

March 2019

RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513th AIR FORCE MAINTENANCE GROUP



513th Maintainers honored at 2019 Knucklebusters

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INSIDE:

Air Force Reserve? There's an app for that // It's back! In the Spotlight

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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.

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

513TH UPDATE

Upcoming Events

Sunday – 1500 – Fannin Hall
513 ACG Commander's Call

April 6-7
April UTA

June 1-2
Tinker Air Show

Fit to Fight MVPs

TSgt Matthew Olson
Unit: 513 MXS
Score: 99.3%



Col Laurie Dickson
Unit: 513 ACG
Score: 98.8%

Alternate Dining Facility For March UTA

While Vanwey Dining Facility is under renovation, Aramark has been contracted to provide UTA meals out of building 3001, located on the east side of base. At this time Aramark will be providing all 3 meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) on Saturday and breakfast and lunch meals on Sunday. The schedule is subject to

change before the April UTA, so keep an eye out for update info.

Hours of Service will be:
Breakfast: 0530-0700
Lunch: 1100-1330
Dinner: 1630-1830



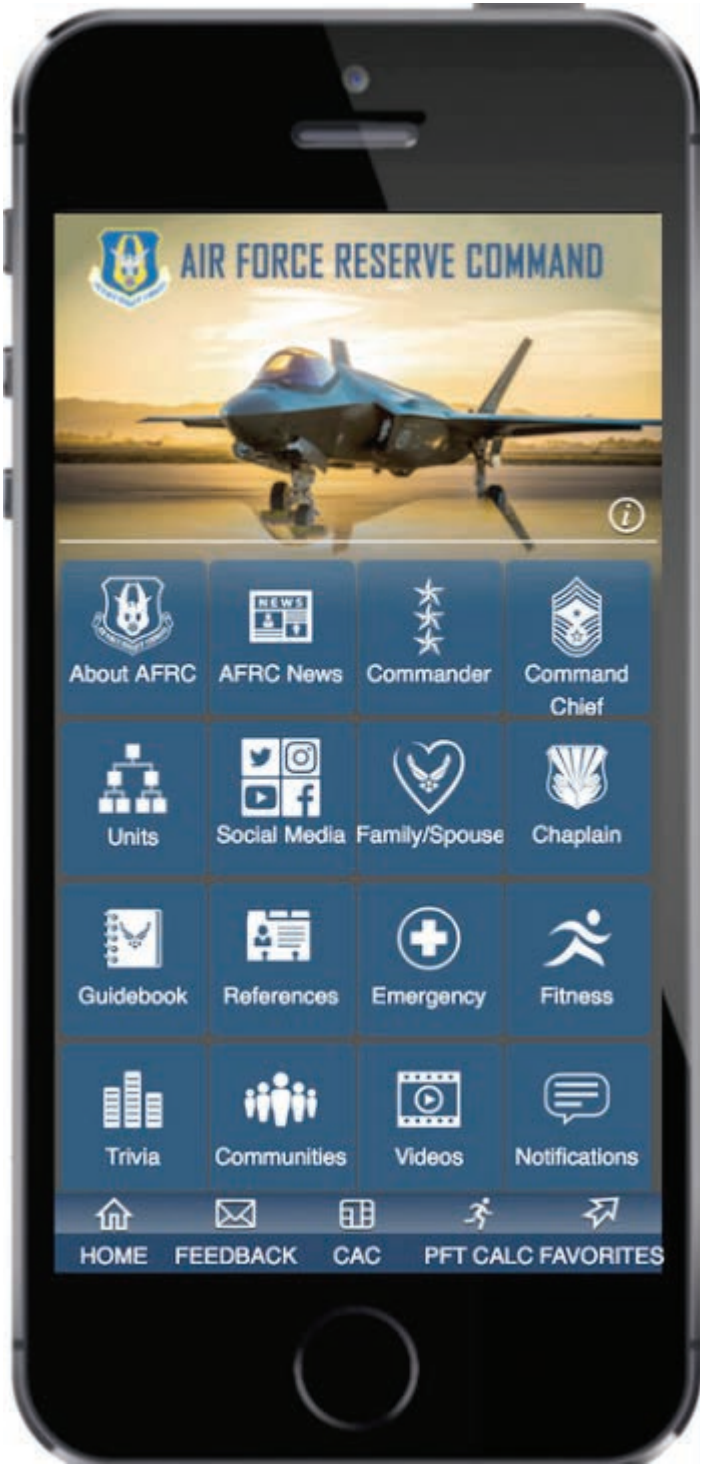
Vision: Experience, Expertise, Teamwork: Citizen Airmen employing diverse talents as game-raising mission partners

Air Force Reserve? There's an app for that

Tyler Grimes
Citizen Airman Magazine Staff Writer

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The Air Force Reserve Command launched a feature on the new Air Force Connect mobile application in December allowing Reserve Citizen Airmen access to information and online tools on the go. In typical Reserve fashion, Reservists are leading the way with the help of Col. Tri Minh Trinh, director of the AF Connect team and Senior Master Sgt. Timm Huffman, chief, content management and training of the AF Connect team. Innovation is in the Reserve's DNA, coming from the diverse experiences Reserve Citizen Airmen like Trinh and Huffman bring to the mission. According to Trinh, the AF Connect app has its roots in the Reserve's RIO Connect app. "In 2016, while we were exploring how to integrate Geospatial Information System technology into RIO Connect at a conference at Joint Base San Antonio, we came across Capt. Liaquat Ali and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Vincent Mancuso who helped us accelerate the RIO Connect app development," Trinh said. Trinh and his team then partnered with app developers as well as the AFRC Cyberspace, Technology and Information office to incorporate a mobile

Common Access Card to gain access to secured Department of Defense and Air Force websites. "From this evolution, we submitted AF Connect through the Airman Powered by Innovation program and made it as a 'wild-card' as one of the six finalists to compete at the February 2018 Air Force-wide Spark Tank competition," he said. They were able to develop a demo and proposed integrating more than 250 agencies and wings under the AF Connect app's "Favorite" button. The team discovered the active duty Air Force, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve independently had a variety of different apps for their respective Airmen. "Funding, acquisition, approval and implementation processes were all different and cumbersome across and within the three components," Trinh said. "We needed an out-of-the box app that could meet all our current total force requirements and be able to make user interface and experience enhancements quickly. The current app developer has been servicing the academic community for the past decade. So, we are benefiting from all the prior and current enhancements that are still being made today but also from



How to get the app:

- 1) Go to the app store on your phone...search for "USAF Connect"
- 2) Download the app
- 3) When the app is open, tap the bottom/right icon titled "favorites"
- 4) From the favorites menu, select "add", then scroll down and select "Air Force Reserve Command"
- 5) The AFRC portal is now save in your "favorites" folder... enjoy!

another sector besides the military." While challenges outside of the team's control such as mobile friendliness and conduciveness of government websites are negatively impacting the user experience, Trinh said he believes as the mobile user base increases, the voice of the customer will drive progressive improvements in the mobile space. With the AFRC Favorite on AF Connect, Reserve Citizen Airmen now have access to a number of resources such as command news, information about services available to Reservists and their families, contact information for various Reserve units, agencies and organizations, social media feeds, religious texts and fitness tools. While there are many things currently on the AFRC Favorite, AFRC plans to implement more enhancements throughout 2019. "The biggest benefit to Reservists is that the app consolidates

the information they need to manage their careers and perform duty into a package they can access from their mobile device," said Huffman, who oversees the content management and training for USAF Connect. "Being able to receive push notifications about important news and updates is also a huge plus." Based on recent analytical user feedback, the majority of AF Connect users feel they get relevant information in a useful format from the app, believe the app helps them to be more engaged with their Air Force career and life, and that the app is easy to use and performs reliably. The AF Connect team plans to include all Air Force units in 2019. "Not bad for a bunch of Reservists leading the Air Force into the future with mobile apps technology," Trinh said. The AF Connect app is available for download in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

513th maintainers honored at Knucklebuster awards



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

In the Spotlight



SrA Jorge Garza

Job title: Hydraulic Systems Journeyman

Hometown: Eagle Pass, Texas, right next to Piedras Ne-gras Coahuila, Mexico, also known as Illegal Pass.

Favorite Team: The San Antonio Spurs

What did you want to be when you grew up? A scientist or Astrophysicist until I learned how long they have to go to school for.

Favorite part of your job? All the trips we get to take, and getting to work on the jet.

Little-known fact about you? I am addicted to hot sauce. I once ate a whole Carolina Reaper pepper.

Biggest pet peeve? When people are driving in the fast lane of the highway and going under the speed limit, and when people don't use their turn signals.

Best memory from your time in the 513th? My first TDY to Hawaii on Sentry Aloha.

If you had a superhero ability, what would it be? Time manipulation, so if I ever needed to fix a mistake I could. Also being able to take advantage the outcome of events and change them would be nice too.

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



TSgt Walter Bolles

Job title: Aircrew Flight Equipment

Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii

Favorite Team: I don't watch sports except the super bowl, so my favorite team would have to be the Patriots because they always win and I bandwagon.

What did you want to be when you grew up? As a kid I wanted to be a cartoon designer and draw cartoons. As a teenager I wanted to be a video game tester, but that swift-ly changed after discovering it's not as easy as it sounds. Now what I want to be when I grow up/retire is either a chef or a helicopter pilot.

Favorite part of your job? The satisfaction of knowing what I do really matters. Providing/inspecting/maintain-ing life-saving equipment, whether it's the comm and seal of an O2 mask, or ensuring accurate and reliable contin-gency chemical defense gear.

Best memory from your time in the 513th? Playing Poke-mon-GO with Lauch McMillan, back when I first got here.

If you had a superhero ability, what would it be? The abil-ity to fly and survive in outer space, so I could travel the cosmos in search of other life.

Air Force formalizes policy on retention of non-deployable Airmen

*By Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs*

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS)

-- In accordance with Department of Defense policy on military retention of non-deployable service members, the Air Force implemented its guidance in a memo signed Feb. 19.

Airmen who have been non-deployable for more than 12 consecutive months will be notified by their chain of command and evaluated for retention either through referral to the Disability Evaluation System or consideration for administrative separation.

Air Force leaders signed a memo charging every Airman to be fit for duty and maintain a wartime mission-capable status.

To be wartime mission-capable, Airmen must:

- meet individual medical readiness standards, to include medical, dental, and physical components,
- be able to execute the wartime mission requirements of their respective career fields, to include technical, educational, and physical proficiency,
- be current on the Fitness Assessment and
- be considered a satisfactory participant in Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard duties,

as applicable.

"We expect all Airmen to exercise personal accountability for their deployable status and to take the necessary steps to maintain their readiness," stated the memo signed by the secretary, chief of staff and chief master sgt. of the Air Force. "Commanders will ensure Airmen understand what is required and ensure the necessary resources are available to achieve our goal of a 95 percent or higher deployable rate within their units. The defense of our nation requires Airmen and the Air Force be ready to deploy at all times."

Airmen exempted from this policy include those who are pregnant or postpartum, in a training or transient status, deployable with limitations, and are filling positions exempted by the secretary of defense.

Additionally, the new Air Force policy lists adoption, humanitarian assignment, legal action, sole survivor/surviving family member/deferred from hostile force zone, conscientious objector, absent without leave, or pending administrative separation as categories that are also exempt from this policy.

For some Airmen, being fit for duty means deploying to an austere environment at a moment's

notice; for others, it means being fit to execute wartime missions from home station. In both scenarios, commanders remain responsible for ensuring their Airmen are fit for duty.

"Being ready to go is in our DNA," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "It comes from our expeditionary roots as Airmen."

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs will serve as the final retention approval authority, with one exception. Only the secretary of the Air Force may disapprove retention requests for combat-wounded Airmen who have been evaluated through the Disability Evaluation System and whose reason for being non-deployable is a result of their combat wounds.

"As a member of the profession of arms, all Airmen must be ready to execute their wartime missions," said Shon Manasco, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs. "Retaining Airmen who meet our standards to deploy is a top priority."

For more information, Airmen should visit myPers or call the Air Force Personnel Center's Total Force Service Center.