

## 137 ARW welcomes new wing commander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward

*Members of the 137th ARW attend the Change of Command Ceremony at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base Jan. 11, 2014.*

### By Airman 1st Class Kasey Phipps, 137 ARW Public Affairs

The 137th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma City, honored Col. Devin R. Wooden as its new wing commander in a Change of Command Ceremony Jan. 11, 2014. Col. Wooden assumed command of the 137th ARW from Col.

Glen M. Baker, as of Jan. 1, 2014.

Distinguished guests included a host of retired general officers, former wing commanders, and families of those being honored.

Col. Baker, a member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard since January 1980, was the 137th ARW's 15th wing

commander for the last three years.

Baker says he knows the future of the Wing has found competent hands under Col. Wooden's command.

"He's the right commander who has the right spirit, the right tools, and the  
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# Col. Wooden: “Get back to the basics.”



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

Let me begin by saying it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your commander, and I am deeply appreciative of all of the effort and support I have received from each of you. I am also very enthusiastic about the leadership team we have here on Will Rogers ANG base and of the exciting future ahead.

It is my pleasure to welcome Col. Kelly Cobble back to the base as the new Maintenance Group commander and introduce Col. Doug Hayworth as the Mission Support Group commander. Col. Tom Ryan will assume the role of vice wing commander and that of my new wingman.

Additionally, I want to extend well wishes to Col. Baker in his new challenges ahead and thank him for his years of dedicated service, leadership, friendship and selfless mentoring.

It is in that spirit, I want to pick up on an idea Col. Baker stressed to each of us numerous times – Being a good wingman.

As with any worthy skill, the wingman concept requires training, practice and proper employment to be effective. Therefore, the basic tenets of being a wingman must be

clearly understood by all to be most effective.

The “wingman concept” described in our resiliency training gets its origin from our long history of formation flying in the Air Force. Historically, 90% of all air-to-air kills in aerial combat were achieved due to undetected attacks. Visual formations evolved throughout the years in an attempt to visually clear for one another and deny the enemy an unseen entry. And so it is, here on the ground, during the day-to-day events of our lives.

Individually, we try to handle our challenges solo and are not able to adequately clear for ourselves. Tragically, we are not aware of the potentially dangerous undetected attack. We all need wingmen!

The wingman’s primary responsibility is remaining close to other wingmen and warning the others of any immediate threats, thus, ensuring mutual protection.

Moreover, when individuals come together, as a formation, and work as one seamless unit they become more offensively and defensively capable, improve mission effectiveness, situational awareness and become an overall more formidable adversary to their foes.

As you consider these roles and responsibilities of a good wingman, I ask you: Are you a good wingman? Are you proactive in keeping an eye out for your formation? Are you flying solo? Are you at risk for an undetected attack?

If you are unsure about the answers to any of these questions, I urge you to get back to the basics and locate your wingman.

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.

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## Personnel Updates

### Incoming:

Airman Basic Dylan Kalter  
 Airman Basic Courtney Larose  
 Airman 1st Class Kevin Doyle  
 Airman 1st Class Eric Futrell  
 Airman 1st Class Conner Sivard  
 Senior Airman Chanda Daugherty  
 Senior Airman Christopher Newkirk  
 Senior Airman Adam Thompson  
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Moll

### Promotions:

Senior Airman Jennifer Dixon  
 Senior Airman Daniel Major  
 Senior Airman Robert Rutledge  
 Staff Sgt. Amanda Bryce  
 Staff Sgt. Micah Jarrett  
 Staff Sgt. Scott Mosher  
 Staff Sgt. Joshua Tremain  
 Tech. Sgt. Fred Moreton  
 Master Sgt. Ekarath Lavarn  
 Master Sgt. Alan Westover  
 Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Cruze  
 Senior Master Sgt. Susan McCullers  
 Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Woodall  
 1st Lt. Lee Cawood  
 1st Lt. Christopher Sage  
 Major David Guten  
 Capt. Christopher Broeker  
 Lt. Col. Jason Rozneck

### Retirements:

Staff Sgt. Federick Blackbear  
 Master Sgt. Terry Bohn

**For more Oklahoma National Guard news go to:**

<http://www.oklahomafrontline.com/>

## February Menu

**Saturday**

**10:30 am-12:30 pm**

Chicken tortilla soup, steak, chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, assorted desserts

**Sunday**

**10:30 am-12:30 pm**

Soup, fried catfish, pork chops, gravy, mac/cheese, rice, mixed vegetables, rolls, assorted desserts

## 2014

### Drill Dates

February	1-2
March	1-2
April	5-6
May	3-4
June	7-8
July (Flex Drill)	12-13



Conduct personal business online instead of visiting Force Support Squadrons during drill weekend! Available personnel online services found at: [www.mypers.af.mil](http://www.mypers.af.mil)

## VetNet

Veterans can plot and organize career moves after the military with Veterans Network.

**Visit:**  
[www.vetnethq.com](http://www.vetnethq.com)

## Numbers to know:

(Area code 405)

**Angie Cunningham (Psychological Health):** 686-5145  
**Security Forces:** 686-5301  
**Emergencies:** 911, then 686-5117  
**ID card appointments:** 686-5212  
**Medical appointments:** 686-5245  
**Comm Help desk:** 686-5000  
**Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Hotline:** 686-5561  
**Mishap reporting:** 686-5555  
**Chaplain's office:** 686-5334  
**Base information line:** 686-5627  
**Jennifer Lain, Airman & Family Readiness:** 686-5683

## TUITION WAIVERS

### DUE

Tuition waivers should be turned in to your point of contact no later than the end February drill.

## Junior Enlisted Counsel

*Second annual board member elections*

The JEC will be holding elections on February 2, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the dining facility at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base. Any enlisted member from E-1 to E-6 is eligible to vote.

**For more information call**  
**(405)- 686-5321**

## Stay Connected and



at  
**137th Air Refueling Wing**

# Airmen receive Commendation Medal



*Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward*

*Senior Airman Morgan Christy and Tech. Sgt. Arlene Nilkumhang pose with their Oklahoma Medals of Commendation after a ceremony for heroic actions that saved the life of a teenage girl during a hike in Alaska. They were recognized at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base Dec. 8, 2013.*

**By Airman 1st Class Brigette Waltermire  
137 ARW**

Senior Airman Morgan Christy, a financial management analyst for the 137th Comptroller Flight, and Tech. Sgt. Arlene Nilkumhang, a service technician for the 137th Services Sustainment Flight, were awarded the Oklahoma Commendation Medal at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base Dec. 8, 2013.

The two guardsmen received the award for rescuing a teenage girl who had fallen off the edge of a trail while hiking in Alaska.

“We were on annual training one evening when we got off work about 10 of us decided to go hike to the top of Flattop Mountain,” said Christy.

On July 19, 2013, Nilkumhang and Christy were hiking on Flattop Mountain in Chugach State Park east of Anchorage, Alaska, when they observed a teenage girl slip off the edge of a trail that led down the mountain. They rushed to the area and saw the girl had been caught in a shrub ap-

proximately 10 feet below the edge of the trail.

“I heard the mother scream so I yelled back, ‘Do you need help?’ and she screamed, ‘Yes!’ so Arlene and I took off,” said Christy.

Christy, the first to arrive, laid down on her stomach to try and reach the girl. Seeing that she was unable to reach far enough, she asked Nilkumhang to hold her hands and to lower her over the side. The girl was able to grab onto Christy’s ankle. Holding on to Nilkumhang, Christy used her leg to pull the girl up and out of the shrub where a civilian helped to pull her to safety.

“I had to talk to the girl; I was trying to calm her and making sure I gave clear instructions along the lines of, ‘I’m coming down. Don’t grab my foot, grab my ankle instead. It’s ok. Calm down. We’ll pull you up,’” said Christy.

The rescue was seen by fellow guardsmen on the hike with them, but it was not until after they had returned to Will Rogers ANGB that other superiors found out about it, said Capt. Paul Blankenship, force support officer of the 137th Force Support Squadron. After hearing about it, he

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*“Leadership is super proud and appreciative of their efforts, and the families and individuals involved are very appreciative – especially the mother We really couldn’t be more proud.”*

*Capt. Paul Blankenship*

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began researching for statements and further details because he knew it deserved recognition.

“I was very impressed and pleased, but at the same time I wasn’t surprised that they responded quickly and put themselves at risk to help somebody,” said Blankenship. “That’s the type of people we have in the unit and at the base – people that will put themselves in harm’s way without a second thought.”

Even though the two women recognize what they did was a good thing, they try to downplay it and deflect praise, said Blankenship.

“It wasn’t a big deal, just lending a hand to somebody who needed help. I didn’t think it was as big an event as what it has turned into,” said Christy.

# What do you seek first for happiness?



By Capt. Joseph D. Baker  
137th ARW Wing Chaplain

This is a special time of the year. We all look at our lives and want to do better by setting goals. We can anticipate doing a lot of things this year, but I want to remind you of something that is important as we begin the New Year. I am reminded of a story:

King George V wrote on the flyleaf of the Bible of a friend: "The secret of happiness is not to do what you like to do, but to learn to like what you have to do."

Too many people think happiness is an elusive, will-o'-the-wisp thing to be found only by constant pursuit and relentless searching. But happiness is not an end in itself; it is the byproduct of something far greater.

Jesus told His disciples: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). The "things" He spoke of were the basic needs of life: food, drink, clothes and shelter. He told us not to make these things the chief goal of our lives, but to "seek...the kingdom."

There, if we will take it, is the secret of happiness: "Seek first the kingdom of God..."

How do we do this? By submitting ourselves without reserve to Jesus Christ as King of our lives every day. This is the path to our true happiness.

Thank you for letting me learn from you.

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talent to get it done with excellence," said Baker.

Col. Wooden previously held the vice commander position for the 137th ARW, and his service to the Wing has spanned 27 years within several positions.

In his speech, Wooden applauded the members of the 137th ARW for their abilities and readiness to respond to calls requiring action.

"Because of the caliber of the Airmen who stand in formation in front of me today...I will pick up the phone with confidence. I want you to know that; and I will go about my business watching you answer the call because that's what you do, that's who you are as leaders, that's your culture, and I am honored to be your commander."

Wooden went on to challenge the Airmen to be responsible for themselves and others; emphasizing that



Col. Devin Wooden salutes Brig. Gen. Gregory Ferguson after assuming command of the 137th Air Refueling Wing at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base Jan. 11, 2014. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward)

care to detail should be taken in every process.

"Leaders, your Airmen deserve it, and I demand it. I know we have the right people in place to see it through, because that's what leaders do – at all levels, regardless of rank," he said.

Brig. Gen. Gregory L. Ferguson, chief of staff of the OKANG, Joint Force Headquarters, and former wing

commander, congratulated the commanders on their new positions and shared his positive outlook for the Wing.

"I couldn't be more optimistic about the future of this wing," said Ferguson. "I know the professionalism and resiliency that this Wing holds will help it to excel in the opportunities ahead."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyler Woodward

*Senior Airman Jacob Crook, A wire team member With the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, climbs a 40 foot dipole antenna tower located behind building 1040 on Will Rogers Air National Guard Base. The tower is no longer used and is being removed by SrA Crook and other members of the 205th EIS.*

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 "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."