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

Weathering the storm

Col. Mark D. Camerer
436th Airlift Wing commander

Team Dover, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all of your hard work leading up to and through Hurricane Irene. Whether it was filling over 2,000 sandbags by hand, evacuating an aircraft every hour for 18 hours, or preparing your homes and then evacuating your families, your accomplishments were nothing short of superb.

Leading up to the hurricane, forecasters consistently predicted Irene to remain a Category II storm as it made its way up the east coast and into Delaware. Storm models showed severe flooding was imminent in our base housing area. Even though evacuating is never an easy decision, the safety of our military members and their families was my primary concern.

Fortunately, Hurricane Irene proved unpredictable by making an early landfall. That early landfall carried the positive effects of cutting expected wind speeds by half and rain amounts by one-quarter, mitigating the overall wind damage and flooding. As we now complete recovery actions, our necessary cleanup and repair was minimal thanks to your efforts preparing for the worst before the storm arrived.

For our housing residents who did have to evacuate, save



Photo by Roland Balik

In preparation for Hurricane Irene, Beth Tarrant, the wife of Senior Master Sgt. William Tarrant, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, shops for bread Aug. 26, 2011, at the commissary, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

your receipts and remember that many of your expenses are reimbursable. Work with your respective supervisor, first sergeant and commander if you have any questions on the reimbursement process.

Again, thank you for your superb efforts; together, we weathered this storm!

Airmen can file military pay electronically

There's a new option for filing military pay for Airmen whose orders are 29 days or less with mileage-only reimbursement.

The Tour of Duty Certification can be electronically filed using the AROWS-r program.

"The benefits of this new option are quicker payouts and no military pay paperwork to submit," said Mike Primo, 512th Military Pay chief. "You simply validate your order in AROWS, make any changes, e-certify and send to supervisor to e-certify."

In the TODC, it allows certification on the last day of the tour, and it has the unique ability to allow you to track the order in the AROWS-r program. For more information on this process, call Military Pay at (302) 677-3435.

Answering the call to serve after 9/11

Senior Airman Connor Cooney
709th AS loadmaster

Ijoined the Air Force Reserve Aug. 13, 2009, before I started my senior year in high school. I grew up in Middletown, N.J., a suburb of New York City.

On 9/11, our school closed, and we were all sent home to our families. I didn't lose anyone close to me, but a lot of my friends and neighbors lost loved ones, and it really impacted my life.

We had the National Guard driving tanks down our blocks and smoke and debris could be seen coming from the city. Our town's volunteer fire company took more than half their trucks to the city as soon as the attacks were broadcasted on TV.

In the following months, I went to more funerals and memorial services than I think most people go to in their lifetime.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Yanik

In preparation for 9/11 observances here and Air Force Reserve Command wide, Senior Airman Connor Cooney shared his story about joining the Air Force Reserve after 9/11. He lived in a New York City suburb when the terrorist attacks occurred.