

FREEDOM FLYER

514TH AIR MOBILITY WING

FEBRUARY 2012



**AIRPOWER DELIVERS
FOOD TO THE HUNGRY**

**FREEDOM WING HONOR GUARD
TRAINS ACTIVE-DUTY COUNTERPARTS**



FREEDOM FLYER

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ON THE COVER

Capt. Christopher Sampson, a pilot with the 78th Air Refueling Squadron, flies a KC-10 Extender to Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Jan. 9. Serving in the role of aircraft commander, Sampson led his aircrew during a Denton mission, which allows humanitarian cargo to fly for free on military aircraft on a space-available basis.



Photo by Shawn J. Jones

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Tech. Sgt. Steven Wemple, a KC-10 Extender flight engineer with the 78th Air Refueling Squadron, prepares for a mission Jan. 10. Wemple and fellow aircrew members demonstrated the Extender's versatility by transporting cargo and passengers and refueling fighter aircraft during a three-day mission Jan. 9 - 11.

Photo by Shawn J. Jones

Installation establishes joint customs, courtesies

By Senior Airman Bryan Swink

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst public affairs

Installation leaders established joint standardized customs and courtesies related to ceremonial music here Dec. 16.

The joint advisory committee established guidance for reveille, retreat and taps when in and out of uniform and when driving. A representative from each service was part of this standardization process.

“We did extensive background work on all the services’ policies,” said Chief Master Sgt. George Lytle, 87th Air Base Wing special assistant to the deputy commander. “We wanted to keep the processes as balanced as possible across the board.”

New procedures are as follows:

Reveille will sound at 6 a.m., immediately followed by “To the Colors.” Retreat will sound at 5 p.m., immediately followed by the national anthem. Taps will play at 10 p.m.

Uniformed personnel should face the flag, standing at parade rest at the first note of reveille or retreat (face the direction of the music if the flag is not in view). When the music concludes, come to the position of attention and render a salute at the first note of “To the Colors” or the national anthem and remain saluting until the last note. For taps, immediately face the music and come to the position of attention until the music is complete.

Those not wearing a military uniform should face the flag at the first note of reveille or retreat. When the reveille or retreat music concludes, those not wearing uniforms will place their right hand over their heart at the first note of “To the Colors” or the national anthem and keep it there until the last note. Saluting is optional for servicemembers and veterans not in uniform. If



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

In an effort to standardize customs and courtesies among the installation’s military branches, the joint advisory committee, which consists of representatives from each branch, established new guidance for what is expected during reveille, taps and retreat.

wearing headgear, remove it with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder while the right hand is over the heart. Personnel should stand and remain silent during taps.

Those driving should pull the vehicle to the side of the road and stop during reveille or retreat. The car stereo should be turned off, and all occupants should sit quietly until the last note of “To the Colors” or the national anthem.

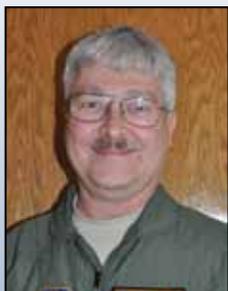
Military personnel in physical training gear will follow their service-specific guidance (Airmen and Soldiers will follow the “in uniform” guidance. Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen follow the “not in uniform” guidance).

PULSE CHECK: What military-related experience invokes a sense of pride within you?



Tech. Sgt. Christina Wiskowski
514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

“Retirement ceremonies. The retiree dedicated their life to military service and now count on us still serving to carry on the mission.”



Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Hunter
76th Air Refueling Squadron

“Flying the KC-10s in formation while accomplishing an important or humanitarian mission.”



Tech. Sgt. Dana Rolewicz
514th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

“My job as a maintainer on jet engines. Despite all challenges we face, knowing we fixed that jet makes it all worth it.”



Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Rogers
514th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

“When I participate in the annual NYC Veterans Day parade and see all the services together reminds me that it’s great to be in America.”



Master Sgt. Jason Vion
514th Operations Group

“Saluting the flag while the national anthem is playing.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

More than 60 Airmen and civilians were nominated in one of ten annual award categories. Winners were announced at the 514th Air Mobility Wing's 12th Annual Awards Banquet held Jan. 21 at the Community Center, here.

Annual awards banquet honors wing's best

By Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries
514th Air Mobility Wing public affairs

More than 60 Reserve members were recognized for their outstanding performance during 2011 at the 514th Air Mobility Wing's 12th Annual Awards Banquet held at the community center here Jan. 21.

Award winners were: Brett Vanderen, 514th Force Support Squadron, category 1 civilian; Mrs. Judith Pates, 514th Force Support Squadron, category 2 civilian; Capt. Corey DeWaters, 732nd Airlift Squadron, company grade officer of the year; Senior Airman Gweneth Dunscomb, 35th Aerial Port Squadron, Airman of the year; Tech. Sgt. Gregory Dicembri, 514th Civil Engineer Squadron, noncommissioned officer of the year; Master Sgt. Michael Fletcher, 514th Security Force Squadron, senior NCO of the year and Master Sgt. Charles Kramer, 732nd Airlift Squadron, first sergeant of the year.

In addition to the wing's annual awards, one individual and one organization were presented with the Joseph A. McNeil Award: Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Hanna, 732nd Airlift Squadron, and the Manasquan Elks Lodge 2534 from

Manasquan, N.J.

The award is named after retired Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil. In addition to his 39 years of military service, which included a stint as the commander of the Freedom Wing, and a civil service career with the Federal Aviation Administration, he is known as a civil rights pioneer.

In 1960 he and three other African American friends insisted on being served at an F.W. Woolworth whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C. The protest sparked sit-ins all over the segregated South and is considered a major event in the nation's civil rights movement. General McNeil's life example of citizenship and service to others is part of the criteria selection the award is based on.

Freedom Wing Award trophies were also presented. These awards are designed to recognize the squadron and group that earned the most points for submitting officer and enlisted performance reports, awards and decorations, quarterly awards and other individual award nominations. The 514th Aircraft Maintenance and 514th Maintenance Squadrons tied for first place at the squadron level, and the 514th Maintenance Group garnered the group level award for the third year running.

Honor guard membership full of rewards, demands

By Shawn J. Jones
Freedom Flyer editor

The 514th Air Mobility Wing honor guard has openings for sharp Airmen to wear the Air Force ceremonial uniform.

Master Sgt. Leonard Werner, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the honor guard, is hoping to fill its ranks with motivated, self-confident Airmen who can serve with poise and professionalism during military ceremonies, funerals and community events.

“We want to project a certain image,” he said. “The honor guard is supposed to be the best of the best.”

Unlike their active-duty counterparts on the installation, the reservists have an

all-volunteer honor guard.

“All the Airmen who are there want to be there,” Werner said. “They want the camaraderie, they want to honor our heroes and our veterans and they want to represent the Air Force in front of thousands of people in New York City and at funerals with little or no attendance.”

Keeping good Airmen in the honor guard is a challenge for Werner. He said honor guard members are usually held to higher standards, which often helps them land promotions faster than the average Airman. Werner said he has seen many good Airmen use honor guard service as a springboard for promotion and other career opportunities.

“It really does set you apart from oth-

ers in your unit,” he said.

The higher promotion rate of honor guard members comes with one challenging aspect. As Airmen rise through the ranks, they typically acquire more duties and responsibilities with their unit, reducing their availability to serve on honor guard details.

Werner said he doesn’t want prospective members to join only for the career benefits.

“We want more quality people who want to be on the team and who have the availability and step up to be a part of it,” he said. “It’s not for everybody.”

Werner interviews new members and tries to ensure they understand the standards and demands required of honor

Left: Senior Airman Lesley Toussaint (left), 88th Aerial Port Squadron, looks for uniform violations during an open-ranks inspections. Toussaint, a reservist, is serving as trainer for the installation’s active-duty honor guard.



Right: Tech. Sgt. Jared Lacovara, 88th APS, performs a uniform inspection on a member of the 87th Air Base Wing honor guard. Lacovara, who was trained by the Air Force honor guard, is passing on his training to his active-duty counterparts.



RESERVE INSTRUCTORS OFFER CONTINUITY, EXPERTISE TO ACTIVE-DUTY HONOR GUARD

By Shawn J. Jones
Freedom Flyer editor

The poise and precision of active-duty Air Force honor guard members here is no longer being jeopardized by the continuous turnover of its trainers.

Two reservists from the 514th Air Mobility Wing, Tech. Sgt. Jared Lacovara and Senior Airman Lesley Toussaint, are serving on long-term duty as trainers with the 87th Air Base Wing honor guard.

The highly rotational nature of the active-duty honor guard brings Airmen in for four-month stints.

Before Lacovara and Toussaint arrived, incoming members were trained by the Airmen they replaced. This system led to

an inconsistent understanding and interpretation of official honor guard instructions.

Airmen performing the same honor guard detail were not always on the same page.

Recognizing this problem, Tech. Sgt. Gary Knight, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the active-duty honor guard, took action to fix the problem, offering the position to the two reservists.

Unlike their active-duty counterparts, Lacovara and Toussaint are not restricted to four-month rotations and will not receive orders for an involuntary change of duty stations.

The reservists were recommended to Knight by his Reserve counterpart in 514th Air Mobility Wing honor guard, Master Sgt. Leonard Werner.

guard members.

“You have to be a sharp troop and take pride in yourself and pride in your military service,” he said.

But that’s not all.

New candidates must have a passing score on their most recent fitness assessment, and they must be ready to work at least three details per quarter.

During the interview, Werner said he doesn’t sugar-coat the demands of honor guard service.

“There have been people who went through the interview process and said, ‘Hey, this isn’t for me.’”

Those who do join the team are encouraged to practice during their free time to become proficient in a variety of drills and ceremonies.

“There’ve been many times I asked my wife to hold the other end of the flag,” said Werner.

Werner said the demands are balanced by the opportunities.

He said those Airmen who go above and beyond will be rewarded with the option to serve in higher-profile details such as parades and professional sporting events.

While Airmen volunteer to serve in the honor guard, they serve on paid military orders.

“We don’t expect them to come out on their own time,” Werner said.

The primary benefit of serving in the honor guard is the opportunity to take part in events that are very important to many people – retirement ceremonies, change of command ceremonies, public events and military funerals.

Funerals for past and present military members make up the bulk of the honor guard responsibilities. Military funerals are often emotional events, especially

when friends and family members of the deceased openly display their grief. Honor guard members are charged with maintaining their poise in this setting and all other situations.

Some military funerals are lightly attended, and Werner said he’s been to a funeral where no one, but the honor guard attended. When the funeral director informed the honor guard they didn’t need to perform the ceremony because no one was coming, the honor guard did their duty anyway.

“This person served our country, so we’re going to do our part as well,” Werner said.

Airmen interested in joining the honor guard can 754-3487 for more information. Prospective members should discuss honor guard service with their supervisor and first sergeant.



Left: Toussaint stands in the Philadelphia Phillies dugout immediately after performing pre-game ceremonies for an outdoor American Hockey League game at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.

Right: The honor guard prepares to march onto the ice for pregame ceremonies. The Airmen belong to the 87th Air Base Wing honor guard, though three of the five Airmen pictured are reservists with the 514th Air Mobility Wing.

“Toussaint is very motivated and driven, and Lacovara is a go-to guy who wants to do things the right way,” said Werner. “They’ve stepped up and shined above and beyond most of our other members.”

Not only do they have the intangibles needed to succeed, but they have received top-notch training with the United States Air Force Honor Guard at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

“These guys are disciplined, professional and know exactly what they are doing,” Knight said. “This program has been taken to another level, so I want to keep them as long as I can.”

In today’s military organizational environment, it’s not uncommon to have reservists in a position of authority over mostly active-duty Airmen, but when it happens, an adjustment period is usually required.

“There was no playing around when they got here,” said

Senior Airman Shyderrian Williams, an honor guard member from the 87th Medical Operations Squadron. “They fit right in with us.”

Toussaint admits that he and Lacovara purposely tried to instill a serious, by-the-book emphasis in their training plan.

“The previous trainers were good, but they trained from memory, not from the book,” he said. “Whenever there is a question now, they go to the book.”

There is a reason the reservists take their job so seriously. While performing honor guard duties at retirements, changes of commands and other official ceremonies are important, Toussaint said the funerals of past and present military members call for honor guard members to be at their best.

“The military honors at funerals leave a lasting image of the military and the Air Force for that family related to that servicemember,” he said. “It’s a big responsibility.”

AIRPOWER FEEDS THE HUNGRY

By Shawn J. Jones
Freedom Flyer editor

Aircrews that fly KC-10 Extenders are used to filling the fuel tanks of other aircraft, but on Jan. 9 they performed a mission to fill the fuel tanks of hungry people, as they helped transport 45,000 pounds of food to impoverished Afghans.

Reservists from the 78th Air Refueling Squadron flew to Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn., to load the humanitarian cargo, which consisted of boxes of fortified rice and dried vegetable meals. The crew then moved the cargo to the aerial port at Joint Base Charleston from where it will be flown to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, to be distributed by U.S. Army personnel to people living in the country's Bamiyan region, located several hours west of Bagram. The food will reduce the threat of starvation during Afghanistan's harsh winter.

Although flying privately donated humanitarian cargo is not one of the Air Force's primary missions, organizations may request their donation be transported through the Denton Program. Jeremiah Denton, a former Alabama U.S. senator and Vietnam prisoner of war, sponsored the program, which allows donations to be transported on military aircraft on a space-available basis at the convenience of the military.

"I already love doing my job, but it's even better getting to do it knowing we helped people in an impoverished country," said Capt. Christopher Sampson, the lead pilot who flew the mission. "It is very easy to see pallets in the cargo area as simply freight on its way to a destination, but at the end of the day, those pallets contained 45,000 pounds-worth of food for needy people thousands of miles away."

The mission had more than a humanitarian impact. It also provided a training opportunity for the Reserve crew. Since the KC-10's primary role is that of an airborne tanker, missions that call on the aircraft's secondary role of cargo transport can be infrequent.

"Denton cargo gives us an opportunity to practice our secondary role, adding a dynamic to the mission that is impossible to obtain on local training flights," Sampson said.

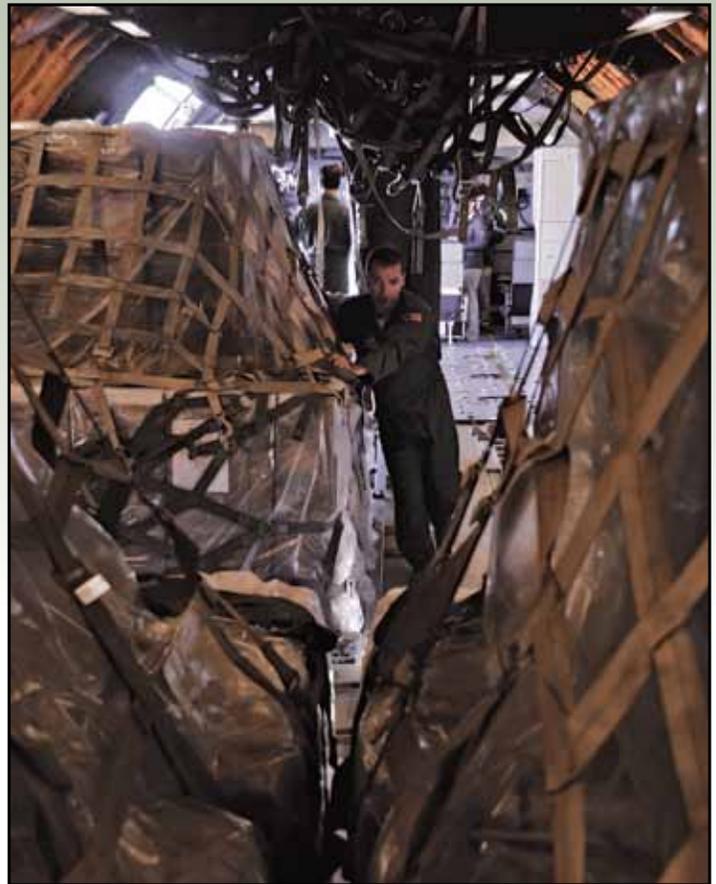
The Air Force is no stranger to delivering humanitarian supplies to foreign countries. In fact, one of the Air Force's first major challenges was transporting humanitarian cargo during the Berlin Airlift, which was one of the defining events of the Cold War. The massive airlift operation was an early triumph for the young Air Force, and signified air power's contribution to rebuilding democracy in post-World War II Europe.

Although Denton missions cannot match the scope of the Berlin Airlift, they can contribute to an overall rebuilding strategy in Afghanistan.

Sampson said humanitarian efforts like the Denton mission demonstrate how the United States truly cares about people in need around the globe.

"Most militaries would never take an asset devoted to war and use it for humanitarian purposes," he said. "That the Air Force does exactly that speaks volumes about the goodwill of the U.S. Armed Forces."

Since January 2011, the 514th Air Mobility Wing's three flying squadrons have performed 11 Denton missions.



Photos by Shawn J. Jones

Top: Humanitarian cargo is unloaded from a KC-10 Extender at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Jan. 9. The cargo consisted of fortified rice-based meals that will be distributed to impoverished people living in Afghanistan through the Denton Program, which allows humanitarian cargo to be moved on military aircraft on a space-available basis.

Above: Tech. Sgt. Matt Yockey, 78th Air Refueling Squadron, pushes a pallet of humanitarian cargo toward the rear of a KC-10 on the flightline at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn., Jan. 9. The cargo will be used to feed impoverished people living in Afghanistan.

The Denton program is jointly administered by U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense. To qualify for the Denton Program, a mission must be used to support on-going relief and development projects, must be consistent with U.S. foreign policy objectives and must provide legitimate humanitarian assistance to the recipients.



Tech. Sgt. Angel Gomez, a Reserve boom operator with the 78th ARS, makes preparations to a KC-10 prior to unloading humanitarian cargo at the aerial port on Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Jan. 9.



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

SPOTLIGHT:

SENIOR AIRMAN: ALEXIS TOMLINSON

Unit: 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Position: Knowledge Operations Management

Hometown: Newark, N.J.

Civilian employment: Personal Banker for Citibank

Little known fact about you: I won a bronze medal in the high school state fencing championship and fenced in the Junior Olympics.

Pet Peeve: Slow computers

Favorite childhood cartoon: He-Man and the Masters of the Universe

If you could be a superhero, who would you be: Spider-man because he is modest and he has skills.

Biggest challenge you've overcome: Joining the Air Force at 30 years old was a huge challenge in my life. Telling my friends and family was nerve-racking. They all looked at me with blank stares. Now that I made it through basic training, technical school and seasoning training, they are all proud and can't believe that the initial training went by so fast.

Most embarrassing moments: I had a couple in basic training. Two which stick out in my mind were when my bed was flipped during an inspection and when I wore a PT shirt instead of my sand t-shirt under my uniform in formation. My training instructor almost had a heart attack!



The following Airmen were promoted in January.

Airman

Kyle Androvett, 514 AMXS
Hensly Guerra, 514 AMXS
Jair Edher Reyes, 514 AMXS

Airman 1st Class

Romeo Mendoza, 514 AMXS
Angel Oquendo, 35 APS
Oscar Lewis, 514 AMDS

Senior Airman

Kathryn Carruthers, 732 AS
Pierre Figareau, 514 ASTS
Dwayne Fortune, 35 APS
Jose Galera, 35 APS
Evan Kerzer, 35 APS
Sara Kim, 35 APS
Aaron Miller, 42 CBCS
Sheena Romero, 35 APS
Justin Ross, 42 CBCS

Staff Sergeant

Johanna Aponte, 514 AMXS
Charisse Balthazar, 514 FSS
Kenny Lewis, 514 LRS
Michele Zuffanti, 514 MOF

Technical Sergeant

Pedro Aleman, 514 CES
John Casey, 514 AMXS
Ann Gordon, 514 MXG

Master Sergeant

Jacob Ladd, 514 MXG

Chief Master Sergeant

Juan Claudio, 732 A

News Briefs

Inspection success

The 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron achieved an 'Outstanding' rating during their health services inspection, which was conducted here Jan.17-21. The squadron was inspected on their expeditionary and in-garrison operations.

Liberty Bell reenlistment

Col. Michael J. Underkofler will officiate a mass reenlistment ceremony at the historic Liberty Bell in Philadelphia March 24. Mayor Michael Nutter is scheduled to speak at the ceremony. Airmen interested in participating should contact their unit career advisor. The uniform of the day for those participating in the ceremony will be service dress. Transportation is provided. Those participating will meet at 3 p.m. in the parking lot of building 2216. The ceremony begins at 5 p.m.

Inclement weather: Know before you go

In the event of inclement weather, Airmen can call 754-BASE and visit the 87th Air Base Wing's facebook page at www.facebook.com/JBMDL to learn about driving and reporting conditions on the installation.

New fitness guidance doesn't leave Airmen out in the cold

By Shawn J. Jones
Freedom Flyer editor

In the event of extreme weather, a new policy allows Airmen of the Freedom Wing and other 4th Air Force units to be exempt from the 1.5-mile run at the wing commander's discretion.

Before the new policy, Airmen would perform the run assessment at the indoor track at the Griffith Field House on the Ft. Dix side of the installation. Only eight Airmen can test on the indoor track at one time, and some testing sessions involve well over 100 Airmen. This led to extremely long testing sessions.

"We simply could not afford to lose our folks for an entire day due to fit-to-fight testing," said Major Walter Kruk, the fitness program manager here.

Airman learned first-hand about this new policy during the Jan. 21 – 22 unit training assembly, in which the run portion of the assessment was canceled due to ice on the track.

The weather waiver policy may work against some Airmen, especially those who do relatively well on the run and not-so-well on the other components. When Airmen are exempt from performing a portion of the assessment, their score is calculated by dividing total points earned by the total possible points of the remaining components. So if the 60-point run is eliminated, the total score will be based on 40 points, meaning Airmen would need at least 30 accumulated points to pass ($30 \div 40 = 75$).

In addition to the weather waiver, Kruk said he wants to highlight several other fitness-related matters.

- Assessments begin at 8 and 10 a.m. on both days of unit training weekends. Airmen who arrive after an assessment begins will not be permitted to participate.
- Airmen who arrive without a fitness questionnaire signed by their unit fitness program monitor will not be permitted to participate.
- Deployed Airmen will be exempt from mandatory fitness testing, though they



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Monica Dalberg

may take the test on a voluntary basis.

- Airmen who receive an unsatisfactory score are expected to attend Operation Finish Line from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday of the training weekend.
- Airmen scoring above 90 in an assessment in which the run was exempt are not granted the one-year re-test date typically given for scores above 90 and must retest within six months.
- It is the individual Airman's responsibility to ensure a retest is taken within

90 days of an unsatisfactory fitness assessment.

- Commanders are encouraged to pursue administrative discharge of Airmen who receive four unsatisfactory scores within a 24-month period while failing to demonstrate significant fitness improvement.
- The wing is actively seeking new physical training leaders to assist with administering the fitness assessment. Interested Airmen should contact their unit fitness program monitor.

FREEDOM FLYER

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FOR THE FAMILY OF:

Pictured: The boom of a KC-10 Extender reaches over the skies of North Carolina's Outer Banks while refueling an F-15E Strike Eagle from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., Jan. 10. The KC-10 was flown by Airmen of the 78th Air Refueling Squadron.

Photo by Shawn J. Jones

