

# Liberty Press

## 512th Airlift Wing

JANUARY 2008

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DEL.

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## Status check for Team Dover's newest squadrons



Photo by Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond

**Staff Sgt. Jesse Marquardt, 712th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, provides auxiliary power to the C-17 Globemaster III during a routine maintenance inspection. The 712th AMXS is the 512th Airlift Wing's newest squadron. For the past year, the 712th AMXS has worked side-by-side active-duty's newly formed 736th AMXS to perform all the flightline maintenance for Dover's seven C-17s.**

**Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond**

Staff writer

**T**he 512th Airlift Wing's newest squadron turns one in February.

For the past year, the 712th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron has worked side-by-side active-duty's newly formed 736th AMXS to perform all the flightline maintenance for Dover's seven C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

The two units were formed prior to the June 4 arrival of Dover's first C-17, the Spirit of the Constitution.

With a new aircraft and a new squadron, the units have had some growing pains as standing up a squadron is no easy task, said Senior Master Sergeant Don Kimball, 712th AMXS flight chief.

"Training is the biggest challenge for the 712th AMXS," he added. "While most mechanics are a five or seven skill level on the C-5, the newly converted C-17 maintainers need to undergo C-17 training."

The 712th AMXS Commander Lt. Col. Gretchen Kurlander said only two traditional reservists came into the squadron with C-17 experience.

"Finding time to train the reservist becomes an issue," she said. "Getting a traditional reservist to commit to 30 to 40 days in school and then another 30 to 40 days here is a pretty big obligation."

Other training options include seasoning training at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., or McGuire AFB, N.J., where they have a greater number of C-17s.

Currently, of the squadron's 92 personnel, ten are fully-qualified mechanics, and another 67 Airmen are in various levels of training, said Sergeant Kimball.

The 712th AMXS's counterpart, the 736th AMXS, which was activated in April, has grown from its original 35 members to nearly 110; and, in November was at about 50 percent of its end strength.

In addition to training, another challenge the 712th AMXS has faced concerns personnel glitches dealing with medical records.

"A lot of systems are still being notified about our Airmen changing from the 512th AMXS to the 712th AMXS," said Colonel Kurlander. "The transition will take time. Eventually, these things will smooth themselves over."

Despite these hurdles, Chief Master Sgt. Fred Traute, 712th

**See Team Dover's newest on page 5**

**Liberty Press**  
512th Airlift Wing

*Best Magazine in the AF for 2006*

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# New year: time to get motivated

**Col. Randal L. Bright**  
512th AW commander

**W**elcome back! I trust you had a good holiday season with family and friends. It's time to put our game face back on and get ready for the final run before our Operational Readiness Exercise with our team mates, the 436th Airlift Wing.

We are down to the wire for our upcoming Operational Readiness Exercise with only three UTAs remaining. I am proud of the effort each of you are putting forth in getting ready for this exercise. Keep up the pace, and remember these are items we must do day-to-day, not just for the ORE or the Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection. Therefore, this is a marathon, not a sprint.

Watch out for each other and work hard to alleviate stress during this preparation. The 512th AW has had a very successful history as will be evidenced by a visit from our Air Force Reserve Commander Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley. General Bradley's office contacted us and expressed his desire to come to Dover to personally present the wing with the Meritorious Unit Award. This is an auspicious occasion and you should be proud of your recognition as I am proud of you!

You may have noticed how we have had various commanders submit their perspectives to the "Liberty Press." We plan to continue this effort and have as

many commander insights as possible. Each one of us has something to offer to our fellow Airmen. If you have something of importance to you, it is highly possible that it is important to the rest of us in the wing. Get with the Public Affairs office or your unit public affairs representative for assistance in getting your article into print. I look forward to reading what you have to share.

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

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**“... Remember, these are items we must do day-to-day, not just for the ORE ...”**

**Col. Randal L. Bright**  
512th AW commander



## Change is constant, embrace challenge

**Lt. Col. Todd McCubbin**  
709th AS commander

**A**s 2007 comes to a close, I cannot help but think that it has certainly been a year of change in which the 512th Airlift Wing has performed superbly.

One of the difficulties of being a reservist in the Air Force is dealing with the rate of change and finding the right balance of time, training and effort necessary to keep pace. This past year has brought a significant amount of change, including a new airlifter and new performance reports. It can be a little overwhelming.

I was recently speaking to a friend about our "rapid changes" in the Air Force and in the 512th AW. He thought about it a while, smiled and then just started to laugh. Of course, I had to ask what was so funny.

My friend proceeded to tell me about his father, a retired AF master sergeant, who had a long and storied career that spanned more than 20 years. My friend told stories of how his father was always talking about change.

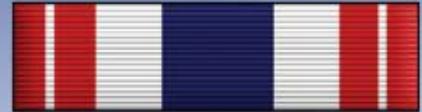
In those days, Airmen dealt with new aircraft every one to two years. The master sergeant served through the

long and difficult conflict in Vietnam and dealt with the constant changes of the Cold War. He felt the stress and frustration over change. And, when my friend heard me speaking of similar issues, the memories of his father's stories flooded back to him. Change is indeed constant.

Reflecting on this conversation, I realized every generation of Airmen has dealt with change. In every step of our AF Reserve history, units have been successfully changing and adapting to meet the challenges of their time. These changes have taken our Air Force from its infancy to the awesome force it is today. This wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of those who served before us. Thousands of Airmen helped make the necessary changes possible.

This year will bring with it new challenges and yes, new change. This is our time; and, history will judge whether or not we made the changes as smooth and effectively as possible. If the changes seem as though they are overwhelming, pause and think back to what it was like in our AF history. Our forbearers worked through the difficulties, and so can we. We possess the proper planning, open lines of communication and positive attitude that will make the change happen.

# Wing earns Meritorious Unit Award



**Senior Airman Andria J. Allmond**  
Staff writer

Members of the 512th Airlift Wing who served at Dover Air Force Base between Oct. 1, 2004, and Sept. 31, 2005, are awarded the Meritorious Unit Award by the Secretary of the Air Force for outstanding achievement or service in direct support of a combat operation in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

According to the United States Central Command Air Forces Decoration Guidebook, dated December 2004, the MUA is awarded to active-duty, Reserve and Guard units for exceptionally meritorious conduct for at least 90 continuous days, during the period of military operations against an armed enemy of the United States on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Units receiving this award must display outstanding devotion and

superior performance or exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions and be directly related to the combat effort. The decoration guidebook also states the degree of achievement required to receive this medal is equivalent to being awarded the Legion of Merit.

The 512th AW demonstrated exceptional service by volunteering over 73,000 mandays, flying more than 272 combat missions and directly supporting combat operations

to include short notice deployments around the world, according to former wing commander retired Col. Ronald A. Rutland's nomination letter.

The MUA will be automatically updated for 512th AW members through the Virtual MPF in the Awards and Decorations tab by Dec. 15, said Stanford Drummond, 512th Career Enhancement. He also said, eligible members may begin wearing the MUA ribbon immediately.

Ribbons are available at the base military and clothing sales store. The MUA ribbon shall be worn immediately before the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Subsequent awards will be denoted by oak leaf clusters.

Any questions concerning the MUA can be directed to Mr. Drummond, 512th Mission Support Squadron, at (302) 677-3507. *(Senior Airman Sasha Horne contributed to this story.)*

## Liberty Line : What's your New Year's resolution?



"I'd like to spend more time with my family and do more activities with them."

Tech. Sgt.  
Steven Lardarello  
512th ALCF



"I'd like to work on being more physically fit."

Staff Sgt.  
Latoya Greene  
512th MSS



"I want to finish school and get a degree in professional aeronautics."

Senior Airman  
Christopher Herbison  
512th AMXS



"I'd like to get my home built and get settled down in my civilian career."

Capt. Sean Kelly  
709th AS



"I usually don't make them. I strive to be a good person all year long."

Stanford Drummond  
512th MSS

## Frequent flier:

# Reservist travels from Jordan, back to serve in Reserve

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

*(Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series featuring the flight surgeons of the 512th Airlift Wing.)*

In the Reserve, it's not uncommon for reservists to travel hundreds of miles or from states away to serve in their unit.

It's no different for the 512th Airlift Wing, which has 1,800 reservists from as many as 40 different states; and, one of those reservists even travels from another country.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Christopher Flynn, a flight surgeon with the 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, travels 72 hours round trip from Amman, Jordan, where he works for the U.S. Department of State as a regional medical officer in psychiatry.

The reservist took the overseas job in December 2005 while working as the deputy director of the mental health services for the Department of State in Washington D.C.

"The department needed someone to go over there to serve our foreign service officers, and I figured with my experience of being deployed in the Gulf War and working as the chief of psychiatry and as a flight surgeon at the NASA Johnson Space Center (in Houston, Texas) – I thought I could help," said the flight surgeon who lives in Jordan with his wife Alice.

The U.S. Department of State is led by Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, the President's principal foreign policy advisor. While the department is headquartered in

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**“It's not easy to travel, but the camaraderie in this unit is very strong. It means so much to me to be part of such a great unit.”**

Lt. Col. Christopher Flynn  
512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron senior flight surgeon

Washington D.C., it has embassies in more than 190 countries, according to the department's Web site. It's made up of a civilian workforce, consisting of foreign service personnel and civil service employees, who assist in accomplishing America's mission to use diplomacy to promote and protect American interests at home and around the world.

At the American Embassy health unit in Amman, Colonel

Flynn said he provides care to more than 2,500 foreign service officers and their family members from 14 regional posts in the Middle East, nine of which are considered danger posts.

In November, the doctor made his tenth trip into Iraq as part of his state department job.

"It's an important mission; and, from my experience in the region and traveling into Iraq,

I know what we are doing there is important," he said

Working for the state department

isn't the only way the doctor serves his nation. As a reservist, he works as a senior flight surgeon for the 512th AMDS. Colonel Flynn, along with two other flight surgeons, is responsible for the evaluation and flight status determination for Reserve aviators as well as periodic health examinations for all wing personnel. The colonel has been with the 512th AMDS since December 2004 when he transferred from the Texas Air National Guard. He had been a member of the Guard since 1997. He also served in the active-duty Air Force from 1987 to 1996.

"It's been a challenge to be able to come back, but I've been fortunate enough to have so many people's support here," said the doctor who pays out of pocket about every three months for his trip to Delaware to complete his Reserve training obligations. "It's not easy to travel, but the camaraderie in this unit is very strong; it means so much to me to be part of such a great unit."



**Lt. Col. Christopher Flynn, 512th Aerospace Medicine Squadron flight surgeon, conducts a physical examination on Staff Sgt. Pedro Consuegra, 512th AMDS.**



Submitted photo

## World peace

**Master Sgt. Sheilda Perez, 71st Aerial Port Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, Va., is currently serving as Passenger Services NCO in charge at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic. She spread holiday cheer while volunteering at the Tok Mok orphanage, which is home to more than 100 children between the ages of 6 and 16. The visit is one of many humanitarian missions Sergeant Perez has participated in during her six month deployment.**

## Team Dover's newest from cover

AMXS superintendent, said the squadron is actually ahead of schedule to have full operational capability. While the date tasked for the unit to be at FOC is three years away, he said he believes his crew will be prepared by January 2009.

Another stride the maintenance squadron is proud of is its continuing relationship with its active-duty counterparts and fostering the Team Dover concept.

"We're a very tight team," said Chief Traute. "Being co-located with the active duty ensures a lot of interaction and communication."

The squadrons moved into the newly remodeled Building 760.

"We decided to create a workplace that was fully integrated with our Reserve partners," said Lt. Col. Ray Briggs, 736th AMXS commander. "We told the people doing (the blueprints) that we wanted to share the rooms across the board."

This integration extends into the workforce, as the first sergeant for the 736th AMXS is also the first shirt for the 712th AMXS.

Senior Master Sgt. Charles Harrell, who retires in January, volunteered to cover the position until it could be filled by an active-duty first shirt, said Colonel Briggs.

Even with training still underway and some issues with transferring records, the 712th AMXS and 736th AMXS are quickly becoming fully functional through joint wing collaboration.

"We are moving right along, and the future looks great," said Chief Traute. "It is all positive in the years to come."

"We're making all efforts to get all of our people trained, our records straightened out and all the loose ends tied," added Colonel Kurlander. "We're motivated to start the new year off with all measures in place in order to settle in and meet the maintenance needs of the C-17."

# Politics 101 for this year

With 2008 presidential primaries starting as early as this month, people in the Air Force Reserve Command might want to brush up on the rules governing involvement in political activities. While the same rules that apply to Airmen in the regular Air Force do not always affect reservists and Department of Defense civilians, it is important to know when and where these rules do apply. People can learn about political do's and don'ts by going online to [www.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123075209](http://www.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123075209).

# CCAF launches new site

Community College of the Air Force officials have launched a new Web-based tool that provides students education and national certification information related to Air Force occupational specialties.

The Credentialing and Education Research Tool, or CERT, is an online research tool that links CCAF degree programs with nationally-recognized professional certifications relevant to specific career fields.

Using the tool, Airmen can find information related to their particular CCAF degree and career progression goals. They can investigate equivalent civilian jobs, professional certifications, professional organizations and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support testing opportunities.

The CCAF team will keep the site updated with the latest information regarding certifications, degrees, testing and other applicable subjects.

Additionally, it better prepares Airmen for transition to civilian careers. In certain cases, certifications also earn CCAF college credit toward an associate degree.

The CERT Web site is [www.maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp). (Courtesy Air Force Print News)

# AAFES to host video contest

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is giving military shoppers a chance to show off their video making skills (and may even win one of three possible shopping sprees) with the "It's My Benefit" video contest.

Now through Feb. 15, 2008, authorized AAFES shoppers are invited to produce a 30 to 60-second commercial about their military exchange and morale, welfare and recreation benefits. The internet audience as well as AAFES leadership will judge submissions.

The winner of the "It's My Benefit" contest will have the choice of an Apple G5 Computer with software or a \$2,000 online shopping spree. Runner-up contestants will receive a \$1,000 and \$500 online shopping spree.

"As this is our first ever user-generated online contest, I think it's going to be fun and engaging for both participants and judges," said AAFES' Chief Marketing Officer Richard Sheff.

A complete description of the "It's My Benefit" contest rules can be found online at [AAFES.com](http://AAFES.com). The contest is open to all authorized shoppers of the military exchange. Entries must be received by Feb. 15. No purchase is necessary to win. (Courtesy Air Force Print News)

# Around the 512th

## Dover AFB chosen as finalist for IE award

Dover Air Force Base is one of two finalists for the Air Force Installation Excellence Award. As a reward, the base has earned \$500,000 towards its quality of life fund. Team Dover goes on to compete against Hill Air Force Base, Utah, for the right to the title of best Air Force base in the world, as well as an additional \$500,000.

## Liberty Wing spouses meet for dinner

All 512th Airlift Wing spouses are invited to an Italian dinner outing at Mari Monti's Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. It's located in the corner of the strip mall at the intersection of Route 8 and Salisbury Rd. For more information, call Liz Jones at (302) 730-1946.



Photo by Airman Shen-Chia Chu

### Ouch!

**Col. Elaine Barron, 512th Mission Support Group commander, is "attacked" by Military Working Dog Lance, a 4-year-old German shepherd during a MWD demonstration led by MWD trainer Staff Sgt. Ryan Walker, as part of the Incident Management Course here Dec. 6.**

## Updated ORI dates for tasked members

The following dates are for deployers, evaluators and support personnel for the upcoming Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection:

- Jan. 6, Haunted House Battle Ax
- Feb. 2 - 3, Deployment Exercise
- Feb. 5, ORI Table Top Exercise for specific Air Force Specialty Codes, unit control center representatives and lead functionals
- Feb. 15 - 18, 436th Airlift Wing DEPEX
- March 15 - 18, Volk Field CADRE training
- April 7 - 10, Functional meeting with inspector general
- April 21 - 25, ORE Volk Field fly-away
- May 20 - 22, Aircraft generation plan-Table Top Hurricane
- June 17 - 22, DEPEX, Ability to Survive and Operate at Base X, Haunted House Battle Ax
- July 26 - Aug. 2, ORI

## Honorary Commanders' Induction Jan. 31

Team Dover inducts its newest honorary commanders Jan. 31. In service dress, 512th AW commanders meet their incoming honorary commander in the wing conference room at 12:30 p.m. The induction ceremony, at The Landings, begins at 2 p.m.

## Dover vs. McGuire hockey challenge

The Dover Air Force Base All-Stars take on the McGuire AFB All-Stars during a charity ice hockey fundraiser at the Wachovia Spectrum, prior to the Philadelphia Phantoms game Jan. 13 at noon. Dover's team, comprised of active-duty and Reserve members, is raising funds for the Combined Federal Campaign and Air Force Assistance Fund. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling Senior Master Sgt. Don Kimball at (302) 677-6040.

## AFRC to operate with smaller force in 2008

Air Force Reserve Command will operate with a smaller force in 2008. The fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations Act signed by President George W. Bush Nov. 13 funds an end-strength of 67,500 reservists. Last year, the projected end strength was 74,900.

The new legislation approves 9,999 full-time air reserve technicians and 2,721 full-time Active Guard and Reserve reservists. The defense bill provides the Department of Defense with nearly \$460 billion in discretionary funding and funds a 3.5-percent, across-the-board military pay raise for active and Reserve forces. From this act, AFRC receives about \$1.36 billion for its Reserve personnel appropriation and about \$2.82 billion in operation and maintenance funds to run the command. (Courtesy AFRC)

## Dashboard puts reservists in driver's seat

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials launched the Dashboard last month, which puts reservists in the driver's seat of their personnel transactions. The new vPC-GR Dashboard streamlines the way they manage their vPC-GR account profiles, submit new requests, check the status and coordinate on existing transactions. Reservists can learn more about these changes and future applications by going to the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Personnel Services Delivery Transformation Web page at [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/PSD](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/PSD).

# 512th salutes



## Newcomers

Capt Matthew Gross  
 Capt Cara Grove  
 MSgt Linwood Smith  
 TSgt Anthony Darrington  
 SSgt Maria Bassaro  
 SSgt Joseph W. Cole II  
 SSgt James Fager  
 SSgt Charles Forehand  
 SSgt Keith Mullen  
 SrA Gail Corbin  
 SrA Victor Dinarte  
 Amn Monae Rector  
 Amn Crystal Riddick  
 A1C Reiner Herrera  
 A1C Sabrena Holmberg  
 A1C Dominique Johnson  
 A1C Harry Mackay  
 A1C Lademicka Smith  
 A1C Chanel Walton  
 AB Hridayeenur Rahman

## Reenlistments

SMSgt Dennis Moore  
 SSgt Maria Bassaro  
 SSgt James Fager

## Retirements

CMSgt David Burke  
 CMSgt Donna Lehmann  
 CMSgt Kenneth Thompson  
 SMSgt Noel McFadden  
 MSgt Samuel Arbuckle  
 MSgt William Hewett  
 MSgt Thomas Runyon  
 TSgt Kenneth Clark

## DE graduates

The Developmental Education graduates are:  
**Air Command Staff College**  
 Maj Steven Vaughters  
**Senior NCO Academy**  
 MSgt Terry Archer  
 MSgt Rene Baldrich  
 MSgt Anthony Bourdeau  
 MSgt Lacey A. Coleman Jr  
 MSgt Mark Daum  
 MSgt Jeffery Kirwan  
**Airman Leadership School**  
 SrA James Black  
 SrA Kenneth P. Bodine Jr  
 Squadron Officer School  
 Capt Eric Manewal



## Say hello to:

**Name:** A1C Reiner Herrera  
**Unit:** 512th Maintenance Group  
**Duty Position:** Personnel apprentice  
**Hometown:** Reading, Pa.  
**Civilian Occupation:** Information Technology Analyst  
**Hobbies:** Traveling, mountain biking and skiing  
**Personal Goals:** Pass law school admission test and get into law school



## Promotions

**To MSgt**  
 James Baker  
 Clifton Harris  
 Gerry LaChance  
 Joseph Moore  
**To TSgt**  
 Todd Bell  
 John Gifford  
 Travis Olsen  
 Kuentin Smart  
 Kyle Smith  
**To SSgt**  
 Tristen Coviello

Nathan Foose  
 Janeen Johnson  
 Adam Miller  
 Karla Rust  
 Michael Spencer  
 Derrick Thomas  
 Barry Wilson  
**To SrA**  
 Deshaun Hall  
 Cynthia Miller  
**To A1C**  
 Quentin Parker

## Medals

**Air Medal**  
 CMSgt George E. Mosley Jr  
 SMSgt Dennis Moore  
 MSgt Daniel Devern  
 MSgt David Finfinger



MSgt Brenda Kremer  
 MSgt James Singletary  
 TSgt Kimberly Travis  
**Meritorious Service**  
 Maj Dawn Crews-Seams  
 SMSgt Noel McFadden  
 MSgt Veronica Aceveda  
 MSgt Thomas Runyon  
**Air Force Commendation**  
 MSgt Jacob Fairburn  
 TSgt Kenneth Clark  
 TSgt Curtis Milbourne  
 TSgt Herbert Morrison  
 TSgt Douglas Shelton  
 TSgt Thomas Nee  
**Air Force Achievement**  
 Maj Scott Suazo  
 SSgt Jasmine Hodge  
 SrA Monica Lopez  
 SrA Dustin Bowman

# UTA speed dial

### Base Fitness Center

(302) 677-3962  
 Friday, 4:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
 Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Sunday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Instructional Classes

Friday:  
 11:30 a.m., Boot Camp  
 Saturday:  
 8 a.m., Pilates  
 9:15 a.m., Cardio Kick  
 10:30 a.m., Yoga

### Base Dry Cleaners

(302) 736-5171  
 Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Sunday, Closed

### The Landings

(302) 677-6022  
 Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, Closed  
 Sunday, Closed

### Military Clothing Sales

(302) 677-3750  
 Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, Closed

### Dry Cleaners

(302) 736-5171  
 Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Sunday, Closed

### Bowling Alley

(302) 677-3950  
 Friday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
 Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

### Base Library

(302) 677-3992  
 Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Sunday, Closed

## What's happening?

### Movies on base over UTA

The following movies are showing over the January UTA weekend:

- Friday, Jan. 4, Hitman (R)
- Saturday, Jan. 5, The Christman (PG)
- Sunday, Jan. 6, August Rush (PG)

Movies cost \$4 for adults, \$2 for children ages 6 to 11 and children 5 and under accompanied by an adult are free. For more information, call (302) 678-8711.

### Chapel schedule for UTA

The following worship services are available:

- Jan. 4, 11:30 a.m., Daily Mass, Chapel 2
- Jan. 5, 5 p.m., Catholic Mass Chapel 2
- Jan. 6, 9 a.m., Catholic Mass, Chapel 2
- 9:30 a.m., Contemporary Worship, Chapel 1
- 11 a.m., Traditional Worship, Chapel 2
- 11:30 a.m., Catholic Mass, Chapel 1
- 12:30 a.m., Gospel Service, Chapel 2

# Flier crosses finish line overseas



Submitted photo

**Master Sgt. Mitchell Coffey, 709th Airlift Squadron, finishes a 26 mile run at Rota Naval Air Station, Spain. He missed the Marine Corp Marathon this year due to a mission, but wanted to run the distance regardless.**

**Staff Sgt. Steve Lewis**  
Staff writer

The 32nd Fisher House Marine Corp Marathon took place on Oct. 28 in Washington D.C., but Master Sgt. Mitchell Coffey, after all his training and preparation, didn't make it to the starting line.

Duty called, and the 709th Airlift Squadron flight engineer was needed for a last-minute overseas mission. He wouldn't get back in time.

However, with the help of his fellow crew members, Sergeant Coffey, was able to run the entire 26 miles on the same day of the D.C. event while at Rota Naval Air Station, Spain.

"I spent five months training, and my main goal was to raise money for the event and run with the 30,000 other participants," he said. "Geographically, it wasn't important where I ran it; I still wanted to do it."

While training for the marathon, Sergeant Coffey, with the help of sponsors, raised over \$1,200 for the Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization and Combined Federal Campaign charity, aimed at assisting servicemembers and their families in need.

The night before the impromptu maration, Sergeant Coffey borrowed a bicycle from an Airman on Rota Air Base and placed bottles of water along his intended route.

With the help of 709th AS member Tech Sgt. William Edmondson Sergeant Coffey

planned out all the safety precautions needed during the run, including providing a drawn path to Capt Chadd Webster, his C-5 aircraft commander.

The next morning when everything was set, Sergeant Coffey began the 26 miles on his own with sun still beneath the horizon.

At the 18-mile mark, Sergeant Coffey was keeping a steady pace; he had been running for roughly three hours. But, in the middle of nowhere, he said a silver car crept up behind him. Inside it, were his fellow aircrew members. Some of them actually joined Sergeant Coffey for portions of the run.

Four and a half hours later after Sergeant Coffey was joined by the flight crew during different portions of the run, he finished the 26-mile trek, close to his finishing time last year, when he was able to attend the marathon.

"The whole crew was there at the end cheering me on," he said, "They even had a finish line made of toilet paper for me to run through."

As for his plans to run in next year's marathon, Sergeant Coffey said he hopes to not miss it.

Those interested in joining his running club for this year's marathon can e-mail him at [flyingbean777@hotmail.com](mailto:flyingbean777@hotmail.com).

To read the full story, including how some of the aircrew fared while running with Sereant Coffey, log on to [www.512aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.512aw.afrc.af.mil).

## UTA Schedule

|     | A Team  | B Team |
|-----|---------|--------|
|     | FY 2008 |        |
| JAN | 5-6     | 12-13  |
| FEB | 2-3     | 23-24  |
| MAR | 1-2     | 15-16  |
| APR | 5-6     | 19-20  |
| MAY | 17-18   | 3-4    |
| JUN | 21-22   | 28-29  |
| JUL | 12-13   | 19-20  |
| AUG | 2-3     | 8-9    |
| SEP | 6-7     | 13-14  |

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**January UTA**  
**paydates**

**A-Team pays**  
**Jan. 18**  
**B-Team pays**  
**Jan. 25**