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

U.S. Air Force aircraft strike Libya

U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirits, F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16CJ Fighting Falcons launched during the early hours of March 20 in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973, which is centered on protecting Libyan citizens from any further harm from Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

Following the initial launch of Tomahawk missiles, three U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit aircraft from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., led strikes on a variety of strategic targets over Libya. U.S. fighter aircraft created airspace where no enemy forces could advance on Libyan opposition troops.

"It was a spectacular display of Airmanship watching this coalition come together the way it did to execute the first air strikes on behalf of the Libyan people," said Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward, Operation Odyssey Dawn Joint Force Air Component commander. "Our bombers and fighters performed magnificently and we are fully behind protecting the innocent Libyan citizens while ensuring the safety of coalition aircraft."

Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn is the U.S. Africa Command task force established to provide operational and tactical command and control of U.S. military forces supporting the international response to the unrest in Libya and enforcement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. UNSCR 1973 authorizes all necessary measures to protect civilians in Libya under threat of attack by Qadhafi regime forces. JTF Odyssey Dawn is commanded by U.S. Navy Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, III.

(Courtesy of Joint Force Air Component Command Odyssey Dawn Public Affairs)

Employer Day rescheduled

The 512th Airlift Wing Employer Appreciation Day event, originally scheduled for April 22, is rescheduled for October's Unit Training Assembly. Once the new fiscal year UTA schedule is released, the specific date will be identified. The 512th Public Affairs Office will send an e-mail or letter, detailing the event change, to employers listed on previously submitted nomination forms.

For more information, call 512th PA at (302) 677-3485.

Spouse scholarship available

Operation Homefront and the Women's Self Worth Foundation will accept applications for the the Saban Military Wife Educational Scholarship until May 1. This scholarship is for wives of uniformed servicemembers to attend vocational training programs in the medical field. For more information, visit www.operationhomefront.com.

Liberty Wing legend: Wing's first computer guy logs off

Master Sgt. Veronica Aceveda

512th AW Public Affairs

For many Airmen in the 512th Airlift Wing, the approaching sound of clanging keys means the cavalry is on its way to fix their computer problem.

Those keys are attached to the "computer guy" Alan Dutton, the wing's system administrator for the past 18 years.

Mr. Dutton is slated to retire in a ceremony March 31 at the Air Mobility Command Museum, following a 20-year military career and 26-year civil service career.

A native of Middletown, Del., Mr. Dutton joined the active-duty Air Force when he was 18-years-old, having already served four years in a Civil Air Patrol unit.

"I always knew I wanted to be part of the military," he said. "And, I was ready; I was looking for a career."

He enlisted as a communications center operator in 1973, a time when the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War was officially ending -- a time when the public's opinion of the military was not that favorable, he said.

Even though the Air Force was in the process of transitioning to wearing blues, the new recruit was issued tan uniforms at basic training in addition to

the olive-colored fatigues. Technically trained in Texas, the young Airman's first assignment was in his home state of Delaware at Dover Air Force Base.

Working inside the base's Communications Operations Center, located back then in Bldg. 501, his main duty dealt with handling message traffic for the base.

"Mr. Dutton would process the incoming messages and distribute them to their designated destination," said Mr. Dutton who wore "skeeter-wings" at the time, which was a nickname for the rank of Airman.

Since computers were not used in the Air Force at that time, comm operators, like Airman Dutton, used the latest in data communication technology, which was digital subscriber terminal equipment. Referred to as DSTE, it was a teletype messaging system.

In his work center and others on base, Airmen used rotary-style phones and could smoke cigarettes sitting right at their desks, said Mr. Dutton.

"I've seen a lot of changes," said Mr. Dutton, who as a young Airman, lived in the Bldg. 260 series dormitories. "My room was on the first floor, where the library is now."

Read the full story at <http://www.512aw.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123247030>.



Alan Dutton, 512th Force Support Squadron, retires in a ceremony March 31 at the Air Mobility Command Museum, Dover Air Force Base, Del. Mr. Dutton, a network administrator, was assigned to the 512th Airlift Wing before unit members began using computers. (U.S. Air Force photo)