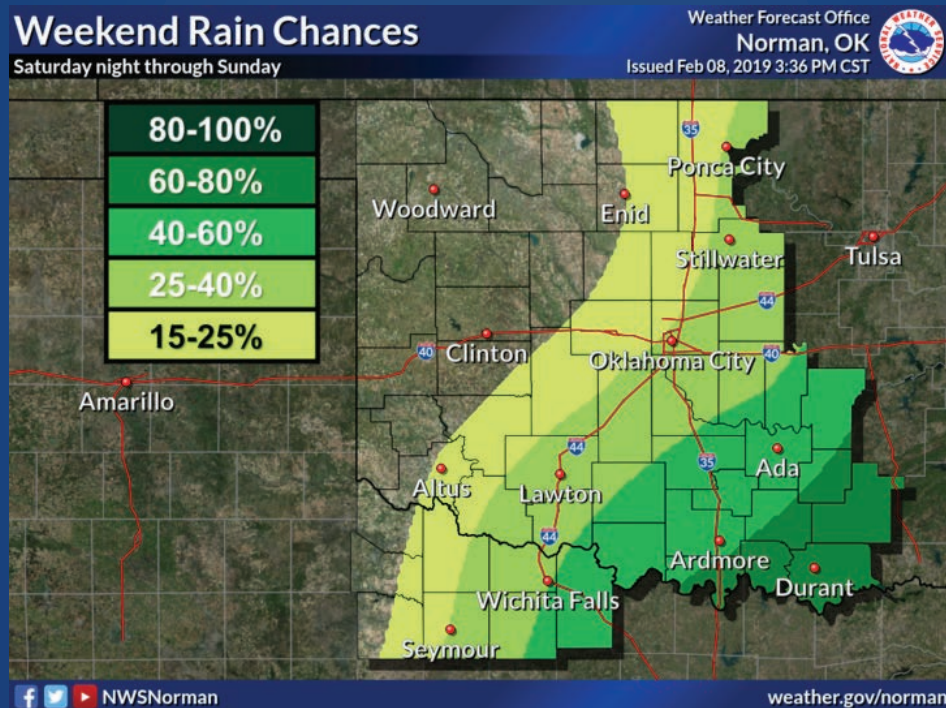


February 2019

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



Stay weather aware!
**Another possible weekend with slick
streets poses risk to Reservists**
(more info on page 5)

INSIDE:

From the Top: Farewell from the DCM // Vanwey DFAC to close 'till Oct. 1

RABBIT TALES

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

This Air Force Reserve online magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services, family, and friends of the 513th Air Control Group and its subordinate units. Contents of and the views expressed in the Rabbit Tales newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming Events

Saturday – 1500 – Auditorium
Brig. Gen. Reimer Officer Mentoring

March 2-3
March UTA

June 1-2
Tinker Air Show

What's new this UTA?

– CHANGE TO AUTHORIZED COMBAT BOOTS IN FLIGHT

AFI11-301v1_AFRCSUP1, which gives our Group CC the authority to grant boot waivers, has been rescinded. This means that we are no longer authorized to wear Nike boots on flights.

An email with the Boot Certification Safe-to-Fly memo, which lists all the boots that are approved for flights, went out to the 970th AACS and 513th OSS earlier this week.

If you have any questions, feel free to stop by the 970th AACS DO section.

– IS YOUR AFPAAS UP TO DATE?

As we roll through the calendar months, we'll soon be approaching storm season here in Tornado Alley. With the increased risk for weather events comes an increased need to ensure all your contact information is correct in the Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (AFPAAS). You can easily access your account using your Common Access Card, and a check of your information only takes a couple minutes. Here's the link: <https://www.afpaas.af.mil/>.

– OFFICE LOCATION CHANGES

If you head upstairs to find the flight doc, or look for safety by the main entrance, you might end up a little confused. Here are the changes:

- Safety is now in room 252
- Flight Medicine resides in room 145
- SARM is located in room 106

Promotions

Congrats to our February promotees!



A1C Jerrelle Noble
(513th Maintenance Squadron)



SSgt Blaine Minks
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)



TSgt Walter Bolles
(513th Operations Support Squadron)

TSgt Nicholas Hazlett
(513th Maintenance Squadron)



SMSgt Matthew Stark
(513th Air Control Group)

Fit to Fight MVPs

AB Ashleigh Bashor
Unit: 513 MXS
Score: 97%



MSgt Tricia Sandoval
Unit: 970 AACS
Score: 85.6%

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

Farewell from the DCM

Lt. Col. Lance B. Winner
Deputy Commander for Maintenance

It is hard to believe my time in the 513th is coming to an end. I have had many professional opportunities, but I can honestly admit this has been the best two years of my career. I believe the 513th Air Control Group took a chance making me the Deputy Commander for Maintenance, considering my primary supply chain background. Leadership knew I had not served in a pure maintenance environment for 15 years, but they saw something worth gambling on. I hope that gamble paid dividends, and I leave this organization with a clear vision of where we need to focus our resources in order to exceed our goals. I truly believe we have the best TFI organization in the Air Force, and you all have a major contribution to that claim.

This unit is certainly one of a kind. Not only because we are the only reserve unit in the Air Force that provides theater commanders with trained aircrews and maintenance personnel and systems for Airborne Surveillance, Early Warning and Control--but because of you, the people. Your tremendous AWACS experience certainly makes us unique. Each of you brings specific skill sets to the fight. As leaders, it is our job to harness those capabilities, using them to their fullest potential. Our vision is succinct: "Experience, Expertise, Teamwork: Citizen Airman employing diverse talents as game-raising mission partners." Employed correctly, we increase the 552nd Air Control Wing and the Air Force's ability to Fly, Fight and Win.

To my maintainers - When you have unique people perform amazing feats every day, it is easy to develop a list of spectacular accomplishments. In the last two years, we have had four very successful large force



exercises in Sentry Aloha and BALTOPs. This is in addition to the multiple effective weekend training TDYs. We showed our excellence again as we shined in our 2017 Command Directed Compliance Assessment and garnered an Overall EFFECTIVE in our Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

Once per year, it is necessary to slow down and appreciate all of the accomplishments we have achieved and the challenges we have overcome. That time is coming for all of our maintenance professionals via the Maintenance Professional of the Year (MPOY) awards ceremony, also known as the Knuckle-busters. The ceremony is the one time of the year we pay tribute to maintenance and all of your hard work and dedication. This event is scheduled for Friday, March 1, the day before our March Drill. I strongly encourage all of our available maintainers to be present in Dock 2 at 1100hrs. Together, we will recognize the incredible things ALL of us in 513th

maintenance do on a regular basis. The event cost is only \$5, which gets you a very nice commemorative coin, sticker, and t-shirt, as well as lunch and beer.

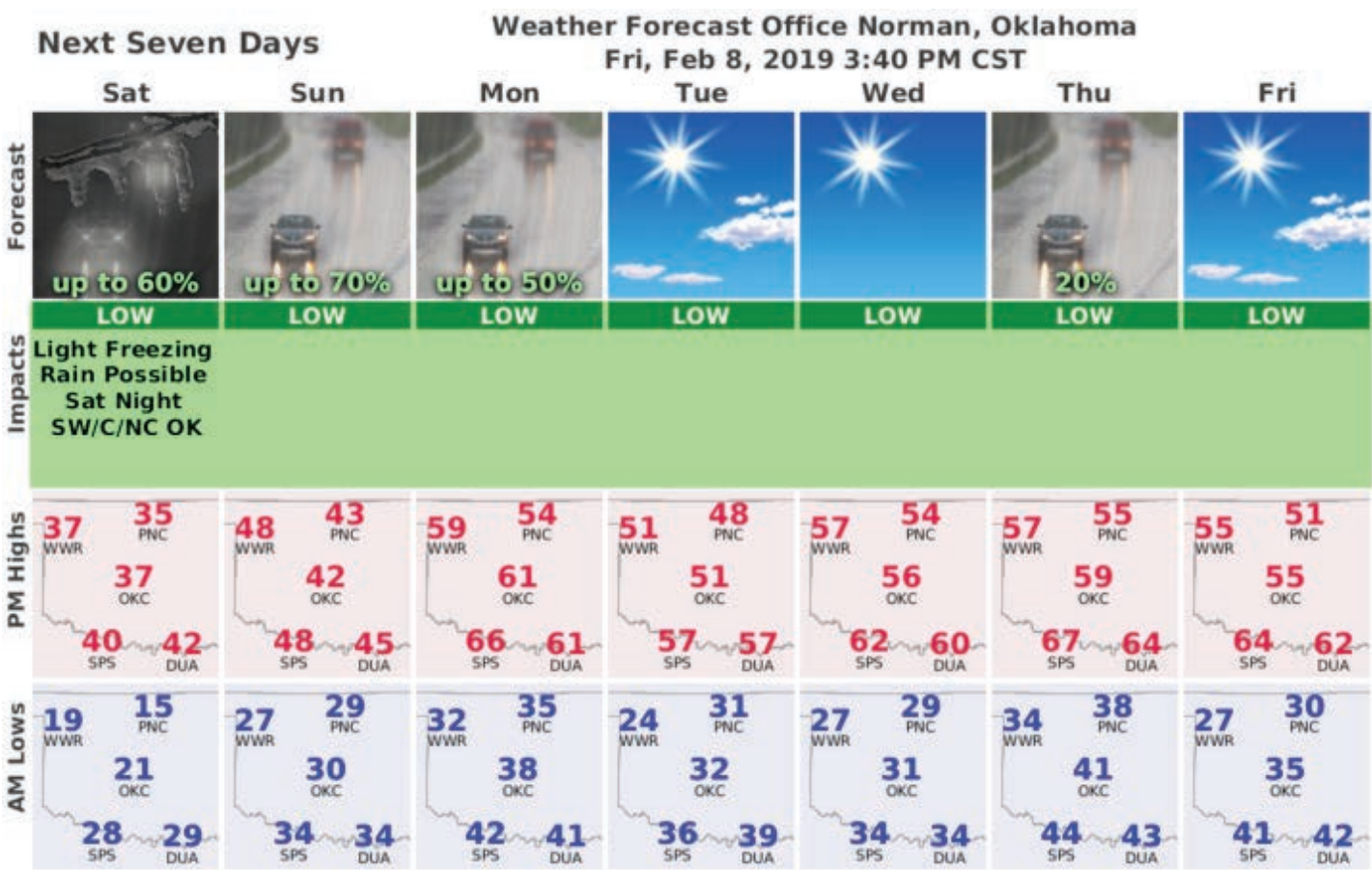
That also happens to be my last weekend as your Deputy Commander for Maintenance, and I would love the opportunity to thank each one of you for the continued dedication I have witnessed over these past years.

Thank you all for allowing me the privilege to lead this incredible organization...it has truly been amazing!

Until next time,

Pull CHOCKS, Maintenance ROCKS!

Weather warning for the weekend



Seven-day forecast from the National Weather Service in Norman, OK, current as of 2/8/19 at 2200L.

Forecast provided by 72d OSS Weather

There is the potential for some light freezing rain/drizzle late evening Saturday (20L) into Sunday morning (09L). There is still some uncertainty as models differ on overnight low temperatures ranging from 30F-33F. Total forecast accumulation will be a trace. If the air temperature goes below freezing, the precipitation may cause some slightly hazardous road conditions, not limited to just bridges/overpasses due to the ground temperatures already being observed below freezing. However, we are expected to be above freezing by 10L Sunday with a forecast high of 40F. From Sunday afternoon through Monday, there is the potential for rain showers; weather impact will be minimal as temperatures will be well above freezing.

Air Force makes updates to enlisted evaluation policies

By Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Arlington, Va. (AFNS) -- The Air Force recently updated evaluation policies for enlisted Airmen, refining the process and requirements for enlisted performance reports.

The revised policies are in response to feedback from the field and are geared towards increasing flexibility for commanders and empowering performance within the enlisted corps.

“We are continuously making strides to reform our talent management system, including evaluating updates we previously made to the Enlisted Evaluation System,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel, and services. “Our focus is on making our system more agile, more responsive, simpler and more transparent to better meet the needs of our Airmen and our Air Force.”

The updated policies will impact almost every active duty enlisted Airman as well as those in the Guard and Reserve.

One of the more significant updates covers a long and widely debated subject. Under the new policy senior noncommissioned

officers who complete an associate’s degree or “higher level degree from a nationally or regionally accredited academic institution” are eligible for promotion and senior rater stratification or endorsement consideration.

Prior to this update, only degrees obtained from the Community College of the Air Force could be considered for senior rater stratification and endorsement. Airmen should ensure completed degrees are updated in their personnel records in the Military Personnel Data System.

Another update focuses on equitability and streamlines the stratification process by removing ineligible Airmen from the senior rater stratification pool. The previous policy allowed Airmen with an approved high year of tenure, or HYT, retirement date to be factored into the senior rater’s endorsement allocations. For Airmen reaching HYT, performance evaluations are also now considered optional.

An additional update authorizes the senior enlisted leader, previously only an advisor, to be a voting member of the Enlisted Forced Distribution Panel. In addition, the policy affords large units the ability to use the Enlisted Force Distribution Panel

process. If a designated large unit chooses not to do so, the unit commander must publish and disseminate alternate procedures no later than the accounting date for each evaluation cycle to ensure transparency.

In yet another update, commanders now have authority to designate any number of non-rated days if they determine an Airman “faced personal hardships during the reporting period.” The option provides commanders the agility to reflect periods of extenuating circumstances on annual evaluations without negatively impacting the Airman.

Air Force senior leaders also made recommendations regarding referral evaluations. Currently, a report is automatically referred when “met some, but not all expectations” is selected on the AF Forms 910 and 911. To allow raters the opportunity to identify and document potential areas of improvement, these ratings will no longer be considered a mandatory referral enlisted performance report. This particular policy change will take effect in conjunction with the staff sergeant static close out date on Jan. 31.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said the



change to referral evaluation requirements allows raters to provide Airmen with more honest, realistic feedback of their performance while, at the same time, allowing Airmen more room to improve.

“Under the previous policy, if we set 100 expectations for an Airman and they met or exceeded 99 of them but fell short

on one, in essence we were saying they should be removed from promotion consideration,” Wright said. “That doesn’t align with our vision of talent management. We want supervisors and command teams to have the option to make decisions that make sense for our Airmen, tailored to each individual situation.”

Wright added that provid-

ing this decision space for commanders aligns with the Air Force’s effort to revitalize squadrons and empower leaders.

The changes will appear in upcoming revisions of Air Force Instructions 36-2606, Officer and Enlisted Evaluation Systems and 36-2502, Enlisted Airman Promotion/Demotion Programs.

Vanwey Dining Facility to close until Oct. 1

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



Lt. Gen. Lee K. Levy II, Air Force Sustainment Center commander, right, works alongside Chief Master Sergeant Gary P. Sharp, Command Chief Master Sergeant of AFSC, as they serve Thanksgiving meals in the Vanwey Dining Facility Nov. 23, 2017, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Levy and Sharpe were joined by other senior officer and enlisted leaders in the holiday tradition of serving meals to troops who, by necessity of their service, are away from home. (U.S. Air Force photo/Greg L. Davis)

The Vanwey Dining Facility at Tinker AFB will be closed Feb. 25 through Oct. 1 for structural renovations, but Tinker reservists exclusively will be fed in an alternate location for the remaining seven drill weekends of FY 2019.

“Reservists can expect to receive meals in the Building 3001 cafeteria for their drill weekends while the Vanwey Dining Facility undergoes scheduled repairs and upgrades,” said Master Sgt. Celeste Fletes, 507th Force Support Squadron Services Technician. “All Air Force traditional reservists assigned to Tinker AFB will continue to be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner for their UTAs.”

The 507 FSS has reached out to catering companies in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Because Building 3001 has a dedicated cafeteria area and parking on drill weekends is sharply reduced from

the normal facility occupancy during the week, Fletes said the winning contractor is expected to be able to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner at the usual time for Tinker’s Air force Reserve community at the regular times. These times are:

- Breakfast 0530-0700
- Lunch 1100-1330
- Dinner 1630-1830

Due to the 513th Air Control Group’s July UTA falling on a different weekend than the 507th Air Refueling Wing, Fletes said the contractor will be expected to provide meal service on the dates regardless. She added that meal payment procedures will also remain the same at the Building 3001 cafeteria as previously at the Vanwey Dining Facility with officers needing cash and enlistees signing an Air Force Form 79 and providing their CAC

numbers, as well as showing the card themselves.

John Noble, chief of the Sustainment Services Flight for the 72nd Force Support Squadron, said the Vanwey Dining Facility will undergo a series of renovations that will ultimately change the food delivery to a more “open” floor plan. The new floor plan will include self-service stations and provide more options, but to effect these changes, the facility will have to replace degraded plumbing and roofing. Air Force Food Services will also have to assess the facility once the renovations are complete before a single meal can be served.

There are no changes expected for flight meal availability for aircrews while the Vanwey Dining Facility is closed for the needed renovations.

The staff of the Tinker Take Off contributed to this article.



513th ACG Career Advisor

corner



Question: *I want to extend, but I was told I have to reenlist. Are there the rules for extensions?*

Answer: *Yes; to utilize the option to extend, it must be for a **reason listed in IAW AFI 36-2606, Table 6.2**. If you do not fall into these reasons, a reenlistment is required. Below are the top reasons individuals request to extend:*

1. **Medical Evaluation/ Physical Evaluation Boards** – If your ETS is within 6 months and you are pending an MEB/PEB or on a P4 profile, bring current profile to unit CAA.
2. **Fit to Fight Failures** – Unit Commander has the option to request an extension for 7 or 12 months.
3. **High Year Tenure** – If you are within 24 months of HYT.
4. **Retirement** – If you are applying for retirement and ETS is less than 6 months away.
5. **Promotion** – If you are promoted to E7-E9 and do not have at least 2 years left on your ETS, you must extend to be promoted.
6. **Retraining** – Member must have 36 months retainability in order to retrain into a new AFSC.
7. **Technical Training/School** – If school tour is 14 days or less requires 1 year retainability. If school tour is 15 days or more requires 2 years retainability.
8. **Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer** – To transfer your GI Bill benefits to your dependents, you must bring a copy of your Post 9/11 Statement of Understanding signed with the Education and Training Office to your Career Advisor.



If you have any questions concerning extensions, please see your unit career advisor.

January in review



Congratulations to Senior Airman Nicholi Estrada, a crew chief assigned to the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, for successful completion of Airman Leadership School Class 19-B! Pictured is Airman Estrada with Senior Master Sgt. Alphonzo Glover, who serves as an Aircraft Maintenance Unit also with the 513th AMXS. (Courtesy photo)

Col. Steven "Spoon" England, our deputy commander, hung up his flight cap for the last time last drill weekend. Pictured is Maj. Matt Portno presenting a memento to Col. England after the retirement ceremony. An honorable mention for best photo bomb also goes to one of the 970th's newest flight engineers, Staff Sgt. Najee Menefee.

