

# RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



**Tinker celebrates Black History Month**  
**Outstanding Airmen of the Year announced**  
**513th welcomes deputy group commander**



FEBRUARY 2022



**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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*On the cover: An all-Black aircrew from the 552nd Air Control Wing at Tinker Air Force Base participated in an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems sortie on March 4, 2021, to celebrate Black history and to honor the history of Black military aviators. The all-Black crew included mission support, maintenance, mission crew and flight deck personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kimberly Woodruff) and a photo of a group of Tuskegee Airmen. (Courtesy photo)*

# Black history AWACS flight honors Tuskegee Airmen

By Kimberly Woodruff, 72nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. --

Almost one year ago, members of the 552nd Air Control Wing made history of their own March 4 as they honored the heritage of black aviators.

An all-Black aircrew participated in an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems sortie.

The flight was originally scheduled for February as part of the celebration of Black History Month, but was rescheduled due to severe winter weather.

"This sortie pays homage to our Air Force history honoring Tuskegee Airmen and to celebrate diversity in the greatest Air Force in the world," said Col. Alain Poisson, commander of the 552nd ACW.

"We decided the severe weather storm would not stop this event," said Col. Paul Filcek, installation commander. "And how appropriate to do it in early March instead, which just further illustrates that we should be appreciating and celebrating diversity every month of every year."

The all-Black crew included mission support, maintenance, mission crew and flight deck, and they were all celebrated in a ceremony prior to the flight.

"Much like you, the Tuskegee Airmen had a deep desire to defend their country by taking to the skies," said Poisson. Today as you fly, fight and win, be proud of yourselves for following in their footsteps and volunteering to go into harm's way to defend our nation.

"While this sortie is a normal part of our day, let's use it to remember our Tuskegee Airmen heroes. Let's use it to show the world in America, diversity is our strength. Most importantly, let's use it to inspire the next generation of American Airmen to follow in your footsteps!"

Major Glen Jasper, Commander of the 552nd Maintenance Operations Flight, spearheaded the planning and execution of the event starting in October 2020 as an idea among Black Airmen across

the Air Force to fly Black History sorties on February 19th.

A team of Tinker Airmen volunteered and planned every aspect from the historic sortie from the ceremony to the training accomplished during the flight.

"We wanted to ensure that we give an appropriate tribute not only to the Tuskegee Airmen but also to the black AWACS aviators who paved the way for us," said Jasper.

Tinker has a link to the Tuskegee Airmen honored with the flight.

Maj. Charles B. Hall, a documented Tuskegee Airman, was the first African American pilot to down an enemy aircraft in combat. Hall worked at Tinker from 1949 to 1967, and the airpark at the front entrance of the base is named in his honor.

Mahlon Smith, president of the Charles B. Hall Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc. thanked the Airmen for representing the Tuskegee Airmen.

"One of our goals is to get you to realize that they [Tuskegee Airmen] had the same capabilities, the same opportunities to join the military and to serve," said Smith. "We charge after that every year with youth camps and they look to you and see what you're doing and what you've done and to know they can do that

same thing."

Retired Maj. Michael Walker, representing former and retired Black AWACS Airmen, recommended they keep the manifest from this historic flight.

Walker was part of a 1995 all-Black crew that celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen and he wishes they had kept the manifest.

"I think about what the Tuskegee Airmen endured and I think about how far we've come," said Walker. "The charge today is once you get to a position, reach back and help someone else. You lift as you climb."



# 513th welcomes deputy group commander

Col. Alison “Dinah” Schorr is the Deputy Commander, 513th Air Control Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The 513th is the only Air Force Reserve unit that maintains and operates the E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System. As Deputy Commander, Col. Schorr assists in leading nearly 400 combat-ready personnel across four squadrons responsible for E-3 AWACS operations, maintenance and operations support.

Schorr entered the Air Force at Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 155, University of Miami, Fla. in May 1999. She graduated from Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. in May 2000 and served for 11 years as an

active duty Air Battle Manager. In 2010, she joined the Air Force Reserve through the Palace Front Program. Prior to assuming her current position she served as Joint Task Force Chief of Staff for Detachment 2, 713th Combat Operations Squadron.

Col. Schorr has flown missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Inherent Resolve.

Additionally, she served as a Political Military Affairs Officer at Africa Command J5, Plans Division and was instrumental in the integration of 15 liaison officers from across the globe into the Multi-National Cooperation



Center. She is an active community volunteer, proud military spouse and mother of three.

## AF connect app - are you connected?

Perfect for Reservists, the AF connect app allows you to stay up to date on the 513 ACG from anywhere!

The “groups” feature allows you to create groups based on the needs of your unit and gives your team the ability to communicate in one place. Download it today!

Once you have the app installed, just add 513th Air Control Group to your favorites, and get connected with the 513 ACG.

The advertisement features the 513th Air Control Group logo at the top left, which includes a stylized eagle and the text "513th AIR CONTROL GROUP". The main text in the center reads "DOWNLOAD AF CONNECT" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THINGS RELATED TO 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "ANDROID APP ON Google play" and "Download on the App Store". To the right, a smartphone displays the app's interface, showing a search bar, a list of icons for various features like COVID-19, Notifications, Video/Photo Take, UTA Schedule, Fitness, Groups, Directory, Emergency, Links, News, and Guidebook, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for Home, CAC, PFT CALC, CONTACT, and FAVORITES.



# Outstanding Airmen of the Year announced

*Tech. Sgt. Lauren Kelly, 513th ACG Public Affairs*

The 513th Air Control Group here announced the group winners of the 2021 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Jan. 10, 2022.

The 513th ACG's annual awards program recognizes individuals who excelled in performance and exemplified the qualities that best achieve mission success in the following areas: Executing the Mission, Leading People, Managing Resources, and Improving the Unit.



Airman of the Year  
Senior Airman Trisha Pope-Coley  
513th Maintenance Squadron



NCO of the Year  
Tech. Sgt. Leland Knight  
513th Operations Support Squadron



Senior NCO of the Year  
Master Sgt. Nicholas Endsley  
513th Maintenance Squadron



1st Sgt. of the Year  
Senior Master Sgt. Sarah Plueger  
513th Operations Support Squadron



# Leadership commentary

## Finding the legs of your stool

*Lt. Col. Trevor Anderson, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron commander*

One of the best Air Force briefings I've ever witnessed was given at a Yellow Ribbon event in La Jolla, California. The briefer made an analogy that every member of the Air Force is like stool with three legs: Professional, spiritual, and personal.

I attended the event following my six-month deployment with the 970th AACS. I was worn out, my marriage was stressed from the long time away, and frankly, I was in need for a recharge.

I took the message of the briefer to heart and redoubled my efforts to spend more time on my personal life. I took more time to concentrate on being a better father, son, husband, and brother. It worked.



The briefer was extremely skilled and I probably will not do him justice but his timeless message is one that even a pilot like me can still try to deliver. His briefing centered on the life and quotes of Satchel Paige, a famous baseball player known for his extreme skill and love of life. Perhaps his most famous quote is, "Work like you don't need money. Love like you've never been hurt, and dance like nobody's watching."

The briefer applied this quote and compared how Paige lived his life to how one can be a successful person. If all three legs of the stool are not



approximately the same length, then the person can't be successful. Essentially, the stool tips over if one area is ignored. We all go through times in life where either professional, spiritual, or personal problems prevent all three legs from being the same length.

I'm asking you to take the time to really concentrate on the personal leg of your stool. I encourage you to take the time outside of work and make it a priority. Our unit has had a their fair share of stressors lately: A long RCP window and deployment, budget constraints, stressful crew conversions, and constant COVID-19 guideline changes have made for a difficult tenure during my command. The professional leg has grown very large these past two years, and in order to be resilient and continue to meet the demands of the mission, I challenge each and every one of you to concentrate on growing your personal leg as well.

Spending quality time with family, friends, and finding that activity (golfing is a great one) that makes you dance like nobody's watching is what makes our personal leg grow and keeps our stool stable.

Keep Thumpin'.



# Booster Club News



The 2022 Booster Club survey is here! Your inputs will help us improve planning for fundraising and morale events. Scan the QR code to access the survey.

At the end of the February UTA, there will be a drawing from the survey participants for a \$5 Friday punch card (\$20 dollar value) or a \$10 gift card from various locations. Five winners will be drawn!



Scan here to take the Survey and for a chance to win!

Please congratulate your 2022  
513 ACG Booster Club Executive Council:

President: Sarrah Williams  
Vice President: Lily Baker  
Secretary: Lauren Kelly  
Treasurer: Renee Witten  
Ops Membership Chair: Lisa McLean  
MX Membership Chair: Jorge Garza



## March

### \$5 Pancake Breakfast

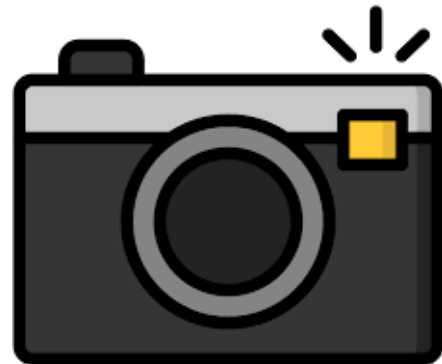
March 5th at sign in until 10 Heritage Room

### Booster Club Quarterly Meeting



The next quarterly Booster Club meeting will be on March 5, 2022 at 1330 in Bldg. 461, Main Conference Room. We hope to see you there!

To join the 513 ACG Booster Club, contact one of the Executive Council or send an email to [513thboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:513thboosterclub@gmail.com)



**Please, send your Hats and Horses holiday party selfies/ photos!**

**Please email them from your phone to:**

**[513thpublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:513thpublicaffairs@gmail.com)**

**2021's holiday party was a little different than in the past and we would like to collect everyone's selfies and print them in a collage for the heritage room.**

# myEval adds additional training sessions for Feb UTA

By Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center

There will be a myEval training for 5-6 Feb UTA! During the UTA training we will cover 910, 911/912, Officers/Referrals and it will be open to all users.

This is an exciting time as we work together to migrate our current processes from vPC to the myEval platform. Your HQ ARPC/DPTSE Team will assist you with this transition by conducting training in the months to come via myEval Zoom Training:

## ARPC Virtual Training for All Users

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022

1100-1230 Central Standard Time

Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022

1100-1230 CST

Each session will be 90 minutes with a 20-minute Q&A at the end. Topics Covered: Forms 910, 911/912, Officers/Referral/Q&A. Capacity 500 people

Please direct all questions to myPers:

<https://mypers.af.mil/app/ask> (include myEval in the subject line)

Dates/Upcoming Milestones:

Feb. 4, 2022: TF Rollout

May 31, 2022: vPC Sunset Date

Youtube Links:

<https://youtu.be/ADMUIO5AmNc>

<https://youtu.be/inoY9giy7Zw>

We look forward to partnering with you!

Zoom Meeting ID: 160-7611-5272

Passcode: Training2@

Call# 1 551 285 1373 US

## Professional development opportunities available

Motivated to do more and be more? Want to learn how to grow and develop yourself or your team?

Know of current gaps in training? Join us for our various training opportunities throughout the year to grow and professionally develop yourself!

### 2022 Professional Development Schedule

WHERE: 507th ARW Wing Auditorium, Bldg. 1056

February 5th @ 1000-1100

**Financial Management**

Presented by: Lt Moore

March 5th @ 1000-1100

**DTS Training**

Presented by: SrA Merrill

April 2nd @ 1000-1100

**Education Benefits**

Presented by: SMSgt Jacobs

April 30th @ 1000-1100

**Counseling and Mentoring**

Presented by: SMSgt Scoles

June 4th @ 1000-1100

**Nutrition Training**

Presented by: Elizabeth Burgess

August 6th @ 1000-1100

**Effective Communication**

Presented by: TSgt Grable

September 17th @ 1000-1100

**Awards and Decorations**

Presented by: TBD

If you would like to get involved with the 507 ARW Professional Development Council, have any suggestions to improve the program, or have training topic suggestions, please reach out to the following POC's: Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Scoles, Master Sgt. Kurt Weisel or Senior Airman Alyssa Perry.



# Enlisted Promotions

## February PROMOTIONS



BRAYDEN SMITH, 513 MXS  
EMVNVCKE YAHOLA, 513 AMXS



KIM ROBERTSON, 970 AACs  
PAUL STEGER, 970 AACs



GISSEL BARRAGAN, 513 AMXS  
JET FOREMAN, 970 AACs  
RIVER STANBRO, 970 AACs

## Tinker AFB Exchange Welcomes Hunt Brothers to Express I

The Tinker Air Force Base community can now enjoy fresh pizza on the go since Domino's is no longer on the base. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service Express I celebrated the grand opening of a new quick-serve restaurant: Hunt Brothers Pizza.

72nd Air Base Wing Mission Support Group Commander Col. John Cappella Zielinski and Mission Support Group Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Craig Lowery helped Exchange leaders cut the ribbon at the Hunt Brothers inside the Express I on Jan. 6. The new dining option offers grab-and-go pizzas, custom-made pies with up to 10 toppings at no additional cost, wings and boneless WingBites.

"We are excited to bring this convenient dining option to the Tinker community," said General Manager Maria Berrios Borges. "The addition of Hunt Brothers to the Express will help the Exchange better meet the on-the-go lifestyles of Airmen."

Hunt Brothers Pizza is located in the Express I at 7280 Arnold St., Building 472. Hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call 405-734-7135.



# In the Spotlight

## Staff Sgt. Jason Coker

**Job Title:** I was selected for an Air Battle Manager Reserve officer position in the 513th ACG. I am very thankful for this opportunity and I am looking forward to beginning the training!

**Hometown:** I was born in Key West, Florida. Once I am qualified as an ABM, I would like to go TDY there to revisit my hometown.

**Place I'd like to visit:** I would like to visit The International Space Station. A more realistic travel destination for me is to one day visit Central and South America. I would want to brush up on some Spanish before taking the trip and travel with someone who is familiar with the area.

**Best Place I've visited:** I have been to Alaska twice and I really enjoyed my time there. This past weekend was my first time in Oklahoma and I also think that it is a great place to visit!

**Civilian job:** I'm an accountant for DFAS in Limestone, Maine. Prior to this job, I was an Accounting Tech at DFAS for a few years where I accounted for travel pay.

**Best part of my job:** I like the flexibility that my job can provide. We have been teleworking full time since the pandemic started, which has been nice in some ways. DFAS offers a flexible schedule and this has helped me to maintain a work life balance.

**Pet Peeve:** Loud noises when I'm trying to sleep. Flies and mosquitoes also bug me!



**Little Known Fact:** I read that “Dallol, Ethiopia, has the highest average temperature of any inhabited place on Earth”. I deployed once to the neighboring country of Djibouti, and experienced this heat firsthand as an HH-60 crew chief on the flight line. I can remember walking on a sidewalk there and seeing an outdoor thermometer that displayed 126 F.

**Favorite memory in the Air Force:** I have many fond memories during my 10+ years in the Air Force. My late grandfather traveled from out of state in his nineties and attended my CCAF graduation. Grandad had served in the Air Force during World War II and has since passed on making this is one of my favorite memories during my time in the Air Force.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT? EMAIL US AT :**  
[513thACG.PublicAffairs@us.af.mil](mailto:513thACG.PublicAffairs@us.af.mil)



# Tinker celebrates Black History Month

By Derrick Brannon, Air Force Sustainment Center

Observed every February to celebrate and recognize achievements made by African-Americans and their role in American history.

In addition to being the first black author to win the Pulitzer Prize, Gwendolyn Brooks was a poetry consultant to the Library of Congress and the poet laureate of the State of Illinois.

On March 9, 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court freed 35 Africans who survived the abduction from their home in Sierra Leone by Portuguese slave traders and cleared their passage back to their home on the West African coast.

Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. commanded the WWII Tuskegee Airmen. He was the first African-American general in the USAF (1954). Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton, 1974, became the first African-American pilot in the USA Thunderbirds.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott began when Rosa Parks, a black protestor, refused to give up her seat for a white man on the bus. Parks was a politically active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On that day in 1955, the unassuming actions of the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" echoed throughout the country.

## Tinker AFB Events Schedule:

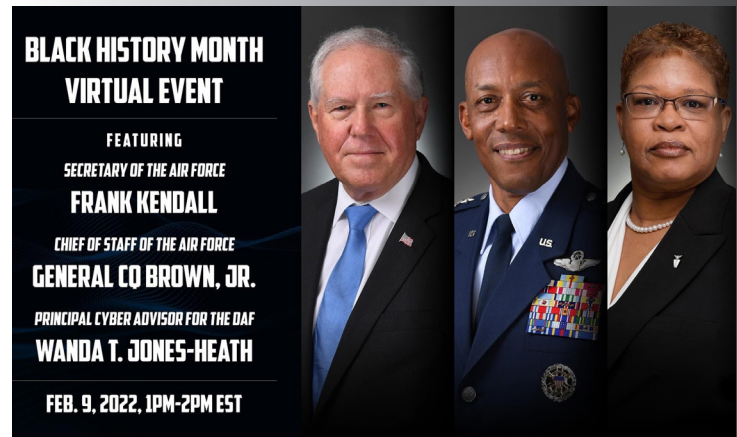
Due to COVID-19 Special Observance Events, organizations should use best judgement to recognize the Observance.

552 ACW/72 ABW Tuskegee Airman Brunch  
17 Feb 22, 0830-1030  
Tinker Chapel

AF- Wide Heritage Flight/ Fly-in  
18-19 Feb 22, 1100-1300  
Tinker Flight Line

552 ACW Legacy Airmen of the Day  
25 Feb 22, 0700-1600  
Tinker Chapel

POC: Capt Ayana, [ayana.cole-fletcher.1@us.af.mil](mailto:ayana.cole-fletcher.1@us.af.mil)



FB LIVE EVENT FEB. 9 AT 12:00 CST



MAJ. GEN. MARCELITE HARRIS



FREDDYE WILLIAMS



STAFF SGT. ROBERT DAVIS

# U.S. Air Force gears up to commemorate its 75th anniversary

It's never too early to start celebrating a major milestone, which explains why the U.S. Air Force and Department of the Air Force kicked off the year with a bang Jan. 1 by highlighting the start of their 75th year at the Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl.

Seventy-five years after the Air Force's birth on Sept. 18, 1947, the spirit of innovation that has driven the service was on display when a B-2 Spirit from the 509th Bomb Wing, located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, roared over the Tournament of Roses Parade and one of the most prestigious college bowl games, the 2022 Rose Bowl, to kick-off the yearlong 75th-anniversary celebration.

The B-2 has supported the Tournament of Roses and Rose Bowl for nearly two decades, showcasing one of the Air Force's premier weapon systems over the skies of Pasadena to inspire a future generation of patriotism and aviation.

Joining the B-2 this year to kick off the celebration was an Air Force Total Force Band, comprised of 75 Airmen-Musicians from 14 units. Fittingly, the band marched in the 75th spot in the Tournament of Roses parade lineup.

The Airmen taking part in the start of the year celebration highlighted one of the service's greatest strengths: the nearly 700,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen who remain the heart and soul of the service, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., who currently serves as the service's highest ranking military officer.

"Ever since the Air Force became a separate military service, empowered Airmen have pushed the boundaries of technology and innovation that have allowed the service to excel and keep pace with the rapid changes and the demands placed upon us," Brown said. "Our commemoration of this important anniversary provides a chance to reflect on the amazing accomplishments of our service and those who have served among its ranks since 1947, while also celebrating the boundless future that lies ahead."

Brown added, "As the Air Force approaches its

75th anniversary, we have a responsibility to our nation and our international allies and partners. I am confident that our Airmen will continue to innovate, accelerate and thrive so that we can execute our mission to Fly, Fight, and Win...Airpower Anytime, Anywhere."

*The theme for the 75th anniversary is "Innovate, Accelerate, Thrive – The Air Force at 75."*

To honor the past, present and future, the theme for the 75th anniversary is "Innovate, Accelerate, Thrive – The Air Force at 75." That focus captures a range of activities and observations that will take place throughout the year and highlight the anniversary's significance.

"The 75th anniversaries of the U.S. Air Force and the Department of the Air Force provides a unique opportunity to highlight the contributions of our Total Force Airmen, both past and present, who have fought and defended our nation in

air and space," Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall said. "When you think about what the Air Force has accomplished since its inception in 1947, there's so much to be proud of – it's truly incredible.

"These past 75 years have showcased the service's ability to adapt to any situation and provide unparalleled airpower as well as spacepower right up to the establishment of the U.S. Space Force within the Department of the Air Force in 2019," he said. "As we look ahead to the next 75 years, we must continue to adapt and modernize so that our Airmen and Guardians have the warfighting capabilities they need to stay ahead of our pacing challenges, while also ensuring they and their families have the resources they need to thrive. One team, one fight!"





## Air Force Heritage Flight flyover scheduled to support Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles

Five aircraft representing the Air Force's 75 years as a service will conduct a first-of-its-kind flyover during the national anthem performance at Super Bowl LVI, Feb. 13, over SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

The Air Force Heritage Flight represents the service's ability to innovate, accelerate and thrive since its evolution from the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1947.

The Heritage Flight flyover will feature:

- P-51 Mustang from the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation, Chino, California
- A-10 Thunderbolt from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona
- F-16 Fighting Falcon from Shaw AFB, South Carolina
- F-22 Raptor from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia
- F-35 Lightning from Hill AFB, Utah

There will be a live pre-game stream from the formation while they get into position in the sky and will include special interviews and segments. Viewers can tune in to the [Air Force Facebook](#) page at 6 p.m. ET for the broadcast.

The U.S. Air Force performs close to 1,000 flyovers a year, which serve as a way to showcase the capabilities of its aircraft while also inspiring patriotism and future generations of aviation enthusiasts. These flyovers are done at no additional cost to the taxpayer and serve as time-over-target training for Air Force pilots, aircrew and ground control teams.



# TINKER LIVING

The 72nd FSS is hosting a BIG GAME party at the Tinker Events Center Feb. 13.  
Doors open at 4:30 p.m., Party at 5:30 p.m.  
Call 405-734-3418 for details



Would you like to submit a story or news/announcement to the Rabbit Tales? Please email us at: [513thpublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:513thpublicaffairs@gmail.com) or [513ACG.PublicAffairs@us.af.mil](mailto:513ACG.PublicAffairs@us.af.mil)