

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

HARE POWER!

The lost history of the
970th Patch



RABBIT TALES

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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

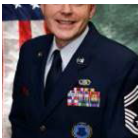
- Saturday – 1300 – Max Thunder Brief (Bldg 1056, 970th Auditorium)
- Saturday – 1430– Ops and MX ISOPREP review (Bldg 1056, Rm B22)
- Sunday – 0900 – Max Thunder Intel Brief (Bldg 1056, 970th Auditorium)
- Sunday – 1000 – Ops and MX ISOPREP review (Bldg 1056, Rm B22)

Promotions for April

Congrats to this month's promotees!

- SrA** Danielle Bright (513th MXS)
- SrA** Skyler Lounge (970th AACs)
- SSgt** Collace Baird (513th MXS)
- SSgt** Harry Sharpton (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

Recruiter contact info



Flight Chief
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-5331
Cell (405) 409-4784



Master Sgt. Derrick Mills
In-Service Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-3156
Cell (405) 409-5170



Master Sgt. Colin McDonald
In-Service Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-5555
Cell (405) 409-4784

Fit to Fight MVP's

SSgt Jesse Pentecost
Unit: 513 MXS
Score: 96.6%



Cpt. Bradley Bentlage
Unit: 970 AACs
Score: 100%

Fit to Fight hall of fame



Team Tinker

513th ACG



1.5-Mile Run

Men: **7:51** **8:33** Men: Cpt. Bradley Bentlage
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

Commitment

By Major Gia M. Wilson-Mackey
Commander, 513th AMXS

The word commitment can conjure both pleasant and not so pleasant feelings. These feelings can be summed up in these two definitions: 1-A state of being dedicated to a cause or activity; dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty or 2-Engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action; liability, obligation, task. It is often a result of our actions that others know how we feel about the commitment. Do we willingly, happily/joyfully perform the tasks associated with the commitment? Or is it obvious to the observer that you would rather be having a root canal without anesthesia than be where you are, doing the thing you are doing?

Commitments come in various venues: spouse, children, siblings, employment, financial, parents, extracurricular, religious/spiritual and many more not listed. We are pulled in many directions during our lifetime. Commitments can conflict and life is full of limits on your amount of time, money and energy. With these limits each commitment should be set with a priority and periodically assessed. Additionally, during the course of your life the feelings you have attached to these venues can change. If the activity/venue once fit into definition 1 and now fits into definition 2, the question you should be asking yourself is why am I still doing this? What event or events have moved me from loyalty to liability?

The cost/benefit ratio of the commitment should have some balance so it doesn't become a millstone around our neck robbing of us not only of time, energy and possibly money but of joy/happiness.

With each commitment you may ask yourself: Why am I doing this? Where is this commitment in my priorities? Am I still getting satisfaction from this commitment? Has this commitment become off balance? Is it a soul sucking or soul-satisfying endeavor?

So how does this fit into the USAF Reserves?

Our commitment is a real commitment. We choose at least on a monthly basis to continue our commitment to the Reserves. It is essential that our view to this commitment is loyalty not liability. Because of what we do this job is not for the faint of heart or fence sitters. This commitment has far reaching implications for not only our lives but for the lives of our loved ones and on some level the lives of the

people we serve with. Keeping active in the Reserves is not a "what color do we paint the kitchen" kind of decision. It is a decision that must be given the serious thought, assessment of how it fits into your life and honest commitment to continue.

In the end, commitment to something/someone is a choice and commitment to the United State Air Force Reserves is no different. It is a choice we make to continue to serve and with that commitment come certain obligations. We must be certain we are doing this for the right reasons, we must be certain this commitment has a place in our priorities, we should still get satisfaction from our service and finally, there must be balance-the cost of our service should not outweigh its benefits.

So after 26 years in the Reserves-I am eligible to retire and have been for 6 years. My loathing of running should have been enough to make me retire!! But I stay—I stay because the benefits outweigh the cost by a long shot. Some of these benefits are not tangible. I make more money at my civilian job than I do working on the weekends. I could stop running on a regular basis and my knees would love me. My wardrobe could be so much smaller than the four different uniforms we are required to keep-and pay lots of money for!

I stay because the fulfillment I receive isn't measured in money. The loyalty and devotion I feel for my country, for the Air Force and for the 513th can't be measured in time spent, money lost or outfits worn. I make the choice every month to continue my commitment to the Reserves because it has never been a liability, task or a restriction of my freedom. It has been uplifting, educational, spiritually nourishing and just plain FUN!



B-52's fly historic un-MANed mission

By Master Sgt. Dachele Melville,
307th Bomb Wing

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. -- In honor of Women's History Month, Barksdale Air Force Base made history by launching two B-52 Stratofortress bombers with all-female crews March 22. The training mission included in-air refueling and target practice.

"My first flight in a B-52, on May 12, 2003, was an eye-opening experience. It was like driving a bus," said Maj. Heather Decker, 93rd Bomb Squadron. "It's more challenging than most airplanes. It's very mechanical, and you have to move it around physically." Decker was a part of this historic mission and was also the first female Reserve pilot to qualify in the B-52 more than 10 years ago.

In addition to the all-female aircrews, the crew chiefs that prepared and launched the planes were all women.

"This is where I belong. This is what I know I am supposed to be doing with my life," said Senior Airman Rachel Upshaw, one of the crew chiefs assigned to the 707th Maintenance Squadron that recovered one of the jets that afternoon. "Being a crew chief is one of the hardest but most rewarding jobs... with its awesome history."

Staff Sgt. Belinda Thoreson is also a crew chief assigned to the 707th

Maintenance Squadron and helped launch one of the B-52s. When asked about what advice she would give to the future generation of women, she said, "It's okay to do things as a woman. Don't let anyone pressure you into being anything different (than yourself), follow your dreams and sometimes the most unexpected things can bring you the most joy and reward."

Women have been and are in the fight. Women served as security forces, drivers and gunners during embattled convoy missions, medics on foot patrols and as members of cultural support and female engagement teams. On Jan. 4, the Air Force began recruiting women into previously-closed career fields and positions.

"Many people think the military is not a place for social experimentation. In many instances I disagree," said Col. Bruce Cox, 307th Bomb Wing commander. "The military led the way for desegregation, equal pay and now leads the way for women affording equal opportunities in the work place."



U.S. Air Force Col. Kristin Goodwin, the 2nd Bomb Wing commander, and Maj. Heather Decker, assigned to the 93rd Bomb Squadron, ready their B-52 for engine start prior to a mission on Mar. 22, 2013, Barksdale Air Force Base, La. photo by Master Sgt. Greg Steele/Released)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women make up 50.8 percent of the nation's population. Currently women make up 19 percent of the Air Force, the highest of any service.

"I am extremely proud for all the women who elect to wear the uniform of the American Airman. It is an honor to serve with each and every one of them," Cox added.

W
The two B-52's flew with a wide range of ranks. The crews included active duty and Reservists, from veteran flyers to lieutenants still in training at the B-52 flight training unit on Barksdale.

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Separated at Birth?

By MSgt. Andy J. Stephens

The flyers of the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron at Tinker AFB wear their mascot with pride – a rabbit wearing boxing gloves, riding a bomb falling towards an enemy. Think Bugs Bunny playing the Slim Pickens role in Dr. Strangelove with a little Rocky Balboa for good measure, and you get a good idea.

But who is that pugnacious varmint? No one knows... until now.

According to the Air Force Historical Research Agency, the 970 AACS emblem was created on April 29, 1942, when the original unit was part of the 29th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), flying antisubmarine patrols out of Puerto Rico in defense of the Panama Canal during World War II.

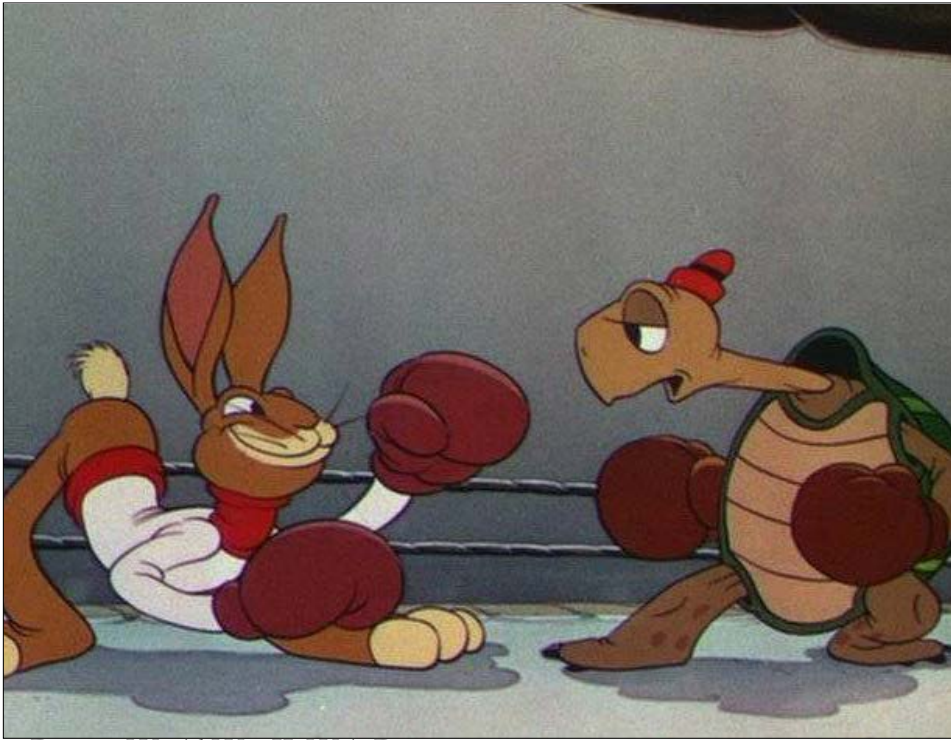
And for animated cartoon rabbits in 1942, Warner Brothers and Walt Disney animation studios were the only two candidates – and Bugs Bunny it isn't.

Enter "Uncle Walt."

The Disney Factor

During World War II, Walt Disney Studios created approximately 1,200 designs for both American and Allied military units. The insignia designs were produced donated free of charge to the war effort as a means to boost morale.

Walt Disney himself knew this well; as a 16-year-old ambulance driver in World War I France, he drew cartoons on the side of his ambulances to lift the spirits of his friends and countrymen.



During World War II, Walt Disney Productions contributed in a myriad of ways to supporting the war, but "Uncle Walt" took the most pride in his unit insignia designs. He was personally committed to the military insignia work of the Studios and their success, even forming a special six-man team of artists and animators to work the requests. The military encouraged the Disney insignia, allowing individual military units to request designs directly from Disney and to accept the finished work without needing approval of any higher headquarters.

"The insignia meant a lot to the men who were fighting," Disney once said. "I had to do it...I owed it to them."

One design was the rabbit patch.

Inspiring an insignia

Almost all the Disney characters in the studio's animation inventory appeared on unit insignia during WWII, with Donald Duck featured most (216 different insignia). Even Snow White was used in an insignia design for a medical unit. The only major Disney character not used was Bambi.

But the rabbit in the patch was too athletic to be the little fawn's shy little friend, Thumper. Research revealed that the six of the artists on Disney's insignia team had all worked on Disney studios' Silly Symphonies cartoons – one of which was titled The Tortoise and the Hare, the 1935 Academy Award winner for Short Subject.

The Untold History of the "Rabbit Patch"

In the cartoon, the bombastic Max "Speedy is my middle name" Hare loses to meek Toby Tortoise. The tortoise proved that a steady pace, not speed or overconfidence, was the key to success. Max looks a little like the rabbit patch. but it's no sure thing.

The Untold History of the 970 AACS "Rabbit Patch"

Max Hare - The Tortoise and the Hare (1935)

The cartoon was very popular; a sequel was made entitled Toby Tortoise Returns. This cartoon had the two characters facing off again – in a boxing ring. A model sheet of Max Hare created by an artist on the cartoon shows various poses and looks. Max is the model for the rabbit patch.

The artist was Charles Thorson. He also had a hand in designing another cartoon rabbit: Bugs Bunny.

The Bugs Bunny Connection

Many animation historians believe that Bugs Bunny was influenced by Max Hare. In a 1971 interview with Warner Bros. cartoonist Frank Tashlin, that influence was confirmed.

"There's a great deal of argument about who created Bugs Bunny," said Tashlin. "...But Bugs Bunny is nothing but Maxie Hare, the Disney character in The Tortoise and the Hare. That's the only time they ever used that character [Max was actually used three more times by Disney studios.] ... But that whole thing of the guy, that's where that was invented [in The Tortoise and the Hare]. So that's all Disney. Maxie Hare had a voice that's really a cross of the woodpecker's [Woody Woodpecker] today, and Daffy Duck's. You run The Tortoise



Max Hare in the Silly Symphonies short "The Tortoise and the Hare" 1935

and the Hare, and it's almost Woody's voice. So that all came from Disney."

Sixty-four years of service

Max Hare's likeness has been seen in the skies ever since, worn on flight suits and uniforms of the 970 AACS's ancestral units for sixty-four years – a gift from Uncle Walt to Uncle

Sam. Today, the patch is worn by the 970th AACS, the first and only Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Reserve unit in USAF. And now their mascot has a name.

Max Hare, take a bow.

20th Anniversary



20th Anniversary





Staff Sergeant Mason Cartwright

Unit: 513th Maintenance Squadron

Job title: Crew Chief

Hometown: Wellston, OK

Favorite team: OKC Thunder

What did you want to be when you grew up?
A Pilot

Favorite part of your job: Being Part of Something Important

Little-known fact about you: I've never broken a bone

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th?
Watching the sunrise as the jets take-off when I'm on early launch crew on UTA's

If you had superhero ability, it would be:
Mind Reading or Healing like Wolverine

Watched any good TV shows or movies recently?
Psych



Staff Sergeant Joshua Juoni

Unit: 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron

Job title: Communication Systems Operator

Hometown: Bremerton, WA/Gales Ferry, CT

Favorite team: South African Cricket Team. Cricket the sport...not the phone company or the insect.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
A kid again, being an adult is boring and stupid.

Favorite part of your job: Traveling. It's nice to see other parts of the country that are not Oklahoma

Little-known fact about you: I have the incredibly useful life skill of being able to solve a Rubiks Cube in about a minute. It's a great party trick when there is no alcohol or girls.

Favorite memory from your time in the 513th? All of the TDY's. It's nice to play hard after working hard.

If you had superhero ability, it would be:
Teleportation so I can cut down on my transit time and my interactions with Oklahoma drivers.

Watched any good TV shows or movies recently?
Uh...no. I have a list of over 150 movies that I still need to see with obscure titles such as The Matrix and The Godfather.