

Liberty Press Monthly

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

Staff Sgt. Preston Young III, a deployed 46th Aerial Port Squadron member, drives a forklift with a baggage pallet, which was unloaded from a C-17 March 9, 2013 at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic. Young is one of more than 40 Dover reservists supporting the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing mission overseas, working in below zero temperatures. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Daniel Schultz)



Liberty Wing "Portmasters" live up to their name

Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Kelch
46th Aerial Port Squadron

Since last September, about 45 members of the 46th Aerial Port Squadron here have been deployed to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing, Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic, where one of the unit's main missions is moving coalition personnel and cargo into and out of Afghanistan.

The Liberty Wing members constitute more than half of the aerial port force for the 376th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. The team operates in three work centers: passenger services, air terminal operations center and air freight.

"I love getting to work with the people, to see the troops every day, to see the energy they have for coming home," said Senior Air-

man Ashley Nolan, 376th Passenger Services. "Knowing that we're sending them home is the best feeling in the world."

The "Portmasters" have met several challenges while overseas. The team transferred more than 2,800 passengers in less than 24 hours with less manning than previous rotations. They also assisted with the movement of more than 3,000 coalition troops through the Transit Center.

In three months, these Airmen moved nearly 1,500 tons of cargo and 145,000 personnel despite the freezing weather conditions.

Equipment can freeze and shutdown in temperatures as low as minus 24 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The negative degree temperatures, snow and ice (have) been one of (the) biggest hardships since (arriving)," said Tech. Sgt. Dario Richards, 376th ELRS.

To ensure safety, the aerial porters have to adhere to the work-rest cycles to mitigate exposure to the cold.

The Dover reservists also underwent a six-week audit, which included around-the-clock observations of the team's processes and operations. The Air Force Audit Agency's inspection resulted in zero findings or recommendations for improvement.

For their efforts, Special Operations Forces and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have recognized 376th ELRS Airmen, and many have been coined by distinguished visitors for their exemplary customer service to transient fellow service members.

The Portmasters, themselves, are scheduled to rotate out in the spring, leaving behind a legacy of expeditionary excellence in aerial port operations.

Base saddened by loss of 512th AW family member

Marine Lance Cpl. William T. Wild IV, the 21-year-old son of Chief Master Sgt. William T. Wild III, 512th Airlift Wing command chief, died Monday at Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev. He is one of seven Marines who lost their lives during a training exercise.

"We extend our deepest condolences to Chief Wild and his family during this difficult time," said Col. Raymond A. Kozak, 512th AW commander. "Lance Corporal Wild and his fellow Marines, who lost their lives in this tragic accident, served their country honorably and will not be forgotten."

Chief Wild's son, referred to as Taylor, joined the Marines upon graduation in 2010 from Severna Park High School, Annapolis, Md. He had deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Kuwait.

Visitation is scheduled from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m., March 28 at Barranco & Sons Funeral Home, Severna Park, Md. Services are scheduled for 2 p.m., March 29 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, Md. A reception will follow at the Whitehurst Community Clubhouse, 360 White Cedar Lane, Severna Park. An interment at Arlington National Cemetery is scheduled for April 2 with the procession meeting at 10:30 a.m. at the Memorial Gate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Marines Helping Marines at www.marineshelpingmarines.org or to the Friends of the Fallen at www.friendsofthefallen.org. (Courtesy 512th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Chief Master Sgt. William T. Wild III, 512th Airlift Wing command chief, stands with his son Marine Lance Cpl. William T. Wild IV, who is one of seven Marines killed during a training exercise March 18, 2013, at Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev. The Marine, referred to as Taylor, was a Private First Class at the time of this picture. (Courtesy photo)

Wing's new commuting policy begins April

The new wing commuting area ZIP code policy goes into effect April 1. Please ensure affected personnel are aware of the change, necessary changes are made to the unit training assembly lodging system and orders reflect the correct commuting area information.

Don't miss application deadline for teen camp

The Air Force Reserve Command 2013 Teen Leadership Summit Camp application deadline is April 15. At the week-long Air Force-funded camp in Georgia or Colorado, teens focus on leadership development and self-confidence, learn about programs available to AF dependents and build an appreciation for and sense of belonging to the AF community. For more information, visit www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit.

DoD funds Sittercity memberships

The Department of Defense pays for memberships to Sittercity for Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine families. Families can activate their fully paid memberships at www.sittercity.com/dod.

AFAF: April UTA target time for reservists to donate to AF Assistance Fund

The Air Force Assistance Fund officially kicked off Feb. 4 and will run through May, but Dover Air Force Base will only be collecting contributions through April 19.

"Since the campaign ends April 19, the April (unit training assembly) is most likely the only time traditional reservists will be able to donate if they'd like to contribute to one of the four charities," said Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo, 512th AW executive officer and staff agency point-of-contact for AFAF.

Composed of charities that benefit solely those in the Air Force family, AFAF has four aid organizations to which one can donate: the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Village, Air Force Enlisted Village and the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. All provide benefits to Airmen and their families in various ways.

If interested, donations can be made through their unit representative, many of which are listed below.

512th AW Staff Agencies, Maj. Marnee Losurdo
512th Operations Group, Lt. Col. Dawn Crews-Seams
512th Airlift Control Flight, Master Sgt. George Bates
512th Operations Support Flight, Staff Sgt. Desi Downey
512th Aeromedical Medicine Squadron, Chief Master Sgt. David Townson
512th Mission Support Group, Capt. Jeremy Reynolds
512th Force Support Squadron, Senior Airman Deborah Hautanen
71st Aerial Port Squadron, Senior Airman Gabrielle White
512th Civil Engineer Squadron, Tech. Sergeant Roberto Rosado
512th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Senior Airman Brook Damm
512th Security Forces Squadron, Master Sgt. Ronald McCoy or Tech. Sgt. William Yoder
512th Mortuary Affairs Squadron, Senior Master Sgts. Juan Hernandez and Raenita Monroe
46th Aerial Port Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Charles Gordon
512th Maintenance Group staff and 512th Maintenance Operations Flight staff - Tech. Sgt. Michael Schweers
712th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Tech. Sgt. David Jens
512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Senior Airman Ioulia Zeleneeva
512th Maintenance Squadron, Master Sgt. Duane Lewis
(Courtesy 512th AW Public Affairs)