



NOVEMBER

COVER INCENTIVE FLIGHT

A KC-135R Stratotanker flown by aircrews in the 507th Air Refueling Wing refuels an F-16 assigned to the 93rd Fighter Squadron from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., above the Gulf of Mexico during an incentive flight in July 2015.

COVER PHOTO by Maj. Eugenia Ramirez-Griffin

CIVIL ENGINEERS REMOVE SAFETY HAZARD

507th Civil Engineer Squadron demolishes an old and cracked outdoor stairway in the name of safety

PHOTOS by Senior Airman Krystin Trosper p. 12

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Aiming for a more fluid process in the Medical Squadron PHOTOS by Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor p. 16

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Maj. Jason Geary

Lt. Col. Bradley Garcia, 507th Maintenance Group deputy commander, passes the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidon to Maj. Jason Geary Oct. 4, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. As the new 507th AMXS commander, Geary will command more than 120 Reserve personnel. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor

CHANGE OF COMMAND

MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Lt. Col. Erin Cook



Lt. Col. Bradley Garcia, 507th Maintenance Group deputy commander, passes the 507th Maintenance Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Erin Cook Oct. 4, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. As the new 507th MXS commander, Cook is responsible for more than 100 personnel.

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Seymour-Johnson chosen for first Reserve-led **KC-46A** basing



The KC-46 program's first test aircraft, a Boeing 767-2C (EMD-1), departed from its home at Boeing Field in Seattle and touched down at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., for the first time Oct. 15, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ethan Wagner)

10/30/2015 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, has been chosen as the preferred alternative for the first Reserve-led KC-46A Pegasus main operating base, Air Force officials announced Oct. 29. The KC-46As are expected to begin arriving in 2019.

Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts; and Grissom ARB, Indiana, were named as the reasonable alternatives.

"It is absolutely critical that we replace our aging tanker fleet with the KC-46A Pegasus aerial tanker," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "I am pleased to announce Seymour Johnson AFB as the first Reserve-led location because it is a testament to the Air Force's cost estimates to bed down the KC-46A commitment to the total force.

"We must use all three components -- active, Guard and Reserve -- operating cohesively and seamlessly as one team so we can realize the full potential of reasonable alternatives for this mission.

James also explained the 179 planned KC-46A aircraft are just the first phase of a three-phase effort to replace the aging tanker fleet. The first phase of tanker recapitalization will complete deliveries in fiscal year 2028.

During detailed, on-the-ground site surveys of each candidate base, the major commands evaluated the bases against operational and training requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, housing, infrastructure, and manpower.

The site survey teams also developed at each candidate base. The results of

the surveys were briefed to James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, who selected the preferred and

"Seymour Johnson (AFB) was selected based on operational analysis, results of site surveys, cost, and military judgment factors," said Jennifer Miller, the Air Force deputy assistant secretary for installations. "The primary drivers for selecting this location as the preferred alternative were its lower costs and its highly successful existing active-duty association, which will lead to the lowest active-duty manpower required to stand up the KC-46A Reserve unit."

Selection of this total force unit will minimize costs and the challenge of fielding a new weapons system while also establishing a new active association.

RECRUITERS



Chief Master Sgt. Steven Fousek Flight Chief Tinker AFB, OK Office (405) 734-5331



Master Sgt. Derrick Mills In-Service Recruiter Tinker AFB, OK Office (405) 734-3156 Cell (405) 409-5170

Master Sgt. Adrian Randles Line Recruiter Tulsa, OK Cell (918) 250-3400



Tech. Sgt.

Keith Hassell

Line Recruiter

Midwest City, OK

Cell (405) 409-5811



Master Sgt. Colin McDonald In-Service Recruiter Tinker AFB, OK Office (405) 734-5555 Cell (405) 409-4784





Cole Chamberlain Lead/In-Service Recruiter Sheppard AFB, TX Office (580)481-8239 Cell (405) 409-6943

Tech. Sgt. Nickelette Parrish Line Recruiter Moore, OK Cell (405) 409-6311



For information on opportunities in the AF Reserve, give one of our team members a call today.



Mr. Kenneth "Jason" Colby

507TH FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENT

"WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER. EXCEPT FOR BEARS--THEY WILL KILL YOU."



WHAT IS A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I love history and genealogy, and I am a descendant of John Rogers, a clergyman, Bible translator and commentator, and the first English Protestant martyr under Mary I of England. I am also related to Cuthbert Grant, a leader of the Métis people, who are Indigenous North Americans of mixed race.

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE AIR FORCE?

I enlisted in Dec. 1993 on active duty and then I started as a civilian in Jan. 2006. I have traveled all over the world and enjoyed it all.

WHAT IS YOUR CIVILIAN JOB?

I jokingly say I'm a janitor--I clean up everybody's messes. I am part of the 507th Communications team. We work on everything from your phone, computer or any device required to accomplish the 507th ARW mission.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

To get on the Pro Bass fishing circuit or become a comedian.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I really had a lot of thoughts of what I wanted to be. I have always enjoyed messing with computers and electronics my whole life.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

People. I love to help people out. Computer problems can be very stressful for some customers, so I try to put them at ease when dealing with difficult communication-related issues.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

Fishing at the lake, watching football and riding motorcycles (I ride a big touring bike, since I am kind of a big boy).

Colby poses in his 2012 Chevy Camaro 2LT in the 507th Headquarters parking lot Nov. 7, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Photo by Maj. Jon Quinlan

November PROMOTIONS



SMS ALLEN, JEREMY M., 513 MXS

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

TSG CLORAN, RYAN P., 72 APS TSG SANDERS, JOHN J., 507 AMXS

MASTER SERGEANT



SSG LIBEL, CENDY M., 72 APS SSG MENDIOLA, DANIEL M., 72 APS SSG WARNER, WILEY D., 513 AMXS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

SRA AYCOCK, KAYLA M., 507 MDS
SRA BAILEY, AMANDA P., 507 LRS
SRA DOCKERY, TREVOR L., 507 LRS
SRA MORSCHING, TIMOTHY D., 507 CES
SRA SCHULZE, RYAN M., 507 CES
SRA TAYLOR, JASON W., 35 CBCS
SRA WATTS, BRANDON M., 507 AMXS
SRA WHITE, ASHLEY M., 507 CES

STAFF SERGEAN



A1C PERSHALL, KODY R., 507 SFS



SENIOR AIRMAN

AMN JENNINGS, ELIZABETH C., 513 AMXS

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS



Amemorial for Ty Francis

MASTER SGT. TYESHA NICHELE FRANCIS

August 26, 1979- June 13, 2015



ABOVE: Lilia Laing Francis, Ty's mother, receives condolences from members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Oct. 3, 2015, in the base theater at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



I have fought a good
fight,
I have finished my
course,
I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7



Members gather following Master Sqt. Francis' memorial service to share memories of her during her time in the 507th Air Refueling Wing Oct. 3, 2015. Francis served for 13 years in the Air Force and was an Air Reserve Technician in the services flight. Photos by Tech. Sqt. Lauren Gleason

yesha Nichele Francis, affectionately known as Ty, was born on August 26, 1979, in Los Angeles to Lilia "Cindy" Laing Francis and Aurelio Francis, Sr.

In 1989, Ty and her mom relocated to Virginia Beach where they joined Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. flavors and recipes. Ty was baptized and joined the youth department, the Usher Board, and the youth choir.

She graduated from Bayside High School in Virginia Beach in 1996.

Ty served in the United States Force for 13 years; the last six years as an active Reservist. Upon completion of her service, she had attained the rank of Master Sergeant. Parts of her years in the military were spent in places such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Qatar, Spain and Hawaii. She also proudly served at home in Oklahoma after the May 1999 tornado and received the Humanitarian Service Medal. Her service did not end there; she was then employed by a government contractor to supervise the staff at a social lounge for troops in Doha, Qatar. There she met many people who would become her family away from home.

on vacation, with family and friends. You could always expect to see a smile on Tyesha's face whenever she talked about

her active lifestyle. She was very proactive about living. Even while battling breast cancer, she was enrolled in online courses to obtain a college degree. Ty would not allow anything to slow her down from completing her goals. Tyesha was also an ardent home cook. She found solace in cooking and enjoyed unique

She also enjoyed a vast array of television shows and movies in which she would engage in online discussions on social media sites with family and friends about the plots and characters. Ty would always "boo" someone if they didn't share the same enthusiasm for her television shows.

Ty was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Edwin Laing, Sr.; and her paternal grandparents, Clyde (Adelaide) Francis.

Tysesha's memories will forever be cherished by her mother, Lilia Laing Francis; father, Aurelio Francis, Sr.; grandmother, Eliza Laing; brother and sister, Aurelio Francis, Ir. & Alejandra Francis-Van Dyke; three maternal uncles and five aunts, Edwin Laing, Norma (Ricardo) Minott, Gloria Best, Vielka Laing, Ligia Argentin, Edwin "Speedy" (Elda) Laing, Toby Morgan and Keith Laing; one paternal aunt and uncle, Ty enjoyed traveling the world, whether in the military of Clyde (Elsa) Francis, Jr. and Vilma De Acosta; godmothers, Zoila Oakley and Sharon Meade-Tucci; godchild, Alayjah Morgan, as well as a host of other loving relatives and friends.



Master Sgt. Juan Escobar, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron 1st Sgt., cuts away at the sidewalk in front of Building 1048 Oct. 3, 2015. The team used a combination of heavy equipment, circular saws and hand tools to tear out an unsafe concrete stairway, and covered the newly exposed earth with sod. Staff Sgt. Michael Wallace of the 507th Civil



EREMOVES STAIRWAY

afety of 507th Air Refueling Wing Airmen is paramount, so the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron removed the hazardous stairway leading from Building 1048 down to Reserve Rd. Oct. 3, 2015 at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

"Through a couple of years of ground settling, the stairway became uneven and unsafe," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Terry, a structures technician from the 507th CES. "For the safety of everyone who uses the stairs, we decided it would be better to remove them and not put anything back in their place."

The team used a combination of heavy equipment, circular

saws and hand tools to tear out the existing concrete. Once the stairway was removed, the newly exposed earth was leveled and covered with sod.

Civil engineer members must beware of creating new hazards while completing projects.

"We want to finish the project to where there isn't any sort of an environmental hazard," said Terry. "We also want to make sure there is proper drainage of water."

With the winter season coming up, expect to see the 507th CES making improvements to other walkways and structures around the wing.





CYBER SECURITY LIAISONS:

A new battlefield has emerged, where conflicts are fought across continents via the internet. Comm. uses a variety of tools to detect and repel cyber attacks, ensuring the Air Force and its assets maintain Cyber Security. Comm. manages communication, networks and information assurance along with managing information technology and electronic equipment.



COMM. FOCAL POINT:

Primary point of contact for all 507th ARW and 513th ACG user communications: PC's, phones, network accounts, file servers and they coordinate directly with 72nd ABW Communications.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT CELL/ADMINISTRATION:

507th Comm. performs, supervises and manages sharepoint and AF portal accounts, information access programs, Information security, knowledge operations and the mail distribution room.



507th Communications
Help Desk
405-739-2922
507cf.scbn.help@us.af.mil

CHAPLAIN'S

By Ch (Capt.) John Weston







ho noticed the blinding speed with which America switched from spooky skeletons to Christmas, leaving Thanksgiving in the dust for all but the local grocer? I did, and for once, I think we can learn a positive lesson from retailers regarding the holidays: plan ahead.

The simple truth of any holiday season is that it will be busy. The idea is that you are busy with meaningful observations and relaxing with your loved ones. Since there are just a few weekends until the beginning of what can seem like an unrelenting holiday season, let's talk about which preparations can reduce your stress later, ensuring a good time is had by all.

- 1. Plan ahead for travel. Aside from using Google Maps to plan a route, talk to your family and/or significant other about specific travel plans. Many times, family assumes they will do what they have always done. Clear the air now on whether or not Grandma Frances is getting a visit on Thanksgiving, or if it's their side this time. Also, verify that your family hasn't moved the location on you Air Force life can be hectic, so make sure you call now to finalize plans.
- **2. Decide your limits now.** Why do retailers love Black Friday? Because it's a one-time event in which, strung out on tryptophan from the meal before, consumers make impulse

buys. Plan accordingly, and don't be distracted by urgent "deals." Money you didn't plan on spending is not a bargain.

- **3. Take time off. I mean really take time off.** Invest in taking leave from work, plan out your grocery store shopping, cleaning, and laundry, so when vacation begins you can actually relax. Try it and see. Don't let rest days become work days in disguise.
- 4. Remember what the holidays are all about. Thanksgiving is tricky: you spend a few moments reflecting on what you're grateful for, only to be attacked by ads urging you to "buy, buy, buy." You most likely have most, if not all, of what you need already. Don't forget to observe why we have this holiday in the first place.
- 5. Christmas comes but once a year. Whatever your celebrations and observations are this time of year, realize that your family's time is precious. All of you, including the children, will only have a few of these days. Make them memorable because of the love and care of those around you and the celebration of the meaning of the holiday, not the credit card statements, frequent flier miles and TSA patdowns.

Some say that life is what happens when you are busy making other plans. None of us are guaranteed tomorrow – we must take time to enjoy the season this year. With a little preparation ahead of time, you can make it one to remember.

Drug Demand Reduction: DEBUNKING MYTHS

Story by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

he 507th Medical Squadron's Drug Demand Reduction team offered a few tips to keep members informed of the program's purpose and how to adhere to the guidelines.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Paradis, 507th MDS DDR team member, says the goal of testing is to prevent members from using illegal drugs and from abusing prescription drugs.

"Random and frequent testing ensures that Airmen who use drugs are held accountable for violating the Air Force's zero-tolerance policy," said Paradis.

The 507th MDS DDR team is responsible for testing Airmen within the Reserve, which includes the 507th Air Refueling Wing, the 513th Air Control Group and the 35th Combat Communication Squadron.

Master Sgt. Steven Kirk, DDR program manager, said some Airmen believe they get singled out for testing, and he said that is not true. He said a computer program randomly selects names.

"Everybody tests," said Kirk. "The wing commander gets tested, I get tested--everybody gets tested. This isn't a program that leaves anybody out. It's equal-opportunity."

Paradis said the amount of people being tested varies monthly, but they are required to test 100 percent of the Reservist population annually, which explains why some members are repeatedly tested.

For example, if the entire Reservist population was six people, but three of those people were deployed or unavailable for testing, then the remaining three would need to be tested twice in order to be compliant with the 100 percent goal.

"We are trying to keep the Air Force a safe work environment," said Kirk. "Make sure you are available for testing any day of the week."

Members must report to the 72nd



Senior Airman Eloisa Paez of the 507th Medical Squadron's Drug Demand Reduction team waits as an Airman verifies his information on his urine sample during urinalysis testing Oct. 3, 2015, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The 507th MDS is required to test 100 percent of the Reservist population each year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)

Medical Group Clinic within two hours of receiving the notification of selection for testing letter. The member must produce a urine sample in full view of an observer. Once complete, the member will sign the sealed container and submit the sample to a DDR team member. After all the specimens are collected, the team mails them to a lab in Texas for testing.

If a member is found to be using drugs that are not legally prescribed and annotated in the member's medical record, the DDR team will initiate a package detailing the drugs found in the member's urine and forward the package to the member's commander for review.

It is crucial for Airmen to keep their prescriptions updated within their medical record.

"If you get the new prescription right after a UTA weekend, and then get drug tested the following month, but you

didn't update your file--we will start a positive package," said Paradis.

As a precaution against failing a test because of a legitimate prescription, new prescriptions must be faxed or hand-carried to the 507th MDS.

"It just goes back to having personal accountability," said Paradis. "If your career means that much, you should strive to keep your medical records straight."

All prescriptions must be taken within a year of being prescribed in order to be within regulations.

The staff realizes that most Airmen are not thrilled to pay the clinic a visit, so they said they try to make visiting a li-ght-hearted experience by playing movies and making jokes to keep it a smooth and fluid process.

"Come hydrated," said Kirk. "Don't overthink it. It's not going to be that dreadful of a process. We will try to get you in and out as soon as possible."







HONORING OUR VETERANS:

507th NCO escorts Tulsa veteran to D.C. for the trip of a lifetime





ett, second from right, poses for a photo with his guardian Tech. Sgt. Christina Hymes, center, v servicemen following his Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., Sept. 16, 2015. Whitsett and 80 fellow veterans flew to D.C. to visit memorials built in their honor as part of the Oklahoma Honor Flight Program. Photo by Chris Heldenbrand

Story and background photo by Tech. Sqt. Lauren Gleason

ith Veteran's Day to

Squadron had the honor of entailed escorting Whitsett a reception at the Hudiburg

Washington, coming up, it's Hymes and the 87-year important to old veteran took a 19-hour remember to recognize those trip to the nation's capital to brave individuals who served visit memorials built in his before us, and the Oklahoma honor. They visited memorials Honor Flight program is one honoring those who served in way to show veterans that World War II, Iwo Jima, and we appreciate their sacrifice, the Korean and Vietnam Wars Eighty-one World War II among others. The three Honor and Korean War veterans took Flight buses had police escorts part in an Oklahoma honor for the duration of their trip in flight bound for Washington, Washington, D.C to assist in D.C., on Sept 16, 2015. keeping on the tight schedule.

Korean War army veteran, "I was amazed at how

Jim Whitsett of Tulsa, had the coordinated everything was," opportunity to take part in said Whitsett, a native of Tulsa. the once-in-a-lifetime flight. "Everything went right on Tech. Sgt. Christina schedule; the food was also very Hymes of the 507th Medical good. It was very well done."

The day prior to the flight, being his guardian, which the veterans were honored at



Veterans and guests stand and face the flag to recognize the sacrifices made by POW/ MIA servicemembers during the Oklahoma Honor Flight reception Sept. 15, 2015, at the Hudiburg Center in Midwest City, Okla.

Center in Midwest City, the national effort. Each trip Oklahoma. Tinker personnel costs approximately \$100,000 and members of the Mustang at no cost to the veterans. High School Family, Career and Community Leaders Washington, D.C. before, but of America escorted each she said that this particular trip veteran to their seats, and was special for many reasons. every service member was "My favorite part was being recognized individually with a able to see him experience the description of his or her service. memorials that were built for

very appreciative of his said Tech. Sgt. Hymes. guardian's attentiveness. Since Whitsett left the

she made sure I had everything sons who are now retired naval that I needed," Whitsett said. officers. They also have two

Hymes had visited

Whitsett said he was him and his fellow veterans,"

"Chris was just fantastic, and Army, he and his wife had two Oklahoma Honor Flights grandsons who are graduates was organized in the fall of 2009 of the U.S. Naval Academy as an official affiliate of Honor in Annapolis, MD. Whitsett Flight Network Inc., based out stays busy by running his of Springfield, Ohio. Oklahoma own business importing wine became the 31st state to form racks and selling them to an organization to support businesses all over the country.

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ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Flag Football Schedule



ROUND 4 - TUES. NOV. 10

1730 - G17: 552 MXS vs. Loser G16

1830 - G18: 960 AACS vs. Loser G15

1930 - G19: 552 ACNS vs. Loser G14

2030 - G20: 72 OSS vs. Loser G13

ROUND 5 - THURS. NOV. 12

1730 - G21: Winner G13 vs. Winner G14

1830 - G22: Winner G15 vs. Winner G16

1930 - G23: Winner G17 vs. Winner G18

2030 - G24: Winner G19 vs. Winner G20

ROUND 6 - TUES. NOV. 17

1730 - G25: Winner G23 vs. Loser G22

1830 - G26: Winner G24 vs. Loser G21

1930 - G27: Winner G21 vs. Winner G22

2030 - G28: Winner G25 vs. Winner G26

ROUND 7- THURS. NOV 19

1730 - G29: Winner G28 vs. Loser G27

1900 - G30: Winner G27 vs. Winner G29 -

Championship Game

2030 - G31: If Necessary

SPORTS NEVVS

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor 507th Sports Reporter Extraordinaire

he Dallas Cowboys are known as "America's Team," but their performance in the last two decades has not been worthy of a team who would deserve that title.

Yes, the Cowboys are tied with the San Francisco 49ers for the second most Super Bowl victories with five (the Pittsburgh Steelers have the most with six), but they haven't been back to the big game since 1995. Before making the playoffs in 2014, 2009 was the last time Dallas made the cut. During the three seasons prior to last, they were the model of average, compiling a 24-24 record in those years combined.

This season, the Cowboys are 2-5. While that sounds horrible, they still have a chance to defend their NFC East division crown. With that said, it still doesn't take away the fact the record is disappointing, considering Dallas was a favorite to go to concerts and huge events. Super Bowl 50.

a team that has been average, at best, in recent history? It's because the Cowboys are the best brand of reality show television we have seen in quite some time.

People love reality shows, and one particular storyline discusses the prosperity of the team. According to Forbes Magazine, the Cowboys are the world's most valuable sports franchise, with an estimated worth of \$4 billion.

It also helps when the team has an owner in Jerry Jones, a man who embraces the entertainment world. Anyone who has been to the Cowboys' home, AT&T Stadium in the Dallas suburb of Arlington, knows that tons of money and planning



for fans to watch football in a great atmosphere, while managing to hold mega

Of course, the players on the team So, why is there so much hype for have their own unique stories. Cowboys' Quarterback Tony Romo has been heavily against the Philadelphia Eagles, Dallas back on the field.

> Wide receiver Dez Bryant is one of performance was solid. the more colorful figures on the team. He's seen frequently engaging in shouting matches with teammates. Some say he brings intensity, while others say he's a big baby. Defensive end Greg Hardy, who was signed (with little fanfare) by the Cowboys before the season, missed last season's

went it the design, providing a venue campaign due a league suspension due to a domestic violence case.

When you look at the history of the Cowboys, the reality show feel has always been there. Roger Staubach, Drew Pearson, Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, Deion Sanders and Darren Woodson, criticized for making crucial mistakes among others, were names etched in during big games in the past. Since Romo people's memories during the glory days broke his clavicle in a week two game of the 70s and 90s. The major difference between today's Cowboys and the past hasn't won a game. Now the same fans lineup was the performance: the former that criticized him can't wait to see him teams were winning championships. Fans dealt with the drama as long as the field

> Jones needs himself a difficult question. What is more important, getting back to the Super Bowl, or being the best reality show? If the answer is the latter, Cowboys fans may have to follow the soap opera for two more decades before they actually make it to the Super Bowl.

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