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

## **ALCF heads north for international exercise**

**Senior Airman Joe Yanik** 

512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. - Reservists from here are participating in a 25-day international air combat exercise in Alberta, Canada.

Members of the 512th Airlift Control Flight are operating a contingency response element at Maple Flag, a variation of the Air Force's Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. They coordinate airfield operations, including cargo services, with the Royal Canadian Air Force while completing training and certification of their new members in a deployed environment.

"We have to be familiar with a lot of things to keep everything running smoothly. We have to know a little about a lot," said Maj. Shirley M. Whitney, one of eight Liberty Wing members working in Canada through June 22. A ninth, Capt. Napoleon Solages, returned to Delaware earlier.

Maple Flag began May 28 at Cold Lake Air Base about 180 miles northeast of Edmonton and provides training for fighter aircrews, as well as to transport, electronic warfare, air refueling, air defense and airborne early warning and control assets.

Airlift control flights are called contingency response elements in deployed environments, said Whitney, and their mission is to train members to rapidly deploy to support combatant commanders.

"We are a small group of highly-trained individuals that can conduct autonomous operations from austere locations or we can augment the infrastructure at established civilian or military airfields," she said.

At Maple Flag, the mission is accomplished by Dover reservists whose responsibility is to provide on-site management of Air Mobility Command airfield operations, including command and control, communications, aerial port services, maintenance, security, weather and intelligence.

Six members of the Dover team are from the 46th Aerial Port Squadron and have provided the Royal Canadian Air Force with air mobility operational support for transient cargo and air refueling aircraft arriving at Cold Lake. They also verify cargo docu-



Senior Airman Edward Johnson and Senior Airman Kevan Graham (in vehicle) of the 46th Aerial Port Squadron load seats onto an aircraft June 1, 2012, during the Maple Flag international air combat exercise in Alberta, Canada.

## **Team seeks to grow**

For tips on applying to join an airlift control flight, please see: http://www.512aw.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123306033

mentation to ensure that it is safe to load onto military aircraft.

The exercise, held almost annually since 1987, allows flying personnel from different nations to develop their ability to operate together by simulating a United Nations air campaign. Participants engage in daily missions that involve confronting and dealing with air- and ground-based threats. They use the 7,200-square-mile Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, which is more than twice the size of Delaware and features seven mock airfields and 640 targets built to resemble tanks, missile launchers and aircraft.

This year's Maple Flag also incorporates exercise Winged Warrior to offer training opportunities for non-fighter aircraft and land forces.

In addition to the U.S. and Canada, participating nations include Austria, Brazil, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Singapore and the United Kingdom, as well as NATO. Representatives from 10 other nations are observing the exercises.

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