

October 2018

RABBIT TAILS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

In the Wake of the Whirlwind

EF1 Tornado hits
Midwest City on Tuesday

INSIDE:

John Chapman and Inspiring Leadership // Get ready for your close-up!

RABBIT TALES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

513th Update	3
John Chapman and Inspiring Leadership	4
Christmas party information	5
Get ready for your close-up!	6
September in review	8



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 – 1530 – No Fly Zone (Bldg 461)
Thumper Alumni Cow Bell

November 3-4
November UTA

December 1 – Reed Conference Center
513 ACG Christmas Party

Promotions

Congrats to our October promotees!



SSgt Alyssa Ramirez
(513th Maintenance Squadron)



TSgt Emmanuel Barraza
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

TSgt James Lopez
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

TSgt Raquel Miller
(970th Airborne Air Control Squadron)

Fit to Fight MVPs

MSgt Lloyd Braden
Unit: 970 AMXS
Score: 99.4%



SrA Angel Lopez
Unit: 513 AMXS
Score: 98.9%



Safety Corner: Look out for that kid!

By Tech Sgt. Stephanie Jacks

It’s fall, ya’ll! Grab your Ugg boots, your pumpkin spice lattes, watch some football and...when is that chili cook-off happening again?

Safety; that little voice in your head that’s trying to keep you alive and usually tells you not to do something stupid that you probably ignore 74 percent of the time. Should I attempt hiking in the jungle in a place I’ve never been before, alone, and with no map, trail markers, and questionable cell reliability? Should I attempt to go 115 percent at football practice even though I haven’t taken a calcium supplement or practiced sports for about a year? I know we’ve all heard this line before: “It’ll kill you.” That inner voice, y’all; it’s called instinct.

Speaking of autumn and all the incoming holidays on the horizon, first things first: Halloween! We love it and our kids (or kids we know) love it. It’s a time to pretend to be someone (or something) else without judgement for an entire day! Please remember keep an eye out for children while driving, especially around neighborhoods. We all get get-home-itis and fall prey to the long work day and subsequent traffic frustrations. During the Halloween festivities, there will be children running amok, amok, amok and they will most likely be wearing masks with limited visibility. Not only are they hopped up on sugar and excited, but their vision is also impaired! Some tiny humans also believe they are Captain America and try to deflect cars with their plastic vibranium-Adamantium alloy shields. While adorable, this is also dangerous. Get your beastie a glow necklace and a flashlight, escort them to each non-shady house, and when they finally pass out at 2am, enjoy the spoils of their trick or treat excursions! Nuff said.

Also, as we learned Tuesday, it is still tornado season. How majestic is a cool breeze blowing through the leaves and causing a cascade of brilliant autumn splendor? Not so much when it’s also flipping cars at the Base Exchange and hitting without warning. If your phone goes off with a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately and don’t ask if anyone else hears the sirens--drag them along with you!

Stay safe my friends!

Vision: Experience, Expertise, Teamwork: Citizen Airmen employing diverse talents as game-raising mission partners

John Chapman and Inspiring Leadership

By Adam J. Hebert
Editor-in-Chief, Air Force Magazine

The following guest column is reprinted with permission of the Air Force Association from their October-November 2018 issue of Air Force Magazine. Read the full issue [here](#).

Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force Chief of Staff, has a large framed picture of a sergeant on his Pentagon office wall. It is, naturally, not just any sergeant. It is John Chapman, the combat controller killed in March 2002 while fighting entrenched al Qaeda terrorists high in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Nearby, in Goldfein’s office sitting area, a propeller blade is mounted on the wall. This is the propeller from the MQ-1 Predator aircraft that flew over Chapman, “in his last hours, while he was fighting the enemy,” Goldfein told Air Force Magazine in a recent interview.

Video from this Predator captured Chapman’s extraordinary heroism, which eventually led to Chapman’s Air Force Cross being upgraded to a Medal of Honor—the nation’s highest award for valor in combat.

The Predator, orbiting overhead, showed Chapman repeatedly attacking enemy positions. He was hit by enemy fire and presumably knocked unconscious. Later, when he recovered enough to resume fighting, he did exactly that—again attacking enemy positions at close range.

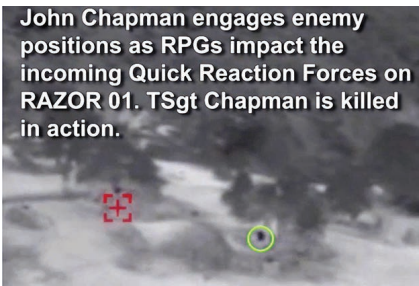
“As he fought his way to his death on that mountaintop, he did so to protect his teammates,” Goldfein said. “He did that in as tough an environment as one could ever imagine, and he refused to stop until the very end.”

“When we see these young airmen like John Chapman [exhibit] extraordinary courage under the worst conditions,” it is an inspiration to all airmen, Goldfein said.

Chapman’s example resonates in today’s Air Force, which has been at war nonstop since 1991. Even the terror attacks of 2001 are now 17 years in the past. Some 96 percent of today’s Air Force joined after 9/11, which means “the vast majority of airmen ... have never actually known a day of peace,” Goldfein observed.

“Probably the most important thing we can do to keep people in the United States Air Force ... is to put in inspirational commanders and leaders, both officers and NCOs,” Goldfein explained. The wrong leaders create hostile environments and send airmen heading for the exits.

“Our airmen are far too smart to walk by or not see a say/do gap,” Goldfein said, referencing leaders who would tell their subordinates one thing but behave differently. “If they see me saying one thing and doing another they’re go-



John Chapman engages enemy positions as RPGs impact the incoming Quick Reaction Forces on RAZOR 01. TSgt Chapman is killed in action.

An image taken from a video shot from an orbiting U.S. Air Force MQ-1 Predator shows Tech Sgt. John Chapman (green circle) attacking an enemy machine gun emplacement during a battle at Takur Ghar, Afghanistan, March 4, 2002. (U.S. Air Force video)

ing to see right through it.”

The Air Force recognizes the importance of leadership by example at all levels—from NCOs, to squadron commanders, to generals—and is working now to find and develop the 21st century leaders it needs.

USAF asks much of its airmen and families, so “this to me is nothing short of a moral obligation, to make sure we put the best leaders in place,” he said.

The corollary is that abusive, toxic, autocratic leaders are not going to find success in today’s Air Force.

“There was a period of time in our Air Force some years ago where the autocratic phone slammer [was] able to survive,” Goldfein said. “My sense is that that kind of leadership will not survive ... anymore.”

At the end of the day, he said, officers and NCOs are graded on two things: character and competence. Many airmen honored for valor in recent wars humbly say they were just doing their jobs, and anyone in the same situation would have done the same thing. The right leaders rally the troops behind them and create a culture in which airmen will eagerly go the extra mile to ensure success, whatever the mission might be.

“When it comes down to it, you’re looking to your left and to your right and saying, ‘please God, don’t let me let my buddies down,’” Goldfein said.

Although “only” a tech sergeant, subsequently promoted to master sergeant, Chapman led by example. He did not let his buddies down.

“We may look at what John did and say he is a hero, but then we are not one of his team or the other teams that go in where angels wouldn’t tread,”

Chapman’s father, Gene Chapman, wrote to his son’s squadron commander after his son was killed.

“John is proud to be part of you, and if you could ask him right now, he would tell you what he did was for his family, friends, and the teams he worked with.”

The Air Force is blessed to have airmen like Chapman, those willing to put others first regardless of the circumstances. May the Air Force continue to attract and develop America’s best, men and women who will lead by example.

You’re invited to the 513th Air Control Group’s 2018

Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 1st
6 p.m. – 11 p.m.
at Reed Center Sheraton

✦ Open bar including 3 kegs

✦ Game shown on a huge screen!

✦ Prizes, prizes, prizes!

Enlisted:
Single – \$30

Officer:
Single – \$40

Reed Conference Center
5800 Will Rogers Road
Midwest City, OK 73110



Get ready for your close-up!

Reserve photo studio open for (official) business

By Master Sgt. Andy Stephens
513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

With a new fiscal year comes a new series of promotion and award boards. This year, every candidate for every board is expected to have an official photo requirement. And you know what that means...

In anticipation of this need, Public Affairs personnel from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group have pooled resources and manpower to expand the availability of the Tinker Reserve photo studio for Air Force reservists.

“We’re expecting a board almost every month in FY19,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Davis, 513 ACG Superintendent. “And every package for consideration should have an official photo inside. We realized that the Tinker photo studio is closed on weekends, leaving many of our traditional reservists with limited means of getting that much-needed official photo, so we’re thankful that our reservist PA staff could address that need.”

Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason, 507 ARW/PA Operations Chief,

said official photos during the week are normally done by appointment with the requester scheduling PA at least 10 calendar days prior to the desired appointment. The photo staff for the Tinker Reserve photo studio is currently comprised of two ARW personnel and one ACG personnel, but Gleason adds that all have received the required training.

“We recognize that drill weekends are very busy for all involved,” said Gleason. “On UTA Sundays, official photos are taken between 0800 and 1100. The typical turnaround time is three to five days and we can e-mail photos to your home e-mail along with a release so you can have the photos printed at a place of your preference.”

Gleason added that photo services are limited to official photo requirements per the Air Force Instruction. This means that studio photos will only be taken for:

- *Official portraits as required
- *Applications for special duty assignments



How to get a great official photo:

1) Find an expert photographer: Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison, 507 ARW/PA Command information NCOIC, lines Chief Master Sgt. Albert Cantu, 513 ACG Career Advisor, up for his official photo. Official photos are usually head-and-shoulders only, but board candidates are expected to verify relevant board requirements before requesting any official photography.

2) Double Check: Mathison goes over the photos taken with Cantu. Many photos can be rejected on the basis of the lay of a lapel or an awkward wrinkle. Above all else, an official photo should make the Air Force look good as well as the Airman.

3) The finished product: Every element of this photo is dictated in an official AFI for official photo composition. From the line of the flag in relation to the head, to the amount of upper body needed to be in the frame to a natural expression captured in Chief Cantu’s face, every element has a purpose and the composition is uniform across all official photos, regardless of rank.

*Chain-of-command photos (I.e., commander, deputy/vice commander, senior enlisted leader, and first sergeant)

*Group-level and above quarterly and annual award winners

“If someone needs an appointment outside of regularly scheduled times, please contact the 507 ARW/PA office at 405-734-3078 so we can work out a good window for your studio photog-

raphy,” said Gleason. “Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis with supervisor approval and PA availability.”

It should be noted that appointments will be rescheduled if the requestor has an ill-fitting uniform or is missing a required clothing item (I.e., the appropriate US insignia for lapels). If a requestor is late without notification, the Airman will have to

schedule another appointment with their PA.

“One thing we often hear are requests to use Adobe Photoshopper to remove acne or unsightly wrinkles,” said Gleason. “All official USAF photos have to abide by DoD Instruction 5040.22, which says we cannot alter the content of any official photo. The PA studio team are happy to reschedule appoint-

ments, so long as they’re given at least 24 hours notice of a need to cancel. We’ll work with the Airmen to make sure they look their very best when they compete for future opportunities in the Air Force Reserve.”

To start the studio photo request process, email a complete AF 833 (multimedia work order) to 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil.

September in Review



Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Jermaine Graham, 513 ACG Safety Office, and his wife, Staff Sgt. Chesley Graham! His daughter Bellami was born Sept. 26. From left to right, Taitum Graham (2 years old), Staff Sgt. Jermaine Graham, and Bellami Graham (72 hours old). Not pictured is Graham's wife, Chesley.



Senior Master Sgt. Alphonzo Glover, Wing Inspection Superintendent for the 513 ACG, and Tech. Sgt. Nick Endsley, 513 Maintenance Squadron, attended the 2018 Air Force Association conference in National Harbor, Maryland. Obliging for photographs were Gen. James M. Holmes, Commander of Air Combat Command (left), and 23rd Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James (above).