

# FREEDOM FLYER

514TH AIR MOBILITY WING

JULY 2012



**RESERVIST RUNS PROGRAM  
WHICH HELPS HEROES HUNT**

**AIRMEN WITH LANGUAGE SKILLS  
EARN EXTRA PAY, OPPORTUNITIES**



# FREEDOM FLYER

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## ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Ryan Miller (front) and Chief Master Sgt. Chip Savage ride aboard a chartered fishing boat on the Atlantic Ocean near Neptune, N.J., June 2. Miller operates a private organization that arranges hunting and fishing events for military members and other public servants. Miller and Savage are Air Reserve Technicians with the 514th Maintenance Squadron.



*Photo by Shawn J. Jones*

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Tech. Sgt. Jingwei Mai, 514th Logistics Readiness Squadron, reads from a Mandarin language textbook. Mai earns a monthly bonus through the defense foreign language proficiency program for his skill with the Mandarin and Cantonese languages. See story on page 10.

*Photo by Shawn J. Jones*

## PULSE CHECK: What's one of the best things about living in New York City?



**Senior Airman  
Meagan Davis**  
714th Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron

“My favorite place is the promenade in Brooklyn Heights because it has the best view of the city and it is peaceful.”



**Master Sgt.  
George Jacobs**  
514th  
Air Mobility Wing

“I like the free concert series in Prospect Park during summer and how eclectic New York is. You can meet people from many different cultures.”



**Staff Sgt.  
Nancy Niles**  
514th  
Air Mobility Wing

“I like to go to the Bronx Zoo and Botanical Gardens since both offer a military discount!”



**Major  
Karen Hennigan**  
514th  
Air Mobility Wing

“New Yorkers are my favorite part of New York. We're known for being tough, but real New Yorkers are very friendly and incredibly patriotic.”



**Master Sgt.  
Vincent Pellew**  
514th Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron

“It's multicultural so you get to see everything. With the diverse cultures you have to adapt to different people from around the world.”



### Big Apple goes blue

There are more than 32,000 New York natives serving in the Air Force today with 1,500 of them serving overseas. Air Force Week New York is a chance to honor hometown heroes from all over the United States.

Besides aerial demonstrations from the Thunderbirds and other acts, Air Force Week will include Air Force displays such as military working dog demonstrations, the Air Force Academy Falconer and various science and technology programs.

Several Air Force bands will perform throughout the event, which runs from Aug. 19-21.

Many of the Airmen who are participating in the event are active and reserve component Airmen from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. For more information, visit [www.airforceweek.af.mil](http://www.airforceweek.af.mil).

## Wing passes 60th anniversary of milestone event

**By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Hoffman**  
514th Air Mobility Wing historian

In the wing's historical archives, a copy of an 18th Air Force first anniversary issue flyer included a memo signed by Brig. Gen. Arthur McCullough which stated, “The 514th Troop Carrier Wing completes its first year of active duty in the USAF on 1 May 1952.”

The 514th Troop Carrier Wing was stationed at Mitchel Air Force Base, N.Y., as part of the 18th Air Force, which was assigned to Tactical Air Command with the mission to deliver personnel and supplies into combat zones; to evacuate troops, including the wounded; and provide aerial resupply for troops in the field.

While the wing's trademark was the C-119 Flying Boxcar, the wing's Airmen also flew more than 24,000 hours in the Curtiss C-46 Commando from 1951-1952.

The first anniversary flyer includes a description of the wing's Airmen when they were called up to begin their extended service on active-duty orders, and in many regards, not much has changed.

The flyer reads, “Many men were former reservists; accountants, mechanics, salesmen, policemen, students, insurance brokers, and yes, airline pilots too. They had been attending meetings at Mitchel AFB one weekend a month. Now it was a full time job.”

One year later on April 1, 1953, the wing was inactivated from active service and reactivated to Reserve status.

The Troop Carrier Wing later evolved through the following re-designations:

- July 1967: 514th Tactical Airlift Wing
- Sept. 1968: 514th Military Airlift Wing
- Feb. 1992: 514th Airlift Wing
- Oct. 1994: 514th Air Mobility Wing

Today, sixty-three years after the wing's establishment in May 1949, it consists of nearly 3,000 Reserve Airmen providing air refueling, airlift and aeromedical evacuation missions using the KC-10 Extender and C-17 Globemaster III in over seventy-five countries on six continents.

As reported in the most recent two-year official history, now located at the Air Force Historical Research Agency, from 2009 to 2010, the wing flew more than 8,000 C-17 hours and an estimated 16,440 KC-10 hours. The wing extended a significant percentage of mission hours to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in addition to special deployments like the Unified Response humanitarian and evacuation relief operation for victims of the Haiti earthquake.

Additional missions have provided U.S. Presidential Administration escort and transport along with support to the USAID Denton Program.

## Uniform details important for inspection success

### Name tapes should include:

- USAF
- Rank, First Name, Last Name

### Place name plates on:

- Front & Back of Helmet
- Front & Back of Hood
- Front upper right torso

### Reflective Belt: Blue belts for Freedom Wing

### Full Canteen: Water Only

### Right Leg Pocket:

- Airman's Manual
- M-8 Paper (Simulated)



### Arm Band: ID Card (Kill Card)

### Large Pocket Inside Mask Carrier:

- MK1 Kit (atropine, 2 Pam or ATNAA)
- CANA
- P-Tabs
- Mask Fit Test Record

### Left Leg Pocket:

- M-291 Kit (Simulated)
- M-295 Kit (Simulated)

**M9 Tape:** Simulated with 2" wide masking tape and should be affixed in six locations: upper arms, wrists and ankles. Do not write "Sim M9" on the tape.

## Luck of Irish unnecessary during March inspection

**By Lt. Col. Robert Kownacky**

*514th Air Mobility Wing*

*Editors Note: As Murphy's Law would have it, the March inspection was moved to April just as this issue was headed to the printer.*

It's been said that "everyone is Irish" on St. Patrick's Day. And March 17, 2013, will be no exception for Airmen of the 514th Air Mobility Wing. As luck would have it, the "Irishmen" from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., affectionately known as the Air Mobility Command inspector general team will be arriving here.

Yes, March 17 is the start of the operational readiness inspection for both the 514th AMW and our partners, the 87th Air Base Wing.

The inspection team will test our ability to perform our wartime mission without going to war. The inspection is a worst-case scenario and is designed to stress our capabilities. However, don't be intimidated. Through proper training and preparation, it is certainly within our reach to get an outstanding grade.

There are four major graded areas in an operational readiness inspection:

- 1) Positioning the Force
- 2) Employing the Force
- 3) Sustaining the Force
- 4) Ability to Survive and Operate

Positioning the force refers to how well we transition from

peacetime to wartime. It involves all of those activities needed to deploy personnel and equipment.

Employing the force measures the safe delivery of personnel, aircraft, and equipment to the deployed location. Our task is to effectively set up at a deployed location and be ready to perform our primary mission – air mobility operations.

Sustaining the force tests how well we protect and provide for our troops. The support functions are evaluated throughout the inspection.

And the last graded area, the ability to survive and operate, is the crux of the inspection. It is a test of our ability to perform tasks in a hostile environment. During this phase, we can expect a multitude of attacks with a variety of weapons. The inspectors will simulate enemy intrusions, sniper fire, missile attacks with chemical or biological agents and a whole host of threats designed to test our preparedness. After the smoke clears, the inspector general will assess our ability to recover and continue operations.

As the inspection comes to a close, redeployment begins. The "war" is not over until the last aircraft departs the forward location. Although not a major graded area, the inspectors will still be evaluating the process.

In the months leading up to the inspection, we will exercise the four graded areas. Along with the 87th ABW, we have several events planned to improve our wartime skills.

Our team will be trained and ready, so when St. Patrick's Day arrives next March, we won't need the "luck of the Irish."

A photograph of two fishermen on a boat. They are wearing white t-shirts and caps. They are handling a large net full of fish, likely snappers, which are piled up on the deck. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and the ocean. Fishing rods are visible in the upper part of the frame.

# HUNTERS HELPING HEROES

Reservist founds organization  
to help fellow military hunters

Story and Photos by Shawn J. Jones



**Above:** Staff Sgt. Ryan Miller, 514th Maintenance Squadron, hauls up a striped bass as Chuck Gahrmann, the first mate on a professional charter boat, catches the fish in his net during a fishing trip in the Atlantic Ocean just off-shore of Neptune, N.J. June 2. **Opposite page:** Chuck and his brother Joe Gahrmann pull up a net full of bunker fish to be used to bait the stripers during the trip. Joe operates a chartered fishing business, Sykk Physh Sportfishing, and donated his boat and expertise to five military veterans on the trip through the Hunters Helping Heroes program.

**W**hile hunting from a tree stand on a mild autumn evening in 2009, Staff Sgt. Ryan Miller hoped to target a whitetail buck.

Instead, he set his sights on an ambitious idea that would help ease a common predicament military hunters face every time Uncle Sam moves them to a new duty location.

Miller, grew up in a valley surrounded by 5,000-foot mountains in Northern California, and had access to plenty of good hunting lands.

"I've been hunting and fishing since I was four, so for me there is nothing better," said Miller, a full-time Reserve Airmen with the 514th Maintenance Squadron.

He knew all the rules and regulations – both written and unwritten – of hunting around his hometown. But all of that accumulated knowledge and experience became useless when he enlisted in the Air Force and ended up in the middle of New Jersey. Upon arrival at McGuire Air Force Base in 2003, Miller quickly became frustrated by the laws and hassles associated with hunting in an unfamiliar state.

As military hunters often learn, the processes involved in buying hunting weapons, getting the proper permits and finding good hunting lands are a little different from state to state.

While he stood in the tree stand, waiting for that whitetail buck, Miller said he felt extremely fortunate that a local police officer, who is now a friend, had allowed him to gain access to a good hunting property. At that point, the idea came to Miller – he would form an organization to identify members of the civilian hunting and fishing community who are willing to help their military counterparts.

"I thought it was the perfect way for me to share my passion for the outdoors with people like me," he said. "There were surely many other individuals in the same situation, looking for someone to reach out to."

So Miller got to work on setting up the organization, which he named Hunters Helping Heroes. After consulting with a few colleagues, he decided a good website would be the key to getting civilian and military hunters together.

Through the site, Miller networks with landowners, hunting and fishing outfitters and hunters across the nation to help qualifying heroes to be able to hunt and fish no matter where they are stationed. While his original vision was intended to help military servicemembers and veterans, it quickly expanded to include public servants who put their personal safety at risk such as police officers and firefighters.

So far, Miller has organized 16 hunting

and fishing events for more than 45 people through Hunters Helping Heroes.

In June, Miller set up a chartered off-shore fishing trip with a professional guide. Several Reserve Airmen from the 514th Air Mobility Wing joined a U.S. Army veteran who Miller met through the Hunters Helping Heroes web site on the trip.

Captain Joe Gahrmann of Sykk Physh Sportfishing donated a full-service 6-hour trip which included bait, tackle, instructional tips and fish filleting. For him the trip represented a way to show his appreciation for those who serve the country.

"Giving back is what is needed," he said. "I have a brother who served in the Navy for many years, so helping guys who serve is second nature."

With his brother Charles serving as his mate, Gahrmann relied on his years of experience to find a place where he felt the fish were biting. Only moments after casting his line, Chief Master Sgt. Chip Savage, 514th Maintenance Squadron, caught a massive 35-pound striped bass.

"This is an outstanding program, allowing veterans to go out relax, and really do something they want to do," he said. "I had a great time with Sergeant Miller and the other veterans, plus I caught a whopper striper! The memories will last a life time."

Gahrmann is a great example of the type



Savage displays a 35-pound striper he caught within moments of casting his line. It was the first and largest fish caught on the trip.



of person that makes Hunters Helping Heroes work so well. He is a skilled professional who is willing to give back to servicemembers.

Gahrmann said he is passionate about showing people how great fishing can be, and that the veterans were quick learners.

“They paid attention and understood that I take everything to heart on the water,” he said. “The guys were one of the best charters I’ve had all season.”

The fishing trip went down as another success story for Hunters Helping Heroes.

Miller said all of his trips are satisfying, he especially likes when the organization can help wounded warriors.

In December, Miller organized a trip to the Purple Heart Ranch in Texas with the Military Warriors Support Foundation for a few military hunters. The ranch is set up to be used by Purple Heart recipients. Miller and his crew ended up having a very successful hunt, which included 14 deer and a hog. They ate fresh meat with every meal, and the surplus was donated to the similarly named Hunters Helping the Hungry.

While at the ranch, Miller said he also got to spend time helping build hunting blinds for a group of inbound disabled veterans.

“This was one of the best hunts I have ever been on,” he said. “It was so great to share stories and listen to some of our nation’s heroes that have sacrificed so much for our freedom.”

Miller was able to pick up a few tips on running a charitable organization during his trip to the Purple Heart Ranch.

If Miller is to improve the opportunities that Hunters Helping Heroes makes available to veterans and public servants, then it will have to

officially become a non-profit organization. This would allow companies to write off their donations to the organization.

“Becoming a non-profit opens a lot of doors and allows bigger companies to become a bigger part of my program,” he said. “It also shows that Hunters Helping Heroes is official and credible.”

Bring in more donations would mean better opportunities for military hunters. For instance, Miller envisions arranging big game hunts that can cost more than several thousand dollars. He also plans to raise more money to help retrofit hunting blinds and stands for wounded warriors.

For now, Miller is surviving on donations from individuals and other private organizations and admitted that he’s personally donated more than \$4,000 of personal funds to pay for the website, trail cameras, hunting gear and weapons, plane tickets and tips or other fees for boat captains and hunting guides.

He also sells Hunters Helping Heroes shirts and hats to offset some costs, but he ends up giving away many to those who help the program.

Miller said he has several trips scheduled throughout the rest of the year, including three major trips for wounded veterans, but he’s always willing to help more servicemembers who identify themselves through his website. He will add new hunters to his database and tries to match their preferences with upcoming opportunities.

And though running Hunter Helping Heroes keeps Miller very busy, he said there is something in it for him too.

“Ultimately, I get to be out there with these guys, sharing my passion for the outdoors and giving back.”



After returning to the dock in Neptune, N.J.,  
Joe Gahrman, cuts a striper into fillets.



# Speaking of cash...

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING OFFICE MAKES DEFENSE LANGUAGE TESTING MORE CONVENIENT FOR FREEDOM WING AIRMEN

By **Shawn J. Jones**  
*Freedom Flyer editor*

As a schoolboy growing up in China's Guandong province, Tech. Sgt. Jingwei Mai had to juggle multiple languages. Not only did he speak Taishanese, the province's native dialect, but he also had to be proficient with Mandarin and Cantonese, which were widely spoken throughout the province. Upon moving to Philadelphia at 13, he began juggling English too.

But it's starting to pay off for the knowledge operations specialist from the 514th Logistics Readiness Squadron as he now earns a \$300 monthly bonus through the Defense Department's foreign language proficiency program.

He receives the bonus for Cantonese now, but he's been brushing up on his Mandarin, hoping to earn another bonus.

He's optimistic about the test because – thanks in part to the 514th Air Mobility Wing education and training office – he'll have home-field advantage for the first time. Starting this month, Mai and other Freedom Wing Airman can take defense language proficiency tests in the wing's education office instead of going across base to the installation's main education office.

Mai, who works in the building next door to the education office, said testing in a nearby location gives him one less thing to worry about on test day.

"It'll be more convenient, and seeing so many familiar faces will help ease the tension of taking the test," he said.

While Mai's language skills are noteworthy, they aren't unique within the wing which boasts more than 425 Airmen born outside of the U.S. from 67 different countries.

"Here in the Freedom Wing, we just don't celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity – we are incredibly diverse," said wing commander Col. Michael Underkofler.

Mai and 25 other Freedom Wing Airmen receive monthly bonuses that range from \$150 to \$500 per language. Airmen can combine multiple languages, but the total bonus is limited to \$1,000 per month.

Underkofler said he hopes more Airmen will take language proficiency tests, but not just for the extra pay.

"It's about providing the nation combat capability," he said. "Vitaly important work is accomplished because we are able to provide an Airman who speaks the native language and who sometimes understands the culture."

Immediately after the major earthquake that shook Haiti in

2010, Senior Airman Lesley Toussaint, 88th Aerial Port Squadron, provided French and Creole language skills, which were widely lauded for their impact on the relief operations.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Sal Valeo, the chief of the wing's education and training office, the most commonly compensated languages in the wing are Mandarin and Cantonese, but others include Romanian, Greek, Dutch and Creole.

While many Airmen within the wing can speak Spanish or French, it is difficult to receive a bonus for these and other commonly spoken foreign languages because the bonus is based on demand. In order to be compensated for these languages, Airmen need to understand them at the near-expert level.

"Many French and Spanish speakers are humbled after receiving much lower ratings than anticipated, which highlights how the proficiency test distinguishes true advanced language skills," Valeo said.

Regardless of the language, many first-time test takers say they are surprised at its difficulty.

Chaplain (Maj.) Peter Souritzidis spent his first 18 years in Greece before moving to the U.S. He said he can "talk all day in Greek," but he only scored high enough on the language test to earn a small bonus.

He said some of the test is typical of common conversational language, but other parts involve aspects of the language

that would only be used by professionals such as lawyers and doctors. He also admitted his score was influenced by the many open-ended questions which required him to rely on his slower-than-average typing speed.

Though the tests are challenging, Underkofler said he encourages all Freedom Wing Airmen to identify foreign language skills – reading, speaking and comprehension – to the education and training office, even if they are not proficient enough to warrant a bonus. The only penalty for performing poorly on the free tests is a six-month waiting period prior to retesting in the same language.

Underkofler said Airmen should not assume the Air Force has enough Spanish speakers, for example, because familiarity with a certain dialect or region might be needed, and Airmen with documented language skills have increased opportunities to help to guarantee success of high-visibility missions.

"Potentially we can save the Air Force thousands of dollars if we can provide foreign language speakers," Underkofler said. "Of course, there's also the possibility you just might get to have some fun along the way."

### BONUS-ELIGIBLE FOREIGN LANGUAGES\*

Afrikaans	Chechen	Hindustani	Malay	Tamil
Albanian	Chinese	Hungarian	Pashto	Tausug
Amharic	Dutch	Ilocano	Persian	Thai
Arabic	French	Indonesian	Portuguese	Tigrinya
Armenian	Georgian	Italian	Punjabi	Turkish
Azerbaijani	German	Japanese	Russian	Turkmen
Baluchi	Greek	Javanese	Serbo-	Ukrainian
Belorussian	Haitian-	Kashmiri	Croatian	Urdu
Bengali	Creole	Kazakh	Somali	Uyghur
Berber	Hassaniya	Korean	Spanish	Uzbek
Bosnian	Hausa	Kurdish	Swahili	Vietnamese
Cambodian	Hebrew	Lao	Tadjik	Visayan
Chavacano	Hindi	Luganda	Tagalog	Yoruba

\* Bonus-eligible dialects of these major languages can be found in Air Force Instruction 36-2605.

The Defense Language Proficiency Test is intended to assess reading and listening proficiency in specific foreign languages. An oral proficiency interview is sometimes administered for those uncommon languages which do not have a computerized test available. The tests typically take three to six hours to complete. For more information, call the 514th AMW education and training office at 754-4678.



Photo by Nora Doan

# TOP SQUADRON

A C-17 Globemaster III flown by Airmen of the 732nd Airlift Squadron soars over the Washington Crossing Veterans Cemetery in Newtown, Pa., on Memorial Day. The squadron was recently named the winners of the Grover Loening Trophy, which recognizes the command's best flying unit. The squadron was selected because of its strong track record of volunteerism in support contingency operations around the world. The squadron's C-17 crews flew 653 operational sorties in 2,444 accident-free hours. They delivered 5,210 troops and passengers and 11,203 tons of critically needed war fighting supplies and equipment to operating bases in Southwest Asia and elsewhere in the world.



Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries



*The following Airmen were promoted in June.*

### Airman

Dennis Dukhin, 514 MXS  
 Riqwra McFarland, 514 ASTS  
 Jesse Porcelli, 514 CES  
 Ryan Trotta, 514 CES

### Airman 1st Class

Kyle Androvett, 514 AMXS  
 Gladielle Cifuentes, 514 AMW  
 Kevin Meenan, 714 AMXS

### Senior Airman

Ainsley Atwell, 714 AMXS  
 Jazmin McBride, 514 AMW  
 Bradley Nelson, 514 MXS  
 Paulo Queroz, 88 APS  
 Marco Sforza, 88 APS

### Staff Sergeant

Ronnice Jenkins, 35 APS

### Technical Sergeant

Jeanette Caruso, 514 AMXS  
 Charles Chenet, 514 AMXS  
 Adrian Haynes, 514 ASTS  
 Vernell Williams, 514 CES

### Master Sergeant

Lizbette Almodovar, 514 LRS  
 Patricia Fernandes, 514 ASTS  
 Philip Keeter, 514 AMOS  
 Roman Kernitski, 88 APS

## SPOTLIGHT: TECH. SGT. STEVEN WEMPLE

**Unit:** 78th Air Refueling Squadron

**Position:** Flight Engineer

**Hometown:** Danville, Pa.

**Most Memorable Mission:** Royal International Air Tattoo – Being able to interact with flight crews from other countries and learning how they do business on their aircraft. Also being able to interact with the public explaining the KC-10 and what it takes to operate it.

**Last Book Read:** The Jungle Book

**Hidden Talent:** Handyman, I would much rather learn how to fix, build and make anything instead of paying someone else to do it for me.

**Character trait you respect the most:** Good work ethic

**What makes you laugh:** My dog, playing catch in the backyard.

**Favorite dish your mom makes:** Homemade mac & cheese with stewed tomatoes.

# FREEDOM FLYER

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FOR THE FAMILY OF:



Master Sgt. Chuck Kramer, 732nd Airlift Squadron first sergeant, spends a little time on his vacation to Riviera Maya, Mexico, catching up with what's going on in the Freedom Wing.