

On-final



U.S. AIR FORCE

507th Air Refueling Wing - 513th Air Control Group

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

DECEMBER 2008 Vol. 28, No. 12



2008 Billy Hughes Award winners

Senior Noncommissioned Officer:

Master Sgt. Michael Hapgood

72nd Aerial Port Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer:

Staff Sgt. Phillip Balson

35th Combat Communications Squadron

Airman:

Senior Airman Casey M. Pearson

507th Security Forces Squadron



507th ARW
Commander's Column
By Col. Jeffery R. Glass

Holiday Greetings

Let's take some extra time this Holiday Season to thank your families and employers for their support of your reserve commitments. Without this critical support, none of us would be able to continue as reservists. In the past year, over 600 of you have deployed in support of AEF, home station, and CONUS tours. All of you were able to do this with your outside support system, both at home and in your jobs.

We (the Reserve) need each of you to tell our story. Most of the active duty personnel here at Tinker honestly

think that we only work two days a month. I actually met a man downtown that did not realize that the Air Force, let alone the Air Force Reserve, was deployed in support of OIF and OEF. We are busy at home and on the road and need to get that word out.

The Holiday Season also comes with a change in the weather. Please allow yourself plenty of extra time to travel. Tinker will publish the base status during inclement weather with all of the local TV and radio stations. For some of you that show earlier than 7:30 a.m., you will need to check the Tinker web site; the base status will be immediately updated there.

Many of us will be enjoying holiday cheer at numerous parties. Remember if you drink, have a designated driver. Remember to be safe and think ORM in all we do.

Lastly, let Kim and I wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. We want to see everyone back after New Years.

Air Force Reserve commander shares holiday wishes

By Lt. Gen.
Charles E. Stenner Jr.
Commander, Air Force Reserve
Command

WASHINGTON – As we look forward to this Holiday Season and the start of 2009, I want to express my gratitude to each of you, your families and

employers for the sacrifices you make for our great country each and every day.

Much has been asked and each reservist and family member has given of themselves for their country. You've stepped up to the challenge smartly, without hesitation.

For those who are able to celebrate this Holiday Season with friends and family at home, I ask that you remember our brave men and women who are serving around the world far from family and friends.

About 2,000 of our Air Force Reserve warriors are serving overseas with incredible distinction in global operations every day by saving lives and thwarting terrorism. The entire Air Force Reserve family has you in our hearts and looks forward to your safe return.

The holiday season

provides an opportunity to remind us all to set aside time for friends and family who share and support those sacrifices.

Dee and I wish you and your families the very best this Holiday Season and for 2009! (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Happy Holidays!



God holds the future in his hands

by Chaplain, Lt. Col. Mike Jones
507th ARW Chaplain Office

As I write this article I'm sitting by myself in a hospital waiting room. My wife is in to have a biopsy done on a suspicious mass that showed up during her annual mammogram and then again in a follow-up exam.

Much earlier this morning I woke up thinking about the future and just what today might bring. It's not that I'm terribly worried, for I believe God holds the future in his hands. I believe that no matter what comes, God will walk with us through it. But still, I wonder. What if?

I am very mindful that members of our wing have experienced great losses this year. Some of you have had to endure family tragedies, illnesses, even divorce. Still others of you have deployed to far-away countries in the midst of a bloody war...and seen things no human being ought to have to see.

Yet as I sit here waiting, I feel a sense of peace within me. I know that our future, my wife's and mine, are secure in the hands of God. Secure because of the birth of a special child long ago. And I wish for you that same peace. A peace that comes from knowing you have not only put your life in God's hands, but also your future. That is why I celebrate Christmas.

PS: The test results came back negative — no cancer.

November Promotions

Name	Unit	Promoted to
Brandon Leland Wells	72nd APS	Staff Sgt
Bradley Pickens	72nd APS	Tech Sgt
Matthew Garrison	507th AMXS	Tech Sgt
Henri Gipson	507th CES	Staff Sgt
Christopher Simons	513th MXS	Staff Sgt
Brian Lee Davie	970th AACs	Master Sgt
Sandra P. Sharp	970th AACs	Tech Sgt
Jeffrey R. Tucker	970th AACs	Staff Sgt
Paul Straily	513th AMXS	Airman First Class
Michael Moore	72nd APS	Senior Airman
Christopher Columbus	72nd APS	Senior Airman
Paul LaFleur	507th ARW	Master Sgt
Alexandra Calderon	507th ARW	Senior Airman
Andrew Guinn	513th MXS	Staff Sgt
Jeffery Hicks	507th MXS	Senior Master Sgt
Jeremy Salls	507th MDS	Tech Sgt

December Promotions

Nicole Anderson	507th LRS	Tech Sgt
Charles Nestor	72nd APS	Staff Sgt
Michael Hapgood	72nd APS	Senior Master Sgt
Virgil Hogue	72nd APS	Senior Master Sgt
Stephen Faith	35th CBCS	Master Sgt
Brent Slattery	35th CBCS	Senior Master Sgt
Jack Benter	35th CBCS	Tech Sgt
Daisy Pantoja	35th CBCS	Staff Sgt
Troy Siler	507th CES	Senior Master Sgt
Larry McKinney	507th SFS	Airman
Lisa Ortiz	507th AMXS	Senior Master Sgt
Bradley Elliott	1st ASF	Senior Master Sgt
Jessica McCowan	507th ARW	Staff Sgt
Dennis Obarsky	1st ASF	Senior Master Sgt
Jon Russell	507th MXS	Master Sgt

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DECEMBER 2008

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.
Copy deadline is NOON on UTA Sunday for the next month's edition. Call us at 734-3078.

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.



513th ACG
Commander
By Col. John Trnka

Remember our Veterans

The day before Veteran's Day, I spoke at the VA Center in Norman. What a great experience. After the formal program, I



Col. John Trnka addresses the Norman Veteran's Center during their Veteran's Day activities. Glen Williams, activities director, looks on.

had the chance to talk with many of the veterans personally. Not surprisingly, most of them were from WWII, and a few from Korea. All of those with whom I spoke had seen combat, some many times. It's easy for us to forget what a debt we owe these men and women, or to gloss over the horror they went through. Their stories bring the battlefield back to life.

One gentleman landed at Saipan – he was about two-thirds of the way back in his landing craft. When the ramp dropped at the front, everyone in front of him was killed by enemy machine gun fire. To this day he wonders why he was spared.

Another was a member of a unit that fought its way into the tunnels at Iwo Jima. His memory of those days was he never stepped on the ground; he could not but step on the bodies of attackers and defenders. Memories of that still gave him the shivers, and occasionally wakes him up at night, 64 years later, and he too wonders why.

One gentleman wanted to meet me. When I walked over, he could barely raise his hand to shake mine. He could barely speak; it was hard to hear. But, the Marine he was is still inside him. It didn't take long to recognize that as he recounted his time in combat, in a hoarse whisper; "he shot me twice – son of a bitch. If I can find him, I'll kick his ass!" This from a man who can barely move

or speak – Semper Fi Marine.

Why do I bring this up now? Especially since Veteran's Day is a month in the rear-view mirror as you read this. Simple; I hope we can remember to tell these guys "thank you" more often. There will be opportunities this holiday season to provide gifts for the Angel Tree at the VA Center, and to visit there, the VA hospital downtown and other Veteran's facilities. WWII vets are leaving us at the rate of about 1,000 a day. The youngest WWII vet is now about 80 and the youngest veteran of Korea, about 75. Many are even older; if you are in Charleston, WV, say thank you to Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last remaining soldier of WWI. He'll be 108 next February, so don't wait too long.

The VA Hospitals and Centers aren't just homes for the aged. More and more veterans of OIF and OEF will need their services. Like those who came before them, when needed, they answered their nation's call, just as you have. To them and to you I say, "Thank you."



Col. John Trnka and Chaplain, Maj., Dwight Magnus visit with one of the residents from the Norman Veterans Center after the Veterans Day program.

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. **For more information or to schedule testing, contact Chief Master Sgt. Charlotte 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. Charlotte 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. Charlotte 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. Next class is scheduled for Feb. 2-13, 2009. See unit training manager for information.

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 507.msf.dpmt@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. 1043, ATN Room in the basement.

Computer-based testing on the UTA is available on Sunday at 0800 and 1300 in Bldg. 1043, ATN Room in the basement.

Please schedule all tests NLT 1500 on Friday before the UTA. If you are unable to keep the scheduled time please e-mail the training office or call 734-7075 prior to scheduled testing time. All testing is also available on 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)

FY 09 UTA SCHEDULE

06-07 Dec 08	10-11 Jan 09
07-08 Feb 09	07-08 Mar 09
04-05 Apr 09	02-03 May 09
06-07 Jun 09	11-12 July 09
01-02 Aug 09	12-13 Sep 09

As of 24 Nov. 2008

DECEMBER TRAINING PLANNER

Fri, 5 December 2008

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1500 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1066, OG Conf Room
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1056, 970th ConfRm

Sat, 6 December 2008

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203
0800-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0900-0930 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 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, 7 December 2008

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 1130-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium
 0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm
0750- by appt CDC testing Bldg 1043, ATN Room
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1130 Safety Committee Training Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng To Be Determined
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Trng Bldg 1043, Rm 203
1300. by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5
Unit Designated Sign Out Unit Designated

Fri, 9 January 2009

1300 Pre-UTA Cmdr Staff Mtg Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1400 Pre-UTA First Sgts Mtg Bldg 1066, OG Conf Room
 1500 Pre-UTA CChief & 1st Sgt Mtg Bldg. 1066, OG Conf Room
 1600 Top 3 Executive Board Mtg Bldg 1056, 970th ConfRm

Sat, 10 January 2009

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 0730-0930 Newcomers In-Processing Bldg 1043, Room 203
0800-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0900-0930 6 Month Contact Mtg Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 1000-1130 Newcomers Orientation Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 1000-1100 Mobility Rep Meeting To Be Determined
 1300-1545 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph I Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 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, 11 January 2009

Unit Designated Sign In Unit Designated
 1130-1500 MPF-See Page A3 for specific times
 0730-0800 Protestant Chapel Service 513th ACG Auditorium
 0730-0800 Catholic Mass Bldg. 1066 OG Conf Rm
0750- by appt CDC testing Bldg 1043, ATN Room
 0800-1100 Newcomers Ancillary Tng Ph II Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
 0830-0930 Enlisted Advisory Council Bldg 1043, CC Conf Rm
 0900-1130 Safety Committee Training Bldg 1066, OG Conf Rm
 0900-1000 Mandatory 3A0X1 Tng To Be Determined
 1015-1115 Mandatory 3S0X1 Trng Bldg 1043, Rm 203
1300. by appt. CDC Testing
 1300-1600 First Duty Station Bldg 1030, MSG Conf Rm
1300 SORTS/Post UTA Mtg CAT
 1400-1500 IG period w/Capt. Vardaro Bldg 1043, Room 5
 1500- Wing Commander's Call Base Theater
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 at 734-7075 or your UTM.

Military Pay

File for pay by:	Receive Direct Deposit by:
02 Dec	10 Dec
04 Dec	12 Dec
08 Dec	15 Dec
11 Dec	19 Dec
15 Dec	24 Dec
16 Dec	26 Dec
17 Dec	31 Dec

Newcomers Ancillary Training

Newcomers Ancillary Training Phase I & II are conducted **monthly** in **Bldg 1030, 507th MSG Conference Room. 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**.

Military Pay (405) 734-5016

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>OPR</u>
Saturday	1315-1430	Drug and Alcohol, Suicide/ Workplace Violence Prevention	SG
Saturday	1430-1500	Local Conditions/ORM	SE
Saturday	1500-1530	OPSEC Training	OG
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

****New MPF Hours****
Closed Thursday afternoon
Saturday UTA
 Open at 0800 - 1500, except for following closures:
 1300-1330 - Employments/Relocations
 1400-1430 - Career Enhancements
 1500-1530 - Customer Service
 1500-1600 - IDs only

Sunday UTA
 Open at 1130 - 1600

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.

BAQ Recertification Deadlines

If Last Digit of SSAN is:	Then Forward Listing to Unit 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.

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Tech. Joy O'Boyle, Education and Training Advisor

Staff Sgt. Elecia Shearer, Education and Training Advisor

Ms. Kimberley Silkwood, Testing and Education Advisor (Civilian)

Shirt News:

Combating the holiday blues

Roast turkey with “the works” on Thanksgiving, family gatherings, holiday cheer, presents under the tree on Christmas, lighting of the candles on Hanukkah. For many, these images inspire warm feelings of anticipation of good food, good company, and good times. For some, instead of “holiday cheer,” many find that holidays only bring “the blues.” If holidays are suppose to be times of joy, why do so many people wind up hurting? To answer this question, let’s take a closer look at the “blues.”

Many of us at one time or another experience the blues; we may temporarily feel “down” because of past and/or present experiences. However, when these feelings last over a longer period of time and/or significantly affect our daily actions, we may be dealing with more significant blues - depression. The National Institute of Mental Health defines depression as, “An emotional state of dejection and sadness, ranging from mild discomfort and down-heartedness to feelings of hopelessness and despair.”

While the variety of depressive experiences varies, there are some common characteristics, such as:

- * depressed mood
- * loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities
- * significant weight loss/gain
- * sleep difficulties
- * fatigue or loss of energy

- * feelings of worthlessness, helplessness, hopelessness
- * excessive/inappropriate guilt problems thinking and/or concentrating
- * recurrent thoughts of death
- * thinking about suicide
- * low self-esteem
- * lack/reduced interest in sex
- * isolation/withdrawal from others



**Master Sgt.
Tracy House
970th AACS
First Sergeant**

While identifying with any of these characteristics is not a diagnosis of depression, it may point to some problem areas. If you find that many of these symptoms fit you, you may want to talk about your feelings with a mental health professional.

While depressive symptoms can be triggered by a variety of things, they often relate to feelings of having lost something. We may have lost a job, a love relationship, or anything that we judge as valuable to us, either currently or in the past. This also includes feelings of having lost an expected outcome, ideal, or dream. This may be where holiday blues comes from; not having the kinds of family relationships or friendships that we desire within which to share a happy holiday season.

Air Force officials begin extended Basic Military Training

by **Mike Joseph**

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The first group of Air Force recruits to experience expanded Basic Military Training arrived Nov. 4 to Lackland Air Force Base.

These new recruits are the first to face the challenge of an additional 14 days of training from 6.5 to 8.5 weeks.

The added time will be used to enhance and reinforce BMT’s current war skills training.

“I’m excited about it,” said Col. Edward Westermann, the 737th Training Group commander. “I think our (military training instructors) are excited about it. We get to be a part of that historic transformation. This is something that 20 years

from now, when we’re no longer in uniform, we can talk about how we played a part in that change at BMT.”

The extension of BMT was approved by the Air Force in early 2006, and replaces a program that has been in place since the 1960s. Adding two weeks was a consideration in the mid-1970s but was set aside due to funding issues.

“It will enhance the capabilities of these young men and women that we are sending into the Air Force,” Colonel Westermann said. “The important thing is we know the current strategic environment that we’re in, and we know the challenges these young men and women are going to face over the course of their career. We are going to better prepare them to meet the challenges of the future.”

The physical facility additions, such as the Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training course at the Lackland Training Annex, are not the only changes to occur. Class time was added, instructors were retrained and courses such as CPR training have been weaved into the 8.5-week schedule.

“This is a long-term investment that the Air Force is making,” the group commander said. “It is incumbent upon us as an organization to validate that investment.”

The expanded training comes at a time when the Air Force is looking to grow. As many as 4,000 more recruits are expected to pass through Lackland’s gates during fiscal 2009, increasing the yearly average to 39,000 recruits.

Red Cross "Holiday Mail for Heroes" Program 2008 Guidelines

The American Red Cross is pleased to announce that it will sponsor a national "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program in 2008 as it did in 2007! Last year the Red Cross reviewed and distributed over 600,000 cards to our wounded servicemembers at hospitals around the country and overseas. **This year we want to expand who is reached with the holiday greeting cards to include not only our wounded warriors, but all servicemembers and their families, as well as veterans.** Our goal is to reach 1,000,000 persons this year to show our appreciation for their service and wish them well over the holiday season *and with your help we will!*



* **Start Date of the Program:** Nov. 11, 2008

* **Mailing Address:**

Holiday Mail for Heroes

P.O. Box 5456

Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

* The **Guidelines** below should be followed to enable a quick reviewing process as well as to ensure that cards are not offensive in any way to anyone who might receive one:

- * Please ensure all cards are signed
- * Please send cards as opposed to long letters which delay a quick review process
- * Please do not include e-mail or home addresses on the cards as the program is not meant to foster pen pal relationships
- * Please do not insert photos, money, religious articles

(i.e.-rosary beads, prayer cards, etc), glitter, 'snow' or like items in cards as these items will be removed during the reviewing process

* Phone cards or gift cards will not be accepted with cards. Those wishing **to send calling cards or**

gift cards/certificates should go to www.aafes.com, scroll down to "AAFES Community Connection" and click on "Help Our Troops Call Home" or "Gift Cards/Certificates for Our Troops" in order to send such items

* No 'Care Packages' will be accepted at this address. Those wishing **to send care packages** should go to www.AmericaSupportsYou.com and click under "Homefront Groups" to find out how to send care packages

* Participants are requested *not* to send more than 25 cards from any one person or 50 cards from any one group.

* Note-All cards received may be used in program publicity efforts, including appearing in broadcast, print or online mediums

* **End Date of the Program:** All cards must be **post-marked not later than Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008.** *Mail postmarked after this date will be returned to sender.*

The American Red Cross Service to Armed Forces (SAF) program supports servicemembers and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, around the globe. Those wishing to support these and other activities can go to www.redcross.org click on "Donate," select "Service to Armed Forces" and follow the instructions or call 1-800-REDCROSS. Thank you!

'Good help is hard to find' is an often repeated phrase these days. But a program in Air Force Reserve Command may help take the guess work out of finding new employees.

The 'Get 1 Now' program, begun in AFRC in 2001, mirrors many civilian companies in the same way that they give incentives to current employees when they recommend people to join their company.

The program provides two types of incentives: one for referral and one for

Get One Program

accession. Referral Awards are based on military tradition the 'Get 1Now' awards are primarily commemorative coins. For every referral submitted, the Reservist receives a Referral Coin Award numbered one through 10, the number corresponding to the number of the referrals. Referrals may be accumulated over time. The 'Get 1Now' program provides these coins for each referral whether or not the person actually enlists.

Referrals are cumulative for coin awarding purposes, but accessions are calculated by fiscal year to count toward the 'Top Performer' award.

The second type of incentive is the Accession Coin. These coins are fashioned

after commander's coins and are awarded to Reservists when a referral turns into an accession. Coins are awarded for one through four accessions. The award for the fifth accession is a leather portfolio and pen. For the sixth accession, a pair of pewter steins is awarded.

The easiest way to submit is by using the website: <http://get1now.us> or call 1-877-786-2372. Faxes and business cards submissions are no longer accepted for the 'Get One Now' program.

Information will be used by the Air Force Reserve Recruiting offices only. Information will never be sold, rented or distributed to any other branch of the military or third party.

For questions regarding the 'Get 1Now' program visit: <http://get1now.us>.

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HRDC workshop praises heritage

ATLANTA, Oct. 30, 2008 — The Air Force Reserve Command Human Resources Development Council, or HRDC, hosted their bi-annual workshop here with the theme, “Faithful to a Proud Heritage.” Col. Michael Mahon, Lt. Col. DeAnn Lehigh, Capt. Roslynn Rayford, Capt. Rubannette Jenkins and Staff Sgt. Tametra Davis, participated in this Command-level workshop which included Air Force Reserve leaders such as the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters, Numbered Air Force Commanders, AFRC Command Chief, and many other officer and enlisted senior leaders.

In keeping with the theme, “Faithful to a Proud Heritage,” the workshop featured a presentation by three Tuskegee Airmen. Val Archer, Ray Williams, and Dick Howard related their experiences as part of the Tuskegee Experiment both during and after World War II. Their message linked our proud heritage and their legacy of valor to optimism for the challenges we face now and in the future.

Air Force Reserve unit HRDCs continue to lead the way in people-related matters that impact the Total Air Force. This world-wide workshop provided training and networking opportunities for reservists to learn more effective ways to address people-related issues that directly impact mission success. Each unit HRDC serves as a commander’s resource to bring people together from different functions, different ranks, and different perspectives. The unit HRDC focuses attention on issues related to recruiting, retention, and mentoring for promoting a diverse workforce with strong unit cohesion toward helping members reach their potential.

Guest speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and exhibits increased better understanding of how to improve people-related issues for our Airmen. Units shared programs, processes and best practices. For example, several units have developed wing enlisted workshops providing personal and professional development tools for their members. This workshop gave attendees new ideas on how to improve the effectiveness of their unit HRDC.

Maj. Gen. Linda Hemminger, Command-wide HRDC

Chair said, “These new ideas help ensure our future success in meeting the overall mission and vision of your unit, our command and the United States Air Force.”

Defining the specific mission, Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, told the audience of more than 250 Citizen Airmen that HRDC is at the forefront of the Air Force of today and especially tomorrow.

“The Air Force is not active duty assisted by a few Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units and members,” Gen. Stenner said. “Rather, the Air Force IS the regular Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard. It is through a combined synergy that works to create the country’s strategic umbrella. Together, we do just that and we do it knowing we as a major command are an integral partner. The Air Force Reserve is more important than ever important.”

Air Force Reserve people are critical to the five top priorities of the Air Force recently highlighted by Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz. Explaining these priorities, Gen. Stenner emphasized that the command realizes that full partnership through the Air Force’s top three priorities which are nuclear enterprise, win the war, take care of Airmen and their families, modernize for the future and acquisition excellence.

For the nuclear enterprise, he said, it’s a matter of maintaining a confidence in ourselves and realized by all Americans when it comes to safeguarding the homeland from world-wide threats.

“Nuclear enterprise is not a game,” General Stenner said. “Rather, we’re engaged in a nuclear enterprise that provides security through deterrence and that’s accomplished by a 3-component Air Force and the Air Force Reserve is an integral part.”

Contributing toward winning the war, there are more than 30,000 Airmen deployed in combat-related roles.

“We’re part of a joint fight,” said General Stenner, “and it’s not in lieu of anything. What we have in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve we give to the fight. We’re part of every

Continued on Page 7



Col. Michael Mahon, Lt. Col. DeAnn Lehigh, Capt. Rubannette Jenkins, Capt. Roslynn Rayford and Staff Sgt. Tametra Davis attended the command-level HRDC workshop in October.

Veterans Memorial dedicated on Nov. 11

The Cleveland County Veterans Memorial, an idea and dream since 2001, became a reality Nov. 11, 2008 during the revealing and dedication in Reaves Park in Norman.

The memorial includes a granite obelisk, topped by an eagle sculpture and several granite tablets. Names of people killed or missing in action are engraved on the obelisk and other Cleveland County veterans' names are engraved on the outer tablets circling the obelisk.

Names of eligible veterans, who currently live in Cleveland County or lived in Cleveland County during military service, may be sent with a completed application, available at the Norman Parks & Recreation Department or call 366-5472 for more information.



Col. Jeffery Glass, 507th ARW commander, talks with Don Schulenberg, retired Army Warrant Officer and Veterans Memorial committee member before the dedication ceremony on Nov. 11.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Melba Koch



The Cleveland County Veterans Memorial was unveiled on Nov. 11, 2008.

HRDC workshop Continued from Page 6

operation and that's because we have to win this war."

People, HRDC's primary focus, are what make program and operation success possible.

"As we consider the future of our Air Force missions, specifically nuclear, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and cyberspace, it's important for us to address the challenges of tomorrow," said General Stenner. "We have to ensure our Airmen are trained, ready and capable to meet those challenges and continue our rich tradition as Citizen Airmen."

Finally, when looking to recapitalization, we have to recognize that many of our aircraft are aging. For example, he talked about the need to modernize and replace the KC-135 air refueling aircraft.

"The KC-135 is projected to continue flying until the airframe is 80 years old," General Stenner said. "What that means is that the mother of our last KC-135 pilot is only 99 years old and her child, the pilot of that KC-135, is not yet born. We have to take steps now to ensure her success."

That success, he said, comes in the form of force development which is a key role of HRDC.

"Our job is to flesh out all the things that go into force development," General Stenner said. "Our job is making sure everyone knows where they fit in their career while balancing family, civilian job and as a Citizen Airman."

Through numerous senior command-level guests and speakers, the exchange of ideas and by celebrating this proud heritage, Air Force Reserve members left the workshop better equipped to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

PARTING SHOT

Master Sgt. John Terry, right, receives a Meritorious Service Medal from Chaplain Michael Jones, during his retirement in November. Terry, a 507th ARW chaplain assistant for the past eight years, retired with 28 years military service. He started his military career in the supply field and transferred to the civil engineer career field before becoming a chaplain assistant.

Photo by Capt. Bill Pierce



On-final R-News

New law authorizes veterans' salutes during National Anthem

Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month. The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Enhanced VA mortgages possible for vets in distress

Veterans with conventional home loans now have new options for refinancing to a VA-guaranteed home loan. These new options are available as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, which President Bush signed into law Oct. 10. VA has never guaranteed subprime loans; however, as a result of the new law VA can now help many more veterans who currently have subprime loans. The new law makes changes to VA's home loan refinancing program. Veterans who wish to refinance their subprime or conventional mortgage may now do so for up to 100 percent of the value of the property. These types of loans were previously limited to 90 percent of the value.

507th ARW recruiters <http://get1now.us>



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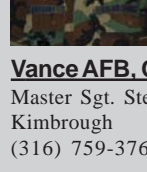
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