

August 2016

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



## RIMPAC Edition:

513th leads total force AWACS force in world's largest naval exercise

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

## 513TH UPDATE

### Upcoming events

Sunday – 1000 – Green Dot Bystander/Early Adopter Training (970th AACS Auditorium)

September 10-11 – Unit Training Assembly

September 11 – Wingman Day/Group Commander's Call (Fannin Hall)

September 11 – 513th ACG Family Day (38th CEIG)

### Cover Photo



An E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft taxis after landing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on July 30 after a mission controlling U.S. and Canadian F/A-18 fighter aircraft as part of Rim of the Pacific 2016. More than 125 Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group and 552nd Air Control Wing are deployed to Hawaii in support of the Rim of the Pacific 2016 exercise. Twenty-six nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 30 to Aug. 4, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2016 is the 25th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Caleb Wanzer)

### Promotions for August

Congrats to this month's promotees!

- SSgt** Emmanuel Barraza (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- SSgt** Paul Straily (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- TSgt** Justin Norman (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- TSgt** Jesse Pentecost (513th Maintenance Squadron)
- MSgt** Michael Ramirez (513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)
- SMSgt** Sean Kelly (513th Maintenance Squadron)

### 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** **101** Men: TSgt Jeff Inferrere  
 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

# Recipe for success: creativity, reliability and selflessness

By Lt. Col. David Cavazos  
Commander, 970th AACS

Greetings Thumpers! We're just a little past the half way point for the year, and I believe I can safely say that 2016 has been a very good year for the 513th Air Control Group thus far. Despite the challenges we've had with a fiscally constrained environment impacting both our operations and aircraft availability, we've managed to find a way to make our year productive and rewarding. Earlier this year, we found a way to get to Kadena where we received some of the best training available in the Pacific theatre as we participated in the largest annual exercise in the AOR. We also ate some amazing fried rice too, which is never a bad thing.

As I sit down and write this piece, we are a little over half-way through our RIMPAC 2016 exercise, and there's one statement I've been hearing over and over, "This is the best TDY I've ever been on!" It's true! I couldn't find a reserve member who had a complaint, except maybe with the sister service doctors, and hey, if you get to that point, we do the best that we can to avoid letting them amputate a finger for a broken nail! In any case the training has been good, the weather great, and the Luau Pork awesome! That being said, I'd like to give a hand to our ADVON

team who did an amazing job putting all the pieces together to get us to Hawaii and back. Additionally there are many others who did not go to RIMPAC but did a great deal of the legwork to ensure our trip went off without a hitch. Many thanks to them as well.

**I'll say that we are the best not because of what we know, but because of what each and every one of you do and are.**

But it got me thinking, what makes our TDYs great? I see that from many Rabbit Tales interviews that a common theme among reservists is that when they think of their best times with this group, it usually involves their time spent on TDYs. And as I surveyed our team in action, it was apparent to see why. As a commander, I am proud to serve with the greatest AWACS unit on the planet. As a member of the 513th, I am proud to be a member of the greatest AWACS group in the world. But it's not our experience that makes us the best or makes us good reservists for that matter. Even people who are experienced can walk into a situation and pull defeat from the jaws of victory or better yet, turn a really

good deal into a really bad experience. Rather, I'll say that we are the best not because of what we know, but because of what each and every one of you do and are.

First off, the creativity and efficiency of our people never ceases to amaze me. If you look at the way our members lead their lives, it's clear that we're a group of people who don't like to think "in the box!" If there's a usual way that something's done, a 513th member will find a way to take a look "outside the box" and make it better, easier, faster, and smoother! It's that very creativity that solves our unit's problems at all levels. From finding a way to acquire and man our own bus because the active component won't lend us one, to finding a way to repair a jet with limited resources and get it airborne, to finding a way to fund our training across the board, the creativity that each of our members brings to the table every day is the vital ingredient needed to keep moving our group forward in ways that can't be anticipated. Your creativity is the lifeblood of our group.

Secondly, the 513th's reliability is second to none, and once again, it's only because of the responsibility and commitment that each of you bring to work every day (and yes, I know that's a stretch when we're considering Perry). But it doesn't matter, because eventually, everyone

has an off-day, we're all just human after all. And that's the great thing about the 513th. It's one of those intangibles that other organizations try to attain, but often times, just don't reach. The 513th brings its members in for the long-haul and each of these new members immediately becomes part of our every growing family. It's truly a great sight to behold, routinely seeing in action our unit's members picking up our brothers and sisters, making sure they have what they need, and most of all letting them know "I've got your back!" As I was able to take a step back and review the operations of other organizations during our TDY, I was humbled to see that no other unit I evaluated exhibited the level of reliability displayed within our group. It was obvious that when our people say they're going to do something and subsequently create a certain expectation, they



live up to its fulfillment. Whether it's saying "I'll be there for duty," or "I'll be there to pick you up", our people find a way to come through. Lastly, but not of least importance, is the selflessness of our members. It's one thing to do your

job because you have to, but it's a completely different thing to do your work because you just want to. I can't say how many times I saw people step-up, irrespective of how they felt, to fill holes, do something to help someone else out, or just plain take on extra work because it needed to get done. And every time I enquired about the situation, I normally got the same response, "It's okay sir, it just needs to get done." I can't think of many groups of people in this world who would just smile and say that. And all the while, I know that deep down inside they want to take some time off and just relax for a bit, but yet, they're willing to stand in the gap because "It just needs to get done."

Our group is not great just because of our experience. It's great because of the creativity, reliability, and selflessness each of you brings to work every day! Thank you for who you are and for all that you do.

## AF declares the F-35A 'combat ready'

*Air Combat Command Public Affairs*

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. (AFNS) -- The F-35A Lightning II fifth-generation fighter aircraft was declared 'combat ready' by Gen. Hawk Carlisle, the commander of Air Combat Command, Aug 2.

Carlisle lauded the aircraft's performance, noting that the aircraft had met all key criteria for reaching initial operational capability: Airmen trained, manned and equipped to conduct basic close air support, interdiction and limited suppression/destruction of enemy air defenses in a contested environment with an operational squadron of 12-24 aircraft; the ability to deploy and conduct operational missions using program of record weapons and missions systems; and having all necessary logistics and operational elements in place.

"I am proud to announce this powerful new weapons system has achieved initial combat capability," Carlisle said. "The F-35A will be the most dominant aircraft in our inventory because it can go where our legacy aircraft cannot and provide the capabilities our commanders need on the modern battlefield."

The F-35A is the latest addition to ACC's fleet of deployable and fifth-generation aircraft. It provides air superiority, interdiction, suppression of enemy air defenses and close air support as well as great command and control functions through fused sensors, and it will

provide pilots with unprecedented situational awareness of the battlespace that will be more extensive than any single-seat platform in existence.

"Bringing the F-35A to initial combat readiness is a testament to our phenomenal Airmen and the outstanding support of the Joint Program Office and our enterprise partners. This important milestone for our fighter force ensures the United States, along with our allies and international partners, remains prepared to deter, deny, and defeat the full spectrum of growing threats around the globe," added Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein, said that dynamic new capability will benefit the joint warfighter.

"The combat ready F-35A is the latest fifth-generation fighter aircraft in the Air Force's inventory and provides our nation air dominance in any environment. The F-35A brings an unprecedented combination of lethality, survivability, and adaptability to joint and combined operations, and is ready to deploy and strike well-defended targets anywhere on Earth," Goldfein said. "Today's declaration of IOC is an important milestone on



*F-35A Lightning II aircraft receive fuel from a KC-10 Extender from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., July 13, 2015, during a flight from England to the U.S. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Madelyn Brown)*

the road to achieving full warfighting capability for the F-35A."

The 34th Fighter Squadron of the 388th Fighter Wing, based at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is the service's first operational F-35A squadron, having met all the established criteria for initial operational capability including a successful June deployment to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and a series of eight-aircraft sorties held in mid-July. 34th FS Airmen will fly and maintain the F-35A alongside Air Force Reservists from Hill's 419th Fighter Wing.

"Our Airmen have worked tirelessly to make sure our aircraft are combat ready: meeting challenges head-on and completing all the required milestones," said Col. David Lyons, the 388th Fighter Wing commander. "We're very proud that the Air Force has declared us combat ready and we're prepared to take this aircraft wherever it's needed in support of our national defense

## Making history: Miller becomes first female commander, chief of Air Force Reserve

*Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs*

As the new leader of the Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller plans on making a lot of trips — about one per week — to Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, home of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, over the next four years. But none of those trips will have the historical significance of the one she made in July.

During a promotion ceremony at the base's Museum of Aviation July 15, Miller became the first female Citizen Airman to achieve the rank of lieutenant general. In addition, she became the first female chief of Air Force Reserve and first female commander of AFRC during a change of command ceremony later that same day, also at the museum.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein was on hand to preside over both of the historic ceremonies. Goldfein was sworn in as the Air Force's 21st chief of staff by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James during a ceremony at the Pentagon July 1.

Miller assumed both the chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander positions from Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, who retired. She previously served as deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve, a position she had occupied since October 2013. Jackson had occupied the Reserve's top positions since June 2012.

Addressing the Citizen Airmen in the audience, Miller said, "Today I take the flag of the Air Force Reserve Command and, just like you, continue to answer the call to serve our great nation. Since the Gulf War, we have stood shoulder to shoulder with our



*Miller replaced Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, who retired, as Air Force Reserve Command commander and chief of Air Force Reserve. (Tech. Sgt. Stephen Schester)*

active, Guard and joint partners taking the fight to the enemy. As one Air Force, we are all bound together as Airmen, citizens and Americans. As one team, we have fought harder, and your families have sacrificed more than most will ever know.

"Our strength as an Air Force Reserve is our unique calling. As citizens, we are fully vested in our communities raising our families. We are immersed in our civilian careers, yet intimately feel the profound calling to do more."

During her 26-year Air Force career, Miller said she has served in every status that a Reservist can serve.

"I have been full time, part time and even a small business owner," she said. "I have been in your shoes and know how hard it is to balance your life as a citizen and as an Airman."

That 26-year career almost didn't happen. Miller said that just prior to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, she was seriously thinking about retir-

ing from the Reserve.

"At the time, I was a successful restaurateur and felt I had a successful Air Force career as a pilot," Miller said. "But as I watched on TV the second tower crashing down, I knew retirement was not the right answer. Four months from that day I was back flying full time again, and one year later my squadron was mobilized."

The general said her emphasis for the next four years as AFRC commander and chief of Air Force Reserve will be to "ensure that we protect our strengths as a reserve component, that we build on our capabilities for the fight today and that we shape the force for the fight of the future."

Miller's chief of Air Force Reserve position requires her to work out of the Pentagon. After the change of command ceremony, the general said she plans to spend Monday and Tuesday of each week in Washington, D.C., then will travel to Robins AFB.

## 513th returns from Pacific after successful RIMPAC 2016 exercise

By 2nd Lt. Caleb Wanzer  
513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group and 552nd Air Control Wing returned to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, August 3 after flying more than 110 flight hours and controlling 83 aircraft as part the world's largest naval exercise.

This year marks the fourth Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, exercise for the 513th and the first time that the active-duty associate unit deployed alongside, bringing a detachment of operations and maintenance Airmen. Planning for the exercise, which involved 22 countries and more than 200 aircraft, began even before the last RIMPAC came to a close.

"RIMPAC 2016 started more than two years ago for the 513th," said Lt. Col. Stephen Williams, the 513th RIMPAC detachment commander. "Bridges were built, conferences were attended, and plans were forged. Many people, including myself, put countless hours into ensuring this would be an exercise many would talk about for years."

Not only did the exercise give aircrews the chance to work closely with U.S. and Canadian fighter

aircraft, the active duty and reserve Airmen also worked closely with Canadian and Australian agencies to ensure effective and safe scenarios.

For Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Gibb, the 513th's aviation resource management superintendent, the exercise environment provided a better training opportunity than working back at Tinker.

"Bringing one of my newer Airmen and allowing him to work in a deployed type of atmosphere was very beneficial," Gibb said. "I believe that we grew in our confidence in getting the job done right, despite having a hectic environment and numerous changes to the schedule. RIMPAC was a great opportunity to show what we can accomplish in less than ideal conditions."

One of the intangible benefits for the Airmen deployed to support RIMPAC was the partnerships formed, Gibb added.

"I would say, as with any TDY that the 513th does, the best part is the relationships that are built," he said. "Working, and playing, with people outside of their normal of-



Maintenance reservists from the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron roll stairs away from an E-3 Sentry on July 19 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. More than 125 Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group and 552nd Air Control Wing deployed to Hawaii in support of the Rim of the Pacific 2016 exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Caleb Wanzer)

fices and environments is great. We work hard, accomplish the mission, and then we make time to hang out off-duty."

The hard work paid off during the AWACS' 15 days of flight operations; the only cancelled mission was due to a tropical storm that dumped nearly a foot of rain on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam according to local news reports.

"From start to finish, the battle rhythm was fierce, losing only one sortie to Tropical Storm Darby," Williams said. "The total maintenance and operations effort was something every exercise should strive to mirror. People like Staff Sgt. Austin Paisley with the 552nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Staff Sgt. Kyle Walker from the 513th Aircraft Maintenance

Squadron, Maj. Larry Jackson and Maj. Anne Ridlon from the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron really cemented the operation and were instrumental in what I would call an epic RIMPAC 2016 exercise."

Bringing active-duty Airmen from the 552nd to the Pacific island benefitted the exercise commanders as well as providing a

deployed total force integration environment, according to Williams.

"Having the 552nd join us for an exercise of this magnitude allowed both sides to view how the other does business," he said. "By having two aircraft on the ramp, we were able to provide the combined air forces commander with continuous operations, from our arrival to the end of the exercise."



Air battle managers assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron discuss mission details on July 23, 2016, aboard an E-3 Sentry at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, prior to a mission in support of Rim of the Pacific 2016.



An E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft flown by Airmen from the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron prepares to land on July 25, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.



Reservists assigned to the 513th Air Control Group, walk by an E-3 Sentry wing July 25, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. More than 125 Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group and 552nd Air Control Wing are deployed to Hawaii in support of the Rim of the Pacific 2016 exercise.



An E-3 Sentry flown by Reservists from the 513th Air Control Group sits on a runway prior to takeoff July 23, 2016 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, during a mission in support of Rim of the Pacific 2016. Twenty-six nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 30 to Aug. 4, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.



Tech. Sgt. Robert Adams, a crew chief assigned to the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, moves to safety after completing engine start on July 19.



Maj. Matt Portno, right, and Maj. Shawn Kilbourne, left, complete pre-flight checklists aboard an E-3 Sentry July 23.

Maintenance Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group and 552nd Air Control Wing replace an engine part on an E-3 Sentry on July 25.



Staff Sgt. Jesse Pentecost, a reservist assigned to the 513th Maintenance Squadron, retrieves a tool while repairing an E-3 Sentry engine on July 25, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.



An E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft sits on the flight line prior to a mission on July 25, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.