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Commander's Corner

Thanksgiving Message

913th,

It's that time of year where we typically gather with our friends and families to appreciate all the gifts life has to offer. Though health protection precautions have changed whether we come together in large groups, the sentiment is still the same. Let me offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for what you do. Whether you live in neighboring states or near the base, you are part of the 913th family regardless of status. Please feel free to reach out to your leadership if you or your family ever needs support.

Be careful over this holiday season. We need each and every one of you to complete the mission.

Respectfully,
Christopher K. Lacouture
Colonel, USAF
Commander

December UTA Message

913th,

Within the last week, plans for the December UTA changed significantly. I wanted to provide some background of the sudden change.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2021, the Air Force Reserve received a Continuing Resolution budget that lasted until 11 Dec. Our group appropriately budgeted and planned to conduct each UTA, to include December. Unfortunately, due to decisions made by AFRC Financial Management concerning how funding is controlled, there were many units that overspent resulting in a command-wide funding shortfall. In order to fix the problem, 22nd Air Force told all units to allow Airmen to voluntarily reschedule the December UTA in order to balance the budget. We did not cause this problem, but we are part of the solution.



As a Group we've made great strides in improving readiness across the board. I'm proud of your efforts. I know this is an inconvenience for many, but I am confident we can get back into training during the January UTA without missing a beat. You are helping the overall Reserve force by rescheduling the December UTA.

Please coordinate with your supervisors any special circumstances that require you to be in status during December. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we do our part to support the Reserve.

Respectfully,
Christopher K. Lacouture
Colonel, USAF
Commander

Air Force News

Herk Nation Turkey Shoot: Old Age Treacher and a Grey-Haired Win

On Nov. 12, the 189th, 314th, 19th Airlift Wings and the 913th Airlift Group participated in the annual Turkey Shoot. The event, a demonstration of skills, experience, and tenacity, is a combined effort between air crew and maintainers assigned to each unit. The friendly competition showcases their abilities and knowledge of the aircraft, how they apply it to precision drops and other actions supporting the combat airlift mission. The event promotes an environment of camaraderie while allowing Airmen to test their combat skills in action. The competition lasted throughout the day and concluded with a ceremony and awarded recognition for the winning team.

At the end of the day, points were tallied and the 913th Airlift Group, Team Little Rock's Air Reserve component took the win and brought home the trophy for all to look upon. The revelry was short-lived however, when a miscount brought astonishing results. As it turned out, the 189 AW won by a hair. Due to the hard work of the wing's maintainers, the Airmen pushed the Guard to the win.



[Click here to view ANG page](#)

Lay your weary head to rest: Julie Moe's Key Spouse Story

Many Americans have etched in their memories is what they were doing when 9/11 happened. For Julie Moe, 96th Aerial Port Squadron key spouse, the pervasive memory was the stress and uncertainty of the deployment immediately following the aftermath of the terrorist attack.



"Malcom's deployment after 9/11 happened suddenly and it was the first time in our relationship that he was gone for so long," said Julie. "It felt as if the carpet was ripped from under our feet. For some reason, I was fixated on knowing his deployed living conditions and where he slept. Even though I knew everyone was in a dangerous situation, I needed to know where he laid his head to rest at night in order to feel a sense of comfort."

[Click here to read more](#)

Reserve maintainer is a C-130 lifeline

There is a saying "if it's in the air a maintainer put it there," which requires a daily Total Force effort to launch the numerous C-130 aircraft across the Air Force enterprise.

Air Force Reserve Senior Amn Edward Hunter is a C-130J crew chief assigned the 913th Maintenance Squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. He was recently recognized by the commander of Air Mobility Command during a site visit, Oct. 19, 2020.

He is known as the "go-to" guy to work on major aircraft maintenance issues across the base. His hard work and knowledge shined during his deployment last year. Since his return, he led multiple major repairs on complex issues to include three landing gear repairs and extensive inspections requiring hundreds of man-hours.

Most recently, Hunter volunteered to help the Hurricane Hunters based out of Kessler AFB, Mississippi, to ensure that the aircraft were ready to fly at a moment's notice carry out the numerous National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration missions this season.



[Click here to read more](#)

Congratulations

Newly Promoted Members

Congrats to those below who promoted in November!

Chief Master Sgt. Jason Wagner, 913 AG
Master Sgt. Andrew Paladino, 96 APS
Tech. Sgt. Justin Craig, 913 MXS
Staff Sgt. Breanna Branch, 913 MXS

"Bad Year" due to COVID-19

Q: What happens if a Reservist is in danger of having a "bad year" due to COVID-19 travel restrictions?

A: If members cannot meet their FY participation requirements, as outlined AFMAN 36-2136, commanders are authorized to excuse AT and IDT in accordance with AFMAN 36-2136 and the CAFR's Intent memo referenced above. Unfortunately, at this time there is no waiver for allowing anything less than 50 points in a Retention/Retirement year to count as a satisfactory year of service for promotion and retirement purposes in accordance with 10 USC 1223 and DoDI 1215.07. AFR Headquarters is working with OSD to determine other methods of relief to our Airmen that will fall short of a "good year".

[Click here for AFRC COVID website](#)

Did you know?

Military OneSource app is available!

The "My Military OneSource" mobile app is now available for service members and their families for free by downloading it on Google Play or Apple's App Store.

The purpose of Military OneSource is to put as many resources as possible in one place, so people have an easier time finding what they need, said Erika Slaton, Military Community Support Programs associate director. The app makes it more convenient when users are away from their computers and are only carrying a smartphone.

[Click here to visit the website](#)

Tax Defferal

In an effort to provide economic relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Presidential Memorandum was released, Aug. 8, along with guidance put out by the Internal Revenue Service, Aug. 28, to temporarily defer Social Security (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), tax withholdings. This will be effective through the end of the 2020 calendar year.



Patriot Award - Employer Support for the Guard & Reserve



Don't forget to submit your civilian supervisor for the Patriot Award!

Fill out the online form below and send us a video about how they help you get the mission done to 913thairliftgroup@gmail.com

<https://www.esgr.mil/Employer-Awards/Patriot-Award/Form>

The More You Know...

My AF Benefits



MyAirForceBenefits is an Official Air Force Benefits Website
Finding Your Benefits is as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

Browse Over 150 Fact Sheets for Benefit Eligibility and Highlights

Calculate Estimates of Your Survivor and Survivor Education Benefits

Forecast Your Retirement Benefits

[Click here to go to the website](#)

Department of the Air Force re-stores previous military tuition assistance cap and AF COOL funding

The Department of the Air Force restored military tuition assistance to \$4,500 per fiscal year and Air Force Credentialing Opportunities Online preparatory course funding for fiscal year 2021, effective immediately.

The Air Force noted increased usage of tuition assistance since the start of COVID-19 and continuing into the new fiscal year.

"We are excited our members are taking advantage of their time under COVID(-19) to improve themselves and pursue education. The Department of the Air Force was able to reprioritize funding to encourage our service members to maximize their development through these educational benefits," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "The Department of the Air Force is committed to education and to the continued professional and personal growth of our Airmen and Space Professionals in support of our nation's defense."

As a result of the reinstatement, both programs will resume the same benefits as before.

For military tuition assistance, Airmen and Space Professionals are eligible for up to \$4,500 per fiscal year and a maximum of \$250 per semester hour or quarter hour equivalent to cover tuition and allowable fees. For AF COOL, funding for preparatory courses, also known as boot camps, is restored. AF COOL funding limits remain at \$4,500 per life-time.

[Click here to read more](#)

Official Air Force memos, letters, and bio templates online

TONGUE AND QUILL TEMPLATES

Airmen successfully accomplish more missions with fewer people than ever before and there is a constant battle to cover the bases with limited resources. Time is a resource. In the context of Great Power Competition, every moment counts. These official templates will help give time back to Airmen and allow them to focus on the mission.

[Click here to access e-publishing](#)

Fiscal Year 21 UTA Schedule

~~3-4 October 2020~~

~~7-8 November 2020~~

5-6 December 2020 (reschedule UTA with unit)

9-10 January 2021

6-7 February 2021

6-7 March 2021

8-11 April 2021

1-2 May 2021

5-6 June 2021

No July UTA

7-8 August 2021

11-12 September 2021

Health and Wellness

Letters from Home: Commentary by Tech. Sgt. Curtis

To send a letter is a way to go somewhere without moving anything but your heart.
-Phyllis Theroux

My life is often spent in moments of quiet contemplation, pausing on purpose to reflect in remembrance of moments I keep like mementos in my memory. Life hasn't been easy. Life hasn't gone as planned. However, in the midst of this unease and uncertainty, I cling to hope found in a red binder, holding treasures of my past more precious than gold and worth more to me than anything money could buy. Its story began with my journey into the Air Force.

The United States Postal service delivers 180 million pieces of mail each day. Through snow, rain, heat, and gloom of night, nothing prevents the mail from being delivered. It is a grand feat, and one that I didn't really appreciate until October 2009, when a few of those pieces of mail came my way to San Antonio, Texas. In that moment, I discovered how a letter could change a life.

Much like the route of mail, life takes us down many roads before we reach our final destination. However, in life we aren't given a map or directions. Instead, we are left to choose our own path, with each step hoping that the chosen path will lead us to the place we were meant to be. Some decide to stop, look back, and wonder; I chose to move forward.

Glancing upon my red binder, I am reminded of this fact because on October 13, 2009, my journey began with a step

that led me to this binder. It was a road that led me to day one of Air Force Basic Military Training.

I didn't realize it then, but my life and the world as I knew it were about to change forever. Little did I know what else would change...

Before these changes took place, there was one comforting consistency in my life, my mom. More than a mom, she was my mentor, my inspiration, and my motivation. Most importantly though, she was my very best friend. She radiated happiness and positivity wherever she went with an infectious smile that could brighten anyone's day. I was not the only one who thought this. I have vivid childhood memories of mom's friends telling me that she was the nicest



and most positive person they had ever met, which was no exaggeration. She had a heart like no other, and her kindness knew no bounds. She took homeless people out for ice cream, she gave rides to hitchhikers, she volunteered with non-profit organizations in her limited free time, she

donated the little money she had, donated platelets for cancer patients, she worked tirelessly in two jobs, and even through this busy schedule, she made time to read to me every night, instilling a love of literature and learning that has helped me immensely in my life. She did all these things with a constant smile on her face without complaint.

We talked for hours on the phone, often about nothing at all. We would shop all day, often without buying anything. We went out for ice cream, even on cold December days. I never imagined a world without her. She served as a guiding compass for every major decision in my life.



Mom also taught me values of kindness, honesty, and integrity, which I try to emulate. One thing I could never quite get right was her same level of joy. I once asked her, "Mom, how do you stay so happy all the time?", and in her sagely motherly wisdom she told me, "I choose to see everyone as my friend. No one is a stranger." I never forgot that message and turned out to be the key to getting me through what was to come in the future. More on that later.

[Click here to read more](#)

Personnel scheduled to physically show for drill are requested to answer the "Safe to Work" questions below. Communicate with your supervisors if you have questions or concerns.

COVID-19

[Air Force COVID Website](#)

[AFRC COVID Website](#)

[Little Rock AFB COVID Website](#)

[AR Dept. Of Health](#)

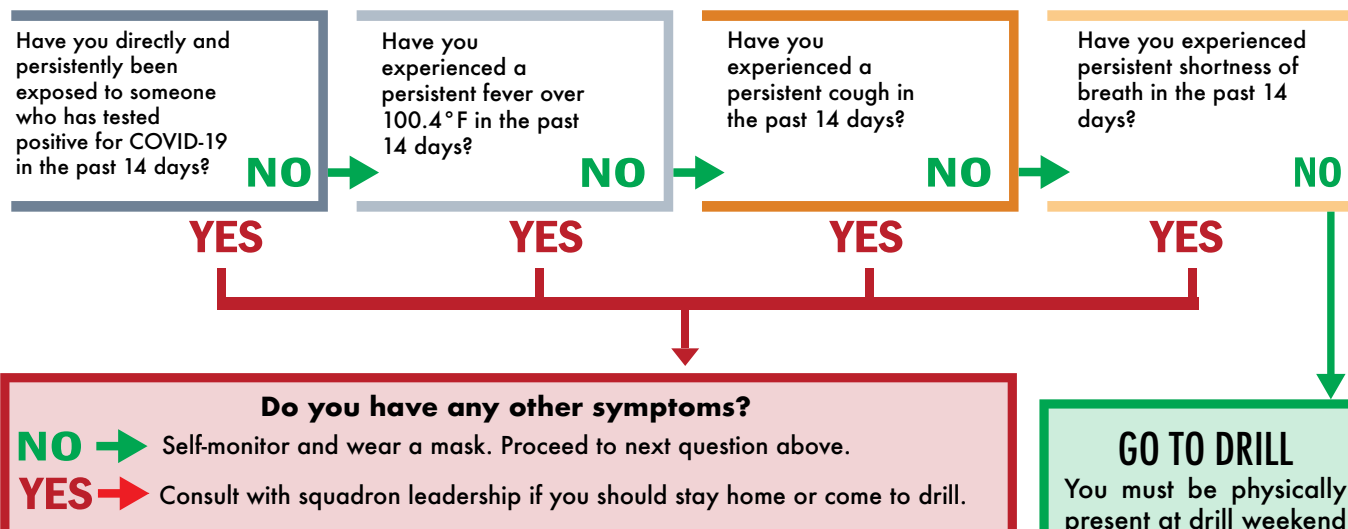
[CDC Website](#)

[DoD Updates](#)

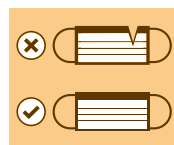
[PT Testing Guidance \(16 Sept\)](#)



913th Airlift Group Safe to Work Questions



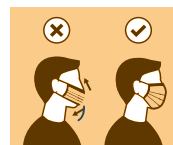
How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings



CHECK YOUR MASK
Make sure it's not damaged



SECURE YOUR MASK
Secure the strings behind your head or over your ears



COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE FULLY
make sure there are no gaps

Cloth face coverings should –

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

GO TO DRILL

You must be physically present at drill weekend with appropriate PPE.

If member is not having symptoms (fever, chills, body aches, persistent cough or shortness of breath) then member must self-monitor and wear a mask.

Informational Flyers



COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

STOP Human Trafficking

Force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to provide labor, services, or commercial sex.

Victims come from all backgrounds and can be women, men, and children.

Any minor (under 18 years of age) involved in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

Recognize SIGNS

Physical/Environmental Indicators include signs of abuse, no identification, confined to worksite.

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators include submissive, anxious, lack of free will.

REPORT IT

Chain of Command

Local Law Enforcement

DoD Inspector General Hotline

1-800-424-9098 or visit <http://www.dodig.mil/hotline>

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888.



For more information go to:
CTIP.defense.gov/



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The mobile app or desktop version of the Wellbeats application is not authorized for installation on government devices unless approval is granted in writing from the AFEN Approving Authority under the provisions of DODI 8510 and 8500.

Safety Highlights

Deck the Halls Safely

Every November and December, thousands of people are seen in emergency rooms nationwide due to injuries involving holiday decorating. Falling from a ladder and stepping on broken ornaments may be funny in holiday movies but in real life, these and similar mishaps result in visits to the emergency room.

According to Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there are about 250 injuries per day during the holiday season and adding safety to your checklist can keep a holiday tradition from becoming a holiday tragedy. Keep Christmas trees watered well, don't leave candles unattended, and use caution whenever you are on a ladder.

The most frequently reported holiday decorating incidents seen ERs involve falls, lacerations, and back strains. When it comes to fires, Fire Departments nationwide respond to an average of 200 fires, in which the Christmas tree is the first item ignited; however, the greatest loss results in candle-related fires.



To prevent fires, discard holiday lights/decorations with evidence of damage, such as broken sockets and bare wires, water Christmas trees frequently, and always extinguish candles before leaving the room. Consumers can use the following safety tips as a guide to help prevent decorating disasters this holiday season:

Fall Safety Tips

Ladders:

- Choose the right ladder for the job (e.g., step ladder vs. extension ladder; also, do not use metal ladders when performing electrical tasks).
- Inspect ladder and heed warning labels affixed to the ladder.
- Do not use ladders near doorways. If you need to use a ladder near a doorway, make sure the door is locked.
- Pay attention to weight limits specific to the ladder.
- Place the ladder on a firm, solid surface.
- Don't stand any higher than the third rung from the top of a ladder.
- Don't lean or overreach. Instead, reposition the ladder closer to the work.
- When you climb, face the ladder and maintain three points of contact at all times.
- Do not use ladder outdoors in high winds or inclement weather.
- A straight or extension ladder should be placed 1 foot away from the surface it rests against for every 4 feet of ladder height – make sure the ladder extends at least 3 feet over the top edge.

Courtesy of the AFRC Safety Office

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Buying a live tree? Choose a fresh tree and water it regularly.

- Buying an artificial tree? Look for a label that states it's "Fire Resistant."
- Place trees away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, heaters, vents, and radiators.
- Use lights and other electrical decorations that have been tested for safety (UL, ETL or CSA) and use them appropriately (indoors vs. outdoors, as labeled).
- Check each set of lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Discard damaged sets and do not use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Check each extension cord, making sure it is rated for intended use and in good condition.
- Verify outdoor lights have been certified for outdoor use, and only plug them into a GFCI receptacle.
- Make sure decorations do not pose a tripping hazard.
- Do not overload an electrical outlet or extension cord with too many lights.



[Click here to find more Winter Holiday Safety tips](#)

OPSEC Highlights

Courtesy of NavyTimes

Navy IT chief charged with sharing classified info with a Russian national

A Virginia-based U.S. Navy chief is facing court-martial on charges that he sent classified and “national defense” information to a Russian national, among other alleged offenses.

Chief Information Systems Technician Charles T. Briggs has been held in pre-trial confinement since August 2019, according to his charge sheet.

Assigned to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Briggs is accused of obtaining an email containing classified information from a government computer in January 2019 at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and then sending it to a Russian national “with reason to believe the information could be used to injure the United States or benefit a foreign nation,” the charge sheet states.

Briggs was stationed at Offutt with U.S. Strategic Command from April 2018 to July 2019, according to his service record.

Also known as STRATCOM, the combatant command oversees the U.S. military’s nuclear arsenal.

Several of the charges against Briggs involve a Russian national whose name is redacted on the charge sheet copy provided to Navy Times, so it remains unclear how many Russian nationals the Navy chief was allegedly interacting with.

He is also charged with relaying U.S. national defense information to a Russian national from October 2018 to January 2019, “information he had reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation,” according to the charge sheet.

he chief faces similar false official statement specifications for allegedly answering “no” on a STRATCOM form when asked if he had met a foreign national who requested future contact in September 2018.



Briggs is also accused of lying on a leave request form in November 2018, when he wrote that he would be staying in Nebraska for an upcoming 11-day leave period.

He faces two specifications for violation of a general regulation after he allegedly failed to report a month-long trip to Serbia in November and December 2018, according to the charge sheet.

Prosecutors further alleged that Briggs failed to report foreign connections to Russian and Italian nationals to his security manager from May 2017 to January 2019.

In addition, the chief is charged with possessing a digital image of child sexual abuse in July 2018, and for attempting to view such material from June 2018 to December 2018, according to his charge sheet.

Navy officials said Briggs was being represented by civilian attorney Frank Spinner, who did not return requests for comment.

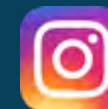
Briggs was arraigned last month and his trial is scheduled for November, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic spokesman William Vergakis said.

A native of Wisconsin, Briggs came aboard Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in July 2019, according to his service record.

[Click to read more](#)

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