

RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



President visits Tinker AFB, Moore to survey Tornado devastation

Story on page 3

PLUS: Thumper pushes self to excellence | Fit to fight hall of fame

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President lands at Tinker | 3

From the top | 4

In the spotlight | 6

Thumper pushes self to excellence | 7

Safety corner | 8

Where are they now? | 8

Fit to fight hall of fame | 8



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This UTA in History

June 2, 1997 – Timothy McVeigh is convicted on 15 counts of murder and conspiracy for his role in the 1995 terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

On April 19, 1995, just after 9 a.m., a massive truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. When the rescue effort finally ended two weeks later, the death toll stood at 168 people, including 19 young children who were in the building's day-care center at the time of the blast.

On April 21, the massive manhunt for suspects in the worst terrorist attack ever committed on U.S. soil resulted in the capture of Timothy McVeigh, a 27-year-old former U.S. Army soldier who matched an eyewitness description of a man seen at the scene of the crime.

June 2, 1935 – Babe Ruth, one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, ends his Major League playing career after 22 seasons, 10 World Series and 714 home runs. The following year, Ruth, a larger-than-life figure whose name became synonymous with baseball, was one of the first five players inducted into the sport's hall of fame.

Ruth made his Major League debut as a left-handed pitcher with the Red Sox in July 1914 and pitched 89 winning games for the team before 1920, when he was traded to the New York Yankees. After Ruth left Boston, in what became known as "the curse of the Bambino," the Red Sox didn't win another World Series until 2004.

In New York, Ruth's primary position changed to outfielder and he led the Yankees to seven American League pennants and four World Series victories. Ruth was a huge star in New York and attracted so many fans that the team was able to open a new stadium in 1923, Yankee Stadium, dubbed "The House That Ruth Built."

Source: www.History.com/this-day-in-history

Promotions

Congratulations to this month's promotees!



TSgt Randy Schell (970 AACs)
TSgt Justin Tate (970 AACs)



President lands at Tinker, surveys tornado damage in Moore

by Maj. Jon Quinlan
Chief of 507 ARW Public Affairs

5/28/2013 - TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- President Barack Obama landed at here on his way to Moore, Okla. to survey the tornado devastation and meet with victims and first responders, May 26.

The president shook hands and spoke with some Tinker AFB employees, families, and first responders on the flight line here before traveling down to Moore, while encouraging people to continue to help.

Many Team Tinker members were personally affected by the EF-5 tornado that swept across Moore on May 20. For Tinker employees alone, over 165 homes were lost, over 200 homes were damaged with families displaced and over 130 homes were damaged but habitable, according to base officials.

At a press conference in Moore, the president highlighted that he is behind them every step of the way.

"When we say that we've got your back, I promise you, we keep our word," the president said. "We've seen incredible outpourings of support from churches, from community groups who are helping folks begin to recover. People here pride themselves on the 'Oklahoma Standard,' being able to work through disasters like this, and to come out stronger on the other side. And that's what we've been seeing this week."

While standing with Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin and other state and federal officials, the president spoke about the efforts ahead.

Continued on page 5, see PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Cover Photo

President Barack Obama greets Airmen and family members on Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., May 26, 2013, en route to surrounding areas damaged by recent tornadoes. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Snyder)



From the Top

by Col. Jeffrey McGalliard
Commander, 970 AACS



I'm beginning to wonder if I have any hope of keeping up with the rest of you if you insist on maintaining the pace I've seen since I got here 18 months ago... does the 513th ever "coast?"

Eighty-three operators and a dozen maintainers completed the superbly successful mobilization and deployment last year, raising the bar to new levels down-range. Then you came home to the churn associated with whether we would go to PACAF or CDO this year under volunteerism, while we simultaneously spun up crews and maintainers for the Readiness ORI that was initially cancelled, but has now been converted into a Compliance Inspection instead.

Yes, you read that right. If you haven't seen any mail from the squadrons since last UTA, much water has flowed over the dam and we've been told to prepare to receive a CUI 0 Compliance Inspection along with our mission partners in the 552 ACW. A combined IG team from ACC and AFRC will be here in November (about the time the OSU Cowboys will be mopping up what's left of the Big 12.)

This is a significant pivot not just in terms of the inspection focus – no more generation/ATSO/mission execution events – but away from our usual UCI-type inspection partners in the 507 ARW. Our new CDZ division had literally just finished writing the Compliance Preparation Plan (typically due to big AF about 18 months in advance of an inspection) when we found out it's being moved one year earlier.

If you're a Sooner fan still angry about that earlier pre-

diction, I urge you to instead focus that energy on polishing the programs you manage, getting into the AFI that governs it, and responding to the late notification of the inspection with a big win. It won't be enough to clean up your checklists in MICT, you must look beyond them to account for what's missing (but inspectable from the AFI) and what you'd like to showcase on your way to a superior result. It's our time to shine in all of the programs you work so hard on.

There are no people in 10AF more capable of excelling in this than his 400 AWACS operators and maintainers.

Safety wowed me with their inspection prep 2 UTAs ago, and I know they're not the only star players on our roster. OSF is working hard on a revision to the MOU that governs our relationship with the 552d, which will now include the future-state where we get all types of inspections along with them. Our two maintenance squadrons have built new capabilities in both MOC and Support that will significantly increase our capability, out of hide without any increase in manning.

I'll tell you what I shared with Maj Gen Binger when we discussed the inspection change last week: not optimum, and not necessarily in keeping with what we'd been told to expect, but there are no people in 10AF more capable of excelling in this than his 400 AWACS operators and maintainers.

If you're a TR with availability and a desire to help toward the effort, we'll be focusing all of our resources in that direction and welcome your expertise and sweat equity. If you're a program manager that will be inspected this fall, I urge you to get your name on the mailbox and OWN your program. Be proud of what you do and ready to describe it to inspectors.

Here's a great example of why we have every reason to expect a great outcome: two weekends ago I saw another example of what you do in stride. Our off-station training mission to DM was broken for a fuel pump leak. The handful of maintainers that we had along jumped into action coordinating a replacement pump, which the home-station on call maintainers ran over to get on a departing E-6 that was headed our way. This saved at least 2 days transit time. When it arrived they swapped out the replacement and tested for leaks, salvaging the next day's sortie via their 13-hour duty day.

On Monday when the 552d launched 5 jets out of here to avoid the weather, those same maintainers caught all the aircraft, arranged transportation for the crews, put the jets to bed and then went back to preparing our aircraft for the return flight the next day. All without being told to do so. That's a typical example of the caliber of our folks and their commitment to what we do.

It's why this is such a special organization. Here's to our success in the next challenge...

Col McG



PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, continued from page 3

"Our hearts go out to you...this is a strong community with strong character. There's no doubt they will bounce back, the president said. "But they need help."

In addition to Oklahoma National Guard, federal and state workers, more than 600 Airmen from Tinker AFB, Altus AFB, and Vance AFB, all in Oklahoma, volunteered to assist residents in recovery.

"I was humbled but glad to help our fellow Oklahomans in their time of need," said volunteer Maj. Cody Whittington, 507th Air Refueling Wing executive officer. "It really is all about giving back to the community that has supported the military for so many years."



A United States flag hangs from a home devastated by a tornado that hit the town of Moore, Okla., May 20, 2013, near Tinker Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Jon Quinlan)

Obama's signing of a disaster declaration within hours of the storm has helped speed aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. More than 450 FEMA personnel are working on the ground in Oklahoma and they, along with volunteers have delivered 43,000 meals, 150,000 liters of water and thousands of cots, blankets and tarps, according to FEMA representatives.

Tech Sgt. Lindsay Newton, 507th Maintenance Squadron, met with the president here at Tinker but wishes it was under different circumstances.

"I was thankful to be given the chance to meet the president and I'm amazed by the support of the community," she said. "Our home was damaged, but we are fortunate compared to some folks that lost everything or loved ones. I'm amazed at all of the donations and support everyone has provided. I know that Oklahomans are really pulling together now and a lot of progress is being made towards clean up and recovering."

More information on disaster relief efforts can be found at the Tinker Air Force Base public website, www.tinker.af.mil. (Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Affairs contributed to this report)

In The Spotlight



Senior Airman Alberto Ruiz

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Metals Technology

Hometown: Calexico, Calif.

Civilian job: Sheet metal mechanic in building 3001.

Place you'd like to visit: Italy

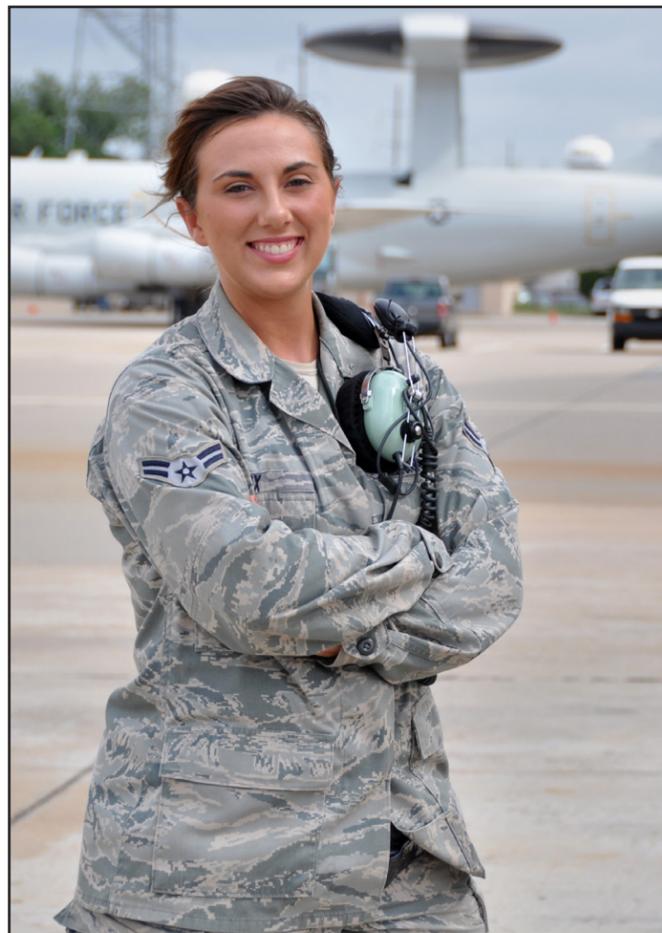
Biggest pet peeve: When people talk over others to be heard.

Favorite part of your job: Welding. I love it and have mastered it.

Little known fact about you: I'm a private pilot. If I had enough money, I'd fly every day.

Little known fact about me: I like doing art with molten metal.

If you had a superhero ability, it would be: X-ray vision, so I could test my own welds.



Airman 1st Class Kelsi Box

Unit: 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Communications/Navigation

Hometown: Altus, Okla.

Favorite part of my job: Working outside with my hands.

Biggest pet peeve: When people talk over others to be heard.

Little known fact about me: I'm a private pitching and batting coach.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th: I have a feeling my favorite time(s) are coming up. Playing with the MNVL (Monday Night Volleyball) or reserve softball team!

If you had a superhero ability, it would be: Precognition. I'm all about getting the job done in a shortened time frame without taking away from the quality or work. I absolutely hate wasting time.

Thumper pushes self from 'good' to 'excellent'

by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer
513 ACG Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLA. -- When Master Sgt. Jay Harris was appointed as his squadron's Fit to Fight program manager 3 years ago, exercising wasn't a part of his daily routine and his fitness scores were just above passing.

"When I took over as the [970th Airborne Air Control Squadron] fitness leader 3 years ago, I couldn't run a mile if someone put a gun to my head," Harris said. "I thought it would be pretty hypocritical if I tried to hold people to standards I couldn't meet."

He decided he had to make a change to his lifestyle.

Harris started small. A one-mile run on the treadmill or track turned into two miles after a couple weeks, which led to 10 miles in a relay race a year later. It wasn't an easy road, and he didn't do it alone.

"Me, Shawn Kilbourne, his sister and girlfriend ended up starting a support group to run together," Harris

said. "Shawn helped me out a lot. It's a lot easier when you have someone there with you. Running can be boring, so it's good to have a buddy to joke around with."

Harris didn't let up and kept improving during a deployment to southwest Asia last year, running an Air Force-sponsored half marathon. After his redeployment back home, he heard about the Oklahoma City Marathon in late April and decided to do the 13.1 mile race again in his hometown.

"I was planning on doing just the half marathon at the Oklahoma City race, but my training was going so well back in February that I decided to run the full marathon," he said. "I thought if I'm ever going to do a full marathon, it has to be now."

Just a few hours after the race began, Harris crossed the finish line.

"I was one of those guys 3 years ago whose average fitness test run time was 12:35, which was barely making the minimum for my age group," he said. "My latest run time is 10:13, and my test scores have gone from just passing to excellent."

For those still struggling with their run times, Harris encourages them to start small.

"If I was on a treadmill or track, I never looked at my pace," he said. "I'd make small goals; try to run for 2 songs, then 3 songs."

Before he knew it, Harris was losing count of the songs playing through his headphones and had to start counting miles. Harris is now setting his sights on the weight room after reaching his marathon goal.

"Never say never, but I'm not planning on another marathon just yet," he said. "I think my new summer goal is to bench 400 pounds."



Master Sgt. Jay Harris poses with friends and fellow racers before the Oklahoma City Marathon on April 27. Pictured (left to right) are Mandy Kierbow, Barbie VanOrsdel, Jay Harris, Ashley Smith and Shawn Kilbourne.

Safety Corner Flash Floods

Remember:
**SAFETY BEGINS WITH
YOU!**

513ACG.Safety@tinker.af.mil

More people lose their LIVES in floods than in any other weather-related event. 80% of flood deaths occur in vehicles, and most happen when drivers make a single, fatal mistake - trying to navigate through flood waters.

Watch for the following signs:

- Unusually hard rain over several hours
- Steady substantial rain over several days
- Rains in conjunction with a spring thaw
- A weather report
- Water rising rapidly in streams and rivers

DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS! Even if it looks shallow enough to cross. The large majority of deaths due to flash flooding occur with people driving through flooded areas. Water only a foot deep can displace a 1500 lb. vehicle! 24" of water can easily carry most automobiles! Roads concealed by water may not be intact.

If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away. Remember it's better to be wet than dead!

The National Weather Service will issue a Flash Flood Watch when heavy rains may result in flash flooding in a specific area. In this case you should be alert and prepare for the possibility of a flood emergency which will require immediate action.

Fit to Fight Hall of Fame



9:01

Lt. Col. Bradley McBride (970 AACs)

71

2nd Lt. Michael Doughty
(970 AACs)



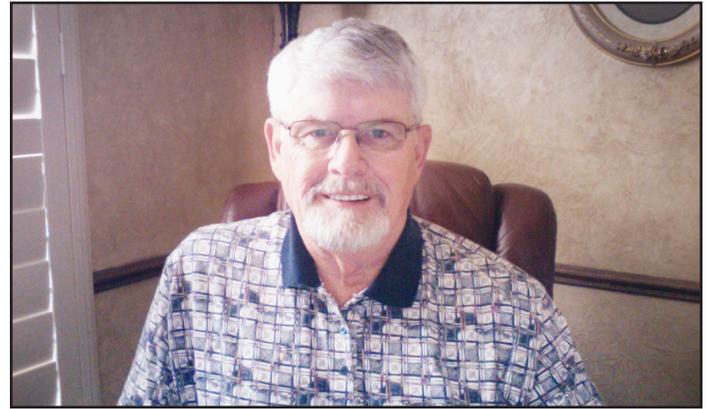
77

Tech. Sgt. James Depace
(513 AMXS)



Where Are They Now?

Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Humphrey



How long did you serve with the 513th?

I moved over to the 513 ACG right after they were activated in 1997 & worked the Ops Counter in the ORC.

What is your current position?

Owner of UNFORGETTABLE VIDEO. We record training, self help seminars & of course weddings in Oklahoma, Kansas, & Texas.

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

Preparing for the ORI's. Also the activation after 9/11.

What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

Operation Enduring Freedom activation.

Do you have any advice for current members?

Stay positive, sometimes the decisions of your supervisors might not always seem to be correct, but they work out in the end.

Where are you now?

Shortly after retiring we sold our house in the Eastwood Addition at Reno & Anderson & downsized and had a new house built in the Sweetwater Addition located two miles south of the Lazy E Arena on Douglas Boulevard in Guthrie, OK.

Fit to Fight MVPs

**Master Sgt. Steven
Gonsalves**
Unit: 513 AMXS
Score: 99.1%

**Senior Airman Regina
Kinzie**
Unit: 513 MXS
Score: 99.0%