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512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.



Permission Granted:

Media allowed to cover
dignified transfers

Liberty Press

May/June 2009

512th AIRLIFT WING

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ON THE COVER

Shipping Specialists Staff Sgt. Star Samuels (front) and Tech. Sgt. Willard Rico place a U.S. flag over a casket during a dry run of procedures for the dignified transfer of remains shipping process at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs here March 31. Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

News & Features



BAN LIFTED ON DIGNIFIED TRANSFERS

Media is now permitted to cover dignified transfers here with permission from the primary next of kin. See page 5.



WING AIRMAN LIVED, WORKED IN AFRICA

Wing Airman's civilian job took her overseas and credits military experience for ability to embrace challenges and adapt to changes. See page 14.



NEW PT GEAR UNDERGOES WEAR TEST

One hundred eighty-five males and females are wear testing a new prototype physical training uniform for the Air Force. See page 20.

Quick Reference

PERSPECTIVES 3

NEWS 4-7

FEATURES 10-17

SPORTS 18-19

AF NEWS 20

AFRC, DOD NEWS 21

WING BRIEFS 22

RECOGNITION 23

UTA Schedule

	A & B Team			A & B Team	
April	25-26	4-5	July	11-12	25-26
May	2-3	16-17	August	1-2	15-16
June	13-14	27-28	September	12-13	26-27

Reminder:

NASCAR weekend in Dover is May 29 to 31, and the Delaware State Fair is July 23 to Aug. 1.

CC TALK: Commander reflects on upcoming events

Col. Randal L. Bright
512th AW commander

What a busy first two years here. With the exception of the 512th Operations Group that's preparing for their Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation in August, this will be the first time since I arrived in June of 2007, that the wing as whole has not been making ardent preparations for some type of inspection. But, just because we're not getting ready for an inspection, doesn't mean things have necessarily slowed down.

Operations tempo

During these 23 months, you have successfully completed an Air Mobility Command Operational Readiness Inspection, an Air Force Reserve Command Unit Compliance Inspection, a Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program, and a Health Services Inspection. Take the results of these inspections and use those issues to further your ownership of your shop, flight, squadron, group and wing by maintaining those programs that are working well, and strive to improve those programs that need improvement. In the end, this will be a better wing as we will be taking care of the most important asset - our wing members.

New airframe

We now have two C-5M Super Galaxies; and, after some speed bumps in the road as far as legacy systems go, we are ready to start getting our crews and maintainers familiar with this great addition

to our fleet. We are now two thirds of the way to our total of three C-5Ms. The third arrives this September, and our air and maintenance crews will be ready to surge in the Operational Test and Evaluation process for validating the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program for the C-5Bs.

101 Safety campaign

Shortly after our May UTA, we will roll into Memorial Day weekend and the 101 Critical Days of Summer. Through the fall, winter and spring campaigns, we have been improving our safety culture in our Air Force, because losing one member of our Air Force family is one too many. Continue to stay focused, and remember to take a moment to perform a mental risk analysis before undertaking any activity. You have earned your time to enjoy the summer, just be safe so that you may return to your family, your civilian employer and the 512th Airlift Wing.

Fit to fight

This time of year is when most of our units perform a majority of their Fit-to-Fight assessments. Make sure you have done your part prior to your assessment. Being physically fit is an Air Force requirement. Take

ownership of yourself and do what you can to maintain your physical fitness, so you're not a liability to your unit but more importantly, so you're not a liability to yourself.

Again, enjoy the summer months, you've earned it.

And, thank you for the service you provide for our nation. I am honored to be your commander.



Photo by Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond

Col. Randal L. Bright,
512th Airlift Wing commander

Revisit core values in Air Force's Little Blue Book

Col. Elaine K. Barron
512th MSG commander

Described as telling us the price of admission to the Air Force itself, The U.S. Air Force Core Values were published in "The Little Blue Book" in 1997. I reviewed "The Little Blue Book" (now only available on the internet) for inspiration for this editorial.

Although written 12 years ago as a reaction to scandals in the Air Force, they could have been written yesterday as a response to our current climate. Time to take out "The Little Blue Book" and shake off the dust:

Integrity First: "... the willingness to do what is right even when no one is look-

ing. It includes moral courage, honesty, responsibility, accountability, justice, openness, self respect and humility. I believe these apply to the most mundane tasks we do during the week and Unit Training Assemblies.

Service Before Self: "... professional duties take precedence over personal desires" and include these behaviors: rule following--recognizing rules have a reason for being; respect for others recognizes we must always act in the knowledge all persons possess a fundamental worth as human beings; professionals exercise discipline and self-control; and finally maintaining faith in the system. Losing faith in the system or adopting the attitude you know bet-

ter than those higher in the chain of command is placing self before service

Excellence in All We Do: "It is imperative we strive for excellence in product or service - not just responding but anticipating our customer needs; personal, including military education completion and staying in top physical and mental shape; community excellence - when an organization can successfully work toward a common goal, resource and operations."

This price of admission applies to officer, enlisted, civil service and contractor personnel and forms the foundation for Air Force leadership at every level. Check out "The Little Blue Book" at <http://www.usafa.af.mil/core-value/>

Passion drives success

Col. Karl A. Schmitkons
512th OG commander

An old cowboy saying goes, “Nobody but cattle know why they stampede, and they ain’t talkin.”

I know why I do what I do; and, if you ask, I’ll be happy to do some “talkin.” So what gets you moving? What motivates you to be in the Air Force Reserve and do your particular job? Please talk; get with your supervisor or mentor and let them know why you move. Communication is best when it’s a two way deal. Let your teammates know where your passions lie.

According to Franklin Covey’s leadership training, a great leader considers it “his or her job to release the talent and passion of the team(members) toward the team’s highest priorities.”

As supervisors, we need to get to know the people who work with and for us. What drives us? What are our interests and goals at this time in our lives and careers? If we can put our people in positions that tap into that well of energy and inspiration, we can enable them to have much greater impact on the success of the team. Most people actually want to do their best, and a good supervisor does his or her best to remove the roadblocks and speed bumps to enable them.

Sometimes, of course, we’re not able to actually move a person to the right position, but we can still gain from unleashing the talent within. Perhaps there is a way to apply that talent to the job you’re already doing. Or, with your spare time (we all have tons of that don’t we?), use your talents to help someone else with a troublesome project. This situation flows into our core value of “service before self.” Use your creativity to find better ways of doing tasks. Yes, if it’s not broken don’t fix it, but even unbroken processes can use a tune-up now and then.

That leads us to attitude. We all know a good attitude goes a long way toward making an undesirable task go quicker and come out better. Finding your passion and being enabled to apply it can make it easier to keep that good attitude. Keeping a good attitude can clear any fog from our minds and make it easier to find your passion. That’s a cycle that can “make a lot of hay.” Feed it to the cattle - maybe they won’t stampede. So, start “talkin.”

New leader assumes command of 512th OG

Col. Karl A. Schmitkons
512th OG commander

Col. Karl A. Schmitkons assumed command of the 512th Operations Group in a ceremony March 8 at The Landings.

The colonel’s previous assignment was as the commander of the 302nd Operations Group at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., where he commanded the flying aeromedical evacuation and Modular Aerial Fire Fighting System of 320 Airmen and 12 C-130 aircraft.

Colonel Schmitkons replaces Col. Darrell G. Young who bid farewell to the Liberty Wing Jan. 30 to take a position as the Director of Air, Space and Intelligence at 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

Col. Randal L. Bright, 512th Airlift Wing commander, was the officiating officer for the assumption of command.

“This is an important and proud day,” said the wing commander to the audience as he turned to his new OG commander. “Bring

forth your tactical expertise and apply it to the associate C-17 world; and, OG, teach Colonel Schmitkons the strategic world to better enhance the mission and expand our horizons.”

Colonel Schmitkons is a command pilot with more than 5,600 hours in the C-130 and is scheduled to learn to fly the C-5. He assumes command of a 400 person organization, which flies the C-17 and C-5.

“Bear with me. I’m a quick study, but I’m sure I’ll need your assistance,” he said. “I’ll be the best C-5 pilot I can be, but my primary job is to lead you, finding the perfect balance between accomplishing the mission and managing personnel issues.”

During his speech, he expressed how excited he is to become part of the Liberty Wing family.

“I’m deeply honored for being invited into this family,” said the colonel. “You have shown in the past that you have no problem meeting challenges as seen in the results of your recent Operational Readiness Inspection. It’s an honor to become part of such a winning team.”



Photo by Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

From left to right are 512th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Randal L. Bright, 512th Operations Support Flight First Sergeant Master Sgt. Calvin Little and the new 512th Operations Group Commander Col. Karl A. Schmitkons. Colonel Schmitkons assumed command of the 512th OG in a ceremony March 8 at The Landings.



Photo by Roland Balik

An Army carry team transfers the remains of Army Spc. Israel Candelaria Mejias here, April 7. One day prior, a new policy went into effect, allowing media coverage of dignified transfers with next of kin consent.

Gates signs dignified transfers policy

A new policy went into effect April 6, that under strictly delineated conditions, allows media filming of dignified transfer operations of fallen servicemembers' remains here.

In a March 25 memorandum that outlines procedures for the new policy, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates wrote he had determined on Feb. 27 "that the (Defense Department) policy governing media access to the dignified transfer of fallen servicemembers at Dover Air Force Base would be modified to allow media access, when approved by the immediate families of the individual fallen."

Dover's Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs is the Defense Department's largest joint-service mortuary facility and the only one in the continental United States. Media photography or filming of dignified transfers at Dover was prohibited under the previous policy.

Media with family approval to cover Dover dignified transfers would be placed in an area behind the families, said Pentagon Spokesman Bryan Whitman, noting that the families aren't to be filmed or interviewed as they observe transfer operations. Families who agree to be interviewed by media after the transfer operations could do so, he said, but only in a specified area away from the tarmac.

Mr. Whitman pointed out that the remains of fallen servicemembers are transported to Dover around the clock in an expeditious manner. He said, Dover AFB public affairs personnel will post to the base's Web site that a dignified transfer approved for media coverage by the fallen servicemember's family is to take place, along with the time and some

other particulars. Military photographers will take photographs of dignified transfer operations to provide to families who approve media coverage, Mr. Whitman said.

Each dignified transfer operation takes about 15 minutes to complete, Mr. Whitman explained. Dover public affairs personnel, he said, would assist media to gain access onto the installation, provide briefings and take them to the flight line.

Per the memorandum, there are several actions that are to happen with the new policy. One of them includes the primary next of kin and two other family members may travel to Dover at department expense to observe the dignified transfer operation. The services may fund the travel of additional family members on a case-by-case basis. Other guidelines including how much information will be released about the "believed to be casualty" can be found in the full story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123142450>.

The secretary's memorandum also directed the development of a long-term plan to obtain the preference of individual servicemembers regarding media access to dignified transfers should they become a casualty while on active duty.

On March 17, Secretary Gates made an unannounced evening visit to Dover to observe the dignified transfer operations. The trip to Dover "was a very moving experience" for Secretary Gates, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell told reporters the day after the secretary's trip. *(Courtesy American Forces Press Service)*

“... media access to the dignified transfer of fallen servicemembers at Dover Air Force Base would be modified to allow media access, when approved by the immediate families of the individual fallen.”

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates



Dover wins

Community, base receives Abilene Trophy for outstanding partnership

2nd Lt. Brian Maguire
Chief, 436th Public Affairs

Dover is the home of the Abilene Trophy this year after winning the 2008 Air Mobility Command Community Support Award, which was announced at Spring Rally, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., March 25.

The Abilene Trophy is presented annually to a civilian community for outstanding support to a nearby AMC base and the winner is determined by a selection group of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee in Texas with final approval by AMC.

"Dover has long had a reputation for being an incredibly supportive community, and this award is great recognition of that fact," said Col. Manson Morris, 436th Airlift Wing commander. "The people of Dover are extremely dedicated, not only to the mission and people of Dover Air Force Base, but also to being a part of the service we provide for the American people.

Our phenomenal community relationship is truly a national asset."

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce submitted the nomination package and highlighted events such as the Leadership Central Delaware program, annual Military Affairs, Honorary Commanders program and base and chamber participa-

tion in the two NASCAR races.

"I think that we won this year because of the wonderful relationship we have between Dover Air Force Base and the Dover community," said Judy Diogo, CDCC president. "We really are all part of Team Dover, and this award shows that."

A key component of Team Dover is the 512th Airlift Wing, many of whose members live and work in the community when not fulfilling their Reserve commitment.

"I'm excited to hear that Dover is be-

Gen. Arthur Lichte, AMC commander, and Gary Bridwell, Abilene Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Executive Committee member, presented the trophy to Colonels Morris and Bright during Spring Rally. Spring Rally is a three-day conference held each spring, with another in the fall, to provide a focused look at AMC's priorities, roles and missions.

"All of central Delaware is extremely proud of winning this prestigious award," said Dean Blaha, CDCC Military Affairs Committee chairman. "We are always willing to support the base in any manner and are glad the hard work of the community has been recognized with this prestigious award."

A traveling trophy will be presented to the CDCC in the coming months, and the chamber will display the trophy until the next winner is named. A smaller, permanent trophy will be presented at the 2010 Spring Rally when the traveling trophy is given to the next recipient.

The first, and last, time Dover possessed the Abilene Trophy was in 1999, and the chamber is thrilled

with the selection, said Ms. Diogo.

"We could not be more excited for the chamber Dover community and Dover Air Force Base to have been selected as the Abilene winners for 2008," she said. "It's been 10 years since we won the trophy, and we have been anxiously anticipating another win; so, we finally have it."



Photo by Senior Airman Nancy Hook

(From left) Gen. Arthur Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, Gray Bridwell, Abilene Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Executive Committee member, Col. Manson Morris, 436th Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Randal Bright, 512th AW commander, proudly display the Abilene Trophy at Spring Rally at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Dover was named the 2008 AMC Community Support Award winner, and the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce will host the traveling Abilene Trophy for the next year.

ing recognized for something we've all known for a while; this base has an outstanding relationship with the community," said Col. Randal L. Bright, 512th AW commander. "Our Airmen are able to accomplish the mission here, as well as live and work in a community that appreciates their service."



Photo by Senior Airman Deborah Robinson

Master Sgt. John Witzke, 709th Airlift Squadron flight engineer, inspects flight deck controls during a pre-flight inspection prior to a mission in March. The C-5 flying squadron will be losing many flight engineers due to upcoming retirements and is looking for Airmen to cross train into the career field.

Wanted: C-5 Galaxy Flight Engineers

Senior Airman Deb Robinson
Staff writer

A The 709th Airlift Squadron is looking to fill several vacancies due to upcoming retirements.

“Flight engineers are professionals who provide reliable aircraft and dependable support to the Dover Team in fueling its global peacetime and combat taskings,” said Lt. Col. James Lackey, 709th AS commander. “We want young Airmen who have the desire to learn and train to be flight engineers.”

As a 709th AS flight engineer, Master Sgt. John Witzke has delivered

cargo to warfighters and humanitarian cargo to people in need. While accomplishing this vital mission, he has seen places like the Great Pyramids in Egypt and explored the ancient ruins of Pompeii.

Travel isn’t the only thing satisfying about the job.

“It’s so rewarding to see the smiling faces of the Airmen, Soldiers and Marines as they see us arrive with stuff for them,” said Master Sgt. Lawrence Roy, 709th AS C-5 instructor flight engineer.

Flight engineers are also responsible for

conducting pre-flight inspections of the aircraft to ensure all systems are operational, monitor the

“We’re like the keys to a car. Without us, the pilots can’t operate the aircraft.”

Master Sgt. John Witzke
709th Airlift Squadron

aircraft’s systems during flight and advise pilots of any issues that may deter their ability to maneuver the aircraft.

“We’re like the keys to a car,” said Sergeant Witzke. “Without us, the pilots can’t operate the aircraft.”

Not only is the job essential and rewarding, but it can be quite challenging as well, he said.

“A normal work day for a traditional reservist as a flight engineer isn’t eight hours but sometimes a good 26,” said Sergeant Witzke.

The complexity of the job requires flight engineers to fly missions a minimum of every 60 days to stay up-to-date in training, said Sergeant Roy. This averages about three to

four days a month.

To be considered for this opportunity, one must have an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score of 57 in the general category and pass a flight physical.

Once a 709th AS flight engineer graduates from the six-month technical school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, he or she accomplishes another year of upgrade training here to gain additional knowledge of the aircraft’s systems.

Reservists who are interested in this opportunity should contact Chief Master Sgt. Gary Auld, 709th AS director of engineers, at (302) 677-3774.



Photo by Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond

Charles Corbett, Lockheed Martin field service representative, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Carver, 436th Airlift Wing flying crew chief, troubleshoot a wiring fault on the C-5M April 1 while on its first mission to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Dover maintainers fine tune Spirit of Global Reach

Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond
Staff Writer

Fliers weren't the only crew familiarizing themselves with the C-5M Super Galaxy, as maintainers worked on the aircraft during the first mission to generate the world's most capable airlifter.

Alongside Lockheed Martin field service representatives, Air Force maintainers Staff Sgts. Aaron Trudel and Ryan Carver, 436th Airlift Wing flying crew chiefs, worked on the C-5M during its first mission to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, March 28 to April 9.

"Running into problems with an aircraft is inevitable," said Sergeant Trudel. "It's the nature of the beast. But, this is the time we want this kind of thing to happen, before any real-world missions."

As part of the ongoing familiarization period, the maintainers and FSRs spent time going over items such as evaluation and training, troubleshooting, fixing wire short-outs, inspections and changing tires.

During the process of working with the aircraft, the maintenance crew was able to generate and amend the preliminary technical orders. TOs are guidelines used when troubleshooting aircraft malfunction.

"One of the biggest challenges for the maintainers during this mission was working with preliminary TOs while conducting

our troubleshooting," said Sergeant Carver. "What was actually wrong with the plane wasn't matching up with the preliminary TOs. Therefore, we had to figure out the systems and where the problem was coming from, by trial and error."

The improvements made to the aircraft during the modernization program made maintaining the aircraft easier, the sergeant said.

"The electrical system is definitely smoother, more reliable," said Sergeant Carver. "That, along with having the Lockheed guys here, made the process of working on the aircraft more efficient than it might have been."

The Lockheed FSRs worked alongside their military counterparts to increase the Airmen's comfort level while working on the Super Galaxy, said Stan Walenda, C-5M field technical support staff for Lockheed Martin.

"We are trying to encompass a more hands-on approach with the introduction of the Super Galaxy," said Mr. Walenda. "These (Air Force maintainers) have been great to work with. They are completely dedicated. They want to generate the airplane and do it safely. This group, especially, is very resourceful."

While there may still be kinks in the modernized machine, maintainers will have time to smooth them out before operational testing and evaluation begins, which is slated for August.



Airmen from the 512th and 436th Airlift Wing field service representatives during the first mission. The aircraft hauled 80,000 pounds of cargo from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Going Global

**Dover airmen
takes C-5M on first
overseas mission**



File photo by Jason Minto

Wings were joined by Lockheed Martin Base, Germany, March 28 to April 9. The mission was part of the familiarization training for the Air Force's newest airlifter. The Spirit of Global Reach is one of two Super Galaxies currently assigned here.

Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond
Staff Writer

Dover's first C-5M Super Galaxy, named the Spirit of Global Reach, completed its first Air Force mission with a crew of 512th and 436th Airlift Wing Airmen, as well as Lockheed Martin fieldservice representatives, April 9.

The nearly two-week training and currency mission left here and landed at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., March 28 to load almost 80,000 pounds of cargo headed for Ramstein Air Base, Germany. After an aircraft maintenance and training period with Lockheed Martin FSRs while in Germany, the crew flew to Gander International Airport, Canada, and then returned to Dover.

"It was our first time getting some much needed overseas training," said Capt. Cory Damon, 9th Airlift Squadron pilot and aircraft commander for the C-5M mission. "This experience permitted all members of the crew some insight into the maintenance side of the aircraft. It also allowed us to appreciate the improvements made to one of the most competent airlifters in the world."

The modernizations made to the legacy C-5 were evident to members of the air crew.

"The lighting is much better in the cargo area," said

Master Sgt. Erik Appeldoorn, 436th AW loadmaster and part of the C-5M crew. "The incandescent lighting was replaced by florescent and (light emission devices). This gives much better visuals while loading."

The improvements made to the C-5 are readily apparent during preflight checks said Master Sgt. Lawrence Roy, 512th AW flight engineer on the C-5M crew. "Many of the new systems have self-monitoring capabilities. For instance, the auxiliary power unit (an electronic component which monitors systems' capabilities when the aircraft is not running) will sense a pending failure and automatically shut down that system before the aircraft is started up, intercepting it from further damage."

Lt. Col. Mike Semo, 512th AW C-5M chief pilot, said the C-5M has increased reliability and decreases down time.

An example of this is seen in that the legacy C-5s would require pilots to use a map, whereas on the C-5M there is a global positioning system for navigation. Also, the autopilot system in the C-5M does not require as extensive check runs as the legacy aircraft, he said.

While the C-5M pilots may benefit from the increased usability of the renovated airlifter, there may also be a fun-factor in flying the new aircraft.

"This [aircraft] rocks," said 1st Lt. A.J. Pratt, 436th AW C-5M pilot. "It's like going from a minivan to NASCAR."

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OUT of this WORLD

C-17 aircrew transports equipment enroute to International Space Station

Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
Chief, 512th Public Affairs

A 512th Airlift Wing crew transported a piece of the International Space Station to the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., March 21 to 22.

The Reserve Airmen from the 326th Airlift Squadron picked up an ExPRESS Logistics Carrier at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and flew it to Florida for transport to the ISS via the Space Shuttle.

ELCs are unpressurized facilities attached to the ISS and are used for science experiments, storage devices and for electrical power.

“Basically, an ELC can be described as a shed outside of the space station used by astronauts to store their tools and supplies as well as to conduct experiments,” said Capt. Jim McCann, a 326th AS pilot on the mission.

Construction of the ISS began in 1998 and is slated for completion in 2011, according to a NASA fact sheet. It primarily serves as a research laboratory orbiting 240 miles above the Earth. Five space agencies, representing 16 nations, have participated in this technological endeavor, which is the largest artificial satellite in Earth’s orbit.

NASA frequently asks the Air Force for assistance in hauling their cargo, said Lt. Col. Harlan Nelson, 512th Operations Support Flight chief of current operations.

This time, it was the 512th AW who answered the call.

“We like doing these missions, and it’s great training,” said Colonel Nelson.

At over 17.5 feet wide, the 41,000 pound ELC took 5 hours to load, said Senior Airman Marc Anderson, 326th AS loadmaster.

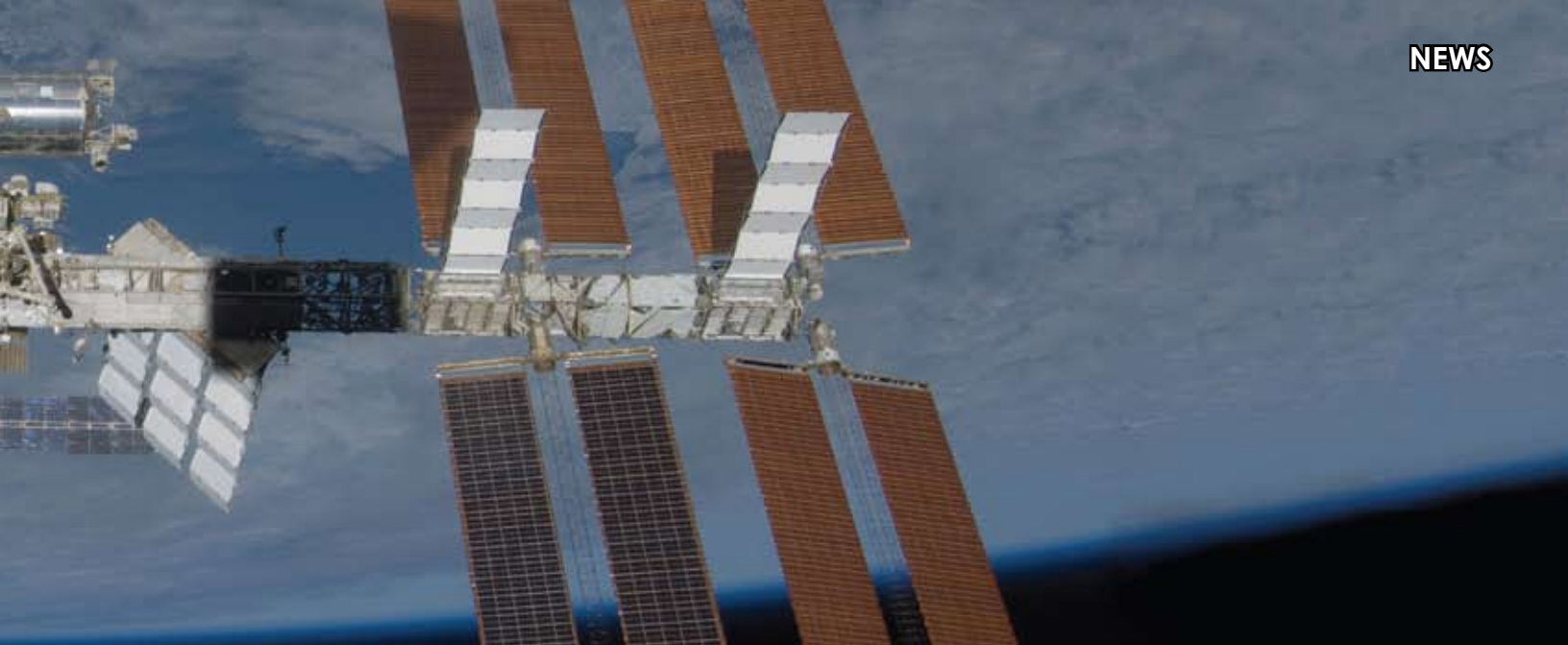
“Considering that the cargo bay of a C-17 is 18 feet wide, there was about two inches of clearance on each side of the ELC,” said Airman Anderson, who added, this was his first mission since graduating from technical school in February.

“Everybody said this would be the most challenging load I’d do in my career,” he said. “It was quite an experience and a great way to kick off my career.”

While loading the piece of equipment was a challenge, the off-load at the Kennedy Space Center took only 30 minutes.

This delivery was actually the second part of the mission. In February, a 326th AS crew flew to the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport, Minn., and picked up the 16-foot-wide deck of the ELC from the manufacturer, said Mike Thompson, who is the ELC project manager for NASA. The crew then flew the piece of equipment to the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., where additional space flight hardware was attached to the ELC. Once assembled, the second 326th AS crew hauled the ELC to Florida.

In all, five ELCs will be delivered to the ISS before the Space Shuttle retires in 2010, after 30 years of service. According to the NASA Web site, the current Space Shuttle manifest shows the first two ELCs will be transported to the ISS in November. The sec-



Submitted photo

NASA personnel take the tarp off an EXPRESS Logistics Carrier at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., preparing it for loading onto a Dover AFB, Del., C-17 March 21. A 326th Airlift Squadron aircrew flew the ELC to the Kennedy Space Center,

and two will be delivered in 2010, and the fifth ELC has not been scheduled for a launch.

The mission was an outstanding experience for Aircraft Commander Col. Rob Shepherd.

“We were amazed by the fact that something that was on our airplane will eventually be in space,” he said. “The NASA personnel at Andrews Air Force Base and at Cape Canaveral really appreciated what we did for them.”

Fl., for transport to the International Space Station via the Space Shuttle. ELCs are unpressurized facilities attached to the ISS and are used for science experiments, storage devices and for electrical power.

Mr. Thompson couldn't say enough good things about the aircrew. “They were fantastic partners in the project,” he said. “It has to do with risk management, and risk is negated by flying the ELC rather than using ground transportation. The loadmasters were very patient in getting the ELC loaded.”

Colonel Shepherd said it's all part of the job.

“It's indicative of our military ethos,” he said. “We are always willing to go the extra mile to get the mission done.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

A U.S. flag is placed over a casket during a dry run of procedures for the dignified transfer of remains shipping process at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs here March 31. The Charles C. Carson Center is the Defense Department's largest joint-service mortuary facility and the

only one in the continental United States. The 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron is one of two Air Force Reserve Command units charged with the mission of preparing America's fallen for their journey home. The 512th MAS fulfills 60 percent of Reserve deployments to the mortuary.

Dignity, Honor & Respect

Reserve squadron supports port mortuary

Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
Chief, 512th Public Affairs

Dignity, honor and respect are more than mere words for two 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron Airmen here.

It's a motto that Staff Sergeants Tracey Taylor and Christine Devera say they live every day, working here at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, the military's only stateside mortuary.

"These servicemembers gave their life to protect me and you, so by working here, I do what I can to give back to them and their families," said Sergeant Taylor. "This isn't a job that everyone can do – not everyone would want to do, but I love this job."

She works in the All Around section, which augments all sections in the mortuary. Depending on the day, she can assist medical examiners and morticians with the process of identification, autopsy,

embalming, uniform preparation and casketing of the fallen servicemember.

"It's an honor to work here and prepare their remains with dignity and respect and get them home as quickly as possible to their families," said Sergeant Devera, who works in the Autopsy section and assists pathologists and histologists in gathering evidence used to determine the servicemember's cause of death.

Both Air Force reservists have been working at the facility since January and



Photo by Roland Balik

An Army carry team transfers the remains of Army Spc. Israel Candelaria Mejias, of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, at Dover Air Force Base, Del., April 7. Specialist Mejias died April 5 near Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when a mine detonated near him during combat operations.

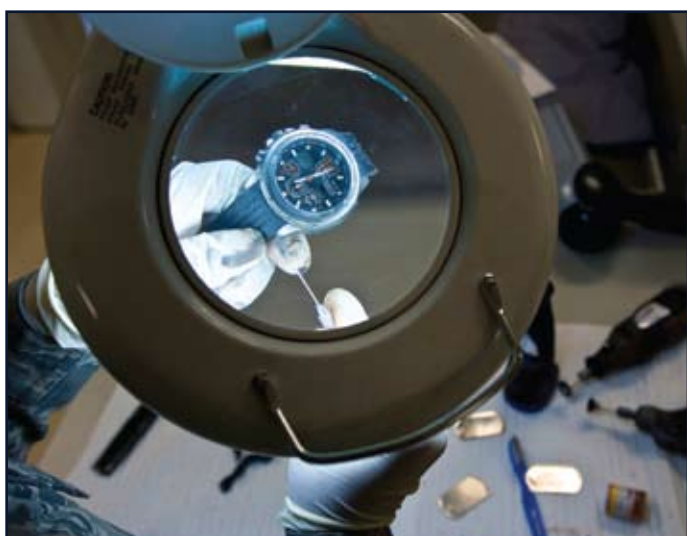


Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

An Airman polishes a watch simulating the cleaning process of personal effects conducted during preparation of the dignified transfer of remains process April 1 at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs here. The personal effects office prepares and cleans all items that may be returned to the families of fallen heroes.

will complete their rotations in May. They are serving their fourth tour since 2006. In civilian life, Sergeant Taylor is a full-time student and works as a customer service representative for Amerigroup Community Care. Sergeant Devera is also a full-time student and works as a chocolate advisor for Lindt Chocolates.

Almost 100 Airmen are assigned to the 512th MAS, a unit of the 512th Airlift Wing, which is the only Air Force Reserve Command unit in Delaware. The unit is

unique, because it's one of two AFRC units charged with the sole mission of preparing America's fallen for their final journey home, said Senior Master Sgt. Juan Hernandez, 512th MAS superintendent. The other unit is the 349th MAS, Travis AFB, Calif. The Air Force and Air National Guard do not have these squadrons.

Other services units throughout the Air Force deploy Airmen to work in the mortuary, but the 512th MAS fulfills 60 percent of Reserve deployments to the Carson Center, said Sergeant Hernandez.

Reservists have worked at the mortuary since 1991. With their augmentation, the mortuary staff can process up to 85 deceased members a day. Since the Charles C. Carson Center's establishment in 1955, between 50,000 and 60,000 men and women have passed through the center on their way to their final resting place.

Before a servicemember can start work at the mortuary, they must attend a

three-day training course that familiarizes them with the facility's operations and processes, followed by on-the-job training.

"I didn't know if I would make it the first time I volunteered at the mortuary in 2006," said Sergeant Devera. "But, once you know what it's about, which is getting the fallen home to their friends and families, I got used to it."

To cope with the realities of their job, both sergeants said they put their emotions aside; otherwise, they couldn't do what they do on a daily basis. Despite this, there are times when their emotions surface.

"Participating in dignified transfers and saluting the fallen as they arrive here is touching," said Sergeant Taylor.

"I get emotional at the send-offs, which is when we stand in a formation and salute the fallen servicemember as they are transported to a plane or vehicle for their trip home," said Sergeant Devera. "When their families are there and they are crying, that's hard. My heart goes out to them."

Dealing with such harsh realities gives Sergeant Taylor a renewed regard for life.

"This job will bring you closer to your family and make you appreciate your life more, because we have tomorrow," she said.

Despite the job's challenges, Airmen such as Sergeants Taylor and Devera said they will continue to volunteer their service to the mortuary to honor America's men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

INTO THE WILD

Liberty Wing Airman serves as African diplomat

Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond
Staff Writer

When Air Force reservist Tech. Sgt. Dawn Scott dons her sage-striped Airman Battle Uniform and combat boots, she represents the United States of America.

As a civilian, she slips into a business suit and pair of pumps to do the same.

Sergeant Scott, 512th Logistics Readiness Squadron supply management specialist, works as a civil service recruiter for the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., and has been a diplomat to the U.S. Embassies in the African countries of Swaziland and Tunisia.

“An American Embassy is essentially a representation of America to the world,” said Sergeant Scott, who has been with the State Department for seven years. “Our role is to advance the President’s and Secretary of State’s foreign policy initiatives in that particular country. Diplomacy is generally the first course of action when it comes to dealing with other countries. In the event that diplomacy doesn’t work, that’s when the military steps in, which is my other job.”

In 2006, while working as a recruiter in search of potential U.S. diplomats from some of the nation’s most distinguished universities, Sergeant Scott received word that the department needed volunteers to serve as consular to the U.S.

Embassy in Swaziland. Seeing it as an opportunity to further her career in the State Department, she applied for and received the position, said Sergeant Scott.

A consular is a person appointed by a government to aid and serve its citizens and business interests in a foreign city. As vice-consular, Sergeant Scott was responsible for not only issues concerning her fellow Americans in Swaziland but also interviewing the non-American citizens who were interested in gaining American visas. She was the point of contact and liaison to the U.S. State Department back in Washington, D.C.

“At the time, I was recruiting diplomats, and I believed it was impossible to recruit people for a lifestyle I knew nothing about,” said Sergeant Scott.

Her husband, who is an artist, and then 8-year old daughter, left the loud, bustling city of Alexandria, Va., and traveled to the hushed grasslands of southeast Africa.

“We were in a place where cars and tall buildings were replaced with jungle animals and mud huts,” said Sergeant Scott. “My family was accustomed to seeing a span of grass just big enough for a 10-pound dog to wander in; in Swaziland, we were suddenly surrounded by fields with elephants roaming about.”

“I liked going to see the elephants, hippos and ostriches in Africa,” said Chloe Scott, Sergeant Scott’s 11-year old daughter who is an aspiring forensic scientist. “Going to different countries made me feel so grateful - thanks to my mom’s rockin’ job!”

“She sets a good example for those in other countries, in regards to the American story,” said Mario Scott, the Liberty Wing sergeant’s husband. “At the same time, when we came back to the states, she shared the stories of those she met overseas as a way to break down stereotypes, that we as Americans may have about people in other countries.”

After the six-month stretch working as a U.S. government representative, she and her family



returned home to the D.C. area. A few months later, they would be moving back to Africa.

“The U.S. Embassy in Tunisia was in need of a human-relations director,” said Sergeant Scott, who spent seven years as an HR manager for common pleas and juvenile courts in Ohio before working for the State Department. Due to her background, she took the job.

“Tunisia was much different than Swaziland. It was like any American big city but without the traffic laws.”

For a year, Sergeant Scott worked as a human resources director at the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia. Her responsibilities included hiring, employee relations, training, compensation and performance management for both American and foreign embassy workers.

For both of her overseas duties, Sergeant Scott said she attributes some of her success in her work at the U.S. Embassies to her military background.

“Being in the Air Force Reserve taught me how to adapt, how to be flexible,” said Sergeant Scott, who began her Reserve career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and came to Dover AFB in 2002. “You may have a day that starts out with mopping the floor, and a few hours later you’re eating lunch with a general.”

Currently, Sergeant Scott’s civilian job has her enrolled in a one-year foreign language school, learning Chinese for her next assignment. She is slated to provide civil-service support stateside to the Chinese embassy from Washington, D.C.

“You do miss this country when you’re away for such a long time,” said Sergeant Scott. “And when you return, you realize you are so happy to be an American. My family experienced things others can only read about in books. We learned the true meaning of being an American and all the benefits we enjoy. It really opens up your eyes.”



Submitted photos

TOP: Tech. Sgt. Dawn Scott, 512th Logistics Readiness Squadron supply management specialist, visited a local mud-hut home in Swaziland, Africa. She and her family lived in Africa during her duty as an American diplomat to the U.S. Embassy in Swaziland. She and her family returned to Africa months later after Sergeant Scott took a job as human resources director to the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia.

BOTTOM: Sergeant Scott is pictured with her daughter, Chloe, during a visit to Table Mountain in Capetown, South Africa.



Yellow Ribbon

Reintegration program assists deployed reservists

Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
Chief, 512th Public Affairs

In January, Tech. Sgt. John Gifford returned from his fourth deployment since 2001. The 46-year-old 46th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation specialist's recent deployment was only 120 days, but he said it's long enough to make the conversion to civilian life a challenge.

He got used to a routine while working long days for the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, he said. His wife also established her own way of doing things while he was away.

"When you spend time and distance away from a loved one, you have to get reacquainted with each other when you get back," said Sergeant Gifford, who works at an auto parts store in civilian life.

"And, on top of that you have to transition back to your civilian job," said Senior Airman Christopher Wilson, a 27-year-old 46th APS air transportation specialist who returned from his second deployment in January. He worked as an Air Force civil servant prior to his deployment and is now on orders supporting the 436th Contracting Squadron.

Their situations are not unique, which is why the 512th Airlift Wing implemented the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

In October 2008, the Secretary of Defense approved the program for implementation at all Reserve and National Guard units. The program provides information, services, referrals, and community and employer outreach programs to all Reserve and Guard members and their families through all phases of the deployment cycle.

"We also educate Airmen and the family members on current benefits, entitlements and resources available to assist them once they return from deployment," said Master Sgt. Linda Berry, 512th Airman and Family Readiness Center technician and Yellow Ribbon Integration Program manager.

Currently, the 512th A&FR office is focusing on the reintegration process of the program. They are hosting three

separate briefings for reservists at 30, 60 and 90 days following their return from deployment.

These briefings are conducted during designated Unit Training Assemblies. Family members are encouraged to attend and are authorized to travel on Invitational Travel Orders, said Master Sgt. Laura Coseglia, 512th A&FR director. More information on this benefit can be obtained from 512th A&FR by calling (302) 677-3566.

The 30-day briefing covers topics such as employer support programs, healthcare issues such as post traumatic stress and what benefits are available to them through TRICARE and the Veterans Administration. The 512th A&FR also highlights community and military resources available to reservists and their family members.

The 60-day briefing is a follow up to see how the deployed member's reintegration with their family and employer is progressing. The 512th A&FR also provides additional support information; and, if the reservist has a question or needs assistance, they refer the reservist or family member to the appropriate agency.

The 90-day briefing consists of a post-deployment health risk assessment survey, which is administered by the 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

"This program is our way of saying we understand what a burden a deployment can be on our reservists and their families, and here are some things we think will be of assistance during your transition," said Sergeant Coseglia.

So far, the feedback is good, at least as far as Sergeant Gifford and Airman Wilson are concerned.

Sergeant Gifford said he appreciated the information on the health care benefits, as well as the services and programs available for readjustment back to civilian life.

"I didn't know about some of these resources, and it's important to know what benefits are available to you and your family," he said.

Airman Wilson added he too thinks the program is great.

"There wasn't anything like this when I deployed the first time, so I didn't get the whole Yellow Ribbon experience," said Airman Wilson. "It's really cool to know I have a single point of contact where I can go for a wide range of issues."

Airman's Attic

Second-hand store lends helping hand

Senior Airman Shen-Chia Chu
436th Public Affairs

Imagine if everything you need for moving into a new home was given to you for free. It may sound too good to be true, but it is possible here for active-duty and Reserve Airmen, E-5 and below.

The Airman's Attic is a volunteer-run base organization that offers Airmen and their families here new and used donated items.

"The Attic is a great resource which lends a helping hand for young Airmen who are single or just starting out with their families," said Master Sgt. Michael Arms, 9th Airlift Squadron first sergeant and the Airman's Attic military liaison. "It provides basic essentials for setting up a house with clothing, furniture, uniforms and more."

Similar to a commercial donation organization, the Attic helps support Airmen financially with all types of kitchenware, glassware, furniture and many other items.

"The Airman's Attic is one way to take a financial burden off our young enlisted

families who do so much for us as a community," said Dana Mickley, Airman's Attic director and wife of Maj. William Mickley, 436th Airlift Wing. "I feel this is my way of supporting the Airmen."

Everything is free to the Airmen, and they can pick up as many as 20 items per month.

"We get anything from uniforms to pots and pans, silverware and even bowling balls," said Mrs. Mickley.

Though many Airmen use the Attic for furniture, they have an overage of donated service uniforms, as well as children's clothing.

One Airman expressed his gratitude for the Airman's Attic here.

"It's such a relief to know we have such great people who volunteer their time and donate quality furniture and resources for free," said Senior Airman Dennis Weiss, 436th Force Support Squadron. "It would be nearly impossible to afford all the furnishings for a household on an Airman's salary."

More than 100 Airmen have used the Attic so far, and many have expressed they wished the Attic would be open more often, according to Mrs.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Shen-Chia Chu

Danitza Desouza, wife of Senior Airman Antonio Desouza, 436th Security Forces Squadron, picks new and used clothes for her daughter, Camila Desouza, at the Airman's Attic. The Airman's Attic is a volunteer-run base organization that offers Dover Airmen and their families new and used donated items.

Mickley, but it's not currently possible due to the amount of volunteers.

"We need more regular volunteers, because it's definitely a place that's needed," said Mrs. Mickley.

Though the Attic does not have many volunteers, they have dedicated donors to help make the program successful.

"The Attic is successful because of the volunteers and those who donate their time, items and money for support," said Sergeant Arms. "We're always looking for donations of any items, as long as they're not broken and ask that those who use the Attic may return the favor by volunteering their

time or donating items - giving to those who are in need."

The Attic accepts donations from anyone willing to give. If civilians can not come on base to donate, they can contact the Attic and arrange their drop-off with Mrs. Mickley off-base.

"Our purpose is helping young men and women, because they are crucial and part of our military family," said Mrs. Mickley.

The Airman's Attic is open Mondays from 4 - 6 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. To donate items, volunteer or for more information, call Mrs. Mickley at (302) 677-3731.



Marching in memory of vets

Tech. Sgt. David Jackson and Staff Sgt. Michael Spencer, 512th Logistics Readiness Flight, run alongside teammates Staff Sgt. Sean Fishburne and Chief Master Sgt. Howard

Heisey, 436th LRS, during the 10th Annual Ruck March Feb. 21 here. The annual event honors Korean War veterans who fought in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

436th SFS hosts 10th Ruck March

Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond
Staff writer

Members of the 512th Airlift Wing joined regular Air Force, Army and Delaware Air National Guard members in participating in the 10th Annual Ruck March here Feb. 21.

Twenty-eight, four-person teams strapped on 30-pound ruck sacks and ran or walked 6.2 miles to compete in the annual event hosted by the 436th Security Forces Squadron to commemorate the veterans of the Korean War who fought in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

A team from the 14th Air Support Operations Squadron Tactical Air Control Party, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., finished first with a time of 55 minutes, 29 seconds.

A 305th Air Mobility Wing team from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., took second place, crossing the finish line with a time of 56 minutes, 24 seconds. A team from Dover's 436th Communications Squadron rounded out third place in one hour, three minutes and 34 seconds.

A new record of 49 minutes, 27 seconds was set for the best individual time by 19-year old Airman Paul Williams, a 817th Contingency Response Group security forces member.

Although no member from the 512th AW came home toting a trophy, Reserve Airmen came out to enjoy some friendly competition and honor Korean War veterans.

"It was good to come out and run on a 512th (AW) team," said Staff Sgt. Jason Jones, a 512th Maintenance Squadron member who was on Team 22 this year but also participated in the march last year as part of an active-duty team. "This represents our wing very well."

Other Liberty Wing members from this year's march have taken part in previous years as well.

"This has become sort of a tradition," said Tech. Sgt. David Jackson, 512th Logistics Readiness Flight fuels specialist, who was on Team 31 this year and has participated in six of the past 10 ruck marches. "We try to get out to it every year in order to show support to the veterans."

Sergeant Jackson, whose team was composed of both active-duty and Reserve Airmen, said the ruck march is a fun event due to the sense of team work and camaraderie.

Many Reserve "first-timers" came out to the event, including Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Ford, the 512th MXS superintendent who competed with the Dover Chiefs' Group team and finished in 10th place with a time of 1 hour, 11 minutes, 58 seconds.

"I trained with the chief's group to run it last year, but the night before the race I got called up for an emergency (temporary duty) and couldn't do it," said the 49-year-old chief master sergeant who came in second behind Airman Williams before setting his ruck sack down near the finish line at the Air Mobility Command Museum to run back to motivate his fellow team members. "My personal goal

512th MSS topples 436th MSS in 2-games

Liberty Wing claims 2nd title defeating Eagle Wing 48-43, 50-42

Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond

Staff writer

In a battle of the paper pushers, the 512th Mission Support Squadron, undaunted by their active-duty counterparts, won two consecutive games to claim the base basketball championship at the Fitness Center March 16.

The reservists defeated the 436th MSS 48-43 in the first game and 50-42 in the second. As the winner of the loser's bracket, the Liberty Wing was forced to defeat the Eagle Wing twice; and, they came through, despite being down at the end of the first half in both games. This is the second consecutive base basketball championship claimed by the 512th MSS.

Joel Sines lit up the first half of game one for the 512th with 12 points but was unable to push his team into the lead, and the reservists went to the bench down two points at the end of the first.

"We knew we could make a comeback," said Sines. "It wasn't the first time we came from behind this



Photo by Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond

Tyrel Jackson (#3) takes a shot at the basket while Joel Sines (#4) plays defense during the championship game held at the fitness center here March 16. The 512th Mission Support Squadron team was 11-3 in the regular season and 5-1 in the playoffs and championship. The 512th MSS beat the 436th MSS team 48-43 in the first game and 50-42 in the second game.

Ruck March continued from page 18

this year was to be one of the top 10; I never expected I would do as well as I did."

More than 2,500 servicemembers died and 5,000 were wounded in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir Nov. 26 through Dec. 13, 1950. Historians consider this battle to be the most savage in modern warfare.

Members of the Delaware Korean War Veterans Association were present for the opening ceremonies with retired Master Sgt. Theodore Schafer serving as the guest speaker.

Mr. Schafer was drafted into the Army and served 14 months in Korea from March 1953 to May 1954. He fought as an assistant squadron leader during the Battle of Pork Chop Hill in 1953 and had a friend who fought and died at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

"I thank all of you for being here and for bringing it out to the public," said Mr. Schafer, who after serving his Army enlistment joined and retired from the Air Force as a C-5 flight engineer. "I think what the rucksackers are doing here at Dover is one way of saying thank you."

That sentiment rang true for members of the 512th AW teams.

"After hearing about the unbelievable anguish these veterans went through, it gives you a good feeling to participate in recognizing and commemorating their sacrifice," said Chief Ford.

(Editor's note: The author of this article was a member of a four-person 512th Airlift Wing team that finished in 13th place with a time of 1 hour, 19 minutes and 25 seconds. Senior Airman Andria Allmond's individual time was 63 minutes. Her teammates include Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Ragonese and Staff Sgt. Jason Jones.)

season to win."

Contributions by Hakim Tutt, Tyrel Jackson, Nuyen Harper, Ernest Davis and Sines allowed the 512th to tie the game at 43 with less than 30 seconds on the clock.

A last-ditch lay up to win the game for the 512th ended in a charging foul, and the 436th MSS had less than two seconds to in-bound the ball and lob it towards the hoop in hopes of stopping an overtime battle. The pass and spring down the right side of the court followed by a falling airball sent game one into overtime.

The 5-minute overtime began, and the active-duty Airmen were unable to come up with a single basket. The reservists went on a five to nothing run and knocked the 436th into the loser's bracket.

After losing two games to the 436th MSS in the tournament, the 512th had to defeat the 436th Aerial Port Squadron, 436th Civil Engineer Squadron A-team and 436th CES B-team to get to the title game and try for back-to-back base championship wins.

"We won the championship last year," said 512th MSS coach Hakim Tutt. "We were motivated by our past success and just kept staying focused in order to pull through again this year."

The 436th MSS switched it on in the first half of game two collecting 25 points to the reservists' 17.

The Liberty Wing's ballers overcame the eight-point deficit, scoring 33 in the second half. Jackson led the team with 13 points and was followed by Tutt who sunk 10.

In the end, the 436th MSS couldn't match the intensity and drive of the Liberty Wing's players who picked up their game and won two games in a row despite being down as many as eight points at the end of the first half.

The 512th MSS is now one championship away from tying the 436th Operations Support Squadron that claimed Dover's b-ball championship trophy in 2005, 2006 and 2007. (Staff Sgt. James Bolinger, Defense Information School, contributed to this story.)

New discrimination hotline

The Air Force Discrimination Hotline has a new toll free number that will serve all active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen.

The hotline number will ensure all unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment concerns are quickly identified and addressed.

“Callers will have the option to remain anonymous,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Miliano, the director of equal opportunity operations at the Air Force Personnel Center. “They will just need to provide enough details to ensure the concern can be adequately addressed.”

The new toll free discrimination hotline number is (888) 231-4058; the commercial number is (210) 565-5214; and, the Defense Switched Network number is 665-5214. *(Courtesy Air Force News Service)*

Single 800 number for all Airmen

Members of the Total Force - regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilian and retired Airmen - are on line to have one central phone number for help with their personnel questions starting at 5 p.m. Central Standard Time Feb. 22.

Members of the Air Force community should call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102 to reach a customer service counselor to discuss issues ranging from retraining, promotions and identification cards to leave, retirements and civilian benefits.

For those calling from outside the United States, dial the toll-free AT&T Direct Access Number for the country they are located, then dial 1-800-525-0102. AT&T Direct Access Numbers are found at www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp. *(Courtesy AFPC)*

Eligibility expanded for GWOT-EM

Department of Defense officials recently expanded the areas of eligibility for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

The approved additions are two countries - Morocco and Burkina Faso - and Operation Nomad Shadow, with an initial AOE of Turkey and Northern Iraq.

In March 2003, President George W. Bush approved the GWOT-EM Medal for active-duty, Reserve and Guard military members in recognition for their service in the Global War on Terrorism. To be eligible, individuals must have deployed abroad on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for service in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Servicemembers who qualify for both the Iraq Campaign Medal and the GWOT-EM during the same Operation Nomad Shadow deployment can be awarded either medal, but not both. Servicemembers are not entitled to more than one campaign or expeditionary medal for the same period of service. *(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center)*



Prototype PT uniforms undergo wear test

A prototype physical training uniform for the Air Force is undergoing wear testing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, the Pentagon and MacDill AFB, Fla.

The new design was introduced in February at the three sites for 185 males and females of various sizes, ethnic backgrounds, officers, including 42 general officers, and enlisted, to wear during PT three or more times a week. At the end of March, the Air Force Uniform Office began evaluating the uniform's performance from feedback provided by the wearers.

Capt. Nick Ferry, program manager for the PT uniform, described it as “100 percent polyester with a moisture management system and an anti-odor lining.”

He added the prototypes differ from the current PT uniform in features including: no hood or vents, better reflectivity, decreased noise and lighter weight. The uniform consists of a jacket and slacks, T-shirt and tapered shorts with pockets and comfortable liner.

Captain Ferry said wearers initially “loved the fabric.” He added they also “appreciated the longer length in shorts and the better fitting liner.”

Captain Ferry said volunteers were carefully measured, and they were required to wear the uniforms during PT activities.

“We have the whole gamut of what people do in PT,” he said. “We have the three-times-a-week Airmen, and we have people who exercise longer, such as marathon runners. We require the volunteers to keep logs of exercise and laundry cycles.”

The prototype uniform laundry instructions include washing in cold water using mild detergents, and not using fabric softeners or dryer sheets since chemicals from these could clog the pores of the uniform's polyester material and adversely affect performance.

Since 1947, the AF Uniform Office has been dedicated to giving Airmen the highest quality uniforms for them to accomplish their missions.

The PT uniform currently in use was adopted in 2004 from an Air Force Academy design, and it was modified for general Air Force use. Feedback on the uniform's heat, weight, and discomfort when compared to exercise clothing available commercially led to creating the new uniform.

Captain Ferry said, “There'll be a final survey, and we'll analyze people's likes and dislikes to see if further tests or modifications are needed. Then, we'd brief at the Chief of Staff level, and from there it's a go or no-go.”

He added, “I think it will be adopted, but we'll support any changes that are needed.” *(Courtesy Air Force News Service)*

Changes made to civilian hiring process

Air Force Personnel Center officials recently changed how civilian job announcements are listed to improve the civilian hiring process.

“By listening to our customers, we heard applicants were having a hard time finding the jobs they wanted to apply for on USA Jobs, and managers were having a hard time finding their advertised positions,” said Jamie Beattie, the technical operations and training chief at AFPC’s Civilian Force Integration directorate.

“By doing this, we effectively reduced the number of civilian announcements listed from 77,000 down to 7,500,” said Maj. Gen. K.C. McClain, AFPC commander. “This helps enable us to meet our goal of filling a civilian vacancy within 120 days or less.”

Previously, almost all civilian positions were posted as an “open continuous” announcement—meaning the job was always “open” to accept applications, even if a vacancy didn’t exist during the time of application. The intent was to allow staffing officials to immediately pull a list of applicants

as soon as a vacancy request was received.

However, job announcements listed as “open continuous” unintentionally led applicants to believe a current, vacant position existed.

In October 2008, AFPC changed the criteria for when jobs would be posted as “open continuous” to reduce confusion.

Now, for a job announcement to be listed as “open continuous,” it requires the same position, pay plan, series and grade to have been filled more than 20 times within a 12-month period.

“The policy change provides faster and quicker service to hiring officials and applicants by helping managers better identify their open positions and by greatly lowering the number of Air Force job listings to sift through on USA jobs--AFPC went from 14,000 ‘open continuous’ positions down to about 250,” Ms. Beattie said.

Changing the criteria “open continuous” job announcements is just one of many AFPC initiatives to expedite the civilian hiring process and position fill time. For more information about employment opportunities, visit the “AF Civilian Employment” tab at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. (Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center)

New personnel accountability system to go online

The Air Force Personnel Accountability Assessment System is a new total force Web-based program that assists Air Force people and their families after a disaster or large-scale crisis. If a reservist’s personal data is already in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, it will automatically transfer to AFPAAS. AFPAAS provides updated reports to commanders, allowing them to focus on assisting families. (Courtesy AFRC)

Procedures explained for early retired pay

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retired pay before Citizen Airmen turn 60 years old. Since Jan. 28, Guard and Reserve Airmen can reduce the age they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year, but they cannot receive retired pay before age 50. If Citizen Airmen are approaching retirement and believe they are entitled to get their pay early, they can call (800) 525-0102 and discuss the specifics of their participation with retirement experts to validate their eligibility for early retired pay. For more information, call 800-525-0102 or visit www.arpc.afrc.af.mil. (Courtesy AFRC)

More money available for master’s degrees

Air Force Reserve Command honored its top Airmen for 2008 in a ceremony April 1 in Atlanta. Four reservists will represent AFRC in the Air Force’s 12 Outstanding Airmen and First Sergeant of the Year competitions. They are:

- Senior Airman Channel Bolton-Scholl, 446th Maintenance Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, Wash.
- Tech. Sgt. Phillip Balson, 35th Combat Communications Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.
- Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Taylor, 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- Senior Master Sgt. James Felton Jr., 445th AMXS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. (Courtesy AFRC)

Fueling freedom

Senior Airman Sabrina Kibler, 512th Maintenance Squadron fuel systems journeyman, maintains a fuel level control valve during the March Unit Training Assembly. Airman Kibler has been a member of the Liberty Wing for four years and is a quality assurance manager at ILC in Frederica.



Photo by Senior Airman Andria Allmond

BRIEFS

Military Pay to change office hours

Effective June 1, the 512th Military Pay office will have new customer service hours on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This change is in response to the transformation of major pay systems. Squadron points of contact will still have full access anytime the office is open.

As a reminder, all personnel should ensure they have access to myPay, which is accessible from nongovernment computers. For more information call (302) 677-3492.

AF Assistance Fund campaign underway

The 2009 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is underway until May 3.

Capt. Jim McCann, 326th Airlift Squadron, is the 512th Airlift Wing representative for the campaign.

The campaign supports the Air Force Village Foundation, Inc., the Air Force Aid Society, Inc., the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.

These organizations assist Air Force members, retirees, reservists, guardsmen members and family members with emergency aid, educational needs or help in securing a retirement home for widowers of Airmen who need financial assistance, said Captain McCann.

"I cannot emphasize enough how important these charities are to our Air Force, especially in today's current economic environment," he said. "This year, more than any in our Air Force's history, there is a need from our own community to support Airmen in need, because the civilian charities have seen such a marked downturn in giving since the economic crisis began. AFAF may be one of very few places for them left to turn."

People can contribute cash, check, money order or use payroll deduction, with all AFAF contributions being tax deductible.

To obtain a contribution form or more information, contact Captain McCann at (302) 677-3824 or visit <http://www.afassistancefund.org>. (Courtesy 512th Public Affairs)

Commissary announces annual case lot sale

The Defense Commissary Agency is holding its first worldwide case lot sale of the year. The designated date for Dover Air Force Base's case lot sale at the commissary is May 15 and 16. The sale is open to all authorized ID cardholders. Officials have announced there are already 100 more products on the sale list than last year's 260. The base commissary's hours for the case lot sale are Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. DECA's Web site can be found at http://www.commissaries.com/case_lot_sale.cfm.

Base pool kicks off season on Memorial Day

The Eagles' Oasis Pool opens Memorial Day for its summer season which ends on Labor Day. The pool located in the base housing area will be the only pool available on base this year as the Main Base Pool located near the Fitness Center is closed for the summer.

Outdoor Recreation begins selling season pool passes May 1. The daily fee is \$3 for ID card holders and \$4 per guest, a season pass for singles is \$25, \$45 for a family of two, \$62 for a family of three and \$80 for a family of four or more.

The pool's hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. For more information, call (302) 677-3959.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Will Vickers

Mass re-enlistment

Members from the 512th Maintenance Group participated in a mass re-enlistment ceremony March 7 at the Delaware Veterans Home in Milford. Before a crowd of veterans who had served in various services and conflicts, Lt. Col. Rolandrias Bradford, 512th Maintenance Squadron commander, administered the oath to (left to right) Staff Sgt. Rodney Douglas, Tech. Sgts. Quentin Smart and Colas Omari, Staff Sgt. Corey Jones and Master Sgt. John Heroux. Following the swearing-in, a video was shown which highlighted the history of Dover Air Force Base.

Protect ID cards with plastic sleeve

In an effort to prolong the durability of the Common Access Card and protect its microchip, wing members are encouraged to cover their ID card with a plastic holder.

They're available for free in the 512th Military Personnel Flight's Customer Service section for cardholders who have the new generation ID card.

While the plastic covers are too large to fit in most wallets, there is an area on the holder which can be used to attach a metal clip if needed. Use of the plastic encasements are expected to decrease excessive handling, which ultimately saves the government money. (Courtesy 512th Public Affairs)

Don't miss Safe Summer Days event

The 11th Annual Safe Summer Days event takes place June 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Brecknock Park in Camden. This event features many safety and health officials together to ensure the community is prepared for the summer season. For more information, call (302) 744-2489.

Changes in dialing sequence

Team Dover members are now required to use the seven-digit dialing standard to make a call on base. The change will not affect phone service for the emergency number 911. The revised telephone dialing sequence was instilled to provide a larger pool of dialing numbers that can be distributed to base customers.

512th salutes



RECOGNITION

Newcomers

The 512th Airlift Wing welcomes:
 1Lt Kimberly Willis
 TSgt Samuel Parks
 SSgt Toya Gilmore
 SSgt Michael Ivey
 SSgt Lisa Mahaffey
 SSgt Justin Wright
 SrA Jeremy Bennett
 SrA Travis Darden
 SrA Brian Mendoza
 SrA Simone Riles
 SrA Lawrence Tobin
 SrA Joseph Wilbur
 A1C Heather Conway
 A1C Kevan Graham
 A1C Nymiura Lee
 A1C Mark Matthews
 A1C Walter Rivera
 AB Alexinia Covin

Submissions

To submit story ideas or accomplishments, e-mail submissions to liberty.press@dover.af.mil or call 512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs at (302) 677-3485.

Retirements

CMSgt Keith Hoyle
 SMSgt Joseph Rothhaupt
 MSgt Charles Twitchell
 MSgt Karen Tate
 MSgt John Votta
 MSgt Angela Caraballo
 MSgt Karen McQueen
 TSgt Floyd Vanznzio Jr
 TSgt Larry Lacks



Promotions

To Maj
 Cathy Anderson
 Alfred Chicco
 Eric Cook
 Kathryn Fiddler
To SMSgt
 Kevin Werkmeister
To MSgt
 Alvin Addison
 Kendra Connolly
 Kevin Fitzgerald
To TSgt
 Katherine Blanchfield
 Jose Gonzalez
 Steven Guajardo III

Sean Hanlon
 Darion Jones
 Zeus Lee
 Danian Morgan
 Richard Stuhmer
 Shana Wallace
To SSgt
 Keith Harrod
 Charles McClain
To SrA
 Sheena Bracey
 James Duffy
 Mark Matthews
 Marcia Triana Martinez
To A1C
 Cedric Middleton
 Ryan Moore
 Moses Ross
 Kyle Trengo

Medals

Air Medal
 1Lt Brian Henry
 Capt Christian Fiore
 Capt Eric Manewal
 Capt Jason Penny-packer
 CMSgt Donald Cunningham
 SMSgt Kelly Devine
 SMSgt Barry Hanlon
 SMSgt William Walsh

MSgt Michael Benford
 MSgt Ronald Bisson
 MSgt Mark Daum
 MSgt Timothy Jackson
 MSgt Matthew Schiferl
 MSgt Stephen West
 MSgt John Witzke
 TSgt Jorge L. Dejesus Jr
 TSgt Eric Desandro
 TSgt Troy Heller
 TSgt Joseph C. Kelley Jr
 TSgt Roderick A. Lopez II
 TSgt Tony Williams
Aerial Achievement Medal
 Lt Col Michael Semo
 MSgt Stephen West
Achievement Medal
 SSgt Christopher Panico

Re-enlistments

SMSgt Janet Hawkins
 MSgt Michelle Anderson
 MSgt Kenneth Bachman
 MSgt Amy Campbell
 MSgt Eduardo EstradaReyes
 MSgt John Heroux
 MSgt Gerald Mitchell
 MSgt Shelia Palmer
 MSgt Kevin Werkmeister
 TSgt Omari Colas
 TSgt Richard D. Dempsey III
 TSgt Tomarcus Gerald
 TSgt Peter Kwasnjuk
 TSgt Shannon Judson

TSgt Patrick Laster
 TSgt Ricky Myers
 TSgt Thomas Parker
 TSgt Kuentin Smart
 TSgt Joseph SmithBasinger
 SSgt Ginger Adkins
 SSgt Quinton Allen
 SSgt Tiffany Alston
 SSgt Gary Bouie
 SSgt Rodney Douglas
 SSgt Ivan Duval
 SSgt Corey Jones
 SSgt Sara Link
 SSgt Brandon Smallwood
 SSgt Timothy Hamlett
 SSgt Michael Ivey
 SSgt Zeus Lee
 SSgt William F. Vickers IV
 SSgt Loutrecia Washington
 SSgt Nicholas Wood

Developmental Education

Senior Enlisted Joint PME
 MSgt Michael Wright
 SMSgt Dale Cotten

Awards Deadline

The deadline to submit packages for the wing's second quarterly awards is July 10. The 512th Awards and Decorations section is the point of contact at (302) 677-3507.



Photo by Master Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda

Honoring the military child

Four children from the base's Child Development Center ride in a wagon during a patriotic-themed parade in honor of Month of the Military Child, April 8. This event has become an annual tradition and was attended by numerous family members. The parade goes include Samija Burton (right), who is the daughter of Senior Airman Nicole Seigler, 512th Mission Support Squadron.

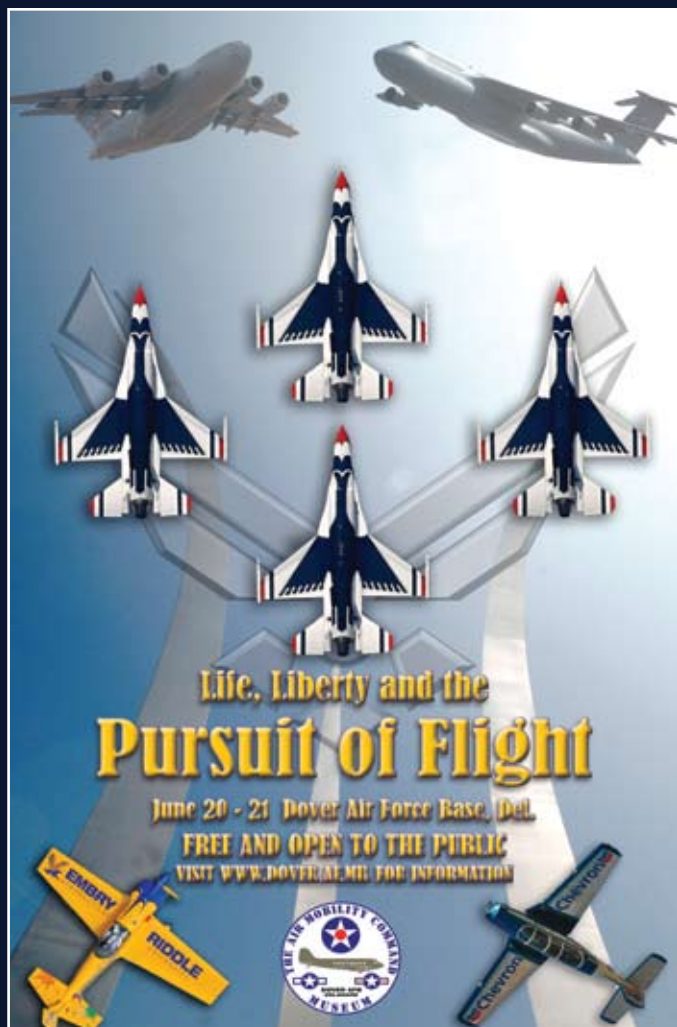
Say hello to



Staff Sgt. Toya Gilmore is now a member of the 512th Logistics Readiness Flight. The Boston native enjoys cooking, dancing and hanging out with friends. Her goal is to finish school with honors.

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Open House attractions

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are scheduled to perform, and a C-5 Galaxy and a C-17 Globemaster III will be on display. Some of the Air Mobility Command Museum aircraft that will be featured include:

- B-17G "FLYING FORTRESS" : The sole remaining aircraft from the 1948 Flying Bomb project. aircraft stationed at Dover.
- C-9A "NIGHTINGALE" : The first C-9 assigned to the Military Airlift Command in 1968.
- C-141B "STARLIFTER" : This was the last C-141 stationed at Dover Air Force Base.
- F-101B "VOODOO" : Displayed in the markings of the 98th Fighter Interceptor Squadron stationed at Dover.
- F-106A "DELTA DART" : The last type of fighter aircraft stationed at Dover.

Do's & don'ts

Prohibited items

All visitors will be searched prior to entering the base, and the following items are prohibited:
Weapons, including guns, knives or pepper spray; fireworks, alcohol, glass bottles, pets, coolers, backpacks, large camera bags, bicycles, roller skates, skateboards and in-line skates.

Allowed items

Strollers, diaper bags and small purses

Recommended items

Sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes, beach blankets and lawn chairs