

507th Air Refueling Wing and 513th Air Control Group, U.S. Air Force Reserve

February 2013

Vol. 33, No. 2

On-final

*Come home
soon...*

**Over 130 Reservists
deploy to
Southwest Asia**

Inside:

***JAG Awarded
Bronze Star***

***Maintenance saving
with new stands***



New maintenance platforms to increase safety

by Senior Airman Mark Hybers
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 507th Maintenance Squadron received and installed new KC-135 maintenance platforms here Jan. 14, designed to increase safety and efficiency while completing Isochronal Inspections (ISO).

These new platforms which are approximately 1,500 square feet, spanning the length of a KC-135 wing are also designed to decrease the ISO fly to fly time, which is the time it takes for an inspection.

Also included in the new maintenance platform package are stands that wrap around the nose of the aircraft and down both sides of the plane.

“Once the aircraft is towed into the hangar and the stands are positioned, our inspection team will have the ability to perform inspections and maintenance virtually anywhere on the aircraft,” said Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Corporon, 507th Maintenance Squadron superintendent. “The inspection can be performed from start to finish without having to move or bring additional stands to perform different aspects of the ISO.”

“It’s going to save us so much time,” said Master Sgt. Shaun Loeffler, 507th Maintenance Squadron ISO dock coordinator. “We will not have to climb up and down and move stands to different parts of the aircraft when someone needs help. We can just walk right over to them and give them the help they need.”

The platforms arrived with a surprise addition. “They came equipped for electric and air,” said Master Sgt. Travis Fowler, 507th MXS Maintenance flight chief.

“We won’t have 200 feet of ex-

tension cord running across the hangar anymore,” Fowler continued. “And the outlets are Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) protected so it’s safe to use around aircraft.”

Corporon said, “This all translates to a safer, more efficient inspection process which ultimately gets the aircraft back to the flight line and into the air performing its mission.”

According to Fowler, the new platforms should decrease the inspection time.

“A major goal in obtaining these platforms is to cut at least two days off the fly to fly time on the ISO inspection,” he said.

Bidding for the platforms began three years ago. Fowler said he and members of his shop reached out to a few other bases currently using these new platforms.

“Ultimately, McConnell Air Force Base was using the identical platforms that we wanted,” said Fowler. “So we got some good information from them.”

Fowler said the process was kind of like “a reverse eBay. We gave the companies our high dollar amount and specifications and let them compete for the job.”

Eight weeks and six semi-truck loads later, the new platforms arrived



Master Sgt. Jason Lawson, 507th Air Refueling Wing maintenance squadron checks the distance between the new KC-135 maintenance platforms and the wing of a KC-135. The new platforms are expected to increase safety during Isochronal Inspections. (Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

from River Metal Products. Representatives from the company remained on hand for assembly.

As for the old platforms, Fowler said they are still functional and available for other Air Force units in need.



Airman 1st Class Jesus Lerma, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron walks with his son prior to deploying January 7. (Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

Over 130 Reserve Airmen deploy to Southwest Asia for OEF

by Capt. Jon Quinlan
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

More than 130 Reserve Airmen said goodbye to their families, friends and civilian employers here Jan. 7, as they deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Air Refueling Operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The reservists will support a broad spectrum of air refueling missions coming in and out of the area of operations.

“The wing is committed to providing a combat effective force multiplier to support the AEF (Air and Space Expeditionary Force),” said Col. Russell Muncy, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander. “Our men and woman are playing a critical role providing air refueling that affects all Air Force mission sets in Afghanistan and beyond. My hats off to these brave Airmen who sacrifice much to provide the best product possible. Let us not forget the sacrifices that our airman’s families and civilian employers are making as well. Without their commitment, the citizen Airman would not be able to perform this vital mission for our country,” Muncy said.

Getting these Airmen out the door takes a large amount of preparation that



Maj. Ben Berzinis, 507th Medical Squadron, reviews mobility folders as reservists file through the deployment line here Jan. 5. (Photo by Capt. Jon Quinlan)

starts nearly seven months out, according to logistics readiness officials.

Work included scheduling and conducting all training, airlift, medical, and legal items before the deploying members leave. It took a team of nearly sixty 507th Air Refueling Wing personnel to support the deployers and get them out the door and into the theatre of operations.

One of the biggest challenges reservists have is juggling deployment readiness items with their civilian jobs and families.

“Finding the right balance can be a challenge but important when facing a deployment,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jamie Horn, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron plans superintendent. “We just have to ensure everyone is ready at any time to go where we are called to.”

Citizen Airmen being ready at a moment’s notice is what makes the Air Force Reserves play such an important role in the defense of the United States, according to reserve commanders.

“We consistently have deployment

and operations tempos that rival and surpass many other Air Force Reserve and active duty units,” Muncy said.

“My thoughts are with our Airmen... and hope they have a safe and successful deployment.”



Airman 1st Class Jesus Lerma, 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, hugs his mother before processing the deployment line. (Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

On-final

Editorial Staff

Commander, 507th ARW..... Col. Russell A. Muncy
Chief, Public Affairs.....Capt. Jon Quinlan
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs.....Maj. Bill Pierce
NCOIC, Public Affairs.....Tech. Sgt. Grady Epperly
Editor, On-finalSenior Airman Mark Hybers
513th ACG PA Specialist.....Tech. Sgt. Sandra Hatton

Contents of On-final are not necessarily endorsed by or the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. Published by The Journal Record Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 72nd Air Base Wing commander. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Tinker Take Off and On-final are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or The Journal Record Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's public affairs office, which is located at 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 9, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., 73145-8726. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Reserve JAG earns Bronze Star

by Tech. Sgt. Grady Epperly

507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

A 507th Air Refueling Wing staff judge advocate was awarded the fourth highest combat decoration, the Bronze Star, for leading detainee operations in Afghanistan for 12 months.

Maj. Jack Spencer served as the Chief of Detainee Operations to the Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, Kabul, Afghanistan, from September 2011 to October 2012.

As the Chief of Detainee Operations, Spencer and his team were responsible for providing the Commanding General advice on over 2,100 detainee transfer requests, custody transfer requests and high value detainee designations.

"High value detainees are not the errand boys or Afghans who are forced by the extremist to dig a hole for an IED. They are truly bad guys who will stop at nothing to ensure insecurity in Afghanistan," said Spencer.

"A lot of what we did was sort through thousands of pages of evidence and intelligence to provide legal recommendations to the Commanding General on whether a detainee met the criteria for detention," he added. "We didn't take this job lightly. If we made the wrong assessment and a bad guy got back to the battlefield it could quite possibly get someone killed."

In addition to providing timely and decisive legal advice to over 125 commanders, law enforcement personnel and capturing units throughout Afghanistan, Spencer also participated in nine field detention site inspections and six mobile training teams in some of the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan.

The training focused on international standards of humane treatment, the Law of Armed Conflict and the rules of engagement.

"We had the responsibility to provide training to the guards at these facilities," said Spencer. "In that environment even an honest mistake can become an international incident."

"Our goal was to enhance the credibility and transparency of United States detainee operations in Afghanistan and at the end of the day, we were successful," he said.

The citation, signed by Army Lt. Gen. Keith M. Huber, commander Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, praises Spencer's legal recommendations for "Contributing to the safety of Afghan citizens

and United States servicemembers."

While Spencer says he is grateful to receive such an honor, he feels the Bronze Star represents those he had the privilege to work alongside.

"People either thrive or wilt under those types of stressful conditions. Our team thrived," said Spencer.



Maj. Jack Spencer, second row far right, 507th Air Refueling Wing staff judge advocate, was awarded the Bronze Star. Spencer served as the Chief of Detainee Operations to the Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, Kabul, Afghanistan, from September 2011 to October 2012. Spencer and his team were responsible for providing the Commanding General advice on over 2,100 detainee transfer requests, custody requests and high value detainee designations. (Courtesy photo)

Reservists to get help with travel vouchers

by Philip Rhodes

HQ Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga (AFNS) -- Air Force Reserve Command is adding resources and changing business practices to make travel voucher processing easier for reservists.

Throughout FY13 the command will increase the number of Defense Travel System travel technicians to assist reservists with their travel vouchers, according to Michael Burgess, AFRC chief of financial operations at Robins AFB. Placing travel technicians at the unit-level will help speed up the voucher process, Burgess said.

In addition, the Air Force Reserve Order Writing System (AROWS-R) will change some of its business rules used that allow travel orders to import into DTS for travel arrangements and subsequent voucher filing. Once these changes are implemented (known as DTS: Phase II), nearly two-thirds of the AROWS-R orders generated each month will be imported into DTS.

“Right now, at our tenant locations, when a reservist files a voucher it goes from the unit to the base financial services office and then to the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., for computation and payment,” Burgess said.

“If there is an error, the travel voucher gets sent back to the base for the member to correct the error. The process can be repeated several times before a reservist can settle a travel voucher.” Using DTS will be reduced the delay from weeks to days.

DTS Phase II is already in play at Headquarters AFRC; Barksdale AFB,



Air Force Reserve Command is adding resources and changing business practices to make travel voucher processing easier for reservists. Throughout FY13 the command will increase the number of Defense Travel System travel technicians to assist reservists with their travel vouchers. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

La.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Beginning in February, the command will lift the AROWS-R business rules for five additional locations, and complete the Phase II implementation at all units by mid-spring.

A potential roadblock to the plan is the filling of the 68 newly created travel technician positions at tenant units. By early December, the Reserve had filled 31 positions, according to Burgess.

Burgess said errors occur because the Reserve travel process is more complex than active duty.

“First, reservists have to be brought on orders before they begin travel,” he explained. “They sometimes operate under multiple sets of orders, for example, back-to-back orders, overlapping orders, etc., and it can become a minefield of complexity.”

Dedicated travel technicians, who understand Reserve travel peculiarities, will be able to spot issues and aid the reserve traveler in voucher processing in DTS.

“There’s no doubt having dedicated travel technicians at the units will reduce the time it takes for reservists to settle their vouchers,” Burgess said.

The Department of Defense has mandated that all travel be processed electronically through DTS by December 2013.

“Our goal is to have all travel vouchers processed through DTS by the deadline,” Burgess said. “Realistically, there will still be some unique travel situations -- PCS vouchers being one type -- that don’t work under DTS. We want to make the travel voucher process as easy as we can for our reservists.”

KC-135 tankers get a boost from innovative, fuel-saving engines

by Maj. Mark Blumke

Air Mobility Command Directorate of Logistics

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFNS) -- Some decades-old KC-135 Stratotanker are drinking from the fountain of youth -- or at least the engines are.

Airmen installed the first of 1,440 upgraded Stratotanker engines at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 15.

The 1970s engine parts will be replaced with modern engines that burn less fuel and run longer without repairs, officials said.

“We expect the engine to stay on wing for 20-plus years and take the

KC-135 into retirement,” said Senior Master Sgt. Dong Kim, Air Mobility Command’s propulsion branch chief.

Mounting the CFM Propulsion Upgrade Program on KC-135 and Navy E-6B Mercury culminates almost three years of work between Air Mobility Command, Air Force Material Command, the Navy and the original equipment manufacturer, CFM International.

The C-PUP engine delivered to MacDill AFB is the first of 15 that will be delivered by General Electric Aviation under an F108 engine augmentation contract.

The refurbished engines upgrade the

high pressure compressor and turbine sections of the KC-135’s F108 engine, a military variant of the CFM56-2 engine.

More than half of the engines on the KC-135 have not seen depot rework since they were initially installed; some dating back to 1984.

The engine depot at Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex expects to deliver the first organically produced C-PUP engine later this year and is planning to produce 120 annually. The upgrade effort is projected to take 12 years to complete and will affect 1,440 engines, according to officials.

AF to open remaining combat positions to women

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey announced today the rescission the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule for women and that the Department of Defense plans to remove gender-based barriers to service.



(U.S. Air Force Graphic)

“Women have shown great courage and sacrifice on and off the battlefield, contributed in unprecedented ways to the military’s mission and proven their ability to serve in an expanding number of roles,” Panetta said. “The Department’s goal in rescinding the rule is to ensure that the mission is met with the best-qualified

and most capable people, regardless of gender.”

While 99 percent of Air Force positions are currently open to women, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III said the service will now pursue opening the final 1 percent.

“2013 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Department of Defense allowing women to serve as combat pilots,” Welsh said. “By rescinding the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule, we can pursue integrating women into the seven remaining

Air Force career fields still closed, all associated with special operations. We’re focused on ensuring America’s Air Force remains capable and ready with the best-qualified people serving where we need them.”

The Air Force will partner with U.S. Special Operations Command and the other services to review opening these positions in a deliberate, measured, and responsible way, officials said. Those positions are:

- Officer / Enlisted Air Force Specialty Codes closed to women:
- 13DXA (Combat Control Officer - special operations forces / direct ground combat)
- 13DXB (Combat Rescue/Special

- Tactics Officer - special operations forces / direct ground combat)
- 15WXC (Special Operations Weather Officer - special operations forces / direct ground combat)
- 1C2XX (Enlisted Combat Controller - special operations forces /direct ground combat)
- 1C4XX (Enlisted Tactical Air Command and Control -some special operations forces /direct ground combat)
- 1T2XX (Enlisted Pararescue - special operations forces /direct ground combat)
- 1W0X2 (Enlisted Special Operations Weather - special operations forces / direct ground combat)

These career fields comprise approximately 3,235 positions.

Today, women make up approximately 15 percent, or nearly 202,400, of the U.S. military’s 1.4 million active personnel. Over the course of the past decade, more than 280,000 women have deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today’s announcement follows an extensive review by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who unanimously concluded that now is the time to move forward with the full intent to integrate women into occupational fields to the maximum extent possible.

“The Joint Chiefs share common cause on the need to start doing this now and to doing this right. We are committed to a purposeful and principled approach,” said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey.

The DoD is determined to successfully integrate women into the remaining restricted occupational fields within our military, while adhering to the guiding principles developed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

513th Reservist named ‘Athlete of Year’

by Mike W. Way

Tinker Take-off

Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Allen of the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron has been named the Tinker Air Force Base “Athlete of the Year” for 2012.

The honoree was chosen for his “long-time participation in Armed Forces Rugby, working as the strength and conditioning coach for the University of Oklahoma rugby team, involvement in base intramural sports, and squadron physical fitness and mentoring,” said Col. Jeffrey J. McGalliard, commander of the 513th Air Control Group.

This is the second time a member of the 513th ACG, and the fourth time a member of the Air Force Reserve, has won the award, noted Lt. Col. Ralph Hawkins, 513th ACG executive officer and commissioner of Tinker’s Spring Flag Football League.

The selection was made by a committee of 72nd Air Base Wing personnel. Sergeant Allen, who is deployed to Southwest Asia, was notified of the honor recently via email.

The sergeant has been a member of the Air Force rugby team since 1999, and on several occasions has been a member of the Combined Services All-Star Team. Locally he plays for the Crusaders of Oklahoma City, a Texas Rugby Union club that won the Division 3 title last year and now plays in Division 2.

Typically the sergeant has rugby practice on Tuesday and Thursdays, and plays the games on Saturdays. “The rugby season is year-round minus a few weeks during the winter,” he said.

Sergeant Allen is OU’s forwards

coach “and I mentor those players in matters of overall fitness,” he said. The sergeant has “been a part of OU rugby” since 2001.

Sergeant Allen also mentors members of the 513th ACG and his deployed unit, the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron/SENTRY, in all matters of wellness and physical fitness. “I’ve helped out with meal planning, as well as setting up lifting and running routines,” he said. “I’ve helped multiple members not only pass their PT tests but maintain their overall fitness year-round.”

Sergeant Allen said he lifts weights six days a week, and does cardio workouts four days a week. “I run, bike and row,” he said. In addition, “I enjoy multiple types of lifting: Olympic lifting, powerlifting, bodybuilding and Cross fit. I enjoy mixing up all the styles. I believe it makes you a better athlete overall.”

He ran in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon last year, has been playing in Tinker’s flag football league for seven years, and has been a member of two top-5 base bowling teams, “where I maintained a 199 average,” he reported.

Sergeant Allen, 39, has served in the Air Force for 19 years. He is the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron’s Specialist Flight Chief; in that role he is responsible for “all

things required to run a Reserve unit,” including budget, staffing and training. “All personnel decisions for the Specialist Flight go through me,” he said.

The LaCrosse, Wis., native is married, and he and his wife, Adrienne, have a 3-year-old daughter,



Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Allen, shown here playing rugby, is the Tinker AFB “Athlete of the Year” for 2012. The sergeant, who serves in the 513th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, participates in Armed Forces Rugby, base flag football and Tinker bowling, and mentors members of the 513 AMXS and his deployed unit, the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, in matters of wellness and physical fitness. (Courtesy photo)

Madyson.

Senior Master Sgt. Allen is “a shining example of what makes the 513th Air Control Group a special place to come to work,” Colonel McGalliard said. “He is among my small group of superstar SNCOs maintaining the E-3, voluntarily deployed to CENTCOM as we speak, and constantly looking for ways to demonstrate his strong roots in the local community. His real forte is as mentor-leader on the athletic field, whether as part of the OU Rugby Team coaching staff or quietly helping one of our own improve their fitness test scores. We’re lucky to have him.”

New surcharge on Visa purchases



(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christina Brownlow)

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- As of January 27, merchants in the United States and U.S. Territories are permitted to impose a surcharge on any credit card transaction that uses a MasterCard or Visa branded card, which includes the Government Travel Charge Card, both Individually Billed Accounts (IBAs) and Centrally Billed Accounts (CBAs).

This surcharge is permitted to be charged in all states except California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma and Texas.

While some merchants may elect not to charge this additional fee, those that do are required to notify customers before they make an actual purchase - at the store

entrance and at the point of sale - or in an online environment, on the first page that references credit card brands. The surcharge will be included in the total transaction amount and will be listed separately on the sales receipt.

This new surcharge has been authorized reimbursable expense while on official travel. The Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR) and the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) have been updated accordingly, effective 27 January 2013. If a traveler is charged this surcharge, they should add it as a separate expense under the Non-Mileage Expense section of their voucher, ensuring that the additional surcharge is not also included in the total of the related expense.

For additional information about this new surcharge, go to:

http://usa.visa.com/personal/using_visacards/checkout_fees/index.html

“Like us on Facebook”



Follow us on Twitter



Air Force History

February 24, 1991: After more than a month of air strikes that severely weakened Iraqi forces, the U.S.-led coalition launched a ground offensive from Saudi Arabia.

February 28, 1991: Operation DESERT STORM ended at 0800 hours with a coalition- declared cease-fire. During the war, coalition forces released approximately 16,000 precision-guided munitions against Iraqi forces and dropped some 210,000 unguided bombs. February 3, 1995: Lt. Col. Eileen M. Collins, USAF, became the first woman pilot of a space shuttle.

February 17, 1997: The Air Force Reserve became a major command—the Air Force Reserve Command—reflecting the growing integration of Reserve and regular forces and the increasing role of the Reserve in regular USAF operations.

February 24, 2001: Lt. Col. Stayce D. Harris became the first black woman to command a USAF flying squadron, the 729th Airlift Squadron at March Air Force Base, California. She later served as vice commander of the 507th ARW (2002-2005).



Lt. Col. Stayce D. Harris

Accidental Ingestion Chemical Prevention

by Tech. Sgt. Regina Rector

507th Air Refueling Wing Safety Manager

We do many activities throughout the day and may forget what we have touched. It is a prudent practice to thoroughly wash your hands before you eat to ensure you are not ingesting what you have worked with.

Other tips to prevent accidental ingestion can be found at:

<http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/ingestion.html>

Be aware that you can accidentally ingest toxic materials by eating/handling food in areas where toxic substances are used. Never put anything in your mouth when you are working with hazardous chemicals. Having a chemical on your hands and then eating or smoking are common ways that chemicals are accidentally ingested.

Be sure that all containers are properly labeled. NEVER STORE CHEMICALS OF ANY SORT IN FOOD

CONTAINERS. Do not store food and chemicals in the same refrigerator. Children cannot read labels, so keep all chemicals out of the reach of children.

If applying pesticides with a hose sprayer, be sure to use a backflow preventer to keep toxic materials from backing up into your drinking water line.

Always have your poison control center phone number handy with your other emergency information. A good first aid kit will contain activated charcoal to absorb ingested poisons and perhaps syrup of ipecac to induce vomiting (but induce

vomiting only if the MSDS or poison control center tells you to).

Finally, always clean up chemical spills as they can lead to unexpected



ingestion. For example, children and dogs find antifreeze (ethylene glycol) to be very sweet-tasting. Ingestion of ethylene glycol can lead to liver failure and death, especially if not treated quickly.

Complacency – The Silent Killer

507th Air Refueling Wing Safety Special

If you search “complacency,” on the Occupational Health & Safety website, one of the first entries is the title of this message. It refers to an article published in their Occupational Health & Safety Journal from 2010. The importance and relevance of this topic rarely changes, regardless of the date.

When complacency sets in, your mind is wandering. It’s everywhere but on the task at

hand. This can happen in any situation – at work or home; getting and from work; playing sports – anywhere.

“Can you think of even one time in your life when you’ve been hurt when you were thinking about what you were doing and the risk of what you were



doing at the exact instant when you got hurt? Note: If you’re like most people, you can’t think of even one.... And yet we’ve all been hurt thousands of times if you count all of the cuts, burns, bruises, and scrapes we’ve had.

Don’t allow complacency to get the better of you. Keep your head in the game and always consider the risks you’re taking.

Feature



Lt. Col. Patricia Pettine, right, receives the flag from Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Mary Lutz, left, as she assumes command of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron during a ceremony held January 5, 2013. Pettine assumed command from Lt. Col. Brian Stahl. (Photo by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)



Maj. Mark Povec, 465th Air Refueling Squadron describes the refueling process to 40 Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps students from Choctaw High School in a KC-135 stratotanker. The students also took turns getting into position to see what the boom operator is looking at during an aerial refueling. (Photo by Capt. Jon Quinlan)



Above - Master Sgt. Shaun Loeffler, 507th maintenance squadron ISO dock coordinator stands under the wing of a KC-135 stratotanker during installation of the new KC-135 maintenance platforms. The new platforms are expected to cut down inspection times and increase safety. See story page 2. Left - 1st Sgt. Joseph Lepine, 507th Air Refueling Wing aircraft maintenance squadron, see story page 1, loads deployer's baggage on the trucks prior to loading on a KC-135. Over 130 members of the 507th deployed to Southwest Asia. (Photos by Senior Airman Mark Hybers)

