

RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP



513th spreads holiday cheer to vets
Changes ahead for evaluations
Booster shots available on base

JANUARY 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!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commander's Commentary | 3

OHS donations reach record high; 513th trains in Key West | 4

DAF processes religious accommodations requests | 5

Leadership Commentary | 6

Reservists spread holiday cheer to vets | 7

Changes ahead for evaluations; Booster Club info | 8

Enlisted and Officer promotions | 9

In the Spotlight | 10

COVID Booster and Flu Vaccine Info | 11

What is resiliency? | 12

Blood drive info | 13

Veteran's Center photo | 14



On the cover: Senior Master Sgt. David Brunsmann, 513th Maintenance Squadron, helps a veteran open gifts at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Oklahoma, Dec. 16, 2021. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Kelly)

Commander's commentary

By Col. James Matthey, 513th Air Control Group commander

Happy New Year fellow wingmen.

We say "Happy New Year" to wish others good fortune and wellbeing. And many of us make New Year resolutions to make positive changes with the start of a new calendar year as we hold out hope for better times to come.

On that note, it is bittersweet that we say farewell to a few of our 513th family. Lt. Col. Ridlon is headed to the Pentagon and joins the REXS staff. Part of her job is to work the AFR Strategic Planning Guidance to align resources to requirements based on the anticipated future operational environment, providing the intent, direction, and weighted effort for AFR planning. Lt. Col. Rob Zeese is headed down to Georgia, not because he's looking for a soul to steal, but to be part of the AFRC staff as our newest AWACS FAM (functional area manager). Rob will work for us at the command level on issues related to organizing, training, and equipping. He'll manage future UTC, UMD, and DOC statements while working with enlisted FAMs on future formal training allocations and analysis. Rob is a lynchpin between ACC, AFRC, and the 513th. Finally, Chief Glover is headed up to the road to McConnell AFB and will lead the 931st MXG Quality Assurance team. Chief Glover is another rising star in AFRC. If you see them around this UTA, make sure you wish them well and thank them. They have made an indelible mark on the 513th and set some pretty high marks.

Changing gears, we off to a relatively rocky start to 2022, COVID infections continue to rise, and we're working through continuing resolution ramifications. To succeed in these realities, we must change and flex to the new conditions. We'll talk more about this during our Commander's calls but know this; your leadership team is committed to you and our mission. I have complete faith and confidence that we will execute the mission assigned to us and expected by our nation. When I took command, I mentioned that we would experience some rough air. Well, the seatbelt sign is lit, our wings are still level, and we will continue to take care of each other. I will continue to communicate while sifting the truth

from rumors. Our focus areas for 2022 are: GTX and Dragon conversion, increase IMR rates, and leadership development.

My door is always open; send me a note, text, tweet, whatever. I'm honored to serve as the 513th Commander; my priorities are you, making the 513th better, and ensuring the longevity of this outstanding group! So, let's push it up!!



Operation Holiday Spirit donations reach record high

Thanks to donations from various individuals, organizations and companies - especially the outstanding employees of Frankfurt Short Bruza, Operation Holiday Spirit raised \$46,785 in 2021. That is incredible considering there were only 279 steaks sold this year, compared to 433 in 2019. The new amount tops the previous record of \$42,385 in 2018. 29 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard families were helped this year. Every year, Operation Holiday Spirit assists struggling Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard families in Oklahoma City during Christmas.



513th trains in Key West

A lovely morning for an E-3 Sentry AWACS surveillance mission in Florida! The 513th ACG participated in an off-station training opportunity in Key West in December 2021.



DAF processes religious accommodations requests

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) --

The Department of the Air Force is processing a number of Religious Accommodation Requests for the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 10,000 requests from across the Total Force have been received, of which approximately 2,100 have been disapproved due to military readiness considerations.

Each request is individually reviewed by Religious Resolution Teams at the wing, garrison, major command and field command levels, which are made up of chaplains, medical providers, judge advocates, and other subject matter experts. Religious Resolution Teams make recommendations on determining the least restrictive means possible to accommodate a sincerely held belief without putting mission accomplishment at risk.

The major command or field command level serves as the approval authority for recommendations regarding accommodation requests. Each commander determines if the accommodation can be made without adversely impacting military readiness based on the health and safety of the unit and member, unit cohesion, and good order and discipline. If the commander determines the accommodation cannot be made without adversely affecting any one of those factors, he or she will deny the religious accommodation request. At this point, the member has the ability to appeal the denial to the Air Force Surgeon General.

"Each member's request is carefully considered to balance the government's compelling interest in mission accomplishment with the service member's sincerely held belief," said Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones. "Although the chaplain may advise the member's belief is sincere, MAJCOM and FLDCOM commanders have to balance that member's interests against the overall impact on operational readiness,

health and safety of members and good order and discipline within the unit."

Based on the number of disapproved accommodation requests at this point, Airmen and Guardians are encouraged to consider that operational requirements could result in requests for religious accommodations being denied.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTS		
	MAJCOM/FLDCOM	DAF/APEALS
Pending	8,636	152
Approved	0	0
Disapproved	2,130	135

"We'll continue to be as transparent and thorough as possible throughout this process and update everyone on the status of requests in a timely fashion," Jones added. "We want to ensure Airmen and Guardians have the information necessary to make well-informed decisions."

To date, more than 95% of Total Force Airmen and Guardians have been vaccinated. The deadline for active duty Airmen and Guardians to be vaccinated was Nov. 2, while Air Force Reserve Airmen had until Dec. 2 to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The deadline for Air National Guard members was extended to Dec. 31.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass reiterated the importance of ensuring service members are protecting themselves, others and the unit.

"The readiness of our Air Force, and the lives of our people, are directly contingent upon the ability of our Airmen to carry out the mission, anytime, anywhere," said Bass. "While each exemption request is being carefully reviewed and presented to commanders, I'd ask every Airmen, who isn't already, to please get vaccinated.

It's about protecting yourselves, your family, your friends and your wingmen."

Information on the status of religious accommodation requests is current as of December 22, 2021. In the future, updated COVID-19 statistics can be found here.

Members who receive a denial of their religious accommodation have five calendar days from denial of their request to do one of the following:

1. Begin a COVID-19 vaccination regimen. If the service member indicates their intent is to begin the vaccination regimen, commanders may use their discretion to adjust the five-day timeline based on local COVID-19 vaccination supplies;

2. Submit an appeal to the final appeal authority for a religious accommodation request. If a final appeal is denied, the service member will have five calendar days from notice of denial to begin the COVID-19 vaccination regimen;

3. If able, based upon the absence of a limited Military Service Obligation, the service member may request to separate or retire on or before April 1, 2022, or no later than the first day of the fifth month following initial or final appeal denial.

Service members who continue to refuse to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine after their exemption request/final appeal has been denied or retirement/separation has not been approved will be subject to initiation of administrative discharge proceedings.

For unique guidance associated with the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard refer to attachments to the memo here.

IAW with the pending Fiscal Year 2022 NDAA, the discharge characterization will be honorable or general under honorable conditions for those cases where refusing the vaccine is the sole basis of the discharge.

Leadership commentary

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Gonzalves, 513th ACG Senior Enlisted Leader

Hello, welcome back members of the 513th and Happy New Year! I hope each one of you had a wonderful Holiday season. It is a wonderful time of the year for everyone to get together, spend time with family and friends, and reflect on the past year. Over the past couple of years, we have faced many challenges from COVID 19 to shrinking budgets as well as deployments. Through all of this, we continue to be strong and resilient while getting the mission done. I am looking forward to the year 2022 being a fresh start and move forward. I encourage each one of you to look out for each other. That includes family, friends, co-workers, supervisors and generally, anyone you care about.

As always, my door is always open for any issues, concerns, complaints or just seeking advice or mentorship. I want to thank each and every one of you including your family members for all you every day to make the mission happen and make the 513th Air Control Group the best unit in the Air Force!



Brig. Gen. Stitzer visits the 513th



Reservists spread holiday cheer to veterans



Reservists with the 513th Air Control Group and the 507th Air Refueling Wing spread some holiday cheer Dec. 16, 2021, at the vets center in Norman, Oklahoma. Every year, Reservists donate gifts to 20 veterans at the Norman Veteran's Center in Norman, Oklahoma, to help make their holiday a little brighter. The veterans center has many opportunities for volunteers to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, contact your First Sgt.



Changes ahead for evaluations; vPC to be replaced with myEval

By Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center

The transition to myEval on the myFSS platform is here!

Our current processes will **migrate from vPC to the myEval platform**. Your HQ ARPC/DP-TSE Team will assist you with this transition by conducting training in the months to come via myEval Zoom Training:

ARPC Virtual Q&A Sessions for All Users

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022

0900 and 1400 Central Standard Time

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022

0900 and 1400 CST

ARPC myEval Virtual Training for All Users

Weds., Jan 19

0900-1030 CST

Thursday, Jan. 20

1500-1630 CST

Friday, Jan. 21

0900-1030 CST

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

Please direct all questions to myPers: <https://mypers.af.mil/app/ask> (include myEval in the subject line)

Zoom Meeting ID: 160-7611-5272

Passcode: Training2@

Call# 1 551 285 1373 US

Zoom Capacity is 500 for each session. Please log-in early and if full, attend another training date.

Dates/Upcoming Milestones:

Jan. 4-17, 2022: Super-User access (MPF/HR/CSS)

Jan. 18, 2022: All users (field) gain 1st time access

Feb. 4, 2022: TF Rollout

May 31, 2022: vPC Sunset Date

Booster club meeting and elections to be held in January

Do you want to be a part of the booster club planning process? This month we will be discussing by-laws, yearly schedule, voting of offices and holiday party discussion/selection process. A meeting will be held during the month of January and will have the opportunity to call in if members are available. If members are unable to attend the meeting, a voting sheet will be sent out via email for members to send back to provide their input.

If you would like to participate, please email 513thboosterclub@gmail.com.



Enlisted Promotions



Officer promotions



Brig. Gen. Max Stitzer, Special Assistant to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve and Military Deputy to the Directorate of Staff-Integration, presides over the promotion pinning ceremonies of both Lt. Cols. Anthony Moses and Carol Stanley during the December unit training assembly at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Stitzer is a former member of the 513th ACG, and served as deputy commander for maintenance. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Chad Dixon)

In the Spotlight



1st Lt. Kevin Raedy

Job Title: Air Battle Manager

Place I'd like to visit: Iceland

Best Place I've visited: Alaska

Civilian job: I'm an ART, so this is my military and civilian job.

Best part of my job: Traveling

Pet Peeve: I get annoyed when people don't return their grocery carts.

Little Known Fact: I have a wolfdog.

Favorite memory in the Air Force: My favorite memory is my first deployment. My first deployment. I supported the Brits in TF Helmand.

WANT TO BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT?

EMAIL: lauren.kelly.2@us.af.mil

Booster shots available on base during the week

Tinker COVID-19 Booster Shots

Jan. 7 & 21 | 1-2 p.m. | Pfizer Only
Jan. 10 & 24 | 1-3 p.m. | Moderna Only

72nd Medical Group Immunization Clinic

Boosters are **FREE** to anyone with base access 12+ (18+ for Moderna) who completed their primary COVID vaccination series five months ago or more (two months if Johnson & Johnson).

Ages 12-17 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Appointments available at:

<https://covidvaccinesignup.timetap.com/>

Select the "Booster" option when making your appointment

January UTA Flu Vaccination schedule

FLU SHOT PLAN - JAN. UTA
Locations: See Below POC: Maj. Scott Blair

SATURDAY, JAN. 8

507th MSG 0900-1100
507th Civil Engineer Squadron

Walk-ins
0800-1500
72nd Medical Group Clinic

What is resiliency?

By Col. James Matthey, 513th Air Control Group commander

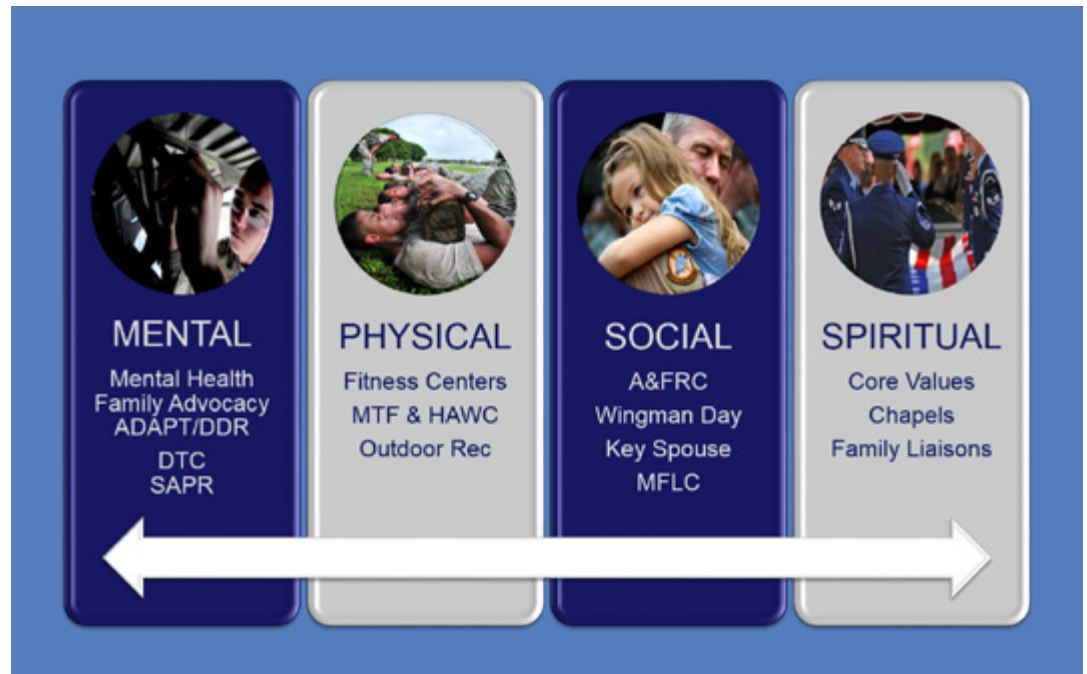
Resiliency. Is resiliency necessary? What is it? Why do we promote resiliency? Is it just a popular buzzword right now? And how do you know if you have it?

I think many of us intuitively understand resiliency, but do we really? First, we need to agree with a standard definition. “Resiliency is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.” Or, as the official Air Force definition reads, “The ability to withstand, recover or grow in the face of stressors and changing demands.” I believe resiliency is both a personal and organizational necessity, and the two are not mutually exclusive. Personal or emotional resiliency has a significant impact on organizational resiliency, and I submit that personal resiliency is the most important contributing factor to an organization’s success. An organization can be a team, a company, a squadron, or a family.

Second, is it necessary to be resilient? Harvard Business Review and others like author Jim Collins, author of *Good to Great*, and *Built to Last*, say absolutely. When we look at the many characteristics of success: “drive, self-reliance, willpower, patience, passion,” etc., the most overlooked factor is resilience. Dean Becker, the president and CEO of Adaptiv Learning Systems, says, “More than education, more than experience, more than training, a person’s level of resilience will determine who succeeds and who fails. That’s true in the cancer ward, it’s true in the Olympics, and it’s true in the boardroom.” But, unfortunately, we only know if we have resiliency or to what level, after the fact after the stressful difficulty occurs or has passed.

Third, if we want to build resiliency into our DNA, we need a starting point, a model for our understanding. Harvard Business Review’s (HBR) Emotional Intelligence series contains a section on resiliency. As part of a series of topics on “How to be human at work.” The series features insightful, essential readings on the human side of professional life. Diane Coutu explores why some people suffer real hardships and don’t falter in the section, Emotional Intelligence- Resilience. She sifts through psychological research and presents even more expert articles and resources highlighting

this critical success component. Ms. Coutu posits that there are three characteristics [to resiliency]: “a staunch acceptance of reality; a deep belief, often buttressed by strongly held values, that life is meaningful; and an uncanny ability to improvise.” She suggests that “we can bounce back from hardship with just one or two of these qualities, but you will only be truly resilient with all three.”



Fortunately, the Air Force has added to our tools, developed programs, and provided resources our Airmen can access to help us drive personal resiliency, optimize our performance, and build unit cohesion. As part of our Comprehensive Airman Fitness, I encourage you to explore and become familiar with all the options and education the Air Force has to offer at <https://www.resilience.af.mil>.

In December of 2020, members of the 513th leadership team met to discuss our goals and priorities to challenge and strengthen our role as Airmen. We decided that Developing Full Spectrum Resiliency is our second priority. And now that we’re back from our RCP, we are working within our COVID environmental and fiscal challenges. The 513th ACG is looking to build a “Master Resilience” subject matter expert team. These experts are a critical component of our Air Force comprehensive Airman Fitness initiative. If anyone has experience in their civilian careers, I implore you to be part of this team; we need you. You can have a direct impact on our members and the 513th. It doesn’t matter if you have experience; all that matters is that you care. Come up voice!

COMING SOON TO A BLOOD DRIVE NEAR YOU

NEW COVID-19 antibody test for donors!

Test detects natural or vaccine response.

507th ARW & 513 ACG Blood Drive

**Sunday, January 9
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Look for the Bloodmobile

**For more information, contact
Andrea Williams at
andrea.williams.3@us.af.mil.**



ALL DONORS RECEIVE THEIR CHOICE OF LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT.*

*While supplies last. Photo ID required. Donors ages 16 or 17-years old need parental consent to be screened for COVID-19 antibodies. This test has not been FDA cleared or approved. It has been authorized by the FDA under an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) for use by authorized laboratories. The test has been authorized only for the detection of the antibody IgG antibody against SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens.

877-340-8777 • OBI.ORG • ARKBI.ORG • TXBI.ORG



**Oklahoma Blood Institute
Texas Blood Institute
Arkansas Blood Institute**

End At



Master Sgt. Ronnie Palec, 513th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance NCOIC, helps a veteran at the Norman Veteran's Center open his holiday gifts Dec. 16, 2021 in Norman, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Kelly)