

# Liberty Press Weekly

April 23, 2012, Vol. 4, No. 17

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

## 709th AS supports Navy's Project Handclasp

**Master Sgt. Veronica A. Aceveda**  
512th AW Public Affairs

Nineteen reservists from the 709th Airlift Squadron returned to Dover Air Force Base April 15 following a 3-day mission to Naval Station Rota, Spain, in support of Project Handclasp.

In operation since 1962, PH distributes donated humanitarian, educational and goodwill material to disadvantaged people in foreign countries.

The program greatly enhances perceptions of the United States and the U.S. Navy, according to Operational Navy Instruction 5726.3E, Project Handclasp.

That policy also states U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel, as representatives of the American people, should make the distribution of material directly to intended recipients; but, as in this past weekend's case, it was a joint effort with the Air Force Reserve that made the delivery of more than 110,000 pounds of cargo possible.

The all-Reserve aircrew flew to Oceana Naval Air Station, Va., where they loaded 34 pallets, almost filling the C-5's maximum pallet capacity of 36.

"It certainly was a lot of cargo," said Senior Airman Guy Martin Jr., a new loadmaster who logged his first humanitarian mission. "The cargo was securely packaged, double wrapped

and stacked for maximum transportation."

Some of the hauled humanitarian items included medical supplies and wheelchairs intended for delivery to the countries of South Africa and Mozambique.

Goodwill items airlifted overseas included soccer equipment and stuffed animals routed for Kenya, Ghana and Djibouti. Educational materials, in the form of books, were bound for Tanzania.

"To be a part of something that will benefit an array of different countries, economies and families is both touching and humbling," said Martin. "It provokes a feeling that can't be easily matched or duplicated."

This airlift across the Atlantic Ocean also contained the non-profit organization's most requested item - 165 water filters, said U.S. Navy Cmdr. James Massello, Project Handclasp.

"These water filters have a huge impact in the communities where they are employed," said Massello. "Each filter provides an institution or home with safe water for more than 10 years. And, we could not have executed this humanitarian mission without (the Air Force Reserve's) help."

While the Dover-based aircrew unloaded the pallets at one location in Spain, the impact of that mission will span seven African countries in need of humanitarian assistance.



**Tech. Sgt. Sarai Goldsberry (right), 709th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, guides a pallet of cargo onto a C-5 April 13 at Oceana Naval Air Station, Va., with the assistance of Master Sgt. Charles Groce, 709th AS, in support of a naval humanitarian mission, which involved hauling more than 110,000 pounds of cargo to Spain. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lucious Washington)**

### Download photos from 512th PA EIM

Pictures taken over the April Unit Training Assembly are now available for download from the 512th Public Affairs Enterprise Information Management page. From the wing's EIM homepage, click 512th Airlift Wing Staff, PA and Wing Photos 2012.

- Senior NCO Induction Ceremony
- NCO Induction Ceremony
- Change of Command Practice

### Just a click away

**National Prescription Drug Take Back Day April 28**

**New housing website prepares Airmen for moving**

**Airman hits ground running for marathon team try-out**

**POV mileage rates adjusted**

**TRICARE covers various cancer screenings**

**Former NBA player coaches Dover AFB youth at clinic**

- Project Handclasp
- 709th Airlift Squadron Fini Flights
- 512th AMDS Mass Casualty Exercise

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

### Sign-up to batter up in local league

A downtown softball team composed of active, Reserve, and retired military members is looking for competitive softball players. The team is coached by John Vanderven, 436th Airlift Wing, and is sponsored by the American Legion Post 2 Ladies Auxiliary. Interested players should call Vanderven at (302) 222-0297 or (302) 677-6081.

### Free, fun family camping event on base

Gather at Eagles Nest Campground at 5 p.m. May 4 for camp setup and dinner, followed by an outdoor movie and a great camping experience under the stars. Wake up to breakfast followed by family activities the rest of the morning.

All camping equipment, dinner and breakfast, family-oriented movie and activities will be provided. All activities will conclude by noon May 5. This activity is free for up to 10 families. Registration deadline is April 29. To register, call Outdoor Recreation at (302) 677-3959.