

September 2018

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



## New 513th building open for business

(Photos on page 6)

**INSIDE:**

From the top: farewell from the 970th DO // Thumpers welcome career advisor

# 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

Sunday – 1100 – West of Golf Course  
**Family Day**

October 13-14  
**October UTA**

December 1 – Reed Conference Center  
**513 ACG Christmas Party**

### Promotions

Congrats to our September promotees!



**TSgt** Vernon Nichols  
(513th Operations Support Squadron)



**MSgt** Jacob O'Connor  
(513th Maintenance Squadron)

### Fit to Fight MVPs

Maj Jeremy Interrante  
Unit: 970 AAC  
Score: 100%



Col Steven England  
Unit: 513 ACG  
Score: 100%

### Safety Corner: Moving In

By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Jacks

I'm sure you have all heard this already, but welcome to the new building! It's finally done! We've had multiple move-in dates and several false alarms, but we've finally made it!

Now, that being said, there are a few things to keep in mind. Most everything should be moved in at this point BUT there are still things that need shifted around, many boxes that need moved and unpacked, and many, many tripping hazards. Please be careful moving everything around. Lift with your ABMs, instead of your back. Remain aware of the chaos around you and mitigate "ouch potentials." We should enjoy this new building, but also make sure to keep track of all of the "whys" around your space. Whys such as; why is this outlet not working, why is this door not opening/closing properly, why do I have to manually shut the elevator to change floors? We have an on-site contractor to assist with these little hiccups. Make a list, share this list with your flight leads, and they should share it with the facility manager.

Now my biggest concern, besides any puddle(s) in the stairwell, is the parking lot. There are a LOT more bodies out here on the active-duty side than we are used to. More bodies means more traffic. We now share a parking lot with our comrades in arms and have to take into consideration any possible lack of driving/parking/situational awareness skills when navigating to and from our new building. I have already heard of a few near-misses and experienced a few myself. Remember, the military does not issue driving skill or common sense. Remember the saying common sense isn't common? Apply this when heading out to lunch or headed home for the day.

Once again, welcome to the new shared building. It is easy to get lost in here, even though it is only two floors. Enjoy the tranquility of the water features in the entryway. Don't lose the struggle with any office doors that open inwards (and, for some reason, can sometimes be hard to get passed that sweet spot in the hydraulic arm). Don't lose your cool when your computer or phone aren't working properly or you're losing your third game of print-and-peek. Also, when you find a big red button, don't push it...you know who you are.

Stay safe, my friends!

## From the Top: Farewell from the 970th DO

By Lt. Col. James Matthey  
Director of Operations, 970 AACS

It's hard to believe it's been three years since I first took the DO seat. This month marks the 13th year I've served in the 513th/970th. I first came to the unit on 17 September 1997. This is my second going away and I want to thank each one of you for your time and dedication to our mission and each other. Looking back at my first address to the squadron, I keyed in on three things. First, to ensure the continued growth and relevance of the 513th second, to ensure our Airmen have opportunities to seek and gain skills to better themselves for the Air Force and beyond. And third, I asked you to know your why. Know why you put on the uniform, why you chose the 513th and make sure it aligns with the values, purpose, and beliefs of this great organization. I believe we took great strides in achieving all three.

Our "re-tooling" in support of Homeland Defense, in both CONR and ANR, and our domination in PACOM and ECUOM exercises highlighted our determination to not only seek out new opportunities but to be the best at what we do--provide command of the air. My wish for you is never be satisfied, keep pushing, keep learning, keep leading and keep building relationships.

One thing this job re-enforced to me is the fact that relationships matter. Internal and external, between ourselves and with our partners. For example, our relationship with the 552nd has never been better. It didn't happen overnight. Our daily engagement with our RegAF counterparts here at Tinker, WADS, EADS, ACC, 1st AF, etc, and the ability understanding their taskings, their constraints and continuously teach and advise how best to employ the reserves made a difference. So it's up to you to keep it up; our future depends on it. It's up to us to keep up the reserve narrative, to have consistent messaging and remember we will ( as the constant common denominator), always have to explain our purpose and how best to employ the reserves.

In addition to developing external relationships, I urge you to look internally. I encourage everyone to learn and understand the forces and constraints we face daily. Learn what it takes to generate aircraft, learn what it means when we talk about "health of the fleet". To our maintainers, I hope you get time to understand what it takes to gain and maintain our combat mission ready qualifications. Because when we understand the internal and external forces, vectors and constraints that affect us, we will achieve great things.

Lastly, I ask that you look at yourselves in the mirror and think about why you choose to wear the uniform and remember why you swore an oath to defend the constitution. We are brothers and sisters in arms, and what we do isn't just a job, we are in one of the most respected professions on the planet. Our profession requires much from us and our families; there are no shortcuts. In return, we share the pride and the most profound satisfaction that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that what we do MATTERS.

We've been at war for the past 17 years. We're at war with those that want to end our way of life and at war with resources and budgets. Moreover, it doesn't look like it's going to change anytime soon. So, stay hungry, build new and better relationships, take care of each other and always provide more value than what you get paid for, stand for something – make an impact!

Thank you and your families for the hard work during my stint as your DO. I have learned a lot being back at the tactical edge and will take these experiences with me to the Pentagon. Over the past three years, I've had the pleasure to work for 350 of the best C2 operators, maintainers and support Airmen in the business. Now I get to work for 70 THOUSAND of the best. I'll see you around the force.

Thumper pride IS Thumper standard!

## Thumpers welcome new Career Assistance Advisor

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

This September UTA, many Airmen in the 513th Air Control Group will see a new face in the halls. A master sergeant with 18 years experience, Tamika Ferguson is the ACG's newest career assistance advisor and she'll be reaching out to commanders and enlistees alike to ask them about what matters most to them about their job.

"The Career Assistance Advisors advise commanders and supervisors on enlisted force management and professional enhancement," said Ferguson. "We assist in career counseling and the development of the front-line supervisors. It's the perfect job for someone who really cares about their unit because we get to show everyone the big picture."

Starting out as a junior enlisted services apprentice, Ferguson said no Airmen should feel like they're stuck in career field because everyone has an opportunity for change. Whether with individual career counseling sessions that offer one-on-one advice on new opportunities available to Airmen or helping new Airmen transition from tech school training to the AWACS operational environment, Ferguson hopes to motivate the next generation of dedicated Airmen to find a place of their own within the organization that empowers them with greater confidence for a career in uniform.

"Staying in uniform or getting out can be a big decision," she said, "but if I can help someone make an informed decision, then I feel I'm doing a good job. I don't want people



Master Sgts. Michelle Bonilla and Tamika Ferguson are the Career Assistance Advisors for the Tinker AFB Reserve community. A long-standing member of the 513th Air Control Group, Bonilla has now taken the reins as the senior CAA and operates out of the 507 Air Refueling Wing headquarters. Ferguson spent 13 years at Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.; Whiteman AFB, Mo; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany before becoming a reservist in 2013 with the 507 ARW.

to feel frustrated because they can't find the information they need. My job is to know the Air Force instructions and be able to break them down in ways that relate to their situation."

With many traditional reservists balancing the three roles of family member, civilian employee and military professional, the CAA role takes on added weight in the reservist community. Ferguson herself represents that successful balancing act with her own civilian job in the U.S. Attorney's Office Human Resources division for one of the three Department of Justice districts in Oklahoma.

Ferguson said that many civilian employers recognize that military experiences can contribute directly

to success with their own missions, but added that commanders want to retain that talent also. In the retention dynamic, the CAA can make the biggest difference by providing options to both Airman and commander that allow the three roles to be performed at best effect. Which is why many in the ACG will find Master Sgt. Tamika Ferguson asking them what USAF and the Air Force Reserve can do to keep them motivated, dedicated and a part of the ACG family.

"Being a Thumper will be an amazing experience," she said, "and I'm looking forward to getting the best, most accurate information for our Airmen when they need it most in their careers. That's what family does for each other."

# New 513th building open for business

Right: With a quick motion of some comically oversized scissors, Col. Laurie A. Dickson, Commander, 513th Air Control Group, officially "opens" the new 513 ACG headquarters for business -- and the business is flying the Airborne Warning and Control System as USAF's only Reserve AWACS Associate.



Bottom: Active-duty and Reserve leadership from across the Tinker AFB community share stories and jokes prior to the big event on Sept. 7, 2018.

(Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Grady Epperly)



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

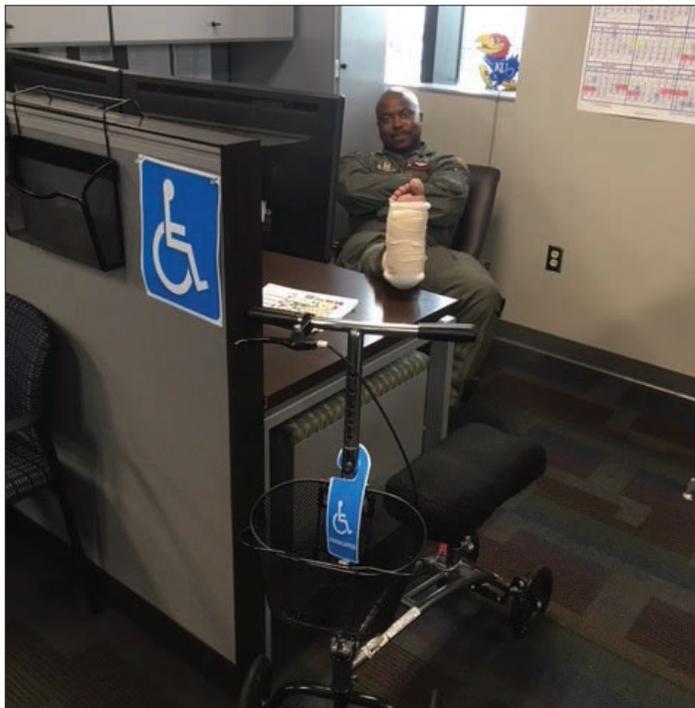
- ✦ Open bar including 3 kegs
- ✦ Game shown on a huge screen!
- ✦ Prizes, prizes, prizes!

Enlisted:	Officer:
Single – \$30	Single – \$40

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



# Ouch of the Month



Tech. Sgt. Reggie Curry, assigned to the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, made his Reserve flag football debut Sept. 4 and 30 minutes into his first practice, he injured his Achilles Tendon, putting him out for the season.

"I knew I shouldn't have tried to keep up with the youngsters," said Curry. "I blame the high level of competitiveness of the team."

Teammate and Reggie's sponsor - Joe Brown had a different take: "I've been telling him for years to get out there with us and have some fun. No, I get to listen to him whine every day for two months."

## Past Presidential Retirement Certificates

### Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

If you're a Citizen Airman who has retired in the last 12 months or is looking to retire in the foreseeable future, you will receive a presidential certificate signed by the current President of the United States and have it presented at your retirement ceremony. However, if you would ALSO like a certificate of appreciation from a former U.S. President, the procedures to follow are as follows:

Requests should include, at a minimum, full name and rank of retiree, date of retirement, address, name and phone number of contact person. Other information may be required.

Members requesting Former President Obama's signature on

Presidential Letters of Appreciation can be submitted online at <https://barackobama.com/greetings/>. (Choose the "Military Retirement" option from the drop-down menu.)

Requests may also be submitted in hard-copy to the following address:

Office of Barack and Michelle Obama  
P.O. Box 91000  
Washington, DC 20066

George W. Bush:  
Office of the Honorable George W. Bush  
P.O. Box 259000  
Dallas, TX 75225

William J. Clinton

Office of the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
55 West 125th Street  
New York, New York 10027

George H. W. Bush  
Office of the Honorable George Bush  
1000 Memorial Drive Suite 900  
Houston, TX 77024

Jimmy Carter  
The Carter Center  
Attn: Executive Office  
Atlanta, GA 30307

Service member's requests should be sent 6-8 weeks prior to the ceremony date and include the date of the ceremony.

For additional information, please call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102.