

September 2015

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



## 513th enables future Navy deployment to the Pacific

(Page 8)

**INSIDE:**

Thumpers best Okies, keep cup in longstanding rivalry // UTA in review

# RABBIT TALES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

513th update	3
Thumpers best Okies, keep cup in longstanding rivalry	4
513th enables future Navy deployment to the Pacific	8
UTA in review	11



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

*This Air Force Reserve online magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services, family, and friends of the 513th Air Control Group and its subordinate units. Contents of and the views expressed in the Rabbit Tales newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.*

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

## 513TH UPDATE

### Upcoming events

Saturday – 1100 – 513th Family Day  
(38th CEIG/Tinker Annex)

Nov. 12-17 – UEI Capstone Inspection

### Promotions for Sept.

Congrats to this month’s promotees!

**Staff Sgt.** Vernon Nichols  
(513th Operations Support Squadron)

**Staff Sgt.** Kevin Raedy  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

**Master Sgt.** Carrie Hutchison  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

**Lt. Col. (Sel)** Mark Vardaro  
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

**Lt. Col. (Sel)** Stephen Williams  
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)



Lieutenant Colonel Robert Thompson

### Cover photo

An E-3C Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft flown by reservists from the 513th Air Control Group takes off on Aug. 24 from Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, Calif. Maintenance and operations



Airmen from the 513th supported naval operations by providing airborne command and control to ships and aircraft during Joint Task Force Exercise 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

**Unit:** 513th Air Control Group  
**Job title:** Deputy Commander for Maintenance  
**Hometown:** Arkadelphia, Arkansas  
**Favorite team:** Arkansas Razorbacks  
**What did you want to be when you grew up?**  
An Air Force pilot.  
**Little-known fact about you:** Leading, assisting and caring for Airmen who produce combat Airpower.  
**Little-known fact about you:** I played the tuba in high school and first year of college bands.  
**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th?** Being new to the group, my favorite memory is learning the incredible skill and talent that is possessed in the 513th Air Control Group. Our maintenance Airmen bring technical expertise, continuity, professionalism and dedication to our Total Force team every day and it is an honor to be a part of it.  
**If you had superhero ability, it would be:**  
The maneuverability of Batman.  
**Watched any good TV shows or movies recently?**  
Movie...War Room.



# Thumpers best Okies, keep cup in longstanding rivalry

**Game One:** 513th ACG Thumpers 18, 507th ARW Okies 1. Highlights included Thumper outfielder Jim Gasaway hitting a grand slam HR in his first at-bat for the night to set the tone for the rest of the evening, and the return of utility player Jim Matthey to the 513th after ten years stationed in D.C.

**Game Two:** 513th ACG Thumpers 15, 507th ARW Okies 14. Highlights included Okie team captain Dustin Staude hitting a massive HR to give the Okies a 13 to 4 lead late in the game. But the Thumper bats heated up, led by former Okie Brian Finley, and the 513th won the game in the bottom of the final inning.





Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group and 552nd Air Control Wing walk off the flight line on Aug. 20 after landing at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, Calif. Reservists and active-duty operations Airmen flew missions together to provide airborne command and control to the U.S. Navy during Joint Task Force Exercise 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)





# 513th enables future Navy deployment to the Pacific

**By Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer**  
*513th Air Control Group Public Affairs*

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- Reservists from the 513th Air Control Group returned Aug. 27, 2015, from Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California, where they provided Airborne Warning and Control System support to the Navy's Joint Task Force Exercise off the coast of Southern California.

The exercise, led by the Navy's 3rd Fleet, served as an evaluation of Carrier Strike Group 3's ability to perform strike, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare before deploying. More than 8,000 service members participated at sea, on the coast or in the air.

Capt. Nick Petersen, an air weapons officer assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron,

served as the liaison officer to the exercise's combined air operations center, which acted as a central command for aircraft in the exercise.

"We were asked to come out to this exercise because we offer a command and control capability that, frankly, the carrier can't provide," Petersen said. "For deep look, for deep strike, for looking far into country, that's where the AWACS comes in. That's where we offer our value."

In his first experience as a liaison officer with the Navy, Petersen was impressed with the service's ability to complete its mission in its own style.

"The Navy, by design, works much differently than the other branches," he said. "They do their job, and do it very well. It's really fun to learn more about how they do it, compare it to how we do it, and then find the

**"For deep look, for deep strike, for looking far into country, that's where the AWACS comes in."**  
 – Capt. Nick Petersen, 970th AACS

Maintenance Airmen from the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron watch as a Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopter flies behind an E-3C Sentry on Aug. 24 at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, Calif. After each mission, the Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft requires careful inspection and checks to ensure safety of flight.





Master Sgt. Justin Sproles, a communication and navigation specialist assigned to the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, pushes a fire extinguisher into place Aug. 24 at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, Calif., after an E-3C Sentry completed a training mission as part of Joint Task Force Exercise 2015. The 513th maintenance reservists accompany every off-station training mission to provide routine checks as well as repairs if needed. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



Maintenance Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group wait for an E-3C Sentry to complete shutdown procedures Aug. 24 after completing a training mission at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, Calif. The 513th maintenance reservists accompany every off-station training mission to provide routine checks as well as repairs if needed. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)



best way to work together to complete the mission.”

During the exercise, every take-off and mission was completed as scheduled without any delays or maintenance issues.

“There’s no way that we could support JTTFX, support the Navy or support any war without our maintainers,” Petersen said. “They work directly in line with our operators to ensure that the mission is being fulfilled, and that’s exactly how this weapons system is designed to operate.”

Maj. Mark Vardaro, the maintenance operations officer for the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squad-

ron, said the perfect flying record during the exercise was no coincidence.

“We had traditional reservists as well as an active-duty member on the trip,” Vardaro said. “It was a great opportunity for team building as well as training. We were totally focused on the mission at hand, whether it was launching aircraft or recovering them, or getting them ready and prepped for the next flight. Everybody did exactly what they came here to do.”

While conducting missions in the area, the 513th also provided additional surveillance for the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol’s Air

and Marine Operations Center, which is responsible for homeland security and counter-drug operations throughout the continental United States.

“Our AWACS provides excellent surveillance capability that the AMOC doesn’t normally have,” said Col. David Robertson, the 513th Air Control Group Commander. “Not only do they appreciate the additional radar picture, but it provides some great real-world experience for our own surveillance technicians.”



Master Sgt. Kim Robertson, a flight engineer assigned to the 513th Operations Support Squadron, shakes hands with Maj. Gregory Hutto after re-enlisting in the Air Force Reserve on Aug. 10. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, the Air Force Reserve Command Command Chief, speaks with reservists from the 513th Maintenance and Aircraft Maintenance squadrons on Aug. 9 at the Red AMU maintenance office. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Caleb Wanzer)

