

RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



**513th Trains with South
Dakota Fighter Wing**

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

September Promotions

513th ACG

Samantha Wall AMXS



Logan Brown AMXS



Jorge Garza AMXS

Philip Smith MXS

Alisha Dipilla OSS



Collace Baird MXS



Aaron Hoskins AACCS



STEP Promotions

513th ACG

Nichole Barragan, OSS



Wendy Robison, AMXS



513 ACG trains with South Dakota Fighter Wing

by SrA Taylor Solberg

114th Fighter Wing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron and 513th Maintenance Group reserve Airmen from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, trained with the 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field in South Dakota Aug. 15-16. Pilots, maintainers and operators of the E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) worked with F-16 pilots and maintainers.

“We’re having to work in a different



environment,” said Master Sgt. Chris Parker, an aircraft structural maintainer of the 513th Maintenance Squadron. “This is as close as we can get to being deployed.”

The AWACS aircrew and F-16 pilots got a rare chance to work with each other directly. The 513th maintainers also got a chance to work in an unfamiliar environment.

The E-3 Sentry AWACS is a modified Boeing 707/320 with a rotating radar

(Continued on next page)



(FIGHTER continued)

dome attached to the top of the aircraft by two 11-foot struts.

“It is a command and control platform that operates anywhere in the

“This is as close as we can get to being deployed.”

world,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Burch, an evaluator warfare officer of the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron.

The radar provides surveillance that

ranges from the ground surface to the stratosphere, as well as in water. The operators can transmit the information gathered from the radar to pilots and other allies.

During their training exercise, the AWACS aircrew members provided and coordinated situational awareness of activity to the F-16 pilots while in flight.

“We’re all still required to be adaptable in whatever environment,” said Burch, “This is a great opportunity to get training for that.”



513 ACG welcomes new commander



Col. James J. Matthey, 513th Air Control Group commander, delivers a speech during a change of command ceremony, July 10, 2020 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mary Begy)

Col. Jim Matthey is the commander of the 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The 513th is the only Air Force Reserve unit that maintains and operates the E-3 Sentry, an Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft. The colonel is responsible for directing and maintaining the wartime readiness of the nearly 400 reservists under his command.

Previously, Col. Matthey



served as the Reserve Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs and Airman Readiness (SAF/MRR). He assisted in the planning, and establishing of policy and implementing activities crucial to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, as well as Total Force Airman Readiness. Preceding this assignment, Col. Matthey served as the senior executive officer to the Chief of Air Force Reserve (RE) and the Commander, AFRC.

AF appoints new CMSAF and CSAF



I am humbled and honored to serve with each and every one of you as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. When I look back at my 27 years of service to our Nation, I can't help but think about the great opportunities the Air Force has given me. My promise is that we will work hard to provide all of our Airmen with these same opportunities, while ensuring the readiness of America's Air Force.

Our strategic and global environment has changed; however, the one constant is our people. You are our most lethal weapon system and the competitive edge we have over our adversaries. As warfighters that answer our Nation's call, we must provide you with the very best training, opportunities, and resources to enable your success. In order to accomplish that, we must continue to adapt, evolve, and modernize our Air Force. And to that end, my focus will be on YOU – our people, our readiness, and our culture to ensure we are ready for any challenge that may come our way.

There is much work to be done. And alongside Secretary Barrett, and General Brown, we will work hard for you, our fellow Airmen, and our great Air Force. We are committed to you, your families, and our Nation.

Again, I am extremely humbled and honored to share in this journey with you. My husband Rahn and I couldn't be more proud to be part of this great Air Force family. Thank you, and your families, for your continued service and sacrifice. Our Air Force, and our Nation are better because of you. To the Men and Women of the Air Force, , and our Nation are better because of you.

JOANNE S. BASS
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

It is truly an honor to serve alongside you as the 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff. I appreciate this opportunity to build upon the solid foundation General Goldfein set to prepare our Airmen to soar boldly into the future. I deeply appreciate your service, and the sacrifices you and your families make to ensure we serve in the greatest Air Force in the world.

We must never forget, however, our future success is not pre-ordained. Our adversaries are watching, and they will continue their efforts to negate our long-standing warfighting advantages. My focus is to ensure today's Airmen, and those that follow us, have the capabilities needed to preserve the unique value we provide to our great Nation.

Our Air Force and our Nation deserve nothing less than our best. So we must make clear-eyed judgments about our strategic future as an Air Force. We must be able to adapt and accelerate change to account for the strategic environment we face today and the far more challenging environment we can expect to face tomorrow. We must train and prepare in order to maintain a decisive advantage across the full spectrum—from competition to conflict. We must be ready when the Nation next calls upon our Airmen to fly, fight, and win.

No matter the challenges or opportunities that come our way, you can expect me to lead by means of four tenets that have served me throughout my career: Execute at a High Standard, Be Disciplined in Execution, Pay Attention to Details, and Have Fun.

CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.
General, USAF
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Social Security Payroll Tax Deferral

By Defense Finance and Accounting Service,
Defense Finance and Accounting Service

In order to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Presidential Memorandum was issued on August 8, 2020 and guidance followed from Internal Revenue Service on August 28, 2020, to temporarily defer Social Security (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) tax withholdings. This change is effective through the end of the 2020 calendar year.

Military Members - Effective for the September mid-month pay, DFAS will temporarily defer the withholding of your 6.2% Social Security tax if your monthly rate of basic pay is less than \$8,666.66. If your monthly rate of basic pay is at or above this threshold, your social security tax withholding will not be affected by the temporary deferral. Military members can use their August or prior LES as a good reference for their typical Social Security tax amount. The Social Security tax is labeled as "FICA-SOC SECURITY" on the LES and is calculated as 6.2% of basic pay.

Civilian Employees - Effective pay period ending September 12, 2020, DFAS will temporarily defer your 6.2% OASDI tax withholding if your wages, subject to OASDI are less than \$4,000 in any given pay period. Employees can use the "Taxable Wages" on the LES as a good reference for whether they will have OASDI tax deferred.

The OASDI deduction is found on your LES under the deductions tab/section.

Military members are not eligible to opt-out of the deferral if their Social Security wages fall within the stated limits. The deferral will happen automatically.

Civilian employees are not eligible to opt-out of the deferral if their Social Security wages fall within the stated limits. The deferral will happen automatically.



Per IRS guidance, collection of the deferred taxes will be taken from your wages between January 1 and April 30, 2021 for both military members and civilian employees. Additional information on the collection process will be provided in the future.

If a military member or civilian employee separates or retires in 2020 before the Social Security tax can be collected in 2021, they are still responsible for the Social Security tax repayment. Additional

information on the collection process will be provided in the future.

For questions on the temporary deferral of the 6.2% OASDI withholding:

Visit the IRS page: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/guidance-issued-to-implement-presidential-memorandum-deferring-certain-employee-social-security-tax-withholding>.

For more information on financial readiness:

Visit www.finred.usalearning.gov

Visit your installation Military and Family Support Center to speak with a Personal Financial Manager or Counselor, or contact Military One-Source at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil>