

# RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



MYTHS AND FACTS  
ABOUT THE VAX

OCTOBER 2021

**MISSION:** TO PROVIDE COMBAT-READY CITIZEN  
AIRMEN TO GENERATE AND EMPLOY  
AWACS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME



**VISION:** WE TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILY OF  
CITIZEN AIRMEN WHILE KEEPING WATCH OVER  
AMERICA!

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# Message from the 513th ACG commander

*-Col. James Matthey*

Welcome back,

most esteemed warfighters of carnivore nation! It's is great to see our team back from doing our nation's business overseas. You all have a lot to be proud of during your deployment; from flying to maintenance, you represented yourself, our patch, and America; you all should be incredibly proud.

I also want to recognize our volunteers in our "Key Spouse" "significant other" team. They stepped up from when the 513th was notified of our mobilization through homecoming; they were engaged, provided care packages and vital links between our deployed Airmen, the 513th, and your families. Thank you.

Now that we're back, rested, it's time to focus on our next priority - GTX conversion. Our Tactics and Training shops have developed a master plan starting in Jan 2022. We've actually already started training our initial cadre of instructors. I actually performed my first active sensor check out in my over 2600 hrs in the E-3. We've got a great set of instructors, and it just goes to show that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

The 513th is also going through some leadership changes. Some of our family have taken their final flights. These leaders are either retiring or expanding their experiences across the command, making room for our next cadre of leaders. The 513th, the Reserves, and this nation need your dedicated leadership. We must continue to train those coming up the ranks; we've got our work cut out for us. Our security environment continues to evolve at an ever-increasing rate; China continues to threaten sea lines

of communication, South American countries are aligning with criminal organizations, and climate change is creating destabilization across the globe. We need strong leaders who understand and can communicate our nation's strategy down to our tactical task. We need you to continue to be the best airborne C2 and maintenance group in the Air Force.

Brace yourselves for some choppy air. 513th has weathered many storms since we stood up in 1996, and we are again entering a period of financial uncertainty. This isn't new, we have entered uncertain times unified, and that unity has sustained us. We've been successful because we remained focused and committed to our mission and to each other. We will continue to remain so.

We will continue to produce combat-ready citizen Airmen trained to employ the E-3 anytime, anywhere. This is our core mission; this is why the 513th exists. We will continue to do our part to execute the NDS! And we will strive to live up to our vision: "Taking care of our Citizen Airmen, while keeping watch over America."

Finally, our 10th AF Commander, Major General Radliff, and our 10th AF Command Chief, CMSgt Malcom, visit us this weekend. We get to show off the most talented Airmen in the AF. Make them feel welcomed, they want to hear from you.

Chief Gonsalves and I continue to be at your service, and damn proud to wear the 513th patch!!

Push it up!

JM



# Myths and facts about the vax — debunking common COVID-19 vaccine myths

*Air Force Surgeon General Congressional and Public Affairs*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- The COVID-19 vaccine has been mandated across the Department of Defense and despite its demonstrated effectiveness and safety, a host of myths have left some Airmen and Guardians hesitant to receive it. While social media posts and some news outlets may make it harder to keep up with what is fact or fiction, the science is clear ... approved COVID-19 vaccines work.

Here is a breakdown of the most common myths surrounding COVID-19 vaccines, and the facts behind each myth:

**Myth: COMIRNATY is not the same as the PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 vaccine.**

Truth: It is common for vaccine names to change after receiving full Food and Drug Administration approval for branding purposes. COMIRNATY and Pfizer-BioNTech are biologically and chemically the same vaccine. The FDA approved Pfizer-BioNTech for licensing and branding as COMIRNATY August 23 for people 16 years and older. Critically, the Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine continues and covers the 12-15 year old population.

In accordance with FDA guidance, COMIRNATY has the same formulation and can be used interchangeably with the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Providers can use doses distributed under the EUA, to administer the vaccination series as if the doses were the licensed vaccine.

**Myth: There were no people of color involved or represented in the research or development of the vaccine.**

Truth: COVID-19 has taken a heavy and disproportionate toll on people of color, particularly Black adults. Historically, people of color have been underrepresented in clinical trials. Therefore, ensuring racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials for development of COVID-19 vaccines has been particularly important. Diversity within clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine also ensures safety and effectiveness across populations. Findings show that Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine safety and efficacy were similar for people of color and white participants.

The FDA offered nonbinding recommendations that strongly encouraged the enrollment of populations most affected by COVID-19, specifically racial and ethnic minorities. Both Pfizer and Moderna worked to ensure that people of color were included in their trials, with Moderna even slowing down enrollment to enroll more racial and ethnic minorities. There have also been efforts on the community side. Historically Black colleges and universities participated in COVID-19 vaccine trials and encouraged participation among their communities. The purposeful encouragement to increase racial and ethnic groups in these trials have achieved greater diversity than many previous trials for other drugs.

**Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine can cause problems with breast tissue and lead to breast cancer.**

Truth: There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause problems with breast tissue or would lead to breast cancer. The mRNA vaccines are processed by your body near the injection site and activate immune system cells that then travel through the lymph system to nearby lymph nodes. In this manner, an individual may experience swelling under the arm where the vaccine was administered due to swelling of the lymph node. The vaccines are not affecting hormone levels, nor are they traveling throughout the body or affecting other body organs, such as breast tissue. Swollen lymph nodes can show up in a mammogram even if women can't feel them. Hence, the Society of Breast Imaging recommends women delay any routine mammography scheduled within four weeks after their most recent COVID-19 vaccination.

**Myth: If I take COMIRNATY while breastfeeding, my baby will be infected with COVID-19.**

Truth: COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause infection in anyone. Vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 in people who are breastfeeding. Additionally, breastfeeding people who have received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have antibodies in their breast milk, which could help protect their babies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine recommend that lactating women receive the vaccine and that breastfeeding should not be stopped around the period of vaccination.

**Myth: COVID-19 causes infertility.**

Truth: There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems in women or men. The mRNA vaccines are processed by your body near the injection site and activate immune system cells that then travel through the lymph system to nearby lymph nodes. In this manner, they are not affecting hormone levels, nor are they traveling throughout the body or affecting other body organs.

**Myth: The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System proves that COVID-19 vaccination causes too many side effects and deaths.**

Truth: VAERS data alone cannot determine if an adverse event was caused by a COVID-19 vaccination. Anyone can report individual events to VAERS, even if it is not clear whether a vaccine caused the problem. These events are studied by vaccine safety experts who track for trends, then validate significant adverse concerns. Recently, the number of deaths reported in VAERS has been misinterpreted and misreported as if this number means deaths were proven to be caused by COVID-19 vaccination.

**Myth: COMIRNATY vaccine contains fetal cells.**

**Truth:** None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain fetal cells. Specifically, COMIRNATY and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines did not use a fetal cell line to manufacture their vaccine. However, a fetal cell line was used in early research efficacy of these vaccines.

The use of these fetal cell lines in research and/or production of vaccines and medication is not new. Some over-the-counter medications for which a historic fetal cell line was utilized in research and/or production and manufacturing include: Tylenol, Pepto Bismol,

Aspirin, Tums, Senokot, Motrin, Maalox, Ex-Lax, Benadryl, Sudafed, Preparation H, Claritin, and others.

## Myths & Facts About the Vax

*Debunking common COVID-19 vaccine myths*

**Myth: Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted.**

**Truth:** The COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. have gone through the typical FDA approval process — no steps were skipped — but some steps were conducted on an overlapping schedule to gather data faster.

First, the COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna were created with a method that has been in development for years, so the companies could start

the vaccine development process early in the pandemic. Second, vaccine projects received large resources. Governments invested in research and/or paid for vaccines in advance, which enabled a faster approach. Third, some types of COVID-19 vaccines were created using messenger RNA (mRNA), which allows a faster approach than the traditional way that vaccines are made. Fourth, the capabilities of social media reaching numerous people enabled companies to find and engage study volunteers at a faster than typical pace. Finally, COVID-19 is so contagious and widespread, therefore it did not take long to see if the vaccine worked for the study volunteers who were vaccinated.

**Myth: If I get the COVID-19 vaccine, it will make me sick with COVID-19.**

**Truth:** You cannot get COVID-19 disease from the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. If you do not have side effects, that does not mean your body's immune system is not responding.

**Myth: COVID-19 vaccines shed or release their components and are harmful.**

**Truth:** Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened live version of the virus. None of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus.

**Myth: COVID-19 vaccine will alter my DNA.**

**Truth:** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA resides.

**Myth: Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will make me magnetic.**

**Truth:** All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals and will not make anyone magnetic. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain eggs, gelatin, latex, or preservatives.

**Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine contains microchips.**

**Truth:** COVID-19 vaccines do not contain manufactured electronic or microchips. Vaccines are developed to fight against disease and are not administered to track your movement. Vaccines work by stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies. After getting vaccinated, you develop immunity to that disease, without having to get the disease first.

# September Promotions

T

Tech Sgt Thomas Vanhooser, 513th  
MXS

MSgt Erin Nitzel, 513th ACG

MSgt LaNiya Scott, 513th ACG



**CURRENT FUNDS**

Balance

**\$2,775**

## Beer & Briefing

"Beer and Briefing" will be the new academic format for Intel Briefings on UTA's going forward. As the name indicates, beer will be provided to those in attendance. The next two UTA's will also include a brief AIT test as well as an Intel Feedback Form to help us get better in the future. Come ready to drink and to learn!

# In the Spotlight



**Master Sgt. LaNiya Scott**

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**Unit:** 513th ACG

**Job title:** Group Career Assistance Advisor

**Hometown:** Shawnee, Kansas - GO CHIEFS!

**Civilian job:** Principal Supply Chain Procurement Specialist at Northrop Grumman

**Place you'd like to visit:** Australia

**Best place I've visited:** Germany

**Favorite part of your job:** Knowing that I can truly make a difference in someone's career and being provided the opportunity to help people.

**Biggest pet peeve:** Being Misunderstood and knowing I have raised two Mini Schnauzers who think they are humans and often want to 'speak to the manager'.

**Little known fact about you:** I used to be a Seabee in the United State Navy Reserve.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th:** My first UTA in the Air Force – proved change can be a GREAT thing.

# Commander competes in 2021 Armed Forces Triathlon Championship

By Senior Airman Chad Dixon, 513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

**513th Maintenance Squadron commander, Maj. Carol Stanley, discusses her experience and how she got involved.**

## How did you get involved with the AF Tri Team?

Before I'd started triathlons, back on active duty, I knew a member of the team. Then, after I'd started training for my first event in 2019 I'd actually seen a flyer from the fitness center that AF Sports had the application period open. The AF Sports website has a calendar and it tells you when and how to apply for the sports teams, so I was prepared when the application period opened for this year. The team had a mix of athletes who've competed on the team for years as well as athletes who's first time competing was this year.

## Where was the race?

NAS Ventura County (Point Magu) California

## What was the training like? Did y'all train together or individually?

Most of the training we do is as per our own individual training plans up until we traveled to California. While we were in California prior to



the race, some of us did work out together – but most of those workouts were to familiarize those of us who were out there the first time with the courses and the things we would expect to experience on race day.

## How long was the race and what was your or the teams finishing time?

The race was a Olympic distance triathlon which is 1500 m swim, 40 km bike and 10 km run. USAF women and men's teams took the 2nd place finish. (My time being the slowest on



the USAF team, haha – I was in the company of much better athletes).

### **Who did you compete against?**

Navy and USMC fielded teams this year. I competed in the Master's Division for competitors (women) over the age of 35.

### **Who got Silver and Gold?**

For women's masters division Maj Jamie Turner (USAF) took gold and Maj Candace White (USMC) took silver.



**What is next for you and the team?** In a normal year, the top finishers would go to Conseil International du Sport Militaire Military World Championship (CISM) but due to COVID, CISM isn't being held this year, so the team is done for the year.

### **Is there anything else you think I should know about the race or your experience?**

The team was absolutely amazing. While it is an athletic event to determine who is the best, the idea of “friendship through sport” is part of the competition. Triathlon is normally a very individualistic sport, so to have the team dynamic added in was fantastic. While we all come from different parts and locations of the USAF, the fact that we were a team was very apparent as we were all working together to make sure everyone succeeded. It was a fantastic experience, I'm so honored and thankful I could do it, and I'd encourage anyone who would even consider to put in an application for any of the USAF sport teams to do so.



# Holiday Spirit Steak Supper

The 23rd Annual Operation Holiday Spirit (OHS) steak dinner will be held at the Del City American Legion on 3 Dec, 18:00- 22:00.

Due to COVID-19, only a limited number of tickets will be sold.

There WON'T be a chicken or veggie plate option this year. "BEEF - it's what's for dinner!"

This steak dinner is always a big success and makes a lot of money for our own reserve and guard families. Through donations, auctions and more, the proceeds go directly to those that need. The event flyer is attached.

OHS Background:

Operation Holiday Spirit was created in 1999 to assist some of the most deserving military families during the holiday season. This program takes nominations from fellow Reservists and Guardsmen, friends and associates of families who are known to be in need of assistance. These nominations are submitted by the leaders of the servicemen's units to a review committee.

Nominees are vetted as to the level of need and to ensure assistance is for many years Oklahoma Reservists and Guardsmen have been hit particularly hard. Many of these families join the Reserves and Guard to earn extra income, but with frequent deployments and unforeseen family situations they actually find their income considerably reduced.

That hardship, coupled with the absence of their loved ones, makes for a pretty tough time for families, particularly during the holiday season. OHS is a local organization, helping local families. Ways you can help OHS (be a blessing to someone else):

- \* Cash Donations to OHS
- \* Attendance at the Annual Steak Supper and auction
- \* Donating Goods that can be sold at the Silent or Live Auction, items small or large all help
- \* Volunteering (TBD)

For more information or purchase paper tickets please contact the following:

Takesha Williams, Angi Dail, Joe Brown, Joe Wade, Ralph Hawkins, Dan Gibb, Larry DeSalle or Michelle Bonilla

**22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
STEAK SUPPER**  
Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
American Legion/VFW Post - 5000 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street - Del City OK  
Time: 6:00 to 10:00 PM  
Price \$45.00 \* \* LIMITED TO 400 TICKETS/SEATS \* \*  
Menu: Wheeler's Meat Market rib eye steak served  
with baked potato, veggies, salad, roll and cheesecake.  
Beverages: Cash bar provided (no outside beverages)  
TICKETS:  
Takesha Williams, Angi Dail, Joe Brown  
Joe Wade, Ralph Hawkins, Dan Gibb  
Larry DeSalle, Michelle Bonilla  
Visit [holidayspirit.org](http://holidayspirit.org) for more information or to purchase tickets on-line



Oct  
2021

# 513 ACG Training Update

## October Events

No Training Events Scheduled

## myLearning Updates

- ✓ Per ARCNet Program Office, myLearning and ARCNet were supposed to effectively communicate as of 25 Jul 21.
- ✓ As of 16 Sep 21, there are still communication issues between two systems.
- ✓ Currently send certificates to Training Manager if a completed training is not showing on the Ancillary Training Matrix.
- ✓ In the near future, there will be a new process within sections to update ancillary training.

## COVID Vaccinations & Schools

- Barnes Center is requiring October NCOA students attending in-residence to have received at least the 1st dose of the vaccine by class start date.
- Students who need to pursue second shots while in NCOA can do so at your installations, if available.

## Enlisted PME Course Numbers

- The EPME Course IDs have changed; see below list for current Course IDs.
- Utilize most current Course ID to request in-residence seats, as well as locate course information on the ETCA website.

Course Title	Location	New Course ID	Virtual Course ID
SNCO Academy	Maxwell-Gunter	AFSNCOA-100	V-AFSNCOA-100
Chief Leader. Course	Maxwell-Gunter	CMSA-CLC 001	V-CMSA-CLC 001
NCOA: Elmendorf	JBER	AKNCOA-400	
NCOA: Gunter	Gunter AFB	YNCOA-102	V-YNCOA-102
NCOA: Hickam	Hickam AFB	HNCOA-400	
NCOA: Kadena	Kadena	KANCOA-400	V-KANCOA-400
NCOA: Keesler	Keesler AFB	KNCOA-101	V-KNCOA-101
NCOA: Kising	Germany	KISNCOA-080	V-KISNCOA-080
NCOA: Lackland	Lackland AFB	LNCOA-100	V-LNCOA-100
NCOA: Lankford	Lankford AFB	LANNCOA-060	V-LANNCOA-060
NCOA: Peterson	Peterson AFB	PNCOA-107	V-PNCOA-107
NCOA: Sheppard	Sheppard AFB	SNCOA-110	V-SNCOA-110
NCOA: Tyndall	Tyndall AFB	TNCOA-109	V-TNCOA-109

## SF182, Authorization, Agreement & Certification of Training

- A new SF182 released on 13 Apr 21.
- Most recent version is located on the 513 ACG SharePoint under Training.
- The SF182 is utilized to request civilian school seats, most commonly for our ARTs and straight-civilians.

## October UTM Assistance

- ✓ TSgt Victor Foster, [victor.foster.1@us.af.mil](mailto:victor.foster.1@us.af.mil), is available to provide support to MX while TSgt Greene is attending Tech School.
- ✓ TSgt Nicole Tubbs, 513 ACG, and MSgt Elizabeth Staff, 513 OSS are available on UTA.



**FY22 UTA Schedule**

2-3 Oct 21
6-7 Nov 21
4-5 Dec 21
8-9 Jan 22
5-6 Feb 22
5-6 Mar 22
2-3 Apr 22
30 Apr-1 May 22
4-5 Jun 22
9-10 Jul 22
6-7 Aug 22
10-11 Sep 22



**UPDATE "AT HOC"**

**TELEWORK FORM**

**SEPTEMBER UTA SCHEDULE**

# Status Reports



**ANCILLARY CBTS**

- ACG
- AMXS
- MXS
- AACS
- OSS

**EPR/OPR STATUS**

**UNPAID ORDERS AND VOUCHERS**

- UNPAID ORDERS
- UNPAID VOUCHERS
- UNPAID RUTAs
- UNPAID TPs
- UNPAID RMPs

# How Do I?

Go to vMPF- <https://w45.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AFPCSecureNet40/PKI/Main-Menu1.aspx>

Click vMPF

Verify your E-mail & Phone #

(On the left hand side) Click Record Review/Update

Click Individual to update personal info

Review your record for any discrepancies.

## Review/Update my vMPF Records?

## Certify my SGLI?

GO TO: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>

LOGIN with your CAC

CLICK on BENEFITS tab

From Scroll down menu CLICK on LIFE INSURANCE (SOES)

When Life Insurance (SOES) Page will open click CONTINUE and answer question on each page.

When finished, you will receive an e-mail with the attachment of your new SGLI.

Call 405-582-1558 or 405-734-5476

Email :513acg.admin@us.af.mil

Create a ticket : CSS Ticketing System


## Contact my CSS?

# Check your Awards and Decs

Are your decorations up to date? Go to vMPF to check your awards & decorations. If you are missing something, let the CSS know. Not sure what you should have? **Verify with PRDA for decorations & the chart below for awards based on time in service.**

Award	Requirement	Remarks
AF BMT	Completion of AF BMT	
National Defense	See AFI 36-2803	
GWOT-E	See AFI 36-2803	
GWOT-S	See AFI 36-2803	
Air Force Longevity Service Award	4 years Sat Svc any branch	
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal	3 continuous years in ANG or AFR	
Armed Forces Reserve Medal (no M)	10 years reserve service any branch	First award equals 1 device.
Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/M	Deployment under 12301(a), 12304, 12406, or title 10 (see	First award equals 0 devices.
NCO PME Ribbon	In-residence completion of ALS, NCOA, SNCOA, Chief's Leadership Course	Effective 1 Aug 2014, correspondence/distance learning counts for this award.
Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal	All 507/513 members	
AF Pistol Expert	AF522 showing Expert	
AF Rifle Expert	AF522 showing Expert	


## Update AFPAAS



# AFPAAS

Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System

How does AFPAAS Work?



~ What is AFPAAS? ~  
~ Why is AFPAAS needed? ~  
~ Who can use AFPAAS? ~

AFPAAS is the **Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System**. It is a website designed to help Air Force personnel and their families directly affected by natural and man-made disasters.

AFPAAS provides a tool to report your status, current location, update emergency contact information and request assistance. AFPAAS helps the Air Force leadership to account for personnel and to make decisions that support you and your family.

AFPAAS is available to all Air Force affiliated personnel and their family members. This includes Active Duty, Select Reserve, DAF and NAF Civilians, AF Contractors (OCONUS), and their family members, including personnel on temporary duty status, on leave or on a pass in the affected area.

Air Force Personnel Readiness Cell 1-800-435-9941  
AFPAAS Help Desk 1-866-946-9183

**Complete the following eight basic steps:**

**Step 1:** Logon to AFPAAS

**Step 2:** Click the "Airmen/Civilians" [Click Here](#) button.

**Step 3:** Select Login Method

**Step 4:** Verify and update your information

**Step 5:** Review the survey introduction

**Step 6:** Complete the assessment survey

**Step 7:** Review the confirmation window

**Step 8:** Print, edit or view your entries

Click here:  
<https://afpaas.af.mil/>