

512th Airlift Wing

# LIBERTY PRESS

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## HIGH HONOR:

EMS 1ST SERGEANT DECORATED  
FOR DESERT DUTY

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**On the cover**



Photo by Senior Airman Red Scofield

**Maj. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 22nd Air Force commander, presents a bronze star to Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Thompson, 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, for his one-year tour in Iraq. See page 3.**

# Honoring "American" history

**Maj. Dawn Crews-Seams**  
512th AW executive officer

This year is off to a roaring start; as we exit January and enter February, we roll into African-American History Month.

As a black American whose ethnic makeup includes African, French, Irish and Native American ancestry, I approach February with some hesitancy. I understand the lack of recognition or acknowledgment of the contributions of blacks to American culture, arts and sciences led Dr. Carter

G. Woodson to launch Negro History Week in February 1926. In 1976, Negro History Week was expanded to become Black History Month, now referred to as African-American History Month.

However, every year I struggle with the dissimilarities between celebrating African-American History Month as a time to recognize the contributions of black Americans and the fact that after being in America for so long (blacks have been in America since the 1500s) the contributions and experiences of blacks are still viewed as something separate and dissimilar from the study of, and inclusion in, the discussion of American history.

As a student of history, I'd like to believe as a nation and a people we have come far enough to realize the contributions of all Americans; female, male, black, white and brown have added to our nation's strength and greatness.

Sadly, however, as a realist I know we

are not there yet, thus our annual recognition of African-American History Month when we trot out the same few, well-known historical figures: Crispus Attucks, the first American to die in and become a martyr for the Revolutionary War; George Washington Carver, the agricultural chemist; and, Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad conductor. We recognize their accomplishments and at the end of the month return them to the dusty pages of history books until the following year.

During this time set aside for Americans to celebrate Black History Month, I challenge you to take

a few moments to learn about other influential black Americans who made significant contributions to history such as Bessie Coleman (1892-1926), Ralph Bunche (1904-1971), Jan Ernst Matzeliger (1852-1889) and Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson (1946-present).

Bessie Coleman was the first American woman and black American who received her international pilot's license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale in France. She worked as a laundress and a manicurist to save money for her training and

learned French in order to attend the Condrau School of Aviation in France. Schools in the United States would not accept her because of her race and gender.

After working and studying in Europe, where Bessie gained a stellar reputation as an ace pilot, she returned to the United States. She worked as a barnstormer and in her own way fought for civil rights for



**February marks the beginning of African-American History Month, an annual celebration dating back to 1926. To remember and celebrate the contributions made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established African-American History Week beginning on Feb. 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into African-American History Month.**



# Wing member earns bronze star

**1st Lt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo**

Chief, 512th PA

It's not everyday someone receives a medal for spending a year in prison.

It's even more unusual for that "someone" to earn a bronze star for their efforts; but, it's something Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Thompson can brag about.

The 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron first sergeant earned the medal for his one-year tour in Iraq while assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Support Squadron, Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Center, Multi-National Force-Iraq in Baghdad.

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the chief served as the first sergeant and the NCO in charge of operations, supervising a multi-service team, which provided 24-hour support facilitating day-to-day interrogation operations, and ensuring information was provided to U.S. forces to enable them to target insurgent cells, operations and their leaders.

"It was a fantastic mission," he said. "I couldn't have asked for a better mission. Everyone of my Airmen knew they made a difference."

Chief Thompson spent part of the year working and living in the prison cells at a forward operating base at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The military closed Abu Ghraib last summer and transferred prisoners to other prisons in Iraq and officially handed the facility over to the Iraqi government. In June, the chief gave up his prison cell for a tent when he transferred to Camp Cropper, another prison.

The chief volunteered for this mission leaving in December 2005.

"I was proud of supporting the war effort here at Dover, but I wanted to serve there," said the chief, who was activated for four years as the 512th EMS first sergeant here. "When I saw this deployment, it was an opportunity for me to do what I've been trained to do; and, I knew this was my one and only chance to get to the front

of the war."

While deployed, the chief oversaw both Army and Air Force personnel.

"It was about 90 percent Army and 10 percent Air Force, so I spent some time educating Army personnel on Air Force culture," he said.

The chief not only oversaw personnel issues and training for AF troops but also served on the force protection working group, verified personnel were accounted for during indirect fire attacks and handled requests for detainee transfers and releases. He also oversaw, coordinated and ensured the safety and security of his personnel involved in convoys.

"My biggest accomplishment was that everyone came back safe with no injuries," he said.

This accomplishment didn't come without challenges, the hardest of those challenges being the length of time away from family and friends, he said.

"Including the training, many of the men and women who volunteered for this assignment, spent almost 18 months away from home," Chief Thompson said.

Time away from the comforts of home gave him a new appreciation for the good Ol' U.S.A., said the chief.

"It's very easy to take life here for granted," he said. "I appreciate a lot of things more than before, such as the freedoms we have, the freedom to see your loved ones; go where you want to, whether it's the movies or ice skating; or, to take a long hot shower. It's good to be home."



“My biggest accomplishment was that everyone came back safe with no injuries.”

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Thompson  
512th EMS first sergeant

## Honoring "American" History continued from page 2

blacks. While working in the South, she refused to perform in shows unless blacks were permitted to attend.

Bessie Coleman was a woman ahead of her time, with a dream to fly, who worked tirelessly to achieve it by surmounting all obstacles placed in her path to include racial, gender, financial and language barriers.

Ralph Bunche was an International Diplomat who negotiated the Israeli-Palestinian Armistice of 1949, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He designed United Nations international peace-keeping strategies during the turbulent Cold

War years of the 1950s and 1960s.

Jan Ernst Matzeliger revolutionized the shoe manufacturing process in America by developing machinery to modernize the most difficult part of the shoe making process—"lasting," which is connecting the upper to the sole of the shoe. Prior to his development of the lasting machine, this was painstakingly done by hand.

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson was the first black woman to receive a Ph.D. in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She contributed to the design and development of semiconductor lasers. In 1995, she was named chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, another

first for a black woman. In 1999, she left the NRC to become the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Schenectady, N.Y.

I hope I have helped us move forward in achieving Dr. Carter G. Woodson's goal of recognizing the contributions made by black Americans.

Dr. Woodson and I share another goal: that one day the contributions made by black Americans will be accepted, recognized and celebrated as simply the contributions of Americans to their country, seamlessly incorporated into the ongoing record of our common history, eliminating the need for Black History Month.

# Civilian alert: Personnel Services Delivery coming soon

Air Force civilian employees will soon see more functions within Civilian Personnel Flights automated, much like Airmen have seen through Personnel Services Delivery initiatives.

The PSD vision is to establish a common platform for delivery of personnel and pay services to the total force, anytime, anywhere through the use of Web and voice response technology. As civilian PSD initiatives are implemented, many current CPF services will be consolidated to contact centers or other appropriate organizations.

Recent changes occurred at the Air Force Personnel Center when the Directorate of Personnel Services stood up a new division, Civilian Integration, which will be responsible for leading activities supporting implementation of civilian PSD initiatives.

Civilian PSD efforts will help the Air Force maintain professional, mission-oriented human resources services at a high level while meeting the challenges of tight budgets, said Charles Huerta, deputy director of Personnel Services at AFPC.

"Improving our processes and gaining efficiencies under PSD will enable us to effectively manage overall reductions to Air

Force manpower and implementation of the National Security Personnel System," said Mr. Huerta.

"Approximately 50 GS non-bargaining unit employees in the 512th Airlift Wing converted to the (National Security Personnel System) on Oct. 15," said Capt. Cathy Anderson, 512th Military Personnel Flight commander. "This was about 20 percent of our ART/civilian employees and part of the civilian PSD."

For personnel who converted to NSPS, electronic performance plans and appraisals will be on the AFPC website under My Biz.

For all ART/civilian employees, the civilian PSD follows the military PSD transformation to centralize Human Resource applications and official civilian personnel records are online.

Employees can access and view career information and update personal data with self-service HR modules available thru My Biz on the AFPC website.

"Civilian PSD transformation is DOD-wide and designed for flexibility to bring Civilian Personnel HR actions to your desktop," said Captain Anderson.

"Civilian PSD will be looking at all vital

personnel services to include recruiting, staffing, classification, employee development, labor and employee relations," said Mr. Huerta.

"For the typical civilian employee, PSD means most routine personnel and pay transactions will be available via the Web," said Mr. Huerta. "(Civilian employees) will spend less time searching for the information they need."

In addition to Web services, a contact center will be available by phone; case management systems will help customer service representatives follow issues, so employees only need to explain the situation once.

"Customers will have more direct control over career-affecting matters," said Mr. Huerta. "And, our customers will spend far less time for travel and waiting in offices as they will be able to conduct business at their convenience via the Web or through the contact center."

More information on the Civilian PSD effort is available on the Air Force Personnel Center's home page under the Quick Link tab at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> (Courtesy AFPC/Tech. Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda, 512th PA contributed to this story)

## Honoring veterans

**Tech. Sgt. Matthew Kimbler, a 326th Airlift Squadron loadmaster who serves as a major in the Civil Air Patrol, participated in a national wreath laying effort called Wreaths Across America. Sergeant Kimbler narrated the event at a Millsboro veterans cemetery Dec. 14. He currently serves as the Sussex Composite Squadron's unit commander. The Liberty Wing reservist has been a member of the Georgetown-based unit for 22 years.**



Submitted photo



# Tax tips for taxing times

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

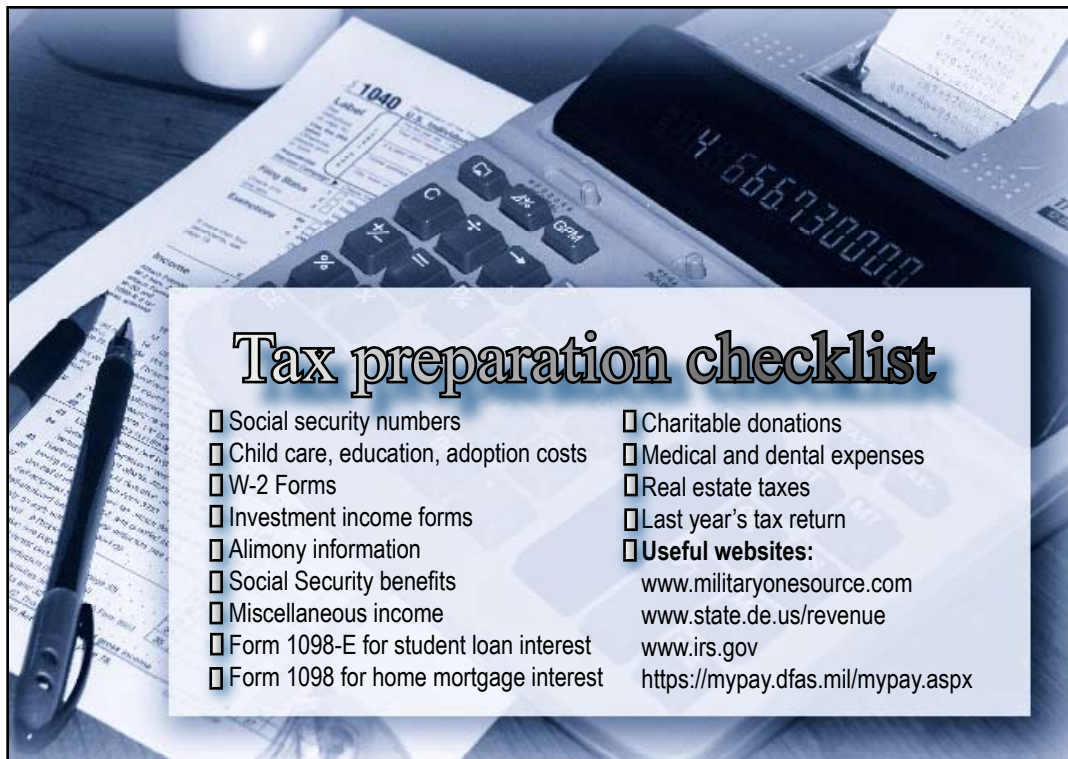
**T**ax season is here, and the military offers tools to assist reservists to make filing a little less taxing.

In addition to Military One Source is offering free tax software to servicemembers and their families, the 512th Airlift Wing has two trained unit tax representatives.

Master Sgt. Michelle Anderson, 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. James Fretts, 512th AW, underwent a four-day course, instructed by the IRS, to provide expert assistance to unit members who need help with their taxes.

Another option is to download free professional tax software at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). The program guides users online through the required forms and documentation and asks users tax-relevant questions about issues like deployment and relocation, said Laura Coseglia, 512th Family Support Center.

Servicemembers will be able



## Tax preparation checklist

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social security numbers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable donations                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child care, education, adoption costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical and dental expenses                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> W-2 Forms                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate taxes  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investment income forms               | <input type="checkbox"/> Last year's tax return                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alimony information                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Useful websites:</b>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security benefits              | <a href="http://www.militaryonesource.com">www.militaryonesource.com</a>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous income                  | <a href="http://www.state.de.us/revenue">www.state.de.us/revenue</a>                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 1098-E for student loan interest | <a href="http://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 1098 for home mortgage interest  | <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/my pay.aspx">https://mypay.dfas.mil/my pay.aspx</a> |

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

**Delaware and the Internal Revenue Service offer electronic filing for state and federal income tax. For more information on filing state taxes, visit [www.state.de.us/revenue](http://www.state.de.us/revenue). The Internal Revenue Service Web site is [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). April 15 is the deadline for filing federal taxes, and April 30 is the deadline for filing Delaware taxes.**

to complete a federal and state tax return, using an interview process to walk them through the return

process, electronically file a tax return, print and file a tax return, and check e-file status, according to Military One Source. Users are also able to transfer information from other tax software programs.

For those not fortunate enough to get a refund, taxes can be paid by personal check, credit card or electronic funds withdrawal, according to Military One Source.

The IRS also provides Free File for federal tax filing on its Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Free File is available to taxpayers, including military personnel and dependents, who have an adjusted gross income for 2006 of \$52,000 or less.

Delaware also offers electronic filing at <https://dorweb.revenue.state.de.us/filePIT/>.

When filing, the following tax documents will be needed:

- Social Security numbers for the reservist, their spouse and dependents
- Child care, education and adoption costs
- W-2 Forms for all employers for the reservist and their spouse. Reservists can download W-2s at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.
- 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

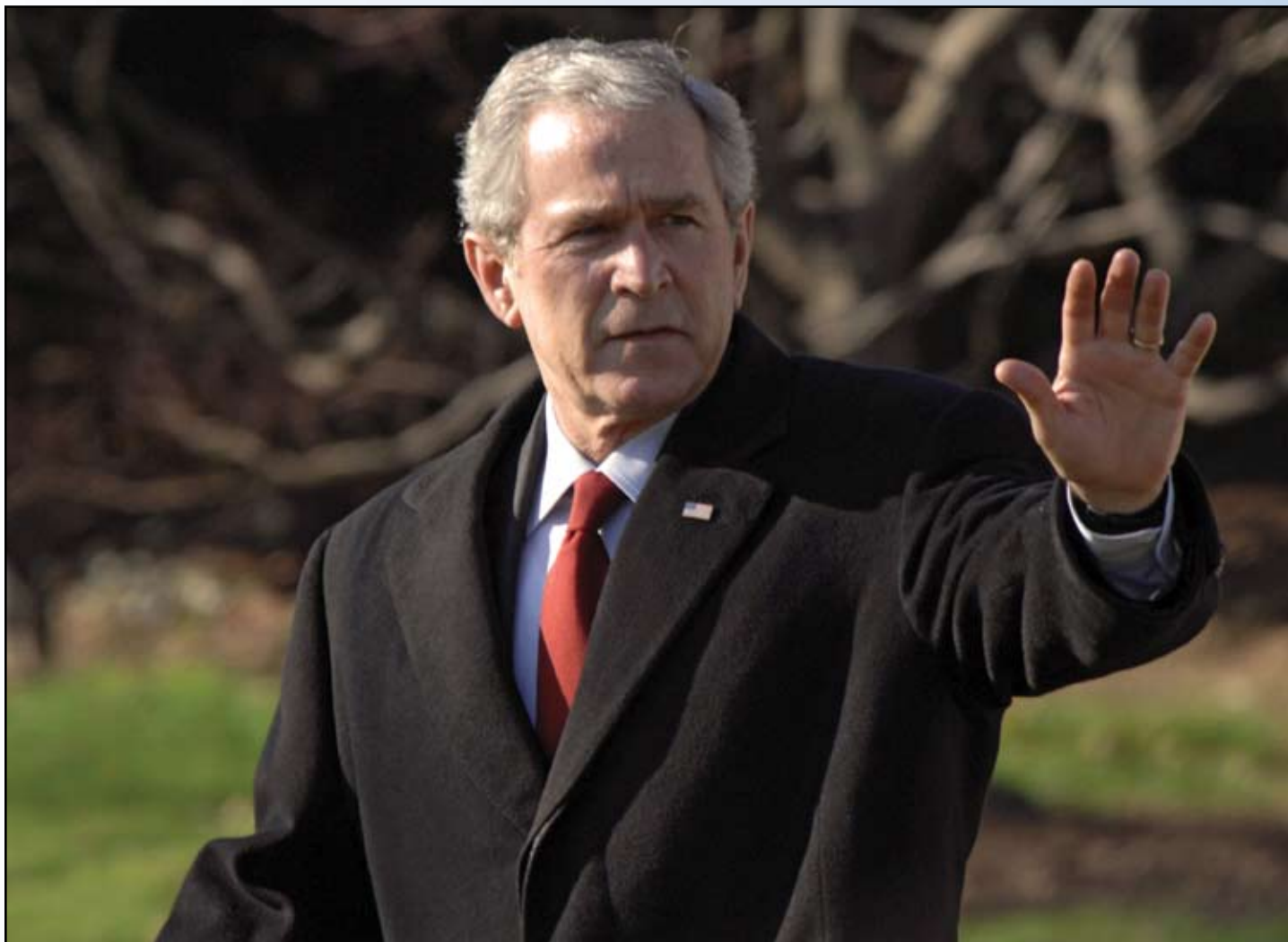
For reservists who still have tax questions, Military One-Source tax consultants are available 24/7 by phone at (800) 730-3802.

## Quick tips for using tax refunds

**MilitaryOneSource.com offers the following tips for using this year's tax refund:**

- Pay debts.** Put refunds towards credit card balances.
- Start an emergency savings account.** Financial experts recommend keeping a savings account with 3-to-6 months pay to cover emergencies.
- Save for a down payment on a home or vehicle.** A larger down payment will lower monthly payments and interest costs.
- Save for college.** Contribute to a college 529 savings plan for future college expenses.
- Make an extra car or house payment.** Ensure there are no prepayment penalties and tell lenders to apply the extra funds to the principal balance, not the interest.
- Reconsider W-4 withholdings.** Instead of giving the government an interest-free loan, individuals should make sure those funds go into their paycheck every month.

# Bush outlines new strategy



DoD photo by William Moss

**President George W. Bush's new strategy for Iraq includes more than 20,000 additional U.S. troops on the ground in Baghdad and Anbar province, increased responsibility for the Iraqi government and Iraqi security forces, and more diplomatic and economic initiatives.**

President Bush's new strategy for Iraq, announced Jan. 10 in a televised speech to the nation, includes more than 20,000 additional U.S. troops on the ground in Baghdad and Anbar province, increased responsibility for the Iraqi government and Iraqi security forces, and more diplomatic and economic initiatives.

President Bush, speaking from the White House, said his new strategy "will change America's course in Iraq and help us succeed in the fight against terror."

The president acknowledged that the situation in Iraq has changed dramatically since the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra in February 2006. The sectarian violence it ignited has overwhelmed political gains Iraqis have achieved and created an "unacceptable" situation in Iraq, he said.

The most urgent priority in Iraq is to stop

the violence and create the stability needed for the country's new government to succeed, the president said.

Toward this end, President Bush said the Iraqi government has committed 18 Iraqi army and national police brigades to deploy across Baghdad's nine districts and work in concert with local police.

To help the Iraqis succeed in their mission, President Bush said he has committed five additional U.S. military brigades to Baghdad and 4,000 more troops in Anbar province, the most restive parts of Iraq. He noted that 80 percent of all violence in Iraq occurs within 30 miles of the capital city and that Anbar province has become al Qaeda's new home base.

The U.S. troops will embed with Iraqi formations and operate alongside them, helping them clear and secure neighborhoods, protect the local

population and ensure that they are able to provide the security Baghdad needs, he said.

President Bush said military commanders who have reviewed his new plan say it addresses the two principal reasons past efforts to secure Baghdad failed.

"Here are the differences," the president said. "In earlier operations, Iraqi and American forces cleared many neighborhoods of terrorists and insurgents, but when our forces moved on to other targets, the killers returned. This time, we will have the force levels we need to hold the areas that have been cleared."

President Bush said political and sectarian interference during past operations prevented Iraqi and American forces from going into neighborhoods that are home to the people fueling sectarian violence.

"This time, Iraqi and American forces will



# ...y for course ahead in Iraq

have a green light to enter these neighborhoods, and Prime Minister (Nouri al-) Maliki has pledged that political or sectarian interference will not be tolerated," he said.

Ultimately, President Bush said, "only the Iraqis can end the sectarian violence and secure their people." But, he added, the Iraqi government has an aggressive plan to accomplish that.

The president said bumping up the U.S. troop presence now will help the Iraqis succeed.

"If we increase our support at this crucial moment and help the Iraqis break the current cycle of violence, we can hasten the day our troops begin coming home," he said.

President Bush said he has made it clear to Prime Minister Maliki that the U.S. commitment is not open-ended and that his government must step up to the plate.

"If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people, and it will lose the support of the Iraqi people," the president said. "Now is the time to act. The prime minister understands this."

President Bush cautioned that the new strategy won't bring an immediate end to violence.

"Our enemies in Iraq will make every effort to ensure that our television screens are filled with images of death and suffering," he said. "Yet over time, we can expect to see Iraqi troops chasing down murderers, fewer brazen acts of terror, and growing trust and cooperation from Baghdad's residents."

When that happens, Iraqis will gain confidence in their leaders, and the government will be able to make progress in other critical areas, he said.

"Most of Iraq's Sunni and Shiia want to live together in peace," the president said. "And reducing the violence in Baghdad will help make reconciliation possible."

President Bush emphasized that a successful strategy for Iraq goes beyond military operations.

"Ordinary Iraqi citizens must see that military operations are accompanied by visible improvements in their neighborhoods and communities," he said. "So America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced."

These benchmarks include the Iraqi government:

- Taking responsibility for security in all of Iraq's provinces by November;
- Passing legislation to share oil revenues among all Iraqis, giving every Iraqi citizen a stake in the country's economy;
- Spending \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction and infrastructure projects that create new jobs;

-- Holding local provincial elections later this year to empower local leaders; and

-- Reforming de-Baathification laws to allow more Iraqis to reenter political life and establish a fair process for considering amendments to Iraq's constitution.

The United States will change its approach to help the Iraqi government as it works to meet these benchmarks, the president said. It will:

-- Embed more U.S. advisors in Iraqi army units and partner a coalition brigade with every Iraqi army division;

-- Help the Iraqis build a larger and better-equipped army and accelerate the training of Iraqi forces;

-- Give U.S. commanders and civilians greater flexibility to spend funds for economic assistance;

-- Double the number of provincial reconstruction teams that help local Iraqi communities pursue reconciliation, strengthen moderates and speed the transition to self-reliance; and

-- Appoint a reconstruction coordinator in Baghdad to ensure better results for economic assistance being spent in Iraq.

As the United States makes these changes, the president said, it will continue to pursue terrorists seeking to establish a new safe haven in Iraq.

"America's men and women in uniform took away al Qaeda's safe haven in Afghanistan,

and we will not allow them to re-establish it in Iraq," he said.

Part of this effort is confronting Iran and Syria, which, President Bush said, allow terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq, and generating support for Iraq's success among its regional neighbors.

President Bush said he's confident that the new strategy will help put Iraq on the path for victory. That victory, he said, "will bring something new in the Arab world: a functioning democracy that polices its territory, upholds the rule of law, respects fundamental human liberties and answers to its people."

A democratic Iraq won't be perfect, the president said, "but it will be a country that fights terrorists instead of harboring them, and it will help bring a future of peace and security for our children and grandchildren."

President Bush said the struggle taking place in Iraq "will determine the direction of the Global War on Terror and our safety here at home."

"The challenge playing out across the broader Middle East is more than a military conflict," he said. "It is the decisive ideological struggle of our time."

"In the long run," he added, "the most realistic way to protect the American people is to provide a hopeful alternative to the hateful ideology of the enemy by advancing liberty across a troubled region." (Courtesy AFNews)

## Airmen to see combat medal in April

Since the Air Force started manning convoy operations in support of the war on terror, more Airmen have had an opportunity to put their rifle training to use in real-world scenarios. Officials said it is for those Airmen involved in combat operations, on the ground and in the air, that the Air Force has created the Air Force Combat Action Medal, which will be unveiled in April.

As part of the unveiling ceremony, some Airmen will be awarded the new medal. At that time, the Air Force will begin to process additional applications for the award.

In order for an Airman to wear the AFCAM, a narrative explanation of the Airman's involvement in combat activities must be submitted by a person with first-hand knowledge of the incident. The application will be processed through the chain of command and eventually be approved or disapproved by the Commander of Air Force Forces.

Airmen can apply for the award to recognize participation in combat activities dating back as far as Sept. 11, 2001. (Courtesy AFNews)



# Mandatory survey expected to identify Air Force's foreign language capability

**Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley approved a survey to identify the foreign language capability inherent in the Air Force to get a better understanding of the foreign language skills already in the force.**

The target date for Reserve members to complete a foreign language survey is April 1.

The purpose of the online survey is to allow Air Force officials to get a better understanding of the foreign language skills already in the force, so they can better determine the language skills that must be developed for tomorrow's operational missions.

"The Air Force is actively engaged in operations all over the world, the most visible being those supporting the Global War on Terror," said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. "An important lesson we continue to learn is that the ability to speak a foreign language is a critical war-fighting skill. We found that many Airmen have foreign language skills that have not been documented, so we are canvassing the force to more accurately determine our resident foreign language capability."

General Moseley has made completion of the survey mandatory for all enlisted members and for officers in the grades lieutenant colonel and below.

The survey presents Airmen with a list of languages. Airmen are

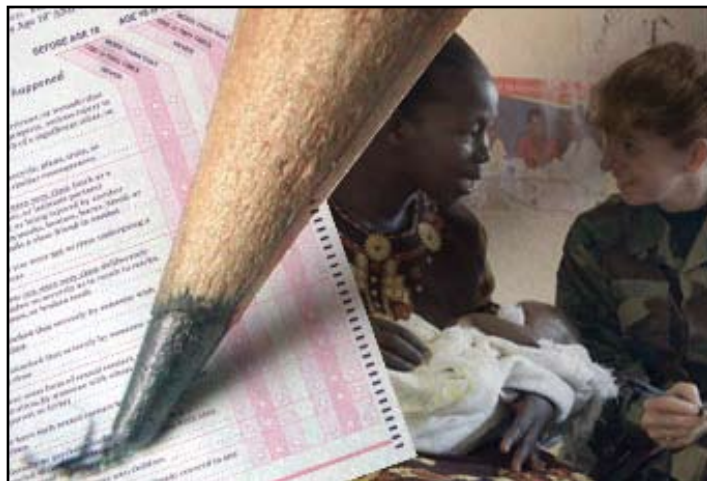


Illustration by Luke Borland

asked to identify which of those languages they have skills in, and to what degree they possess those skills.

If an Airman demonstrates sufficient skill in a language of strategic value to the Air Force, that Airman may be able to qualify for foreign language proficiency pay. Sufficient skill in a single language can raise an Airman's pay by as much as \$500 per month. Airmen with skills in multiple languages can earn as much as \$1,000 per month. Airmen should contact their testing office to sign up to take a defense language proficiency test if they want to see if they are eligible for FLPP.

Each Airman will receive a link to the survey via e-mail. Officials encourage the recipient to access the survey using the link in the e-mail. If an Airman does not receive a link, he or she may access the news story to connect to the survey at [www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123032870](http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123032870).

Reservists are requested to not delay in completing the survey as completion rate reports are already being sent to the chief of staff of the Air Force. (Courtesy AFPN/Chief Master Sgt. Beatriz Swann contributed to this story)

## ESGR, SecDef looking to recognize great employers

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is looking for a few good employers to recognize this year.

The committee, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, is accepting nominations for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards. The nomination process ends Feb. 28.

ESGR's mission is to gain and maintain active support from public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve.

The 2007 recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C., at the 12th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony Sept. 12.

The Freedom Award, the highest in a series of Defense Department employer awards, publicly recognizes employers for exceptional support of their Reserve-component employees above the federal requirements. National Guardsmen, reservists or their

family members can nominate an employer by completing the 2007 Freedom Award nomination form on the ESGR Web site at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org).

ESGR field committees will review the nominations and have the option to present three nominations per committee for review by the National Selection Board, which will select up to 15 recipients.

The nominees forwarded by the 56 field committees to the National Committee will fall into one of three categories: large employer, small employer and public sector (or government employers), said Major Robert Palmer, the national committee's chief of strategic communications.

"We try to have a balanced representation (among those categories)," he added.

Previous recipients have included Starbucks, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Sears, General Electric, Verizon and United Parcel Service. State and local governments and a number of America's small businesses, who

are the majority of National Guard and Reserve employers, have also been recipients.

Delaware has had two Freedom Award recipients - the state of Delaware in 2005 and Dupont in 2006.

"The whole concept is that (the Freedom Award) rewards employers who go above and beyond, so it's not just complying with the law but the steps (employers) go beyond to really show guardsmen and reservists that they are behind their service 100 percent," Major Palmer said. "We've seen examples of sending care packages, maintaining contact with the deployed member's families, maintaining contact with the deployed member, any type of activity that would indicate that employee is still in the hearts and minds of the employer."

"By nominating their employers for Patriot Awards, Above and Beyond Awards and the Freedom Award, employees are sending their employer a strong message of appreciation," he said. (Courtesy AFPS)



## DoD changes how Reserve is managed

The secretary of defense announced a policy change in the way the department will manage Reserve component forces.

The first aspect of the policy change will involve the way the department manages deployments of Reserve forces. Currently, Reserve deployments are managed on an individual basis. In the future, deployments will be managed on unit basis, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments.

The second aspect of the policy change addresses the maximum mobilization time for members of the Reserve forces. Currently, the policy is for a maximum mobilization time of 18 months. The department will reduce the maximum mobilization time frame to one year.

Third, the policy objective for involuntary mobilization of Guard and Reserve units will remain a one-year mobilized to five-year demobilized ratio. However, today's global demands will require a number of selected Guard/ and Reserve units to be remobilized

sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment to demobilization ratio remains the goal of the department, as does the active component's ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.



The fourth aspect of the policy change will establish a new program to compensate individuals in both active and Reserve component forces that are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment to home station ratio times. It will also involve those service members who are required to extend beyond established rotation policy goals.

The final aspect of the policy change will direct commands to review their administration of the hardship waiver program, to ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed service members.

These policy changes will better allow the department to posture itself for success in the uncertain environment in which it currently operates and well into the future. (Courtesy DoD)

## AFPC announces initial ABU distribution

The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8.

The new ABU began production Dec. 7 and uniforms are being warehoused.

Most deploying Airmen will get two ABU sets and two Desert Combat Uniform sets for their deployment.

Battlefield Airmen with Air Force specialty codes for combat rescue, special tactics, pararescue jumper, combat control, tactical air control Airmen, members of the special operations weather team, battlefield weather Airmen and explosive ordnance members will each receive four ABU sets.

By October 2007, the Air Force will begin issuing the ABU to Airmen in basic military training, and in June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets.

The ABU boasts 236 different size options in both male and female sizes. Additionally, its permanent press finish means the uniform cannot be starched, pressed or dry-cleaned. Airmen will be able to pull the ABU from the clothes dryer and wear it without further treatment. Any ironing could degrade the effectiveness of the uniform.

The cost for the uniform, pants and coat, runs about \$81. Additional items, such as socks, T-shirts, belts, and ABU-style hats will also need to be purchased. Airmen are authorized to wear DCU-style boots with the ABU until the newly designed green boots become readily available. The green boots are priced at \$100.

The expected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is October 2011. (Courtesy Air Force Print News)

## Delaware Airman killed

The Department of Defense announced Jan. 8 the death of three Airmen who were killed Jan. 7 by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while performing duties in the Baghdad area supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Airmen were assigned to the 775th Civil Engineer Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Killed were:

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Weiner, 35, of Tamarac, Fla.

Senior Airman Elizabeth Loncki, 23, of New Castle, Del.

Senior Airman Daniel Miller Jr., 24, Galesburg, Ill. (Courtesy AF News)

## New name, same service

FirstGov.gov has changed its name to USA.gov.

As the U.S. government's official web portal, officials listened to feedback from the public that told them USA.gov is easier to understand and remember.

For more information on the name change to USA.gov, visit the link "Introducing USA.gov" in the News and Features box on the right side of the page.

## Latest Airman issue online

Read about how Airmen are rebuilding hope by mentoring Iraqi soldiers, see how warfare is evolving thanks to valuable training in the field, discover how a Balad hospital is thriving thanks to deployed servicemembers, and learn how one family is receiving much-needed support from the Air Force to care for their 3-year-old son with leukemia.

These features and more highlight the winter quarterly issue of Airman magazine, now available in print and online at [www.af.mil/news/airman](http://www.af.mil/news/airman).



# 512th salutes

## Newcomers

The Liberty Wing welcomes the following newcomers:  
 SSgt Jesse Marquardt  
 SrA Joseph Hardee  
 SrA Joseph Mahaffey  
 A1C Shante Hazzard  
 A1C Jonathan Kennedy  
 A1C Terrence Trotman  
 Amn Alina Kendrick  
 AB Colleen Abell  
 AB Bryant Dawson  
 AB Edward Furlong

## PME Graduates

**Airman Leadership School**  
 SrA Malynda King  
 SrA Steven Germann  
 SrA Derrick Thomas  
 SrA Ronald Engracia Reyes  
 SrA Nacoma Kulowiec  
 SrA Adam Opalinski  
 SrA Joshua L. Runkles

## Reenlistments

SrA Bryan Ranft

## Retirements

Farewell to:  
 MSgt Michael Duda  
 MSgt Belinda Martin  
 MSgt Kevin Strawbridge  
 TSgt Randall Crisco  
 TSgt Anthony Tomashunas

Names of retirees can be submitted to liberty.press@dover.af.mil.

## Medals



### Meritorious Service Medal

CMSgt Dexter Faulkner  
 SMSgt Kevin Beasley  
 SMSgt David MacCarroll

SMSgt William O'Regan  
 MSgt John Mack  
 MSgt Patrick Naccarato  
 TSgt Robert Lee  
 TSgt Matthew Proffitt  
 SSgt Phillip Donaway  
 SSgt Theodore C. McQueeney III  
 SSgt Joshua Pogge  
 SSgt Michael Workman

### Air Medal

Maj Christopher Bish  
 Maj Edward Nixdorf  
 SMSgt Barry Hanlon  
 TSgt Michelle Hite  
 TSgt Kelly Moquin

### Aerial Achievement Medal

Maj Edward Nixdorf  
 Capt Jason Reagan

### Commendation Medal

MSgt William Boxmeyer  
 MSgt Paul Cook  
 MSgt Antoinette Harris  
 MSgt Eric Waters  
 TSgt Sean Barnum  
 TSgt David Bennett  
 TSgt Derek Biggs  
 TSgt Michael Callahan  
**Achievement Medal**  
 SSgt John Gifford  
 SSgt Dartanion Pittrell  
 SrA Anthony Palma  
 SrA Michael Sanders  
 SrA Christopher Wilson

Billy Young  
**To SSgt**  
 Teelah Adkins  
 Steven Carlson  
 Charles Craig  
 Keith Fletcher  
 Christopher N. Hall Jr  
 Cheryl Stringer

### To SrA

Vernon Reed  
 Erica Thompson  
**To A1C**  
 Vernon Reed

## Quarterly Award Winners

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

### Airman

SrA Anthony Palma,  
 46th APS

### NCO

SSgt Ahmed Alharbi,  
 709th AS

### Senior NCO

MSgt Omar Then,  
 512th AMXS

### Officer

Capt Shirley Whitney,  
 709th AS

### Civilian

Marilyn Larson,  
 512th MXG

## Annual Award Winners

The wing's annual award winners for 2006 are:

### Airman

SrA Anthony Palma,  
 46th APS

### NCO

SSgt Sean Barnum,  
 709th AS

### Senior NCO

MSgt Larry Reed,  
 709th AS

### Officer

Capt Jason Pennypacker,  
 326th AS

### Civilian

Marilyn Larson,  
 512th MXG

### Crew Chief of the Year

TSgt James Baker  
 512th AMXS

## What's Up?

The 512th Public Affairs Office is planning the following events:  
 Honorary CC, Feb. 15  
 CC's Call June 10  
 Employer Day, July 7  
 Spouses Flight, July 8  
 Parents Orientation, July 8  
 CC's Call Nov. 4



### To Capt

Lawrence Dingler  
 Eric Manewal  
 Todd Mullen  
 Andrew Thomson  
 Amy Tullis,  
 Otis Wilson  
 Eric Dorsey  
 Jeffery B. Ryan Jr  
 Marnee A.C. Losurdo

### To SMSgt

Williams Clifton  
 Joseph Donitzen  
 Rachael Gonesh  
 Angela Fader

### To MSgt

Terry Archer  
 Carolyn Atkins  
 Glenn Bailey  
 Keith E. Callwood  
 Anthony Cave  
 Lance Chandler

John Garratt  
 Thomas Nee  
 William Tarrant  
 Gary Warner

### To TSgt

Matthew Burke  
 Kim Enright  
 Tywana Faulks  
 Daniel Garrett  
 Wilbert Henderson Jr  
 Desiree Urban  
 Michael M. Valerio II



Photo by Sue Walls

## When two chiefs collide

**Chief Master Sgts. Kenneth Thompson and Caroline Vennell wed Jan. 7 at Chapel 1 on base. The reception at the Landings Club was attended by 300 friends, family and wing members. Chief Thompson is the first sergeant for the 512th Equipment Maintenance Squadron and Chief Vennell is the command chief for the 512th Airlift Wing.**



# Around the 512th

## Mark calendars for holidays

The following are the remaining 2007 Federal Holidays:

- Washington's Birthday - Feb. 19
- Memorial Day - May 28
- Independence Day - July 4
- Labor Day - Sept. 3
- Columbus Day - Oct. 8
- Veterans' Day - Nov. 12 (observed day)
- Thanksgiving - Nov. 22
- Christmas - Dec. 25

These are also listed at [www.opm.gov/fedhol/2007.asp](http://www.opm.gov/fedhol/2007.asp). Please see AFI 36-807 for information on holiday observance, holiday work and pay. Please refer questions to (302) 677-4645.

## Mandatory BAH recertification

All Liberty Wing reservists must have a completed Air Force Form 987, Recertification Statement for Basic Allowance for Quarters turned in by March 30.

Items 1-10 must be filled out and the form must be signed by the service member. Forms can be obtained and turned-in at unit orderly rooms. Wing staff agencies are to give their forms to the 512th Military Pay Office in Building 202.

BAH recertification is mandatory. Failure to submit the completed AF Form 987 by the deadline will result in a stoppage of BAH entitlements.

For more information, contact the Reserve pay office at (302) 677-3493.

## Maintenance squadrons merge

The 512th Maintenance Group is hosting a reorganizing ceremony Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Isochronal Inspection Dock, Building 711.

The reorganization accommodates the upcoming C-17 mission and aligns the group with a structure similar to the rest of the Air Force. The active duty's 436th MXG reorganized June 20, 2005.

Currently, the 512th Maintenance Group consists of an aircraft maintenance squadron, equipment maintenance squadron, component maintenance squadron, and maintenance operations flight.

The reorganization will de-activate CMS, redesignate EMS as the 512th Maintenance Squadron and activate the 712th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The CMS personnel will transfer to the 512th MXS, which will take on the CMS and EMS missions. The MOF will remain the same, while the 512th AMXS will keep the C-5 mission and the newly activated 712th AMXS will take on the C-17 mission.



Currently, the wing coin reflects the C-5 mission. Wing leadership would like a coin that depicts the C-17 and C-5 missions.

## Wing sponsors coin contest

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

In June, the wing will take on an additional mission with the arrival of the C-17, and the 512th Airlift Wing commander would like a new wing coin to reflect the C-5 and C-17 mission.

"With a fleet of C-5s and C-17s, Dover will be one of two Air Force bases that can deliver any cargo, anywhere in the world," said Col. Ronald A. Rutland, 512th AW commander. "I'd like a coin that will reflect these missions as well as our wing heritage."

Coin designs must be submitted electronically to the 512th AW Public Affairs Office account, [liberty.press@dover.af.mil](mailto:liberty.press@dover.af.mil), by the end of the March UTA.

The winner will be selected during the April UTA, and the winning coin design will be unveiled in the May Liberty Press. In addition, the coin designer will be recognized during the June 10 commander's call.

For more information, call 512th PA at (302) 677-3485.

## Do you know your 512th Airlift Wing heritage?

Q  
A

What makes former 512th Airlift Wing Commander Lt. Col. William Cox stand out from the rest?

He is the only individual on record who has been the commander of the 512th AW two different times. On this month in 1976, he reassumed command of the Wing for the second time.

He served as the wing commander from both June 1973 to August 1973 and again from February 1976 to April 1976.





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda

## Aviators of tomorrow

The 512th Public Affairs Office hosted a base tour Jan. 9 to a dozen Polytech High School students who are members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Program. The group was especially interested in the Aero Club as their high school offers aviation courses. Aero Club opportunities are available to a variety of patrons including ROTC, reservists, base civilians, retirees and more. To see the complete eligibility

list, log onto [www.doverafbsservices.com/leisure\\_recreation/flight\\_training.php](http://www.doverafbsservices.com/leisure_recreation/flight_training.php). The center is approved for flight training and testing under the Federal Aviation Administration, which qualifies for use of Veterans Administration benefits. Located in Building 447, the club's office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and they're closed on weekends and holidays. For more information, call (302) 677-6365.

### UTA Schedule

	A Team	B Team
JAN	6-7	20-21
FEB	3-4	24-25
MAR	10-11	24-25
APR	14-15	21-22
MAY	5-6	19-20
JUN	9-10	23-24
JUL	7-8	21-22
AUG	4-5	18-19
SEP	8-9	15-16

512th Airlift Wing  
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**February UTA**  
**paydates**

**A-Team pays**  
**Feb. 13**  
**B-Team pays**  
**March 7**