IRABBIT THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP SEPTEMBER 2023

10TH AIR FORCE COMMAND TEAM VISITS TINKER

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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Tenth Air Force commander, Brig. Gen. Regina Sabric, learns about the mission of the 513th Air Control Group during her visit Aug. 25, 2023, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Lauren Kelly)





513TH ACG COMMANDER COL. JAMES MATTEY

GET READY!

In mid-September 2001, 22 years ago, a couple of us were on a training sortie to McChord AFB. On the west coast, our showtime was a bit earlier than usual. In 2001, cell phones weren't as pervasive, and we didn't have instant access to the internet, so when we heard about a plane striking one of the WTC towers, we didn't realize just how

life-altering our day was about to become.

When we arrived at our aircraft, we were immediately ushered into the WADS (Western Air Defense Sector) "war room." We had just seen our first images of NYC and the Pentagon. As you can imagine, we weren't talking about our typical day profile any longer. The few reservists on this rainbow crew immediately knew what was about to happen...mobilization! I don't recall who came in to brief us, but I do remember the most surreal part of the day. I remember the directive exactly ... "We are under attack, we don't know by whom, but if you have any issue about firing on U.S. civilian aircraft, let me know now."

We launched a few minutes later and were one of the first E-3s up that day. Though we were going back direct KTIK, participated in the opening day of OP-ERATION NOBLE EAGLE. We witnessed the U.S. initiate SCATANA (Security Control of Air Traffic and Air Navigation Aids), the first time this plan was implemented since its inception. There was an eerie sensation watching all the green and yellow "dots" disappearing from the continental U.S.

Mobilized a few days later, we started OPERA-TION NOBLE EAGLE in earnest and lived out of the alert facility for several months while gearing up for deployments in ONW/OSW. We undertook many firsts for our relatively young reserve organization. We took many lessons out of the entire experience. And close to the top of the list is that we realized weren't prepared for the fight we were about to embark upon.

We executed a two-year mobilization, conducted aircraft generation, and employed the E-3 in multiple theaters, Turkey, Saudi, and the U.S. Our out-of-town



reservists "lived" at a local hotel while rotating in and out of multiple operating locations. Then, finally, in 2003, our two-year mobilization ended However, our continued participation/mobilizations continued for the next 22 years.

Now, we're gearing up for a potential future mobilization. We must be ready to go up against peer adversaries who threaten almost every aspect of global stability and commerce. We also need to be prepared to defend against aggression

against sovereign nations the likes we haven't seen since the beginning of WWII. You must be ready.

You must be mentally and physically prepared to do your job, or whatever may be asked of you, in very austere and uncomfortable environments. You will be stressed, tired, and pushed to your limits. You must make decisions and work in conditions you have NEVER faced. You must be ready.

We don't have a lot of time to prepare. And every minute we spend in status, we must be manically focused on all aspects of readiness. A commander's most solemn duty is to prepare their units for combat. We will attempt to create the most challenging environments to practice our craft. We need you to understand and get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Build on that warrior ethos we talk about and prepare your families for potential hardships while we're deployed. Above all, get mentally and physically prepared. Lead yourselves and be the leaders the A.F. needs you to be.

10th Air Force is a carnivore nation; our ethos drives us to be dependable, loyal, dedicated, and skillful wingmen with an unquestionable mission focus. You must be a "go-to" Airmen who can take commander's intent and act decisively.

Our job is to protect the U.S. against attack, ensure our way of life, and protect your families. Get ready!

Thank you for your continued service to our nation, that you and your families for the sacrifices they make day in and day out, and for being part of the 513th family.

Push it up!

10th AF command team visits Tinker

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

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – The 513th Air Control Group hosted Brig. Gen. Regina Sabric, 10th Air Force commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Bluto, 10th AF command chief, for a one-day visit to the group Aug. 25.

10th AF is headquartered at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, less than 200 miles from Tinker Air Force Base.

Chief Master Sgt. Alphonzo Glover, 513th ACG Senior Enlisted leader, discussed the impact that engaging with senior leadership provides.

"513th ACG leaders are constantly advocating for our airmen at all levels in multiple forums,

but it helps to see and hear that the group has support above the wing level," Glover said. "It reinforces our message that the unit matters, and the vested interest of the future of our organization is a focal point of our senior leadership."

The leadership site visit allowed 10th Air Force leaders to tour

513th ACG facilities and to engage with group leadership and airmen face-to-face from the 513th ACG as well as the 35th Combat Communications Squadron, a geographically separated unit of the





960th Cyberspace Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, which also reports to 10th AF.

"We know that there is much on the minds of our

Airmen at the 513th ACG." said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher "You Bluto. keep being exceptional, and we will keep fighting for support your future," and Bluto said.

The command team shared break-

fast with Reserve Citizen Airmen to get their perspective and feedback on pressing issues faced today in a fiscally constrained environment.

"One of our roles at the numbered Air Force-level of leadership is advocacy, and we value our Airman's breakfasts and the candid feedback we receive to better understand how we can support each of our organizations," Bluto said.

The 513th ACG mission brief gave Gen. Sabric and Chief Bluto an in-depth look at the group's mission and discussed the way ahead amid the divestiture of legacy weapons systems.



Continued (next page)

10th AF command team recognizes outstanding performers

In addition to mission briefings, four airmen were recognized for outstanding performance and received a coin of excellence from Brig. Gen. Sabric during her visit.

Those recognized were:

- Staff Sgt. Cassidy Jones, 513th Maintenance Squadron
- Ms. Mandi Mayer, 513th Air Control Group
- Senior Airman River Stanbro, 513th Operations Support Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Leland Knight,
 970th Airborne Air Control
 Squadron

"Recognizing our superior performers is always a pleasure," said Glover. "Letting those individuals and supervisors know their efforts are not in vain. We see you and what you do for the organization, and it matters."

Brig. Gen. Sabric also recognized two non-commissioned officers selected for STEP promotion to master sergeant:

- Tech. Sgt. Curtis Clowdus, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Raquel Miller, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron (not pictured)

"Brig. Gen. Sabric and I appreciate the hospitality of the 513th ACG on our recent visit," Bluto said. "As the most diverse NAF in the Air Force, it is a privilege to continue to meet our Airmen and learn about the combat capabilities they bring to the fight."





Tech. Sgt. Leland Knight





Senior Airman River Stanbro



Staff Sgt. Cassidy Jones



Ms. Mandi Mayer

ACG member flies ninth divested AWACS to Boneyard

77-0355 "LUMPO"



Touchdown! Tech. Sgt. Curtis Clowdus, third from right, flight engineer with the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, flew aboard "Lumpo", E-3 Sentry AWACS tail number 77-0355, on her final divestment flight to the Boneyard Aug. 18, 2023. This is the 9th E-3 aircraft to be divested from Tinker AFB this year and was also known as "Tanker Killer."



ACG members fly tenth divested AWACS to Boneyard

80-0139 "WARBIRD"



Right on target! Master Sgt. Trish Tolliver, 513th Operations Support Squadron, second from left, and Maj. Rich Thomas, third from right, 513th Air Control Group, flew "Warbird" E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft 80-0139 on her final divestment flight to the Boneyard Aug. 28, 2023. This is the 10th E-3 aircraft to be divested from Tinker AFB this year.



Rabbit Tales // 7 // September 2023



CHIEF OF AIR FORCE RESERVE LT. GEN. JOHN P. HEALY

Reserve Airmen,

As we approach FY24, we face familiar challenges within the fiscal landscape. All indications point to a Continuing Resolution (CR) starting 1 Oct. Our lessons identified and current tools available allow us to normalize operations under a CR.

What does this mean to you?

Your ability to participate will not be affected under a CR. UTAs and AT will continue as normal operations and Command teams will prioritize training to achieve readiness. Please, do NOT miss a training opportunity.

My expectation is you will participate in UTAs and work with your leadership to plan and schedule your AT as soon as possible to create a stable, predictable, training schedule.

Thank you for your perseverance and continued service.

JOHN P. HEALY Lieutenant General, USAF Commander



STEP II Promotion Selectees announced



Airman Action Safety Program empowers airmen

In the early days of military aviation, knowledge and experiences were shared either in the hangar or at the bar. Today we operate in a much more complex environment where we must leverage technology to capture those unintentional errors, hazardous situations, and high-risk activities that may not be identified through traditional safety reporting channels.

The Airman Safety Action Program is specifically designed to fulfill that need by empowering every Airmen to identify hazards and offer risk mitigating solutions – anytime, anywhere using the Airman Safety App.

While the program was originally created to raise safety standards in the aviation community, it has been redesigned to capture work safety issues in the occupational, space, and weapons disciplines as well.

Within minutes of identifying a potential hazard, such as a hole in the ground or an improperly de-

signed aircraft part, a mobile report can be initiated on-site and submitted directly to the Air Force Safety Automated System. From here, all data is passed to the appropriate major command and down to the installation, where practices can be improved and resources can be allocated to resolve issues.

This is the cutting edge of mishap prevention. Welcome to ASAP!





Group CC serves as US Head of Delegation at IJOLD



Col. James Mattey, far right, 513th Air Control Group commander, served as U.S. Head of Delegation for the Air Force Reserve at the International Junior Officer Leadership Development (IJOLD) conference in August 2023.

The executive summary below documents Mattey's assessment as U.S. Head of Delegation at the 2023 IJOLD hosted by the Royal Netherlands Air Force Reserve in Breda, Netherlands held Sept. 6-12, 2023.

DISCUSSION: Russia's invasion of Ukraine changed the world's view of armed conflict and international relations. This conflict is one of many dynamics that requires militaries to stay sharp and committed to all allies. Our profession of arms is asking our leaders to adapt and grow ever-increasingly. And these changes are not just limited to the militaries but also applicable in other diplomatic and social-economic institutions. The world is starved for good leadership. Great leadership is a discipline that requires continued and never-ending improvement in idea development, the developing others, developing teams, and an introspective look at developing self. The Dutch Ministry of Defense and the Royal Netherlands Air Force Reserve hosted a magnificent venue, rich in cultural and military history, while training a team of facilitators with a s trong academic focus from peer-reviewed, renowned academic journals. This program explored the changing landscape of leadership and its potential impact on military leadership.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS; LESSONS LEARNED: The 2023 IJOLD facilitators guided flights (syndicates) through the individual, team, and organizational levels. The program started in small teams and culminated in a holistic approach to leadership development. Objectives are a vital aspect of the learning environment. This program identified essential objectives and built a high-impact curriculum encompassing learning goals, objectives, and methods, including interactive lectures, workshops, and case studies.

It is essential to understand that these objectives were built to fit into multiple categories, such as interpersonal competencies, global military exposure, teamwork, and the opportunity to develop an international mindset.

Although this group of international facilitators was identified less than three months before this IJOLD event, the work they put in prior, their access to the latest research, and thinking of leadership development served to set a great course and, in addition, elevated their own leadership craft while developing future military leaders.

CONCLUSION: I do not write this EXSUM indifferently. As a student in 2005, the lessons and techniques I learned have influenced me and my ability to lead myself and my teams in the joint/combined arena. The IJOLD program brings together participants from different cultures across NATO and invited nations, providing a rich opportunity to exchange and discuss international perspectives. The IJOLD program plays a critical role in the development of future military leaders and requires our continued support.

JAMES J. MATTEY, Colonel, USAF U.S. Head of Delegation Air Force Reserve

Booster Club News





The year is flying by and have many events coming up!

SILENT AUCTION RAISES \$1,163

Thank you to all bidders and donors!

GARAGE SALE RAISES \$900

Thank you to SMSgt Doty, SMSgt Gibb, SMSgt Tidwell, MSgt Rainbolt, MSgt Kelly, MSgt Egert, SrA Gibb for setting up and working the sale. Thanks to MSgt Staff, MSgt Witten, MSgt Moore, and MSgt Delay for donations and to everyone who helped support the effort!

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE THRU SEPT. 11

Early bird ticket sales are underway now! See flyer on next page for details. Please contact Booster Club President MSgt Lauren Kelly with questions. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR BOOSTER CLUB!

2023 BOOSTER CLUB ACCOUNT BALANCES

| JANUARY | BEGINNING BALAI ENDING BALAI | \$1,069.31 \$891.72 |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FEB. | BEGINNING BALAI ENDING BALAI | \$891.72 \$143.69 |
| MARCH | BEGINNING BALAI ENDING BALAI | \$143.69 \$577.69 |
| APRIL | BEGINNING BALA ENDING BALA | \$577.69 \$366.48 |
| MAY | BEGINNING BALA ENDING BALA | \$366.48 \$2296.44 |
| JUNE | BEGINNING BALA ENDING BALA | \$2296.44 \$2375.76 |
| JULY | BEGINNING BALA ENDING BALA | \$2375.76 \$2488.76 |
| AUGUST | BEGINNING BALA | \$2488.76 \$5.010.40 |

GET YOUR TICKETS!

Current Holiday Party Tickets Sales:

6 tickets sold currently of our 150 ticket projection based on last year's party.

Please purchase your tickets today so we can finalize the details for the holiday party.

Ticket sales=Head count which is needed for successful planning.

Early bird discount ticket sales end Sept. 11. See flyer on next page for ticket links.

Holiday Party ticket prices increase Sept. 11

Please join us for this year's holiday party at the Sheraton OKC Downtown! Tickets will increase after Sept. 11, so get your discounted tickets today and support the booster club!





Airmen,

The U.S. Air Force and our allies, with whom we train, represent the greatest airpower the world has ever known, and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) wants to exploit your knowledge and skill to fill gaps in their military capability.

Our vastly superior capabilities and overwhelming airpower are key in deterring increasingly aggressive behavior in the Indo-Pacific and if necessary, defeating threats. I have made it clear since publishing the original CSAF Action Orders that I am committed to ensuring Airmen have what is required to compete, deter, and win in a high-end fight. However, as you may have seen in the news, foreign companies are targeting and recruiting U.S. and NATO-trained military talent across specialties and career fields to train the PLA abroad to fill gaps in their military capabilities.

By essentially training the trainer, those who accept contracts with these companies are eroding our national security, putting the very safety of their fellow servicemembers and the country at risk, and may be violating the law. Just as I am asking for your help, I have also asked for help from our allied Air Chiefs to address the same issue within their ranks. Protecting our national defense information is the responsibility of each servicemember and veteran.

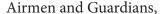
If you or someone you know is being targeted for recruitment, or was recruited, to train foreign militaries, please report it to your local Office of Special Investigations detachment or submit a report via www.osi.af.mil/Submit-a-Tip/.

I am committed to protecting this great Nation, our Airmen and mission...Fly, Fight, and Win...Airpower anytime, anywhere!

As always, I am proud to serve alongside you.

CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR. General, USAF Chief of Staff





Over the last two years, I've had the opportunity to learn more about the Air Force and Space Force, and to appreciate both the capabilities we provide to the nation and the professionalism of our total force. I am in awe of and deeply proud of all our Airmen and Guardians from every component of the force, the Department of the Air Force civilians who support them, and the families that love and nourish them. We are second to none, but we cannot afford complacency.

Your senior leaders--myself, Honorable Kristyn Jones, General Brown, General Saltzman, Chief Bass, and Chief Towberman--each have our own way of expressing our priorities: one team, one fight; accelerate change or lose; competitive endurance; and what got us here won't get us there. We are all saying the same thing, but in different ways. We must be ready for a fight unlike anything all of us serving today have ever seen, and that requires both unity of effort and change.

As I've said many times, it has been clear to me for over a decade that China is intent on fielding a force that can conduct aggression in the Western Pacific and prevail even if the United States intervenes. While China has focused on creating the regional conventional forces it believes it needs, China is also dramatically expanding its nuclear force and military space capabilities. We cannot sustain deterrence by standing still.

Integrated deterrence is a key aspect of our National Defense Strategy intended to prevent an act of aggression, and our Air Force and Space Force are essential to executing this strategy. For the last two years, we have focused on establishing the modernization programs we need to maintain our conventional superiority. The work we did under the "Operational Imperative" label produced the new investments and programs included in the FY24 Defense Budget. This work isn't finished, but it is well begun.

However, we need to do more. We must also address the need for broader and more comprehensive change throughout the Department of the Air Force. It



has become clear to the entire senior leadership team that we are not optimized for great power competition. Over more than two decades, we have optimized to support post-9/11 conflicts and demands; this is not what the nation needs for the coming decades of strategic competition. Accordingly, we will conduct a major initiative over the next several months to identify and implement the changes needed to meet our pacing challenge. This initiative will involve a comprehensive look at all aspects of how we organize, train, and equip the Air Force and Space Force.

This will not be easy; existing habits and structures are well established, but it must be done. A centralized planning effort will be led from the combined Department of the Air Force Headquarters with support and extensive input from our Major Commands and Field Commands.

It will conclude by January 2024 and be followed by an implementation phase. Fortunately, the movement to reoptimize for great power competition has already started; I see evidence of that everywhere I go. But we must move faster and more comprehensively. We must identify all the changes we need to make and accelerate them.

We start now. I have one piece of immediate direction for each of you. Every person and organization in the Department, starting today, needs to consider these questions; If asked to go to war today against a peer competitor, are we as ready as we could be? What can we change in each of our units and organizations to be more ready? These should not be looked upon as theoretical or academic questions. The fact is that this is why the Air Force and Space Force exist. This is why we all serve – to be ready at any time to undertake the most stressing mission we may be given. Deterrence is the goal, but deterrence rests firmly on our readiness and ability to win. No one wants a great power conflict, and no one can predict when one might occur, but come it may, and we must be as ready as we can be - now, tomorrow, and every day.

Change is hard, losing is unacceptable.

Group commemorates retirement of SNCO

Farewell to Master Sgt. Jeffrey Schmidt, 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron Senior Air Surveillance Technician. Thank you for your service!



Senior Master Sgt. Allen Tidwell presents Master Sgt. Jeffrey Schmidt with an End of the Trail statue upon his retirement from the Air Force Reserve.



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gibson presents Laurie Schmidt with a spouse certificate of appreciation upon the occasion of her spouse Master Sgt. Jeffrey Schmidt's retirement Aug. 5, 2023.

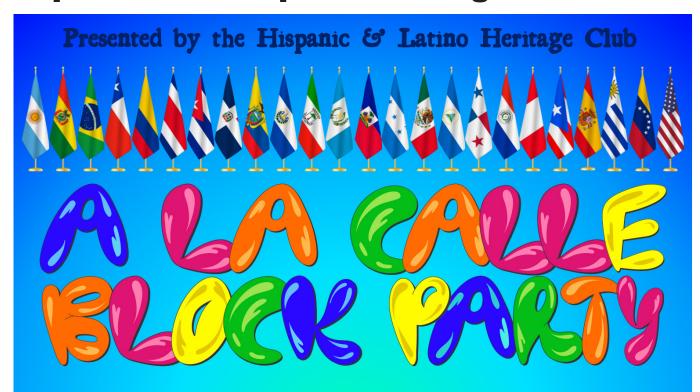


Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gibson, presiding official over the ceremony, embraces Master Sgt. Schmidt upon his retirement.



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gibson, presents the Meritorious Service Medal to a shadowbox to Master Sgt. Jeffrey Schmidt Aug. 5, 2023, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma on the occasion of his retirement.

September is Hispanic Heritage Month



Come out & celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as well the Hispanic & Latinos who have served, are serving & will serve in the future

Friday 22 September 23 | 1100 til 1600

Location:

552 Maintenance Sq Bldg 230 @ Dock 2 then to Sentry Blvd Join us for the following:
Guest speakers, food
trucks, dance groups, DJ,
Low Riders, other off
base groups



Thanks to ACC & Project Quesada

Enlisted Promotions



Upcoming Events and Announcements

Flu Shot documentation due to MDS by Dec. 1

Flu Shots available at CVS, Walgreens, Target or through Civilian Primary Care Manager. Send proof of vaccine to MDS Sharepoint by Dec 1. (Member Name, Lot #, Manufacturer and Date Administered)

Rising 6 Meeting and Food Drive

Monthly Meeting Sunday Sept. 10 1200

Bldg. 1043, 2nd Floor, 507th FSS Classroom

Mandatory DTS Training Available via TEAMS this UTA

One-hour sessions Sept. 9-10 See gov email for link 9:00 am, 12:00 p.m, 3:00 pm CST

Walk-in MHAs Sept. 9

Are you overdue on your MHA?

Walk-in 0800-0815 Sat. Sept 9 at MDG

Upcoming Events (continued)

Rising 6 Kickball Tournament to be held Sept. 9

WHEN: Sept. 9, 2023 @ 1630 WHERE: Tinker Softball Fields

Choose your own teams of 8-10 players & sign up to play or come support your fellow members! Pizza & water will be provided to all, while it lasts!

Sign up now! https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CACA82CA4F8C61-507th

POC: Senior Airman Jaimesha Alexander, 507 LRS

Commissioning packages due Oct. 3 for board to be held Oct. 15

If you are an enlisted member who has been considering commissioning now is your chance!

The 507 ARW Non-EAD ACP Board (formerly Deserving Airmen) will convene 15 October 2023. Interested candidates must submit a complete package using the attached snowflake (as one PDF document) to carlos.rodri@us.af.mil and Courtesy Copy 507.fss.workflow@us.af.mil with a standard subject line for 507 ARW Non-EAD ACP – Member's Last Name. SrA Rodri will review all packages and prepare them for the board. Packages are due NLT 1600 on 3 October 2023.

507th Force Support Squadron

DSN: 339-4463

COMM: 405-739-4463

507th FSS ID card office announces new hours of operation

Starting Oct. 1, the 507th Force Support Squadron ID Card office will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday during the week. For ID Card needs on Wednesdays or Fridays please utilize the 72d Air Base Wing ID card office in Bldg. 1. We will remain open the Fridays prior to UTAs and our normal operating hours on UTA weekends. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

507th ID Card Office Hours effective Oct.

M, W, Th – 0800-1600 Tues, Fr – Closed

UTA Weekends: Friday – 0800 – 1600 Saturdays – 0700 – 1500 Sundays – 1100 – 1500

* Please note, the MPF, the Medical Group, and some other base offices are closed for training on the third Wednesday of each month. On these days, the MPF is open for walk-ins an extra hour but will not have appointment hours.

Active Duty members or civilians with CAC emergencies may walk in at any time during normal business hours.

MXS First Sgt. vacancy announced

Contact your supervisor for more info.

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)





Would you like to submit a story or news/announcement to the Rabbit Tales? Please email us at: <u>513thpublicaffairs@gmail.com</u> or <u>513ACG.PublicAffairs@us.af.mil</u>