

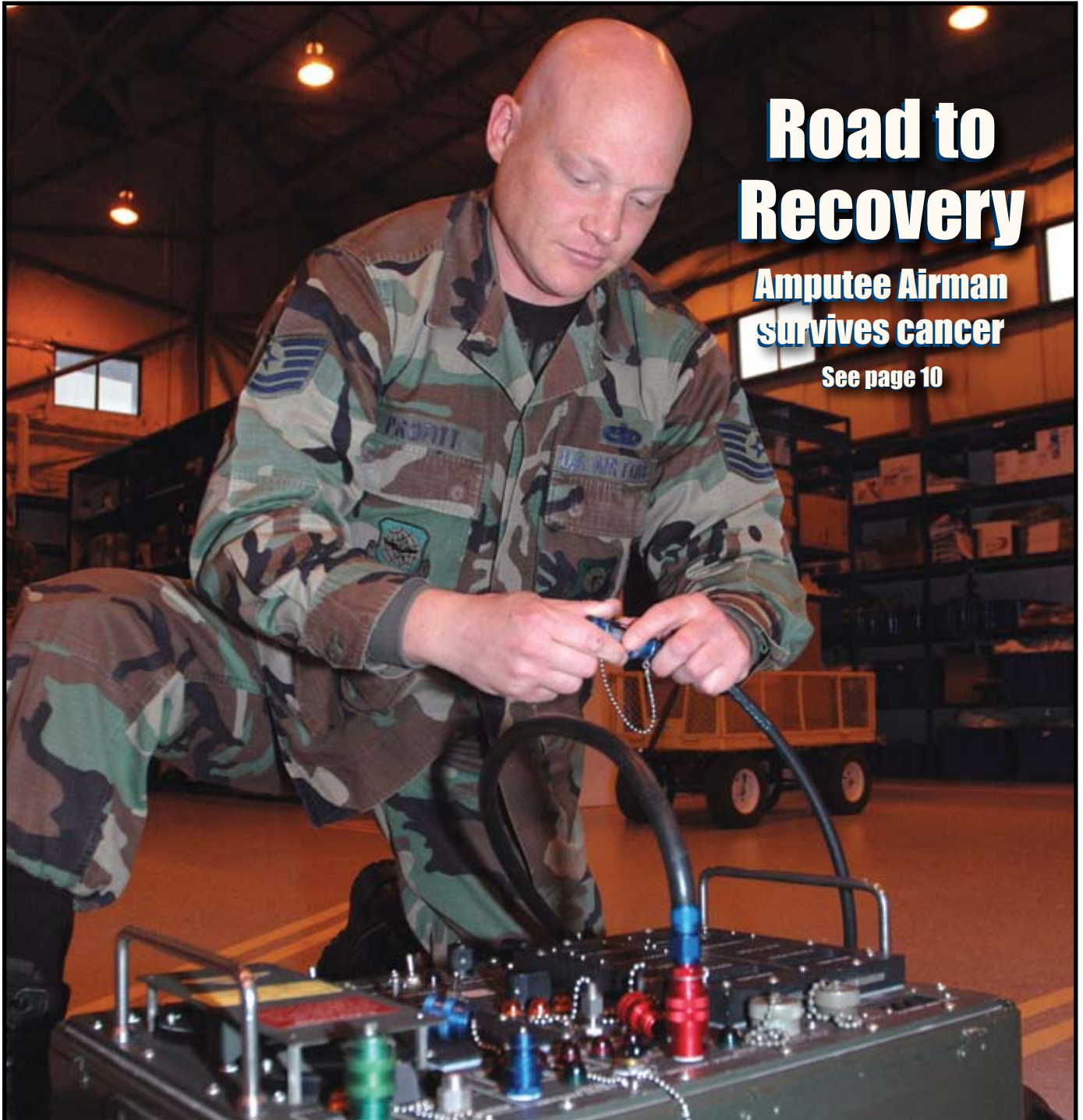
512th Airlift Wing

LIBERTY PRESS

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Dover Air Force Base, Del.

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Road to Recovery

**Amputee Airman
survives cancer**

See page 10



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On the cover



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

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Proffitt, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, checks a pressure tester, used to inspect the C-5's flight instruments that measure aircraft speed and altitude. In 2003, his leg was amputated when he was diagnosed with cancer.

**Airmen helping Airmen:
Take care of your wingman**

Col. Ronald A. Rutland
512th AW commander

Our wing has experienced a terrible loss. Two of our own wing members have passed away because they made the decision that the hand life had dealt them was too difficult to bear.

Our Airmen maintain high standards and for many reservists it's becoming more challenging to balance the responsibilities of their families, employers and the Air Force Reserve. As reservists, we are sacrificing more than ever before to get the job done. We do this because our country needs us.

This demand not only creates a stress on the reservists but on their families as well. For many of us, our families are our foundations. We wouldn't be here without their support.

Sometimes that family is a person's co-workers. That's how I think of the Reserve; a big family. We all care about each other and rely on each other for strength to keep on going.

This concept of caring for one another is what's known as having a "wingman." It's Airmen helping Airmen. The wingman concept involves supporting each other during difficult times and helps the Air Force succeed in its mission. A wingman can see how the stress in a person's life relates to his personal well-being.

Many of us may be asking why we didn't see it coming, or why we didn't do something about it. It's not always easy to know what is going on in a co-worker's life when we only see them two to three days a month.

We will never be able to replace our folks, and they will be dearly missed. I beseech you to tell your loved ones and co-workers how you feel about them, that you care, and that



you are there if they ever need you. Look out for your partner, buddy and wingman. Keeping an eye on one another is very important to each and every one of us.

If you're having difficulties in your life, seek help from our chaplains or life skills specialists. Don't feel that you're facing battles alone. Help is available. Reach out for it.

Mrs. Rutland and I are proud and humbled to be part of this wing. I'm still truly amazed at what you are able to do and accomplish, which is what makes you the best wing in the command.

We will make it through this hard time at the 512th AW just as we have in the past and will in the future. We are the greatest Air Force in the world, because we recognize the critical asset that makes us the

“ The wingman concept involves supporting each other during difficult times and helps the Air Force succeed in its mission.”

Col. Ronald A. Rutland
512th Airlift Wing commander

best: the men and women who wear the uniform. Always remember to take care of that person who stands beside you.

Dover holds chiefs' induction ceremony

**Airman 1st Class
James Bolinger**

436th AW Public Affairs

Dover's annual Chiefs' Induction Ceremony honored the base's newest chief master sergeants March 10 at The Landings Club.

The ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of 16 Dover chief master sergeants and chief selects from both the 436th and 512th Airlift Wings.

"Tonight is about tradition, and this ceremony is similar to ones being conducted at bases all around the world," said Chief Master Sgt. Larence Kirby, 436th Medical Group superintendent and master of ceremonies for the night.

Each chief entered the room escorted by family or friends while walking under six cordons in a sword arch held above their heads by fellow chief master sergeants.

Chief Master Sgt. Marland Jonas, 373rd Training Squadron superintendent and Dover's newest chief, parked the "Chief's Jeep," a toy Jeep the newest chief master sergeant in the wing carries as a part of their initiation, to begin the night's festivities.

Shortly afterward, Lt. Col. Thomas Kauth, 436th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, sang the national anthem.

A Prisoner of War and Missing in Action service followed, acknowledging the heroes who couldn't join the ceremony.

While dinner was being served, a slide show presentation of the inductees was played, and the cake was cut.

"(Senior Master Sergeant Biondo), we acknowledge you as the junior chief by virtue of having the highest line number," said Chief Kirby. "We ask that you cut the cake



Photo by Doug Curran

Chief Master Sgt. David Burke, 326th Airlift Squadron, lights the last candle in the candle lighting ceremony during the Chiefs' Induction Ceremony March 10 at The Landings Club.

“Just as these eight candles were lit on behalf of the enlisted ranks that represent the journey to chief, each of you, as new chief master sergeants must light your hearts and minds to inspire your troops.”

Chief Master Sgt. Donna Lehmann
512th Operations Group superintendent and master of ceremonies

for this evening's event.”

With those words, Sergeant Biondo cut the cake, symbolizing the bond between new and present chief master sergeants.

After dinner, Chief Master Sgt. Lewis Monroe III, Air Force District of Washington and 11th Wing command chief, shared some of his experiences with the inductees.

“To our newest chiefs, the night may belong to you, but

remember your family,” said Chief Monroe. “This night may be yours, but they built it.”

Chief Monroe compiled a list of things a new chief must know to succeed.

“When they tell you you're a chief, suddenly everybody is listening to what you have to say,” said Chief Monroe. “However, more importantly, more people are watching; everybody is watching; watching to see if you are what

you say you are.”

After Chief Monroe stepped down from the lectern, all the chiefs to be inducted lined up in preparation for the candle lighting ceremony.

There is one candle for every tier in the enlisted rank structure; airman basic through chief master sergeant.

“Just as these eight candles were lit on behalf of the enlisted ranks that represent the journey to chief, each of you, as new chief master sergeants must light your hearts and minds to inspire your troops,” said Chief Master Sgt. Donna Lehmann, 512th Operations Group superintendent and master of ceremonies.

As the senior ranking chief in attendance, Chief Master Sgt. David Burke was the “keeper of the flame.” He lit the final candle, which symbolizes the rank of chief.

Finally, Chief Master Sergeants Bruce Blodgett and Caroline Vennell, the 436th and 512th AW command chief master sergeants, gave the Chief's Charge.

Then, Chiefs Blodgett and Vennell stood on stage with the inductees and all chiefs retired and active in the audience stood as the Chief's Creed was recited.

After the creed, presentations were made, each inductee received a plaque presented by Chief Blodgett and a figurine of a Native American Chief presented by Chief Monroe.

After the presentations, Col. Chad Mankse and Col. David Wuest, 436th and 512th AW vice commanders respectively, gave their compliments to the new inductees, and Chief Master Sgt. Angela Williamson concluded the ceremony with the rap of a gavel.

Best of Best:

Liberty Wing recognizes annual award winners



Senior Airman
Michael A. Motes



Staff Sgt.
Richard B. Stuhmer



Master Sgt.
John S. Bell

1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Chief, Public Affairs

The 512th Airlift Wing selected its annual award winners for 2005. They will be recognized at the June 11 commander's call.

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Michael A. Motes, 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron services journeyman, is the Airman of the Year. He inventoried, supplied and managed \$200,000 in flags, uniform items and mortuary supplies needed for service members' proper dignified honors. He devoted seven months to an African mission, building a second story on a church while teaching Sunday school and vacation bible school to African youth. He earned 40 credits toward a degree in history and theology and 15 credits toward a Community College of the Air Force degree.

NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Richard B. Stuhmer, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft electro/environmental systems technician, earned the honor of NCO of the Year. Some of his accomplishments include getting a short notice Operation Phoenix Banner support mission airborne in less than five hours. He is an active member of the Bel Air, Md., volunteer fire company and has performed life-saving duties for the past three years. He earned a Community College of the Air Force Aviation Maintenance Technology degree, and the Aerospace Education Foundation awarded him a \$500 education grant and the Pitsenbarger Award.

SNCO of the Year

Master Sgt. John S. Bell, 709th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, is the Senior NCO of the Year. He has amassed more than 3,600 accident-free flying hours, including 292 hours of combat time in support of



Master Sgt.
Dennis W. Reed



Chief Master Sgt.
Suzy R.T. Florian



Capt.
Brian J. LaFreda



Ms.
Beverly A. Lumia

Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. He is an active Delaware Veterans member who volunteers at functions to help generate revenue supporting the organization and providing assistance to Delaware veterans and their families. He is working on his bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Southern Illinois University and has a Community College of the Air Force degree.

Crew Chief of Year

Master Sgt Dennis W. Reed, 512th AMXS crew chief, is the 512th AW Crew Chief of the Year. Sergeant Reed supervised troubleshooting and repair on avionic, electrical and hydraulic system failures, enabling Team Dover to fly more than 1,200 Operation Iraqi Freedom missions. He was the first to receive the C-5 A/B Aircraft Modernization program training and initiated the cascade process by personally qualifying 10 percent of the unit work force.

First Sergeant of the Year

Chief Master Sgt. Suzy R.T. Florian, 512th AMXS first sergeant, garnered the title of 512th AW First Sergeant of the Year. She was activated for two years in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. She managed error-free completion of more than \$1 million in travel voucher claims and is the Dover AFB Chief Group's treasurer. She helped raise funds in excess of \$6,000 supporting base Airmen and NCO initiatives and charities. She earned her master's degree in business administration from Wilmington

College and her Community College of the Air Force degree in Administrative Management.

CGO of the Year

Capt. Brian J. LaFreda, 326th Airlift Squadron pilot, is the Company Grade Officer of the Year. He has commanded high-risk C-5 combat missions into Iraq. He also commanded several humanitarian relief missions, one of which was to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, airlifting thousands of pounds of essential cargo. His C-5 crew was one of the first Reserve crews to deliver life-saving cargo in support of the Pakistan earthquake relief mission. Captain LaFreda is self-taught in sign language and volunteers at his local church providing communication for the pastor's sermon. He also plays piano for the congregation.

Civilian of the Year

Beverly A. Lumia, 512th Operations Group secretary, is the Civilian of the Year. From serving as the OG civilian personnel monitor to unit orders representative to officer and enlisted performance report monitor, Ms. Lumia accomplishes a variety of tasks. She developed and implemented a correspondence tracking system, aiding in streamlining administrative procedures and improving accountability of correspondence as well as standardized the wing's civilian time and attendance folders. Ms. Lumia also tutors students in grammar and writing skills.



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

Drivers are no longer allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on Air Force installations without a hands-free device. This violation will now be considered a "primary offense," which means violators will be stopped solely for this reason. Drivers who violate this restriction will be given three points against their driving records.

Base enforces cell phone hands-free policy

Staff Sgt. James Wilkinson
436th AW Public Affairs

The 436th Security Forces Squadron is enforcing the Department of Defense cellular phone use policy.

In February, DoD installations began enforcing new cell phone restrictions for drivers on military bases as a response to new information published in the Federal Register.

People now have to purchase hands-free sets to continue using cell-phones while driving on base, said Craig W. Gilbert, 436th SFS Reports and Analysis.

The Air Force incorporated the information into Air Force Instruction 31-218(I) Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, which states, "Vehicle operators on a DoD installation and operators of government-owned vehicles will not use cell phones

unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device."

The instruction further states that the wearing of headphones, earphones or other listening devices – with the exception of hands-free cellular phones – is prohibited because devices impair recognition of emergency signals.

"Air Force leadership considers cell phone use while driving a distraction with negative impact on safety," said Mr. Gilbert. "Hands-free cell phone use should lead to more attentive driving and a reduction in vehicle accidents and mishaps. (One) advantage would be a reduction in mission impairment, property damage and personal injury."

Security Forces personnel are citing violators as a primary offense.

"If cited for this offense, three traffic points will be added to the violator's base driving record," said Tech. Sgt. Edward

Strouse, 436th SFS Plans and Programs Office.

Repeat offenders will accumulate an additional three points for each citation. If drivers exceed 12 points in 12 months or 18 points in 24 months, they will be issued a six-month driving suspension on base.

436th Security Forces Operations plans to educate base personnel about the new policy via base publications and notifications placed on computer login screens at their workplaces.

Mr. Gilbert also informed there are several higher-level safety initiatives currently being looked at to abolish all cell phone use on base

There are currently no laws in Delaware prohibiting cell phone use while driving.

Any further questions about the new cellular phone use policy can be directed to the 436th SFO at 677-6087 or 677-6082.



Duty history centralized for reservists

Airmen are now able to access and change their duty history through the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center. Reservists previously had to visit their local military personnel flights to change or request a copy of their duty history. Now, reservists can accomplish this by logging in at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp> and establishing an account by answering a few questions. For more information, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123016125>.

New contract begins for TRICARE dental

A new Tricare Dental Program contract started Feb. 1 that will continue to furnish worldwide, comprehensive dental coverage to include preventive, diagnostic, restorative and maintenance services to all eligible uniformed services active-duty family members and to Guard and Reserve members and their eligible family members. Under the new contract, Tricare has added benefits to the dental program. They include dental implants and related prosthetics, and extended restorative services to teeth affected by attrition, erosion, abrasion and congenital or developmental defects. For more information, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123015924>.

DoD plans to boost access to military child care

The ongoing realignment of U.S. forces from longstanding overseas bases to stateside installations and high operational tempos are placing demands on the military child-care system. Consequently, the Department of Defense wants to provide more spaces for the children of active-duty and Reserve-component servicemembers. DoD is contracting with off base civilian centers to address lengthy waiting lists at some military installations. In addition, DoD has provided funds to get modular buildings that will help meet immediate child-care needs. About 4,000 new child-care spaces will be created through construction and the modular buildings. For more information, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123015807>.

AF releases revised religious guidelines

The Air Force released a revised version of its religious guidelines Feb. 9, the latest step in a process started after a review at the U.S. Air Force Academy indicated a need for additional guidance.

Air Force Directorate of Personnel officials issued a first set of interim guidelines in August. The newly revised version was written after getting diverse feedback and careful consideration of the U.S. Constitution, laws and military necessity.

The latest set of guidelines is now one page as opposed to four and clarifies the freedom of expression by chaplains. It also addresses prayer at military events, but in no way restricts private prayer or chaplains' activities in religious settings. For more information, visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123016168>.



Good Conduct Medal

Air Force senior officials explain medal's elimination

Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

The Air Force Uniform Board announced Feb. 6 that the Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded.

The Air Force director of Airman development and sustainment recently explained the reasons behind this decision.

"The quality of our enlisted personnel today is so high, we expect good conduct from our Airmen," said Brig. Gen Robert R. Allardice. "It begged the question, 'Why do we have a Good Conduct Medal?'"

"Having a medal for good conduct is almost to say we don't expect Airmen to do well, but if they're good we will give them a medal," he said. "It's kind of insulting in our Air Force today."

One must look at the history of why the medal was created in the 1960s. The military was using the draft and involved in the Vietnam War. The Air Force didn't have any other method to recognize Airmen. Today, the Air Force Achievement Medal recognizes outstanding Airmanship.

"When we looked at that history it was clear that the Good Conduct Medal has outlived its usefulness," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "Today's all-volunteer force is committed to serving honorably, and good conduct is what we expect from every Airman -- officer and enlisted."

"We live by our core values," Chief Murray said. "When members of our service stray from those values, they do themselves and all Airmen a disservice. When that happens, commanders have the tools they need to evaluate the situation and the individual's worthiness for continued service.

"If a commander deems their conduct does not warrant discharge, then they remain a valuable Airman to our Air Force, and we expect them to continue to serve honorably," he said.

General Allardice said that it is the uniform, not the Good Conduct Medal, that represents what Airmen are all about.

"In today's Air Force, our Airmen understand that the uniform they wear represents good conduct," he said.

Airmen who have previously earned the Good Conduct Medal are still authorized to wear it.

Air Force releases uniform board results

WASHINGTON -- The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released their newest results for proper wear of the uniform.

The board met in October and discussed everything from eliminating the Air Force Good Conduct Medal to maternity uniforms.

In addition, a Headquarters Air Force badge will be available this summer. The badge provides a distinct identification of military staff members assigned to the Air Staff and the Air Force Secretariat. Details about this badge will be available at a future date.

The following changes are effective immediately:

- Approval to wear the blue nametag with the Air Force informal uniform -- the member's abbreviated rank and name will be on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplains, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.
- Cummerbund pleats will face up.
- If due to a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, results in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.
- Bracelet size is reduced to one-half inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized. Traditional POW/MIA bracelets are still permitted. Gemstone and tennis bracelets are only authorized while wearing the mess dress.
- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.
- Eyeglasses will not be worn around the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on uniform.

-- New epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

-- Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty code, including periods of professional military education and staff tours above group level.

-- Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and is also their primary AFSC, including PME attendance and staff tours above group level.

-- The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

-- Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1 as per the instructions released last November.

-- Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray, and must be conservative. They may be clipped to the left side of the waistband or purse or carried in the left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

-- Permanent wear of the scuba badge is authorized on the battle dress uniform.

-- While not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to and from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in policy announced in mid-2005.

This session of the Air Force Uniform Board included a special panel that was specifically chartered to make

recommendations regarding updates and revisions to uniform standards affecting women Airmen. After careful review, the board approved several changes that affect women specifically:

- "Scrunchies" are prohibited.
- Hairpins and bands must match hair color.
- Hair color, frosting and highlights will not be faddish and will match natural hair colors, i.e. blonde, brunette, red, black or gray.
- No shaved head or flat top hairstyles for women.
- Synthetic hair can be worn, as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.
- Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.
- Nail polish will not contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Nor is polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any florescent color, authorized. Nail polish will also be limited to one color.
- French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances will not exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.
- In addition to clutch-style purses, purses with no more than two straps are authorized with mess dress.
- Earrings will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combination and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercings, only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe. When performing duty in civilian clothes, Airmen will also conform to these earring wear standards.
- The male flight cap is optional for women. The updates were added to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, which was released in March. *(Courtesy AFPN)*

Liberty Line: What uniform change would you recommend?



"None. I like the uniform the way it is. I like the color, and I'm used to it."

**Senior Airman
Lorraine Almanza
512th Mission
Support Squadron**



"Women should be able to wear their hair in a ponytail. It's classy and looks neat enough to wear in uniform."

**Senior Airman
Elisha Martinez
709th Airlift Squadron**



"We shouldn't have to wear a hat. It's not necessary. It's an old custom that needs to be updated."

**Senior Master Sgt.
Tim Ward
326th Airlift Squadron**

DOD releases annual sexual assault report

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense released the results of the second annual report on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program.

The report addresses data on alleged sexual assaults that were reported during 2005 in which members of the armed forces are victims or offenders.

The Air Force received 584 reports of alleged sexual assault -- an increase of 28 percent over the prior year. One hundred eighty-one reports made under the restricted reporting option accounted for the increase. Twenty-nine of the restricted reports later moved to an unrestricted report, meaning that an investigation was opened.

"This is exactly what we expected would happen," said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff, manpower and personnel. "Increased reporting gets people the help they need, and hopefully will lead to a more complete report from which we can take appropriate action.

"And, through our educational efforts, we are strengthening a culture where Airmen step up, hold each other accountable and help in preventing sexual assault," he said. "This cannot and will not be a one-time effort. It must become part of the very fiber of who we are in

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response information

For information about the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, visit www.sapr.mil.

For information on the Dover Air Force Base SAPR program, contact the base Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Beverly Fletcher anytime at (302) 363-7272.

For information on sexual assault services at Dover AFB, call (302) 677-HELP during duty hours.

order to effect lasting change."

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sexual assault is the nation's most underreported violent crime.

There are a number of barriers that discourage victims from reporting to investigators and the command, said Claudia Bayliff, chief of the Air Force SAPR office. The Air Force is focusing on eliminating those barriers. Since June, military victims of sexual assault have been offered a restricted reporting option, which allows those who have

been sexually assaulted to receive medical treatment and support without automatically triggering a criminal investigation.

The Air Force encourages victims to report the crime so it may be investigated and prosecuted. However, the restricted reporting option provides victims who may not be able to immediately take that step with the care, support and time to make an informed decision.

Nationally, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed in April and is dedicated to raising awareness about the nature and prevalence of this crime and to increase prevention efforts.

Significant strides have been made in Air Force prevention and response efforts over the past year, said Air Force officials. Over 360,000 Airmen worldwide have received awareness training. Sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates have been trained and are engaged in prevention efforts and providing assistance to victims.

The Air Force has been aggressively addressing this national problem, said Ms. Bayliff. The message from senior leadership is clear. Sexual assault is criminal behavior and contrary to the high standards of our service. *(Courtesy AFPN)*

Two Liberty Wing members pass away



Master Sgt. Ibrahim S. "Abe" Madanat, 326th Airlift Squadron, passed away March 5. Sergeant Madanat, a native of Milford, Del., was a loadmaster who served during the Persian Gulf War,

Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, he was recognized for having accumulated more than 10,000 flying hours. A memorial service was held March 10 in Milford, Del.



Senior Master Sgt. Michael Harris Sr., 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, passed away Feb 28. Sergeant Harris, a native of Portsmouth, Va., was the NCO in charge for the structural

maintenance element. He also was NCO in charge of the 512th Newcomers Flight, ensuring new arrivals to the 512th became familiar with the wing and Dover Air Force Base. A memorial service was held March 6 in Suffolk, Va.



Photo by Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin

CAC count down

The mandatory common access card login is effective June 30. 512th Airlift Wing members who do not have or remember their PIN number need to register their CAC as soon as possible.

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE

Reservist reenacts civil war battles, educates youth



Courtesy 512th Public Affairs

It was a war of Americans versus Americans, where more than 3 million Americans fought, and more than 600,000 Americans died. It's a war that Master Sgt. James Ralph said has fascinated him since he was a child and he's dedicated to keeping its history alive.

The Air Reserve Technician works for the 512th Airlift Control Flight during the week, but during his off time he trades in his camouflaged BDUs for a set of Civil War era Union blues.

Sergeant Ralph is a member of the Living History Society of Delaware, 2nd Delaware, Company "G," and has been a Civil War reenactor since 1998.

Prior to the start of the Civil War in 1861, slavery was legal in Delaware. Some residents wanted to keep it that way, whereas others were against it, according to the Delaware Historical Society. When the war broke out, Delaware stayed with the Union although loyalties were divided. By 1865, official government documents listed 13,670 troops from Delaware, 954 of which were African-American.

"Primarily, we go to reenactments of well known battles that were actually fought during the war," said Sergeant Ralph, who was born in the Black Hills of Wyoming and moved all over the United States with his parents who were in the Air Force. He moved to Dover in 1965 and has been in the 512th Airlift Wing since 1974.

Using exact replica equipment, the reenactors portray the battles to educate the public, he said.

Sergeant Ralph and fellow reenactors re-create civil war encampment areas where they live for the duration of the event. They set up tents and mess areas and even cook over wood fires.

When conducting a reenactment,

participants' daily routine consists of a morning training and drill session. They then form into larger units and march to the battlefield, where they maneuver and fire muskets in order to replicate the sights and sounds of battle.

"Safety is paramount and is continually stressed," said Sergeant Ralph. "Good physical conditioning is an asset as there is sometimes a great deal of marching to be done in wool clothing in high temperatures, carrying all of the equipment."

When the reservist isn't on the battle field, he spends time making presentations at local schools, civic groups and private organizations.

Recently, Sergeant Ralph presented a Civil War reenactment to fourth and fifth graders at Campus Community School. The project-based learning school is creating their own reenactment of the Civil War with the help of Sergeant Ralph.

At these presentations, he explains what equipment Civil War soldiers carried and how it was used.

"We also talk about how the original soldiers lived in the field, their everyday lives and the suffering they endured," said Sergeant Ralph, who is one of more than 30 reenactors in the LHSD.

Tech. Sgt. Valerie Harwood, fellow 512th ALCF member and Campus Community School computer instructor, got to join the fourth and fifth graders in watching Sergeant Ralph's reenactment.

"It was wonderful to watch a fellow reservist volunteer his time," said Sergeant Harwood. "The children gained invaluable first-hand knowledge of the wardrobe and economics of a Civil War soldier."

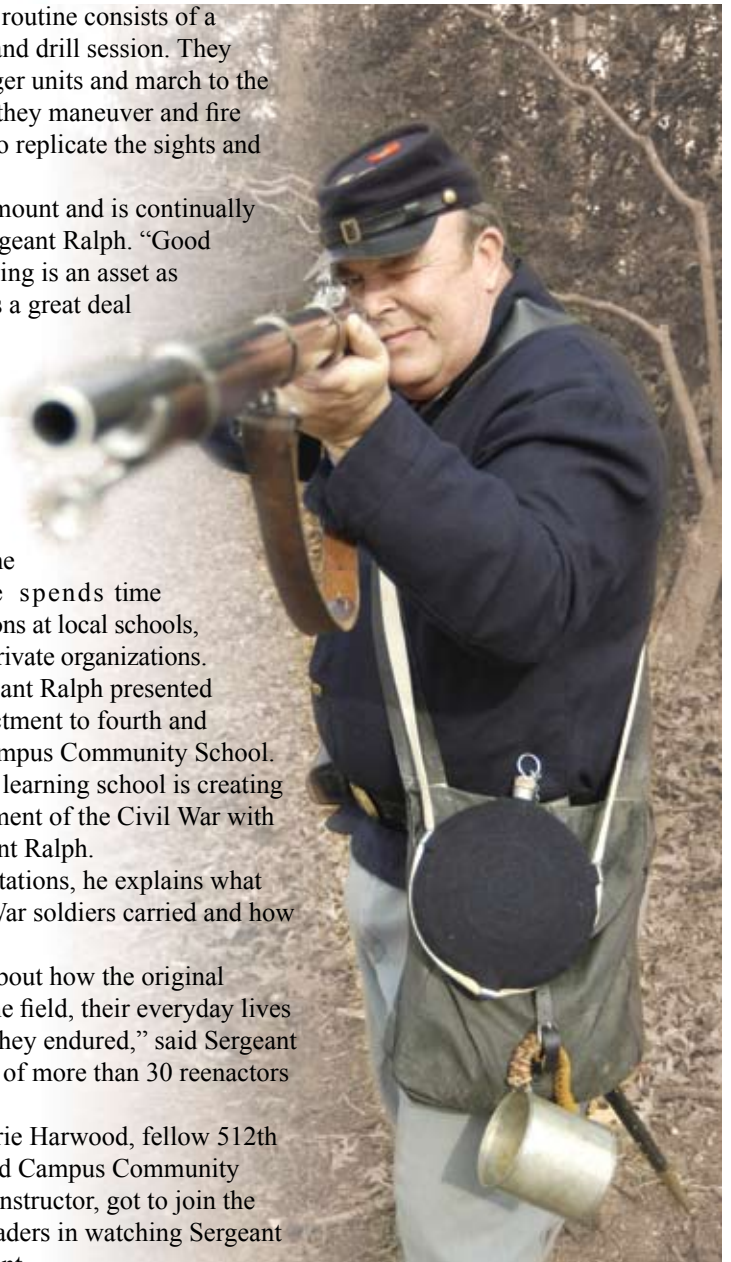


Photo by Airman 1st Class James Bolinger
Photo illustration by Michael Mullen

Master Sgt. James Ralph, 512th Airlift Control Flight, stands in firing position dressed in a Union Army uniform.

Road to Recovery:

Airman overcomes cancer, maintains active lifestyle



Tech. Sgt. Matthew Profitt, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron wears a flexible prosthesis, a C-Sprint, which absorbs impact while he runs on base.

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

In 2005, he ran the New York City Marathon and skied down the Rockies. The fact he has one leg isn't slowing him down.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Profitt is an active sportsman -- the 38-year-old reservist plays racquetball, bobsleds, canoes, cycles and runs. But, three years ago the 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidance and control section technician wasn't sure he'd be alive today.

Deadly Diagnosis

In June 2003, while activated a second year to support the war on terrorism, Sergeant Profitt said he noticed an ulcer on his right shin.

"It wouldn't heal," he said.

This raised a flag for the sergeant because he had a noncancerous ulcer removed in the same area in 2002.

He wasn't as fortunate this time. At the Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md., a doctor biopsied the ulcer and diagnosed him with epithelioid sarcoma, a malignant soft tissue tumor that typically develops in tissues under the skin of the hands, forearms, feet, or lower leg.

He went to John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, for a second opinion and the doctor recommended amputation to get the rare and aggressive cancer away from his body, he said.

"As soon as they told me, I was in shock," he recalled. "To be told it's malignant; that I have a 20 percent survival rate; and they have to amputate. After leaving the hospital, I pulled over the side of the road and broke down."

Two weeks later Sergeant Profitt was on the operating table at Bethesda. His leg was amputated at mid-calf.

"I woke up and felt fine. Within three to four days I was up and moving around with a walker," he said.

There were several combat-veterans

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

from Iraq recovering from war wounds while Sergeant Profitt was at the hospital.

“I made a lot of friends there,” he said. “It made me realize I wasn’t the only person going through this. Some people had three limbs missing. It was inspiring for me to see them overcome their experiences.”

The sergeant was released to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., and within three weeks he was learning how to use an artificial limb, or prosthesis. There are a variety of prostheses for different activities. For example, Sergeant Profitt wears a flexible prosthesis, a C-Sprint, which absorbs impact when he runs.

It took him a month to learn how to walk again, but that was only the first battle in his war against cancer. After healing from his operation, Sergeant Profitt went through four months of chemotherapy sessions. He received his last checkup in October and is cancer free today.

The one thing Sergeant Profitt didn’t worry about was his job, he said. A 2005 medical evaluation board recommended his continued service.

“Through it all, there was never any question that I could come back here to my job,” he said. “My unit, commander, first sergeant, and section chief would visit me and make sure I wasn’t having any issues. They lent an ear and were there for support.”

His supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Fred Traute, the squadron avionics section chief, said he watched Sergeant Profitt’s recovery and was impressed by his attitude.

“Through all of this, he maintained a positive outlook and was an inspiration to those who had knowledge of it,” Sergeant Traute said. “He didn’t walk around complaining about it.”

New beginnings

A traumatic life situation can change a person’s outlook on life. Sergeant Profitt’s ordeal with cancer has him living every day like he’s dying. The doctors gave him a one-in-five chance to survive five years from the surgery and chemotherapy, he said.

“It’s changed me a lot. I’m a better person. I don’t want to take a moment for granted or waste my days,” he said. “I didn’t want to be 60 or on my death bed saying I wish I went to Park City, or ran a



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Profitt, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, poses for a picture with the actress Bo Derrick at the 18th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Aspen, Colo., in April 2004. Sergeant Profitt was one of 350 disabled military veterans who took on the challenge of skiing the Rocky Mountains as part of a rehabilitation program. Every participant received a medal for participating. It was the first time the sergeant skied after having his leg amputated in 2003 after being diagnosed with cancer.

marathon or bobsledded. I’m willing to try anything. I’m not afraid of failure.”

He quit his job with his employer of 10 years and moved to Park City, Utah, this fall. He volunteers with Disabled Sports USA, the Challenged Athletes Foundation, and the National Abilities Center. These

organizations fund sporting events and offer sports opportunities to people with disabilities. They also provide training and opportunities to potential U.S. Paralympians. The U.S. Paralympics is a division of the U.S. Olympic committee.

“I know how important sports have been for me as far as goals and a sense of accomplishment. I want to transfer that to the kids,” said Sergeant Profitt, who volunteers about seven hours a week assisting with the

NAC skiing and bobsled programs.

“I recently worked with a 12-year-old amputee, and seeing him have the opportunity to go out on the slopes is rewarding,” said the sergeant who works out three to four times a week. “I like to see young people come back pumped up

and smiling. It’s an opportunity for them not to think about medical issues going on in their lives. It’s so important for the psyche of people.”

The 20-year Air Force veteran plans to retire in October.

However, his future career goals include getting a degree in teaching, or special education, and becoming more

involved with the NAC, he said. His long-term goal is to become a member of Utah’s first disabled bobsled team for the 2014 U.S. Winter Paralympics.

“It’s changed me a lot. I’m a better person. I don’t want to take a moment for granted or waste my days.”

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Profitt
512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
guidance and control technician

TO HONOR WITH DIGNITY

Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin
512th AW Public Affairs

The solemn procession draws the attention of everyone in the room. Despite the crowd, the only sound is the rhythmic click of steel taps on the concrete floor. As they march, their steely gazes and impeccable uniforms are unmistakable: They are the Honor Guard.

Technical Sergeants Jesse Price and Noel Vadell said they both joined the Honor Guard in order to spruce up their promotion packets.

However, a single event changed their perspective on serving in the honor guard and in the Air Force.

“The first funeral we participated in changed our outlook on everything,” said Sergeant Vadell, 512th Component Maintenance Squadron. “We were true patriots after that.”

“I saw people’s appreciation for how the military honors the fallen,” said Sergeant Price, 512th CMS. “The whole ceremony gives you a sense of pride for your job, and for your service.”

Both members have since surpassed their original two-year commitment and said they remain dedicated to the team.

“When I was activated for two years, I did Honor Guard jobs on my own time and on weekends,” said Sergeant Vadell.

The 512th Honor Guard performs at a variety of events including military funerals, changes of command, retirements, and civic events such as parades. To obtain this privilege, members must train on drill and ceremony, movements, and how to handle a weapon safely within a flight, said Tech. Sgt. Acy Willis, Honor Guard NCO in charge.

Training on drill and ceremony takes about six to seven days, but perfecting one’s skills may take longer, said Sergeant Willis. The team practices together for two days every quarter, and performs about four or five ceremonies every UTA weekend.

“No one sees how much work we put into those few minutes on stage,” said Sergeant Vadell. “We put in hours of work.”

Although people may not see all the hours of practice, they see the end result and many keep asking for more.

“The Honor Guard is a part of military history and tradition,” said Sergeant Willis. “As members, we’re ambassadors of the Air Force. No official ceremony goes on without the honor guard.”

The 512th Honor Guard is looking for new members. For information, call Sergeant Willis at (302) 677-3452.

**Tech. Sgt. Acy Willis,
Honor Guard NCO in
charge, post the colors
at a squadron change of
command.**

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

Around the 512th

Wing commander's call scheduled for June UTA

The next wing commander's call is scheduled for June 11 at the base theater. Members need to be seated by 7 a.m. The Community College of the Air Force graduation will also take place at this time.

Safety Offices host luncheon

The 512th and 436th Airlift Wing Safety Offices are hosting a luncheon with retired Space Shuttle Astronaut and U.S. Navy Capt. James D. Wetherbee April 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the Landings. The cost is \$12.

Captain Wetherbee's speech is entitled, "Effective Decisions: Give Your Organizations the Best Chance for Success."

He flew six times aboard the space shuttle and is the only U.S. astronaut to command five space flights.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Sherri Balcom or Lt. Col. Chris Cote at (302) 677-3812.

April Alcohol Awareness Month

To recognize the serious problem of alcohol abuse, April is designated "Alcohol Awareness Month."

Here are the warning signs of alcohol abuse. If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you may have a problem with alcohol:

- Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?
- Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- Does your drinking worry your family?
- Do you ever drink after telling yourself you won't?
- Do you ever forget what you did while drinking?
- Do you get headaches or have a hangover after drinking?

If you suspect that you might have a drinking problem, or you know someone who abuses alcohol, please contact the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) at 1-800-729-6686 for more information or to find a screening site located near you.

Hometown news

The 512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office has an active hometown news program.

The program can assist wing members in announcing their promotions, medals, assignments and other special accomplishments to their friends and families in their hometowns.

For more information, or to fill out a hometown news release form, contact your unit public affairs representative or the wing PA office at (302) 677-3485.

Wing public website revamped

The 512th Airlift Wing public website, <http://www.512aw.afrc.af.mil>, has been redesigned, mirroring the look of Air Force Link. Users can now access wing news and feature stories, as well as a photo and art gallery, fact sheets, biographies of key base personnel, links to other Air Force and government sites, and information on Air Force Recruiting.

Community yard sale

Dover Air Force Base is hosting a community yard sale at the Air Mobility Command parking lot April 8 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. It cost \$5 per table with a limit of three tables. There are also 10-by-10 foot canopies available for rent from Outdoor Recreation for \$15. The registration deadline is April 3. To register, call (302) 677-3107. To rent a canopy, call (302) 677-3959.

Blue Rocks community night

The Wilmington Blue Rocks Kent County Community Night is May 9. The Blue Rocks are playing the Lynchburg Hillcats at 6:35 p.m. at Frawley Stadium. To purchase discounted tickets, call the Blue Rocks at (302) 888-5358 or contact Public Affairs at (302) 677-3487 for more information.

Baltimore National Aquarium discount tickets available

Travel to Australia at the National Aquarium in Baltimore and see the exhibit, "Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes." Get discounted gate tickets at the Leisure Travel Office. The new military ticket can now be used by the military member and members of their immediate family. For more information, call (302) 677-3955.

AFAF campaign underway

The 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign for the 512th Airlift Wing will run through April 22.

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. For information, visit www.afassistancefund.org or contact a unit representative listed below.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Tyler
512th AW

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Townsend
512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Capt. Shirley Whitney
512th Operations Group

Tech. Sgt. James Cini
326th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Elisha Martinez
709th AS

Master Sgt. Betty Harvath
512th Operations Support Flight

Tech. Sgt. Tom Ragonese
512th Airlift Control Flight

Senior Airman Nicole Seigler
512th Mission Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Alexis Rivera
46th Aerial Port Squadron

Senior Airman Shamika Meredith
71st APS

1st Lt. Eric Dorsey
512th Memorial Affairs Squadron

Master Sgt. Cornell Jolley
512th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. William Yoder
512th Security Forces Squadron

1st Lt. Thomas Downs
622d Communications Flight

Master Sgt. Darin Pusker
512th Logistics Readiness Flight

Tech. Sgt. Tonya Collier
512th Maintenance Group

Master Sgt. Richard Meeks
512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Tom Carney
512th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Christian
512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Tammy Stancil
512th Component Maintenance Squadron

512th salutes

Newcomers

Welcome to the Liberty Wing:

Maj Michael Novakovic
 Capt Ken Lantagne
 TSgt Joseph Beales
 SSgt Elizabeth Beales
 SSgt Francis Fajardo
 SSgt Alexander Forti
 SrA John Charles
 SrA Forrest Coleman
 SrA David Fox
 SrA Robert Hawkins
 SrA Jih Hijar
 SrA Kevin Keller
 SrA Sherri Scott
 SrA Ryan Smith
 A1C Michael Banks
 A1C James Holley
 A1C William Jones
 A1C Richelor Tecson

Promotions

To Senior Master Sergeant:

Robert Hamill
 Andrew W. Calvello

To Master Sergeant:

Michael Bovidge
 William Boxmeyer
 Earl Coleman
 Leonard Davis
 Daniel DeVern
 Michael Higdon
 Jeremy Lee
 William McGlone
 Kyra Riddick
 Edward Roelle
 Cathleen Simpler
 Gwendolyn Smith
 Chandra Sutton

Patricia Taylor
 Eric Weinmann
 Debra Wesley
 Broderick Williams
 Judy Wynn

To Technical Sergeant:

Osborne Goodall
 Edward Hendershot
 Joshua Schwartz
 Theresa Stauffer
 Paul Surowiec
 Daniel Warman

To Staff Sergeant:

Ernest Davis
 Isador Hanley
 Joshua Henderson
 Brian Kuser
 Dakaque Lewis
 Joseph MacCarroll
 Tara Zulkowski

To Senior Airman:

Alexander Atkins
 Mickelle Damassia
 Shane Shickel

To Airman:

Felicha Janoski

PME Graduates

Senior NCO Academy

MSgt Rachael Gonesh
 MSgt Tommy Rose

NCO Academy

TSgt Joy Clifford
 TSgt Yolanda Matthews
 SSgt Wilbert Henderson

Airman Leadership School

SrA Manuel Ortez
 SrA Matthew Cook
 SrA Tracy Moore

Medals

Air Medal
 Maj Scott Erickson
 Maj Thomas Harmon
 TSgt Jorge DeJesus Jr.

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. John Bragger, Jr.
 Maj Thomas Harmon
 Capt William Mills
 MSgt Christopher Carter
 MSgt John Martin, Jr.

Aerial Achievement

CMSgt Larry Davis
 SSgt Robert Stevralia

Commendation

Capt Jason Pennypacker
 Capt Jason Reagan
 MSgt Robert Stewart
 TSgt James Bell, Jr.
 TSgt Charles E. Boyer IV
 TSgt Tracy Chandler

TSgt Bryan Kahler

TSgt John Muncey, Jr.

TSgt Henry Zmyewski

SSgt Daniel Warman

SrA Teelah Adkins

Achievement

MSgt Kevin Greene
 MSgt Sanford Strunk, Jr.
 SSgt Ahmed Alharbi
 SSgt Jean Everly
 SSgt Corey Jones

Reenlistments

MSgt John Losurdo
 MSgt Broderick Williams
 SrA Reginald Edlow

Retirements

MSgt Janice Hill
 MSgt Christian Willey
 TSgt James Cox
 TSgt Elva Kain-Blackwell
 TSgt Frederick Muse



Welcome Wagon

The 512th Airlift Wing welcomes Tech. Sgt. Joseph Beales and his wife Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Beales, who joined the unit in March.

Name: Tech. Sgt. Joseph Beales

Unit: 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Duty Position: Crew chief

Civilian Occupation: Pepsi Cola route sales

Hometown: Denton, Md.

Previous Assignment: Army Defense Courier Services, Fort Meade, Md.

Hobbies: Sports

Personal Goals: Earn a bachelor's degree

Name: Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Beales

Unit: 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Duty Position: Dental assistant

Civilian Occupation: Creative Touch Interiors customer service representative

Hometown: Denton, Md.

Previous Assignment: Air Force Defense Courier Services, Fort Meade, Md.

Hobbies: Scrapbooking

Personal Goals: Earn a bachelor's degree

Command chief visits

Lt. Col. Troy Vokes, 512th Maintenance Operations Flight commander, talks to Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, during his visit to the 512th Airlift Wing during the March UTA. Chief Winsett advises the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command on matters influencing the health, morale, welfare and effective utilization of more than 76,000 active duty and reserve enlisted members within the command and serves as the commander's representative to numerous committees, councils, boards and military and civilian functions.



Photo by Master Sgt. Lillian Nixon

The Lighter Side

What's Up?

A **retirement ceremony** is scheduled for Chief Master Sgt. Robert Thompson, 512th Civil Engineer Squadron, April 1 at the Air Mobility Command Museum at 2:30 p.m.

Old Dover Days is May 6 in downtown Dover. Held throughout the Historic District of Dover, and surrounded by Colonial and Victorian homes, Old Dover Days celebrates its unique history as the Capital of the First State.

Baby Talk

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Mariah Krass, 512th Family Support Center technician, and her husband, Thomas, a 436th Civil Engineer firefighter here. They welcomed Thomas Ian Krass into the world Dec. 20.

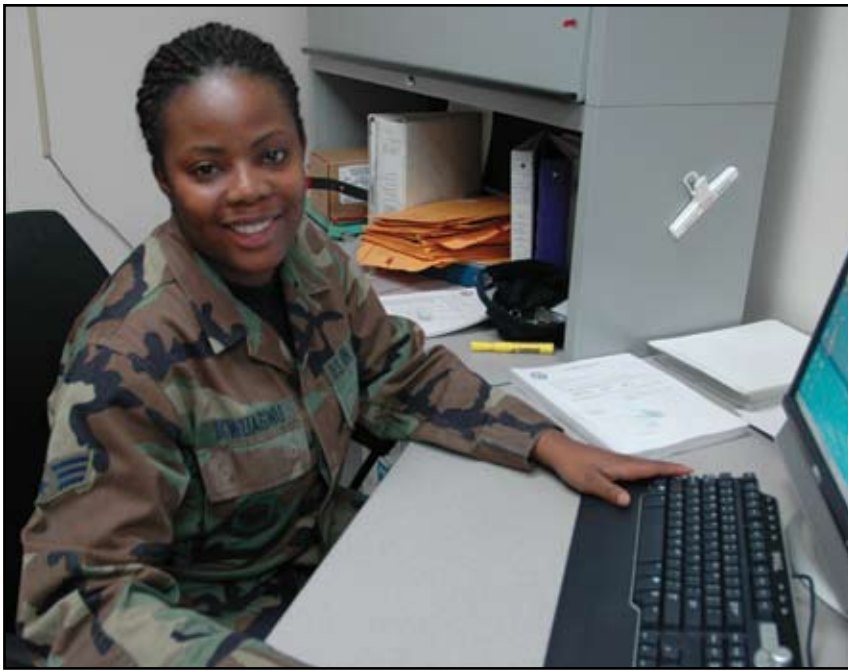


Photo by Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin

Senior Airman Adaora Ikwuagwu is the recipient of the Alonzo Crim Student Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science from Quality Education for Minorities, a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. Airman Ikwuagwu is a chemistry major at Delaware State University and maintains a 3.97 grade point average.



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



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

Col. Don Sloan, 512th Operations Group commander, participated in the 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dover, March 11. He walked beside Col. Chad Manske, 436th Airlift Wing vice commander, and Dover Mayor Steve Speed. Airman Andy (left) wasn't far behind. Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Boothe, senior recruiter for the 512th Airlift Wing, donned the Airman Andy gear and walked the half-mile parade.



Photo by Senior Airman Jennie Chamberlin

Burning down the house

Thick black smoke could be seen 10 miles away March 12 as Dover Air Force Base firefighters took advantage of light winds to burn Building 480, the Airman Leadership School facility, near the Landings Club. From Feb. 20-23, the base fire department, along with local civilian fire departments, torched different rooms inside the building to train and refresh firefighters on building-entry tactics and blaze extinguishing methods. More than 100 firefighters between the base and local departments received training participating in the burn.

UTA Schedule

FY2006	A Team	B Team
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

**April
UTA
paydates**

A-Team pays
April 12
B-Team pays
May 5

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