

# Liberty Press Weekly

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

## NASCAR time at Dover

**Airman 1st Class Samuel Taylor**  
436th AW Public Affairs

Team Dover is no stranger to the sounds of roaring engines, flashes of colors, numbers and decals, and the wave of the checkered flag. For one weekend in May, the sight of aircraft flyovers and the cheers of thousands of fans signal the start of one of the racing world's most famous events: NASCAR weekend at Dover International Speedway.

From May 13 - 15, NASCAR will hold its tripleheader event, featuring the Camping World Truck, Sprint and Nationwide series. It will be three days of fast-paced action and festivities highlighting military and community bonds.

"[This event] highlights the mutual respect between the Department of Defense and the public it protects," said Capt. Eric Ballew, 9th Airlift Squadron wing safety officer. "Plus, it's a great opportunity for NASCAR fans like me to enjoy the events being offered."

Dover Air Force Base, Del., is taking many steps to give all servicemembers a chance to enjoy NASCAR, including making the ticket-buying process easier on the wallet. Military members receive discounted prices on tickets bought at the Information, Tickets and Travel facility in Building 475. Tickets may be purchased for \$28, \$37 and \$55 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday's events respectively. For dependents 14 years old and younger, the ticket price is \$8 for each day. Tickets will be offered until May 15. However, the actual NASCAR race is not the only attraction for Team Dover to enjoy.

Another event Team Dover members may attend is a free NASCAR social, at The Landings Club from 5:30 - 9 p.m. May 13. The event will feature a live band, a micro-racing track, face painting, a climbing wall and trampoline, inflatable bouncy castle, ice cream and cotton candy, children's entertainment, free pizza and drivers giving autographs.

Racing fans can continue their pre-race activities by visiting the Military Expo Village, organized and supervised by the United Service Organization in conjunction with Dover Motorsports. The Military Expo Village, situated in the Fan Zone at the Speedway, will feature static displays from various military branches and units, such as the Navy



Photo by Roland Balik

**(Left) Col. Randal Bright, 512th Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Dwight Sones, the previous 436th Airlift Wing vice commander, wave to the crowd during the opening ceremony of the NASCAR Nationwide Series race May 16, 2010. It is a Dover tradition for the leaders of Dover Air Force Base to ride in the pre-race parade, which the 436th and 512th AW commanders will participate in again this year May 15.**

SEALS, and demonstrations and exhibits of military technology.

"The Military Expo Village is a chance for the community to see the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making our day-to-day operations happen," said Captain Ballew. "Each group at Dover AFB will be sending in servicemembers to conduct demonstrations for the fans to enjoy."

The military presence at the Speedway also includes appearances by the Dover AFB Honor Guard, a chaplain's invocation, an enlistment ceremony, a C-17 flyover and a parade lap featuring Col. Mark Camerer, 436th Airlift Wing commander and Col. Randal Bright, 512th Airlift Wing commander.

Dover International Speedway opens its gates at 10 a.m. each day of the tripleheader. May 13 features final practice runs, qualifications and the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race, which begins at 4:45 p.m. May 14 is the day of the NASCAR Nationwide Series race beginning at 2 p.m. The NASCAR Sprint Series race, beginning at 1 p.m. May 15, wraps up the tripleheader.

## President names nomination for next Defense Secretary

President Barack Obama intends to nominate CIA Director Leon E. Panetta as the next defense secretary, a senior administration official said April 27.

If confirmed by the Senate, Panetta will replace Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who will leave office June 30, the official said. Gates was sworn in Dec. 18, 2006, as the 22nd secretary of defense. Gates is the only defense secretary in U.S. history to be

asked to remain in that office by a newly elected president.

International Security Assistance Force Commander Army Gen. David H. Petraeus will retire from the service, and the president will nominate him to replace Panetta, the official said.

The president also intends to nominate veteran diplomat Ryan C. Crocker as the next U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan and Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John R. Allen, the current deputy at U.S. Central Command, to succeed Petraeus at ISAF, the official said. (Courtesy American Forces Press Service)

## New PDG available May 2

Officials announced the release of the new AFPAM 36-2241, Professional Development Guide, effective Oct. 1. It will be available at [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil) beginning May 2. A printed version will be distributed later this year. Master sergeants testing this December will be the first to use this study guide to prepare for promotion testing. To supplement the PDG, Mp3 audio files and interactive exercises for each of the 19 chapters will be available at [www.pdg.af.edu](http://www.pdg.af.edu) by May 2. (Courtesy AETC Public Affairs)