

FREEDOM FLYER

514th AIR MOBILITY WING

JUNE 2012



KC-10 CREWS RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT

AIRMEN GIVE MILITARY MEDICINE LESSON TO CIVIC LEADERS



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CONTENTS

VIEWPOINTS	4
PHOTO FEATURE: AIRMEN RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT	5
CIVIC LEADERS EXPERIENCE MILITARY MEDICINE	6
RETIREE HELPS REFURBISH PLANE	8
MENTORING WORKSHOP FOSTERS TEAMWORK	9

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ON THE COVER

Master Sgt. Bruce McCormick, a flight engineer with the 78th Air Refueling Squadron, reviews flight documents in a KC-10 Extender at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, May 23 prior to flying home from a two-month deployment in the Middle East.



Photo by Shawn J. Jones

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Tech. Sgt. Victor Torres, a boom operator with the 76th Air Refueling Squadron, embraces his daughter on the flightline here May 23 upon returning from a two-month deployment.

Photo by Shawn J. Jones



Airmen help honor pioneers of military racial integration

By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Barnes
514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Airmen of the 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron assisted with a ceremony to honor pioneers of racial integration within the military at the Tommy B's Community Center here May 3.

The event was held to honor Tuskegee Airman retired Chief Master Sgt. James Cotten, who was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal by Congressman Jon Runyan.

Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Thomas Mayfield and Montford Point Marine Corps non-commissioned officer, Harold Phillips, were also recognized for their meritorious service.

The servicemembers of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst have a longstanding bond with the Tuskegee Airmen chapters in the eastern region, and over the past several years, these heroes have been honored for their contributions to the Air Force.

With the influx of historical archives and visibility in the media, the Tuskegee Airmen are becoming one of the most recognizable groups made up of men of color who exemplify the significance of racial integration in the armed forces.

However, as Mayfield said during his emotional speech, the preservation of history through oral narratives is especially important in documenting first-hand experiences and explaining the unyielding bond that the Tuskegee Airmen developed while relying on each other for moral and professional support.

Congressman Runyan praised Phillips for his service with the 51st Defense Battalion, the first African-American combat unit



Photo by Wayne Russell

Congressman Jon Runyan of New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District, presents retired Chief Master Sgt. James A. Cotten a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen in 2007 by President George W. Bush here May 3. Cotten was drafted into the U.S. Army Aug. 14, 1945, and was assigned to the Tuskegee Airmen 332nd Fighter Group, an all African-American Army Air Corps Unit.

at Montford Point, a segregated unit of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Until recently, few historical documents were published about the camp.

More than 150 years after America earned its independence, African-Americans were officially allowed to join the Marine Corps. The first African-American Marines trained at Montford Point, starting in 1942 until President Truman signed an executive order to force full racial integration for the U.S. Armed Forces in 1949.

Congress voted in October 2011 to present the long-overdue Congressional Gold Medal to surviving Montford Point Marines.

Mr. Titus Welcome, manager of the base's drug demand reduction program and coordinator of the ceremony said,

"There are very few moments in life that you get an opportunity to honor those whose shoulders you stand upon."

He continued, "These men fought the forces of home-grown bigotry, while simultaneously fighting Nazism and Fascism abroad with bravery and patriotism. They forged a path for future generations of African-Americans to serve their country in the U.S. Armed Services."

U.S. servicemembers have been successful in areas of combat at home and down range, while working to maintain dignity and peace for American citizens. Racial integration within the military has played an essential role in retaining a strong fighting force. The Tuskegee Airmen and Montford Point Marines exemplify this idea and will continue to be honored for their contributions to the U.S. military.

Early career obstacles part of Air Force journey

By Airman 1st Class Robert Konopka
42nd Combat Communications Squadron

The journey to become an Airman is one filled with opportunity, discipline and unforgettable memories.

Wearing the uniform makes you feel like you are ready for anything, makes you stand above the rest and buries a sense of pride into your heart. The discoveries you will make along the way will shape you into a person that will hold a nation's hopes and dreams on your shoulders.

Basic training is the first hurdle that is thrown at you with full force. You have uniformed men running around like chickens with their heads cut off, yelling at you for

being alive and breathing.

Like many, this came as a shock for me. I was getting yelled at and getting dropped for push-ups just for blinking the wrong way.

But as time passed, I slowly became an Airman. I was marching right, pushing right and I was even eating the right way in the eyes of the Air Force. Still to this day, having my military training instructor hand me my coin and welcome me into the family of the "blow'em up Air Force" is the single proudest day in my life.

After basic training, the next obstacle is being sent to technical school. There were some moments when I really enjoyed myself, but for the most part, I couldn't wait

to get out of there. The seven months I had to spend there was a killer, but I really cannot complain too much.

After completing technical training, I made my way back to the place where I started the unit which sent me away to become a better person and welcomed me back with open arms.

The men and women of the 42nd Combat Communications Squadron have shown me many things during the months of my training, but the recurring theme that stands out with this unit is that everyone is family and family helps each other with everything.

So far, I am impressed with where I ended up. I can't wait to see where this unit will go and where it takes me in the future.



Photos by Shawn J. Jones



Home Coming

Above: Airmen of the 76th and 78th Air Refueling Squadrons climb down the air stairs toward awaiting friends and family on the flightline here May 23 after a two-month deployment in the Middle East. The high operations tempo of a typical KC-10 Extender deployment involves delivering more than 3 million pounds of fuel to multinational coalition aircraft, requiring long and frequent flights by the aircrews. **Top Left:** Master Sgt. Kingsley Rose, 78th ARS, and Staff Sgt. Dean Morton, 605th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, review aircraft maintenance records prior to leaving Royal Air Force Base Mildenhall, England, where the Airmen stopped on their way home from the Middle East May 23. **Middle Left:** First Lieutenant Terry Dowell, 78th ARS, serves as the co-pilot on the flight home. **Immediate Left:** The family of Tech. Sgt. Victor Torres greet him as he descends the stairs.

A group shot on the ramp of the C-17 Globemaster III provides a lasting memory of all who participated in a civic leader tour May 8-9 to San Antonio where the guests, composed mainly of medical professionals, learned the full-spectrum of military medical care from training to real world patient care on the ground and in the air.



Civic leaders experience Air Force missions

By Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries
514th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Two days made a world of difference in the lives of 32 civilian professionals who said they received memories for a lifetime during a civic leader tour to Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, May 8-9.

Civic leader tours are organized in order to spread mission awareness, foster liaisons between civilian and military leadership, and to highlight the importance of the roles the community and families play in the lives of Airmen.

Hosted by the 514th Air Mobility Wing, the civic leaders were taken on a whirlwind tour of several military medical and quality-of-life facilities built to support servicemembers and the families of those injured in the line of duty.

"We wanted our guests, comprised mainly of members of the medical field, to get the overall picture of the military medical system, both on the ground and in the air and from a training aspect to real time operation," said wing commander Col. Michael J. Underkofler.

By tour's end a written survey showed all participants agreed the colonel's objective was met.

From witnessing medical technicians and flight

nurses providing patient care onboard a C-17 to getting an in-depth tour of The Center for Intrepid, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center for amputees and burn victims, the group was wowed by the military's process for managing health care for its injured and sick servicemembers.

One of the main messages the tour showed was the high chance of survival today's servicemembers have once injured on the battlefield and medical care begins.

"The military medical capacity that we saw was incredible, absolutely world class," said James Wallace, a community and government relations officer, Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J.

While serving in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 Wallace said it took 40 days to transport a combat casualty from the field to a medical facility here in the US.

"Today, that has been reduced to three days...three days!" Wallace said.

Brooke Army Medical Center one of the largest medical centers in the Department of Defense, which offers complete care to the military populace, was first stop for the civic leaders. Here, the group was one of the first to walk the halls of the new burn center.

The next stop was at a Fisher House, where the families of patients may stay free of charge in a



Photos by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries



The civic leaders witnessed a B-2 Stealth Bomber being refueled in flight from the boom area of the KC-10 Extender on the return trip to New Jersey.



Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Savidge explains the roles of the medical technician and flight nurse to civic leaders while fellow unit members demonstrate patient care on a state-of-the-art training dummy May 8 during the flight to San Antonio on board a C-17 Globemaster III.

hotel-like room while attending to their relative for the duration of the hospitalization. Fisher houses are located within walking distance to major military or veteran medical centers. Fort Sam Houston is home to four of the 56 Fisher Houses in existence. More are currently under construction.

The civic leaders hosted a dinner for Fisher House residents and warriors at the Warrior and Family Support Center, another facility specifically designed to serve the needs of wounded warriors and their families.

“The ability to interact with these wounded warriors at a meal was extremely moving to me,” said Dr. Joseph Majdan, director of professional development at Thomas Jefferson University Clinical Skills and Simulation Center in Philadelphia. “Being with these service men and women is something I will never forget. I wish I had more time to just be with them.”

The tour also covered how military medical personnel receive their training. The civic leaders visited The Department of Nursing Science where the Army graduates fully trained nurses and the US Army Medical Department Center and School where several medical specialties are taught.

“Having Marine Sgt. Lyon as part of the group added a huge dimension and brought home the point of the trip,” said Dr. Mark Chapman, director of the Emergency Medical Services Academy in Woodbury, N.J.

Marine Sgt. Kenny Lyon is a disabled veteran who

was under Col. Paulette Schank’s care after being seriously wounded while serving in Iraq in 2006. Schank is now the commander of the 514th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. She was also a member of the civic leader tour.

Lyon was brought into the trauma center at Balad Air Base, Iraq with life threatening injuries sustained after a mortar attack. By the time he reached the hospital, half his blood was already gone from three lacerated arteries. While on the operating table, Lyon also required an amputation of his left leg above the knee.

Lyon’s experience shows that the military medical process saves lives and wounded warriors can look forward to their new life.

The stop at the center for the Intrepid allowed the group to see how burn victims and amputees like Lyon maneuver through extensive rehabilitation. The center’s tour guide explained how classrooms like the fully furnished model apartment and truck, which are modified for the physically disabled, help patients adapt to daily life challenges prior to their release. Amputees also learn how to balance and walk on their prosthetics on different terrains and use pool exercises and the fitness center to strengthen muscles.

The return trip to New Jersey was highlighted by a static tour of a C-5 Galaxy at Kelly Field at Joint Base San Anotnio and topped off as each guest had a turn in the rear of the KC-10 Extender, witnessing a B-2 Stealth Bomber inflight refueling mission.



HERITAGE ON DISPLAY

Immediately Above: Senior Master Sgt. Chris Hofrichter, 514th Maintenance Operations Flight, stands with retired Master Sgt. John Wehrman in front of a C-118 Liftmaster. Wehrman, a retired C-118 flight mechanic who was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Vietnam, has been serving as an advisor for refurbishment of the C-118. **Top:** Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Keaton, 514th Maintenance Squadron, helps park the C-118 on the flightline in preparation for the air show in May. **Left:** The propeller's mirror-like finish reflects the sky on the flightline here. The plane, notable as the aircraft in which Elvis Presley returned after serving in the Army in Europe, is scheduled to return to its place as a static display at the traffic circle near the passenger terminal here later this year.

PULSE CHECK

What was the most valuable part of the enlisted mentoring workshop?



**Senior Master Sgt.
Elizabeth Arniella**
35th
Aerial Port Squadron

“This workshop to me is just reinforcement that you can’t do it alone.”



**Tech. Sgt.
James Moore**
514th
Air Mobility Wing

“The workshop helped to show me that the opportunities are out there. We just need to decide what opportunities we want to pursue, and then begin working hard to make the most of them”



**Tech. Sgt.
Yvette Hackett**
35th
Aerial Port Squadron

“My favorite part was this speed mentoring. It was good to hear how our senior leaders achieved their success and what advice they could offer us to do the same.”



**Staff Sgt.
Jennifer Fung**
514th
Maintenance Squadron

“The best part of the workshop was the leadership reaction course. It really brought out how helpful everyone was toward one another.”



**Airman 1st Class
Ivan Castano**
514th
Maintenance Squadron

“The best part of this workshop was that it focused on teamwork and that as individuals alone, we can’t get it done.”



Photos by Maj. Kelly Ann Charland and Capt. Allison Ecuag

MENTORING WORKSHOP

More than 75 enlisted Airmen honed their skills during a mentoring workshop here June 9-10. The workshop included team-building exercises on Fort Dix’s leadership reaction course, speed mentoring with with senior leaders and a joint service chiefs’ panel. Maj. Dori Mansur, 88th Aerial Port Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Antoinette Kolesnikov, 514th Force Support Squadron, led a team of facilitators in organizing the event, which is a program that supports the objectives of the Freedom Wing’s Human Resource Development Council.





Photo by Master Sgt. Donna T. Jeffries

SPOTLIGHT: CAPT. JEROME ROGERS

Unit: 514th Maintenance Squadron

Position: Operations officer

Hometown: Queens, N.Y.

Civilian employment: Defense Department contractor

Little known fact about you: I'm a black belt in Taekwondo

Pet Peeve: Laziness and people avoiding work when there's always so much to do.

Favorite childhood cartoon: Anamaniacs!

Favorite sports team: New York Giants

Memorable quote: "I don't have a short temper. I just respond quickly to nonsense" - Unknown

Most embarrassing moment: Being handed a manuscript in college to give an impromptu speech when the original speaker was overcome with stage fright. The sloppily hand written notes made little sense as I stood there trying to read them. With over 200 students and professors (to include the provost) staring back at me, I struggled to give this garbled speech until I eventually walked off the stage.

Biggest obstacle in life: Biggest challenge was getting my college degree, as the first one in my family to do so the task initially seemed daunting.

What's next in life: Headed out for a deployment, then upon return, will transfer from the back shop to work flightline aircraft maintenance.

News Briefs

National parks free for military

Military personnel and their dependents are now able to enter every national park for free as part of an effort to thank servicemembers and their families for the sacrifices they make, the Interior Department announced in May. A free annual pass, an \$80 value, is available for servicemembers. It provides access to more than 2,000 national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands. For more information, visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>.

Free museum entrance

This summer, more than 600 museums in all 50 states are offering free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Many prominent museums in New York City and Philadelphia are included in this program. For more information, visit www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums.

Unit coverage in Freedom Flyer?

Is your unit getting enough coverage in Freedom Flyer? If not, then it's probably because your unit is not contacting the public affairs office and letting them know the great work that its Airmen are doing. The next time your unit does something noteworthy or does something that would make a great photo feature, let us know. We are especially looking to write stories about Citizen Airmen who have civilian positions which complement the skill set of their military positions. The PA office can be reached at (609) 754-3487.



Photo by Shawn J. Jones

HERO FOR THE DAY

Senior Master Sgt. Tige Platt, 76th Air Refueling Squadron, coaches Alex Pearse, a high school student from Egg Harbor Township, N.J., as he performs a refueling mission in the boom operator simulator. Platt, a firefighter in Brigantine, N.J., met Pearse, who has multiple sclerosis, through charitable efforts of the fire department. In addition to the tour of the 514th Air Mobility Wing, Platt has helped coordinate in-depth visit for Pearse to the Brigantine Fire Department and Police Department.



The following Airmen were promoted in May.

Airman

Shane Cantie, 514th MOF
Diane Glasglow, 514th FSS
Gabrielle Lopez, 514th FSS
Jesse Porcelli, 514th CES
Chayana Rodriguez, 514th AMDS
Ryan Trotta, 514th CES
Sheila Ulloa, 514th AMDS

Airman 1st Class

Raymond Colon, 514th FSS
Luisa Diaz, 514th AMDS
Christopher Farinella, 714th AMXS
Joel Fernandez, 714th AMXS
Nikolas Jackovitz, 714th AMXS
Stanislav Kardon, 514th MXS
Corey March, 35th APS
Henry McKay III, 514th CES
Gabriel Rivera, 514th FSS
Ashley Santiago, 514th AMDS

Senior Airman

Francis Bodd, 514th AMDS
Theodore Brooks, 514th AMXS
Anthony Cornejo, 514th MXS
Joshua Delgado, 35th APS
Malick Fofana, 514th MXS
Shalah Johnson, 88th APS
Carlo Massari, 42nd CBCS
James Reul, 35th APS
Matthew Turner, 714th AMXS

Staff Sergeant

Louis Disabella III, 714th AMXS

Technical Sergeant

Angel Ayala, 88th APS
Latrina Dude, 88th APS
Robert Longo, 514th CES
Dawn Mascaro, 514th AMDS
Aaron Powell, 714th AMXS
Jeffrey Sherman, 88th APS

Master Sergeant

Marc Godlewski, 514th AES
Pasquale Guarraggi, 42nd CBCS
Michael Manfredi, 514th AMXS

Senior Master Sergeant

Ernest Fox, 514th CES

Chief Master Sergeant

Kevin Savidge, 514th AES



FREEDOM FLYER

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FOR THE FAMILY OF:



Master Sgt. Kingsley Rose (left), 78th Air Refueling Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Dean Morton, 605th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, perform a maintenance inspection on a KC-10 Extender at Royal Air Force Base Mildenhall, England, May 23.