



The Liberty Press



November 2005

A publication for the 512th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, Del., an Air Force Reserve Command unit

Vol. 15 No. 8



512th CES best in AFRC

Page 3

Find it ...

Perspectives / 2 News / 3
AFNews / 8 Recognition / 11

OG supports Pakistan mission / Page 4
Civilian bosses try Reserve life / Page 6-7
AF releases next force shaping plan / Page 8

512th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office
202 Liberty Way
Dover AFB, DE
19902-5202
(302) 677-3485

e-mail:
liberty.press@dover.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Liberty Press" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office (Air Force Reserve Command), Dover Air Force Base, Del. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise noted.

Commander

Col. Ronald A. Rutland

Chief, Public Affairs

1st Lt. Marnee A.C.

Losurdo

Editor

Tech. Sgt. Veronica A.

Aceveda

Staff Writers

Senior Airman Jennie

Chamberlin

Senior Airman David
Younce

ON THE COVER:

Members from the 512th Civil Engineer Squadron train on how to identify ordnance during their annual bivouac Oct. 1 - 2 near the Air Mobility Command Museum. Civil engineers also received training in chemical warfare protection and maintaining perimeter security. (Photo by Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin)

New job brings new loyalties

Col. David Wuest

512th AW vice commander

As I'm adjusting to my new position, I'm pleased to know the basic principle of loyalty can still carry you through uncharted territory.

You absolutely have to have it – to your boss and to the people you supervise. You don't necessarily have to agree with them all of the time, but try and understand there's a larger blue print in place.

For example, you're a mid-tier manager, and you feel the new process in the office is manpower

intensive and a complete waste of time. It can be easy to express displeasure in the work place over

this new process, but it can also be dangerous, especially when witnessed by junior troops. They may be impressionable as to only see the higher leader in a negative light – "the one who put this

stupid process in place."

A supervisor who portrays his or her boss in this manner will find their own unit full of people pulling in many different directions, which only leads to a path of difficulty and poor morale.

On the other hand, leaders who try to convey as much of the big picture as allowed and pass down the positive aspects of difficult taskings will find their people pulling together for the mission and pulling together with more confidence and esprit de corps. This is what I believe it means to be not only loyal to

"While I do miss the flying...there are other responsibilities that come with this job that I wouldn't trade."

Col. David Wuest

your boss but to those you supervise.

As for myself, I'll always have a heart of loyalty for the flying realm, but now I've been shown a bigger blue print - the entire wing.



I was surprised to see how well our maintenance squadrons are blended with the active duty. I thought our fliers assimilated well, but

Operations doesn't compare to what Maintenance has when it comes to integration.

While I do miss the flying and the flight suit, there are other

responsibilities that come with this job that I wouldn't trade.

As the vice commander, I participate in the dignified transfer of America's fallen.

It's extremely important, and it's something I'm very proud to do. It certainly means something to everyone on this base. During many of the transfers I've presided over, I've seen flightline workers and passersby stand at attention, place their hands on their hearts or salute – all without being told to do so.

I assure you loyalty is a driving force here as well. The dignity and respect that goes into bringing home those taken in battle is beyond compare.

I'm grateful to be a part of it, and I'm grateful to be in a position, where I can help support our wing's next direction.

Not so weird afterall

Tech. Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda

Editor

When it comes to watching television sitcoms, I've always been drawn to watch the kind that were based on some type of dysfunctional family like "Married with Children." They're extremely humorous to me since I too have often thought of my family as not so "normal."



My father was born and raised in the Phillipines, where he joined the U.S. Navy, a commitment which took him into retirement. His name is Adolfo Castillo Aceveda. My mother, Charlotte Gail Smith, is a country girl from the Arkansas mountains. Out of

See **Weird...**page 10

512th CES named best in command

1st. Lt. Marnee A. C. Losurdo
Chief, 512th Public Affairs

The 512th Civil Engineer Squadron is the Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding CE Unit for 2005. The award, which recognizes accomplishments from October 2004 to September 2005, is recognition well deserved, said Lt. Col. Lisa Bobotas, 512th CES commander.

The squadron has a diverse mission, providing engineer, fire protection, readiness and explosive ordnance disposal forces at stateside and deployed locations.

"It's a privilege to be a small part of something bigger and to work with people of such caliber," said the colonel. "I'm proud of everything the unit has accomplished."

"Every unit member played an integral part in our unit receiving this award," said Chief Master Sgt. Pete Vielandi, 512th CES chief of operations.

In the past year, 512th CES reservists volunteered to work 1,800 days supporting active duty. In addition to accomplishing the mission here, several CES members deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Reserve command had CE slots that needed to be filled in Air Expeditionary Force rotations, said Colonel Bobotas.

"These requirements were not our AEF cycle, but we stepped up to the plate and filled the slots," she said. "This is where the rubber hits the road. It's what we train for."

From plumbers to heating, ventilation and air conditioning

technicians, there was someone from every CE career field supporting the deployments, said Chief Vielandi.

Master Sgt. Rob McLeod, 512th CES operations superintendent, said he's most proud of his unit's accomplishments in support of the AEFs.

"We're here to support the AEF, and it was amazing to be part of something where people from all over the Air Force and the different services work together to get the mission done," he said.

Chief Vielandi, Sergeant McLeod and 16 other CE Airmen deployed to the Middle East from December 2004 to May 2005.

The Airmen supported the Prime BEEF mission of maintaining a bare base environment as well as the U2 and Global HAWK missions. CE members also took the lead on a \$2 million expeditionary fuels project, enabling combat operations in the Southeast Asia Theater, said Sergeant McLeod.

In addition to deploying to the Middle East last year, one 512th firefighter and two 512th EOD members spent time in Iraq.

512th CES Firefighter Master Sgt. Sam Arbuckle deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, and provided fire protection mission support.

Maj. Amber Kasbeer, 512th EOD flight, ran the Air Force portion of EOD support in Baghdad, Iraq, for six months.

Senior Master Sgt. William Morgan III, 512th EOD flight, also deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq. As the EOD flight chief, he led a 33-person unit responsible for a 68,000 square mile area during his five-month deployment. Unit members conducted 1,100 missions, clearing about 50 tons of explosive ordnance without any

injuries or deaths, said Sergeant Morgan.

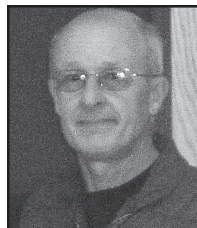
"That's miraculous for a unit that goes off-base into hazardous conditions every day," said Tech. Sgt. Dave Guenther, 512th EOD program manager.

"We train hard and we do our jobs very well," said Sergeant McLeod. "It's nice to be rewarded for a job well done."



In memory of Chief Master Sgt. Douglas Weinmann

Chief Weinmann, 709th Airlift Squadron loadmaster supervisor, passed away Oct. 2, after a battle with cancer and leukemia. He was cremated after a memorial service Oct. 8, in Federalsburg, Md. Chief Weinmann is survived by his wife, three children, a grandchild, his parents and his brother.



In memory of Master Sgt. Howard Walstead

Sergeant Walstead, 709th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, passed away Oct. 11, after a battle with cancer. He had been with the 512th Airlift Wing since joining the military in 1983. He was laid to rest in Milton, Del. Sergeant Walstead is survived by his wife, their two children, grandchildren and his mother.



The Liberty Wing will celebrate the life, leadership and memory of these individuals over November's UTA.



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Timothy Smith

Pakistani soldiers carry tents away from a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter Oct. 19. Dover C-5s hauled two of these aircraft in support of the multinational effort to provide humanitarian assistance and support to Pakistan and parts of India and Afghanistan, following the devastating Oct. 8 earthquake.

Dover C-5 hauls helicopters for earthquake relief effort

A C-5 Galaxy aircraft received a mission Oct. 13 in support of earth quake relief efforts in Pakistan. The aircrew, comprised of 436th Airlift Wing and 512th Airlift Wing members, departed Dover Air Force Base at 4:30 p.m. for Robert Grey Army Air Field, Texas, where they picked up two CH-47 Chinooks to deliver to the devastated region.

The crew's itinerary consisted of a 10-hour flight to Spain, and then onto Pakistan to deliver the helicopters, said Capt. Matt Walsh, 9th Airlift Squadron pilot for the mission. The location in Pakistan was not known at the time of departure.

Capt. Christian Fiore, 326th Airlift Squadron pilot, was one of five Reserve members on the mixed crew.

"Being a reservist, we're always ready to answer the call," said the captain who volunteered for the mission. "It's a real privilege to be a part of something bigger."

A 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Pakistan Oct. 8. A week later, Pakistani officials estimated the death toll exceeded 50,000.

The CH-47 transports ground forces, supplies, ammunition and other battle-critical cargo in support of worldwide combat and contingency operations, according to an Army fact sheet. The main cabin can hold up to 33 troops. For medical evacuation, the cabin can accommodate 24 stretchers.

While this was the first Pakistan earthquake relief mission, the Dover Team is still actively supporting Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief work. *(Courtesy 512th PA)*

Dover recruiters rack up goal-breaking awards

Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Boothe

512th AW senior recruiter

The Dover Team's Reserve recruiters recently returned from a week-long trip to Savannah, Ga., where they claimed their fifth consecutive Recruiting Excellence Award for achieving 117 percent of its annual assigned goal. The Reserve command as a whole reached 114 percent of goal.

Master Sgt. Mike DiLorenzo

Dover's In-Service Recruiter, Sergeant DiLorenzo, earned his second Century Club Award by placing 100 separating active-duty members into the Air Force Reserve and also received recognition as the Top In-Service Recruiter in a lucrative recruiting zone; he achieved 250 percent of his assigned goal. He was also recognized as the In-Service Recruiter accessing the highest percentage of separating Airmen.

Tech. Sgt. Tripp Clough

Sergeant Clough, who worked at the base's main recruiting office last year and is currently assigned to the Newark, Del. location, is one of 50 recruiters to receive a Superior Achievement Award; he accessed 115 percent of his annual goal.

110 Percent Badges

Sergeant Clough, in his first year of recruiting, is also one of four Dover recruiters who received 110 percent badges for exceeding that mark. Master Sgt. Cherie Rogers from the Hampton, Va., office earned her second; and, Master Sgts. DiLorenzo and Stevie Hunt from the Langley AFB, Va. location earned their third.

Staff Sgt. Carlos Cameron

Sergeant Cameron who's assigned to Norfolk, Va., also received special recognition for accessing nine individuals in his first three months on the team.

The recruiters are already working towards another successful year for fiscal year 2006. Wing members can help by referring people through the Get One Program. Call 677-6912, or stop by the Recruiting Office at the Visitor's Center on A-Team UTA Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Reserve vacancies

Dover Air Force Base:

Operations Intelligence
Integrated Avionics Systems
Aircraft Fuel Systems
Aircraft Hydraulic Systems
Aerospace Propulsion
Aircraft Electrical, Environmental Systems
Aircraft Structural Maintenance
Maintenance Production Management
Air Transportation
Munitions Systems
Information Management

Utilities Systems
Fire Protection
Explosive Ordnance Disposal
Readiness
Services
Education and Training
Aerospace Medical Service
Langley Air Force Base:
Air Transportation
Communication-Computer
Systems Operations
As of Oct. 17

**IMMORTALIZED
IN PLASTIC**

Wing reservist is true action hero

Airman 1st Class James Bolinger

436th Public Affairs

Many children play with action figures. Figures modeled after movie stars and TV shows such as the Terminator, Transformers or Batman. Many adults can remember playing with action figures when they were kids and also collect them now. Many of them may have wanted to be the movie star that was immortalized in plastic. Well, for one Dover Airman that childhood dream came true. Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Fay, a 709th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, was used as the model for a new line of military action figures.

The figures were modeled after the separate branches of the U.S. military. Sergeant Fay's figure represents the Air Force.

The action figure, which came out about two months ago, was designed to be a detail-oriented realistic replica of American forces, with correct uniforms and equipment. The uniform and equipment of the toy is that of the 720th Special Tactics Group. It is wearing desert camouflage and is equipped with both an M16A1 and M203 assault weapon/grenade launcher.

His brother works for the company that is producing the line, he said. When the company brought up the idea for an Air Force figure he mentioned that I'm an Airman. He was never a Special Operations Airman and didn't know what Air Force Specialty Code his face would represent.

"I was just representing the Air Force not a career field, the toy had no planned face, so, my brother asked if I could be the model," explained Sergeant Fay.

Sergeant Fay has been a reservist and an active-duty Airman at Dover Air Force Base for his entire career.

He started his career in the 512th Component Repair Squadron in 1992, working in the jet-engine repair shop. Four years later, he cross-trained and became a member of the 709th AS. He then went to active duty in 1998, joining the

3rd AS. Finally, in 2003, he changed back to the Reserve, rejoining the 709th AS.

"I've been to over 50 countries and around the world once," said Sergeant Fay. "I have been to incredible places that I never would've seen if I had not joined the military."

Having been to so many places in person, he now gets to travel to new places in a different

kind of way. Wherever kids play with action figures, Sergeant Fay will be there with his toy comrades in arms.

When the time came for the model to be created, he was unable to travel to New Jersey to get the head scan, which is used to start the sculpture.

"They have a machine there where you can get your head scanned and it will make a copy that can be used to start a sculpture," he continued. "But I didn't have time to drive there before the deadline."

So, instead he sent his brother 40 pictures of his head from every angle.

With those pictures in hand, Brian Fay, the sergeant's brother, sculpted a 12-inch figure in the likeness of a special operations staff sergeant.

Using tools similar to those of a dentist, Brian carved the figure out of castilene, a substance that models like

clay and works like wax. After carving, the statue was sent to Hong Kong, where it was shrunk down to six inches and mass produced to be sold at toy stores in America.

Sergeant Fay said the shrinking made his face a little skinnier, but the likeness is still dead on.

"This guy has more of a tan than I do," he added. "I can see my nose and my cheek bones and my smile and see, yeah, that's me."

Sergeant Fay's son, Ethan, can wage wars against anything his young mind can imagine, and his father gets to lead the charge the way no other father can.

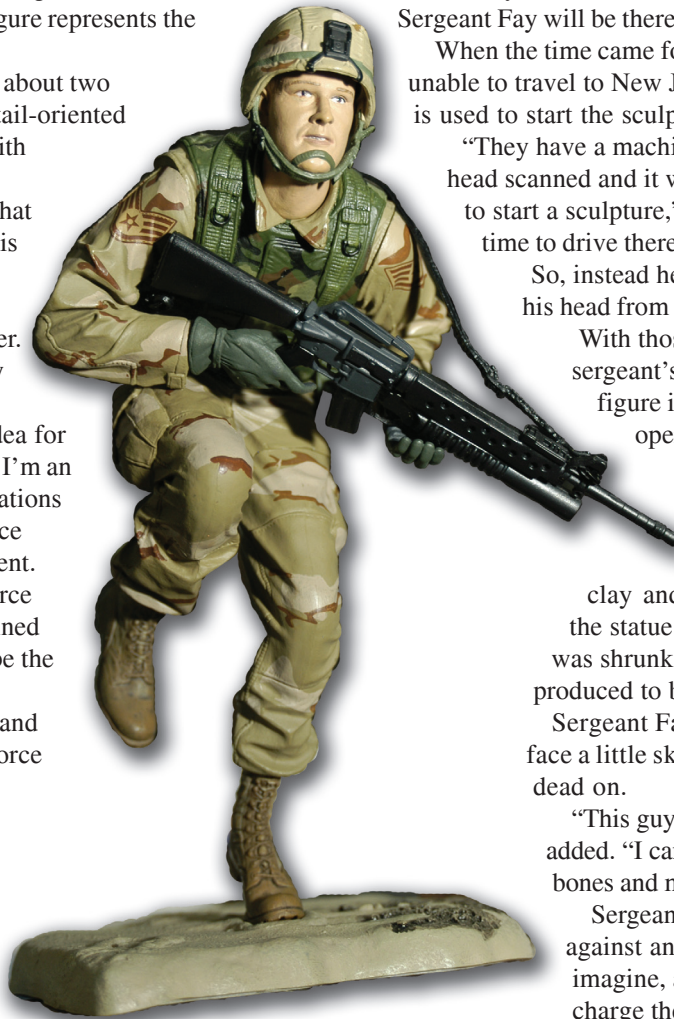
**Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Fay**



Photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Groth

ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Valerie Harwood, 512th Airlift Control Flight, and her employers Gene and Alan Zipkee peer up from the cargo bay of the C-5. Mr. and Ms. Zipkee work at Campus Community School.



Photo by Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin

RIGHT: Senior Airman Teelah Adkins, 512th Component Maintenance Squadron, instructs Fay Shockley, Delaware Electric Cooperative, on how to heat a meal-ready-to-eat. Ms. Shockley is the civilian supervisor of Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Harmon, 512th Civil Engineer Squadron.



Photo by Senior Airman



Photo by Roland Balik



Photo by Jennie Chamberlin

ABOVE: Gene Hebert (left), Chairman of the Delaware Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, interacts with employers Oct. 1 at the Air Mobility Command Museum.

LEFT: Capt. Ken Haltom, 512th Airlift Wing Legal Office, processes an employer through the mock mobility line.



Photo by Roland Balik

Smyrna Police Department Capt. Darold Weber reminisces with Senior Airman Justin Weeks, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, about his youth and his days in the Civil Air Patrol.

Employer Appreciation Day

Event helps civilians understand Reserve role in national defense

Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin
Staff writer

More than 50 employers of 512th Airlift Wing reservists participated in Employer Appreciation Day Oct. 1 here.

The event, cosponsored by the Delaware Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, is designed to give employers a taste of what it's like to be a Citizen Airman.

Col. Ronald A. Rutland, 512th AW commander, greeted the employers as they arrived at the Air Mobility Command Museum and informed them about the day's theme. They were now "activated" and being "deployed" to Iraq.

The employers received several deployment briefings, including an intelligence overview, a country description and instructions from security forces.

The activated employers processed through a mobility line filled with various agencies including the legal office, finance office, immunizations, the family support center and the chaplain's office. At each station, they were asked a series of questions relating to how well they were prepared for mobilization.

"It was absolutely eye opening," said Bob Service who was invited by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Groth, 512th Airlift Wing. The two work for the Priority One Foundation.

The last stop in the mobility line was the lunch selection station. From beef stew to chicken with salsa, employers chose from a wide range of meals-ready-to-eat and received instruction on how to prepare their food with an MRE heater.

The civilian bosses also observed one of the military's most solemn traditions. Master Sgt. (Ret.) Gregory Sell, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, performed a Prisoner of War-Missing in Action table ceremony.

Throughout the day, employers observed different demonstrations on base to include the mechanics of a C-5's landing gear and an overview of the explosive ordnance and security forces career fields.

The day concluded with a C-5 orientation flight along the eastern seaboard. In addition the visiting the flight deck and cargo bay, employers also witnessed an 18-year-old Dover native enlist into the Air Force Reserve.

By day's end, employers left with more insight into the role of reservists.

"I've always been familiar with the military, but I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn the specific mission of the the 512th Airlift Wing and how they support the full-time guys," said Mr. Service.

Force shaping board meets in 2006

A force shaping board will convene in 2006 and continue to meet annually to properly shape the officer corps to meet emerging Air Force needs.

The Air Force began fiscal year 2006 with a force imbalance. It was under strength by approximately 6,000 enlisted and over strength by approximately 3,000 officers.

A current excess of nearly 4,000 officers, primarily from the 2000 to 2004 commissioning years, make worse the imbalance and has a long-range impact on the effective development of the officer corps and the ability to access sustainable numbers of enlisted Airmen.

Despite an aggressive voluntary force shaping campaign, the Air Force has not achieved the balance of officer to enlisted Airmen through existing voluntary means.

Congress recently gave each service secretary increased authority to proactively manage their junior officer corps through force shaping efforts.

Eligible officers may continue to apply for voluntary separation until March 1, 2006, using the force shaping initiatives already approved.

Subsequent boards will consider officers commissioned three years earlier. For example, the 2007 board will evaluate

officers commissioned in 2004.

“We value the service of all our Airmen,” said Brig. Gen. Gleen F. Spears, AF director of force management policy. “Voluntary force shaping initiatives, and the force shaping board, are key aspects of our force management and development.”

“Our Airmen have many opportunities to serve - in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, as Air Force civilians or in the Army,” the general said. “We encourage Airmen in the affected year groups to pursue those opportunities to continue service to our great nation.” (Courtesy Air Force Print News)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Molyneux

Rhein-Main mission ends, but not its legacy

Bob Keffer has been a fixture at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, for 31 years. He has seen many historical events take place at the base. On Sept. 28, he photographed the last C-17 Globemaster III airlift mission from there. The base closed Oct. 1.

AFRC switches to web-based education system

Air Force reservists can now track their education progress, request transcripts and update personal education information on the Web.

Going through the Air Force Portal and accessing the Virtual Education Center’s Web site at www.afvec.langley.af.mil saves reservists time and money as

they’re now able to perform some tasks previously done by their military personnel flight. The service became available to reservists Oct. 1.

Liberty Wing members can learn more about AFVEC from the 512th Education and Training Office. (Courtesy Air Force Reserve Command)

Reservists encouraged to take climate survey

The 2005 Air Force Climate Survey runs through Nov. 23, and Air Force Reserve Command leaders want everyone in the command to participate. The survey is located at www.afclimatesurvey.af.mil. (Courtesy AFRC)

AMC, AFRC undergo leadership changes

Lt. Gen. Duncan J. McNabb assumed command of the Air Mobility Command in a ceremony Oct. 14.



Lt. Gen. Duncan J. McNabb

Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, retires Dec. 23, after 35 years of service.



Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi

Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, 10th Air Force commander, is slated to become AFRC’s new vice commander.



Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin



Photo by Caroline Vennell

Remembrance

Members from the 512th Airlift Wing participated in the base's POW/MIA vigil Sept. 16. Reserve and active-duty servicemembers took shifts in surrounding the flag in honor of POW/MIA day. **CLOCKWISE FROM CENTER** are Senior Airmen Erica Dixon and Katherine Blanchfield from the 512th Mission Support Squadron, Master Sgt. Barry Heuyard, 709th Airlift Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. Charles Harrell, 512th Component Maintenance Squadron.

Around the 512th

Wing commander's call set for December UTA

The wing-wide commander's call is Dec. 4 at the base theater. All members are expected to be seated by 7 a.m.

Individuals being recognized on stage are to report to the theater by 6:45 a.m. The 512th Public Affairs Office is the POC.

Flu vaccine en route

The wing's flu vaccination plan is slated to get underway over the November A-Team UTA, provided the expected vaccine shipments are received in time.

The immunizations clinic, located on the third floor of the base hospital, will be

administering flu vaccines all day on Saturday, Nov. 5 at both the clinic and at the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron theater located in Building 760.

Reservists can also receive flu shots at the clinic Nov. 6 between the hours of 8 to 11 a.m. *(Courtesy 512th AMDS)*

Request dog tags online

Dog tag request forms are now available on the 512th Intranet located at www.512intra.dover.af.mil. On the main page, click Quick Links, 512 Community and Dog Tag Request. The completed dog tags will be sent to the requesting member's unit through the distribution process unless noted otherwise. *(Courtesy 512th MSS)*

Wing-wide CFC challenge nears end

There's currently a challenge between the groups to see which unit can raise the most Combined Federal Campaign funds. As of Oct. 25, the 512th Mission Support Group was in the lead.

The drive runs through Nov. 19. *(Courtesy 512th PA)*

Airlift Control Flight names new first shirt

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Ragonese is the new 512th ALCF first sergeant. Master Sgt. Kevin Eason retired. *(Courtesy 512th PA)*

The lighter side...



Autograph please Photo by Tech. Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda

David Stremme, the U.S. Navy's race car driver, signs an autograph for Eric Mack, 9. The young racing fan attended the Sept. 23 NASCAR Social at the Landings Club with Senior Master Sgt. Raenita Monroe's family. Sergeant Monroe works in the 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron.

Dates to remember

Dover Officer Spouses Club Craft Show

Nov. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fairgrounds in Harrington

Veterans Day

Nov. 11

All Nighter

Nov. 17, 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
The Landings Club
677-6022

Thanksgiving

Nov. 24

Christmas in Hershey Trip

Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Leisure Travel Office
677-3955

New York City Trip

Nov. 26, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Leisure Travel Office
677-3955

Food Drive

The 512th Top 3 Food Drive is currently underway. Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at the following locations: Building 202's lobby area; 46th Aerial Port's orderly room; Building 760's main entrance area.

Other units are welcome to set up their own collection point and turn goods into a Top 3 representative by Dec. 4.

All donations will be delivered to local food bank and church programs.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Ara Shishmanian at (410) 206-4807.

*E-mail personal or professional achievements to:
liberty.press@dover.af.mil*

Weird from page 2

union, came me, my sister and many years of quirky tales.

When I joined the military at 18, I was away from home for the first time; so, I did my daughterly duty to call home and wish my father "Happy Father's Day" to which he instantaneously replied, "Happy Father's Day" to you too! Of course I had to laugh, and then explain that it wasn't customary to return the sentiment like on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

During the early years of my Air Force career, I can recall running into one or two other servicemembers who were also raised in a home, where one parent was foreign and the other was American. As we began to share amusing bi-ethnic stories, I started to realize I wasn't the only one with an outrageous repertoire of Filipino follies.

A decade later, there's an abundant number of mistesas in the military as well as other mixed races. Mistesa is a latin term frequently used to refer to the race of half-Filipino, half-American. It's mistesa mania in the 512th Airlift Wing. There are five of us in the headquarters building alone, and we shared some of our culture with the building by organizing an Asian Pacific Heritage Month luncheon back in May. Once again, I found myself exchanging accounts of growing up in a half-ethnic home, heavily decorated with ceramic flowers, statues and vases.

After meeting another mistesa who works here on base, he explained it's a Filipino cultural state of status to have a plethora of porcelain within ones home. How wonderful it was to learn

"...I too have often thought of my family as not so normal."

Tech. Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda

that my home wasn't the only one that was oddly adorned, at least from the average American onlooker. He still couldn't explain why many Filipino homes, including mine today, have the plastic hallway runners with the prickly underside.

He did, however, share a story with me, which actually inspired me to write this. To gain the full scope of this ordeal, it must be known that most native Filipinos cannot pronounce the sound of the letter "f". Most attempts come through as a blend of the letters "p" and "b", such as pinger for finger and pace for face.

When he told me his American father had bought a dog and named it Flop, I instantly began laughing for I knew there was potential for some Filipino humor here. He explained how when he and his dad would call the dog, the four-legged friend would most certainly heed to its name of Flop. But, his Filipino mother would always be so angry at the dog, for it never listened to any of her commands. Why? Because, when she called for the dog, she was calling it "Blop". Mixed with the accent and transposing of the alphabet, Flop simply couldn't recognize its own name.

I am so very grateful to have encountered the many members who share my race and share these stories. The Air Force is truly a diverse service, increasingly so every year. It's comforting to know my family is not as freaky as I had once proclaimed ... even if they do eat with their hands and love to sing sappy karaoke love songs.



Final farewell

On Oct. 18, a Dover Air Force Base institution, Lt. Col. Paul Gillis, doffed his C-5 flying cap and goggles for the last time.

Colonel Gillis started his career in 1972. Active-duty career assignments saw him flying KC-135s first at Castle AFB, Calif., and then at Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y., He outlasted both of those bases.

In August 1981, he joined the Air Force Reserve as a proud member of the 326th Airlift Squadron “Killer Bunnies,” flying the beloved C-5 Galaxy. In 1983, he became an ART and has seen action ranging from the chief of standardization and evaluation to squadron commander and operations officer.

Colonel Gillis is a command pilot with more than 8,000 flying hours and has seen action in almost every major global event since 1972. He’s a highly decorated warrior, a valued mentor to all who worked with him and most importantly, he’s a great human being who will be sorely missed at Dover AFB!

Congratulations Colonel Gillis on an astounding 33 years of service. We bid you happy trails and wish you phenomenal canoeing in retirement! (Courtesy 512th OG)

**Quarterly
Award Winners**

The wing’s quarterly award winners for the third quarter (July through September) are:

Airman
SrA Nathan Foose
512th SFS

NCO
SSgt Richard Stuhmer
512th AMXS

Senior NCO
SMSgt James Singletary
709th AS

Officer
Capt Timothy Morris
709th AS

Civilian
Ann Williams
326th AS

Retirements

CMSgt Gary Giles
CMSgt Brian Wasko
MSgt Janis Grimes
MSgt Rodger Wallace
TSgt Willie Marshall
TSgt Andres Velasquez-Puentes

Medals

Meritorious Service

Lt Col Charles E. Corbett Jr
Lt Col Paul Gillis
Capt Kenneth Haltom
CMSgt Robert Filipone
CMSgt Brian Wasko
SMSgt Christopher Dunn
TSgt Marjorie Hanna

Aerial Achievement

MSgt John Kaffka

AF Commendation

MSgt Amar McLeod
TSgt Robert Kelley
SSgt Anthony Volpe

AF Achievement

TSgt Kevin Fitzgerald
SrA Alexander Bard

Graduates

SNCO Academy

Kevin McNamara

NCO Academy

TSgt Patricia Baer

**Airman Leadership
School**

SrA Anna Rice

Newcomers

Maj Shamein Averett
Capt Richard Saunders
Capt Timothy Welter
SSgt Paul Crumpler
SSgt Brett Hencley
SSgt Kristopher Johnson
SSgt Andrew Parsons
SrA David Brown
SrA Ricky Myers
SrA Melissa Palacios
AIC Latrisha Chapman
AIC Omar Latiri
AIC Guerschon Lilavois
AIC Ryan Lutz
AIC Marcus Payne
AIC Andrew Walker
AIC Jazz Zapata
AIC James Zettlemoyer
Ann Michael DeCicco

Reenlistments

SMSgt Kevin Beasley
MSgt Charles James
MSgt Christine Shields
TSgt Joseph Bucci
TSgt Jennifer Hinshaw
TSgt Terry Prince
TSgt Noel Vadell
SSgt Andrew Parsons
SSgt Michael Rosan
SrA Omar Latiri
SrA Ricky Myers

I spy

Airman 1st Class Shawn Hamilton uses an auto level to shoot the grade of a future building development site at a desert air base Oct. 15. Airman Hamilton is a 512th Civil Engineer who is deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Hammond)



November A-Team pays Nov. 15
UTA paydates B-Team pays Dec. 1

Numbers to Know

512th Airlift Wing

Command Section	(888) 512 - 5120
Inspector General	(302) 677 - 5126
Judge Advocate	(302) 677 - 4431
Military Pay	(302) 677 - 3494
Finance (TDY travel vouchers)	(302) 677 - 4449
Chaplain	(302) 677 - 4770
Military Equal Opportunity	(302) 677 - 3903
Public Affairs	(888) 677 - 3485
Safety Office	(302) 677 - 3812
Recruiting	(302) 677 - 6912
Customer Service	(302) 677 - 3522
Family Readiness	(888) 677 - 3566
Computer Help Desk	(302) 677 - 3535
Operations center (24 Hours)	(888) 512 - 3800
UTA Lodging reservations	(866) 677 - 7098
Childcare reservations	(302) 677 - 3712

Welcome Staff Sgt. Kristopher Johnson



Unit: 512th AMXS
Duty position: Aircraft Communications Navigations Systems
Civilian Occupation: ART
Hometown: Pulaski, N.Y.
Previous assignment: 436th AMXS (four years)
Personal goal: Earn degree in Aeronautical Engineering

UTA Schedule

Fiscal year 2006:

	A Team	B Team
OCT	1-2	22-23
NOV	5-6	19-20
DEC	3-4	10-11
JAN	7-8	21-22
FEB	4-5	25-26
MAR	11-12	25-26
APR	1-2	22-23
MAY	6-7	20-21
JUN	10-11	24-25
JUL	8-9	22-23
AUG	5-6	19-20
SEP	9-10	16-17

512th Airlift Wing
 Public Affairs Office
 202 Liberty Way
 Dover AFB, DE 19902-5202

PRSTR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit #04517
 Philadelphia, PA