

# RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> AIR CONTROL GROUP



**DELIVERING HOLIDAY SPIRIT**

JANUARY 2023



**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

Booster Club News | 4

Reservists Deliver Gifts to the Norman Veterans Center | 5

Jingle in the New Year Holiday Party | 6

CMSAF Message; Shirt's Commentary | 7

Fundraiser auction celebrates 24 years of bringing holiday spirit | 8

Group photo; AF Connect app | 9

Enlisted promotions; CCAF graduates | 10

Upcoming events | 11

Q and A with the commander | 12



*On the Cover: Reservist volunteers from the 513th ACG and 507th Air Refueling Wing deliver gifts to 30 veterans at the Norman Veterans Center for the holidays. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jasmine Czajka)*

# Commander's Commentary

Col. James Matthey, 513th Air Control Group commander

Happy New Year honored warriors!

First, I trust you could take advantage of some downtime and reconnect with your friends and family over the holidays because we're in for one heck of a busy year. Standard, right?

Second, you should be very proud of our accomplishments in 2022. Let's capitalize on and use those successes to catapult us into 2023. In doing so, as you plan out 2023, think about doing a "past year review" (PYR) rather than creating new 2023 resolutions. You may find a PYR is more "informative, valuable, and actionable than half-blindly looking forward with broad resolutions." – Tim Ferris "Forget New Year's Resolutions."

Finally, I want to provide you with a 2023 outlook, a "State of the Group" if you will. Overall, my assessment for FY23 is confident and optimistic. FY22 provided us with significant chop in the form of a significant lack of budget authority, budget uncertainty, a hiring freeze while expediting AGR conversions, the E-3 crew conversion, and COVID all conspired to thwart our efforts to maintain our overall readiness and reduce our combat capability. Yet, I stand here today to say we faced those threats head-on, overcame significant turbulence, and executed our plan like true warriors...THUMPER STANDARD! And in FY23Q1, we executed our limited resources more effectively than when we had an approved budget.

Your entire leadership team rallied together, we learned new AFRC processes, we fought through developing enterprise IT challenges, and we emerged better for the experiences on the backside. We have an excellent FY23 game plan from our combat flying schedule, budgeting, and even our civilian hiring is pulling out of the abyss. Our

new CPL is crushing it. We've already processed 50% of our hiring backlog. In addition, our FUOPS is working diligently to integrate and synchronize our readiness and training with AFRC's Command Guidance and our new AFFORGEN force presentation plan to provide you with a coherent two-year plan to culminate at the beginning of our "available phase." This FUOPS plan will improve our communication with you and allow us to uphold our commitment to you in providing you with the best stability and predictability while providing Combatant Commanders with the best combat capability in the world.

I want to end this January note with an updated version of my command philosophy and expectations for FY23. When you review it, I ask you to think about why you serve, why you continue to serve, and what you can do to own your future and the future of the 513th and make it a reality.

In short, we are a globally deployable warfighting force, and we are charged with one of the most solemn responsibilities: protecting all Americans by providing the world's best command, control, and maintenance operation. Therefore, we must continue to prepare ourselves, our teams, and our families for deployment and combat anywhere, anytime. To do this, I ask you to embrace our priorities and focus on the following principles:

**Ownership:** We must own every aspect of our mission, not only what we're responsible for but everything that impacts our mission. We don't win in silos.



---

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## Commentary (continued)

**Accountability:** This isn't about assigning or accepting blame, or scapegoats. Accountability is about delivering on a commitment. Be responsible for an outcome, not just completing a set of tasks. Each one of us is critical to success. Our focus must be on how to accomplish the mission.

**Humility:** Check your egos. Create a prevailing attitude of humility and mutual respect. Work for a common goal. It's about the mission and how best to accomplish it while remembering that we all have value. Our tactical advantage is working together as a team.

**Safety:** What we do is dangerous. During peacetime, accept no unnecessary risks. However, in some situations, we may embrace "smart risk."

**Fitness:** Your body and mind are the ultimate weapon system. Physical exhaustion leads to mental fatigue and mistakes. Exercise makes us more effective by boosting energy, sharpening cognitive abilities, and diminishing stress.

**Professional development:** Always have a thirst for learning and improving, NEVER accept status quo. We are the best Air Force in the world because we have the best trained, best-motivated force. The single most significant factor of our success is your continued development in the profession of arms.

**Be COMFORTABLE** with the uncomfortable: In combat and life, we are faced with change, uncertainty, and the "fog of war." We have no guarantees of success and must not rely on our past wins to stay on top. Get comfortable under pressure, learn to embrace stress, and make decisive decisions based on logic, not emotions. "Stress inoculation" coming soon.

I'm incredibly proud to continue to serve with you and use my experience to provide you with the resources we need to execute our mission. Remember your oath, why you continue to wear this uniform. In closing, work hard, play hard, and rest well. Push it up!!

## Booster Club News



Want to join the booster club?

Please join us for our next meeting **Sunday, Jan. 8 at 10:00 am** in the main conference room, where we will hold an election for the following roles:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Contact MSgt Lauren Kelly with questions.



# Reservists deliver gifts to Norman Veterans Center

Volunteers from the 507th ARW and 513th ACG delivered gifts to 30 veterans at the Norman Veterans Center for the holidays.

Every year, volunteers sponsor a veteran to buy a gift for to make their holidays brighter.





# Jingle in the New Year Holiday party



[Click here to view all party booth photos!](#)



# CMSAF Message

Fellow Airmen,

Earlier this month, our Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Brown, sent an email highlighting several efforts championed by the Fortify the Force Initiative Team (FFIT). I wanted to follow up and share a few resources that may be helpful to you and your families this holiday season, as well as offer you an invitation to join the team's efforts.



FFIT is a team of volunteers, championed by CMSSF Towberman and me. It includes service members of all ranks, civilian personnel, veterans, retirees, and spouses. The team recently set up a landing page to share useful resources they've found, and initiatives they've fielded. This page also has links to submit initiatives, share your favorite resources, and volunteer. My hope is that each of you will take the time to check it out.

The landing page can be accessed at [www.fortifytheforce.org](http://www.fortifytheforce.org).

We know that connecting with each other in meaningful ways is the first step toward creating a culture of resilience. The next step is knowing the resources that are available. Again, take a look at the resources on the landing page to see how you might be able to use them in your personal and professional lives. If you or someone you know is struggling, you don't have to struggle alone. Reach out to someone, call someone in your chain of command, call a wingman, call 988, use MilitaryOneSource...our entire Spectrum of Resilience is available. Use it...never suffer in silence.

I am deeply grateful for the volunteers who dedicate their personal time toward these initiatives, and I look forward to seeing the results of their efforts and the impact on our Airmen and families.

And my thanks to each of YOU for all that you do in support of our Nation's defense.

Have a wonderful, and safe holiday season - take time to connect, take care of yourselves, and take care of each other. (Again, check out the landing page!)

Always on your wing!

JOANNE S. BASS

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

# Shirt's Commentary

*Senior Master Sgt. Lindsay Newton,  
513th Operations Support Squadron First Sergeant*

I hope everyone has had a wonderful UTA! We had a great turnout at OHS, a great 513 ACG Holiday party.

I wanted to take a moment and touch on one of the AFMC Connect's talking points for this quarter....taking some time to RECHARGE.



We as service members have a various amount of commitments between family life, work life, church life, social life and whatever else life tosses at us, and the holidays are no exception to that.

Various obligations, social events, school functions can lead to some very busy days and at times, stress.

Its extremely important that we recognize our limits and learn to acknowledge to not only ourselves, but others when we might be stretched too thin.

Challenges can arise that leave us feeling drained and potentially impact our ability to go forward. Burnout looks different for everyone but, pay attention when you start to feel irritable, develop lack of motivation or insomnia and start taking steps to reset.

Learn to press pause, talk to someone, or plan some opportunities to take some rest! Unplug from things, and recharge

The holidays can be a tough time for some.... if you or someone you know is having a rough time, please reach out. Commanders, first sergeants, senior enlisted leaders, supervisors and peers are available if anyone needs help, we have ample resources for assistance.

The National Suicide Hotline/Mental Health Crisis Hotline was established as a 3 digit number (9-8-8).

When people call or text this number, they will be directly connected to trained counselors that will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support and connect them to additional resources, if necessary.

Please reach out! It is a pleasure serving with every one of you!

# Fundraiser auction celebrates 24 years of bringing holiday spirit

Master Sgt. Lauren Kelly, 513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

Nearly 300 Reservists and Guardsmen raised \$40,181 at the 24th Annual Operation Holiday Spirit Steak Supper Dec. 2, 2022.

The fundraiser proceeds were donated to 25 guard and reserve families in need this holiday season, thanks for the help of all donors including the team from Frankfurt Short Bruza, Mr. Ralph “Hawk” Hawkins, former 513th Air Control Group executive officer and Joe Wade, 507th Air Refueling Wing director of facilities, among others.

Wade, who has been a part of the event since 2007, said he enjoys participating and helps by collecting donations, selling tickets and organizing the online, silent and live auctions to benefit airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group at Tinker AFB and the 137th Special Operations Wing at Will Rogers World Airport.

“It’s important to me that all of our efforts directly benefit our members in need,” said Wade, who was an auctioneer this year. “Helping others always puts a

you or someone you know is having a rough time, please reach out. Commanders, first sergeants, senior enlisted leaders, supervisors and peers are available if anyone needs help. We have ample resources for assistance.”



Since OHS began in 1999, the program has assisted 529 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard families during the holidays. The steak supper event has had 5,244 attendees since 1999.

The Del City Legion on SE 24th St. has hosted the event since 2012, and the former Del City VFW building off of Sunnyslane Blvd. hosted the event from 2003 to 2011. Prior to that, it was held on base at the Prime Beef building near the AF Reserve campus.

The 137th Special Operations Wing (formerly 137th Air Refueling Wing) joined OHS in 2008 and has been a major partner in the program ever since.

The live auction items this year included a Buffalo Bills helmet with 10 autographs, an Arizona Cardinals jersey autographed by quarterback Kyler Murray, a Dallas Cowboys helmet autographed by tight end Blake Jarwin, a guitar autographed by Toby Keith, a University of Oklahoma jersey autographed by former quarterback Baker Mayfield, a University of Oklahoma helmet autographed by former wide receiver CeeDee Lamb and an autographed baseball by former MLB player Matt Kemp.

The menu at the steak dinner consists of a ribeye steak from locally-owned Wheeler’s meat market cooked to order along with a baked potato, vegetables, a salad, a roll and a slice of cheesecake for dessert.

For more information on the program, please visit <https://holidayspirit.org>



smile on my face.”

507th ARW first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Scoles, said there was a huge turnout of first sergeants from the wing and the 137th SOW at Will Rogers at this year’s event who helped make an impact on the lives of their wingmen.

“We have Reserve families that have challenges every year,” said Scoles. “This great program gives complete support to all of our members who need it the most.”

513th Operations Support Squadron first sergeant Senior Master Sgt. Lindsay Newton, explained the need for support during the holidays.

“It can be a tough time for some,” said Newton. “If



## Group photo available at link below



Download photo by clicking link: <https://www.507arw.afrc.af.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2003112530/> Members of the 513th Air Control Group gather for a group photo with the E-3 Sentry AWACS Oct. 16, 2022, at Dock 2 on the ramp at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Lauren Kelly)

## 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.

# Enlisted Promotions

January  
PROMOTIONS

2023



FERNANDO JACOBO, 513 AMXS



GEORGE MCCAIN, 513 MXS

## CCAF graduates

**Congratulations to our  
Community College of the Air Force  
Graduates!**

**TSgt Adrian Bermudo  
SrA Ariel Brockwell  
SSgt William Fisher  
TSgt Najee Menefee  
MSgt Jesse Pentecost  
MSgt David Walker**



## Upcoming Events

### F-35s to participate in Tinker Air Show July 1-2



#### Norman Veteran's Center Bingo Night

When: Third Monday every month  
Location: Norman Veteran's Center  
POC: AFSA 985/Tinker Network 5/6  
Master Sgt. Alaina Ramos

Spend time with the vets of military service past on Bingo night!

1645-2015, Civilian attire, BINGO, cash prizes and fun with our vets.

#### Base to hold MLK Unity March Jan. 12

Unity March begins at 1000  
Tinker Lanes

Ceremony to follow at 1100  
at the Tinker Event Center

#### Resilience mindfulness workshop to be held Jan. 7

The Red Cross is offering a workshop to reduce stress and improve wellness Sat. Jan.7 from 1430-1600 in the Wing Auditorium. Target audience is E1-E4

# Q and A with the commander

Would you like ask the commander a question anonymously? Scan the QR code below to submit your question.



## Have you visited our website? (click the photo for link)

		<b>513TH ACG LEADERSHIP</b>
<b>513TH ACG HEADLINES</b>	<b>RABBIT TALES MAGAZINE</b>	
 <p>Fundraiser auction celebrates 24 years of bringing holiday spirit</p>	 <p>Maintainers lead the way ACG takes group photo</p>	<b>Commander Col. Jim Matthey</b>
 <p>Medical technicians administer flu vaccine</p>		
 <p>513th ACG January Enlisted Promotions</p>		



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)