

Vol. 13, No. 2, July-August 2005

BEACON



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



Celebration of air power

Air Show and Open House displays military assets

See Page 6



BEACON

July-August 2005

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SALUTE TO THE FLAG



Remember, it is our flag

Editor's note: The following poem was written to honor the American Flag and the men and women who serve to protect the freedoms the flag represents. The views depicted belong solely to the author of the poem.

To think about the "Red, White and Blue"
Can sometimes leave one feeling cold
To remember what it stands for
Is the story seldom told
Let's start with its original conception
Enacted upon by Congress around eighteen hundred
With thirteen alternating red and white stripes
And a star for each new state that was added
There have been many changes to the Flag
Over the course of many years
But what appears to be more important
Should be the blood shed and the tears
The men and women who have perished throughout our lives
Who have defended this symbol with honor and pride
Were more than just pioneers and common folk
They were people with simple ideals like you and I
There's no shame in wanting peace for all mankind
For it's the nature of who we've come to be
Less we forget that the truth behind the symbol
Which means so much more to the military
The RED, symbolizing, blood, pain, rage, courage and warning
WHITE, symbolizing purity, hope and life
BLUE, symbolizing calm, serenity, truth, patriotism and the heavens
Denoting for us a compilation of many rights
Remember, it is our Flag and respect all who serve under it
It represents the simplicity of our birth and death
How we arrived on this earth and how we leave it
Forever symbolizing that we did our best

By MSgt. Eugene E. Brown
514th Honor Guard



BEACON

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

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Photo by Brian Dyjak

ON VIEW - Explosive ordnance superintendent, MSgt. Richard Jamison, shows a group of employers how the Remote Ordnance Neutralization System (RONS robot) operates. RONS is one of five robots EOD uses to disarm packages and explosive devices. More than 90 employers who took part in the 2005 Employer Appreciation Day activities held June 18, here, had a close-up view of the wing's mission. See Page 9.



Photo by MSgt. Donna T. Jeffries

REJOICE - Wing Chaplain Rochelle Coles ends her message during the first 514th Praise and Worship Service held July 9 at Chapel One. The 514th Air Mobility Wing Chaplain Services have increased to include a Praise and Worship Service during the "A" unit assembly weekend. Service begins at 1 p.m. at the McGuire Main Chapel One and is open to all wing members. Those interested in singing, playing a musical instrument or performing a liturgical dance can contact 1st Lt. Rochelle Coles at (609) 754-3261.



Photo by 305th Visual Information

Decked out in red, white and blue, siblings enjoy the aerial demonstrations during the McGuire Air Force Base Air Show and Open House held June 4 and 5. See Page 6.

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STEPPING UP - Rachelle Jones of the 514th Aeromedical Staging Squadron receives her senior master sergeant stripe through the wing promotion enhancement program. Sixty-one wing members add a stripe through PEP and unit vacancy. See Page 4.

Wing members learn leadership skills

Twenty-one wing members recently graduated from the Reserve Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Course.

Graduation ceremonies were held June 19 in the Silhouette Theater in Building 1829. The two-week course provides training to mid-level enlisted members by combining college level academic management and leadership instruction with military practical, experiential and hands-on application. Graduates earn two hours of college credit.

The following members successfully completed the course:

SSgt. Albert Bailey, 35th APS
 MSgt. Sandra Barrett, 514th AMDS
 SSgt. Louis Black, 35th APS
 TSgt. Carmen Colon-Alemeny, 514th AES
 TSgt. Rashid Gaffaar, 514th ASTS
 SrA Yanira Gonzalez, 514th MSS
 SSgt. Edward Humphrey, 514th MXS
 SrA Theresa Medina, 514th OSS
 SSgt. Daniel Montiero, 514th MXS
 SSgt. Hugo Murillo, 514th ASTS
 SrA Zulma Novoa, 514th AMDS
 TSgt. Arthur Prince, 514th MXS
 SSgt. Kendra Ross, 514th MSS
 TSgt. Anthony Sena, 514th MXS
 SSgt. Michael Sexton, 514th ASTS
 TSgt. Delynette Smith, 514th ASTS
 TSgt. Sean Smith, 514th MXG
 SrA Denise Spencer, 514th OSS
 TSgt. Mark Spencer, 714th AMXS
 TSgt. Carlos Suarez, 714th AMXS
 TSgt. Eric Trotman, 514th OSS

PROMOTIONS

The following 514th Air Mobility Wing members were recently promoted to the following grade:

Airman

Adrian J. Haynes, 514th AMDS

Airman First Class

Thalha N. Choudhury, 732nd AS

Kevin L. Harris, 514th CS

Diana Hart, 514th OSS

Senior Airman

Stephen J. Avery, 714th AMXS

Diana C. Beato, 714th AMXS

Maximo Caba, 514th CES

Michael A. Cervino, 714th AMXS

Melvin J. Collier, 514th CS

Jamahl A. Cunningham, 714th AES

Latoya Q. Gary, 514th LRF

Nathan A. Gerwig, 514th CS

Fritz M. Jasmin, 514th AES

Brandon J. Jenkins, 514th ASTS

Jared R. Lacovara, 88th APS

Ronald S. Negron, 514th MXS

Quentin C. Nichols, 514th ASTS

Michael P. Nuskey, 514th MXS

Kevin M. Pluta, 88th APS

Tina R. Reagan, 514th CS

Mohamed A. Samshair, 514th CES

Gordon T. Stimson II, 35th APS

Mabeline E. Tapia, 35th APS

Staff Sergeant

Wilton W. Benson II, 714th AMXS

Hector Cartagena II, 35th APS

Luis O. Cruz, 514th AMDS

Rebecca Daugherty, 514th ASTS

Shirodk D. Faison, 514th CS

Cheryl A. Gow, 714th AMXS

Brandi L. Hines, 514th MOF

Donald F. Hunt, 714th AMXS

Seth W. King, 514th AMXS

James O. Mahoney, 514th CS

Shaheen Mozaffari, 514th CS

Zulma L. Novoa, 514th AMDS

Nicoli A. Ogilvie, 732nd AS

Rashad H. Pleasant, 514th LRF

Shanette K. Santana, 714th AES

EunIQUE C. Scales, 514th CS

Annesia T. Simmons, 514th ASTS

Tiesha S. Stewart, 514th AES

James C. Taylor, 514th ASTS

Chavone L. Tripp, 514th CS

Technical Sergeant

Linval O. Jones, 514th CES

Laurie Kavanagh, 714th AMXS

Timothy Kelly, 514th CES

Spenser Stewart, 514th MXS

Jason S. Roats, 514th MXS

Master Sergeant

Louis J. Dimarco, 714th AMXS

Michael Drohan, 514th MXS

John L. Kley, 714th AES

Saprina Lavoil, 514th AMDS

Wayne E. Paden, 514th MXS

Daniel C. Pape, 714th AMXS

Ian M. Reittie, 714th AMXS

Victor R. Zea, 514th AMDS

Senior Master Sergeant

Rufus Butler, 714th AES

Patrick J. Callahan, 732nd AS

Peter Gathers, 35th APS

Rachelle A. Jones, 514th ASTS

Michael Kent, 514th OG

Tracy P. Tyler, 514th ASTS

VIBES:

What activities do you enjoy during the summer months that you can't do during the rest of the year?



Capt. Barry Slater
514th AMDS

Traveling to new places. I like exploring amusement parks and winning lots of stuffed animals.



SrA Anabell Talavera
514th CS

I enjoy relaxing under the sun at the beach, running outside and barbecue get-togethers. I will certainly miss taking long walks outside and enjoying the summer sunset.



A1C Nelson Villatoro
514th MSS

I really enjoy playing beach soccer in the summer because it helps keep me in shape and tan. I also like to go to parks and have picnics with the family to spend time together.



TSgt. Michael Phillips
514th AMXS

Running outside. I can't run outside throughout the year because of the inclement weather in the fall and winter months.



TSgt. Henri E. Torain
514th AMW

I like swimming outside. On really hot days to cool down in the pool is refreshing.

Air Force selects 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year

Cream of crop harvested from 514th AMW



Photo by Carlos Cintron

SMSgt. Anthony Rittwager was recently selected as one of 12 Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2005. He is the fourth wing member to achieve this honor within the past 12 years.

By SrA Kelly White
305 AMW Public Affairs

SMSgt. Anthony Rittwager, 514th MXS Accessories Flight chief, got the news June 14 he was named on of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen for 2005.

"I was returning from a meeting with my group commander and superintendent when I found out I was the winner," said SMSgt. Rittwager. "I didn't believe it at first and thought somebody might be playing a joke on me."

But after a phone call with the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, SMSgt. Rittwager said he was finally a believer.

"Sergeant Rittwager is the ideal example of 'excellence in all we do,'" said CMSgt. Donald Ivins, 514th Maintenance Squadron superintendent. "His methodical approach and attention to detail have,

over the years, made him the manager of choice for several critical taskings."

Some things SMSgt. Rittwager has done to earn this recognition include coordinating Reserve and Air Reserve Technician support for 32 KC-10A, six C-141B and four C-17A aircraft, and managing more than 100 aircraft technicians from three Air Force specialty codes, according to the award package.

In addition, he spearheaded the maintenance efforts of 17 Air Reserve Component and 45 active-duty personnel in Air Mobility Command's most challenging fuel cell systems operation with a 50-percent, 3-level workforce.

"Sergeant Rittwager is an outstanding Air Force citizen," said CMSgt. Ivins. "His skill at developing the young Airmen under his charge is beyond compare. His fact-based management style is extremely efficient

and effective. Sergeant Rittwager gives 100 percent to development of his subordinates and makes every effort to ensure their success," he added. "He's driven to understand completely every task he asks of his subordinates. If he doesn't, he won't ask his subordinates to do it."

SMSgt. Rittwager said that as a leader he continually asks himself, "Am I doing the right things in the eyes of my subordinates?"

"It's hard to mentor somebody on what they should be doing to be successful if you're not doing it yourself," he said.

SMSgt. Rittwager added that it's not his own accomplishments that make him proud to accept this award, but rather it's the privilege of working with so many other people who also strive for success.

"The group of people at McGuire is outstanding," SMSgt. Rittwager said. "My subordinates, co-workers and supervisors are also outstanding. Their ability to overcome diverse situations has amazed me. When I thought I couldn't possibly put another thing on their plate, they'd offer me a platter."

These successes have also impacted missions in other parts of the world in positive ways. SMSgt. Rittwager formulated and executed KC-10 reconstitution plans for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Tanker Task Force returning aircraft; multiple delayed discrepancies requiring 38 repair actions and 774 man hours were completed in four weeks, according to his award package. 305th Maintenance Group shortfalls supporting operations in Southwest Asia, Qatar, and Moron, Spain, were also filled thanks to SMSgt. Rittwager's efforts coordinating volunteer and mobilization deployments.

"He is not a 9 to 5 Airman," Chief Ivins said. "He lives excellence off duty as well as on, developing the future of the Air Force through his mentorship of the local Civil Air Patrol, and his active involvement in Air Force recruiting."

SMSgt. Rittwager revitalized the New Jersey Civil Air Patrol, his aggressive recruiting efforts increased membership from 0-70 in a two-year period from 2002 to 2004, according to his award package.

"Once I got involved in community activities like the Civil Air Patrol, I realized how rewarding programs like this can be," SMSgt. Rittwager said.

"Molding the future leaders of tomorrow is very satisfying. When my tenure as a senior non-commissioned officer is over, I want to look back and know I did what was in the best interest of the Air Force – that I passed along the leadership skills to the next generation of Airmen that they'll need to continue to be the best air power in the world," he added.

Crowd floods McGuire flightline

By MSgt. Donna T. Jeffries
514 AMW Public Affairs

Base officials estimate more than 240,000 people came to McGuire's Joint Open House, "Salute to Warriors" held June 4 and 5.

With the Navy's Blue Angels performing as the featured aerial demonstration team along with U.S. Army's Golden Knights, this event was the first air show held at McGuire since 2000.

Near record setting temperatures in the 90's kept the large crowd shading their eyes as they looked above to witness the 16 flying demonstration lineup to include McGuire's C-17 Globemaster III and KC-10 Extender.

Twenty-six static displays featuring resources from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine branches covered the length of the flightline showcasing the military's hardware.

Feedback from the air show Web site showed positive responses for the two-day event.

One person wrote: Thank you for all your hard work. The on-base shuttle service program and drivers were top rate and the air show performers and static displays were wonderful to see. Thanks for a great weekend.

Another said: Just wanted to express my appreciation for a fantastic job of putting on the 2005 Air Show. We (family) attended the show yesterday (Sunday). The prior planning for security, parking, and transportation could

not have been better. Everyone on the McGuire team deserves an "Atta-Boy/Girl."



SMSgt. Russ Jacobus makes a glass of lemonade for a thirsty customer at the McGuire Air Force Base air show held June 4-5. Several 514th units took advantage of the opportunity to run either a concession stand or memento booth.

The F/A-18 team the Angels d... plane Dia... perform... tures a si...



McGuire Air Force Base hosted more than 240,000 visitors June 4 and 5. Bright skies helped draw the large crowd for more than 47 aircraft statics, Marine, Navy, Army and Air Force recruiting stations, vendors and recreation attractions Sunday, showcasing civilian and military aircraft.

during 2-day Joint Open House



8 Hornets assigned to the U.S. Navy flight demonstration "Blue Angels" taxi to the runway prior to takeoff. The Blue Demonstration includes aerobatic maneuvers for the four-diamond formation, simultaneously with the fast-paced, high-altitude maneuvers of its two Solo Pilots. The team also features a six-jet Delta formation.



for the 2005 Joint Open House. The flightline was lined with displays. The air show ran from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and



RJ Dolan takes to the sky on one of several side attractions available to kids and adults alike. Open House coordinators ensured the children had outlets to release their energy with a bungee jump, giant air balloon tramplines, and rock climbing station.

Photos by 305th Visual Information

Local man makes good

Maintenance squadron gets new boss

By 1st Lt Robert Sperling
514 AMW Public Affairs

New Jersey native, Lt. Col. Joseph Glebocki, recently gained command of the 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron from Lt. Col Anthony Esposito.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Lt. Col. Glebocki joined the Air Force Reserve in 1993 after separating from active duty at McConnell Air Force Base, KS. He entered the 514th Air Mobility Wing as a member of the 514th Equipment Maintenance Squadron and for nine months worked for retirement points only until a position became available for him to fill.

As a civilian he is an attorney by trade, but is currently working as a defense consultant to the Missile Defense Agency in the Pentagon. Before that he was a Congressional Fellow to Congressman Henry Brown of South Caro-



Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Sperling

Lt. Col. Joseph Glebocki recently became commander of the 714th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron May 1.

lina and had the opportunity to work with Senator Strom Thurmond, also of South Carolina, the year before Thurmond's death in 2003.

The Beacon staff had an opportunity to sit down and speak with the new commander and here is what he said:

What is the number one message you want your squadron to know about you?

I want every one to feel that they are important and part of our mission and part of what we do as a squadron and a wing. I hope to foster an environment where everyone can contribute and feel that they are part of the team. When people come out here on a unit training assembly and are involved it has a great impact on the morale and retention of the unit, but it also gives the member a chance to learn, grow and be mentored, which are all important.

- about your leadership style?

I'm typically a hands-off leader where the situation is appropriate. I like to give people the tools and resources to succeed. It's important for people to succeed and also fail on their own because that is how we grow as professionals.

- about your expectations of the squadron?

First and foremost, I expect them to have a good attitude and demonstrate professionalism. They should have positive attitudes and be role models, not only in their job, but appearance and military bearing as well. If those basic boxes are filled it allows us to accomplish a larger mission without being bogged down by little issues.

What would you say is your most memorable moment in the military?

The most was my change of command. It was the first time that I was able to show my military life to my family. It was great to have my wife Lori, my two children and my parents there to be a part

I've noticed at meetings that people are present, but are not listening. Each person, when they speak, has value they can provide and it's real important to listen to what they have to say.

— Lt. Col. Joseph Glebocki
Commander, 714 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

of the event. For my parents, who emigrated from Poland, it was the first time they were able to really see what the military and my job here are all about. It was a very special moment for them to be there for me.

Where do you see the 714th AMXS in the future?

I would like to see us strengthen our relationships with the operations community and our active duty counterparts. We currently work well together, but we can do much more to make it a seamless relationship. We must try to strengthen our relationship with both parties because our mission will continue with the global war on terror and the Reserves will be tasked more and more. Also, other than the taxpayers, those two groups are our most important customers.

What lessons have you learned throughout your military career?

I would say to listen to people. I've noticed at meetings that people are present, but are not listening. Each person, when they speak, has value they can provide and it's real important to listen to what they have to say.

Lastly, what is an interesting fact about you that people may not know?

I like to do comedy. Laughter is important. I have done some stand-up comedy and I often use it in meetings and at my commander's calls. I use it to break the ice in a number of situations. I was voted as the class clown by my high school class and it has grown from there. Anytime you can inject humor it livens the environment.

Citizen Airman pledges allegiance to U.S.

By 1st Lt Robert Sperling
514 AMW Public Affairs

The United States throughout history has been recognized as a melting pot of people from around the globe looking for freedom and opportunities. This ideology holds true today and that ideal was realized by one of the 514th Air Mobility Wing's citizen Airmen July 8 as he took his oath of citizenship.

SrA Marcus Calliste, an air transportation specialist with the 35th Aerial Port Squadron, along with 282 new citizens gathered at the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, N.Y. to swear their allegiance to the United States in front of Judge Cheryl Pollack.

Now 28 years old, SrA Calliste was 10 in 1987 when he, his mother and brother left the Caribbean Island of Trinidad and arrived at their new home, New York.

"I still have family back in Trinidad," said SrA Calliste. "But, this country is all that know. I went back two years ago with my wife and son and was a visitor in my home country."

"Going back was a humbling experience," said SrA Calliste. "It was humbling for a combination of reasons. I truly believe I'm blessed for all the things in my life. During my visit I was reflecting on what my life would have been had I grown up there. I think I felt more gratitude toward my mother for making the sacrifice and leaving everything in an effort to make a better life for my brother and me."

SrA Calliste became a resident of the United States in 2000, the same year he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve, while working as a commuter train conductor with the Metro North Railroad. In October of 2002 he began the extensive process to gain his U.S. citizenship. "It's exciting to look back on the entire process knowing all the hard work and effort that got me to this point," said SrA Calliste after taking his oath of citizenship.

Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to enlist in the Air Force reserve for one 4-year enlistment. In order to continue with the reserve the member must receive citizenship within that time as stated in the Air Force Reserve Command Instruction 36-2001. The 514th AMW only has one position that non-citizens can enlist into without prior commander approval and that is as an air transportation specialist, according to SMSgt Jerome Richardson, senior recruiter for the 514th AMW.



Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Sperling

SrA Marcus Calliste, air transportation specialist with the 35th Aerial Port Squadron takes his oath of citizenship along with 282 other new citizens July 8 at the U.S. District Courthouse in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Although he wasn't a citizen of the United States, SrA Calliste has been deployed and mobilized to support the global war on terror. His deployments have included time at aerial port facilities at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Norfolk Naval Air Station, Va., and Ramstein AFB, Germany. While mobilized he was a volunteer at the Air Mobility Warfare Center's Eagle Flag training sessions and even role played as a media representative training units to deploy with embedded media prior to the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Non-U.S. citizens are normally not authorized to be deployed because of a lack of security clearance, but the gaining commander may approve the member into the specific area of operations, according to the wing plans office.

"Now that I am a citizen, I plan on pursuing my dream of becoming an Air Force officer," said SrA Calliste. "I plan on exploring areas that I enjoy, such as flying, security and public affairs. When I attended August Martin High School, N.Y., I majored in aviation but could never follow-up after graduation because of citizenship regulations."

SrA Calliste recently returned to his civilian job from a mobilization and looks forward to some of his new unalienable rights, such as a voting.



Photos by Brian Djajak

DIRECT CONTACT - SSgt. Miriam Carpio-Hospedales of the 514th Security Force Squadron explains a weapon to a few of the 93 employers who visited McGuire, June 18, for the 514th Air Mobility Wing's Annual Employer Appreciation Day. The guests met with wing officials, experienced a mock mobility line and deployment briefings and were given an air refueling orientation flight. The visitors also viewed displays from several units to include: security forces, aeromedical evacuation, explosive ordnance, maintenance, aerial port and recruiting. This event gives the wing an opportunity to showcase its mission to a vital support group.

Civilian employment registration deadline approaches soon

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Time is running out for about 15,000 Air Force reservists in the Selected Reserve to comply with a Department of Defense directive.

Oct. 31 is the deadline for reservists who are paid for training to register information about their civilian place of employment. Some 60,000 of these Airmen, roughly 80 percent of the force, provided that information as of May.

The Civilian Employment Information Program is the first mandatory disclosure by members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve of their civilian employers into a common database. The CEI program began in March 2004.

"This past year we've made significant progress in employment-related data collection," wrote Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, in a May 9 memorandum about the program.

"Senior-leader support, commander involvement and the personnel community's effective program management have resulted in a continual and steady increase in the Air Force Reserve's compliance numbers," he said. "However, despite our collective efforts, we fell short of the established Department of Defense goal of 75 percent for the Selected Reserve by December 2004."

The Air Force Reserve fell short primarily because of system problems during the program startup, which caused inaccurate data files and an ineffective management tool for commanders.

The general and his personnel staff believe these problems no longer exist and urge reservists to register online as soon as possible by going to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm> and clicking on Civilian Employment Info Program. An air reserve component Website is in development to streamline this process even more.

After clicking on the Web site, reservists enter their employment status, employer's name, mailing address, civilian job title and total number of years in their current civilian occupation.

Unlike previous military service efforts to voluntarily gather employer data, the CEI program is mandatory. Reservists who knowingly fail or refuse to provide their employment-related information, or provide false information, may be subject to administrative action. If on duty, they could face punishment for dereliction of duty under Article 92 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

DoD started the CEI program to obey three federal laws:

Title 10, United States Code, section 12302 considers civilian health, safety and interest before calling up reservists.

Title 10, USC, 10149 ensures call-ups do not affect too many reservists with critical civilian skills.

Title 38, USC, 4333 tells reservists' employers about their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

About 76,100 reservists in the Air Force's Selected Reserve train on full and part-time duty - ready for immediate tasking from higher headquarters. Since Sept. 11, 2001, about one in three of them has been called up at some point. About 2,700 Air Force reservists are currently mobilized - on full-time, active-duty status by order of the president. Many other reservists volunteer to deploy worldwide for three months or longer missions.

DoD requires reservists to update or revalidate their CEI information annually.

AFRC News Service

Life insurance benefits gain increased emphasis

WASHINGTON - Air Force Reserve Command senior leaders want reservists to know about the importance of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

A recent tragedy involving a reservist who declined SGLI coverage prompted a call for this benefit to receive more emphasis. In addition to requiring reservists to report to their military personnel flight to decline coverage in person, command officials are looking at adding squadron-level counseling by the first sergeant or commander.

This increased concern comes on the heels of legislation to increase the maximum coverage, to ensure beneficiaries know when an individual turns down the maximum and to help service members who sustain traumatic war injuries.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 raises maximum SGLI coverage from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for people with traumatic injuries.

In a new twist introduced through the legislation, troops with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of people who are not married, the designated beneficiary will receive notice when the person purchases less than the maximum coverage.

Defense and Veteran Affairs officials are working on the details of the expanded benefits.

The increased SGLI coverage will start Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit will begin Dec. 1. The legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The benefit does not apply to people suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Mr. Wurtz said.

People enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Mr. Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage - \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 - will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Mr. Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

Because the rates have not changed, people who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Mr. Wurtz said, except for the \$1 "traumatic SGLI" premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected people won't be charged retroactive payments, he said. DoD will absorb that cost.

American Forces Press Service

African-American woman first to command flying wing

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. - A former wing vice commander is the first African-American woman in the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force to command a flying wing.

Col. Stayce Harris accepted command of the 459th Air Refueling Wing in a ceremony here May 15.

Before replacing Brig. Gen. Richard Severson as commander of the 1,300-member wing, she was vice commander of the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB, Okla.

"I believe the Air Force and the military as a whole provides opportunities for all," said Col. Harris after the ceremony. "I am just an example of what we can do in the military."

Col. Harris was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of a career enlisted man. She gained an appreciation for travel and the military as the family moved from place to place.

In 1977, she graduated from 71st High School in Fayetteville, N.C. She was then accepted into the University of Southern California on an engineering ROTC scholarship. Col. Harris spent her first year and a half in the Air Force as chief of industrial engineering and then as the squadron section commander of civil engineering at Hill AFB, Utah. She then attended pilot training at Williams AFB, Ariz., and became qualified in the C-141B Starlifter aircraft.

In August 1990, Col. Harris separated from active duty and became an airline pi-

lot for United Airlines. She flies a Boeing 747-400 aircraft from the West Coast to Tokyo and Sydney, Australia.

For the last 14 years, she has balanced her Air Force career with her civilian airline career.

From April 1991 to February 1995, she was an air operations officer and C-141 pilot in the 445th Airlift Wing at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. She was a mobility force planner for the Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and operations in the Pentagon from February 1995 to January 1997. For the next three years, she served as an individual mobilization augmentee to the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

In February 2000, Col. Harris returned to March ARB first as deputy commander of the 452nd Operations Group and then as commander of the 729th Airlift Squadron. From May 2002 to May 2005, she was vice commander of the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB.

"The Air Force has always been my passion," she said, "so this is the job I really enjoy keeping because of the people. This is where my heart is."

With more than 2,500 hours flying military aircraft and 8,000 hours flying for United Airlines, she will fly an abbreviated schedule with United Airlines out of Los Angeles while living in the national capital region.



Photo by Maj. Rich Curry

Col. Stayce D. Harris, former 507th Air Refueling Wing vice commander at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., now pilots the 459th ARW and its KC-135R Stratotankers at Andrews AFB, Md. Col. Harris became the first African-American woman in the Air Force to command a flying wing May 15.

BRIEFS

Personnel record changes

The following changes pertaining to Reserve members personnel records are effective immediately:

Emergency Data Cards or DD Form 93s are no longer maintained in personnel records; however, a hard copy of the form must be given to the unit deployment monitor to store in the mobility folder. Additionally the Air Force Form 526 or Point Summary form is no longer maintained in personnel records. Wing members are still responsible to review their point information annually to ensure the appropriate time is accounted for. For more information visit the military personnel flight in Bldg. 2217.

SFS extends decal issue

305th Security Force Squadron's Pass and ID section will issue decals to reservists from 8 a.m. through noon on Saturdays of each unit training assembly weekend in Building 1911.

The decals will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservists must be in uniform and bring the following: military identification, driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of vehicle insurance, present decal number if getting a renewal and motorcycle safety card.

For more information call (609) 754-2200.

AAFES removes products

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will remove products containing the solid form of pseudoephedrine from all store shelves effective July 31. These items include Advil Flu & Sinus, Aleve Cold & Sinus, Claritin D and Tylenol Allergy Sinus.

The affected items will be replaced with products containing phenylephrine, an acceptable substitute for pseudoephedrine, as a relief for sinus congestion.

Tim Calkins, AAFES buyer for cold and cough products, explained that AAFES has already identified the replacement products, and will start shipping them to AAFES stores in July before the start of the cold and cough season.

Full-time AGR positions open

The Air Force Reserve is looking for officers and enlisted people to fill full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions.

Reservists in the AGR program serve under the authority of Title 10 of the U.S. Code and receive most of the benefits afforded to the active force. They qualify for an active-duty retirement, provided they attain career status and can serve 20 years active federal military service.

The program offers tours of duty on the Air Staff; at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver; in AFRC units; and with other major commands.

Information about vacancies and application procedures, as well as more details on the program is available on the AGR Management Office's restricted Web site at www.re.hq.af.mil/agr/agrhome2.html.



Photo by Denise Gould

FINAL ARRIVAL - The last of 13 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to be based here gets marshaled in by Crew Chief MSgt. Corey Shagg, of the 514th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as it taxis to a stop near 3-Bay Hanger on the McGuire Flightline July 6. The first C-17 arrived here in September 2004. McGuire has undergone more than \$85 million in military construction projects in preparation for the arrival of the C-17. Construction is slated to be complete in May 2006.

Wing safety opens eyes; learn from other's experience

By Maj. Mark Ustaszewski
514 AMW Safety Officer

The lessons learned after a recent safety incident can help others who encounter similar situations.

A group of Airmen were taking refuge from the sweltering sun under the wing of a KC-10 that was undergoing maintenance. A small amount of SKYDROL fluid, a jet engine lubricant, leaked and blew into the eyes of a couple of the people under the aircraft.

Now, if you have never had SKYDROL in your eyes, then you are very fortunate. It burns. It burns bad. The natural reaction is to flush out the affected area with water. However, when you ask a well seasoned maintenance individual what to do, they will say: "GOT MILK?"

Yes, it's true. Milk does a body good, at neutralizing SKYDROL and stopping or at least greatly reducing the burning sensation. If milk is not readily available, flush the eyes out with water at an eye wash station. Then get the patient to the appropriate medical facility for further evaluation.

Wing members should follow the steps below in the case of work-related incidents.

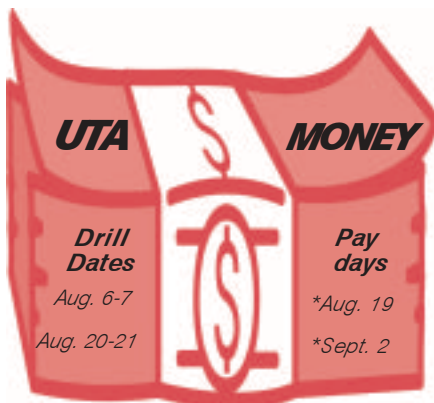
Safety Tip Actions

What action should you take in the event of a mishap? The initial reaction should be no different than if you were at home and the injured party is a member of your family.

- If serious, call 911. If calling from a cell phone, tell the dispatcher you are on McGuire Air Force Base so that the call is routed properly.

- If not life threatening you may transport the individual to the clinic. They will not be able to treat the person, but can arrange for transport to a local hospital.

- Call the clinic for advice on treatment and closest applicable facility.



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

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