

# Liberty Press *Weekly*

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

## Dover AFB C-17s aid France's Mali operations

Air Mobility Command contingency response, maintenance and support personnel, and air crews, including those from Dover Air Force Base, Del., continue to support the movement of French troops and cargo to Mali.

To date Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft have flown 18

missions delivering 574 passengers and 477 short tons of French cargo as part of U.S. Africa Command's effort to support French operations in Mali.

"Our Airmen are working around the clock with the French to prepare their equipment for shipment," said Col. Kevin Oliver, commander of the 818th Contingency Response Group,

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., whose forces were among the earliest to arrive in France to set up the airlift stage. "Our Airmen started deployment preparations within an hour of getting the call from our headquarters, and we haven't stopped since."

France requested U.S. and inter-

national support for their efforts to halt the advance of Islamist rebels into territory held by Mali's interim government.

"I commend France for taking the steps that it has, and what we have promised them is that we will work with them, to cooperate with them, and to provide whatever assistance we can to try to help them in that effort," said Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

Planners at Headquarters, 18th Air Force and the 618th Air and Space Operations Center at Scott AFB, Ill.; contingency response forces from the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Joint Base MDL, N.J.; and Airmen at Dover AFB, Del., and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., worked through the holiday weekend and have not stopped since supporting the international effort, officials said. *(Courtesy 18th AF Public Affairs)*

**In Istres, France, French soldiers march to a Dover Air Force Base C-17 Globemaster III in January in support of missions in the Republic of Mali. The United States has agreed to help France airlift troops and equipment into Mali. (Photo by Senior Airman James Richardson)**



### Forward thinkers

Seven wing Airmen conducted a Rapid Improvement Event Jan. 22-24 here to establish Key Performance Indicators, allowing wing leadership consistent visibility of sustained performance to better assess the health of the wing. The event concluded with 22 KPIs and a way forward for wing compliance and readiness. *(Photo by Master Sgt. Veronica Aceveda)*

### Last week for winter coat drive

This is the last week to contribute winter coats as part of the 512th Company Grade Officers Council Coat Drive. Donation boxes are located at key areas within the wing, including the main foyer of Bldg. 202. The collected cold weather gear will be donated to non profit organizations in the community such as The Shepherd Place, a homeless shelter for women and children in Dover.

### Save the date: wing, base events

Several wing and base events are taking place over the next couple of months. Below are a few to save the dates for:

- Feb. 9, Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony;
- Feb. 19, Tops in Blue;
- Feb. 20, National Prayer Luncheon;
- Feb. 23, 14th Annual Security Forces Squadron Ruck March;
- Feb. 25, New chapel dedication ceremony;
- March 2, 512th Annual Awards Banquet;
- March 2-3, Deployment Exercise; and,
- April 13, 512th Senior NCO Induction Ceremony.