

# FREEDOM FLYER

514TH AIR MOBILITY WING

MAY 2012

**AIRMEN PRACTICE FOR  
WARFIGHTING TEST**

**TRAINING FLIGHT PREPS AIRMEN FOR BOOT CAMP**



# FREEDOM FLYER

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## ON THE COVER

Chief Master Sgt. James Whiteley, acting command chief master sergeant of the 514th Air Mobility Wing, takes a protective position during an expeditionary readiness exercise at Gulfport Contingency Readiness Training Center, Miss., April 27.



*Photo by Shawn J. Jones*

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Staff Sergeants Keisha Kydd (left) and Katrell Bishop, 42nd Combat Communications Squadron, set-up a satellite terminal during an operational readiness exercise here March 26.

*Photo by Shawn J. Jones*

## Memorial Day also good for making new memories

**Lt. Col. Anthony Polashek**

*514th Operations Group deputy commander*

Greetings and salutations to all as we approach another great New Jersey summer!

Many base the beginning of summer not on astronomical or meteorological data, but rather on the arrival of Memorial Day weekend (a federal holiday instituted in 1971, making a three-day weekend when the weather is generally good for most of the country).

Though Memorial Day has only been officially recognized by this name since 1966 when declared by President Lyndon Johnson, the roots of this recognition go back to the period following the Civil War (also referred to as the “War between the States” by some in the South or even “The War of Northern Aggression” by those who are serious about being from the south!).

The custom of decorating the grave sites of fallen veterans, along with numerous other community tributes and remembrances in recognition of the tremendous loss of life experienced in the terrible war, was for the most part, celebrated separately by those affiliated with one side or the other.

Regardless of which side your family was on, it’s hard to imagine the magnitude of the devastating losses our country bore during this incredibly difficult time or the intensity of the emotional pain from those losses that remained very powerful throughout the following decades.

Other wars followed, and after World War I, the focus of Memorial Day expanded to recognize the sacrifices of fallen veterans from all conflicts. If you are curious, a good synopsis of Memorial Day’s history can be found at [www.usmemorialday.org/backgrnd.html](http://www.usmemorialday.org/backgrnd.html).

If, for you, Memorial Day has primarily been about a great weekend to barbecue, I offer the following experience for your consideration.

My hometown has about 300 people in it, and the Memorial Day observance there is one of the biggest events of the year.

I remember as a small child watching the parade and seeing the veterans from the local American Legion post march by in their uniforms. My grandfather was a World War I veteran, and he would be there, as was my father and his brother, both World War II veterans, and their younger brother, who served later.

Our neighbor across the street led a contingent of Korean War vets, and eventually, we had our share of Vietnam vets as well. The parade would travel through about half of the paved streets in the small town, and end at the church on the top of the highest hill, where a service was held, followed by a very moving outdoor ceremony with a 21 gun salute in the cemetery.

The Ladies Auxiliary would deliver decorations to the deceased veteran’s markers, the formal ceremonies would end, and families would visit the final resting places of their veterans.

Over the years, those who marched in the parade part of the event eventually migrated to being the recipients of attention in the final part, most after long rewarding lives.



*Courtesy Photo*

Lt. Col. Anthony Polashek, 514th Operations Group, visits with Theodore “Dutch” Van Kirk, the navigator and last surviving crew member of the Enola Gay, a B-29 Superfortress which dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, during the final stages of World War II. Polashek encourages all Airmen to celebrate Memorial Day in a manner that recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of American servicemembers.

In a small town, it may be easier to follow these changes and appreciate them, since every family is familiar with the others. Walking through that cemetery was like reviewing the chapters of our town’s family history, recognizing the losses our friends and relatives had borne in the century or so of that town’s existence (dating back, oddly enough, to the Civil War reconstruction era), and particularly so for the veterans whose plots were decorated for the occasion.

I was always proud of our veterans, and proud of the townspeople who honored them. As the people would finish their private visitations, we would make our way the few blocks to the American Legion Park and have a wonderful, all-day picnic. The weather was more often good than bad, and for a young sprout like me, it was always a great day.

I remember the pride with which these generations of veterans had marched, the somber visages as they recalled their fallen comrades, and the pride they shared in our community recognition during this great traditional event. These same folks that I saw around town seemed very different when they were in uniform, and it was clear they were very proud to honor their fallen comrades in this way.

After the solemn ceremonies and not a few tears in the crowd, I also remember the great sense of community and fun at the very well-attended celebration where the older folks could relax and visit while the younger generations engaged in more active events, with good food and drink for all.

So, that’s my personal anecdote and plug for Memorial Day.

Thanks for all you do in the service of your country. Please join me and all who love the United States of America by participating in Memorial Day in a way that honors those who have fallen for our country. Please be safe and have a great holiday weekend.

# Top noncommissioned officer discusses enlisted issues

**Airman 1st Class Ryan Throneberry**  
87th Air Base Wing public affairs

The Defense Department's highest ranking enlisted member visited here April 14 and 15.

Marine Corps Sergeant Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the principal military advisor to the chairman and the Secretary of Defense on all matters related to the enlisted force.

Battaglia's visit was intended to give him a closer look at some of the installation's missions and its enlisted servicemembers, which hail from all five branches of the military.

Battaglia's message focused on the importance of keeping faith as budget cuts force the reshaping and reorganization of the military. He said servicemembers should know that addressing the unique needs of military families and the development and education of the enlisted force are two top priorities of the military's most senior leaders

"Have trust in your leadership," he said. "If our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have faith in us and vice versa, we will get through these challenging times."

He said the reshaping and restructuring of the military has happened many times in his career, and despite its inherent challenges, U.S. servicemembers have always delivered the world's finest military.

To help address the significant Reserve population on the joint base, Battaglia was joined by a subject-matter expert on issues that are particular to citizen servicemembers.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, the senior enlisted advisor to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said he is seeing progress in efforts to educate legislators who are well-intentioned, but don't always consider the Reserve component when drafting legislation.

Gipe also said reservists should expect to be treated fairly by their civilian employers when reporting for military duty, but they should not take undue advantage of the protections afforded to them.

"It's a two-way street," Gipe said.

Reservists have a responsibility to work with their civilian employers to perform military duties at times that the least disruptive when possible, he said. Giving respect to the needs of civilian employers helps ensure they will continue to support and employ reservists in the future.

Battaglia's final message was to encourage servicemembers to remember why each of them chose to serve.

"We are a special breed of people, ladies and gentlemen," Battaglia said. "We are part of the greatest team sport in the world. America loves us because we are a trusted institution who serves with integrity and we will never waiver the high ground. That's what your country thinks of you. Isn't that worth serving for?"



*U.S. Air Force Illustration*

## Airmen earn honors

**Capt. Allison Ecuag**  
514th Air Mobility Wing public affairs

Nine Airmen of the 514th Security Forces Squadron were honored for their support of Operation Enduring Freedom during a homecoming awards ceremony for deployed service members returning from Afghanistan. Family and friends of the Airmen were present as Col. Ellie Nix, 514th Mission Support Group commander, described and commended them for their outstanding actions downrange.

Three of the Airmen were awarded the Bronze Star, which is the fourth highest combat award. To be eligible to receive a bronze star, servicemembers must distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious service while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.

Maj. Sean Lambe earned a Bronze Star, which is his second, for his rapid response to over 36 rocket attacks in which he helped save several critically wounded individuals.

The family of Tech. Sgt. Herbert Dubose was present as he was awarded both the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal with valor for personally saving multiple lives while deployed.

For his actions coordinating with international forces and quick reaction time evacuating a critically injured victim, Chief Master Sgt. Dean Roberts was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Master Sgt. Michael Fletcher received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his life-saving response during a rocket attack while serving as superintendent of military police investigations.

Master Sgt. David Tingle, received the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his performance of flightline security duties and for training more than 80 multinational troops on NATO policies. Four airmen were also recognized with the Joint Service Achievement Medal. Tech. Sgt. Jack Humphrey was lauded for his actions as flightline security chief, and Staff Sergeants John Andres, Philip Jawny and George Teamoh were praised for their roles in flightline security operations, as was Tech. Sgt. Michael Zigarelli for his combat military policing efforts.



Photos by Shawn J. Jones

# READY FOR A FIGHT



**Top Left:** Senior Airman Alexis Tomlinson, 514th Aerospace Medical Squadron, helps to unravel a firehose during an expeditionary readiness exercise at Gulfport Contingency Readiness Training Center, Miss., April 27. Airmen from New Jersey's 514th Air Mobility Wing and 87th Air Mobility Wing joined Airmen from Minnesota's 934th Airlift Wing for the exercise to help them prepare for an operational readiness inspection scheduled for March 2013. **Top Right:** Airmen board a C-17 Globemaster III on the flightline here prior to heading to the readiness center. **Center:** As part of the exercise, Staff Sgt. Heidi Schneider, a readiness specialist with the 514th Civil Engineer Squadron, collects data related to contamination levels within the installation in order to advise the commander on an appropriate course of action. **Bottom Right:** Senior Airman Daniel Condo, a financial management specialist with the 514th Air Mobility Wing, has his mobility records reviewed while practicing the deployment portion of the readiness exercise. To further prepare for March's inspection, the Airmen will report to the training center again in October for an operational readiness exercise.



## **PULSE CHECK:** *What can Freedom Wing Airmen do to better prepare for the readiness inspection?*



**Senior Master Sgt.  
Joseph Sulia**  
*514th Logistics  
Readiness Squadron*

“More focus on donning the gas mask and self aid buddy care. More detail to cargo preparation for deployment and redeployment.”



**Senior Master Sgt.  
Lavar Jordan**  
*514th Aeromedical  
Evacuation Squadron*

“Timely communication of training requirements from the deployment manager to the inspection participants is critical. Making sure your members are ready, trained, and equipped is highly important.”



**Master Sgt.  
Amanda Heffner**  
*514th  
Civil Engineer Squadron*

“We now can focus on specific areas such as command and control, wear of the new M-50 gas mask and our ability-to-survive-and-operate processes.”



**Lt. Col  
Tim Donnelly**  
*514th  
Mission Support Group*

“We can provide greater leadership up and down the chain to more effectively source the tasking’s personnel requirements and better plan the sequencing of forces during the deployment and redeployment phases of the exercise.”



**Capt.  
Margaret Chandler**  
*514th  
Aerospace Medical Squadron*

“Don’t leave casualties alone and keep reassessing them. You won’t always be able to immediately transport them to the medical unit.”



Senior Airman Nicole Lauby (left) and Airman 1st Class Hunter Alvis provide security near an entry control point during the training exercise. Lauby is assigned to the 934th Security Forces Squadron at Minneapolis Air Reserve Station, Minn., and Alvis is assigned to the 87th Security Forces Squadron here.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White

Airmen fill out paperwork during a classroom session of the 514th Air Mobility Wing's new development and training flight May 6. The flight introduces newly enlisted Airmen to various aspects of Air Force culture in order to facilitate their transition into basic military training and into the units to which they will report after training.

# New reservists learn basics before basic training

**Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White**  
514th Air Mobility Wing public affairs

Many Reserve Airmen entering basic military training no longer have to worry about fear of the unknown.

The newly formed development and training flight fills the gap between the time new Airmen enlist and the time they ship off to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic training – a period which often lasts many months. Filling this time gap provides benefits to new Airmen and to the Air Force.

Instead of waiting around for months and losing the enthusiasm and momentum that came with the decision to enlist, new Airmen who attend the development and training flight on training weekends can get paid to train and learn.

The Air Force benefits by having Airmen who have been prepped to succeed in basic training.

Those who participate in the development and training flight are taught Air Force history, customs and courtesies, core values and rank structure. They also engage in physical training.



Tech. Sgt. Timothy Mullin (blue running shorts) leads Airmen during the development and training flight's physical training session May 6.

“We try to make the transition from civilian life to military life a little less drastic,” said Tech. Sgt. Timothy Mullin, an instructor with the flight.

Mullin said he expects his students to have an advantage in the early stages of their Air Force careers.

“I wish this program existed when I was a new Airman,” he said. “I had no idea how to tell the difference between enlisted and officer. It was all brand new to me.”

Mullin is joined by four other instructors who come from various units across the

514th Air Mobility Wing. Each of the five instructors can offer their experience as noncommissioned officers who have gone through basic training, but their ace in the hole is the flight's program manager, Master Sgt. Joe Gentile, who previously served as an Air Force basic training instructor.

Gentile works closely with recruiters and the flight's instructors to maintain the effectiveness of the program. He said that in the past, too many Reserve Airmen were being sent home from basic training due to academic fail-

ure, disciplinary issues or medical issues. To counter this trend, Air Force Reserve Command started development and training flights at six test locations and saw immediate results. The 514th Air Mobility Wing started its flight in April, and Gentile said feedback has been positive from both trainees and established members of the wing.

Besides the formal training the trainees receive, Mullin said the opportunity to network with noncommissioned officers and fellow new Airmen is invaluable.

“The only person I had ever met from the Air Force prior to leaving for basic training was my recruiter,” he said. “It also would have been nice to meet other people who were reporting to boot camp with me.”

Gentile said he welcomes senior leaders such as commanders, chief master sergeants and first sergeants to visit the flight to observe or to address the trainees as well as to join them for physical training.

He also said the trainees could benefit from the advice of Airmen who are freshly graduated from basic training.





**Above:** Col. Michael Underkofler (left), 514th Air Mobility Wing commander, passes the 514th Maintenance Group guidon to Col. Anthony Esposito during the change-of-command ceremony in which Esposito became the group's commander May 5. Chief Master Sgt. Linda Menser, the group superintendent stands behind the colonels. **Right:** Esposito, who spent the vast majority of his military career within the group addresses his Airmen and guests upon taking command. Col. Oreste Varela (right) relinquished his command and will pursue employment closer to his family in Massachusetts.

*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White*

## LONG-TIME FREEDOM WING AIRMAN RETURNS TO COMMAND MAINTENANCE GROUP



Flights of Airmen from the 514th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the 514th Maintenance Squadron, the 514th Maintenance Operations Squadron and the 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron stand at attention in formation during the ceremony.



# AIR FORCE WEEK

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan E. White

## Gratitude

Mark Dimond (left) discusses the legacy of the *Chowhound*, a B-17 Flying Fortress that crashed during the liberation of France in World War II, with Lt. Col. Jonathan Bradley, 732nd Airlift Squadron, May 5. Dimond, a surviving relative of one of the *Chowhound's* final crew, held a picnic as a way to say thank you to the squadron's Airmen who brought the remains of the B-17 back home in September after it spent more than half a century in a French farmer's barn.

## Freedom Flyer editor named Defense Dept's top journalist

From Air Force Reserve Command public affairs

A panel of judges selected Tech. Sgt. Shawn Jones, 514th Air Mobility Wing public affairs, as the top print journalist in the Department of Defense.

The department announced the Thomas Jefferson Award winners April 19. The competition is the premiere military awards program for print and broadcast journalism. The Thomas Jefferson Awards Program recognizes outstanding achievements in furthering the objectives of the Defense Department internal information program.

"I didn't really think I had a good chance to win," he said. "The judges at the lower level competitions were very critical of my work, so I was genuinely surprised when the results were announced."

In addition to serving as a traditional reservist, Jones is the civilian editor of the wing's *Freedom Flyer* magazine. Four of his five award-winning articles appeared in the magazine, which was named the best printed publication in Air Force Reserve Command.

Jones, the first Air Force reservist to win the award, said he was especially pleased to represent citizen Airmen in a Defense Department-level contest.



*The following enlisted Airmen were promoted in April, and the following officers were selected for promotion.*

**Airman**

Daniel Hudspeth, 35 APS

**Airman 1st Class**

Benjamin Adelman, 714 AMXS  
 Raymond Colon, 514 FSS  
 Robert Konopka II, 42 CBCS  
 David Robinson, 514 MXS  
 Jill Sabina, 714 AMXS  
 Jessica Wolthoff, 514 ASTS

**Senior Airman**

Julie Coley, 514 AMDS  
 Lauren Dawson, 514 FSS  
 Christopher Delass, 42 CBCS  
 Terrence Elsberry, 714 AMXS  
 David Gathers, 514 AES  
 Siria Matos, 714 AMXS  
 Starlinas Oge, 714 AMXS

**Staff Sergeant**

Joel Hildebrand, 78 ARS  
 Kenneth Moeser, 78 ARS

**Technical Sergeant**

Anthony Caputo, 714 AMXS  
 Jermaine Cooper, 42 CBCS  
 Samuel Cottes Jr, 514 ASTS  
 Benjamin Hartnagle, 42 CBCS  
 Jahlahan Kabba, 514 ASTS  
 Jimmy Ladao, 42 CBCS  
 Shawn Loftus, 732 AS  
 James Moore III, 514 AMW  
 Paula Ostrander, 732 AS  
 David Parker, 714 AMXS

**Master Sergeant**

Kofi Amissah, 88 APS  
 Javier Diaz, 514 CES  
 Gregory Dicembri, 514 CES  
 Marc Godlewski, 514 AES  
 Bruce McCormick Jr, 78 ARS  
 Kevin McGreevy, 88 APS

**Captain**

Maxy Escalante, 514 AMDS  
 Erin Fassold, 514 LRS  
 Daniel Gagnon, 78 ARS  
 Holly Nelson, 732 AS

**Major**

Rebecca Abt, 514 AES  
 Jonathan Barber, 78 ARS  
 Jason Cockrell, 76 ARS  
 Aly Hesham, 732 AS  
 Steven Irvin, 732 AS  
 Howard Miller, 514 AMW  
 Heather Moore, 514 AES  
 Sonia Ragland, 514 AES  
 Erin Root, 514 AMOS  
 Ronald Stone, 514 AES  
 Julia Wriglesworth, 514 AMDS



*Photos by Shawn J. Jones*



**PENNSYLVANIA CONGRESSMAN VISITS FREEDOM WING**

**Above:** Senior Airman Mary Pillion, 76th Air Refueling Squadron, explains how the refueling boom on a KC-10 Extender works to Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick during a tour April 2. The congressman, from Pennsylvania's 8th district, visited some of his constituents who work at the 514th Air Mobility Wing. Col. Paulette Schank, 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron is in the background.

**Right:** The congressman flips through the March issue of Freedom Flyer after having lunch with Airmen of the 732nd Airlift Squadron.

## FREEDOM FLYER

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FOR THE FAMILY OF:



A KC-10 Extender maintains its position so that another aircraft can fly up to it and receive fuel May 5. Chaplains of the 514th Air Mobility Wing hosted a clergy day in which officials from a variety of faiths were invited to the wing to see their Air Force Reserve in action.

*Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries*