

March 2016

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



20th Anniversary

20TH PRINT REVEALED

See inside for photos from the Friday Night Social

INSIDE:

Looking back and looking forward // Welsh presents AF update at AFA

RABBIT TALES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

513th update	3
Commentary: Looking back and looking forward	4
Welsh presents AF update at AFA	5
Reflections from the early days	6
20th anniversary print revealed	8
February in review	10



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.

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming events

- Saturday – 1600 – E-3 Sentry Static Display (In front of Bldg 230, Dock 2)
- Saturday – 1800 – 20th Anniversary Celebration (Bldg 230, Dock 2)
- Sunday – 1300 – Enlisted Call, E-1 to E-6 (Fannin Hall, 552 OG Auditorium)
- Sunday – 1400 – Enlisted Call, E-7 to E-9 (Fannin Hall, 552 OG Auditorium)
- Sunday – 1500 – Commander’s Call (Fannin Hall, 552 OG Auditorium)

Promotions for March

Congrats to this month’s promotees!

- SrA** Misty Stratton (513th Operations Support Squadron)
- SSgt** Jeremy Seritt (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- TSgt** Jenna “Princess” Goodall (513th Air Control Group)
- TSgt** Frank Wallick (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- MSgt** Angela Leddy (513th Maintenance Squadron)

Recruiter contact info



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Fit to Fight MVP’s

SSgt Marcus Robello
Unit: 513 AMXS
Score: 95.4%



MSgt Daniel Gibb
Unit: 513 OSS
Score: 94.2%

Fit to Fight hall of fame



Team Tinker



513th ACG

1.5-Mile Run

Men: **7:51** **8:57** Men: TSgt Daniel McDonald
Women: **9:44** **12:04** Women: SSgt Stephanie Jacks

Pushups

Men: **110** **82** Men: SrA Robert Duncan
Women: **65** **53** Women: Maj. Andromeda Augustino

Situps

Men: **109** **92** Men: 1st Lt. Michael Doughty
Women: **84** **63** Women: 1st Lt. Amie Inman

1-Mile Walk

Men & Women: **9:15** **11:22** Men: MSgt Darrell Freel
13:57 Women: MSgt Elizabeth Staff

Looking back and looking forward

By Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Davis
Superintendent, 513th Air Control Group

As we take this month and reflect on the past 20 years of the 513th Air Control Group, I cannot help but look around and notice all of the new faces. Like a lot of us, I started my military career on active duty at the 552nd Air Control Wing. As my active-duty enlistment came to an end, I moved to a civilian job and started my career in the Reserve. What a great career it has been!

The unit has gone through many changes over the years, some of them good and some of them not so much, but they have all contributed to who we are today. As I look around and see all the new faces I cannot help but notice the missing faces; those who came before us and built this unit from nothing. Some of them will be around during the 20-year celebration. I would encourage you take this opportunity to pick their brains for some stories from the past. I remember a time when we measured if you were a “new guy” by the answer to “were you here for the activation?” Now you will need to be specific as to which activation, because the first activation was almost an entire career ago.

The one thing that has been consistent over the years is that as a group we strive to maintain the family atmosphere and to take care of the Airmen of the 513th like no other unit around. There is a brotherly bond that we have in the military that is unmatched by any other group of people, and I think that is what I missed the most

when I left active duty and went to the private sector. When I interviewed at the 513th, they were flying all of my old active-duty buddies who left active duty and spread all over the country for different private sector jobs, then came back to Oklahoma once a month so we could have a beer and hang out. We did a little training, did some flying and had a great time. It didn't

even seem like work back when I was a Senior Airman. I hope that we can all look back on our time in the 513th and have great experiences and memories that we can someday share with our kids. These experiences make us who we are, as a unit and as people.

These experiences are what Reservists bring to private-sector jobs that cannot be replaced by any amount of education and training a civilian can get. Likewise, our civilian jobs give us skills and experiences that an active-duty Airman will never get while he is on active duty.

This combination of military and civilian experiences is what makes the reserves successful.

Last month, we said goodbye to several members of the 513th family that have been here for a long time.

They all contributed in a great way to who we are today. They were both ARTs and TRs, both operators and maintainers. The one thing that they had in common was that they gave a large portion of their lives to the Air Force, and we are all better because of the sacrifices that they and their families made over the years. As we continue in our service and

look back on our careers and the 20 years of the 513th, take a minute and say thank you to those who came before us and to your family who makes sacrifices that we as members will never know. I also challenge you to reflect and see what you are doing to make the 513th Air Control Group better for those who will come after us.



I hope that we can all look back on our time in the 513th and have great experiences and memories that we can someday share with our kids.

Welsh presents AF update at AFA

By Senior Airman Hailey Haux
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Florida (AFNS) -- Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III outlined Air Force operations from 2015, the service's plan for 2016, and what is to come in the future at the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium Feb. 25.

“We moved 350,000 tons of cargo last year, roughly. We also moved about a million passengers. Our mobility pros, along with the great aeromedical team, moved about 4,300 wounded warriors and other patients around the globe last year to (get) care they needed,” Welsh stated. “We have Airmen of all shapes, sizes, types and mission areas who are following the trail of terror that (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) leaves and every time they identify footprints, they make sure the person who left them doesn't have the opportunity to walk that trail again. It's a slow, steady drumbeat of professional performers that make a difference over time.”

There are roughly 22,000 Airmen deployed around the globe every day, Welsh said. The Air Force flew about 1.7 million hours last year, which is 195 years of flying, 300,000 of those being combat hours.

“This is an incredible enterprise folks, and it just never stops operating, all the time,” Welsh said. “It's a thrill to be a part of this, and the Airmen who are making it happen are sitting amongst you out there.”

Welsh listed a number of areas the Air Force must focus on in order for

the service to continue its airpower superiority: nuclear infrastructure and aircraft modernization, remotely piloted aircraft enterprise health, total force readiness, and Airmen.

“(It's important) to make sure that these great, great young Americans believe that what they do is important, that we do everything we can to improve the environment they work in day to day, to make them feel like they are valued contributors, like their decisions make a difference,” Welsh said about Airmen in RPA operations. “We have a manpower issue in our Air Force and the secretary has made it her number one focus this year during the budget cycle. Right now, let's fix where we know we are broken, stabilize, then figure out how to start filling in the holes in our Air Force that have been created by standing up new enterprises while we drew down the Air Force as a whole.”

“Total force size matters ... readiness matters,” Welsh continued. “The less ready they are, the more risky it will be for them to respond, meaning the conflict will last longer and we will count risk in terms of lives lost; that's not acceptable. So everything we can be doing to improve readiness, we need to be doing.”



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III delivers his “Air Force Update,” during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 25, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

Welsh emphasized the importance for the Air Force to go “back to the basics” and outlined 10 fundamentals for Airmen to think about:

1. People matter
2. High ground is still high ground, and we own it
3. Airpower is our greatest asymmetric advantage
4. Airpower is a game changer ... it's time for Airmen to lead joint operations
5. Quantity has a quality all its own
6. The Air Force is “low density/high demand,” and without it you lose
7. “One Air Force,” it's the only way we'll succeed
8. Can't build an Air Force overnight, can't teach Airpower in a generation
9. Leadership must be an asymmetric advantage
10. Technology/innovation at the heart of success -- air forces that fall behind the tech curve fail!

Reflections from the Early Days – Operations

When Maj. Gen. Mazick (then colonel) offered me the opportunity to assist him in standing up a Reserve AWACS Classic Association, he neglected to say I was the first one hired and he would soon be working in another state. Thankfully, I was joined shortly thereafter by our first group commander, Col. Kenneth Suggs. Col. Suggs knew the quicker we put Reserve maintenance boots on the ground, the better leverage we would have in negotiating with the active duty. To facilitate, we were fortunate enough to capture two maintenance rock stars, Chief DiTomasso and Chief Riley. The duo tirelessly worked on hiring outstanding maintainers, securing real estate and structuring MOAs. I was the Queen Bee of all that was Ops. Most people may not realize that not only had AFRC never heard of the majority of AWACS AFSCs, AFRC Manpower and Operations thought an E-3 was Airman First Class. Hundreds of spreadsheets and hours of blood, sweat and mostly tears later, the unit manning document was published. Then we faced the herculean task of filling the billets. Fortunately, active-duty AWACS was hemorrhaging their aircrew talent and we were able to capture them before they hit the inactive reserve roles. It seems that still happens today...thanks 552.

As the jack-of-all-trades, I settled in and hired my Air Surveillance Technicians, running supply, O&M funds, working on training tables, strategic planning, etc. Don't forget, this was

the very first Air Combat Command classic association. It was quite a task educating AFRC on our needs, learning the "association" concept and establishing a letter of agreement with the 552nd Air Control Wing. Additionally, this was a time when computers weren't used the same way they are today and the Internet was still

just a project on a shelf. Everything was paper generated from scratch and nobody would share their office toys with the new "Reservists".

Nevertheless, we pushed through. My personal reward was to watch awesome people with big personalities come through our doors as new members. Some were selected from other Reserve units as they had that "Reserve" piece and others came to us with their AWACS expertise. Some of my favorites included Woody Steinmann, Robb Hall, the Little, Long, Johnson team of Flight Engineers, our first 970th squadron commander, Jack Ramsaur, and Aubry Morgan, our first 970th superintendent. All in all...the personalities blended and everyone worked hard and became a family. We were slightly dysfunctional, but a family nonetheless. We built amazing friendships and for that, I will always be grateful!



Col. Martin Mazick swears in Staff Sgt. Tina Hutts (later Long) in 1996 as the first member of the 513th Air Control Group.

This old gal spent 10 great years with the 513th. We went through exercises, inspections, two activations and deployments that are just too many to count. I have so many great memories of this unit and the people that made it what it is today. When I think back, I smile at the amazing camaraderie and swell with pride at the best of the best. I absolutely loved my time with the 513th! As we close the book on the past 20 years, the next 20 are in your hands. You have the power to make it what you want it to be...enjoy your time, continue to work hard doing what you do best, and soak it all in...it's only a moment in time. OWN IT!

Tina Long, CMSgt, Retired

Reflections from the Early Days—Maintenance

While assigned to the 714th Aircraft Generation Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, I received a call from Col. Kenneth Suggs, who asked me if I would like to stand up the first Reserve associate unit in Air Combat Command. My primary role in the unit was to be the Aircraft Maintenance Superintendent. In the beginning I was to set up the manning document and begin hiring people and to establish a rapport with the 552nd Maintenance Group. With my many years of associate unit experience, I had to teach the active-duty 552nd what an associate unit was and how we integrated with them. This was always an ongoing process for my years with the 513th because of the personnel turnover within the 552nd.

There were many challenges we had to overcome in the maintenance world as a new unit. The biggest challenges we encountered were the integration between the civilians and the active-duty personnel. They didn't understand the rules we lived by, for example, the wearing of civilian clothes, and our work hours, just to name a couple. When it came to reserve weekends, the 552nd always wanted their people to be with us. I believe it was because they didn't trust us. As time went on, all that changed and they were glad to see us there.

A couple of the highlights of my career were being a part of the stand-up of the unit and seeing the unit succeed. There's no doubt that the unit's success was due to the people who formed it.

Most importantly, I enjoyed what I



Chief Master Sgt. Joseph DiTommaso stands in front of an E-3 Sentry on March 31, 2011. DiTommaso served as the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent from 1996 to 2011.

did and liked all the people I worked with. I loved the TDYs and deployments, which got me out of the office and working with the men and women who made the 513th a success. I wanted to stay with the unit as long as

I could to see the fruits of all our labor. There were many people that worked together to make this unit what it is today.

Joseph DiTommaso, CMSgt, Retired

Commemorative 20th Anniversary Darby Perrin Print Revealed at Friday Night Social





The Chief of Air Force Reserve announced here the new commander for the 507th Air Refueling will be Col. Douglas E. Gullion.

Gullion is currently the 507th Operations Group Commander and he will assume command of the wing during the 507th ARW change of command ceremony, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Hangar 1030.

Gullion graduated from Purdue University in 1983 and went to work as an electrical engineer in the automotive electronics industry. He entered the Air Force Reserve in 1987 and received his commission through USAF Officer Training School.

In 2005, Colonel Gullion became an Air Reserve Technician and served as the 74th ARS Chief Pilot, 434th ARW Chief of Safety, 72nd ARS Operations Officer / Squadron Commander and 434th OSS Commander. He has been mobilized and deployed six times for Operations DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He is a Command Pilot with over 6,500 military flying hours.



The 513th Air Control Group said farewell to three long-time unit members during the February UTA: Master Sgt. Gary Rhodan (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron), Senior Master Sgt. Michael Nesbitt (513th Air Control Group) and Chief Master Sgt. Lamond Tate (513th Operations Support Squadron). For photos of the ceremonies, click the links below.

**MSgt Gary Rhodan
Retirement Photos**

[https://www.flickr.com/
photos/125892086@N04/
sets/72157662691365633](https://www.flickr.com/photos/125892086@N04/sets/72157662691365633)

**SMSgt Michael Nesbitt
Retirement Photos**

[https://www.flickr.com/
photos/125892086@N04/
sets/72157662701860904](https://www.flickr.com/photos/125892086@N04/sets/72157662701860904)

**CMSgt Lamond Tate
Retirement Photos**

[https://www.flickr.com/
photos/125892086@N04/
sets/72157662721173683](https://www.flickr.com/photos/125892086@N04/sets/72157662721173683)