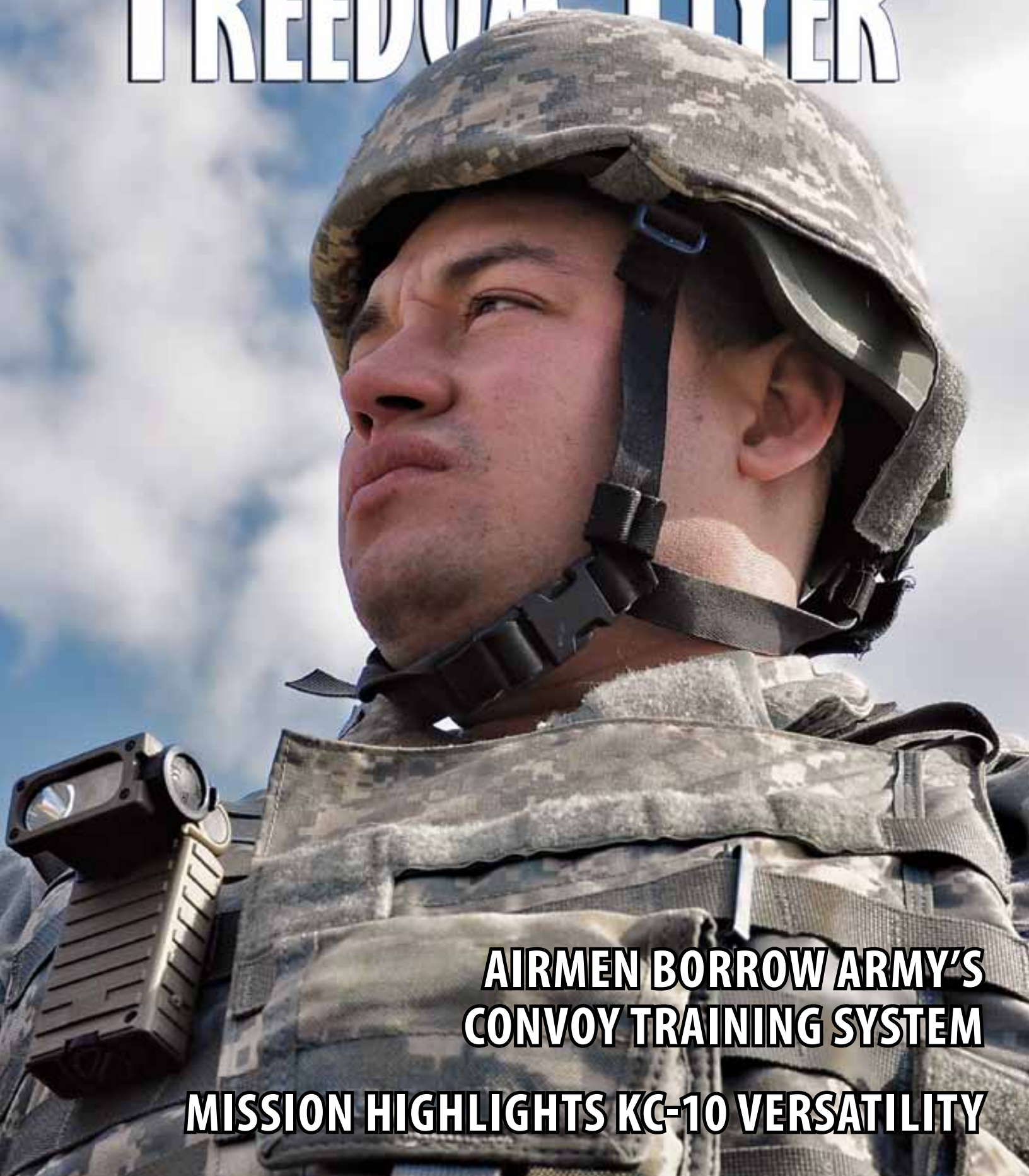


514TH AIR MOBILITY WING

FEBRUARY 2013

# FREEDOM FLYER



**AIRMEN BORROW ARMY'S  
CONVOY TRAINING SYSTEM**

**MISSION HIGHLIGHTS KC-10 VERSATILITY**



# FREEDOM FLYER

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## ON THE COVER

Airman 1st Class Thomas Reilly, 514th Security Forces Squadron, and other Airmen from his squadron participated in a convoy training session Feb. 24. The session included computer-based training and hands-on convoy tactics.



*Photo by Shawn J. Jones*

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Senior Airman Chris Park, 35th Aerial Port Squadron, takes aim with an M4 rifle during a weapons familiarization class taught by Airmen of the 514th Security Forces Squadron here Jan. 27. In July, the Airmen will be inspected on their ability to survive and operate in hostile conditions, and weapons care and handling will represent a significant part of the inspection.

*Photo by Shawn J. Jones*



Courtesy Photo

Col. Cynthia Wong, 514th Mission Support Group commander (with red and yellow axe), joins firefighters from the 514th Civil Engineer Squadron and other member of the mission support group for a photo during a visit to the firehouse here Feb. 24. Wong, a former Army helicopter pilot who now commands five squadrons of Airmen with vastly different missions, is challenging her Airmen to achieve her long-term vision of being a trusted, reliable wing partner known for providing outstanding support.

## Helicopter training encourages long-range vision

By Col. Cynthia Wong  
514th Mission Support Group commander

In my former life, I was an Army aviator—a helicopter pilot. I remember well the days of learning to hover. The state of Alabama seemed too small!

At first, I focused more inside the helicopter. This practice caused me to over-control the helicopter which made it difficult to keep it steady. When I shifted my focus to some distance outside the helicopter, I tended to make smaller inputs and it became easier to keep it level with the horizon.

Learning to hover taught me a valuable lesson—the importance of maintaining a long-term perspective in the midst of uncertainty.

One way to set up a long-term perspective is to set long-term goals for what can be achieved in the future. The Airmen of the 514th Mission Support Group are working towards a vision that is based on the new Air

Force vision released this past fall.

The 514th Mission Support Group will be a trusted, reliable wing partner to our customers, known for providing outstanding support. We will provide highly trained and equipped personnel to aid commanders. We will excel as stewards of our resources.

Being a trusted and reliable wing partner that provides outstanding support is a very basic, but vital, characteristic of the group. Outstanding support is defined by three elements: speed, accuracy and attitude.

First, everyone in the group should be responsive, meaning we should quickly acknowledge our customers' needs or requests. We may not have the answer right away, but we can at least let our customers know that we are working towards getting it.

Second, we should always provide accurate information and products. Finally, we must carry out our duties with the utmost respect and friendliness, no matter if there are 50 customers or just one.

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**Learning to hover taught me a valuable lesson—the importance of maintaining a long-term perspective in the midst of uncertainty.**

This is the vision I have challenged the group's Airmen to strive for, and though we have some work to do in some areas, I know we are capable of achieving it.

I encourage our customers who feel they are not receiving outstanding

support to let someone know, starting with the chain of command. This will help us look at our processes and fix it.

By focusing on a long-term vision, the mission support group can achieve a culture in which it is known command-wide for providing outstanding support both to our customers and our nation.

# Vietnam War prisoners provide lesson of maintaining honor during times of great hardship

By Lt. Col. Anthony Polashek  
514th Operations Group

As many of our Airmen still are putting their lives in order after Hurricane Sandy, much is happening in the world, with ongoing mobilizations, federal sequestration and ongoing fiscal arguments occurring now and for the foreseeable future. As a result, we all are faced with the added stresses of uncertainty about how our country and military may be affected.

I recall a training film about Vietnam-era prisoners of war we used to watch early in my time with the Air Force. It discussed how they survived their ordeal.

One of the things that really struck me as odd when I first saw it was a comment one of them made about being "grateful" for the experience.

How on earth could he feel gratitude after the great deprivations and physical and mental torture of his ordeal in the Hanoi Hilton? I have met and spoken with some of his comrades from this experience, and though they were all very different when they went in, they all seem to share some very strong and common changes in their approach to life as a result of their experience together there.

They speak about the code of conduct as a tool to survive successfully in captivity, and how it helped them maintain their pride, integrity and honor, which in turn helped them not give up and survive the experience. These men could not control many

aspects of their life, but they could control what they were trying to do with their life.

They were able to keep faith with each other and they knew that no one could take away their integrity without their permission.

The images of the POWs returning on the C-141 "Freedom Bird" did not show beaten or disgraced men, but rather a group who stood tall and with a distinct aura of dignity and honor. This group had an extraordinary record of success in their lives after their return.

As our country grapples with the challenges ahead, much of what will happen may cause pain or adjustment on our part. I don't mean to compare our strife with that of our Vietnam POWs, but rather to share one of their great philosophies which allowed them to survive a difficult time with honor. How we deal with our trials and tribulations can strengthen our character, make us better people and help us live with honor and peace within ourselves.

Some subscribe to the philosophy that times of great stress don't so much build character as expose it, but I think the example of the POWs proves that they helped to build greater character in each other, rather than accept the occasional slips as permanent flaws from within.

We need to take care of our families, both at home and here at the Freedom Wing, as we face these trials together. It may be that years later and upon reflection, we too may be oddly grateful for the challenges we successfully confronted together.



PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL

## PULSE CHECK: What is your favorite movie?



Staff Sgt.  
Maricela Pichardo

514th Aeromedical  
Evacuation Squadron

"I would have to say *The Lord of the Rings* because I am a science fiction fan. I look forward to watching something different and daring."



Senior Airman  
Brittany Taliaferro

514th Force Support Squadron

"My favorite movie of all-time is *Gone with the Wind* because the dynamics of what was taking place in that era was very interesting. It touched on life, government, slavery, love, betrayal and loyalty."



Senior Master Sgt.  
Mark Wetzel

514th Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron

"*Hoosiers* is my favorite movie of all-time because it showed no matter the situation, great things can get done when everyone works as a team."



Senior Airman  
Latrice Parks

514th Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron

"My favorite movie of all-time is *Love & Basketball* because it is an awesome story which combines sports and love. This sets it apart from all other sports stories."



Lt. Col.  
Darryl Voight

514th Aerospace  
Medicine Squadron

"*It's a Wonderful Life* is my favorite because it helps me remember to look past the day to day problems and focus on the joys in life which we take for granted."



Airmen of the 514th Security Forces Squadron sit at computer stations using an Army convoy training program Feb. 24. The computer stations are linked together to simulate the four seats and one gunner position in a Humvee.



Senior Airman Kenneth Rivera-Ithier sits in the driver's seat during the convoy training session. The system provides simulation training for up to three vehicles, meaning 15 Airmen can experience the same scenarios at the same time. A system administrator can adjust the challenges within scenario as it unfolds to ensure it isn't too predictable. The training allows the Airmen to work on fundamental skills under observation before they step into a Humvee.

# CLASSROOM CONVOY: AIRMEN BORROW ARMY'S CONVOY TRAINING SYSTEM

*Photos by Shawn J. Jones*



Airman Anthony Guerriero mans the gunner position while using the army training system known as Virtual Battle Space 2, which is based on lessons learned from the field in Iraq and Afghanistan.



**Top:** Staff Sgt. Vincent Rivera (foreground) delivers a training session about convoy tactics and procedures to fellow Airmen of the 514th Security Forces Squadron. Airmen were provided hands-on training in a Humvee convoy which complemented the training they received through the Army's computer-based training system. **Left:** Airman Karlie Sonne receives last-minute guidance from Rivera before driving the lead vehicle in the convoy. **Above:** Staff Sgt. Antonio Delgado (foreground), Tech. Sgt. Richard Kivelier and Airman 1st Class Thomas Reilly (top of Humvee), take defensive positions in order to engage a threat during the training session.



Col. Robert Huston (left), Reserve advisor to the commander of Africa Command, observes as Tech. Sgt. Rick Taylor (right), 78th Air Refueling Squadron, helps an aerial porter from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, unload cargo from a KC-10 Extender Feb. 16. One of Huston's primary duties is to help his commander understand how Reserve forces can be assigned to appropriate missions.

Photos by Senior Airman Chelsea Smith

# VERSATILE KC-10 BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS, FIGHTS INSURGENTS

By Senior Airman Chelsea Smith  
514th Air Mobility Wing

In just one mission, Airmen flying a KC-10 Extender were able to strike a blow to Afghan insurgents, improve relations with Air Force leaders in Europe and ease the travel burdens of overseas service members.

"Not bad for a training mission," said Col. Michael Underkofler, 514th Air Mobility Wing commander.

While the flight to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, was originally planned to familiarize pilots with over-ocean flying procedures, the KC-10's versatility allowed other mission objectives to hop aboard. When the Airmen of the 78th Air Refueling Squadron took-off from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Feb. 15, they found many tons of additional cargo and passengers tagging along with them.

The bulk of the cargo was made up of eight stacked pallets of soybeans seeds destined for Afghan farmers. The seeds will be used to encourage sustainable agricultural growth in Afghanistan as a substitute for opium farming, which has been linked to funding the insurgency, said Underkofler, who joined his Airmen on the flight.

Also joining the Airmen were more than 25 off-duty military passengers and family members, who were able to take advantage of free passage across the Atlantic as they traveled to and from their home units, visiting family or taking emergency leave.

Though the extra cargo and passengers traveled without cost, they helped earn their passage. The packed aircraft, which carried about 150,000 pounds more than a normal training mission, provided a good challenge for the aircrew who had to make adjustments to account for the added weight, said Capt. Michael Petruska, a pilot with the squadron.

The co-pilot on the flight was 1st Lt. Joe Callan. He said he benefited from training in European air space, especially since most training sorties don't stray too far from the East Coast.

"It's crucial to be able to train on overseas procedures and sharpen communications with people that may have Dutch, German or other foreign accents at command and control units," he said.

Air Force leaders on both sides of the Atlantic hope for more multipurpose missions between Germany and New Jersey. Though Underkofler said that standard training missions to Ramstein are few and far between because its airfield is so busy, which limits ramp space and stresses its workforce. Increasing the number of mis-

sions that merge operational needs with training requirements will improve the chances of setting up a pipeline between the two bases.

"In tight economic times, missions serving multiple purposes provide a win-win situation because our pilots get the training, passengers and cargo get moved and we're able to cultivate a working relationship

with our European counterparts," said Underkofler.

One of those counterparts is Col. Robert Huston, a Reserve advisor to the commander of the Ramstein-based Africa Command. One of his duties is linking reservists to missions

in United States Air Forces in Europe, or USAFE. Huston said he will continue to promote Reserve missions between Ramstein and McGuire as long as it remains a cost-effective means of achieving air mobility objectives.

Underkofler said he hopes the wing can do one or two missions to Ramstein per month to establish a more predictable pattern for USAFE leaders. "When just one of these missions provides so much value, it would be negligent to ignore more of the same."

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**IN TIGHT ECONOMIC TIMES,  
MISSIONS SERVING MULTIPLE PURPOSES  
PROVIDE A WIN-WIN SITUATION BECAUSE  
OUR PILOTS GET THE TRAINING, PASSENGERS  
AND CARGO GET MOVED AND WE'RE ABLE TO  
CULTIVATE A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH  
OUR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS**





1st Lt. Joe Callan performs pre-flight procedures before take-off. The mission allowed Callan the chance to meet training requirements for over-ocean flights and helped provide familiarity with European air controllers.



Photo by Senior Airman Chelsea Smith



*The following enlisted Airmen were recently promoted and the following officers were selected for promotion.*

## SPOTLIGHT: SENIOR AIRMAN DONALD RAMOS

**Unit:** 514th Air Mobility Wing

**Position:** Chaplain Assistant

**Hometown:** Bushwick in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Civilian Employment:** NYC Department of Correction

**Little known fact about you:** I won a National Poetry Contest in 2004

**Favorite movie:** Bad Boys 2

**Person you respect:** My mother because she is disabled and never finished high school, but she was able to raise me all by herself. She always tried her best to provide me with everything I needed even when it meant she had to make drastic sacrifices.

**Most memorable military moment:** At the end of a five-day field training event during Army boot camp, we marched 16 miles back to our company. On the last two miles, I felt a sense of joy because we were finished, but also because of the accomplishment that I shared with my battle buddies.

**Favorite part about Reserve job:** As a chaplain assistant, I enjoy interacting with everyone throughout the wing and assisting them in any way I can during their times of need or times of joy.

**Bucket list item:** I want to complete nursing school and get my registered nurse license.

**Advice you'd give to your childhood self:** I would tell a younger me to enjoy being young and don't rush to live life. Live it one day at a time and do what you enjoy because tomorrow isn't guaranteed.

### Airman 1st Class

Bernard Johnson, 35 APS  
Dylan Kearns, 88 APS

### Senior Airman

Dariel Benjamin, 714 AMXS  
Amanda Bird, 88 APS  
Christopher Farinella, 714 AMXS  
Joel Fernandez, 714 AMXS  
Krystle Gladden, 514 AES  
Mario Halphen, 514 SFS  
Ricardo Johnson, 714 AMXS  
Thi Khuu, 88 APS  
Jasmine Mills, 514 MXS  
Matthew Newman, 514 AMDS  
Angel Oquendo, 35 APS  
Paul Perez, 714 AMXS  
Justin Poblete, 88 APS  
Charles Salanga, 35 APS  
Adam Satzman, 35 APS  
Gregory Taylor, 35 APS

### Staff Sergeant

Francis Carcel, 514 AMXS  
Ryan Dinse, 514 MXS  
Brian Evans, 514 CES  
Raymon Martinez, 35 APS  
Thomas Olson, 514 AMXS  
Damien Wells, 514 MXS

### Technical Sergeant

Johnny Carawan, 514 AMDS  
Rodrigo Rodriguez, 714 AMXS

### Master Sergeant

Kevin Fair, 514 FSS  
Cornelius Jackson IV, 714 AMXS  
Louis Monaco, 714 AMXS  
Paul Parrinello, 514 ASTS  
Vincent Salazar, 35 APS  
Jainarine Singh, 714 AMXS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Charles Kramer, 88 APS

### 1st Lieutenant

Curtis Anzur, 78 ARS  
Priscilla Barczyn, 514 OSS  
Samantha Blue, 514 ASTS  
Drew Browne, 78 ARS  
Cameron Colonalemany, 514 AES  
David Izard, 732 AS  
Zachary Kiel, 732 AS  
Michael Lancetta, 514 AES  
Stefanie Matos, 514 AES  
Jeff McDivitt, 78 ARS  
Allen Nicolosi, 42 CBCS  
Michael Price, 514 AES  
James Reed, 76 ARS  
Melford Simpson, 514 AMDS  
Christine Valiga, 514 ASTS  
Jerome Wellons, 76 ARS  
Adam Wilson, 76 ARS

### Major

Ronald Cassano, 732 AS  
Tiffany Changet, 514 FSS  
Shawn Conner, 78 ARS  
Karen Currie, 514 ASTS  
Philipa Duncker, 514 AES  
Carroll Elliott, 514 AES  
Michael Gregory, 514 AMXS  
Daniel Hoskin, 76 ARS  
Rachel Hutchins, 514 AES  
Emily Jennings, 76 ARS  
Michael Saab, 732 AS  
Matthew Thatcher, 78 ARS

# PASS IN REVIEW



Photo by Senior Airman Chelsea Smith

Col. Michael Underkofler, 514th Air Mobility Wing commander, talks with Maj. Barry Slater, 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, about the new dinner-and-a-movie program during commanders call at the base theater Feb. 24. The program provides gift certificates for an evening's entertainment to Airmen who experienced significant hardship due to Hurricane Sandy. Slater's home sustained an estimated \$60,000 in damages.

Tech. Sgt. Jkeera Stephens (far left) and 2nd Lt. Christine Valiga (2nd from left) from the 514th Aero-medical Staging Squadron load patients for aeromedical evacuation transportation during an aeromedical evacuation patient staging course at Camp Bullis, Texas.



Courtesy Photo



Photo by Senior Airman Chelsea Smith

Airmen prepare for an upcoming readiness inspection by practicing a fore-and-aft carry during a self-aid and buddy care training session held here Jan. 27. The inspection will test the Airmen's ability to survive and operate under duress.

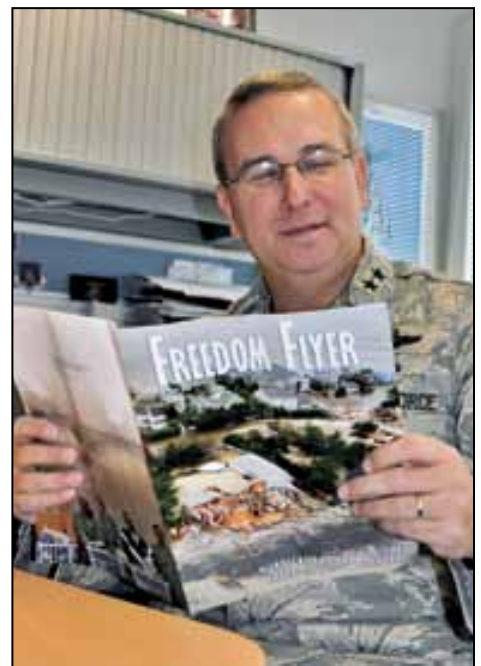


Photo by Col. Michael Underkofler

Maj. Gen. Donald Ralph, the Reserve mobilization assistant to the commander of United States Air Forces Europe, reads how Freedom Wing Airmen responded to Hurricane Sandy in the December issue of Freedom Flyer.

## FREEDOM FLYER

514th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs  
2217 W. Arnold Ave.  
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ 08641

FOR THE FAMILY OF:



Tech. Sgt. Richard Kivelier (front left), Staff Sgt. Antonio Delgado (right) and Airman 1st Class Thomas Reilly participated in convoy training Feb. 24. The three Airmen are assigned to the 514th Security Forces Squadron.

Photo by Shawn J. Jones