

April 2019

# RABBIT TALES

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

**513th represents  
at OU Softball**

(photos on page 10)

**INSIDE:**

New direction for female-specific flight equipment // Where are they now?



# RABBIT TALES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 513th Update  | 3  |
| Words from the Deputy Commander                             | 4  |
| In the Spotlight  | 5  |
| New direction for female-specific flight equipment          | 6  |
| AFR expands hiring authority to recruit, maintain readiness | 8  |
| Where are they now?   | 9  |
| OU Softball Military Appreciation Night                     | 10 |



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

Sunday – 1500 – Bldg 461 Auditorium  
**513 ACG Commander's Call**

May 4-5  
**May UTA**

June 1-2  
**Tinker Air Show**

### Alternate Dining Facilities For April UTA

While Vanwey Dining Facility is under renovation, Aramark (Bldg 3001) and Golden Corral (617 S. Air Depot Blvd) have been contracted to provide UTA meals. At this time Aramark will be providing breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday, and Golden Corral will provide dinner on Saturday.

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

Contact the POCs for any questions:  
MSgt Mondrey Ramsey @ 734-7207  
MSgt Celestes Fletes @ 734-5532



### OKC Marathon volunteer opportunity

Volunteering for the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon is a rewarding and special experience. Being part of the event in a way that enables the participants to complete their goals is in every way as honoring to the memory of the fallen as running the marathon. As with last year for those that volunteered, it will be a great time had by all.

To register as a volunteer, go to [https://www.cuetoems.com/ocmm\\_2019/Volunteer.aspx?code=TINKER19](https://www.cuetoems.com/ocmm_2019/Volunteer.aspx?code=TINKER19).

Contact Ms. Takesha Williams for any questions.

### Promotions

Congrats to our April promotees!



**SSgt Nicholi Estrada**  
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)



**TSgt Matthew Boyle**  
(513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron)

### Fit to Fight MVPs

**A1C Dominique Coleman**  
Unit: 513 AMXS  
Score: 98.8%



**A1C Taylor Turnbo**  
Unit: 513 OSS  
Score: 97.9%

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

# Words from the Deputy Commander



**Col. Michael Remualdo**  
*Deputy Commander, 513th Air Control Group*

Hello! Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself and start by saying I'm excited to be the newest member of the 513th Air Control Group, the USAF's only Reserve AWACS unit. Some of you may already know me but for those that don't, I entered the Air Force way back in the 20th century starting my career in 1992 at that charm school in Colorado. I attended pilot training at Reese AFB flying the T-37 and T-1. From there I went to Ft. Rucker, AL for the Rotary Wing Qualification Course and then Kirtland AFB to qualify in the HH-60G. My assignments included Keflavik NAS, Nellis AFB and Kirtland AFB. I joined the Reserves in 2002 here at Tinker where I flew the KC-135 for 12 years with the 507th ARW. After a short stint at Altus, I went to MacDill AFB where I spent the last three years. I have also flown commercially for the last 14+ years.

So, why am I here? Simply stated, I love wearing the uniform and I love flying airplanes. I have one simple goal and that

is to leave the 513th better than I found it. You don't have to worry because I'm not here to reinvent the wheel. If anything, I'm here to make your job easier! And although I'm new to the jet and its mission, I'm eager to learn so please don't hesitate to impart your expertise. I have thick skin...you don't have to worry about hurting my feelings. In fact, I prefer the direct approach.

In the month since my arrival, I've been very impressed with what I've seen-- the unit's professionalism and pride is on full display. I would challenge each and every one of you to continue to build on it because what you do matters. Regardless of your rank or position within the group, we all have a role to play to ensure mission success. We're in this together so let's work hard and have some fun!

Respectfully,  
Colonel Remualdo

# In the Spotlight



**SrA J'nathan Brooks**

*Job title:* Instrument Flight Control Systems Technician

*Hometown:* Kings Mountain, NC

*Favorite Team:* UNC Tar Heels

*What did you want to be when you grew up?* A NASCAR driver

*Favorite part of your job?* Seeing the jet take off.

*Little-known fact about you?* I once held the county record for consecutive mutton busting rides.

*Biggest pet peeve?* Slow drivers and "rubbernecks".

*Best memory from your time in the 513th?* The time that we recovered a jet in Hawaiian shirts.

*If you had a superhero ability, what would it be?* Telekensis or telepathy.

*Anything else we should know about you?* I play a mean spoons.



**A1C Mitch Melchor**

*Job title:* Air Surveillance Technician

*Hometown:* Oklahoma City, OK

*Favorite Team:* New Orleans Saints

*What did you want to be when you grew up?* Aerospace Engineer

*Favorite part of your job?* Traveling

*Best memory from your time in the 513th?* It's too early to say but I'm sure I'll have one soon.

*If you had a superhero ability, what would it be?* Time travel



# New direction for female-specific flight equipment

**A1C Bailee A. Darbasie**  
99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) --

The Air Force is working to redesign the gear used by female aircrew members across the force after facing challenges with current flight equipment.

"We have women performing in every combat mission, and we owe it to them to have gear that fits, is suited for a woman's frame and (one) can be in for hours on end," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein at a Defense Writers Group breakfast, March 2018 in Washington, D.C.

The majority of the equipment currently worn by pilots was built off anthropometric data from the 1960s, a time when only men were in aviator roles.

The lack of variety and representation in the current designs have caused multiple issues for women, said Col. Samantha Weeks, the 14th Flying Training Wing commander, assigned to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Many of the uniform issues circulate around G-suits, flight suits, urinary devices and survival vests.

"The challenges other female aviators and I face are the fit and availability of our flight equipment," said Capt. Lauren Ellis, 57th Adversary Tactics Group executive officer.

Limited sizes and accessibility of force aircrew to order the wrong size and have it extensively altered

to fit properly, taking time and money away from the mission, Ellis said.

"All of the bladders on my G-suit need to be modified," Ellis said. "It's a lot of work for the Aircrew Flight Equipment, or AFE, Airmen. Even after they're modified, the proportions don't fit."

G-suits are vital anti-gravity gear for aviators. The bladders in the suit fill with air and apply pressure to the pilot's body to prevent a loss of consciousness during high levels of acceleration. Not having a properly fitted G-suit could lead to hypoxia followed by unconsciousness.

Ellis said ill-fitting flight suits are a common problem for men and women. Aircrew who are significantly above or below average height have a hard time finding suits that fit their body type.

Even if a woman found a flight suit close to her size, the flight-suit zipper is designed for men—not women. Female aircrew struggle with relieving themselves during flights because the flight-suit zipper isn't designed low enough for them to properly use their urinary devices.

"There are flight suits that were designed with longer zippers for women, but they're almost never available," Ellis said. "It's common for females to have to wait months to receive the flight suit they've ordered which causes them to have to wear the male one."



Participants of the Female Flight Equipment Workshop review various flight suits designs at AFWERX Vegas, Las Vegas, January 30, 2019. The AFWERX Vegas events established the communication needed between the consumer, designers and suppliers to reach a mutual goal of understanding and development for female flight equipment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bailee A. Darbasie)

Along with the possibility of injury and discomfort associated with G-suits and flight suits, women struggle to get their life-saving gear to fit accordingly. The process of ejecting is so powerful, even pilots with well-fitting gear are at a serious risk of injury. It's important for aviators to be heard and the modernization of equipment for everyone continues, Ellis said.

"In certain situations, having ill-fitting gear, such as harnesses and survival vests, can result in a loss of

life," Ellis said. "If an aircrew member ejects from the aircraft with equipment that doesn't fit, they can be severely injured or lose their life."

The Air Force and Air Combat Command are working to find a feasible solution for aircrew members.

Part of the strategy to correct the uniform problem was to take part in several collaborative Female Flight Equipment Workshops at AFWERX Vegas. Female Airmen stationed across the globe traveled to the in-

novation hub and attended the workshops to explore areas of opportunity and come up with proposed solutions.

"The purpose of the workshops is to bring together female aviators, Aircrew Flight Equipment, Human Systems Program Office personnel and subject matter experts to understand the current products, the acquisition process and the actual needs from the field," Weeks said.

Throughout the workshops, aviators participated in briefings, as well as discussions and exercises with the agencies involved in the design and distribution of their gear.

"The Human Systems Program Office acquires and sustains all equipment for male and female Airmen," said Lt. Col.

Elaine Bryant Human Systems Program Office deputy chief, assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "We are committed to hearing our consumers' voices, and we will make the changes necessary to our current process to meet their needs."

The workshops established the communication needed between the consumer, designers and suppliers to reach a mutual goal of understanding and development.

"We now have some pretty clear actions coming out of the Female Flight Equipment Workshops," Bryant said. "We've heard the feedback, and we want to make sure we

have actionable things we're accomplishing within specific time frames for our consumers."

The Human Systems Program Office will strive to make progressive changes within their operations and better their acquisition process, explained Bryant.

"We will take the field up on their offers of coming out to the units and meeting the aircrew for whom we supply," Bryant said. "We'll ensure we maintain the lines of communication needed to better our program."

Another major improvement for female aviators is the adoption of the Battlefield Airmen Rapid Resource Replenishment System, a centrally managed equipment facility. BARS is capable of shipping needed resources directly to female aircrew. Using this system will allow women to acquire the proper fitting equipment they need within an acceptable timeline.

"BARS is a step in the right direction," Ellis said. "Everyone deserves to have equipment that fits them. There are certain things we have to adapt to, but as long as we're trying to improve and modernize our gear, we can be a more ready and lethal force."

"The Air Force has evolved over the years and continues to evolve," Weeks echoed. "Female aviators entering the Air Force now will not have the same issues I had over the last 21 years."

*Information from an ACC news feature was used in this story.*



# AFR expands hiring authority to recruit, maintain readiness

**Tyler Grimes**  
*Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs*

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFNS) -- To meet the needs of America’s national security requirements, the Air Force Reserve Command is expanding the direct hiring authority to recruit Air Reserve Technician maintenance personnel when and where they are needed.

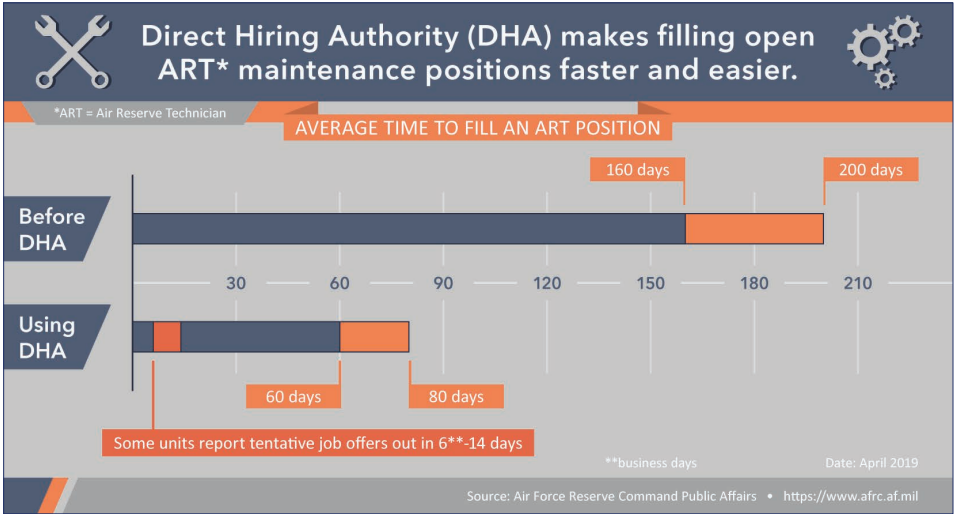
“Direct Hire Authority enables DoD to recruit and appoint qualified persons directly without applying competitive rating and ranking procedures,” states a Nov. 27, 2018, Department of Defense letter.

Lisa Armes, AFRC’s Directorate of Manpower, Personnel and Services, chief affirmative employment staffing, known as A1, explains that DHA makes filling open positions faster and easier.

“Feedback from our units indicates there are traditional Reservists interested in applying for ART positions, but might not make the referral certificate due to lack of deployment or other experience-based issues,” Armes said. “DHA allows the hiring official to make selections without the need of a referral certificate and thus opens up the ART opportunities to qualified traditional Reservists more easily.”

With approximately 1,600 vacancies across the maintenance career fields, using DHA is a great way to reduce that large number, according to Armes. Additionally, Armes said it takes between 160 to 200 days on average to fill an ART position. However, DHA enables hiring officials to bring someone on board in a much shorter time period.

“One unit submitted their first DHA package and their applicant received a tentative job offer within 14 days,” she said. “Another unit’s submission had a



(Infographic courtesy of Direct Hiring Authority)

tentative job offer in six business days. If units are hiring their experienced traditional Reservists, this is happening in 60 to 80 days as compared to the previous 160 to 200 days.”

In order for the Air Force Personnel Center to adjust to the new DHA workload, units were selected to have DHA priority until April 30. The list consists of maintenance units at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Nellis AFB, Nevada, Naval Air Station Joint Base Fort Worth, Texas, Hill AFB, Utah, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania, Beale AFB, California, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, March ARB, California and Grissom ARB, Indiana. These units were selected based on a combination of factors, including manning rates. After April 30, all units will have equal priority in submitting and processing their packages through the hiring system. This priority only

applies to maintenance DHA. It does not apply to ART officer recruitment or ART enlisted recruitment that is not covered by the maintenance DHA.

Maj. Monica Lombardo, AFRC’s Directorate of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection chief of maintenance force management, known as A4, says the new DHA flexibility is not just good for the maintenance but also good for the entire Reserve enterprise and the mission.

“Really, this policy is not just a good thing for A4, since hiring more maintainers enables increased aircraft availability and mission capable rates,” Lombardo said. “More flyable aircraft translates to more pilot training and combat readiness on the operational side.”

Lombardo said the feedback from the Reserve units has been very positive about DHA. One reason the DHA implementation has been so successful, she says, is unit leadership involvement and collaboration with AFRC A1.

# Where are they now?



## Col. Jeff McGalliard (Ret.)

### - How long did you serve with the 513th?

I served the 513th from 2011-2013, alongside some of the best folks I’ve ever worked with. What a great bunch of aviators and maintainers.

### - What is your current job/position?

I’m staying busy flying to Europe for my airline, enjoying the first grandchild and working on our retirement property in northern Michigan.

### - What was one of the biggest challenges you faced while assigned to the 513 ACG?

We worked through a very contentious mobilization, government shutdowns and sequestration that had us figuring out how to mow the lawn and source our own crew bus for the 970th, and a move into tempo-

rary offices for the group staff.

### - What is your favorite memory of the 513th?

Whatever the challenge, we managed to turn lemons into lemonade. We bought pizzas and spent a day cleaning and waxing that old crew bus. The maintenance guys let me help them wrench on an E-3 on more than one occasion. Too many great times to list!

### - Do you have any advice for current members?

Great people find ways around adverse challenges and have fun doing it—like impromptu picnics onboard a 22-hour mission to Colombia. What a terrific group.

### - Where do you live now?

St Joseph, MI.



# OU Softball Military Appreciation Night



Airmen from the 513th Air Control Group, the 507th Refueling Wing and 137th Special Operations Wing presented a large flag during the National Anthem prior to the OU-Baylor softball game April 5, which ended in an OU victory 5-7. (Photos by 1st Lt. Caleb Wanzer/Released)

