

January 2018

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



Holiday Spirit celebrates 19 years

More than 20 Guard/Reserve families assisted through donations
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INSIDE:

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

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Mission: To provide combat-ready AWACS Citizen Airmen to Fly, Fight & Win

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming Events

- Saturday – 0830

513 ACG Assumption of Command

(970th AACCS Auditorium)
- Sunday – 1030

North Korean SAM Brief (all aircrew)

(970th Auditorium)
- Sunday – 1315

Sentry Aloha Spin-up Brief

(970th Auditorium)
- January 8-26

Sentry Aloha Exercise

(Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI)
- February 2-3

February UTA

Cover Photo

Ralph Hawkins, 513th Air Control Group executive officer and Col. Douglas Gullion, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander shake hands at the 19th Annual Operation Holiday Spirit Steak Supper on Nov. 4. OHS raised \$25,906 and the proceeds benefit Airmen in need of assistance during the holidays. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



Promotions

Congrats to our January promotees!



TSgt Haley Sherman
(513th Operations Support Squadron)



CMSgt Malachi Sturlin
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Fit to Fight MVPs

CMSgt Jeff Davis
Unit: 513 ACG
Score: 94.1%



SrA Najee Menefee
Unit: 513 AMXS
Score: 93.2%

Vision: Experience, Expertise, Teamwork, the 1st Choice in AWACS

A note from the new Commander

Happy New Year! I hope you all had the opportunity to take some time off, refresh and recharge, spend quality time with family and friends and are looking forward to 2018.

I am honored and humbled to be back at Tinker AFB to serve as the commander of the 513th Air Control Group. To be asked to serve as the commander of a unit with outstanding and professional men and women committed to serving this country is a privilege I do not take lightly. I come to you having just served for the last 2 1/2 years as the commander of the 710th Combat Operations Squadron, a reserve air operations center (AOC) augmentation unit at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. The unit's mission is to provide the combatant commanders premier AOC combat warriors and execute the JFACCs intent. I thoroughly enjoyed this mission and it gave me fantastic experience to understand how wars are fought at the operational level of war but am thrilled to get the opportunity to requalify as a mission crew commander and execute the C2 mission at the tactical level.

For those of you who may not know, I was a member of the original 970th cadre when the organization first became operational back in 1996. I began my Air Force reserve career in the 513th. I was also the first reserve mission crew commander to be qualified in AWACS and had the privilege to lead the first all-reserve crew on a sortie that flew to Warner Robins AFB to show off the newest C2 capability to our Air Force Reserve leaders. That was a long time ago. The 513th ACG has achieved some fantastic milestones since then and has contributed immensely to the successful legacy of AWACS. I applaud you all! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and serving as the next 513th Air Control Group commander.

- Colonel Laurie A. Dickson



OHS celebrates 19 years



Master Sgt. Angela Leddy, 513th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant serves steak dinners to members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, 513th Air Control Group and the Oklahoma Air National Guard, 137th Special Operations Wing, Nov. 4 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Maj. Jon Quinlan)



Tech. Sgt. Stefanie Greer, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron acting first sergeant and Master Sgt. Natalie Kelly, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron first sergeant, serve steak dinners to members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, 513th Air Control Group and the Oklahoma Air National Guard, 137th Special Operations Wing Nov. 4 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Maj. Jon Quinlan)

OHS All Time Stats

Reserve/Guard Families Assisted:	
1999	= 18
2000	= 12
2001	= 13
2002	= 12
2003	= 12
2004	= 15
2005	= 11
2006	= 9
2007	= 17
2008	= 20
2009	= 20
2010	= 27
2011	= 61
2012	= 39
2013	= 35
2014	= 49
2015	= 32
2016	= 31
2017	= 21
TOTAL = 423 Families	

By Maj Jon Quinlan
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The Air Reserve Component here raised \$25,906 to support Airmen in need of assistance at the 19th Annual Operation Holiday Spirit Steak Supper at the Del City VFW/ American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma, on Nov. 4, 2017.

The joint effort between the 507th Air Refueling Wing, the 513th Air Control Group and the Oklahoma Air National Guard 137th Special Operations Wing has attracted an overall total of 3,698 attendees since the inaugural OHS in 1999. The patrons of the event have raised a grand total \$349,316

since the fundraiser's inception nearly 20 years ago. While this year's attendance was down a bit due to deployments, OHS still managed to raise an impressive amount that will be used directly to help Reserve or Guard Airmen who need financial assistance during the holidays.

Tinker's Pegasus Gate to open Jan. 16

By Jillian Coleman
72d Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- The Pegasus Gate will open at 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 16, enhancing security on Tinker Air Force Base. Four of the base gates will receive various upgrades, most visible will be the implementation of serpentine “s-curves” that are currently installed at other gates across the installation.

The Pegasus Gate, located south of the Gott Gate on South Air Depot Boulevard, will open Jan. 16 and will maintain operational hours of Monday through Friday, from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. A traffic light will be installed on South Air Depot, accompanied with signage clearly designating the Pegasus Gate’s location as well as alternate routes on the installation.

Personal vehicles will be able to access the Pegasus Gate from South Air Depot, a quarter mile south of the Gott Gate. Pegasus will facilitate one inbound and one outbound traffic lane, and include a guard shack and facilities.

The Pegasus Gate is named for its proximity to the new 158-acre KC-46A Pegasus maintenance complex, which is expected to complete its three-year construction project in 2018. The KC-46 is the latest refueling tanker fleet introduced in the Air Force arse-



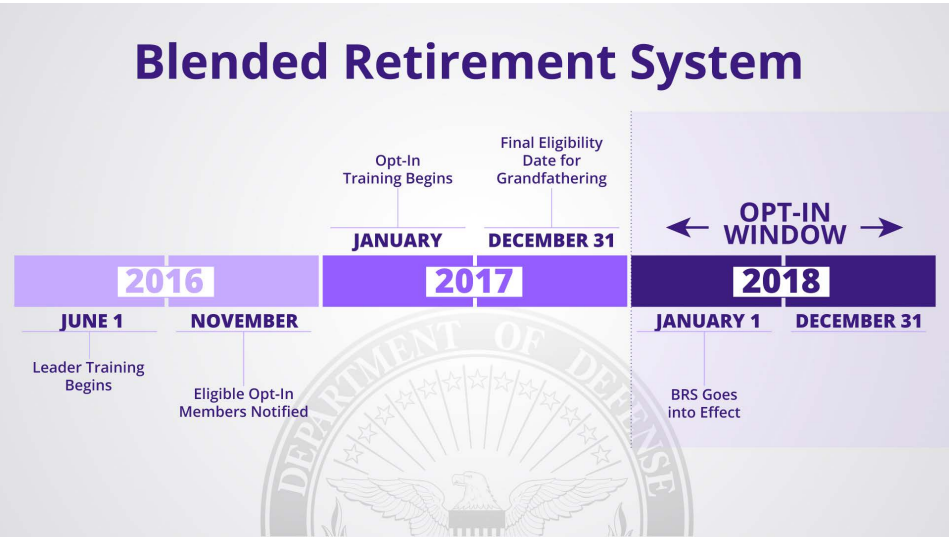
nal, and base officials have projected its addition to Tinker Air Force Base to support an estimated workforce of 1,300 maintenance personnel. The modernized tanker will support Global Reach, Power and Vigilance for generations to come.

Pegasus Gate is expected to be open for approximately two

years. The Gott, Truck and Piazza gates will close sequentially, maintaining the flow of traffic for the southern perimeter of the base. The fourth gate slated for security updates is the Eaker Gate, which is located on the north side. Once construction is complete, the Pegasus Gate will close.

BRS takes effect, opt-in period begins

By DOD News
Defense Media Activity



One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits of the last 70 years goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System (BRS). The new system blends aspects of the traditional defined benefit retirement pension system, with a defined contribution system of automatic and matching government contributions through the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). All new entrants into the Uniformed Services on or after Jan. 1, 2018, will be enrolled in this new retirement system.

Nearly 1.6 million current service members will have the option to remain in the current legacy high-3 retirement system or choose the BRS when the opt-in period for eligible service members opens on Jan. 1, 2018. Opt-in eligible service members from all seven of the Uniformed

Services will have an entire year to make their retirement system election. The open period for the majority of service members is from Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2018.

Air Force members will need to visit MyPay to opt into BRS: MyPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

Service members who believe they are eligible to opt-in, but do not see the opt-in option available online, should contact their local personnel/human resources office to verify eligibility. The decision to opt-in is irrevocable, even if a service member changes their mind before the deadline on Dec. 31, 2018. If an eligible service member takes no action, they will remain in the legacy retirement system.

Prior to opting in, service members should take advantage of all available resources to assist in making an informed

decision on the financial implications specific to their retirement situation. The DOD endorses several training and informational tools to support a service member’s decision, to include the BRS Opt-In Course, the BRS Comparison Calculator and numerous online BRS resource materials. Service members can receive no-cost, personal support from an accredited personal financial manager or counselor available at their installation’s Military and Family Support Center or by calling Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647.

The change to the retirement system is a key step in modernizing the Uniformed Service’s ability to recruit, retain and maintain an all-volunteer force in the 21st century. For more information about BRS, visit <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement>.

Duty Planning Fusion

How AFRC is developing a better way to plan, schedule and track participation



By Bo Joyner
Headquarters Air Force Reserve
Command Public Affairs

When then-Maj. Jason Reiss came off active duty in 2008 and joined the Air Force Reserve, he quickly learned how complicated the Reserve pay and participation process can be.

“My first job as a Reservist was director of operations for a new classic associate detachment standing up at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina (the 414th Fighter Group),” Reiss, now a lieutenant colonel who serves as special assistant to the commander of the 414th FG, said during a recent interview at Air Force Reserve

Command headquarters, Robins AFB, Georgia.

“I was hired as an ART (air reserve technician) and was the first full-timer brought into that unit. The squadron commander told me to go learn how to be a Reservist and stand the unit up. He sent me on a whirlwind tour to benchmark how other Reserve units conducted their business.

“That’s when I had my first taste of how we do inactive and active-duty scheduling; how we do timecard management; how we de-conflict being in civilian status and military status. I was amazed at how complicated the whole process was and how much time and money we were spending on scheduling and managing participation — time

we should have been spending getting the mission done.”

Over the next few years, Reiss became much more familiar with the various computer-based Reserve pay and participation tools, like the Air Force Reserve Order Writing System – Reserve, the Unit Training Assembly Participation System and the Air Reserve Component Network. But he couldn’t shake the idea that there had to be a better way of managing Reserve participation.

Not surprisingly, other people throughout AFRC were having similar thoughts. In 2011, the Directorate of Manpower, Personnel and Services assembled a team of about 25 experts from across the command for a process improvement event to dis-

cuss improving the military duty and participation process. Reiss was a part of that Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century event.

“We made a lot of progress at that event,” he said. “We identified numerous inefficiencies because we had all of these separate systems that don’t talk to each other. We also knew, anecdotally, that we were spending a lot of time doing participation management instead of our AFSC (Air Force specialty code) tasks. But we didn’t know exactly how much time.”

Reiss took it upon himself to research just how much time and money the Reserve was spending on participation management. While attending Air Command and Staff College in 2012, he wrote a master’s thesis titled “Parting the Administrative Red Sea: The Case for Revolutionizing the Air Force Reserve Command Pay and Participation Process.”

“Very conservatively, I found that AFRC could easily save 96,000 man-hours and between \$2 million and \$4 million each year just by bringing all of the data together into one easily digestible format,” he said.

Not long after AFRC finished its AFISO21 event in 2011, the Air Force announced it was creating the Air Force Integrated Personnel and Pay System, and this new system would simplify the Reserve’s pay and participation process.

“We were hopeful that AFIPPS was going to solve our problems,”

Reiss said. “Unfortunately, the Air Force put a strategic pause on AFIPPS, so we in the Reserve went back to work to tackle this issue.”

In 2015, Reiss and a group of subject-matter experts briefed AFRC senior leaders on the problems with the pay and participation process and got their approval to work on attempting to fix those problems.

The command put together a 25-member team to analyze the problems and identify solutions. Reiss is serving as the requirements lead for that team. The solution the team has come up with is called Duty Planning Fusion.

“That’s how DPF was born,” he said. “Since then, the group has been following a six-step service development delivery process to identify the requirements and the best way to get to the desired end state.”

Reiss said the team has identified 19 total requirements to create the efficiency gains of 96,000 man-hours and monetary savings of between \$2 million and \$4 million per year.

“DPF centers around a single, intuitive calendar-based interface that you can go to and de-conflict active duty from inactive duty,” he said. “Supervisors and members can request duty or approve duty. You can put your civilian schedule in there. Reservists have to be able to marry manpower with money to accomplish the mission. DPF will allow you to do that in one location.”

“DPF will be a user-friendly and intuitive application containing all business rules dealing with every participation status our members encounter month to month all bolted onto AROWS-R and displayed on one singular calendar,” said Larry Lee, a Reserve participation manager in the Directorate of Manpower, Personnel and Services at AFRC headquarters, who serves as the DPF team leader.

“Because DPF will be attached to AROWS-R, members will easily be able to schedule and reschedule inactive-duty requirements along with their active-duty requirements,” Lee said. “Even better, all scheduled, approved and performed duty will be evident and auditable within the application, so many of the forms used today to secure authorization to perform duty will be embedded in DPF and sent directly to those officials who approve them.”

Lee said the DPF initiative is a collective effort between the personnel, financial management and communications directorates at AFRC headquarters with advisement and support from Command Enterprise Architects, and the government agency that provides development for the AROWS-R system.

“Our plan is to roll out DPF in four spirals with the first-phase deployment tentatively set for October 2018,” Lee said. “Be on the lookout for more information on DPF as we get closer to rolling out the first spiral next year.”