

# RABBIT TALES



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 513TH AIR CONTROL GROUP

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November 2020



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*Cover photo: Col James Matthey, 513th Air Control Group commander,  
addresses his Airmen during a change of command ceremony  
Oct. 4, 2020, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.  
(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Chad Dixon)*



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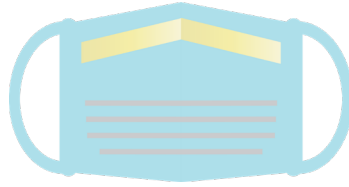
*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

# Commander Declares Public Health Emergency at Tinker AFB

*72nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs*

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. --

Tinker Installation Commander Col. Paul Filcek declared a Public Health Emergency for the installation Nov. 5.



Filcek cited the “increasing risk to force and risk to mission with COVID-19 cases on the rise in Oklahoma, the surrounding counties and Tinker AFB” as the reason behind the declaration, which will be in effect for at least the next 30 days. Along with the official PHE, an updated Public/Social Gathering policy was also released.

The commander also said, effective immediately, 100% mask wear is mandatory indoors in all facilities. There are two exceptions to the mask mandate: they

are not required when alone in an office and not required if it interferes with mission or proper wear of mandated PPE.

“To be clear, a cubicle is not considered an office in this regard,” Filcek wrote in an email to Tinker leaders. “For cubicles, commanders and directors can determine when masks can be removed, but at a minimum, ‘present for duty’ members cannot be seated within 10 feet of each other without masks.”

The updated policy also states that facilities, where feasible, should continue or return to single-point entry.

For more details on the PHE or the public gathering policy, visit [www.tinker.af.mil/coronavirus](http://www.tinker.af.mil/coronavirus).





# Call for Innovation Rodeo Ideas Nears Dec. 1 Deadline

By Shannon Carabajal

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) -- With less than a month to go in their annual call-for-topics campaign, the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center is still looking for innovative ideas with potential to change the Air Force.

“If you have an idea that will help the Air Force deliver installation and mission support capabilities, improve our installations, or support our families in a better, faster or smarter way, we want to hear from you,” said Col. Lance Clark, director of AFIMSC Expeditionary Support and Innovation Directorate.

The campaign, open through Dec. 1, gives military and civilian members of mission support groups around the world a chance to compete for part of at least \$1 million in funding and resources to pursue their ideas. Airmen with the top ideas will learn from leading innovators and pitch their ideas to a panel of Air Force leaders during the AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo competition on Feb. 5.

The theme of this year’s Innovation Rodeo is Base of the Future, a broad topic with endless mission support-centric possibilities. Through the competition, Airmen can help shape how installations can look and function in the future.

AFIMSC can be a powerful ally for anyone with an idea that can improve installation and mission support operations, said Dustin Dickens, an innovation program analyst with the center.

“Since standing up an innovation office two years ago, we’ve landed more than \$65 million in Air Force and ven-

ture capital funding for I&MS initiatives,” he said. “We’ve been very successful at connecting brilliant Airmen with Air Force and industry partners to bring their ideas to life.”

The competition calls for Airmen to submit their ideas through the online Ideascale platform at <https://usaf.ideascale.gov.com/a/campaign-home/181>.

Past Innovation Rodeo winners include:

- Mobile apps to make life easier for Airmen and their families, including one to centralize and streamline the subletting of short-term slots at military child development centers; one for base announcements and community events; and one to share feedback about customer experiences.
- An idea to replace the current manual mapping of underground cabling and wiring with the use of augmented reality.
- A project to leverage Geospatial Information Systems and aerial imagery for facility roof inspections.
- A proposal to use autonomous robotic lawn mowers to cut the grass in and around airfields at night to reduce aircraft bird-strike hazards.

AFIMSC’s innovation team partnered with rapid acquisition leaders to convert Airmen’s innovative ideas into reality at record pace. As such, winning projects are now in various stages of development, including an idea from the inaugural event in 2019 – an app now called the Wing Feedback App – that is currently in beta testing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

For more information about the AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo, email [AFIMSC.Innovation@us.af.mil](mailto:AFIMSC.Innovation@us.af.mil).



# In the Spotlight



**Staff Sgt. Samantha Humphrey**

**Unit:** 970th AACCS

**Job title:** Airborne Radar Technician

**Hometown:** Cameron, Missouri

**Civilian job:** Student

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

**Favorite part of your job:** The radar is fascinating and I work with great people.

**Biggest pet peeve:** When people loudly chew with their mouths open.

**Little known fact about you:** I was a C-17 loadmaster before I joined the unit.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th:** Cowbells, before COVID-19 hit, were always a great time.

**If you had a superhero ability, it would be:** Super speed



**Senior Airman Chad Dixon**

**Unit:** 513th ACG/PA

**Job title:** Mass Communications Specialist

**Hometown:** Highland Village, Texas

**Civilian job:** 570 KLIF/820 WBAP radio station

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

**Favorite part of my job:** The people I work with.

**Biggest pet peeve:** Folks who subtly brag.

**Little known fact about you:** That would be bragging.

**Favorite memory from your time in the 513th:** I'm still new, working on it.

**If you had a superhero ability, it would be:** Invisibility. (No need to lie to yourself, we all would choose invisibility.)