

# BEACON

514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve, McGuire AFB, NJ

*The Spirit of Thomas B. McGuire arrives,*

## **McGuire receives seventh C-17**



**First sergeant council  
recognition program  
gets underway**

*See Page 5*

**Tsunami survivor gives  
personal account of  
natural disaster**

*See Page 6*

**Dog tale - member  
shares story of his  
flying pooch**

*See Page 9*



## BEACON

March-April 2005

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**The deadline for submitting BEACON articles is the first day of the month for publication in next month's issue. Submit the article on disk in Microsoft Word, and include your name and phone number. Articles can also be submitted via e-mail to: 514amw.pa@mcguire.af.mil. Call (609) 754-3487 for more information.**

## EDITORIAL

# AF Assistance Fund open to all, relieves financial woes

**By Capt. Shawn Mattingly**  
AFAF representative

“Congratulations Capt. Mattingly, you’re the wing representative for the 514th Air Mobility Wing’s annual Air Force Assistance Fund Drive,” read the latest addition to my rather lengthy list of inbound e-mails. “Great,” I thought, “just what I need, another additional duty while I’m trying to get checked out in a new aircraft.” All I could think of were the endless meetings, power point presentations, that annoying “bong” that your Outlook calendar makes to remind you that you’re late for something, and of course countless e-mails.

I had no clue what the AFAF did, what it was for, or even if Reservists participated or benefited from the program. Thankfully, the AFAF took care of all three of these questions by enlisting the help of my good friend Regis Philbin to explain the program to me and introduce several aid recipients. Through his 15 -minute video, I learned what an amazing and necessary program the AFAF is for military families.

I realized that many beneficiaries are part of The Greatest Generation. They are my grandparents and for some of you more “senior” types out there, they are your parents. They are men and women that selflessly gave to their country and the world during dark days, and because of vast disparities in pay during their tenure, they are left in their senior years with very difficult financial and health problems.

Other beneficiaries are folks just like you and me that need aid due to a family or financial crisis. The AFAF steps in and offers confidential aid through one of four

funds; The Air Force Aid Society, The Air Force Village Foundation, The Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. The help provided runs the gamut from housing and assisted living facilities to emergency travel assistance and car repair. This Fund is an amazing example of Air Force People helping Air Force People.

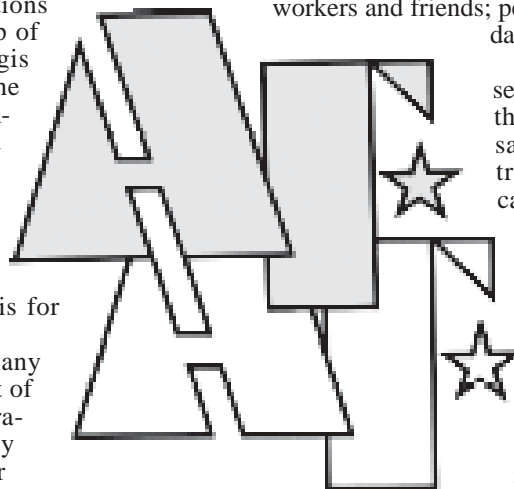
But what about reservists? I wanted to know if they receive any of this aid. I contacted Mary VanderWilt in the 514th Family Support Center and sure enough several members of our reserve family right here at McGuire AFB have received much needed help. The aid received ranged from buying airline tickets so someone could attend a family funeral to rent and mortgage assistance. These are not people in some distant land you’ve never heard of, these are your co-workers and friends; people you see every-day at McGuire.

After all of my research in preparing for the campaign, I can say that this Fund is truly a worthwhile cause with 95 percent of all finances contributed going directly to helping Air Force members, including the Guard and Reserve.

The AFAF fundraiser ends April 24. Each squadron has a point of contact assigned and they will be contacting you directly. I encourage everyone to take a moment and consider a contribution.

After writing this article I went back and read the e-mail again announcing my selection as the AFAF Drive Wing Rep, and I had the same response, “Great.” This time I meant it.

For more information contact, Lt. Col. Jim Brown at (609) 754-2503 or e-mail address james.brown@mcguire.af.mil.



## AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND

# BEACON

514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve, McGuire AFB, NJ

## CONTENTS



Page 6

Photo by A1C Dilshan Keragala

**A1C Dilshan Keragala, 514th Communications Squadron, and some of his friends delivered food and medicine to the fishing village Unawatuna in Sri Lanka following the December tsunami. There, the local hospital was destroyed by the immense tidal wave so houses were converted to temporary medical facilities providing medical attention to the displaced villagers.**



Page 7

Photo by Denise Gould

**RETURNING HOME - A Tunnor Loader removes chocks from a C-17 Globemaster III after returning to McGuire from a Mobility Exercise deployment on Feb. 14. More than 340 McGuire Airmen participated in the week-long MOBEX titled Crisis Look in Gulfport, Miss. The exercise tested and trained units in the ability to support global operations in all kinds of scenarios including humanitarian operations, surge operations and major theater war.**

## On the cover



Photo by Visual Information

**The "Spirit of Thomas B. McGuire," the seventh C-17 Globemaster III, assigned to Team McGuire arrived from Boeing's depot March 8. Lt. Gen. William Welser III, commander, 18th Air Force was the delivery official of the aircraft. Arrival of all 13 aircraft are expected to be complete by the end of June.**

## Features

- Local Tsunami survivor** 6
- Team McGuire MOBEX** 7
- Competing Dock dog** 9

## Departments

- Briefs** 4
- Promotions** 5
- Air Force News** 10

## IG hotlines available

Both military and civilian members of the 514th Air Mobility Wing can direct cases of suspected fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement through their chain of command or to one of the following Air Force Reserve Command, Air Staff or Department of Defense hotlines:

- AFRC: 1-800-223-2784, ext. 7-1513 or afrc.igq@afrc.af.mil
- SAF: 1-800-538-8429 or safiqq@pentagon.af.mil
- DoD: 1-800-424-9098 or hotline@dodig.osd.mil.



**Tax links**

The following are links to the IRS official Website on federal income tax extensions for military members, combat zone tax exclusion, and hostile fire/imminent danger pay issues.

Access [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101265,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101265,00.html) for information on filing extensions for deployed members; [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101262,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101262,00.html) for combat zone tax exclusion or hostile fire pay issues; and [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html#support](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html#support) covers areas which are considered combat zones.

**AMDS moves**

Wing reservists will receive health services at a new location. The 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron has moved its operations to the 108/514 Joint Medical Training Facility located next to the 305th Air Mobility Wing Health Care Campus. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for 514th AMDS members will remain the same.

**Airport gate passes available**

Military family members can now receive a pass from participating airlines to the gate to escort the military passenger to the gate, or meet a military passenger upon arrival. Each airline requires that family members have photo identification as well as the pass to get through the security checkpoint.

**Free admission to adventure parks**

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc announced its "Heroes Salute" to honor the U.S. Armed Services by offering free single-day

admission to its SeaWorld and Busch Gardens parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and as many as three direct dependents through Dec. 31, 2005.

To qualify eligible military members must register either online at [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com) or in the entrance plaza of participating parks and show a Department of Defense photo ID. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their sponsoring servicemember, but an adult must accompany minor dependents. For more information, visit [www.anheuser-bush.com](http://www.anheuser-bush.com).

**Civilian LES hard copy stopped**

Effective March 31 civilian Leave and Earning Statement hard copies will be turned off. All civilian employees must request and receive a MyPay PIN to receive any of their pay and leave information. All questions can be addressed to the Customer Liaison Office at (609) 754-6261/1459 or at [finance@mcguire.af.mil](mailto:finance@mcguire.af.mil).

**Main Gate Closes**

The Main Gate closed Feb. 28 and will remain closed until late summer/early fall, to continue construction. The Main Gate will be closed for all inbound traffic during this time. Outbound traffic will be allowed from 6-8 a.m. Monday through Friday. Gate four (off of Lancaster Ave.) will serve as a temporary main gate during this construction Monday through Friday and will be open from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

**Transitions**

Maj. Mark Ustaszewski, accepted the chief of safety slot in the 514th Safety Office. Leaving his civilian job at Boeing, the new wing safety officer begins his duties April 4. Maj. Ustaszewski is also a KC-10 pilot and former member of the 78th Air Refueling Squadron.

Lt. Col. Walter Holmes, deputy commander, 514th Maintenance Group, leaves McGuire Air Force Base, May 1, to become the Deputy of Logistics Maintenance Division at 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga.

Lt. Col. Bruce Adams, former Chief of Health Services Management Branch for the 622nd Regional Surgeon General, 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga., replaces Col. Paula J. Sherman as commander of the 714th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during a change of command ceremony to be held April 30.

Lt. Col. Joseph Glebocki takes command of 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron May 1. He will replace Lt. Col. Anthony Esposito who will then take over as deputy commander for the 514th MXG.

Maj. Panos Bakogiannis departs his command position of the 514th Mission Support Squadron May 1. He takes on new duties as the wing executive officer, 913th Airlift Wing at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.



Photo by MSgt. Donna T. Jeffries

**CMSgt. Lynn DeLaRoi, chief of customer support for the 514th Military Personnel Flight retired April 1 after more than 30 years of civil and military service. She transitioned from civil service to the Air Reserve Technician program in 1974. The chief rose through the ranks while assigned to the 514th Air Mobility Wing and has received numerous honors. Among her list of accolades, Chief DeLaRoi was the first recipient of the Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil Award in 2001, given to those who set a positive course for their fellow citizens. As shown, the chief is noted for her ever-present hair bun with ballpoint pen.**

**LIVING LEGEND RETIRES**

# VIBES:

The Air Force "Fit to Fight" program has been in effect for over a year. While meeting fitness requirements, what health improvements have you noticed?



TSgt. Adrian A. Camacho  
76th ARS

*I have always maintained my health and also kept in shape so I am able to keep up with the "young" airmen.*



MSgt. Steve Brinson  
714th AMXS

*At 58 years of age the Fit to Fight program has helped me in being more active and maintaining my waist and muscle tone and increase my cardiovascular level.*



Lt. Col. Kathm J. Johnson  
514th AMXS

*I got a really good score on the test because I've been a fitness nut for years. But, I still have this dream that someday I'll be skinny!*



SSgt. Mickey C. Wilgus  
714th AMXS

*I have extra energy at my civilian job and in my personal life. It's helping me prepare for old age and hopefully to live a long healthy life.*



SrA DeMorra Hawkins  
514th MOF

*I have noticed a dramatic change. The muscles in my body are more toned and defined, my energy level is at an all-time high.*

## PROMOTIONS

The following wing members were promoted during February and March.

### Airman

Antonio Fonseca Jr., 514th MSG  
Amanda M. Malone, 35th APS  
Jamin Pena, 514th CES  
Ronald C. Woods, 514th AMDS

### Airman First Class

Richard R. Taylor, 78th ARS  
Nelson Villatoro, 514th MSG

### Senior Airman

William A. Bonifacio, 514th CES  
Melanie R. Caruso, 514th ASTS  
Maria A. Centron, 514th MXS  
Eric A. Cobar, 714th AMXS  
Crystal M. Davis, 514th ASTS  
Nikita R. Desai, 514th ASTS  
Fernando Giglio Jr., 514th MXS  
James B. Glass, 514th ASTS  
Darrell R. Harper, 722nd ASTS  
Elvis J. Hernandez, 514th MXS  
Crystal L. Holmes, 514th AMDS  
Elise L. Hosea, 514th AMDS  
Kelly D. Jarossy, 714th AES  
Owen L. Monk, 714th AES  
Carleen B. Prescod, 514th ASTS  
Scott A. Roberts, 714th AMXS  
Vanessa Rodriguez, 514th ASTS  
George L. Teamoh IV, 514th SFS  
Jon Paul Terrell, 514th OSS

### Staff Sergeant

Joseph G. Caspar Jr., 714th AMXS  
Laura J. Collins, 514th ASTS  
Gregory J. Dicembri, 514th CES  
Carmine Giangeruso, 514th CES  
Peter M. Greco, 714th AMXS

Kimberly R. Griswold, 732nd AS  
Khary A. Hunt, 714th AES  
Elliot Lopez, 514th AMXS  
Mark J. Owens, 514th MXS  
Adam L. Purtell, 514th SFS  
Robert Rodriguez, 78th ARS  
Justin R. Tolley, 514th SFS  
Jose A. Velez Jr., 35th APS  
James J. Vigilante, 35th APS

### Technical Sergeant

Gary Adderly, 35th APS  
William Alemstica, 514th AMXS  
Joseph Aviles, 514th CS  
Christopher L. Burress, 514th CS  
Shannon K. Fuhrmann, 514th AMXS  
James M. Greenfield, 88th APS  
Benjamin V. Keaton, 514th MXS  
Brieanne Kocak, 514th MXS  
Harry E. McCullough, 35th APS  
Edward A. Parrish, 35th APS  
Darryl P. Purdy, 514th CS  
Mackie L. Rivera, 714th AES  
Israel Rodriguez, 88th APS  
Nancy E. Skidmore, 78th ARS  
Sean M. Tierney, 514th AMXS  
Sean G. Veerapen, 35th APS  
Megan E. Weinstein, 714th AMXS

### Master Sergeant

Sydney Agag, 514th AMXS  
Leonda R. Aponte, 35th APS  
Robert G. Brown, 514th CES  
Michael D. Jassmann, 35th APS  
Todd D. Jones, 514th CES  
Corey S. Shagg, 514th AMXS  
Kwame A. Tawiah, 514th LRF  
Rodric M. Thorne, 35th APS  
Samuel L. Vaughan, 35th APS  
Anthony Wilson, 514th CES

## First sergeants begin Diamond Award Program

The 514th Air Mobility Wing's First Sergeant Council has started a new recognition program.

Entitled the 514th AMW Diamond Sharp Award Program, this venue will recognize enlisted reservists for their achievements, attitude and sharp military appearance and bearing.

Other areas taken into consideration are duty performance and community contributions.

Once selected, the award will be presented by a group of first sergeants at commander's calls or other unit functions. Only council members can nominate and present a diamond award. There are no limitations on the amount of people eligible to receive a Diamond Award, but award nominees can only be nominated once per calendar year.

Contact SMSgt. Michael Ferraro at (609) 754-3313 for more information on the Diamond Sharp Award Program.



## *Surviving the tsunami*

# **A reservist's tale of the devastation**

**By 2nd Lt. Robert Sperling**  
**514th AMW Public Affairs**

**D**ecember 26, 2004, an earth quake with a magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale exploded in the Indian Ocean roughly 100 miles off the Northern Sumantra. A reservist from the 514th Communications Squadron was there and here is his tale.

A1C Dilshan Keragala, a native of Sri Lanka, was in Colombo, a town on the western coast of Sri Lanka, visiting with his brother when the tsunami crashed into the island country. A1C Keragala who became a United States citizen four-and-a-half years ago, is an information management specialist with the 514th Communications Squadron.

"About 9:30 a.m. on December 26th, we got a phone call that water was coming inland. We, my brother and I,

were curious as to what was going on at the beach so we went to see for ourselves," said A1C Keragala. "When we arrived, it looked like the water had drained from the ocean!"

"As we were on the beach we saw a small wave in the distance, but it kept getting bigger. We had no idea of what was going on, he added.

After the first wave hit, A1C Keragala and his brother retreated from the beach, but were able to watch the first and second waves come ashore. "A lot of people died because of their curiosity and had no idea of what was going on."

After the last of the water retreated, A1C Keragala returned to the scene and had the opportunity to speak with people there. "I spoke with a woman who had lost her mother. They were staying on the south side of the island in a first floor room of a hotel when water crashed

through the building. She said they heard a loud 'bang' and then they were in the water." He described the woman as being cut and bruised from being thrown about the debris while being dragged out to sea by the current.

"I was surprised when I found out about the extent of the damage. I couldn't believe it until I went to see it firsthand," said A1C Keragala. "Thankfully all of my family were okay."

Later that week, A1C Keragala had reservations to stay at the Blue Water Hotel, one of the beach front resorts destroyed by the tsunami. The hotel had over 40 patrons missing after the water receded. Needless to say he never checked into the destroyed resort.

According to the World Health Organization report, the tsunami claimed the lives of more than 220,000 people in 11 different Indian Ocean countries.



*Photo by A1C Dilshan Keragala*

***What's left of this house in a small fishing village along the coast of Sri Lanka is representative of many of the beach-front homes in villages along the coast that bore the brunt of the December 2004 tsunami's force.***

**514th Air Mobility Wing staff members prepare for the October Operational Readiness Inspection by wearing the chemical warfare suit with gas mask during their unit training assembly weekends. The ORI will test members on how well they survive and operate while performing mobility taskings.**



*Photo by SSgt. Monica L. Dalberg*

## February MOBEX prepares 514th for ORI

**By TSgt. Brian Davidson  
375th AW Public Affairs**

**E**motions ran high for more than 340 McGuire Airmen as they processed for deployment Feb. 19 and 20 as Crisis Look 05-03 kicked into high gear.

The exercise, Feb. 17-24 tested and trained units in the ability to support global operations in all kinds of scenarios including humanitarian operations and is preparing Team McGuire for its Operational Readiness Inspection set for October.

The exercise tasked people from McGuire, as well as geo-

graphically separated units and Airmen from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to come together in support of simulated operations on the Korean peninsula.

After mobility processing, airlift operations began, moving about 750 combined Airmen and 80 short tons of cargo to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., a facility specifically designed to offer a realistic training environment - keeping true to the center's motto, "enhancing war abilities."

Once there the simulated games began. Airmen quickly pulled together to establish work areas and shifts for 24-hour operations while dealing with events like hostile fire, unidentified inbound aircraft, flightline infiltration by enemy forces and attempted entry control point breaches.

Establishing force protection measures, safeguarding critical assets and procedures for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense were quickly accomplished.

"One challenge the units had was not knowing each other prior to the exercise," said George Hancock, 305th Air Mobility Wing chief of readiness and inspection. "By Wednesday they were working together as a cohesive team."

Following Air Force Readiness Special Plan 90-03, the Plans, Programs and Readiness team develops ability to survive and operate and contingency scenarios consistent with Air Force Doctrine to ensure air base operability.

"Each of the exercise events is designed to train and evaluate our people and units in an integrated and realistic environment," said one of the deployed exercise evaluation team members. "We all take our required annual or semiannual training classes, but the classroom only provides the basic knowledge we need. We use exercises like Crisis Look to develop competency in each of the aspects needed to survive and operate in real world operations."

"We gave ample time between scenarios for the participants to hotwash and regroup," said Hancock. "The unit's teamwork was outstanding."



*Photo by Visual Information*

**Cargo is unloaded from a C-17 Globemaster III following the 514th Air Mobility Wing's return from a joint mobility exercise with active duty members from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. and active and reserve members from Scott AFB, Ill. The Operational Readiness Exercise was held Feb. 17-24 at the Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport, Miss.**



# DEPLOYMENT BOUND

**USAF Rank**  
**First/Last Name**  
(Front of helmet and over right pocket)

**Full canteen**

**Reflective belt**  
■ wear 24 hour

**Right leg pocket**  
■ Airman's manual  
■ Simulated M-8 paper

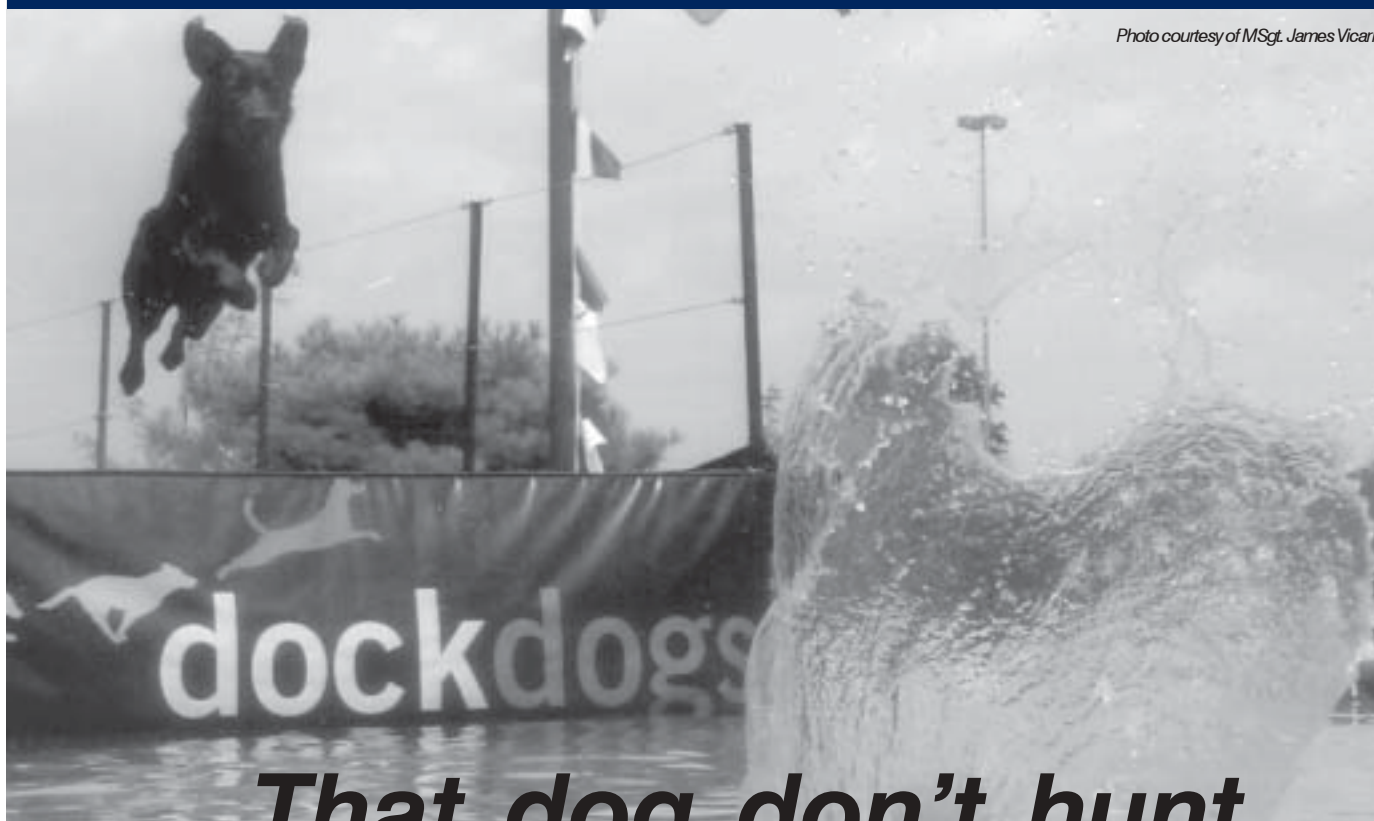
**Left leg pocket**  
■ M-291 kits  
■ M-295 kits  
- decontamination kits

**Large pocket inside mask carrier**  
■ atropine  
■ Mark 1 kit  
- 2 nerve agent antidote auto injectors

This model shows the correct placement of required and protective items Airmen must wear when placed in an area with heightened threat levels. For more guidance see Airman's Manual, AF-MAN 10-100, Pages 21-31.

● **M9 placement on suit**





## *That dog don't hunt, but he sure can fly*

**By SSgt. Monica L. Dalberg**  
**514th AMW Public Affairs**

**A**s an aeromedical technician for the 514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and a flight attendant in civilian life, MSgt. James Vicari takes flying very seriously. And so does his dog, Chulo.

Chulo, a 5-year-old Black English Labrador, participates in what is essentially a long-jump event for dogs called Big Air Competitions. The contest is rooted in the sport of duck and goose hunting. Competing dogs run the length of a 40-foot dock and jump into lakes and pools, most often after a decoy thrown by their owner or trainer, and swim back to shore. The canine with the longest jump wins the competition.

Chulo has not always known the feeling of the wind on his face. In 2001 MSgt. Vicari rescued him from the only space the dog knew, a crate in someone's basement. Chulo, 1 ½ years old at the time, had lived in the crate since he was a puppy. MSgt. Vicari, already the owner of a Golden Retriever and a Doberman Pinscher, wanted to help find the animal a new home and had no intentions of keeping the neglected dog.

On their way home from picking up Chulo from his former owner, MSgt. Vicari, his wife and their two other dogs stopped at a woody area with a streambed. The Retriever enjoyed fetching tennis balls from the stream and so MSgt. Vicari chucked one in for him.

"The Lab, out of the blue, jumped in, flew over the Golden and jumped on the ball. In one swoop he brought it to my feet and dropped it. And he had never been in water," MSgt. Vicari said of the newly rescued dog. "We were amazed by it." Amazed and smitten, MSgt. Vicari and his wife decided to add the new dog

to their family.

Soon after, while channel-surfing, MSgt. Vicari happened upon the Big Air Competition on a sports channel and saw dogs jumping and flying like Chulo. He and his wife went online and found another contest was scheduled to take place in Missoula, Mont.

"We drove, my wife and the three dogs, a total of 5,000 miles for 5 seconds of jumping. We got the biggest kick out of it. The first jump he jumped 16 feet 9 inches and placed 103rd out of 330 dogs that year."

Hundreds of dogs and their owners gather at various locations throughout the country to participate in the dock-jumping contests. The dogs jump in divisions of Novice, Junior, Senior, Master and Elite.

"Chulo is a very consistent and solid Senior (division) jumper," said Melanie Field, executive director of DockDogs, sponsor of the Big Air Competitions.

Senior division dogs jump between 15 feet and 19 feet 11 inches. Chulo's best official jump was 2 inches shy of the next division, but MSgt. Vicari hopes to find the right conditions to train Chulo up to the Master level.

"There have been times he's had jumps over 20 feet but he jumps early, short of the dock," said MSgt. Vicari. "I never really get to train him for a contest and I'd like to find a dock to train him from."

To date, Chulo has competed in six contests and placed in the top rankings four times. MSgt. Vicari looks forward to competing with Chulo more this year. According to DockDogs, a portion of all entrance fees for Big Air Competitions go to animal welfare and rescue charities.

# President asks for more money, fewer Air Force reservists

WASHINGTON - The president's proposed defense budget for next year seeks \$3.9 billion in funding for Air Force Reserve Command and an end-strength of 74,000 reservists.

The fiscal 2006 request covers the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2005. It asks for 2,100 fewer Air Force reservists than the 76,100 authorized in fiscal 2005.

Senior Department of Defense officials announced the overall defense budget request of \$419.3 billion. The Air Force is to get \$127.5 billion.

"This budget represents the latest installment in the president's strong commitment to transforming this department to face the challenges of the 21st century," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a news release Feb. 7. "We continue our transition to a more agile, deployable and lethal force.

"We are a nation at war," the secretary added. "The president's budget, together with the supplemental spending proposals the president has made, provides the men and women in uniform what they need to prevail."

In the president's budget, the Air Force Reserve requests funding for three separate appropriations - operation and maintenance, reserve personnel, and military construction.

Most of the AFRC portion of the FY 2006 President's Budget request - \$2.5 billion - is for O & M funds to train, organize and administer the command. The Reserve received \$2.24 billion in O & M funds in fiscal 2005.

In 2006, another \$1.31 billion goes to the reserve personnel appropriation for military personnel participation and training requirements. This funding includes a military pay raise of 3.5 percent, and the addition of 390 full-time Active Guard and Reserve people. The requested reserve personnel appropriation represents a \$155.2 million decrease compared to that received for the fiscal 2005 reserve personnel appropriation.

Requested funding for military construction in FY 2006 is \$79.3 million. These funds would pay for 14 major projects in eight states. In this fiscal 2005, the Reserve is getting \$124 million for military construction, which includes major and minor projects, and planning and design. In his fiscal 2005 budget request, the president had recommended \$84.6 million, but Congress added \$39.4 million more to fund seven additional projects.

Finally, Congress added another \$281 million to help the Reserve in fiscal 2005 - \$40 million in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation and \$241 million in aircraft procurement with the active-duty Air Force.

Congress uses the president's budget as a blueprint to draft appropriations legislation. After both houses of Congress approve their version of the bill, the two versions go to a joint conference committee to resolve differences in the two bills. After both houses of Congress approve the reconciled version of the bill, it goes to the president to be signed into law. (AFRC News Service)

## New health plan extends care for activated reservists

WASHINGTON - Health care for reservists gets a booster shot April 25. That's when a premium-based health care plan starts for those activated for a contingency anytime since 9/11.

Department of Defense officials announced Tricare Reserve Select at a Pentagon news conference March 24.

TRS offers a bridge for reservists entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plan. It's similar to Tricare Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

Monthly premiums for a reservist are \$75. A reservist and family pays \$233. Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Air Force reservists must serve on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in support of a contingency. And, they must enter an agreement with Air Force Reserve Command to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more years before leaving active duty. If they got off active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to apply.

Reservists earn one year of care for every 90 days of continuous active-duty service and every year of service commitment.

Coverage ends when the service agreement ends. It stops sooner if the reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the program or fails to pay the monthly premiums.

The Tricare Web site - [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserve/select](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserve/select) - will have more details.

## Dish network brings pentagon channel to millions

WASHINGTON - Less than a year after its May 14 debut, the Pentagon Channel is taking to the stars — more precisely, the Pentagon Channel is taking to EchoStar Communications.

EchoStar's Dish Network satellite TV service announced it is now offering the Pentagon Channel to its more than 11 million viewers. Programming will be distributed 24 hours a day, seven days a week as part of Dish Network's public interest channels. This means the programming will be provided at no cost to customers.

"We appreciate Dish Network's decision to carry the new Pentagon Channel on their satellite TV system," said Defense Department spokesman Larry Di Rita. "Their support helps us fulfill our mission of providing timely military news and information to the U.S. armed forces."

Dish customers will be able to keep current with military news and information including DoD news briefings, military news, interviews with top defense officials and short stories about the work of military people.

The network also will include scheduled programming: "Around the Services," a look at what's going on at each branch of the military; "Studio Five," which showcases conversations with DoD leaders; and "Focus on the Force," which highlights military missions such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Customers unable to find the Pentagon Channel in their on-screen programming guide should call Dish Network. In some cases, a second satellite dish may be required or visit The Pentagon Channel Website at <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/>.



# Extended deployments affect only 200

By MSgt. David Byron  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are designating some positions in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility as 365-day extended deployments in an effort to provide stability and allow for long-term relationship building with host governments.

The new tour lengths will affect only about 200 key and critical operational and joint task force staff positions, officials said. People in the remaining positions will serve in the current air and space expeditionary force structure.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directed the extended tours in response to requests from joint task force commanders seeking continuity in selected positions, often where the local culture requires more time to establish meaningful ties with local people and host governments.

These key positions are an integral part of a combatant commander's mission and the AEF structure. No new positions will be created; they will be converted from current AEF slots.

"The positions will span a wide spectrum of Air Force career fields," said Lt. Col. James Davis, Air Force assignment classification, retirements and separation policy chief. "There will be a good mix of enlisted and officer positions, mainly mid-level and up."

Air Force Personnel Center officials will take the lead in finding people to fill most of the slots. Air Force Senior Leader Management Office officials will handle requirements for colonel and chief master sergeant positions, he said.

Colonel Davis said selections would be made during the course of the upcoming spring and summer assignment cycles with all being in place by August 2005.

Volunteers will be sought first, he said. If there are not enough volunteers, AFPC officials will use modified short-

tour criteria to fill the slots. For colonels, AFSLMO officials will assign them through major command channels.

Although these deployments may appear to be remote tours, they are not permanent change-of-station moves. It is not a goal to establish a permanent U.S. military presence in the region, and there is no Status of Forces Agreement in place covering permanent assignments, officials said. The positions will fall under the category of "indeterminate length" temporary duty assignments. That category will allow for certain entitlements to apply that are not available for standard temporary assignments.

"Although we can't consider them regular short-tour assignments, they will be treated as such," Colonel Davis said. "Lieutenant colonels and below who complete the tours will have priority for follow-on assignments, just like any other one-year tour." Colonels completing the tours will be assigned according to normal colonel assignment procedures.

Family members also may be eligible for standard short-tour benefits.

Storage of household goods is one benefit offered to Airmen serving temporary assignments of 180 days or longer. There are possible options for moving the Airman's family while deployed; the availability and extent of those options will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Airmen may also have the option of returning to their former assignment, if there is a suitable vacancy, officials said.

There will be career benefits for Airmen serving these extended temporary assignments. Airmen serving the 365-day TDYs will receive short-tour credit and be exempt from AEF or other contingency deployments for six months following their return home. Most of the joint task force positions will earn joint-duty credit depending on actual length of rotation, officials said.

## New civilian personnel rules published Feb. 14

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—Officials from the Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management will publish the regulations that will govern how the new National Security Personnel System will operate, DoD officials said Feb. 10.

The proposed regulations appeared in the Federal Register Feb. 14, and officials invite comment.

Navy Secretary Gordon England said once the public comment period ended March 16, the officials are conferring with various federal employee unions and then will give all comments "fair and full consideration." Secretary England serves as the DoD senior executive overseeing the system.

"Our plan, then, is to begin the implementation this summer," he said. "We'll learn through doing, we'll do this in

phases, and we will progressively add more and more employees (and) learn as we go until completion at the end of 2008."

The publication marks the end of the first phase on implementing the new personnel system. The system, enacted by Congress in 2003, will allow DoD officials to better manage civilian personnel, they said. Once in place, DoD officials will be able to shift people among jobs, hire faster and reward good workers.

"Now NSPS is going to replace a 50-year-old system," Secretary England said. "We're going to replace (the current system) with a very modern system that we need to attract, recruit, retain, compensate fairly and manage our employees."

The system will focus on performance, flexibility and accountability, the secretary said.

"It will be much more responsive to the national security environment,

and...it will fully preserve our employee protections, our veterans preference and employee benefits," he said.

The first 60,000 people under the NSPS are scheduled to transfer to the system in July, at their current salaries. General-schedule workers will stop being GS-designated employees and will transfer to pay bands. It will be a year before the first decisions are made on performance-based pay raises.

Dan Blair, the OPM's acting director, said the new rules will not change merit-system protections, whistleblowers protections, veterans preference, benefits, rules against prohibited practices or leave and work schedules.

The system will change the general schedule system and job-classification standards. It will give managers more flexibility in reassigning employees to fulfill critical needs and more flexibility in where employees will work.

Sunrise, sunset

# Base broadcast system sounds reveille, retreat

By MSgt. Donna T. Jeffries  
514th AMW Public Affairs

The time honored military tradition of sounding reveille and retreat has returned to the McGuire community.

Reveille signifies the beginning of the duty day when the American flag is raised, while retreat is the end of the duty day with the lowering of the flag.

As of February, base members are becoming accustomed to hearing the new Giant Voice Public Address System at 7 a.m. and again at 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The familiar strands of the National

Anthem and Taps have not been heard since 2000 due to auditory problems with the public address system according to the 305th Air Mobility Wing historian.

"Everyone, military and civilian, are reminded to pay appropriate honors to the flag," said Col. Robert Dubek, commander 305th Mission Support Group.

The following steps outline actions military and civilians must take when they are outside during retreat and reveille:

Those in uniform must face the flag and salute during the raising and lowering of the flag. Upon the first note of the national anthem or "To the Colors," everyone in uniform, who aren't in formation,

will stand and face the flag or the sound of the music and salute.

Those driving vehicles will stop, turn down the sound system volume and occupants will sit quietly until the music ends.

When in civilian attire, face the flag or the sound of music and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart.

Security force members will stop all inbound and outbound traffic and render appropriate respect to the flag until the music ends.

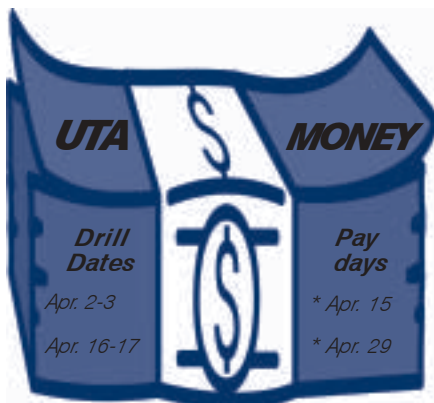
For more information, refer to Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, Volume 1, July 1, 2003, section 3.5.



Photo By SSgt. Monica L. Dalberg

## WISDOM

**Retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Robert D. Gaylor visited McGuire Air Force Base and spoke to reservists March 6. Through anecdotes and humor Gaylor stressed the importance of all the ranks and encouraged pride and ownership in being an AF member. The Indiana native enlisted in the AF in 1948 and was assigned to the security police career field. He became the fifth chief master sergeant appointed to the top noncommissioned officer position in 1977. Gaylor retired in 1979 and began speaking at bases worldwide in 1996. Last year the 74-year old visited 43 bases. He enjoys staying in contact with today's members and told of how he once flew 44 hours roundtrip to Australia to speak for 30 minutes. "If I thought that you would be standing at the bottom of the ramp when I got off the plane I'd do it again. I just want to be a part of what you're doing," he told his McGuire audience. Gaylor is in the process of writing a book about his military experience.**



\*Pay dates are subject to change. For information, contact your unit pay monitor.

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