and I are deeply committed to managing (read: shaping) challenges in a way that preserves that bond. Much of the remaining time ahead of the deployment will be filled with spin-up training and mobility items, but for those we're sending off to the AOR I'd also like you to focus on leaving behind a network of friends and contacts at the squadron that can help support your family during the "what ifs." Thinking back to my last 2 mobilizations, those were the times the oak tree chose to fall on the backyard fence and the water heater put in for retirement. Most of



our spouses are not checked out in those operations, so our absence is sharply felt at that moment, often with colorful language. Reach out to those of us left behind for your support, as we're the ones who are going to be here for you in the long haul. As I said during my first talk with you at the assumption of command, jealously guard what we have here in the 513th and know when to lean on each other. Ten plus years into the GWOT (its former, "less than PC" name) we're not finished with business just yet, and there are plenty of bad guys out there still intent on changing our way of life in unacceptably negative ways.

Many thanks to our superb maintainers, who cheerfully allow me into their back shops and on the flightline for a little "boss OJT" during each UTA. It allows me to get smarter on everything they do to provide us safe, mission-ready aircraft and their patience with this gray-haired operator is appreciated. I'm told the next stop on my OJT tour is in a de-icing truck this Sunday (so naturally I'm hoping for a February blizzard to make the training more realistic). Following that, we'll celebrate their recent LCAP success with a "Well done!" For those that haven't heard, in January we hosted a Logistics Compliance team from HQ ACC, for an inspection that wrapped around the UTA weekend, demonstrated your world-class integration with our active duty partners, and resulted in a strong overall score with many accolades.

On the ops side, last week I managed to sneak out on the road for a few days with a 970th crew (tough duty—Key West in January), completed my checkride as a fully-qualified AWACS pilot, and spent as much time as possible in the business end of the airplane learning their mission. (For much of the time I felt like a dog watching TV, but it will come with enough exposure.)

Look for me to be a regular participant on the flying schedule, and when I'm there please take the opportunity to show me what you do that keeps the bad guys hiding in their holes in the ground. You make me proud.

Sentry in Reserve,

Col McG

PERSONAL DEBT SINKS MORE CLEARANCES

by Sean Reilly
Military Times

The economic downturn is taking a growing toll on federal employees and contractors who need access to classified information for their jobs, according to government records and people familiar with the process.

“More and more people are experiencing trouble either obtaining a clearance or during an existing clearance reinvestigation due to hard economic times,” said Evan Lesser, managing director of ClearanceJobs.com, an online job board for people with active clearances. “These are far more common now than they were three to five years ago.”

“It’s just been a constant flow of those cases, and definitely more than before” the slump began in late 2007, said Sheldon I. Cohen, a Virginia attorney who specializes in clearance work.

In an article on his website last year, Cohen concluded that debt stemming from unemployment and foreclosures had become the top factor in clearance denials and revocations. The upshot, Cohen wrote, was the loss of good-paying jobs “putting skilled workers further and further behind in their effort to dig out of debt.”

Clearances are essential for access to classified national security information, typically labeled confidential, secret or top secret. The application process begins with a lengthy questionnaire, followed by a background investigation that includes a credit report. Ultimately, an adjudicator weighs 13 guidelines in deciding whether the applicant warrants approval.

One of those factors is debt, which, from the government’s perspective, could heighten someone’s vulnerability to bribery or blackmail, said Christopher Graham, a Washington lawyer at Tully Rinckey who also handles clearance cases.

The government does not track or publish data on clearance denials, so it is hard to know precisely what the numbers show. But one good barometer can be found in rulings published by the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals (DOHA), a Pentagon agency that handles appeals of prospective clearance denials. In fiscal 2006, there were just nine published decisions involving contractors that mentioned foreclosure as a factor, according to summaries posted on the office’s website. In fiscal 2011, there were 69.

One applicant, for example, had held a clearance during his career as a Navy officer and wanted to keep it after going to work for a contractor, according to a ruling issued in September.

But the man had also bought a \$500,000 home in 2005, with all of the financing coming from two adjustable-rate mortgages. In 2009, he fell behind in his payments after his

income dropped; by early this year, foreclosure proceedings had begun on one of the mortgages and he was able to sell the house for only \$375,000. The man also failed to file state income tax returns for two years. Even though he had held a clearance for many years, a DOHA administrative judge denied his appeal, writing that he “exercised bad judgment by overextending himself to purchase a home.”

Another applicant prevailed at one level only to lose at a second. A senior engineer, he had surrendered three rental houses to foreclosure after repeatedly losing tenants and seeing the value of his properties plummet. In one instance, the house’s value plunged from \$550,000 to \$299,000 while the monthly payment on his adjustable-rate mortgage jumped by 25 percent. A DOHA administrative judge, ruling on a recommendation to deny clearance, initially decided in the applicant’s favor, noting that the man was in his twenties during his failed fling as a landlord and had since gotten a better understanding of finance. But when DOHA’s staff questioned the judge’s decision, a DOHA appeal board in August reversed that decision on the grounds that the engineer had failed to resolve doubts about his fitness to hold a clearance.

Applicants’ names are redacted from the decisions.

‘Tip of the iceberg’

“You’re only seeing the tip of the iceberg,” said David Price, a retired Navy captain who now practices law in Virginia Beach, Va.

Not all decisions on contractor appeals are published, Price said. The office also doesn’t make public decisions on cases involving military personnel and federal civilian employees. The CIA, FBI and other agencies typically don’t disclose any information on the reasons for clearance approvals or denials.

At the Professional Services Council, a trade group for government service contractors, one official did not know of any problems that individual companies have encountered from the loss of employees whose clearances were denied or revoked.

“I think the pool is still large enough and the skill base still broad enough,” said Alan Chvotkin, the group’s executive vice president and counsel.

How often foreclosures and other money woes arise governmentwide during the adjudication process is likewise unclear. While the Office of the Director of National Intelligence recently released a congressionally mandated report finding that some 4.2 million federal employees and contractors had clearances as of last year, the agency is not required to keep statistics on why clearances are denied or revoked, a spokesman said. The Office of Personnel Management, which conducts most of the background investigations on

clearance applicants, referred questions back to the intelligence office.

Navy Cmdr. Leslie Hull-Ryde, a DOHA spokeswoman, said the board doesn’t keep statistics on cases adjudicated under a particular guideline. But the financial considerations guideline does not rely on credit ratings or credit scores, she said, and adjudicators take into account “the difficult financial situations that individuals may face in the current economy.”

Despite extensive official guidance for evaluating financial issues, the adjudicator’s decision is ultimately “a judgment call on a case-by-case basis,” Cohen said.

Good-faith effort counts

Foreclosure or other financial turmoil is not an automatic barrier to a clearance.

In another DOHA case decided earlier this year, the applicant had long held a confidential-level clearance, but she and her husband ran into trouble making payments on investment property and the lender eventually foreclosed. The administrative judge in her case noted that the applicant otherwise paid her bills on time and was willing to sell her home if necessary to satisfy a leftover claim from the foreclosure. The judge ruled in her favor.

“What you have to show is that you are making a good-faith effort to resolve your debts,” Graham said. For applicants at risk of foreclosure, he recommended such practical steps as a short sale — in which the lender agrees to accept less than the full value of the mortgage — as a way of minimizing the damage to a credit report.

Adjudicators are already supposed to take illness, job loss and other circumstances into account when making clearance decisions. But under the House version of the 2012 defense authorization bill, the Defense Department would be required to give “special consideration” to service members who show foreclosures on their credit reports.

The language was inserted by Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., where the collapse in home prices has been especially severe. Although no particular situation prompted Heck to add the provision, he was concerned about service members who were transferred but could not “sell their property under reasonable terms and conditions,” a House Armed Services Committee spokesman said.



In The Spotlight



Staff Sergeant Carrie Wright

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Air Surveillance Technician

Hometown: Royse City, Texas

Civilian job: Student

Place I'd like to visit: Switzerland

Favorite part of my job: Traveling, of course.

Biggest pet peeve: Lazy, undependable people.

Little known fact about me: I have my private pilot's license.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: The first and last night of the deployment last year.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: To be able to see the future.



Technical Sergeant Thomas Carter

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Hydraulic Section Shop Chief

Hometown: Moore, Okla.

Place I'd like to visit: Lived in Guam for 2 years, and I would like to take the family there.

Favorite part of my job: Living the dream.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: First 513th Family Day I attended in 2005.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: X-ray vision.

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