

512th Airlift Wing

LIBERTY PRESS



March 2006

Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Vol. 16, No. 3



Memorable Milestone

**Wing inducts
Senior NCOs**

See page 4

**Team Dover
welcomes honorary
commanders**

See page 3

**Reservists march
for Korean Vets**

See page 7



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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.

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On the cover



Photo by Doug Curran

Senior Master Sgt. Alexandra Meyer, 512th Civil Engineer Squadron, was the master of ceremony during the Feb. 4 Senior NCO Induction at The Landings Club here. She also was on the committee that coordinated the SNCO seminar held earlier that day.

Command chief visits Lackland AFB, motivates future Air Force members

Chief Master Sgt. Caroline Vennell
512th AW Command Chief

In December I had the pleasure of being invited to be the guest speaker for a Warrior Week ceremony at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Warrior Week occurs during the fifth week of Basic Military Training. Trainees go through the entire deployment process. They receive orders, process through the mobility line, deploy and live in field conditions. The week concludes with a field training exercise where the trainees put everything they've learned to the test.

It was great to be back at Lackland AFB, the place with so many memories where I started my military career. I was accompanied by 512th Airlift Wing First Sergeant Senior Master Sgt. Charles Harrell. During our visit Dec. 21-24, we had lunch at the trainees' dining facility, and ate in the "snake pit," a term describing the area where military training instructors sit together. We also toured the dorms and viewed the dorm guard's entry process, spent time in the field during Warrior Week, and attended a BMT graduation ceremony.

A lot has changed since Sergeant Harrell and I attended BMT. There were many construction areas, renovations and new buildings on Lackland. The old barracks were torn down, with the exception of a few, which are being preserved because of their historic significance. BMT has also evolved over the years. The most recent change is Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley's Feb. 3 announcement that basic training is going to be two and a half weeks longer. During our trip, it was announced that Warrior Week was moving to the fourth week of training.

The duty day still runs from zero-dark-thirty, or 4:30 a.m., until 9 p.m. However, some differences are trainees are not referred to as "Airman" until later in the program and more time is devoted teaching the expeditionary process and less time is spent folding clothes. They now roll their clothes because it saves valuable time that can be spent on more critical requirements. All trainees are issued the Air Force physical training



uniform and the old Lackland-laser flashlights have been replaced with an updated version.

I was very impressed with our up-and-coming Airmen. I was given an hour open-question- and-answer period with almost 700 trainees. The questions they asked me were great. All seemed truly eager to hear more about deployments and were ready to put their new war-fighting training into application. They followed this session with dinner in the field, in a tent, with dirt floors, and many hungry trainees. We all enjoyed the lively conversations with several trainees.

The culmination of my trip was the Warrior Week ceremony. I presented a motivational speech to our future Air Force and afterwards presented award streamers to those flights that excelled in their training. Each guidon bearer proudly came forward and presented their guidon to me, as I had the honor of attaching the streamers. It was a moment I will always remember and treasure.

Throughout my visit all I could think about was what a great job the MTIs do in such a short amount of time. If only we could keep these Airmen pumped up and energized all through their careers. My hope is that someday each and every one of the trainees I saw during my visit will stay in the Air Force until they retire. Time will tell.

Team Dover welcomes honorary commanders for 2006

Sue Walls

436th AW Public Affairs

More than 50 community leaders, including Delaware's Governor Ruth Ann Minner and Dover's Mayor Steve Speed, were inducted at the 15th Annual Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony at The Landings Club Feb. 17.

The program's focus is to target community members with little to no military service, and educate them about Dover Air Force Base and the important role of today's military.

The ceremony represented more than a customary handshake and photo opportunity.

"This program was initiated to extend a cross-flow of information and exchange of ideas between our military personnel and local civic leaders," said Col. Sam Cox, 436th Airlift Wing commander.

The honorary commanders program first began at Dover AFB in 1992, and to date, more than 800 community members have participated in the program.

Civic leaders are matched with active duty and Reserve military commanders for a year. Individuals are selected from across the First State, to include New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties, and from professions ranging from school



Photo by Jason Minto

Col. Jeffrey Hilovsky, 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, interacts with his honorary commander, Delaware State Senator Gary Simpson, at the induction ceremony at The Landings Club Feb. 17. The Honorary Commander program is in its 15th year and provides an opportunity for civilian and military leaders to exchange ideas and information.

512th AW Honorary Commanders

Wing Commander: John Still, Delaware State Senator
Vice Commander: Bob Harra, President Wilmington Trust Company
Command Chief: Lori James, Staff Assistant to U.S. Senator Tom Carper
Safety Officer: Dave Fetterman, Owner, Fetterman Insurance Agency
Chaplain: Michael Thress, Pastor, Lutheran Church of Bear, Del.
Aerospace Medicine Squadron: Gary Simpson, Delaware State Senator
Operations Group: Bill Talbot, Owner, Village Inn Restaurant
709th Airlift Squadron: Dr. Bart Clements, Surgical Associates of Dover, Del.
326th AS: Hans. H. Reigle, Mayor of Wyoming, Del.
Airlift Control Squadron: Dr. Khalil Gorgui, Trinity Medical Center
Operations Support Flight: Allen Zipke, Administrator, Campus Community School
Maintenance Group: Chuck Bell, Director of Athletics, Delaware State University
Component Maintenance Squadron: Steven Schwartz, Lawyer, Schwartz & Schwartz
Equipment Maintenance Squadron: Tim Lavenbein, Commander, Salvation Army
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron: Zach Carter, Director, Delaware Parks and Recreation
Maintenance Operations Flight: Martha Clark, Principal, Lake Forest East Elementary
Mission Support Group: Kevin Smith, Staff Assistant to U.S. Senator Joe Biden
Mission Support Squadron: Elizabeth Mende, Director, Bayhealth Home Care
Security Forces Squadron: Betsy Cooper, Director of VIP Services, Dover Downs
Aerial Port Squadron: Tony DaVila, Director, Delaware Commission of Veteran Affairs
Civil Engineer Squadron: John Smith, Owner, K & S Garage
Logistics Readiness Flight: Brett Weber, Public Relations, Price Honda
Memorial Affairs Squadron: Jane Towers, Blood Bank of Delmarva

teachers, politicians, bankers, police officers and business owners.

Military commanders are encouraged to invite their civilian counterpart to unit

functions including awards ceremonies, commander's calls, change of commands and social functions, while honorary commanders are encouraged to invite their respective commander

to interact with their profession as well.

"I'm thrilled to be involved with this program and learn about Dover Air Force Base and it's mission," said

Martha Clark, Lake Forest East Elementary principal and 512th Maintenance Operation Flight honorary commander.

Ms. Clark said she looks forward to interacting with Lt. Col. Troy Vokes, 512th MOF commander, and participating in all the unit's activities, especially the C-5 orientation flight scheduled in the fall.

The program's goal is to have the honorary commanders share their knowledge of the military with others in the civilian sector to provide awareness of the military.

"Our communities are the key to the success of our air reserve component," said Col Ronald A. Rutland, 512th Airlift Wing commander. "It is their support of the Citizen Airman, Soldier, Sailor, Marine, and all the men and women who wear the uniform of our country that make our military the greatest in the world. It is that support that is critical to our accomplishments and successes. No where in my career have I seen a community care and give more to our troops. It is truly a privilege to be a partner of Team Dover. The honorary commanders is the key element in our great relationship."

(1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo, 512th AW Public Affairs, contributed to this story)

Wing inducts Senior NCOs

1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Chief, Public Affairs

Twenty-three wing members were welcomed into the ranks of the senior non-commissioned officer corps Feb. 4.

More than 120 people attended the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony at The Landings at 6 p.m.

“The event is a formal means of recognizing those who have reached the ranks of the senior NCO,” said Chief Master Sgt. Caroline Vennell, 512th Airlift Wing Command Chief.

“It afforded me the opportunity to stand tall while the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Creed was being read and honor those who have helped me achieve my career goals,” said Master Sgt. Alicia Malone, an inductee and 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron unit training manager. “The Top 3 did a fantastic job of memorializing this career milestone for me and many others.”

In the past the induction has been held at the Air Mobility Command museum during the UTA duty day. This year was the first time the wing has had a formal evening ceremony, said Chief Vennell.

The guest speaker for the event was retired Chief Master Sgt. Cynthia L. McNeese, who was the 512th Mission Support Squadron military personnel superintendent until her retirement in 2003. Chief Vennell, Chief McNeese and Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Blodgett, 436th Airlift Wing Command Chief, participated in the induction ceremony.

The Top 3 also set up a Professional Development Seminar the afternoon of Feb. 4 to give Air Force Reserve NCOs the tools they need as supervisors, said Chief Vennell.

The course was three hours and wing members were briefed on wing history, leadership, discipline processes, ethics, mentoring and counseling.

“It was informative, and I enjoyed the briefings on what it takes to be a successful Senior NCO,” said Sergeant Malone.



Photo by Doug Curran

Master Sgt. Dwayne Moore, 512th Civil Engineer Squadron, was one of 23 Liberty Wing members inducted into the senior noncommissioned officer corps Feb. 4 at The Landings. Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Ferrell (left), 22nd Air Force civil engineer manager, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., and Master Sgt. Louis Klaus (right), 512th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, present an honor cordon for the inductees.

Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign underway until May

1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Chief, Public Affairs

The 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign for the 512th Airlift Wing is underway until May 5.

The emphasis of the campaign is a “Commitment to Caring.”

Organizations benefiting from the campaign include the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widow’s Fund, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund, and Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

Air Force Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley announced a \$5.4 million goal for this year’s fund drive.

The 512th AW goal is 100 percent contact with all unit members, said Chief Master Sgt. Donna Lehmann, 512th Operations Group, who is this year’s

AFAF project officer along with Master Sgt. Cornell Jolley, 512th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The charities receive 100 percent of designated contributions and benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired servicemembers, surviving spouses and families, said Chief Lehmann.

“We need look no further than the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita to understand how this program has provided for the Air Force Community in the previous year,” said the chief.

Secretary of the Air Force, Michael W. Wynne and General Moseley addressed this recently in a joint memo for the Air Force Assistance Fund.

“Last year, hurricanes Katrina and Rita vividly demonstrated the need for rapid and reliable emergency assistance,” they wrote.

The four AFAF charities provided

immediate financial and housing assistance to active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and retired Air Force members, which was in addition to their normal ongoing assistance with the hardships of deployments, accidents, illness, aging and death, according to their memo.

“The Air Force Assistance Fund is a way for the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to assist its people in time of need,” said Chief Lehmann. “Let’s show the entire Air Force community how compassionate and caring the 512th Airlift Wing is in sharing our good fortune with those less fortunate.”

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible. For information, visit www.afassistancefund.org, or call Chief Lehmann at (302) 677-3806, or Sergeant Jolley at (302) 677-6229. (AFPC News Service contributed to this story)

Wing hosts Black History Luncheon:

Members learn about Tuskegee Airmen legacy

1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Chief, Public Affairs

Overcoming adversity is something Dr. Eugene J. Richardson, Jr. knows all about.

The retired lieutenant and Tuskegee Airman told his story to more than 200 Airmen, civilians, and families attending the 512th Airlift Wing's Black History Luncheon Feb. 4 at the Landings.

Dr. Richardson explained how the Army Air Corp set up the "Tuskegee Experiment," a program started at the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., to train blacks to fly and maintain combat aircraft.

"It was an experiment to prove that black men could not be effective combat pilots," said Dr. Richardson.

Despite low expectations, the Tuskegee Airmen proved the Army wrong and left a lasting legacy.

From 1940 to 1946, more than 966 black military aviators were trained at Tuskegee. The all-black, 332nd Fighter Group consisted of four fighter squadrons, the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd. In all, 450 black fighter pilots fought in the aerial war over North Africa, Sicily and Europe flying the P-40, P-39, P-47, and P-51 aircraft.

"One of the greatest accomplishments is the fact that they destroyed the myth that black men did not have the capabilities of being fighter pilots, which was total nonsense," said Dr. Richardson, who never saw combat but continues to tell the story of the Tuskegee experience.

These black pilots did not lose a single bomber to enemy fire in more than 200 combat missions, a record unmatched by any other fighter group, he said.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II, said Dr. Richardson.



Photo by 1st Lt. Marnee A. C. Losurdo

Former Tuskegee Airman Dr. Eugene J. Richardson Jr. speaks to Liberty Wing members about his experiences as a black pilot during World War II during the Black History Luncheon at The Landings Feb. 4.

"This was a victory against racism at home and a victory against the Axis in Europe," he said.

The Tuskegee Airmen's achievements, together with the men and women who supported them, paved the way for integration of the U.S. military. In July 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9811, which called for equal treatment and opportunity for blacks serving in the Armed Forces.

Another guest speaker, University of Delaware Professor Ronald F. Whittington,

also educated the audience on the accomplishments of black Americans and urged the audience to learn more about black history.

Adorned in a Union Civil War uniform, he spoke about the "Forgotten Fourteen," a group of black Civil War soldiers who

led the charges at the Battles of Petersburg and Richmond.

"People should look beyond what the media and movies portray to get the real story behind significant events," he said.

"If you don't study all aspects of history you don't get the whole story," said Dr. Richardson. "This country wouldn't be where it is without the contributions of black people."

The event was organized by the Wing's Human Resources Development Council, chaired by Col. David H. Wuest.

"This event recognizes Americans who overcame adversity," he said.

"It's about our history, and it's a celebration of diversity, which is what makes our country so great," added Col. Ronald A. Rutland, 512th AW commander. "We have made mistakes but learned from them and grown."

Looking into a mixed crowd, Dr. Richardson said it's clear America has definitely grown.

"It's the way it should be," said Dr. Richardson. "It's what our constitution says. That we should all be here -- We're all one people."

“ It’s the way it should be. It’s what our constitution says. That we should all be here -- We’re all one people.”

Dr. Eugene Richardson, Jr.
Original Tuskegee Airman

Taxing times:

Servicemembers offer tips for tax season

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

Tax season is just around the corner and military members have a few tips to make filing a little less taxing.

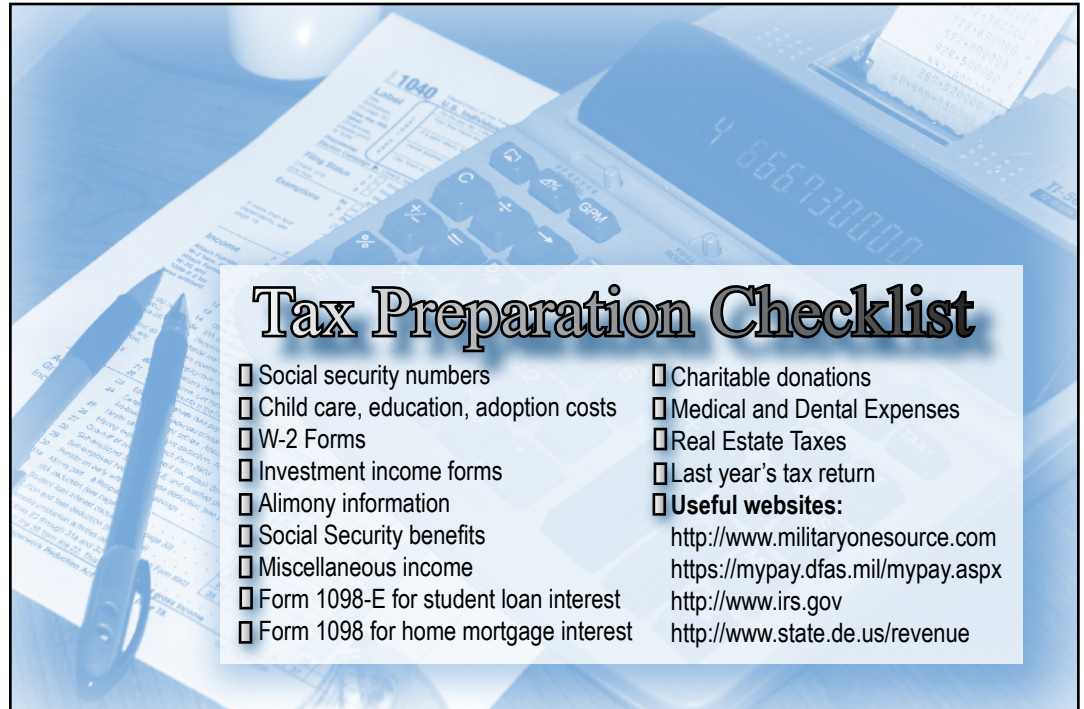
Tech. Sgt. Quincey Hester, 512th Airlift Wing Family Support Center, is available to answer questions and assist reservists with filling out tax forms Monday through Friday by appointment and during the March UTA from 1-3 p.m.

Returns are filed electronically, and people will receive their refunds within seven to 10 days, said Sergeant Hester who was trained by the Internal Revenue Service.

As a reminder, tax deductible items for reservists include un-reimbursed clothing expenses and mileage on UTAs, if the member lives outside of a 50-mile radius, said Sergeant Hester.

Servicemembers who spent time deployed have important things to keep in mind when filing their taxes, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. For example, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo all qualify as combat zones where military income is tax exempt, she said. For enlisted servicemembers, all income earned in a combat zone is exempt, but for officers, income is excluded up to a certain limit. For 2005, the limit for officers' tax-exempt income was \$6,529 a month, she said.

Tax-exempt income is a great thing, but it has worked against some servicemembers by exempting them from important credits, Colonel Fenton said. Two credits



Tax Preparation Checklist

- Social security numbers
- Child care, education, adoption costs
- W-2 Forms
- Investment income forms
- Alimony information
- Social Security benefits
- Miscellaneous income
- Form 1098-E for student loan interest
- Form 1098 for home mortgage interest
- Charitable donations
- Medical and Dental Expenses
- Real Estate Taxes
- Last year's tax return
- Useful websites:**
 - <http://www.militaryonesource.com>
 - <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>
 - <http://www.irs.gov>
 - <http://www.state.de.us/revenue>

Graphic by 1st Lt. Marnee A. C. Losurdo

Delaware, in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, is offering joint Federal and Delaware electronic filing. For more information on filing state taxes, visit www.state.de.us/revenue. The Internal Revenue Service Web site is www.irs.gov. April 15 is the deadline for filing federal taxes, and May 1 is the deadline for filing Delaware taxes.

that military members often qualify for -- earned income credit and child tax credit -- require earned income to be claimed, she said. Starting this year, servicemembers can elect to include their combat zone income to qualify for these credits, she said. She stressed that this income will not be taxed, but will allow servicemembers to receive credits for which they qualify.

Sergeant Hester said he can answer wing reservists' questions concerning these two credits.

Servicemembers in a combat zone during tax season get an automatic extension to file their taxes, said Colonel Fenton. Servicemembers have six months from the time they leave the combat zone to file, she said. Servicemembers who are stationed elsewhere overseas have a two-month

extension to file.

There are also provisions to the tax code this year for victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, she said. The provisions for hurricane victims are lengthy and complicated, so servicemembers who were affected by the hurricane should seek advice from the base tax center or the Internal Revenue Service. The provisions can include extensions for tax filing and help for those who lost homes or property, said Colonel Fenton.

Documents that servicemembers need to have when filing taxes include W-2 forms from the military and any other jobs they had in the past year, said Sergeant Hester. Servicemembers should also make sure they have a valid picture I.D., Social Security cards for themselves and their

dependents, proof of account and routing transit numbers for direct deposit into a savings or checking account, and a copy of their prior year's tax return.

Military personnel can also get help online with their taxes. The IRS provides a free filing service on its Web site at <http://www.irs.gov>, which lists several tax preparation services, many of which provide free service to military members, said Colonel Fenton.

The Web site Military OneSource, <http://www.militaryonesource.com>, also provides free tax assistance and downloadable tax software under "Other Helpful Resources," said Sergeant Hester. Reservists can access their W-2s on MyPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

(Army Sgt. Sara Wood, American Forces Press Service, contributed to this story)

Ruck March: Dover honors Korean War Vets

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

A 512th Component Maintenance Squadron member was the first woman to cross the finish line at Dover Air Force Base's 7th annual Ruck March Feb. 11 at the Air Mobility Command Museum.

It was Senior Master Sgt. Linda Patosky's first time participating in the event.

"Everything was new to me that day," said the 512th CMS superintendent of jet engine intermediate maintenance. "I just soaked it all in and took off. It was a great run."

Her teammates were Tech. Sgt. Andrew Chism, Staff Sgt. Brian Mayle and Staff Sgt. Atkibar Caffee. They were one of 26, four-person teams that strapped on 30-pound rucksacks while walking or running 10 kilometers, or 6.2 miles, in battle dress uniform. The 512th team finished in 12th place with a time of 1 hour, 26 minutes, 31 seconds. The time is based off the last team member who crosses the finish line.

"I was the turtle," said Sergeant Caffee, 512th CMS non-powered air ground equipment. "I was the slow one. Everyone else on our team was a runner, and I'm a weight lifter. I didn't realize how hard it would be and that the winning teams actually trained for this."

"It's a great cause and a good test to see what the body can endure because of the distance and weight," added Sergeant Patosky, who runs six miles every other day.

The participants lined up at the AMC Museum at 9 a.m. where retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Gaylor, the fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the



Photo by Jennie Farmer

Senior Master Sgt. Linda Patosky, 512th Component Maintenance Squadron, was the first woman to finish the 7th Annual Ruck March here Feb. 11. She and her three team members strapped on a 30-pound rucksack and marched 6.2 miles.

“When the veterans came and spoke, I realized why I was there, and I was proud to be part of it.”

Staff Sgt. Atkibar Caffee
512th Component Maintenance Squadron team member

Air Force, pulled the trigger on a pistol to start the march, which commemorates the 20,000 troops who spent six days retreating 27 miles through the mountains in frigid temperatures during the Korean War's Battle of the

Chosin Reservoir.

Many teams from different services have competed in the run in previous years. Members from every branch of service, local police forces, and Air Force members from other bases have strapped on packs

here to honor veterans of the "Forgotten War."

This year, for the second year in a row, the 436th Logistics Readiness Squadron team won with a time of 1 hour, 39 seconds. Team members were: Senior Master Sgt. Jan Beck, Staff Sgt. Westley Loignon, Senior Airman Nathaniel Littman and Airman 1st Class Luis Devotto.

"We trained once a week for the last two months, wearing 40-to-50-pound rucks," said Sergeant Beck, 436th LRS Material Management Flight superintendent.

The second and third place teams had times of 1 hour, 6 minutes, 23 seconds, and 1 hour, 8 minutes, 14 seconds. The second place team was the 3rd Airlift Squadron's Capt. Daniel LeBouef, 1st Lt. Matthew Robinson, Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Mahoney and Airman 1st Class James Ponziano. In third place was the 436th Airlift Wing's Col. Chad Manske, Lt. Col. Carl Rahn, Maj. Mathew Holm and Capt. Matthew Husemann.

Although the 512th team didn't finish in the top three, Sergeant Caffee, the team's self-proclaimed tortoise, said he accomplished his goal of crossing the finish line.

"I enjoyed participating in the event," he said. "It was a great experience. When the veterans came and spoke, I realized why I was there, and I was honored and proud to be part of it."

The sergeant said he can't wait for next year's Ruck March and has started running to prepare. Maybe next year he'll be the team hare.

(Airman 1st Class James Bolinger, 436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)

Around the AF

Basic extended, NCOs to learn new languages

Civilians wanting to be Airmen are going to have to tough it out for an additional two and a half weeks at basic military training, said the Air Force's top general Feb. 2.

Airmen graduating from BMT are going to be better trained and better equipped to be war fighters, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium.

"My belief is that every Airman should be ready the minute they graduate for the air expeditionary force that is today's Air Force," he said. "We demand a lot of those kids when they get out into the field, and they have to be better prepared for the challenges they face out there."

The additional weeks will give more time for Airmen to be trained on war-fighting skills they would encounter in a deployed combat location, such as the use of small arms and emergency medical skills.

Airmen need to have more awareness about the Air Force expeditionary business, General Moseley said.

New Airmen will not be the only ones getting trained for global and expeditionary warfare. Senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers will soon be required to take up a new language as part of their professional military training.

"Starting next year, the students down at Maxwell (Air Force Base, Ala., home to Air University and the Senior NCO Academy) are going to see a more robust education that is going to prepare them to be leaders in this global war on terror, and that includes language education" General Moseley said. "It is going to be mandatory that they take one of four languages: Arabic, French, Spanish and Chinese. This will enable them to go to other countries, not only in the (Middle East), but in the sub-Sahara, and be able to better work in those regions." (Courtesy AFPN)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Schester

Senior Airman Jake Wyatt watches Soldiers load their well rig onto a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. This year's \$1.3 billion military construction request, as part of the president's fiscal year 2007 budget plan, is the largest in the last 15 years and includes projects for new mission beddowns for the C-17 Globemaster III. Airman Wyatt is a loadmaster from the 14th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Air Force releases FY 2007 budget

As part of the president's fiscal year 2007 budget plan, the Air Force is set to receive \$105.9 billion.

This budget meets the vision of Air Force leaders to fight and win the global war on terrorism; to develop, train and care for Airmen; and to recapitalize and modernize the force, said Maj. Gen. Frank R. Faykes, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for budget.

The Air Force budget is divided into almost three equal parts for each major area -- personnel; operations, maintenance and infrastructure; and modernization, he said.

General Faykes said people are the most important Air Force resource and a third of the budget is dedicated to the military and civilian workforce.

Key pay and entitlement highlights include a 2.2 percent across-the-board pay raise for all military and civilian personnel, plus additional targeted pay raises for mid-grade and senior enlisted Airmen. The average basic allowance for housing increase will be 2.9 percent (locality-specific) and continues the Defense Department's goal of zero out-of-pocket housing expenses. The budget request also includes nearly \$600 million for recruiting, retention and special pays to train and retain Airmen.

"In addition to paying our Airmen, our budget also has money set aside for operations, maintenance and infrastructure to

train, develop and equip our Airmen to fight in the global war on terror," the general said.

For example, the Air Force's budget includes funding for 1.7 million flying hours, maintains a fleet of nearly 6,000 aircraft, and supports daily operations at 84 major installations.

This year's \$1.3 billion military construction request is the largest in the last 15 years and includes plans for 85 major projects. These projects range from new mission beddowns for the C-17 Globemaster III and F-22A Raptor, to quality of life projects, which include nine new dormitories, one new fitness center and a new chapel, General Faykes said.

There were many dynamics at play during this year's budget, including DOD's involvement in the base realignment and closure process and the Quadrennial Defense Review.

General Faykes cited Air Force Smart Operations 21 as one of the keys for recapitalizing and modernizing the Air Force. By applying modern management principles across all areas -- operations and maintenance, personnel and investment accounts -- the Air Force will be able to streamline operations and improve efficiencies. The Air Force will also retire some weapons systems in FY 2007 that will aid in cost savings and the drawdown of people required to operate those systems. (Courtesy AFPN)

Around the 512th

No dental check-up, no pay

Air Force reservists are required to have an annual dental examination. Normally, this is accomplished in the six months prior to the member's birth month during the completion of the Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment process.

Every third year the annual dental exam is completed by a military dentist. During the two intervening years a dental exam is to be performed by a civilian dentist at the member's own expense. The results are recorded on Department of Defense Form 2813 and returned to the 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. People can get the form from unit health monitors, the 512th AMDS, and on the Air Force publishing site at <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil>.

Reservists who do not complete their annual dental exam by the end of their birth month are placed into Dental Readiness Classification 4, which means they're not eligible to deploy. They may also be medically profiled as noncompliant and become ineligible for pay or points.

Some reservists eligible for free dental examination

A free dental examination will be available until Sept. 30 to reservists who are in Dental Readiness Classification 4, or DRC4.

Reservists in DRC4 don't have a current dental exam or have never had a military dental exam.

This free dental exam is performed by civilian dentists under a program called FEDS HEAL. Civilian dentists participating in this program perform the exam and forward the results to the 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Members without dental insurance are the target of this program; however, no one in DRC4 status will be denied an exam.

To participate, reservists will have to travel at their own expense to the providing dentist, who could be as far as 50 miles away. Reservists who fail to show for their exam will not be given another chance for a free exam; however, they may reschedule without penalty.

All Unit Health Monitors have access to the DRC4 list. Reservists who are on the list and want to use the program should call the 512th AMDS at (302) 677-2549.

AF Community Assessment Survey begins in March

The 2006 Air Force Community Assessment Survey is scheduled to begin March 15 and run through April.

The voluntary survey plays a critical role in identifying community strengths and risks, and informing service planning at the installation, major command and Air Staff levels.

More than 30,000 Reservists and 1,000 spouses will be asked to participate, said Laura Coseglia, 512th Airlift Wing Family Support Center director.

"The assessment includes personnel preparedness, sense of community, family adaptation, safety, spiritual well-being, health and well-being, economic well-being and unit readiness," she said. "This is an opportunity for reservists and families to help improve the Air Force Community by sharing their thoughts and opinions."

Participants will be randomly selected and may participate by completing the assessment on-line, by e-mail or by mail.

"Participation is crucial to the success of this project and selected service members and families are encouraged to participate," said Ms. Coseglia.

Junior officers challenge commanders in sports match

The 512th Airlift Wing and 436th AW Company Grade Officers' Councils are hosting a Sports Challenge March 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the base fitness center.

All Company Grade Officers are invited to compete against commanders in a wallyball and basketball game. CGO's who are interested in playing should call Capt. Connie B. Williams, 512th AW CGOC president, at (302) 677-7229/6894.

The 512th AW CGOC meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Franco's restaurant outside the North Gate.

Dover Little League looking for volunteers to join umpire staff

The Dover Little League is looking for volunteers to join their umpire staff for baseball and girl's softball games. Training will be provided and the first training session is April 1. For more information, contact Joe Kennard, Umpire in Chief, at (302) 734-5116, or email him at joeurethane@yahoo.com.



Photo by Doug Curran

Security Check

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Jones and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Horton, 512th Security Forces Squadron members, plot grid coordinates during a bomb threat exercise outside building 910 during the February UTA. The mission of the 512th SFS is to augment active-duty security forces. Squadron duties include protection of the base, personnel and aircraft.

512th salutes

Newcomers

Welcome to the Liberty Wing:
 Capt Nicholas Franz
 1st Lt Marissa Quinn
 TSgt Sandra Middleton
 SSgt Stephen Poole
 SrA Takeyta Gore
 SrA Robert Halley
 SrA Michael Larsen
 SrA Stephen McHale
 SrA Ronald Reyes
 SrA Julian Rosado
 A1C Sarvante Bentley
 A1C Amy Messick
 A1C Kurt Neely
 AB Felicha Janoski
 AB Candis Williams

TSgt Lezlie Eustis
 TSgt Ralph Griffin
 TSgt Quincey Hester Jr.
 TSgt Duane Lewis
 TSgt Gail Reedharmon
 TSgt Ommar Then
 SSgt Stephen Poole
 SSgt Robert Roach
 SSgt Sheri Robinson
 SSgt Michael Valerio II
 SrA Michelle Geers
 SrA Robert Halley
 SrA Michael Larsen
 SrA Nizam Troy Mohammed

Promotions

To Senior Airman:
 Lorraine Almanza
 Roselle Cruz
 Todd Lewis
 Robert Walter

PME Graduates

Senior NCO Academy
 MSgt Scott Nibblett
NCO Academy
 TSgt Pateresa Hilton
 TSgt Daniel Caldwell
Airman Leadership School
 SrA Joseph Maccarroll
 SrA Candice Foxe
 SrA Priscila Lawrence

Retirements

Lt Col Edward Poling
 CMSgt Derek Rooks
 CMSgt James Schilling
 MSgt John Shortall
 TSgt Fulton Cobwell
 SSgt Melody Liberatore

Reenlistments

MSgt Joseph Campaniello
 MSgt Charles Cordivano
 MSgt Fredrick Ennis
 MSgt Kevin Golt
 MSgt Robert Kaehler
 MSgt John Larrimore
 TSgt Ronald Broccolino



Welcome Wagon

Name: Airman Basic Candis Williams
Unit: 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron
Duty Position: Services specialist
Civilian Occupation: Norfolk Public Schools Security
Hometown: Norfolk, Va.
Hobbies: Plays women's professional football for Tidewater Floods, Norfolk, Va.
Personal Goals: Continue to be a successful professional football player

Medals

Air Medal
 Maj Thomas Harmon
Meritorious Service Medal
 SMSgt Randy Duhamel
 SMSgt John Farrow, Jr.
AF Commendation Medal
 TSgt Richard Dempsey, III
 TSgt Charles Knight, Jr.
 TSgt Daniel Welch
 SSgt Angel Aguilar, Jr.
AF Achievement Medal
 SrA Katherine Helkowsky

Get One Referrals

Congrats go to SSgt Derrick White with the 512th Component Maintenance Squadron. He referred a friend who joined the Air Force Reserve in fiscal year 2006. Way to go!

Quarterly Award Winners

The wing's quarterly award winners for the fourth quarter (October through December) are:

Airman
 SrA Justin Veins,
 512th Security Forces Squadron
NCO
 TSgt Charles Wandzilak II,
 709th Airlift Squadron
Senior NCO
 MSgt John Bell Jr.,
 709th AS
Officer
 Capt Brian LaFreda,
 326th AS
Civilian
 Diana Oswell,
 512th Component Maintenance Squadron

What's Up?

A retirement ceremony is scheduled for CMSgt Jim Schilling, 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, at 2:30 p.m. at the Air Mobility Command Museum March 11.



March is Women's History Month.

In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, 14 governors had declared March Women's History Month, and Congress and the President followed by declaring March National Women's History Month.

Assuming Command

Col. William Stephens, 512th Mission Support Group commander (left), hands the 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron guidon to Maj. John Hayes Jr. (right), during an assumption of command Feb. 5 at The Landings Club. They are joined by Master Sgt. Daniel Shilling, 512th MAS first sergeant.

The 512th MAS is one of two memorial affairs squadrons in the Air Force. In addition to supporting the Dover Air Force Base Port Mortuary, they provide fitness, lodging, food service and recreation support to the men and women of the 512th and 436th Airlift Wings.

During the week, Major Hayes works as an environmental scientist for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.



Photo by 1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo



Photo by 1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Maj. Justin Greiner, 326th Airlift Squadron, prepares for takeoff. The major earned the 2005 Air Force Reserve Command Chief of Safety Aircrew of Distinction Award. The 10-person crew received the award for a mission over Osan Air Base, Korea. There were 73 passengers on board and the crew noticed smoke and fumes in the flight deck and troop compartment. They overcame the smoke, overcast skies and rainy weather to safely land the plane and evacuate the passengers.

The Lighter Side



Photo by Airman 1st Class James Bolinger

Paul Knight (left), 512th Mission Support Group, drives against Mark Wolfgang, 436th Aerial Port Squadron, Jan. 24. Knight had two points for the game. The 512th was defeated 71-36. Making light of the loss, team member John "the chaplain" Groth joked, "We took second place, that's a silver in the Olympics."



Submitted photos

512th Security Forces Squadron Member Senior Master Sgt. Ron McCoy, and his daughter Faith (both on the left), race out of the Atlantic Ocean Feb. 5. A record 2,390 people joined the 15th annual Lewes Polar Bear Plunge in Rehoboth Beach on the warm February day, which was 42 degrees. The polar plungers raised \$426,000 for the Delaware Special Olympics.

512th Polar Bear Plungers



512th Operations Group members (front row left to right) Senior Airman Yolanda Wilson, Maj. Louis Patriquin, his daughter Catherine, and wife Jerri Lynn, Col. Don Sloan, (back row left to right) Lt. Col. Diego Alvarez with the 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, OG members Maj. Kyle Pangle and 1st Lt. Kelley Mount, and the 512th Maintenance Group's Master Sgt. Bill Clifton pose for a picture minutes before their Polar Bear Plunge. They collected more than \$5,000 for the Special Olympics.

Liberty Wing takes on state fitness challenge

1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Chief, Public Affairs

When 21-year-old Erin Groth woke up Feb. 12 and found her father had shoveled the driveway free of more than 6 inches of snow she was pleasantly surprised, said her father, 512th Airlift Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Groth.

"I wasn't going to let her steal my six points," the chaplain said.

On Feb. 4, Chaplain Groth, along with more than 120 wing members, signed up for the Lieutenant Governor's Challenge, a 12-week program where individuals track their activities and earn points based on every 30 minutes of movement.

"The wing is participating in the challenge to promote fitness and help unit members prepare for their physical fitness test," said Tech. Sgt. Kim Snyder, 512th AW fitness coordinator.

The Lieutenant Governor's challenge was started because too few Delawareans are getting the recommended amount of physical activity and to get Delawareans motivated to have a more active and healthier lifestyle, said Jill Morrison, special assistant to the Lieutenant Governor.

There are 60 activities, which range from running to house cleaning, said Sergeant Snyder. The more intense the activity, the higher the point value earned. Based on how many points are earned,

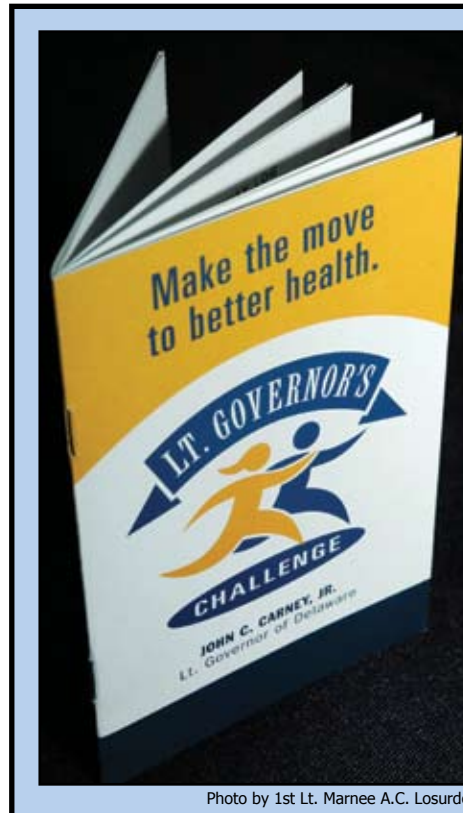


Photo by 1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

More than 120 wing members are participating in the Lieutenant Governor's Challenge, a 12-week fitness program that has individuals choose what activities to perform. Points are earned for every 30 minutes of movement. Participants keep track of their activities, and based on how many points are earned, they may be eligible for a gold, silver or bronze medal.

Bronze Medal: 140—239 points
Individuals who walk briskly for 30 minutes, three times per week can earn 144 points.

Silver Medal: 240—339 points
Individuals who walk briskly for 30 minutes, five times per week can achieve 240 points.

Gold Medal: 340—500 points
People who walk briskly for 60 minutes, four times per week, or jog 30 minutes, five times per week can accumulate at least 350 points.

participants are eligible for a gold, silver or bronze medal.

Chaplain Groth, who is on the 512th Mission Support Group Over-30 Basketball Team, said his goal is to earn a gold medal. As of Feb. 22, he has earned 96 points.

"My wife particularly loves that I get four points for every half hour of house cleaning," he said. "And, I regret that I

can't get points for roller skating but I can't find size 17 skates."

Chaplain Groth and his staff are tracking their activities in the challenge booklet. On May 12 they will tally their points, fill out the award card in the booklet, and send it to Sergeant Snyder, in the 512th AW Command Staff section, who will forward the results to the Lieutenant Governor's office, he said.

UTA Schedule

FY2006	A Team	B Team
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

**March
UTA
paydates**

A-Team pays
March 22
B-Team pays
April 5

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