

137 ARW Receives New Com-



Photo by Staff Sgt Caroline Hayworth

Col. Gregory Ferguson relinquishes command of the 137th Air Refueling Wing, at Will Rogers Air National Guard base, on Jan 9, 2011. Col. Ferguson has served as commander of the wing for three years.

By 1st Lt. Cody Hawkins
137 ARW Public Affairs

Col. Gregory Ferguson relinquished command of the Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th Air Refueling Wing to Col. Glen Baker in an official change of command ceremony here on Jan 9, 2011.

Col. Ferguson leaves the position after three years and three months. During his tenure, he's seen nearly 900 of his Airmen deploy in support of world-wide military operations.

"I've been blessed," said Col. Ferguson. "To be the commander here is a life highlight of mine... but no one has a more sincere heart for our Airmen than Col. Baker."

Col. Baker now assumes responsibility for the combat readiness of an air refueling wing made up of four groups, 10 staff offices and four tenant units consisting of over 1,200 personnel.

"My goal for the 137th is to maintain the course set and continue to pay attention to fundamen-

tals that have made us what we are today," said Col. Baker.

The 137th boasts one the best safety records in the Air Force, with more than 601,000 hours of flight time without a major incident.

The 137th and the AF Reserve's 507 ARW are responsible for operating and maintaining 12 KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft. The tankers provide air refueling and airlift services, along with aeromedical evacuations around the world.

Answering the call as National Guardsmen



**By Col. Devin Wooden,
137th Vice Commander**

As we begin 2011, I can't help but reflect back on the previous decade and the events that have shaped our lives, families, and Wing. As the next year progresses much will be made of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001. No one could have predicted how our lives would change after that day. However, I am confident that being "prepared for any specific or unpredictable event or situation" was what our forefathers had in mind when our nation established the National Guard. Our preparedness and responsiveness kept us relevant and the first ones to call when disaster strikes; and you answered the call every time.

When our nation was attacked; as citizens you stood in line with your fellow neighbors and donated blood and gathered relief supplies for the victims. As Airmen, you prepared those supplies for air shipment and provided the aircraft and aircrew to deliver it to those in need on the same day.

In 2003, when our nation gave pursuit to our attackers you led the way, setting up airfields, building small cities and standing up the largest deployed C-130 Wing the world has ever known.

While many of you were still deployed, the BRAC announcement in 2005 changed our wing's mission and the way we successfully conducted business for

over 58 years. It afforded you the rationale to reduce your level of participation, preparedness and high safety standards. But you responded to Hurricane Katrina and Rita, continued your efforts to the Global War on Terror and simultaneously prepared and executed a successful ORI.

In 2007, the wing began converting to the air refueling mission. We flew two different mission design series aircraft in the Hercules and the Stratotanker, began cross-training our members in over 400 new career fields, built a communications bridge across town to Tinker AFB, stretched our logistics tail to support our Guard mission in two locations, and surpassed over 600,000 hours of accident-free flying.

Last year was another outstanding year for the units of the 137 ARW and a good start to a new decade. A Unit Compliance Inspection, Aircrew Standardization Visit, Health Services Inspection and Logistics Compliance Assessment Program Inspection were conducted by Higher Headquarters as a test to your level of preparedness. You did not disappoint; excellent effort and results across the board.

Last month marked yet another chapter in our wing's history. We paid tribute to Col. Greg Ferguson and his outstanding leadership of our wing and welcomed a new commander, Col. Glen Baker. I know each of you share in my desire to support Col. Baker and build upon this wing's legacy of excellence. Furthermore, I know Col. Baker shares in my sense of confidence in this wing.

I can't predict what the next ten years may bring, but I know when our nation calls our Airmen will be there, ready, relevant and prepared to bring aid to those in need.

Good Luck, be safe and fly smart!

137th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Staff

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For consideration, all submissions must be provided to the PA Office, at 137ARW.PA@ang.af.mil or in Bldg. 1046, 686-5227, no later than 10 a.m. Saturday of drill weekend. The PA Office distributes the Airlifter ten months each year according to training needs.

PA Officers: 1st Lt. Cody Hawkins and 1st Lt. Jessica Chapa; NCOIC: Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker; public affairs specialists: Staff Sgt. Lindsay Roe and Senior Airman Patricia Baker; photographers: Master Sgt. Roberta Thompson and Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth; videographer: Master Sgt. Jun Kim.

Personnel Updates

Newcomers:

- Airman Basic Devon Harth
- Airman Basic Bethany Willeford
- Airman 1st Class Christopher Cook
- Airman 1st Class William Drake
- Airman 1st Class Bradley Edmonds-Faulk
- Airman 1st Class Jason Emerich
- Airman 1st Class Phylecia Mink
- Tech. Sgt. Khalid Elneser

Promotions:

- Airman Brooke Newton
- Senior Airman Jennifer Bui
- Senior Airman Corey Hamlin
- Staff Sgt. Thomas Burgess
- Staff Sgt. William Lancaster
- Staff Sgt. Jesse Mott
- Staff Sgt. Valerie Steele
- Staff Sgt. Tiffani Lawter
- Staff Sgt. Brett Like
- Tech. Sgt. Todd Lambert
- Master Sgt. Cynthia Acevedo
- Master Sgt. Stephanie Ritz
- Senior Master Sgt. Roosevelt Mclemore
- Senior Master Sgt. Richard Moreno
- Senior Master Sgt. Jeanie Skeen
- Chief Master Sgt. James K. Brown
- Chief Master Sgt. Mary Ann Harris
- Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Rogers
- 1st Lt. Paul Blankenship
- 1st Lt. Chad Medford

Retirements:

- Staff Sgt. James Axcell
- Staff Sgt. Ben Flint
- Staff Sgt. Walter Heitman
- Staff Sgt. John Lewandowski
- Staff Sgt. Robert Taylor
- Master Sgt. Michael Butler
- Chief Master Sgt. Gary Scott
- Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Mayo
- 2nd Lt. Robert Jones
- 1st Lt. Trevor Kernes

2011 Drill Dates

February	5-6
March	5-6
April	9-10
May	14-15
June	11-12
July	9-10
August	6-7
September	10-11
October	1-2
November	5-6
December	10-11

Numbers to know...

- (Area code 405)
- Emergencies: 911 then 686-5117**
- ID card appointments: 686-5212**
- Medical appointments: 686-5245**
- Help desk: 686-5000**
- Security forces: 686-5301**
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline: 686-5564 or 550-2971**
- Mishap reporting: 686-5555**
- Chaplain's office: 686-5145**
- Base information line: 686-5627**

SAPR information... If you have been a victim of a sexual assault contact the SAPR hotline 24/7 at 550-2971. If you want an investigation, your case will be unrestricted which means command is notified and an investigation will be initiated. You are also entitled to make a restricted or confidential report about the sexual assault. The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim's Advocate, Health Care Provider or a Chaplain can all help you confidentially.

Talk to your SARC, Maj. Liz Kettler, 5271, for more information.

Menu

Saturday:

Box lunch with sandwich, chips and a cookie.

Sunday:

Box lunch with sandwich, chips and a cookie.

Connect to the **137th Air Refueling Wing** on Facebook or visit us on the web at www.137arw.ang.af.mil

Worship services

Wing conference room, 10 a.m.
Saturday: Catholic mass
Sunday: Protestant worship

Full-time Openings in the Oklahoma National Guard

Technician Positions Link:

<http://www.ok.ngb.army.mil/oktech.htm>

AGR Positions Link:

<http://www.ok.ngb.army.mil/okagr.htm>

If you have any questions about the links or postings, contact Senior Airman Alisha Morris at (405) 686-5209 or (405) 686-5178.

Volunteer opportunities

What can you do that makes a difference in your life today, in your office tomorrow, in your community in the future?

Become a mentor/mentee through the base mentorship program. Contact Senior Master Sgt. James Ergenbright at (405) 686-5719 or james.ergenbright@ang.af.mil.

Congratulations to the 137th Maintenance Group Airmen of the Quarter winners... Master Sgt. Mike Johnson, Tech. Sgt. Will Smith and Airman 1st Class Jason Becker.

185 Air Refueling Squadron drills, trains at Tinker

By Senior Airman Patricia Baker
137 ARW Public Affairs

In December, the members of the 185th Air Refueling Squadron conducted guard drill for the first time at their new location at Tinker Air Force Base.

The Airmen were able to train and work for the first time in their newly built operations facility.

"It's a historic day, drilling over here," said Lt. Col. Mitch McDonald, a pilot for the 185 ARS.

The squadron was stationed at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base before the move, and is now slated to conduct its training and guard drills at Tinker. In a presentation held at the



Photo by Senior Airman Patricia Baker

Airmen of the 185th Air Refueling Squadron conduct their first guard drill in their new facility at Tinker Air Force Base in December and are recognized for their excellent work.

squadron's new building, various leaders of the Oklahoma Air National Guard recognized the exceptional work and professionalism the squadron has carried out in regards to unit inspections and the relocation.

The unit's move to

Tinker is an example of the logistics and communications of WRANGB effectively stretching across two locations, said Col. Devin Wooden, former commander for the 185 Operations Group.

"Thanks for the great

work," said Col. Greg Ferguson, then, commander for the 137th Air Refueling Wing. "I know the future is strong in your hands."

He said that even with the many changes and challenges the unit was faced with, "the mission continued to happen."

"I've seen this unit do a lot," said Col. Wooden. "I think the best chapter of this book is yet to be written."

"Our folks are willing to step up and do what's asked of them," said Lt. Col. McDonald.

Lt. Col. Jon Scott is now the commander for the 185 OG at the base, with Col. Wooden now acting as the vice commander for the 137 ARW.

Bagram AB and back, four times. Each time the crew flew they had a CCATT and Aeromed team with them.

The flying ambulance carried patients with all types of injuries. The injuries included everything from IED and gunshot wounds to HUMM-V rollover accidents and pneumonia. The patients were also classed as critical and non-critical.

Although the days were long, the Oklahoma City crew flew with a sense of purpose.

"We forget the day to day sacrifices our men and women in combat make", said Lt. Col. Jim Bloomer, aircraft commander. "It was both humbling and rewarding."

The AIR EVAC mission is not new to Oklahoma City but a continuing effort originated during the Airlift era. And while the airframe is new, the majority of the personnel are the same.

So as the 137ARW and 185 ARS move forward with new chapters in our storied history, there are some definite references taken from the past that allow us to hack-the-mission.

Back to Bagram: Airmen in Afghanistan

By Maj. Jason Rozneck
137 ARW Airlift Control Flight

Since experiencing the Base Realignment and Closure, the 137th Air Refueling Wing and 185th Air Refueling Squadron have seen a myriad of changes as they together, move forward with the air refueling mission. However, back in November of 2010, members of the 185th continued with a familiar mission of AIR EVAC in the Afghanistan Theater. It was the first time a crew from the 185th landed at a familiar base in Afghanistan with a different airframe.

While staging out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, the 185th aircrew flew to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in the KC-135 to transport medical patients back to Germany to receive care at Landstuhl Hospital.

The trip began by flying to Andrews Air Force Base to pick up Critical Care Air Transportation Teams and Aeromedical Evacuation Teams rotating back in that Theater. Upon arrival at Ramstein, the Oklahoma City KC-135R was rigged to carry litters and ambulatory patients. The crew made the long, non-stop journey from Ramstein AB to

Dental care options for WRANGB members

By Capt. Robert Anderson
137ARW Security Forces Squadron Commander

How are ANG members able to pay for annual dental exams on drill pay? Easy! The DoD has addressed that concern by providing inexpensive options for their members.

The TRICARE Dental Program with United Concordia: this program is for ANG members and their families. They can be seen by a network of 65,000+ participating dentists for comprehensive dental coverage with a minimal premium from approximately \$13 monthly for the individual up to \$92 monthly for the entire family and can be automatically deducted from drill pay. A DD Form 2813 will be taken to this provider to be filled out and returned to the member's MDG.

The Reserve Health Readiness Program—this program allows the ANG member to see a contracted civilian provider for a dental exam at no cost. A simple form is filled out at the member's MDG and the contractor will call the member to schedule an appointment.

Antiterrorism office gives details on FPCONs

Compiled by Lt. Col. James Snow
137 ARW Inspector General

Although you may only come out to Will Rogers or Tinker occasionally, you might wonder what the signs posted at the front gate mean. And why it's important to post the current Force Protection Condition?

The FPCON system describes the progressive level of protective measures implemented by Department of Defense installations or units in response to terrorist threats.

There are five FPCON levels.

Each level has separate supporting preparedness and protection capabilities.

ties.

Below provides a general description of the circumstances surrounding each FPCON.

Force Protection Condition NORMAL: global threat of possible terrorist activity

Force Protection Condition ALPHA (A): An increased general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable.

Force Protection Condition BRAVO (B): An increased or more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.

Force Protection Condition CHAR-

This also satisfies the five year military exam because they are contracted according to Air Force exam guidelines. RHRP will send the required documentation to the MDG.

The MDG Dental Clinic: every five years the member will have their exam done at their servicing dental clinic.

Members are encouraged to sign up for the TDP because it is the only option that provides treatment if the exam has dental findings, such as a cavity or periodontal disease. Those services do require a co-pay but neither the RHRP nor the MDG dental clinic will provide any treatment.

All Active Guard Reserve members will receive all dental care at nearest active duty MDG.

Remembering the main objective of the ANG is readiness, it is important for all members to ensure their dental health is kept current and the documentation is supplied to their MDG annually.

Together we can accomplish our medical mission and sustain ops tempo as required to protect our nation.

To contact the 137 MDG, call (405) 686-5245. You can also fax your information at (405) 686-5524.

LIE (C): An incident occurs or intelligence indicates terrorist action or targeting against personnel or facilities is likely.

Force Protection Condition DELTA (D): Terrorist action has occurred, or intelligence indicates terrorist action against a specific location or person is imminent. DELTA measures cannot be sustained indefinitely.

The Homeland Security Advisory System is a similar, but separate system. We will plan to discuss it next month's Airlifter.

(Compiled from CJCS Guide 5260 Sep 2010.)

Did you know... You may qualify for healthcare

By 1st Lt. Paul Blankenship
137 ARW Force Support Squadron

National Guard and Reserve members qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select if they are:

- Members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve
- Not eligible for, or enrolled in, the Federal Employees Health Benefits program

TRS premium rates are established annually on an calendar year basis.

The 2011 rates are:

Member-Only: \$53.16

Member & Family: \$197.76

AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT



Staff Sgt. Matthew Turner

Unit/Position... 137th Civil Engineering Flight, firefighter

In the Air Guard... Five years

Job Duties... On a typical day we start off by being assigned to a truck and a crew; a tight knit group of people who are passionate about their jobs and take pride in the hardships we have endured to become a military firefighter. The crew stays together, at all times ready to respond and assist those in need, regardless of the circumstances. At this point in my career I am normally the driver of the crew, which is a task I love considering the sheer size and power of the trucks. Soon I will be moving up to crew chief, which holds more responsibility, and I look forward to the challenge. During downtime we train for varying situations which we may encounter; rappelling, aircraft familiarization, structural exercises, etc.

Career goals... My immediate goal is to make the transition to crew chief and take charge of the actions of my crew, to the best of my abilities.

Hobbies... I love disc golf, cycling, hunting, hiking, camping, canoeing, water skiing and tubing.

One of your most rewarding experiences while serving in the Air Guard...

My time on the Azores Islands, Portugal. Seeing a completely different culture is eye opening, and can give you perspective on your own.

Advice to new Airmen... Be open to any situation. The Guard will present you with amazing opportunities.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Caroline Hayworth

OTTA donates over \$6,000 to community

**By Maj. Rick L Mutchler
President, OTTA**

As president of your Officer and Top Three Association, I am extremely proud of what 2010 brought to our organization. Through the support of many of you, we not only broke membership records, we also raised record funds.

Lt. Col. John Blair, OTTA Treasurer, did a phenomenal job both creating and masterminding our budget. In all, through sponsorships and donations, we were able to give away more than \$6,000 to the local community.

We started by giving to Positive Tomorrows, an organization whose

goal is to create a safe and stable environment for homeless children and their families.

We then decided to help those who helped us build this installation, our retirees in the WRANGB Grey Eagles organization. The Grey Eagles do so much for our base, while also providing scholarships to our children on an annual basis.

The Norman Veterans Center also received a donation from our association. If you've never visited this facility, you would be both amazed and proud of how our veterans are treated there. Our donation to this organization went directly into the veterans' activities

fund. We wrapped up the year by donating to two other organizations with funds raised during a Chili Cook-Off -- Operation Holiday Spirit where our Airmen in need benefitted directly and the Oklahoma City Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission provides immediate care to our homeless throughout the year.

There were several other smaller donations made from EANGUS memberships for some of our junior enlisted, to our hospitality room to provide food and refreshments to those that work so hard at putting on the Military Ball.

See OTTA, page 7

Air Force core values guide all Airmen



By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy

The Air Force Core Values guide us in all of our decisions as we rise to meet any challenge presented. These enduring values anchor and bind Airmen together each and every day. Any compromise diminishes the character of our service.

As military men and women, the American people count on us to adhere to the laws of the land, and we now stand ready and able to follow any decisions made.

The success of implementing any changes in policy rests on the shoulders of our Air Force senior leaders, commanders and the NCO corps. We're confident that as professional Airmen, we will let our Core Values guide us in meeting challenges resulting from any

changes.

Integrity First- Airmen must serve with the utmost integrity. We need to be honest in all things and have respect for ourselves and each other. It is necessary that we act with integrity both in our professional lives as well as our personal lives because our word is our bond.

Service Before Self- All of us volunteered to serve our nation and put the needs of the Air Force before our own. No matter the issue or task, you have always overcome challenges with conviction, confidence and professionalism. This time is no different. Serving in our Air Force is a higher calling. We commit to following our leaders and protect our wingmen every day.

Excellence in All We Do-Excellence means respect for each other and value of individual contributions. We need to understand that people depend on and trust us to give our very best. As others value our contributions, we must recognize the worth of fellow Airmen.

The Air Force Core Values are what we live by, and they will continue to guide our standards. I'm proud to serve alongside you in the world's finest Air Force. I know we can handle any challenge we are faced with.

OTTA from page 6,

As you can see, while \$20 may not seem like a lot to some, OTTA and other membership dues go a

long way when we put it all together.

If you're an officer or Top 3, I look forward to seeing you at our

membership meeting in February.

It has truly been a pleasure.

Thank for allowing me to lead your OTTA!

This month in Air National Guard History...

The 125th Fighter Squadron in Tulsa flew the F-51 airplane until February 1947 when it was designated the 125th Fighter Bomber Squadron (Jet) and equipped with the F-84 aircraft.

After receiving the Spaatz Trophy Award in 1950, the 125th was again ordered to active duty under the Ninth Air Force and sent to Alexan-

dria, Louisiana until July 1952. After returning to Tulsa under state control the squadron flew the F-51 and F-80 aircrafts until becoming part of the 138th Fighter Group for duty with the Air Defense Command flying the F-86D in August 1957.

January 1960 brought significant change to the 125th as the unit was designated the 125th Air Transport

Squadron and assigned to the 137th Air Transport Wing in Oklahoma City. For the next eight years the unit flew the C-97 airplane, transporting cargo to Vietnam and throughout the world before converting to the C-124 in 1968.

For more info go to <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usaf/125fs.htm>.



Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Joint Force Headquarters

Oklahoma Air and Army Honor Guard members salute incoming Governor Mary Fallin during the official inauguration at the Oklahoma State Capitol, on Jan 10, 2011. Other Honor Guard members provided the flag detail and firing party for the ceremony.

Air Force Core Values

Integrity First
 Service Before Self
 Excellence In All We Do

WILL ROGERS MISSION STATEMENT

“To enhance global reach by serving our nation, state and community through the unique capabilities of the 137th Air Refueling Wing, the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, and the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron.”

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