

RABBIT TALES



TABLE OF CONTENTS

This UTA in History	2
Caption This!	2
From the Top	3
Major Changes in Store	4
In the Spotlight	5
Safety: West Nile	6
Where are They Now	6



Rabbit Tales is a production of the 513th Air Control Group Public Affairs office.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

This UTA in History

October 13, 1792 – The cornerstone is laid for a presidential residence in the newly designated capital city of Washington. In 1800, President John Adams became the first president to reside in the executive mansion, which soon became known as the “White House” because its white-gray Virginia freestone contrasted strikingly with the red brick of nearby buildings.

On November 1, President John Adams was welcomed into the executive mansion. His wife, Abigail, wrote about their new home: “I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house, and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but wise men ever rule under this roof!”

October 14, 1947 – U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager becomes the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

For years, many aviators believed that man was not meant to fly faster than the speed of sound, theorizing that transonic drag rise would tear any aircraft apart. All that changed on October 14, 1947, when Yeager flew the X-1 over Rogers Dry Lake in Southern California. The X-1 was lifted to an altitude of 25,000 feet by a B-29 aircraft and then released through the bomb bay, rocketing to 40,000 feet and exceeding 662 miles per hour (the sound barrier at that altitude). The rocket plane, nicknamed “Glamorous Glennis,” was designed with thin, unswept wings and a streamlined fuselage modeled after a .50-caliber bullet.

Because of the secrecy of the project, Yeager’s achievement was not announced until June 1948. Yeager continued to serve as a test pilot, and in 1953 he flew 1,650 miles per hour in an X-1A rocket plane. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1975 with the rank of brigadier general.



The 970 EAACS takes in the local culture at a mosque off-base. Left to Right: Nina Wright, Carrie Wright, Matt Conrad, Angie Clowdus and Jocelyn Chang.

Caption This!

Top response from last month:
~ “Innovative training solution to physical fitness requirements and reduced flying hours, 100% RAP complete—definitely promote!”

–Lt. Col. Curtis Andersen



October’s Caption This! Photo.

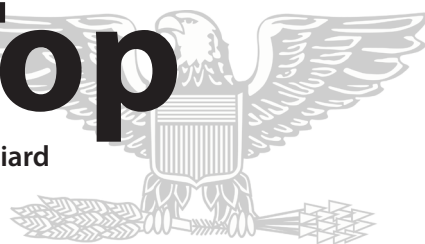
To submit a caption for this month’s photo, email TSgt Sandra Hatton (sandra.hatton@tinker.af.mil).



November’s Caption This! Photo.

From the Top

by Col. Jeffrey McGalliard
Commander, 513 ACG



Mr. Robert Boulware was a 19-year old B-17 tailgunner with five successful missions over North Africa and northern Italy, when he was shot down by AAA over Vienna, Austria on July 17, 1944. Before he bailed out, he made sure eight of his fellow crewmembers made it out first. Mr. Boulware was captured immediately after touching down, held initially by German fighter pilots but soon was transferred to the Stalag POW system. “We had nothing to eat or drink,” he said of the final months of his imprisonment, during which he was forced to march hundreds of miles northward into Germany with his fellow prisoners. Upon his liberation in April 1945, he weighed 70 lbs. Mr. Boulware represents the “greatest generation” described in the Tom Brokaw book of the same name, and returned

home to Oklahoma to complete a long career in the telecommunications industry and for the US Post Office.

The guest speaker at the breakfast was Col (ret) Leroy Stutz, a former 552d Deputy Commander of Maintenance, whose RF-4C reconnaissance jet was shot down 25 miles north of Hanoi in December 1966. Col Stutz was immediately captured and spent the next 6 1/2 years as a prisoner of the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” POW camp, until his release in March 1973.

In addition to honoring the former POWs present, the group paid special tribute to Sgt Bowe Bergdahl, USA. Sgt Bergdahl was captured in Paktika Province, Afghanistan by Taliban-linked members of the Haqqani warlord group, on 30 June 2009. Moved through various locations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he managed to escape at one point but was recaptured three days later. His status remains prisoner-of-war, and the US military continues efforts to find and rescue him. To the deployed AWACS flight crews and maintainers who daily provide airborne C3 over the skies of Afghanistan, your sorties support this effort whether you know it or not, and as “The Left Behind” we salute you.



POW survivor Mr. Robert Boulware and his wife Wendy are honored at the annual POW/MIA breakfast hosted by the Tinker Chiefs' Group. (Courtesy Photo)

Farewell, MSgt Greene!



Major Changes in Store for Commissaries

by Tom Phillpott
Military Update

Commissary patrons will soon see the “biggest transformational effort” made by the Defense Commissary Agency in its 21-year history, says agency Director Joseph H. Jeu.

For starters, by this time next year military families might be ordering groceries online, Monday through Friday, with service members or spouses being able to pick up the order curbside on their way home from work.

Eventually, military shoppers with smartphones will be able to use them to compare commissary prices with commercial supermarkets and make instant buying decisions. And in areas with several military bases, the Commissary Agency plans to test alternative store designs, including the bulk-buying experience found at stores like Sam's Club.

The agency also has plans to use social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, more routinely to get real-time feedback from shoppers.

Commercial model

These changes, which echo initiatives in the commercial marketplace are meant to position the agency for success at least for the next 20 years, Jeu told me by phone from Commissary Agency headquarters at Fort Lee, Va.

“This is an exciting time for all of us,” he said.

The commitment to a more modern approach to commissary operations is laid out in a new Commissary Agency vision statement.

The first initiative “is the model like Harris Teeter, where you can order online for pick up at the curb-side,” Jeu said.

The agency is “working vigorously” on this, he said.

No timeline is set for testing use of smartphones to comparison shop commissary prices against retail grocers, Jeu said, but that will follow on the heels of successful launch of online ordering.

The agency wants to test other concepts, too, Jeu said.

“There's a lot of different ideas to deliver our commissary benefit to more people,” he said, “and more efficiently — and to a younger generation.”

Young shoppers, he said, “grew up using electronics, shopping from homes, with social media and they just buy things differently. So we want to make sure they take full advantage of this commissary benefit that they so earned.”

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, or send email to milupdate@aol.com



In The Spotlight



Master Sergeant Lauch McMillan

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Evaluator Communications Technician

Hometown: Laurinburg, North Carolina

Place I'd like to visit: Yellowstone National Park

Favorite part of my job: Traveling! Going on TDYs (emphasis on "temporary").

Biggest pet peeve: When the lights in the communications section on the jet are burnt out.

Little known fact about me: Played the trumpet for seven years in a marching band that wore kilts.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: Playing Quake "after duty hours" with everyone on the squadron LAN during the '99 activation.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: The ability to speak and understand every language.



Staff Sergeant Andrew Mistkowski

Unit: 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Aerospace Propulsion Technician

Hometown: Rockaway, New Jersey

Place I'd like to visit: Italy, Canada and Europe.

Favorite part of my job: Being a reservist over active duty.

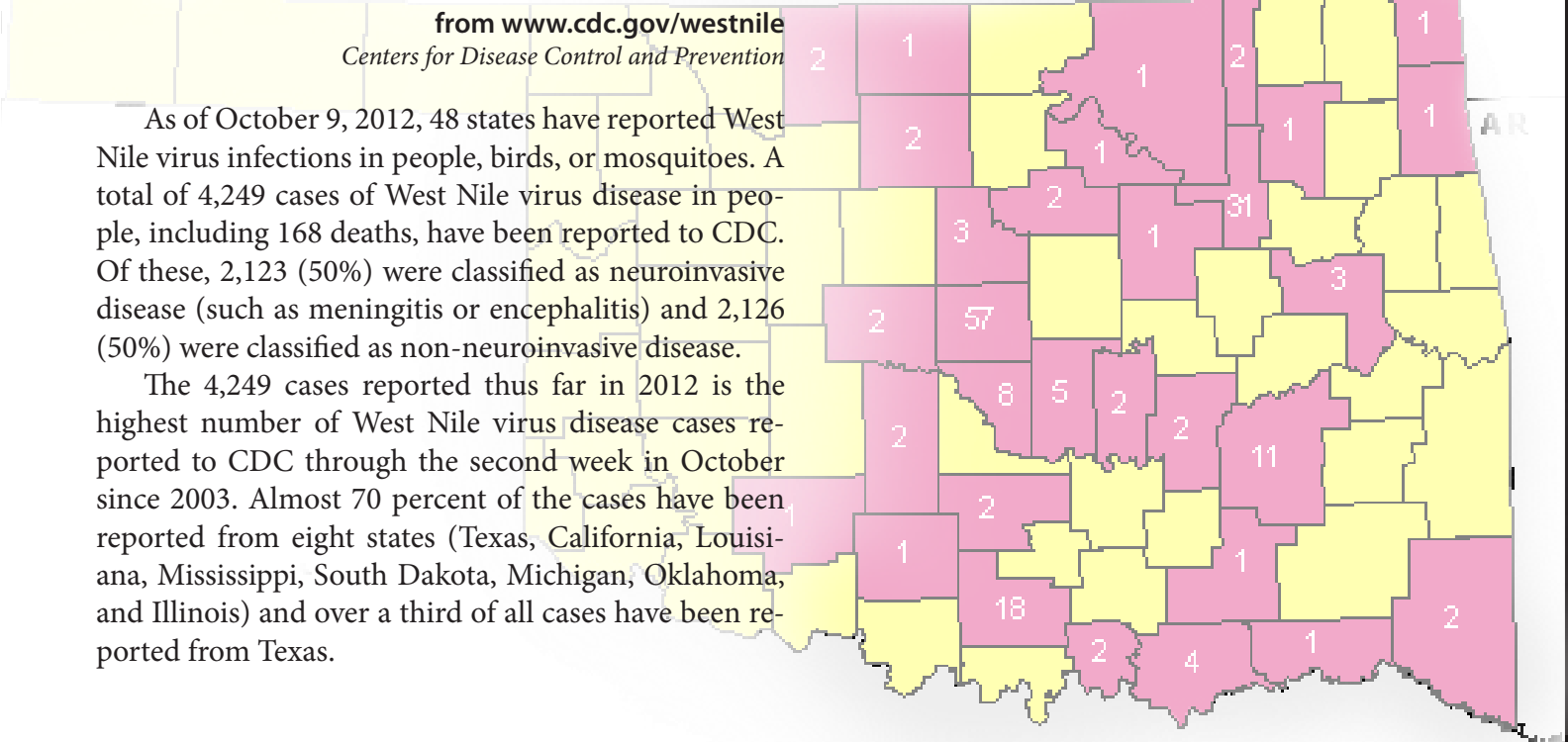
Little known fact about me: I have never been snowboarding/skiing even though I am from the Northeast.

Biggest pet peeve: Asking people to get stuff done and it doesn't get done.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: The Alaska Red Flag trip I went on.

If I had a superhero ability, it would be: Super human strength.

SAFETY: West Nile Virus



As of October 9, 2012, 48 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes. A total of 4,249 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 168 deaths, have been reported to CDC. Of these, 2,123 (50%) were classified as neuroinvasive disease (such as meningitis or encephalitis) and 2,126 (50%) were classified as non-neuroinvasive disease.

The 4,249 cases reported thus far in 2012 is the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases reported to CDC through the second week in October since 2003. Almost 70 percent of the cases have been reported from eight states (Texas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Dakota, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Illinois) and over a third of all cases have been reported from Texas.

Remember:
SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!
513ACG.Safety@tinker.af.mil

Where Are They Now?

Master Sergeant Donna Shoemaker

How long did you serve with the 513th?

I served 2 years as a Traditional Reservist, and 4 years as an Air Reserve Technician—6 years total. I was a Client System Administrator.

What is your current position?

I work full time in the JAG office as the CSA, and I teach computer courses at Rose State part time.

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

It was the users challenging me with computer issues.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

When our cowbell was the clown show/circus theme.

Do you have any advice for current members?

Do your 20, just don't give up when things get bad.

Where are you now?

Northwest Oklahoma City.

