

On-final



U.S. AIR FORCE

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

June/July 2006

Vol. 26, No. 6

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(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Stiers)



507th ARW
Commander's Column
By Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy

Be safe, be proud, be an Okie

Judy and I are finding it hard to say goodbye to the 507th and Oklahoma a second time, so we won't. We have both been very fortunate to have been assigned here twice in my career, the first time as the Operations Group Commander from 1994 to 1997 and then this assignment as the wing commander arriving in 2002. Both our girls attended school in Edmond and we even moved back into the same neighborhood when we returned the second time. We are seriously considering returning here after retirement. The reason for all of this is because of the special people we have come to know.

The members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing are a special group of caring and dedicated people. We have been through a lot together, especially after 9/11. In every case, whether it was the activation and deployment for IRAQI FREEDOM, the myriad of inspections to include a UCI, ASEV, MSEP, and HIS, or the exercises and AEF deployments, you all have performed as seasoned professionals.

Our latest exercise at Volk Field was my swan song but your first step in preparing for an Outstanding during the 2007 ORI. I was very pleased with the results, not because you did everything right, because we both know you didn't, but because you quickly learned the areas that need work. You will take that information and improve so that after a couple more exercises you will deserve the Outstanding rating I know you will receive.

We have seen many icons of the 507th leave due to retire-

ment over the last couple years. Looking a short distance into the future we see many more that will leave the ranks of the 507th after servicing a spectacular career. At first I was concerned that all the "good folks" are gone or leaving. But all it took was a few minutes each month visiting with our newcomers to the wing to eliminate my concerns and replace it with appreciation and wonder at the tremendous quality and patriotism of our new members. These people, whether the youngest Airman right out of basic training or a seasoned professional from another unit or even service, are well prepared to carry on the Okie tradition of excellence.

There is no doubt in my mind that this wing will continue to impress everyone who comes in contact with our people or our equipment. BRAC offers exciting opportunities for the wing to grow in number, aircraft, and mission. The future definitely looks bright for each and every one of you.

Judy and I will be taking command of another great wing, the wing in which I grew up as an officer and an ART, the 434 Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana. If I can't stay here with you, I can't think of another organization I would rather command. It will be fun to once again have the responsibility for a wing and a base. As an added personal bonus, Judy and I will only be a little over an hour drive from her parents. This will give her and them great comfort as they enter their 80s.

On Saturday, 8 July, I will pass the wing flag to Col. Jeff Glass. It will be his turn to accept all the kudos that I have received for the four years I have been your commander. He will be placed in the position to accept the credit for the hard work you all do on a daily basis. He will be humbled and honored, as I was, to represent such a fine group of individuals. Judy and I will miss you all and wish you the very best, but we will not say goodbye. Be safe, be proud, be an Okie.

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Volume 26, No. 6 JUNE/JULY 2006

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 507th Air Refueling Wing's Public Affairs Office, 7435 Reserve Road, Suite 9, Tinker AFB, OK. 73145-8726

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This is your news source. Take it home with you to share with family, friends, and employers.

507th ARW Mission: Man, train, equip, and sustain an Expeditionary Reserve Force in support of DoD peacetime and wartime taskings.

513th ACG Mission: Citizen-airmen extending America's Global Power operating the world's best airborne battle management, warning and control platform.

15th top enlisted chief focuses on Air Force priorities

Rodney J. McKinley, the 15th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, assumed the new post July 1. Chief McKinley said his new job brings with it a great responsibility to the service's enlisted force.

As such, he's not planning to make immediate changes, he said during an Air Force Report interview at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Instead, the former command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces said he will be busy helping Air Force leaders achieve three top priorities.

"Number one: Winning the war on terrorism. Number 2: Taking care of our Airmen. And number 3: Recapitalizing our Air Force," Chief McKinley said.

He replaced Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray on July 1, following Chief Murray's retirement June 30.

For the complete Air Force Report interview, see the "15th CMSAF" video on the Air Force Report section on Air Force Link.



**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force
Rodney J. McKinley**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Thoughts on being young ...

By Chaplain (1st Lt.) Kelly Stahl

It is encouraging to see that many times in the Bible God chose to use those who were young to accomplish vital tasks. This is true of Gideon, King David and Timothy. Gideon was one of the "Judges" in the Old Testament and immediately he explained why he should not have been chosen to do God's work. Gideon said that he was the youngest and weakest in his family. King David was the youngest of his brothers, too. David was selected to be king at a very young age and accomplished a lot as a young adult, which included killing the Philistine's secret weapon; the giant named "Goliath." Timothy, in the New Testament, was young and Paul encouraged him in 1 Timothy 4:12 by writing, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

The Air Force and military, overall, is made up of young adults. The average age in the military is around 27 years

old and a 17-year-old can enter into the military with the permission of his or her parents. But what does all this mean to us? This means that the defense of our country is in the hands of the very young. It also means that young people are very capable of being able to do important and dangerous jobs and do them very well.

In the Bible, God used those who were seemingly weak or had certain faults to do amazing things, and he still does. God uses our weaknesses to show His strength. Very often in my life, after accomplishing a seemingly impossible task, I have had to sit back and recognize that I could not have done any of it without the guidance and strength of God. Of course it is important for everyone, young and old, to seek council and to practice and train continually. This goes for spiritual matters as well as occupational, relational, financial and many other areas. Being good at something takes hard work and as we get experience we gain wisdom and discernment. It is very important for those who are young to listen carefully to those who



have a lot of experience but it is equally important to not discount yourselves because of your age. Do not settle for mediocrity because you think you are too young. By following the words of Paul and setting the example in our speech, life, love, faith and purity, no matter what our age, we will always be able to achieve "integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do." Then watch when God does an amazing work in your life that is beyond anything you ever thought you could do.

Luncheon planned to increase awareness

Mechille Braden served as co-Master of Ceremony recently in the 2006 Asian Pacific American Heritage Luncheon and Fashion Show held at Tinker AFB. She is a captain and commander of the 507th Services Squadron.

The purpose of the event is to increase awareness of the different countries.

Mechille Braden was a model for the event, wearing a sari. A sari is a rectangular piece of cloth, about 5-6 yards in length. It has been worn by

Indian women for over 5,000 years. Legend states that when the wife of a raja was lost in a gambling duel, Lord Krishna promised to protect her virtue. Intent on ravishing and humiliating her, they tried to unravel her sari. They kept pulling and pulling, but could not undrape her. Thus her virtue was protected.

“My father (deceased) was a Hindu,” said Mechille Braden. “I feel closer to him and my Indian heritage when I wear the sari.”



Mechille Braden, 507th Services Squadron commander, is pictured above, wearing a sari. At left are base senior advisors and fashion show participants.



72nd Aerial Port Squadron helps unload Russian cargo plane

Members of the 72nd APS Offload Team worked jointly with active duty and Russian crewmembers to offload a Russian AN-124 cargo plane. This marked the first time the 72APS offload team worked with this type of aircraft.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Knight, member of the special handling team said, “our offload team was able to offload the equipment quickly and safely.” Working with the Russian crew, Knight continued, “our crew



Russian AN-124 cargo plane sits on the Tinker ramp area.

worked well with the Russians while keeping our standards high. We can verify our safety training practices are the best in the world.”

507th ARW welcomes new commander

The command of the 507th Air Refueling Wing changes hands this weekend as Col. Jeffery R. Glass takes the helm from Brig. Gen. Dean J. Despinoy.

Colonel Glass comes to Tinker AFB, OK., from Air Mobility Command located at Scott AFB, IL., where he is the Reserve Advisor to the Commander.

General Despinoy, who has been the 507th commander since Feb. 2002, will depart for Grissom ARB, Ind., where he will take over as the base commander.

Colonel Glass, a native of Griffith, Ind., entered the Air Force in 1979 as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. While on active-duty he flew KC-135s at Grissom AFB, Ind., and



Col. Jeffery R. Glass

was the KC-10 command evaluator pilot for Strategic Air Command.

He joined the Air Force Reserve in 1992 at Barksdale AFB, La. His

other reserve assignments have included chief of Tanker Operations March ARB, Calif., and commander of the 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan.

Colonel Glass is a command pilot with more than 8,300 flying hours in the KC-135A/R/Q/T/ART, EC-135L/G, KC-10A, T-37 and E-4B.

He was promoted to colonel on Feb. 27, 2002.

Look in next month's issue of the *On-final* for the commander's views on the biggest challenges facing the 507th ARW and the Air Force Reserve.

New Mission Support Group commander to assume command next month

Col. Rodney Bryan, commander of the 446th Mission Support Group at McChord AFB, Wash., will assume command of the 507th Mission Support Group in August.

Colonel Bryan was born in Cambridge, Md. He was commissioned in the Air Force in 1975 as a graduate of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Colonel Bryan has held various positions as vehicle operations officer; traffic management officer; officer in charge of terminal services, passenger service, and fleet service; and has been chief of combat readiness staff, logistics plans, and wing plans.

He entered the Air Force Reserve in 1987 as an individual mobilization augmentee to the commander, 836th Transportation Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. In June 1990, he joined the 459th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md., as an air reserve technician, where he served as the chief of logistics plans. He transferred to the 932nd Airlift Wing, Scott AFB, Ill., in April 1993, where he served as chief of wing plans.

Colonel Bryan earned his Bachelor's of science degree in art education, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore,

Princess Anne, Md. in 1975 and his Master's degree in management/human relations, Webster College, Altus AFB, Okla. in 1977. He completed Squadron Officer School by correspondence in 1978 and Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence, in 1983. In 2000, Colonel Bryan completed Air War College by correspondence.

He was promoted to colonel on Jan. 30, 2003.



Col. Rodney Bryan

Okie - Thumper war enters sixth season

by Maj. Ralph Hawkins
Tinker Sports Advisory Council
member

The 507th ARW and 513th ACG not only share the Reserve campus here on Tinker Air Force Base, but they also share a love for sports -- most notably, softball. Both units have entered teams into the base league for years, but in 2001, they decided to start playing each other in a double-header once a month, calling it the Okie - Thumper War. One base umpire is lined up to keep the two teams honest. A nice trophy, known as the Crystal Cup, was purchased with both unit logos featured on the trophy. The team with the most wins at the end of the softball season in head-to-head competition takes home the coveted Cup for the winter, gaining bragging rights until the following year. The Okies won the cup in 2001 and again in 2002. 2003 was finally the year the 513th took home the Cup, winning six out of 11 games. The Okies recaptured the Cup in 2004 and held onto it again last season, owning it for four out of five years. The overall win-loss record is 29 to 19 in favor of the Okies.

The 507th came up winner of the double-header June 6th for the first faceoff of the year. The Okies have outscored the Thumpers 658 runs to 540 in the 48 games, with the longest winning streak being owned by both teams at five games apiece. "We have more fun playing the Okies than we do playing the base league games," said Thumper player and former coach, Joe Brown, who is NCOIC of Training with the 513th Operations Support Flight. "There's no love lost between the two outfits - that's for sure," he continued.

Some players have played for both teams, including myself, Mike "Baby Tuck" Tucker, Shane Lightfoot, Joel Clay, and Kim Humphrey. In the late '90s, both units had separate flag football teams as well, but for the good of the common

goal (winning the base championship), the two teams combined; but not in softball. "We love beating up the Thumpers," said Brian Finley, a Shop Tool Room Monitor and squadron sports advisor with the 507th Maintenance Squadron and current Okie player-coach. "It's good to let them know who's boss once in awhile."

"We'll be back," said current Thumper coach, Lloyd Palmer, a pilot in the 970th AACS. The two teams renew the rivalry once a month from June to late October. If you would like more information concerning the rivalry as a player or fan, please contact me at 734-6778, or one of the coaches.



Joe Brown, left, and Brian Finley, hold the coveted Crystal Cup. Keeping sanity between the two is Ralph Hawkins, Chief, Reserve Campus Sports and Executive Officer for the 513th ACG. Currently, Finley's Okies own the Cup and bragging rights until the end of the 2006 season, but the Thumpers are ready to recapture it this year.

Proposed 2006 Okie-Thumper games

July 13		
5:15 p.m.	Reserves vs. 76th MXW	Field 1
5:15 p.m.	Thumpers vs. C-Missles	Champ Field
July 18		
5:15 p.m.	Okie - Thumper War	Field 3
July 20		
5:15 p.m.	Reserves vs. Fire Dept.	Field 2
5:15 p.m.	Thumpers vs. Juiced	Field 1
July 27		
7:45 p.m.	Reserves vs. 552 EMS	Champ Field
7:45 p.m.	Thumpers vs. Guam	Field 1
Aug 08		
5:15 p.m.	Okie - Thumper War	Field 3



The Enlisted Perspective

By CMSAF Gerald R. Murray

Are You Ready?

As Airmen, we raised our right hand and solemnly swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Our enemies emerged from the shadows on 9-11 and today, in the Global War on Terror, we are taking the fight directly to them. Our mission is clear – win this war.

We all have a role to play and we must continually evaluate whether we are doing everything we can to support the war and combat operations. If the call comes tomorrow for you to deploy to Baghdad, Kandahar, or wherever our Air Force needs you, are you ready to go? You must be. We are the nation's warriors!

By now, many of you are familiar with frequent or extended deployments. Thank you for your continued dedication and personal sacrifice. Many thanks to your family as well, for enduring many sacrifices as they await your return. You are the Airmen this nation called for and depends on. For those not ready to deploy at this moment, what deliberate action are you taking to be ready? For some, it may be time to reevaluate why you are serving in our Air Force. You volunteered and swore an oath; our nation relies on your readiness and commitment.

Combat operations call for a force with ingenuity and courage ... a force that is trained, equipped and ready to deploy at a moments notice. To achieve this you must maintain your duty and combat skills, health and fitness levels, and take the necessary steps to prepare yourself and loved ones for the road ahead. Your family counts on your plans and preparation for deployments and separation. Finances, housing, legal matters, child-care arrangements, and extended family support needs must all be settled before the deployments orders come down. These are basic responsibilities of being Expeditionary Airmen.

Thousands upon thousands of Airmen have served, fought and sacrificed before us. We owe it to our forefathers who shed their blood so we can enjoy the freedoms we cherish today. More than 2,400 of our comrades have given their lives in this fight against terrorism. We owe it to them to be ready to continue their legacy.

Our first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Paul Airey, joined the Army Air Corps at the age of 17 to serve our nation during a hellacious time of war, WWII. He left U.S.

soil in March, 1944. Soon afterwards, on his 28th combat bombing mission over Germany, his aircraft was shot down; he was captured, and held as a prisoner of war until May, 1945. We owe it to Chief Airey and so many others who endured years of separation and hardships to be ready.

Senior Airmen Jason Cunningham, a pararescueman, answered the call to deploy to Afghanistan in 2003. He continued answering that call even after being mortally wounded while on a rescue mission in support of Operation Anaconda. Jason was credited with saving 10 fellow comrades before he ultimately lost his life. We owe it to SrA Cunningham and his family, who gave the ultimate sacrifice, to be ready.

As the requirements for more six-month and one-year taskings and deployments continue to rise, more Airmen will be called upon to deploy, and, in many cases, perform duties in different organizations and environments than they've known before. These are different times; the War on Terror is a different kind of war; and, it requires Airmen to be adaptive, courageous, and ready to fight. What has not changed is the fact that we are fighting for fundamental freedoms.

The American public; mothers, fathers, husbands, wives and most importantly, our children, are the beneficiaries of our efforts. I ask you to never forget the people who are counting on us—here at home and in the fledgling democracies abroad. Also never forget those who came before us. They answered our nation's call to fight for freedom. Now we must carry that torch. We inherited an arduous responsibility, but one we must shoulder with courage and honor. In time to come, others will reflect on our service. How will they judge our courage.....our commitment.....our readiness?

You have to be ready to fight today and tomorrow. Keep your focus on the mission, live by our Core Values, and remember how blessed we are to live in and serve our great nation.



Gerald R. Murray
GERALD R. MURRAY

Got CCAF?**The foundation of liberty is knowledge**

**Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Ludwig
8th Fighter Wing command chief**

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFPN) — Have you ever heard the motto “the foundation of liberty is knowledge?” I hope you have, for this is the motto of the Community College of the Air Force, or CCAF.

Truer words were never spoken. Our pursuit of knowledge — along with life and work experiences — provides all that’s necessary for us to unleash our talent, better develop our Airmen, execute our missions, command the future and ensure all are safe in doing so. Your pursuit of knowledge needs to start with earning a CCAF degree.

As early as 1972, our Air Force leaders envisioned that Air Force enlisted Airmen would need improved educational programs to meet technological and leadership challenges. The result of this vision enabled CCAF to provide educational opportunities for us to combine technical training with general education course work from civilian-accredited colleges.

CCAF offers 66 degree programs in five general areas and has conferred more than 258,000 associate in applied science degrees. CCAF is the largest community college in the world and is the only community college in the Department of Defense.

Why a CCAF degree? Many of us came into the Air Force because we wanted to do something better with our lives as we serve our country. A CCAF degree enables you to do just that. A CCAF degree has value — value for you and our Air Force.

CCAF allows us an opportunity to pursue our educational goals at the same time we serve. Our Air Force has long recognized the value of the enlisted Airmen, while also recognizing the growing and more demanding technical, managerial and leadership challenges we face with every mission.

So, what can be better than CCAF? It links Air Force technical training and expertise with collegiate general education requirements. The result: a nationally recognized education program that formally prepares you for career and life.

What will happen if you don’t have a CCAF degree? Nothing. And I do mean nothing!

More than 82 percent of eligible regular Air Force enlisted Airmen are enrolled in CCAF. The Air National Guard nears 93 percent enrollment and Air Force Reserve Command has 88 percent.

Starting to feel like you’re missing something if you are not enrolled in CCAF? You are! You are limiting our Air Force

capabilities and more importantly, you are limiting yourself.

You can probably list pages of excuses as to why you haven’t enrolled in or completed your CCAF degree. Excuses don’t get the job done and tend to multiply the longer you delay. The time you invest in a CCAF education is an investment in yourself, your future and even your family.

So, how do you start this investment ... this educational journey? Put down the remote and check out the CCAF online catalog and call the base education office.

You’ve got to want to complete your education. I believe a CCAF education directly correlates to leadership and better-prepared leaders.

I encourage our senior enlisted leaders to challenge our young enlisted Airmen to have their CCAF degree complete by the end of their first enlistment, encourage our junior non-commissioned officers to complete within the next year, and for senior NCOs ... there is just no excuse not to have your CCAF.

Our Air Force promotes individuals with the potential to succeed at the next higher grade, so leave no doubt about your potential by having your CCAF degree complete.

Also, please don’t spread the “notions” among our enlisted Airmen that, “We’re not officers and don’t need a degree to get promoted” or “I didn’t need a degree to enlist.” Usually I hear this from those who just don’t want to take the time to improve and educate themselves.

Agreed, there is no degree requirement to enlist in our Air Force. However, all things being equal between two enlisted members, I’ll recommend the enlisted Airmen with their CCAF degree every time. Why? I know they are better prepared, more technically competent and have improved problem-solving skills.

Still wondering about the CCAF value for you and our Air Force? For you: better self-esteem, improved job performance, an achieved personal goal, basis for your academic future and credibility in the civilian job market. For our Air Force: a better leader, a more critical thinker and analyst and robust competence. Not only did you enhance your competence but you’ll enhance the competence of your fellow enlisted members for now you have the “smarts” to better prepare them for task and mission.

We live in a fast-paced and evolving society along with the increasing demands of our profession of arms. The secret to your success and ultimately the success of our Air Force is an education — and a CCAF education!

Got CCAF?



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
 WASHINGTON DC



Letter to Airmen: Advanced Education

To: All United States Air Force Officers

Since our birth as an Air Force in 1947, we have continually adapted and evolved - providing our Nation with the most lethal and capable force possible. The challenges of today and tomorrow demand we continue to improve. We are transforming our processes, streamlining our organizations, recapitalizing our systems and improving the capabilities of our people. These changes will ensure success in defending our Nation and her global interests.

A key component of our evolution is the more deliberate development of our most important weapon system – our Airmen. In a smaller, leaner and more expeditionary-focused Air Force, it is essential that our Airmen have the knowledge and competency to accomplish our mission. As we continue to fight this Global War on Terror, we will be conducting operations in both familiar and unfamiliar places, with both old and new friends. To succeed, our expeditionary Air Force will need all the cultural, political, and technical skills available.

One of the most effective ways to develop this knowledge is through advanced education. However, we have all seen how this intent can be misunderstood. Over time, earning a post-graduate degree deteriorated into a method to increase the likelihood of promotion. People used their education benefits and precious free time to pursue degrees that may or may not have been relevant to their

Air Force duties. So, to discourage such activity, information regarding advanced degrees was masked from central promotion boards. This had two effects. As intended, people stopped “square filling”. Unfortunately, many others stopped pursuing degrees that would have benefited themselves and the Air Force. And, we made it impossible for boards to see all that you have accomplished and your full potential.

Both of us want to encourage Airmen, not discourage them, from pursuing advanced education. Therefore, we want a change to the officer promotion process that would again provide supervisors, commanders and selection boards information on all academic degrees earned. Beginning with the calendar year 2008 central selection boards, information on all degrees earned by an officer will be available to the board. If you choose to complete an advanced degree, this timetable will give you almost two years to complete a degree before this policy is implemented.

We have the greatest Air and Space force the world has ever known. The challenges we face will demand our utmost determination, and all the intellectual “throw weight” we can muster. This policy will help ensure we are equal to the task. Together we will win the War on Terror and continue our proud heritage of defending this great Republic.


 Michael W. Wynne
 Secretary of the Air Force


 T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
 General, USAF
 Chief of Staff

Spring 2006 CCAF graduates

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Barnard	970 th AACCS	Air & Space Operations Technology
Staff Sgt. Eric Bigelow	465 th ARS	Aircrew Life Support
Tech. Sgt. Lisa Bingenheimer	513 th OSF	Education & Training Management
Staff Sgt. Micheal Campbell	35 th CBCS	Electronic Systems Technology
Master Sgt. Roger Eggers	507 th CES	Mechanical & Electrical Technology
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Hulsey	507 th ARW	Information Systems Technology
Staff Sgt. Clyde Inman	507 th SFS	Criminal Justice
Master Sgt. Jennifer Johnson	507 th SVS	Restaurant, Hotel & Fitness Management
Master Sgt. Kris Keffer	507 th CES	Construction Technology
Staff Sgt. David Lamm	465 th ARS	Aircrew Life Support
Staff Sgt. Nakisha McDaniel	507 th MDS	Health Care Management
Staff Sgt. John Murphy	507 th MXS	Survival Equipment
Tech. Sgt. Danny Simon	513 th MXS	Avionics Systems Technology
Tech. Sgt. Jay Smith	507 th CF	Electronics Systems Technology
Senior Master Sgt. Mario Starr	72 nd APS	Transportation
Tech. Sgt. Carl Steiner	513 th AMXS	Aviation Maintenance Technology



513th AMXS
Commander's Column
By Lt. Col. Dale Andrews

Can you hear me now?

It's debatable, but I believe everyone is born with a still small voice which cries out before we do something stupid or dangerous. With the advent of summer that voice gets louder and we should take heed. Summer is a time when our activities increase. We go to the lake, try camping, use power tools, and increase our risks in activities we normally don't do. How many times have you seen footage on TV of someone doing something which you know is going to hurt them or someone else? That someone can easily be you if you disregard that still small voice. Do you hear that voice when you use other than approved liquids to start a campfire? Yes, gasoline vapors do seek the lowest level and will flash back to your tent. Do you hear that voice when you play Tarzan and try to swing at the end of a rope? Yes, physics is still in affect and "crack the whip" will have new meaning after the third full revolution. Do you hear that voice when you try to exceed your body's design limits for sleep and fatigue on the way to your favorite vacation spot? Yes, guard rails, tin horns,

highway signs, and the bottom four feet of an Autocar or Mack truck will rearrange your vehicle and stop cell division in you or your love ones.

Even getting older doesn't give you a "Get Out of Jail Free" card from doing stupid or dangerous activities. If anything, we get hard of hearing and instead rely on our years of getting away with "it." But sooner or later, if we ignore that voice, each of us is destined to hear emergency room comments like, "but I've seen him or her do that a hundred times or Man, that's going to leave a mark!"

So what can we do when we hear that voice? First stop what you are doing or thinking of doing. Step back and ask yourself a few questions, what can happen if I do this? Is this safe? If I do this will it damage something? Do I have the right equipment or am I capable of doing this? Even when we have the right answers the unknown can creep into the equation. This is where YOUR seatbelts, helmets, slower speeds, protective equipment, reading the instruction manual, rest stops, A2D2, or a friend's concerns come into play.

So the next time you want to yell at your friends, "Hey ya'll, watch this!" please listen to that still small voice. Failure to do so could land you on TV, the emergency room or in a morgue. Listening will help you to have a safe summer because after all, winter activities are just around the corner.

Wear of AFRC patch mandated for BDUs and flight suits

Per AFRC/CC, effective immediately (with a mandatory wear date of Oct. 1, 2006) all AFRC unit personnel, HQ AFRC and ARPC personnel will wear the AFRC command patch on BDUs and flight suits. Mobilization Assistants, Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) and Active Guard Reservists (AGRs) assigned outside of AFRC will continue to wear the patch of the command to which they are assigned for duty.

The AFRC patch will be worn on the right breast pocket. For AFRC units, commanders may approve wear of one subdued sewn-on organizational patch on the BDU and will designate whether it is a NAF, wing

or squadron patch. If approved, the patch will be worn on the left breast pocket, centered between the left and right edges and bottom of flap and

bottom of pocket. Personnel assigned to the AOR will follow the guidance prescribed by that Combatant Command.



Patches were approved for purchase in FY 05 and most units have received their allocation. If your unit has not ordered patches, purchases need to be made to allow for distribution and wear before the end of the fiscal year. Wear guidance is included in AFI 36-2903, para. 1.1, table 1.1. AFRC supplement 1 to AFI 36-2903 will be updated to include the above wear instructions for organizational patches.

FREE COLLEGE TESTING

Air Force Reserve members, spouses and civilian employees may take DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) or College-Level Examinations Program (CLEP) or Excelsior College Examinations (ECE) FREE! (Military Only for Excelsior examinations). These examinations test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel, or hobbies. You must test at your Reserve DANTES approved test center. Testing at another DANTES test center will be on a case-by-case basis. The third Tuesday of each month at 0800 has been set aside for testing. You must call us four weeks prior to test date to ensure we will have your test. **For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte Epps in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PAY (FLPP)

Reservists may apply for FLPP by submitting a written request for FLPP testing to his/her commander. FLPP I requires you to be on a tour of duty that requires the language. FLPP II will pay based on active duty days or IDT periods performed. Spanish and Tagalog speakers are not entitled to FLPP II. If you are proficient at a foreign language and are interested in this program please contact Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte Epps or Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman in the MPF Education Office at 734-7075 for instructions on how to apply for FLPP.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Reserve members are eligible to apply for TA for Distance Learning and In-Residence courses to further their education up to a Master's Degree.

The basic enrollment requirements are that you must:

Be a participating member in good standing (no UIF, Article 15, etc.).

Retainability: Officers - two years; Enlisted - ETS after course completion.

Enrollment form must show course number/title, credit hours and cost of tuition.

Complete TA forms in our office PRIOR to class start date.

Payment occurs after satisfactory course completion. **You must provide a paid receipt and your grade NLT 60 days after course completion.** TA reimbursement amounts are set at 75 percent (\$4500) per FY (Masters) or 100 percent (\$4500) per FY (Bachelors). **For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte Epps or Ms. Kim Silkwood in the MPF Education and Training Office at 734-7075.**

AFRC NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The success of the Air Force Reserve NCO corps depends on their ability to apply leadership and management skills learned primarily in a civilian setting to a military environment. Not all of today's mid-level NCOs have extensive first-hand supervisory experience in a reserve environment; therefore, the instruction in this course is intended to improve the students' military supervisor capabilities and understanding of their positions as related to the USAFR. We focus on individual improvement which is ultimately the real source of organizational excellence and success. **See your unit training manager for more information. NEXT CLASS: July 24 - Aug. 4, 2006.**

FAMILY CARE

If you need to be on the Family Care Plan, notify your first sergeant ASAP - IAW AFI 36-2908. Single parents and dual military couples with children must have a Family Care Plan completed within 90 days of in-processing or family status change.

VIRTUAL MPF

- 1. Address Changes** - You no longer have to go to 4 different screens/areas to update your address!!!
- 2. Point Summaries** - Point Summaries can also be viewed and printed.
- 3. Record Review RIPS** - You will now be notified via e-mail, on your birthday, to log on to vMPF to review your RIP.
- 4. Awards and decorations** - You can also get a picture display of your awards and decorations.

HOT TOPICS :

All testing (paper and computer) must be scheduled by sending an e-mail to Kimberley.Silkwood@tinker.af.mil with the time and date that you would like to test and include the course number.

Paper testing on the UTA is only available at 0750 on Sunday of the main UTA and is in Bldg. 1030 (Hangar) Room 214.

Computer-based testing on the UTA is available on Saturday and Sunday at 0800 and 1300 in Bldg. 1030 (Hangar) in Room 214.

Please schedule all tests NLT 1500 on Friday before the UTA. If you are unable to keep the scheduled time please e-mail Ms. Silkwood or call 734-7075 prior to scheduled testing time.

All testing is also available on Tuesdays at 0800, Wednesdays at 0800 and 1300 and Thursdays at 1300.

NOTE: If you are retaking a test, you must bring the authorization letter with you or you will not be allowed to test.

EDUCATION REMINDER:

This is just to remind everyone who wishes to update their Education Records, officer and enlisted, that we need OFFICIAL transcripts to send or accomplish any updates. This means that it CANNOT say "ISSUED TO STUDENT." You may have the college/university send it, we can request it, or you may bring it in as long as it is in a sealed envelope with a SEAL on the flap AND it does not say "ISSUED TO STUDENT."

Pass and ID Hours of Operation: 0800 - 1200 on Saturdays of the UTA.

IEU open from 1200-1500 on Saturday of the main UTA.

Nomination packages for AMN, NCO, or SNCO of the quarter are submitted quarterly. Packages are due by 1400, on Saturday of the UTA after the end of the quarter. (Apr, Jul, Oct, Jan)

FY2006 UTA SCHEDULE

05-06 Aug 06	09-10 Sep 06
14-15 Oct 06	04-05 Nov 06
02-03 Dec 06	06-07 Jan 07
03-04 Feb 07	03-04 Mar 07
14-15 Apr 07	05-06 May 07

As of 23 June 2006

JUNE/JULY TRAINING PLANNER

Fri, 7 July 2006

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room
 1430 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Sat, 8 July 2006

Unit Designated Sign In **Unit Designated**
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203
0800-1530 MPF/Customer Service Section Open
 0830-0900 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1000-1100 Wing Change of Command Bldg 1030
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined
1300, by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I **Bldg 1030, Room 214**
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room
 1300-1400 Wg. Career Advisor Trng Wg Commander's office
 1300-1400 Wg. Career Advisor Trng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out **Unit Designated**

Sun, 9 July 2006

Unit Designated Sign In **Unit Designated**
 0730-0930 **MPF Closed for In-House Tng**Bldg 1043, Rm 203, 213
 0730-0800 **Protestant Chapel Service** **513th ACG Auditorium**
 0730-0800 **Catholic Mass** **Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm**
0750- by appt CDC testing
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room
 0800-1030 Hazcomm for supervisors Bldg 1030, Room 104
0800-1500 MPF/customer service section open
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
1300, by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1600 First Duty Station **Bldg 1030, Room 214**
1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro To Be Determined
Unit Designated Sign Out **Unit Designated**

Fri, 4 Aug 2006

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1043, Wg Conf Room
 1430 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1043, Wg Conf Room
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room

Sat, 5 Aug 2006

Unit Designated Sign In **Unit Designated**
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203
0800-1530 MPF/Customer Service Section Open
 0830-0900 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined
1300, by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I **Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room**
 1300-1400 Adverse Actions Mtg Wg Commander's office
 1300-1400 Wg. Career Advisor Trng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1400-1500 Training Managers Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Room
Unit Designated Sign Out **Unit Designated**

Sun, 6 Aug 2006

Unit Designated Sign In **Unit Designated**
 0730-0930 **MPF Closed for In-House Tng**Bldg 1043, Rm 203, 213
 0730-0800 **Protestant Chapel Service** **513th ACG Auditorium**
 0730-0800 **Catholic Mass** **Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm**
0750- by appt CDC testing
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1043, Wing Trng Room
 0800-1030 Unit safety rep training Bldg 1030, Room 104
0800-1500 MPF/customer service section open
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
1300, by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1600 First Duty Station **Bldg 1030, Room 214**
1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro To Be Determined
Unit Designated Sign Out **Unit Designated**

OCCUPATIONAL SURVEYS

These surveys provide information essential for developing personnel programs, classifying occupations, and developing training programs. The Wing Survey Control Monitor (SCM) works with the Unit Training Manager (UTM) to ensure surveys are completed. AFI 36-2623, paragraph 2.7 makes completion of these surveys mandatory for all Air Force Reserve members. It is extremely important these surveys are completed by the suspense date. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Kim Silkwood or Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hudson at 734-7075 or your UTM.

Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted monthly in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room in basement. Unit/Ancillary Training Managers are responsible for ensuring their new personnel are scheduled to attend within 90 days of their first UTA. If you have questions, contact the MPF Education & Training Office at 734-7075.

Day	Time	Subject	OPR
Phase I			
Saturday	1305-1315	Wing Lodging Program	SVF
Saturday	1315-1345	Information Assurance	CF
Saturday	1345-1445	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Saturday	1445-1515	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Saturday	1515-1545	OPSEC Training	OG
Phase II			
Sunday	0800-0815	Base Populace	CEX
Sunday	0815-0830	IG Briefing	IG
Sunday	0830-1000	UCMJ/Ethics	JA
Sunday	1000-1030	Counter Intel/Awareness	SF
Sunday	1030-1100	Human Relations	ME
Sunday	1300-1600	First Duty Station	ME

UCMJ Briefing:

All enlisted personnel are required to have the UCMJ briefing within two UTAs of their first reenlistment. This briefing is held during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room.

Ethics Briefing:

All reserve personnel are required to have the DOD Ethics Briefing within 90 days of reporting for duty. This briefing is held in conjunction with the UCMJ briefing during Phase II of the monthly Newcomers Ancillary Training at 0830 on Sunday of the UTA in Bldg 1043, Wing Training Room.

Disaster Preparedness:

Unit Training Managers must schedule Chemical Warfare Training, by name, at least one UTA prior to the requested dates by calling CEX at 734-5249. All personnel must bring a complete training ground crew ensemble (GCE) including the mask and its hood to all classes. Those attending Initial must be prepared to process through a tear agent chamber. Wear of contacts is prohibited in all classes. Anyone arriving late, without a complete GCE with mask, or wearing contacts, will be released back to their unit and reported as a no-show.

Drug Testing: You must report within two hours of notification.

Military Pay

File for pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
------------------	----------------------------

03 Jul	12 Jul
06 Jul	14 Jul
11 Jul	17 Jul
13 Jul	21 Jul
18 Jul	26 Jul
20 Jul	28 Jul
24 Jul	01 Aug
27 Jul	04 Aug
01 Aug	09 Aug
03 Aug	11 Aug
08 Aug	15 Aug
10 Aug	18 Aug
15 Aug	23 Aug

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is: Then Forward Listing to Commander in: Recertification due by end of month in:

1	November	January
2	December	February
3	January	March
4	February	April
5	March	May
6	April	June
7	May	July
8	June	August
9	July	September
0	August	October

If you need assistance or have suggestions on how we can improve our service to you, please call us at (405) 734-7075, or stop by our office in Building 1043, Room 213.

Editor:	Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte A. Epps, Chief, Education & Training (ART)
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Medical News**Bites, stings and poisonous things**

Ouch! Another bug just got me! Welcome to summer. With the onset of warm, sunny days many of the “critters” we share our planet with will be waking up, flying, or crawling about, looking for another meal. Oklahoma is full of these creatures!

This article will focus on the bites and stings from common insects, spiders, and reptiles found in Oklahoma. We’ll look at the order Hymenoptera, that is, wasps, bees, and stinging ants. We’ll discuss spider bites and those “bites” everyone thinks are spider bites, but that aren’t bites at all. And, we can’t miss the opportunity to talk about those “Big Bad Guys” of the Oklahoma brush – poisonous snakes.

Wasps, bees and stinging ants, all members of the order Hymenoptera, can produce a local or generalized reaction when your skin meets up with one of these little guys. A local reaction consists of swelling and pain at the location of the sting. Neighboring joints may also be sore. Severe local reactions increase the risk of the more severe generalized reaction the next time a bite or sting occurs. Generalized reactions or true allergic reactions can range from mild symptoms to severe anaphylactic shock. The shorter the time from sting to symptoms, the more severe the reaction will likely be. Initial symptoms may be mild such as itchy eyes or urticaria (hives or welts). As the reaction progresses, cough, wheezing, respiratory distress and cardiovascular collapse may ensue. Some people may experience delayed reactions up to two weeks after the sting including malaise, fever and joint pains.

Here’s what to do if you should get stung. First, remove any embedded stingers ASAP! Wash the area with soap and water. You may apply a cool compress over the sting for comfort. Antihistamines

such as Benadryl and analgesics like ibuprophen or acetaminophen are all that are needed to control local pain and swelling. The local reaction should subside within hours to a day or two.

Multiple stings or stings which produce shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, lightheadedness, confusion or disorientation require immediate medical care. Call 911! Don’t try to drive yourself to the hospital. Epinephrine in a 1:1000 dilution injected subcutaneously or intramuscularly is the initial treatment of choice. If you have a history of severe allergic reactions to stings, your doctor may prescribe a type of epinephrine auto-injector (i.e. Epi-Pen) to carry with you. If you need to use this, you should still seek emergent medical attention because delayed reactions may occur. Other emergency treatments can include steroids, H1 blockers (Benadryl) and H2 blockers (Zantac) given intravenously to help thwart the allergic reaction. The emergency physician will determine if you need these.

Spider bites, too, can become swollen and painful and may cause localized tissue destruction. They may also cause the above described allergic reactions. However, most spider bite therapy is local pain relief, with antihistamines, and analgesics. Also, tetanus shots updated are important.

Black widow spider envenomations are the exception. They may produce generalized muscle spasm with severe pain. The abdominal pain from one of these can easily be mistaken for appendicitis! Potent muscle relaxants and intravenous calcium can be given to provide relief. There is even a Black widow antivenin which is given only in the most severe cases. Because it is derived from horse serum, it too can lead to serious allergic reactions!

Some “spider bites” may present as

507th Medical Squadron at YOUR Service

by Lt. Col. James L. Johnson

a spontaneous warm, tender, red “sore” on any area of skin. Most of these are not spider bites at all but are local infections that generally are caused by a new resistant strain of bacteria called MRSA (pronounced mer’ sah). This bacterium is now sweeping the country. If you think you have one of these, see your doctor for correct antibiotic therapy.

Lastly, a word about crotalids (pit vipers). These are the all too common poisonous snakes found in most areas of Oklahoma. This family includes copperheads, water moccasins, and rattlesnakes.

The effect of the bite depends on the size and type of snake. In fact, many of a poisonous snake’s defensive bites (i.e. when disturbed) are dry bites. A pit viper bite does three things: (1) causes local tissue destruction; (2) decreases blood clotting functions; (3) causes severe systemic reactions and shock.

If you are bitten by a poisonous snake **remain calm!** More people have died in reckless driving accidents getting to the hospital than from the bite itself! But, still, you do need immediate medical attention and possibly the new specific antivenin. Call 911 for assistance! Try to immobilize the bitten extremity below the level of the heart **DO NOT** cut or suck on the bite as seen in the movies! **DO NOT** apply a tourniquet! Most snake bites, properly treated, will result in little or no permanent disability.

Now that you know a little about bites, stings, and poisonous things, go out there and have a safe summer! Be wary, be careful, and always keep up that situational awareness!

Communicators host command exercise

**By Lt. Col. Richard Curry
507th ARW Public Affairs**

Air Force Reserve communications specialists from across the country and one as far away as Ramstein AB, Germany, came to Tinker Air Force Base June 5-18 to participate in JUMP START 06 TRAINING.

The AFRC-sponsored training was hosted by the 35th Combat Communications Squadron at the Glenwood training area in Midwest City.

JUMP START training provides specialized hands-on training for communicators through realistic scenarios involving setting up tents and equipment and then training on the equipment they would be supporting in the field. The 35th Combat Communications Squadron proved to be an ideal host for the training.

“A major challenge to people in the communications field is to remain proficient in an ever increasing range of equipment. Our field is constantly

changing as new technologies evolve. A lot of the equipment owned by the 35th CBCS is very expensive and not every unit has the equipment we do. For some of the Airmen attending this training, this may be the first time they’ve operated equipment that they’ve only been able to read about in technical manuals,” said Lt. Col. Pete Peterson, 35th Combat Communications Squadron commander.

It’s because of equipment expense and changing technologies that AFRC began the JUMP START program in 2005. This is the second year in which AFRC has sponsored this training and the first hosted by the 35th CBCS.

“By bringing reservists to the equipment to train and refine their abilities, they build confidence in themselves and we can certify that training. Every time we host a JUMP START, we’re improving the overall readiness of the communications field throughout the command,” Colonel Peterson said.



Senior Airman Phillip Hess, standing, 35th CBCS, helps a student install a hard drive in a driver.



Staff Sgt. Mark Chase, 35th CBCS, instructs trainees from various units during computer operations training held at the Glenwood training area in June.

(Air Force Photos courtesy of Eddie Edge of the Base Photo Lab)

For the approximately 34 Airmen, both officer and enlisted, attending the first week involved classroom academics covering networking processes, equipment setup, and to study operating systems firsthand while completing a series of troubleshooting activities. Advances and new procedures in systems integration were discussed and practiced. Members also practiced with support equipment such as generators, cooling systems and tent construction.

The second week involved practicing what they had learned while operating under a realistic field training scenario.

“I believe everyone attending walked away from this event with a better understanding of the systems they would operate in the field and a stronger confidence in their ability to get the job done,” Colonel Peterson said.



(Photo by 128th Multimedia)

Survival Recovery Center members sweat the situation.

**By Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida
Public Affairs Office**

Confronting angry protestors at the main gate; conducting an area sweep in MOPP IV gear as part of a post-attack recon (PAR) team; providing buddy care for a realistically moulaged victim -- these were a few of the

heated situations participants of the ORE encountered.

Yes, just as Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, promised during his April Commander's Call, "you will be stressed and sleep deprived."

For over a year, all members of the the Wing were told to reserve May 21-28 for the ORE -- a chance to exercise war skills, learn, and later incorporate lessons learned in preparation for the Operational Readiness Inspection next year.

Over 400 members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing were flown to the Combat Readiness Training Center, Volk Field, Wisc., to participate in Readiness Safeguard, an Operational Readiness Exercise that tested their mettle.

FEEL THE HEAT

The ORE scenario had escalating troubles in the Middle East bring the members of the 507th ARW to Al Balad AB, Iraq. As General Despinoy warned and Wing members experienced, "you will feel in a wartime environment from the minute you step off the aircraft."

General Despinoy, a 'white cap' at the ORE, joined CRTCC cadre team members serving as instructors, evaluators, 'role' players, and support staff.

"The CRTCC cadre will get you wrapped up in scenarios," warned



Senior Airman Alexandria Cowdrey, 507th MDS, ready to embark on her ORE adventure.

(Photo by Capt. Bill Pierce)



Sirens sound - enemy on base.

(Photo by 128th Multimedia)



Flames flare up during simulated aircraft crash.

(Photo by 128th Multimedia)

General Despinoy back in April, “sheik sensitivities to handle, flightline under attack, CE rapid runway repair, security.”

The first two days after arriving at the CRTC were used to set up work areas and attend Warskills Training classes on subjects such as self aid and buddy care, shelter management and post attack reconnaissance team operations, entry control point challenge and search procedures for security forces augmentees, Air Force counter-chemical warfare concept of operations overview.

The ‘war’ scenarios began on Day 3. Participants were there to immerse themselves fully -- intellectually and emotionally, to live the scenarios, and execute with a sense of urgency. The heat was on.



A buddy needs urgent care.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Stiers)

Personnel accountability during a crisis

**By Col. Paul W. Kirby
Acting Director of Manpower
and Personnel**

During a period of a National Emergency or Natural Disaster, knowing the status of our people is a top priority. During hurricane season, we generally focus our primary attention on the coastal regions, however, recent significant weather events across the heartland remind us that we must also prepare for major events that can occur anywhere and at anytime.

It is important that every member of the Air Force Reserve be reminded of their individual responsibilities to keep contact information up-to-date and to know the pertinent contact numbers at their unit/NAF in the event they are involved in a catastrophic event. Each reservist must ensure their emergency data is up-to-date as well as data on their

family members. Home address, e-mail address, and all phone numbers to include home, work and cell must be current. The primary way to accomplish this task is through the Virtual MPF. Updates are simple and only take a few minutes but pay great dividends during a crisis.

Personnel must be fully aware of the following three-tiered approach for displaced personnel to contact their leadership and keep them informed of their whereabouts and account for their family members (as applicable).

- Initial contact should be to their assigned Unit Control Center (UCC) once they arrive at their evacuation location (if applicable).

- If the member is unable to contact the UCC, they should try to contact their supervisor.

- In the event that all of the previous attempts are unsuccessful, in-

dividuals should contact their Numbered Air Force (NAF) Crisis Action Team (CAT) at the following numbers:

- 4th AF personnel: call commercial (951) 655-3572 or DSN 447-3572

- 10th AF personnel: call commercial (817) 782-3079 or DSN 739-3079

- 22nd AF personnel: call commercial (678) 655-4775/3156 or DSN 625-4775/3156.

Please help our reservists maintain a realistic and actionable evacuation plan in anticipation of either a natural disaster or national crisis. Generally speaking, accountability is associated with tracking our military personnel but the scope is much wider. The key is being prepared not only to track our military but we also must have the capability to account for family members and DoD civilians.

VA data theft; Airmen may check status on AFPC Web site

A Veterans Administration laptop was stolen in May from the home of an employee that contained over 26 million names and Privacy Act information of active duty, retirees, etc.

All active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen can check the Spotlight area on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site (<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>) to see if their personal data was compromised in the Veterans Administration data theft.

This Air Force site also tells if your information was on the stolen VA laptop: <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/checker/>

For the latest information on this issue and for more information on how to protect against identity theft, visit the veteran information area of the U.S. Government's official Web portal (www.firstgov.gov) or call (800) 333-4636.

Applications available on Foreign Language Proficiency Pay

Reservists may apply for Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) by submitting a written request for FLPP testing to his/her commander. FLPP I requires you to be on a tour of duty that requires the language. FLPP II will pay based on active duty days or IDT periods performed. Spanish and Tagalog speakers are not entitled to FLPP II.

If you are proficient at a foreign language and are interested in this program please contact Chief Master Sgt. Sharlotte Epps or Master Sgt. Sharon Lochman in the MPF Education office at 734-7075 for instructions on how to apply for FLPP.

Free Theme Park single-day admission continues

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place or Adventure Island for the service member and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. Any active duty, active reserve or ready reserve service member is entitled to free admission under the program. Anheuser-Busch operates nine U.S. theme parks.

For a complete listing and information on how to obtain your free tickets, log onto: www.herosalute.com.



News from 'the shirt'

Aircraft maintainers are unsung heroes

I am proud and grateful to have the opportunity to be the First Sergeant for the best Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in the Air Force. My job is to help people and every member of the Air Force is my Business. I dedicate my time and energy to their needs, health, morale, discipline and welfare. But I am ecstatic and honored to part of the 507th Maintainers who are truly the unsung hero's of the Air Force. Few of us understand the dedication needed and sacrifices that must be made to be an Aircraft Maintainer.

These men and women are the tip of the war spear or some say the backbone of the Air Force. The Air Force entrusts them with multi-million dollar aircraft and the flight crews entrust them with their lives and well-being. Mission accomplishments and safety hang in the balance every time an aircraft leaves the runway and all the maintainers are well aware of the enormous responsibility and pressures that must be endured. Maintainers identify and analyze all facets of maintenance problems with the Stratotanker. Crew Chiefs oversee all maintenance performed on the KC-135 with periodic inspections, scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. This is instrumental in ensuring the gas is deliv-

ered at the right time and place with a safe and reliable aircraft, No One Kicks Ass Without Tanker Gas.

I have observed maintainers hauling 50 pound toolboxes up and down the air stairs in 100-plus degree heat or when skin damaging freeze warnings were announced on the flight line and they were still keeping a smile on their faces and not having any complaints. Crew Chiefs know that preventing mechanical failures is all about hard work, continuous inspections and detailed maintenance combined with individual diligence and dedication. Like surgeon's maintainers go about their procedures with everything being documented, rechecked, and inspected while being accountable for everything that was used or needed for the job. We do not close or slow down, nor do we have the luxury to stop for training or squadron functions. Even during Family Day, we have static displays that must be set up and made safe. Maintainers are well aware that the job comes with very little fanfare, but in every maintainer's heart he or she knows his self-sacrifice is for honor and country.

What does it take to be an average Mechanic with the AMXS? You must possess precision and consistency in everything you do, while having nerves of



Master Sgt. Walter Simco
507th AMXS First Sergeant

steel and being cool under pressure. A mechanic's work is dangerous, demanding, and dirty with long hours being the norm. Every crew chief that is on the flight line has literally given his or her blood to the mission. Since the days of the Red Baron and Sopwith Camels, the maintainers have remained glory free but still live the dream that it does not happen without them.

Next time you have the opportunity to come into contact with one of these maintainers, show them the respect and thanks that they deserve. Because of the efforts and commitment made by maintainers, they enable us all to live in freedom.

Plans underway for September Family Day

Family Day will be held on Saturday of the September UTA. We will hold the event at the 38th Engineering Installation Group area east of the base off 59th Street, with all 507th units participating in this area.

Ticket sales will begin this month, with a discount price offered until the end of the August UTA. Tickets sold after that will be available for a slightly higher price. "We encourage everyone to buy their tickets early so the planning committee will know how much food to buy and so there will be enough food for everyone," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Tytanic. In years past, as much as 25 percent of the tickets were sold an hour before lunch.

Various units will have fundraising activities and booths. The Operation Holiday Spirit committee will also be selling advance, discounted tickets for the annual Steak Dinner, held in December each year, at their booth.

The EIG area has a playground, two sand volleyball courts, a softball field, a basketball court, two horseshoe pits, and lots of picnic tables and chairs. Activities also include a dunk tank, moonwalk for the kids, bench-

press competition, and several tent activities. In September, the weather can still be very hot, so plan to stay cool and be safe. Sunscreen, lots of liquids, lawn chairs and blankets are a must for an enjoyable day.

**September UTA
changed to 16-17**

New service dress prototypes pique interest

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Based on feedback received during visits with Airmen across the Air Force, the Uniform Board is reviewing several concepts that Airmen have suggested regarding the appearance of the service dress uniform.

Some of the informal feedback about the current service dress includes Airmen wanting to revamp the service dress to look more military, like the other services. One senior airman said, “the current uniform resembles a cheesy business suit,” and another described it as a “cheap leisure suit.”

Other comments have suggested that the uniform needs to reflect the Air Force’s history more. On an Internet message board an Airman recently wrote, “I want to look good and be proud of my AF heritage.” Another Airman wrote that the dress uniform pales in comparison to any of the other services. “We need something that distinguishes us as proud mem-

bers of the U.S. military.”

The Air Force began exploring these ideas by producing several prototypes that reflect a combination of ideas that have been gleaned from comments, suggestions and informal surveys conducted over the past several years.

A more formal survey soon will provide additional opportunities for Airmen to provide feedback and comments.

“We’ve been getting informal feedback on our current service dress uniform for several years, and what we consistently have heard from many Airmen is a desire for a more ‘military,’ and less ‘corporate’ look and feel, something more reflective of the Air Force’s heritage, and its role as a professional military organization,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, director of Airman development and sustainment, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

“The Uniform Board has come up with some options to explore these concepts and the initial prototypes are direct descendants of our heritage, rooted in Hap Arnold and Billy Mitchell’s Air Force,” General Allardice said.

The survey will provide a more formal opportunity to collect feedback on whether or not Airmen want a new service dress, and if so, what changes, likes, or dislikes they have about the prototypes.

“We believe we need to respond to the force and the constant flow of feedback we

receive on the service dress is driving this initiative.

We see this as an opportunity to do so, along with a chance to reflect on our rich history, as well as the image we wish to portray in uniform,” said General Allardice. “We want to make sure our uniforms, all combinations, meet our current and future needs.”

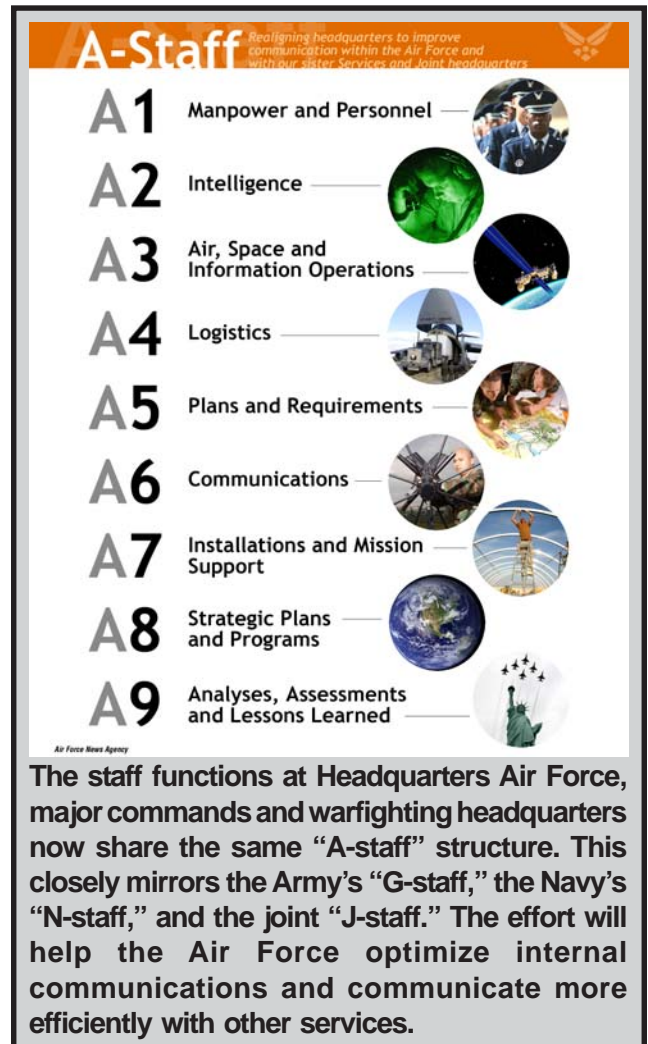
This process will use the standard Air Force Uniform Board process and as with the Airman’s Battle Uniform, Airmen are encouraged to take the opportunity to directly contribute to how their new service uniform might look.

The Air Force will present options based on feedback received on possible designs through the uniform board process.



Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice and Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos show off prototypes of the Billy Mitchell heritage coat in the Pentagon on Monday, May 15, 2006. General Allardice is director of Airman development and sustainment and Sergeant Athnos is a member of the Air Force Uniform Board.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez)



The staff functions at Headquarters Air Force, major commands and warfighting headquarters now share the same “A-staff” structure. This closely mirrors the Army’s “G-staff,” the Navy’s “N-staff,” and the joint “J-staff.” The effort will help the Air Force optimize internal communications and communicate more efficiently with other services.

UNIT RETIREMENTS



Chief Master Sgt. George Romasz, 507th Maintenance Group, retired June 4th with 33 years service. Romasz, right, and Lt. Col. James McDonnell, 507th Maintenance Group commander, display his Meritorious Service Medal certificate. He spent his entire career within the 507th maintenance arena.



Master Sgt. Donna Heflin, 507th Maintenance Operations Flight, retired last month with more than 20 years military service. Heflin, with Capt. Frank Monaco, 507th MOF commander, display her MSM certificate. She was dual-qualified in the supply and information management career fields.



Tech. Sgt. Joseph Guthrie, 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, held his retirement ceremony on May 19th. He retired with 17 years military service. Guthrie and Capt. Phil Hathcock, chief of Military Personnel Flight, display his Air Force Commendation Medal certificate. He spent three years with the 507th Transportation Division.

Tech. Sgt. Charles Lovell, a Supply Technician in the 507th Logistics Readiness Squadron, retired June 3rd with 25 years service. Lovell, right, and Master Sgt. Cindy New, display the American flag presented during the ceremony. Lovell joined the Air Force in November 1973 and worked several tours in Life Support. He joined the 507th as a Supply Management Specialist in March 1998.



Uprclose

By Capt. Bill Pierce

The following question was asked of 507th ARW members:
“Brig. Gen. Dean Despinoy is PCSing this month. Would you like to send a farewell message to him?”



**Senior Master Sgt. Joe Wade
507th CES**

“General Despinoy, thank you for your special interest in wing facilities. Over the past four and one-half years the campus facilities and quality of life have improved dramatically. Good luck!”



**Capt. Ben Yoder
465th ARS**

“It has been an honor flying with you and serving in your command. Personally, I appreciate your steadfast approach to troop well-being. Your mentorship will leave lasting results.”



**Senior Master Sgt. Bob Legg
507th AMXS**

“General Despinoy, thank you for helping to ensure the 507th ARW has a continued viable mission. Best wishes at Grissom!”



**Staff Sgt. Ron Davis
465th ARS**

“It has been a great pleasure to fly with Brig. Gen. Despinoy and we here at the “OKIES” will miss you.”



**Master Sgt. Treva Ragland
507th CES**

“General Despinoy, thank you for making training No. 1. That really helps us training managers in prioritizing our training program and making our troops’ training excuses go away. God Bless you always.”



**Oklahoma City
Memorial Marathon**

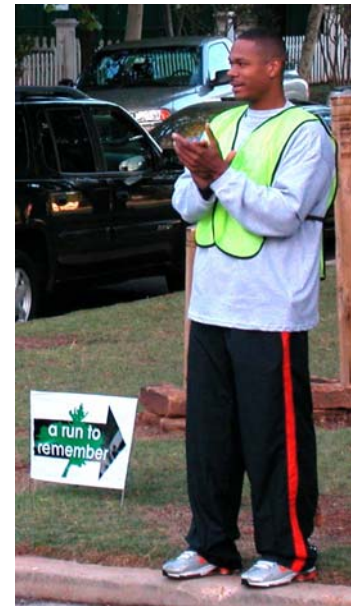
**Reserve volunteers
'marshal' 2-mile
stretch of 'A Run
to Remember'**

Tech. Sgt. Christa Duker, 507th CF, directs the two race leaders at the 5.5 mile mark. Unit members marshaled miles 5 through 7.

(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Ty Yoshida)



Runners charge down Harvey Pkwy during OKC Memorial Marathon April 30.



Capt. Jermaine Boyd, 465th ARS, encourages the marathoners.



Senior Airman Nakisia McDaniel, 507th Medical Squadron, reviews a map of the marathon route on the eve of 'A Run to Remember.'



Master Sgt. Takesha Williams, 507th OSF, gives instructions on the eve of the marathon. She led the Reserves' volunteer efforts.



Senior Airman Sarah Suppes, 507th Command Post, stands ready for the runners.

35th CBCS member wins AFRC award

Recently promoted Master Sgt. Michael Meek, a member of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron, is the 2005 Air Force Reserve Command winner of the Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award in the category of Communications-Electronics Maintenance.



Master Sgt. Michael Meek

for his performance, job knowledge, job efficiency and results in the categories of aircraft, munitions/missile, and communications-electronics maintenance.

Director of Communications and Information at 4th Air Force, Lt. Col. Ted Dimitt, had this to say

about Master Sgt. Meek's recognition: "This reflects, not only on the skills and professionalism of Tech. Sgt. Meek, but our Air Force core values that are a part of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron."

Among his many accomplishments, Sergeant Meek led the Maintenance Section during a 4th Air Force Staff Assistance Visit in February 2005, resulting in a 4th Air Force Inspector commenting that the "35th CBCS maintenance activity is the best seen to date within 4th AF."

Sergeant Meek supervises a five-person crew and is considered the best at what he does by his commander, Lt. Col. Pete Peterson. "No one I trust more to ensure combat readiness for my combat communications organization."

Members of the 35th CBCS can be rapidly deployed anywhere in the world to set up, from scratch, a theatre air base to include satellite communications, telephone switching bands, and base computer networks. They can perform setup, operation, and maintenance of voice and data communications systems essential to wing operations to include all manner of radio, telephones, teletype, and computer systems.

On-final

R-News

Physical Training Uniform

Starting June 10, the only approved PT uniform for Air Force members deploying to or traveling in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility will be the official Air Force PT uniform.

The wear of civilian PT gear will no longer be allowed at CENTCOM locations. This requirement will apply to any Air Force member transiting the AOR to include transient aircrew members. Airmen having difficulty obtaining the uniform can order it through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site, according to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command A1 manpower and personnel officials.

Upcoming blood drives

The next campus blood drive will be held Sunday of the August UTA from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A blood drive will also be held in November (Saturday, 4th). Other dates are Jan. 7, 2007; March 4, 2007; May 6, 2007; July 15, 2007; and Sept. 9, 2007. All of the blood drives are scheduled for Sunday except the November 2006 drive.

NEWS / INFORMATION / FAMILY READINESS

**507th ARW
and
513th ACG**

TINKER AFB
OKLAHOMA

www.507arw.afrc.af.mil

507th ARW Recruiters

<http://get1now.us>

Tinker AFB, OK

(In-Service Recruiter)
Master Sgt. Gene Higgins
(405) 739-2980



Moore, Norman, OK

Tech. Sgt. Michael Comfort
(405) 217-8311

Midwest City, OK

Master Sgt. Carla Lang (405) 733-9403
Staff Sgt. Neil Lambrecht (405) 732-6279

Tulsa, OK

Master Sgt. Monica Basye
(918) 250-3400

Lawton, OK

Tech. Sgt. Ronald Gregory (580) 357-2784

McConnell AFB, KS

Master Sgt. David McCormick
(In-Service Recruiter)
(316) 759-3766
Staff Sgt. Ron Todd
(316) 681-2522

Vance AFB, OK

Master Sgt. David McCormick (316) 759-3766