

PLANE TALK

JUNE 2014

167th Airlift Wing

NEXT UTA 12-13 JULY

Wing moving forward with C-17 transition

by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle



photo by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Master Sgt. Matthew Gardenhour, a propulsion specialist, explains parts on a F117 PW100 engine to Lt. Col. Christian Cunningham, deputy commander of the maintenance group, after leading a slide show presentation detailing the parts on the C-17 engine to Cunningham and members of the propulsion element, June 7.

Although the 167th Airlift Wing has not officially entered into conversion, C-17 aircraft training has begun.

On June 5, F117 PW100 engine familiarization training was presented to Lt. Col. Christian Cunningham, 167th maintenance group deputy commander, and several maintainers in the propulsion element.

Master Sgt.'s Jarrod Plotner and Matthew Gardenhour, both members of the propulsion element, developed the slide show using detailed photographs of the parts and systems of a C-17 engine that is on a 90-day loan to the wing from Dover Air Force Base. Gardenhour lead the slide show presentation, drawing from his extensive knowledge of the engine garnered while working on C-17s

for six years while on active duty.

"We are trying to be proactive and get the guys ahead of the game," said Master Sgt. Clarence Turner, 167th Propulsion Element Supervisor.

The training is designed to give the propulsion specialists a strong knowledge base before they attend their formal C-17 engine training course.

In addition to the familiarization training, Tech. Sgt. James Turner, who also has C-17 experience from his time on active duty, is creating troubleshooting training for the propulsion shop.

"Before you go to a technical school it's always good to have a background, so you're up to speed when you get there. Any preparation before a formalized school is going to help you understand

the system better," said Cunningham. "I think what the propulsion shop is doing here is a great thing."

Cunningham also suggested providing the training to the other maintenance commanders so that they have a general understanding of the engines and what kind of maintenance is required.

According to Plotner, four members of the propulsion element will begin their formal training in early August, with three more groups of four scheduled after that.

The propulsion shop isn't the only shop moving forward with C-17 aircraft training.

According to Master Sgt. Daniel Ritenour, maintenance group training manager, 12 crew chiefs are currently attending their transition training, four are at Charleston Air Force Base, SC and eight are at McGuire Air Force Base, NJ.

Four more maintainers are departing for transition training within the next month and 35 more will go before the end of the fiscal year, he said.

"We have 51 folks in our initial cadre who will attend their C-17 transition classes FTD, or at a field training detachment," Ritenour explained. "Once we have the aircraft on base we will bring the instructors here."

Break rooms and training rooms throughout the maintenance complex will be converted to classrooms to accommodate the field training teams who will be teaching classes starting in October.

Maj. Marc Genaille, the operations group conversion officer, said one pilot has completed C-17 training and more aircrew will begin their training later this summer, starting with four loadmasters departing for school in July.



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Col. Shaun Perkowski



**Command Chief Master
Sgt. Ron Glazer**

We hope you are enjoying the summer weather and all of the outdoor activities that the season brings. The 101 Critical Days of Summer have begun... Wing Safety is providing information on outdoor activities—please take heed. This is a great time of year to get outside and have fun, please do so carefully.

With many of those summer activities, there come more opportunities to celebrate and partake of “spirits.” But we must be responsible about it. We’ve had another DUI within our wing since the May drill weekend and I cannot stress enough the importance of HAVING A PLAN when you are drinking. An email went out to the wing addressing command thoughts on the issue. I have asked commanders to address their section specifically regarding this problem. The ramifications of drinking and driving are immense. As a wing, we hope to soon implement a form of “Airmen Against Drunk Driving” campaign. More information will be forthcoming.

Please mark 4 October on your calendar. We will officially introduce the C-17 to the 167th with the arrival of our first airplane. This will be a celebration of our past, present and future as we welcome back our retirees and invite our families and dignitaries to the event. We will also be honoring our flight engineers and the service they’ve given to our wing and flying mission over the last 50+ years. We will combine this celebration with the C-17 introduction ceremony and Family Day Saturday Oct. 4. Please share this date with your families and invite them out as we celebrate the next chapter of this wing’s great history.

Finally, we’d like to thank everyone who attended the state NGAWV and EANGWV conference last month at Camp Dawson. Many different sections were around the base providing an even bigger turnout for the 167th Airlift Wing than last year! It’s a great opportunity to hear what’s going on around the state, but also to socialize with members of your own unit or others. As always, please consider joining your respective organization.

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facilities across America mean
reduced cost to the taxpayer and
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Know your benefits: Applying for VA assistance

by Senior Airman Nathaniel Taylor

It's no secret that one of the many advantages of military service is the benefits available to military members. From basic allowance for housing (BAH) to tuition assistance and reimbursement programs, the military provides many opportunities to help enrich the lives of those who serve.

Veterans' Affairs Health Care is one such program that is often under utilized by National Guard and Reserve members and seen as confusing and difficult to gain access to. Many are unaware when they qualify, or if they qualify at all.

According to Richard Nappi, a health communications specialist with the Martinsburg VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, W.Va., the process doesn't have to be confusing.

"Guard and Reserve members who meet certain criteria can qualify for VA health benefits," Nappi said. "Members who serve on active-duty Title 10 orders may qualify for assistance."

Guard and reserve members who are on Title 10 active duty orders for training purposes only, such as for Basic Military Training or Technical Training School, do not meet the basic eligibility requirements, Nappi said. However, if an individual is called up by federal order for duties other than training purposes, they may qualify

for VA assistance

Airmen will receive a DD form 214 upon the completion of their Title 10 orders, Nappi said. Once this form is received, Airmen seeking VA benefits should then take it to a Veterans' Affairs Hospital eligibility office or visit the VA website for alternative ways of applying.

"Simply serving on Title 10 orders doesn't mean that a member will always qualify for VA assistance," Nappi said.

While there are many factors that determine whether or not an individual qualifies for VA assistance, certain factors can qualify members for enhanced eligibility. If a member has what the VA calls a service connection or falls below the designated income threshold, they may qualify for enhanced eligibility.

According to Nappi, there are many types of service connections such as, serving in a combat zone, suffering an injury while on active duty orders, receiving a Purple Heart or being a Prisoner of War. Since there are many types of service connections, members are encouraged to bring a detailed record of their time on active duty orders along with their DD form 214 when determining their eligibility.

Whether or not a member qualifies with a service connection, the eligibility

office will also administer a means test to determine if their house-hold income falls below the area's income threshold for receiving benefits.

"The income threshold for qualifying for assistance is determined based on the local area," Nappi said. "An applicant's annual income is calculated by taking the annual house-hold income and subtracting out the family's annual medical and educational expenses. This means that if an applicant's house-hold income is \$50,000 and they have a total of \$5,000 in medical and educational expenses, then their income that is considered when determining whether or not they qualify would be \$45,000."

"Applicants should make sure they bring their most recent tax returns and have records of their annual medical and educational expenses with them when they come to the eligibility office," Nappi added.

Enhanced eligibility is not only used by VA staff when determining if an individual qualifies for assistance, but is also used to determine whether or not a co-pay will be required for health care visits, Nappi said.

Nappi encourages all wing members see "VA assistance" on page 5



Old Glory flies over base entrance

An American flag was raised for the first time at the west gate during a short ceremony, June 6. The flag pole, which previously stood at the east gate was moved earlier in the week to its new location at the main gate. Col. Shaun Perkowski recognized the 70th anniversary of D-Day and read a passage from the book "Fighter Pilot: The Memoirs of Legendary Ace Robin Olds."



photos by Master Sgt.
Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Unit members host Base Buddies; mentor program grows

by Senior Airman Nathaniel Taylor



photo by Senior Airman Nathaniel Taylor

Senior Master Sgt. Lee Deyerle, a flight engineer, shows students from Bunker Hill Elementary some functions of the C-5 Galaxy during a base tour, June 2.

Three yellow school busses pulled up, stopped and opened their doors to release the stream of excited third graders eager to begin their day of adventure.

That was the scene at the 167th Airlift Wing dining facility Monday, June 2, as 135 Bunker Hill Elementary School students arrived on base for a tour of the wing's facilities.

Of the 135 students who attended the educational tour, 18 of them came as a part of the wing's original "Base Buddy" program.

According to Lois Pierce, a guidance counselor with Bunker Hill Elementary, the partnership between Bunker Hill and

the wing came into fruition three years ago when Pierce and Bunker Hill principle, Virginia Hinchman, began to work with the wing's command staff to create a mentor program.

"The idea is to match a person from the base with a student who has very difficult circumstances in his or her life and give that student a positive role model," Pierce said. "These students cherish the time that they spend with their base buddy. For some of them it is the only time in their week where they feel important and know that someone really cares about them."

Unit members from the 167th who choose to be part of the program meet with their base buddy for at least 30 minutes a week throughout the school year and many go above and beyond what is required from them in order to better enrich the lives of their Base Buddies.

"I have been highly impressed with everyone that I have met at the base," Pierce said. "Each and every one of them seems to be genuinely concerned about our children. From the top down, everyone at the base is amazing."

According to Tech. Sgt. Sarah Jenkins, the 167th aviation resource manager, many of the kids in the program have faced trials in their short lives.

"It gives them somebody to talk to and be there for them when they need it," Jenkins said.

kins said.

For the wing members who give their time to mentor the students, the experience is a humbling one.

"The kids show how happy they are to see the unit members when they walk through the door," Jenkins said. "It is rewarding and exciting to see how happy they are. Even if it is just getting a hug when you go to see them, it is nice to know you have an effect."

Monday's visit was geared toward introducing the students to the Air National Guard and allowing those who have one, to spend quality time with their Base Buddy, Pierce said.

"The children were spellbound, they are still talking about what a special place (the base was)," Pierce said.

By opening up the base to the students and showing a little of what the Air Force does, the students were able to see that the wing cares about them, Jenkins said.

While Pierce is retiring from her position at Bunker Hill at the end of the current school year, she won't need to worry about the program going away.

According to Capt. Christopher T. Tusing, the wing's executive staff officer and program manager, the West Virginia Department of Education has recently launched the new educational outreach program, "Common Ground," which includes three components. The first is the Elevator's program that follows the same gen-

see "Buddies" on page 11

167th AW is site of first-ever Boots to Business class in W. Va.

by Staff Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein

The 167th Airlift Wing was the site of history in the making when it became the first Guard unit in the Mountain State to host a two-day Boots to Business class May 21-22 in its dining facility.

More than 30 people participated in the United States Small Business Administration – sponsored Boots to Business: From Service to Startup (B2B) class. The program is offered as a component of the Department of Defense's redesigned Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

The comprehensive two-day class is normally only offered on an active duty base to separate Active-Duty service mem-

bers and/or Guardsmen requiring TAP. Guardsmen are congressionally-mandated to complete TAP if they have been on Active Duty Title 10 orders for 180 consecutive days or more on or after Oct. 1, 2012.

Sherry Lewis, the Airman & Family Readiness Program manager, was instrumental in bringing the Boots to Business class to the 167th AW.

Lewis noted that it appears that this was the first time that the Boots to Business class was offered nationwide to traditional service members at an Air Guard unit.

"This class has never been open to National Guard service members in West

Virginia before who were not TAP participants," she said. And those service members are usually sent to Joint Base Andrews or their closest Active Duty station for the two-day Boots to Business optional track.

After working with the wing's Conversion Office to help set up the Department of Labor Employment Workshops for Airmen affected by the reduction in force (RIF), Lewis learned that many attending aspired to become entrepreneurs.

"It was during several of the classes I heard service members state that their

see "Boots" on page 7

HCC to host Red, White and Blue concerts

Hagerstown Community College's Alumni Association recently announced its concert schedule for the 10th annual Red, White and Blue Summer Concert Series. All concerts are free and open to the public.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Sunday, June 22 — The Maryland Defense Force Band
- Sunday, June 29 — The 229th U.S. Army Band
- Monday, July 21 — The U.S. 78th Army Band
- Friday, Aug. 15 — The U.S. Army Dixieland Band
- Friday, Aug. 29 — The U.S. Navy Country Current
- Friday, Sept. 5 — The U.S. Air Force Concert Band
- Saturday, Sept. 6 — The U.S. Navy Sea Chanters

All concerts will be held at 6:15 p.m. in HCC's Alumni Amphitheater. Concessions will be available for purchase. No outside food is permitted on the amphitheater grounds.

This year's concert series is sponsored by the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information, call 240-500-2346, or send an email to lsstewart@hagerstowncc.edu.

Mustang Blvd is now two-way

Mustang Blvd, the street in front of Bldg 120 Headquarters and Bldg 119 Civil Engineering, has been changed to a two-way street and pavement markings are in place to identify the travel lanes and stop bars/signs. Please use caution in this new two-way area and be cognizant of vehicles that may be pulling out of or backing from parking stalls. Note the posted speed limit is 15 mph in this area.

Maintenance group leaders tour C-17 assembly plant



photo courtesy of Chief Master Sgt. Mike Gregory

Senior maintenance group staff including Chief Master Sgt. Mike Gregory, Tony Capoccia, 167th Airlift Wing Boeing site manager; Col. Keith Snyder; Lt. Col. Christian Cunningham, Senior Master Sgt. John Montgomery, Senior Master Sgt. Keith Foreman, and Senior Master Sgt. Randy Gray toured the C-17 assembly plant in Long Beach, Ca., April 30. The group observed the build-up of the wing assembly, the fuselage, and final stages of joining all the parts together and their guide explained the processes for building up the C-17 and how over the years they have modified equipment or fixtures to speed up the process.

The maintenance staff toured the facility while attending a C-17 Maintenance Symposium in which C-17 units and Boeing briefed on field issues. Subjects included support equipment, corrosion control, supply issues, aircraft failures, part failures, new products and tooling, technical data improvements, health of the fleet and maintenance effectiveness.

The staff had the opportunity to interact with their counterparts from other Guard, Reserve and Active-Duty C-17 units including representatives from Canada, Great Britain, Kuwait, and Australia.

VA assistance

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who believe that they might qualify to take their paper work to an eligibility office and find out for sure.

According to Master Sgt. Gretchen Close, the 167th Military Personnel Section superintendent, unit members don't need to wait until they retire to apply for VA benefits.

"Unit members can take their DD form 214 to the VA any time after they receive it following the completion of their Title 10 orders," she said.



167th Airlift Wing

Enlisted professional military education options

by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Career progression. Without PME it won't happen.

That's why, at any given time, about 20 percent of the enlisted members of the 167th Airlift Wing are enrolled in a professional military education course.

PME is offered to Airmen at specific points in their career, preparing them to take on more demanding leadership positions as they advance in rank.

Chief Master Sgt. Ron Glazer, wing command chief, encourages Airmen to consider attending PME in-residence.

"People should be aware that going to PME in-residence will give them an edge over someone doing correspondence. If you're interviewing for a job against someone with equal qualifications but (if) you have in-residence PME you will beat out the other candidate," Glazer said.

Guardsmen opting for the in-resident Airmen Leadership School and Noncommissioned Officer Academy attend the Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

The Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy is offered at the Thomas N. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education at Maxwell Air Force Base, ALA.

Tech Sgt. Stephanie Shields, who recently completed the NCOA at McGhee Tyson, said she is surprised that more people choose to take their PME through correspondence rather than attending the academies.

"I think you learn more going in-residence than you do just reading a book," Shields said. "And, you get paid to go."

Shields said the six-week course was not hard but time management was the key to being successful.

"You just need to stay on top of all of your assignments and homework. They let you know what assignments are coming up, there are no surprises, so that's where time management comes into play," Shields said.

Shields, who also attended Airmen Leadership School at McGhee Tyson, enjoys the in-residence experience because she gets to meet new people, learn from their experiences and she said it refocuses her.

"For me, going in residence brings me back to the basics and reaffirms to me why I joined the military and why I put the uni-

form on," she said.

Another advantage to attending PME in-residence is the pass rate compared to that of the correspondence PME.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Robbie Bowers, the base education and training manager for the 167th Airlift Wing, the failure rate for the enlisted PME correspondence tests is greater than 50 percent.

"The correspondence courses are difficult," Bowers said. "They're adjusting the courses based on the failure rates. In the past you needed a 70 percent to pass. They revised so that now a 62 or 63 percent is passing for ALS, depending on which version of the test you take."

The passing score for the correspondence NCOA, course 15, is 68 or 69 percent depending on which version of the test you take and the SRNCOA, course 14, requires a 65 percent to pass.

There are a limited number of slots allotted to the Air National Guard for each academy so Airmen wanting to go in-residence should plan their PME accordingly.

"I always tell everybody if you want to get promoted go ahead and do the correspondence because it could be a year before you get to go (in residence)," Bowers said.

Bowers said there is a waiting list for unit members wanting to attend Airmen Leadership School and starting next fiscal year the unit will only get seven slots in the school per year.

"Our state command chief (Chief Master Sgt. Fred Turner) will be making the list for who can go to ALS," Bowers said. "In July, Chief Master Sgt. Turner will release the application criteria and he will choose seven airmen from each unit to attend based on the application packages he receives."

Bowers said he will push that application criterion out to the unit when he receives it.

While there is a waiting list for ALS, Bowers said no one has even applied to attend the SRNCOA for at least three years.



photo courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Shields

Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Shields, center front row, recently graduated from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard base.

"To go to SNCO academy you have to take the new version of course 14, version six," he explained. "So if you've taken an older version of the SRNCO correspondence course, you have to take the new course before being eligible to go to the academy."

After completing the correspondence course an application package must be submitted to the school and you're competing nationwide to get into the class.

In a recent CHIEFchat at the Defense Media Activity at Ft. Meade, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody explained that the Air Force is transitioning to a new blended approach to PME meaning Airmen will be required to complete some distance learning prior to attending the leadership experience in residence.

"So the idea is that we get all of the fundamentals done in the distance learning environments and bring them to a certain level of competency and then we bring them into an in-residence portion, [which is a shorter time period than it is today], but it's actually more robust in that interaction aspect of it where the face-to-face time is most important," Cody said.

Cody explained that this approach may also be applied to technical training in the future.

Bowers does not have any specific information on how this new approach will affect the ANG.

Complete PME enrollment instructions can be found on the Base Training and Education sharepoint page.



Boots

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dream job is to someday open their own business," she noted. With that knowledge in hand, Lewis reached out to the National Guard Bureau to request assistance in bringing the SBA's class to the 167th AW.

Larry Batten, representing the SBA and Christina Lundberg, from the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, taught various modules on aspects of starting a business, everything from developing a business plan to marketing a product or service.



photo by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Christina Lundberg, from the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, instructs members from the 167th Airlift Wing on aspects of starting their own business during a two-day Boots to Business class that was held on base May 21-22. Classes covered everything from developing a business plan to how to market a product or service.

"Start, grow and be successful at a business," Batten told the classes' participants. "It doesn't take a ton of money to start a business."

Noting: "We can teach you the nuts and bolts of starting a business."

Batten said that "it's a lifestyle to be a businessman. It's a mindset."

The owner of a dry cleaning business and hair salon, Batten said many people are afraid to start a business.

"Don't be afraid of failure. Keep your options open. Be open to ideas," he added.

Batten said that 96 percent of businesses in the Mountain State are small businesses.

Senior Airman Katrina Santamaria, the wing's knowledge operations manager in

Comm Flight, found the class very helpful.

"I attended mostly because I have an idea for a small business that has always been in the back of my mind, but I have never pursued because of my small knowledge of the business world," she said.

Santamaria said she wasn't aware of everything that went into starting up a business.

"I didn't know there was so much that goes into something as small as getting your loan approved. For example, having a full business plan mapped out for the banker to review," she said.

"I also had no idea about the Small Business Development Center right here in Martinsburg that will work with you on

your business plan, point you in the right direction to get started and coach you throughout the entire process."

Learning how to start a business from the ground up was what prompted 2nd Lt. Heather Wright to attend the two-day class.

Wright said she wanted "to learn about entrepreneurship and the foundational principles involved with starting a business."

Assigned as a nurse at the wing, she said her idea for a small business was Private Pay Advanced Practice Nursing/Health Coaching.

Her business would address "lifestyle modification, preventing or reversing (the) disease process, improving quality of life, health and wellness education (and) educating clients on how to control the controllables."

Wright, who works fulltime during the week for the Inspector General, noted the big takeaways for her from the class were "pursue your passion and don't devalue yourself or your product."

Teaching the importance of not de-

valuing yourself or your product hit home with her.

"That is one huge aspect of private pay healthcare," Wright said. "Your client/patient values the product they receive because they have freedom of choice in the provider and the product; therefore, they are the full recipient of the service and education."

"It also allows more focused and personally tailored time with the patient which results in a closer, more understanding relationship between the provider and the client."

Another business aspiration of Wright's includes farming.

"In time, I would like to educate others, in some type of workshop, about sustainable farming methods, utilizing symbiotic relationships between animals (such as chickens following cattle in rotational grazing), crop rotation and ultimately more self-reliant living," she said.

Adding: "The two passions go hand in hand, disease prevention/reversing and farming, because the sooner that we realize that what we put into and onto our bodies becomes our flesh and blood and sustains us, then more emphasis will be placed on the purity and quality of the nutritional sustenance that we choose."

She said the Basics of Opportunity Recognition taught during the course reaffirmed her "ideas and passions are well founded and achievable."


Seeking out people who can help, support and mentor you is essential when looking to start a business, she added was another important takeaway.

According to a survey administered to those participating in the two-day class, Lewis said feedback showed that the majority felt the "class met or exceeded their expectations and the class greatly contributed to their confidence in being able to start their own business."

Wright said she would absolutely recommend service members take advantage of the two-day class if it could be offered on base again.

"The course touches briefly on all aspects of owning your own business, even some that you choose not to think too deeply about but cannot be avoided; such as marketing, accounting and legal matters," she said.

Maj. Loretta Kendall, a JAG at the 167th AW, instructed participants on picking the correct legal entity for their business.

Offering future business classes at the wing may be on the horizon. 

Mission Report to Wing Commander

Command Chief Ron Glazer joined 167th Airlift Squadron personnel for the following Guard Lift mission:

DC9804301083, Portland to Anchorage shuttle, on tail 0460, scheduled from 24-28 March 2014. Met with Lt Col Timko, Lt Col Powell, CMSgt Shambaugh, SMSgt Fairburn in February to review mission and went through a Q&A for me. Wing commander approved mission. Timeline below is listed in local times. Observance of personnel in their work environment improved my knowledge of airlift career fields, and the schedules they are challenged with, mission after mission.



24 March 2014

0630 – Contacted the command chiefs at both OR and AK units, notifying them of my visits.

0645 – Alerted by Command Post for mission.

0745 – Crew meeting in operations

0815 - Following meeting checked-in with the Small Air Terminal for manifesting and weigh-in.

0845 – The “bag drag” chain was a wonderful effort by all personnel as we loaded personal and professional bags for the trip. This was a normal task but it showed me the team concept. After personnel loaded the aircraft I joined our loadmasters for pre-flight checks. An electrical issue delayed our scheduled 1100 departure for 30 minutes. MXS personnel replaced the elevator feel unit. I was amazed at the number of maintenance personnel who came onboard for reviews of minor aircraft issues, like a stuck door, hydraulic fluid leaks and caution indica-

tors that would not reset, before we even took off. MSgt Kalbfleisch (engineer) had the responsibility for pre-flight, flight and landing checklists. His clear, calm voice in the headset impressed me as he went through the long lists of checks with our pilots and loadmasters, even during tower radio traffic that interrupted his progress. The start and stop of the checklists seemed aggravating to me but our pilots and engineer plowed through them as a routine exercise, not skipping a beat after each interruption. Seeing a well-trained and capable enlisted member in the engineer seat proved to me what America has invested, in our personnel. I continue to be in awe of these men and women who take their jobs very seriously and with such great pride and confidence. During flight I enjoyed being “connected” via the headset, hearing tower and pilot traffic as the C-5 was directed through the air, and the pilots adjusted controls.

1500 – We arrived at the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland, ORANG. Little did I know that the 167th was supporting an exercise called Vigilant Guard Exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, AK. The Oregon National Guard was sending the 224th Engineers, 3670 Maintenance Company and medical personnel from the 142nd Fighter Wing, as part of the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), to include personnel and equipment.



1530 – 5 trucks and trailers were slowly loaded onto 0460 with ramps provided by the ORNG. A few adjustments had to be made to prevent the hitches from

scrapping our aircraft ramp. Our loadmasters and the logistics personnel from the 142nd Fighter Wing worked together to line up the vehicles, in order by the load plan (to distribute weight properly). SrA Crunkleton jumped into action, handing out small squares of plywood, as he halted movement of the largest trailer being loaded due to clearance issues. He asked the load team to line the plywood on the ramps to elevate the trailer just a few inches. His experience proved its worth, lifting the hitch of the trailer just enough to clear the aircraft ramp, and prevent damage. Our LMs directed about 8 loggies to chain down the vehicles and trailers as one baggage pallet was being brought on, at the tail end of the aircraft. SrA Mike Crunkleton and TSgt Brad Snyder were nothing more than incredible, not to mention Chief Shambaugh, who works just as hard or harder than his junior LMs. Our enlisted personnel continued to stay busy as the pilots jumped into one of the vans provided, to go to the hotel. Plans were to load equipment, lock up aircraft and then go into our first crew rest cycle.

1800 – 3 hours passed rapidly as our team finished the final checks on cargo and I assisted in tightening chains and straps. The local time in Martinsburg was now 2100 hours. We hadn't even left for our hotel yet and we were into 14 hours of duty thus far.

1830 – Arrived and check into hotel.

2000 – Back home it was 2300 hours and we had just received our meals. I was starved and sleepy but our Airmen were still very alert and full of smiles as they enjoyed one another's company. It was a very productive day. These are the Airmen who move our nation's missions, full of energy and stability, with steadfast strength and endurance. WOW! They didn't complain. I thought of the well-oiled machine that I witnessed, and I was extremely proud of what our people accomplished.

see "Mission report" on page 9

167th Airlift Wing

Mission report

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2230 or 0130 Martinsburg time – I finally hit the pillow! Unbelievable day!!

25 March 2014

0500 – Wake up

0600 – Breakfast

0700 – Departure, with a stop at local convenience store for provisions.

0725 – We rolled up to aircraft. Bag drag line created quickly and we laughed together as I claimed my bag, the largest in the group.

0800 – We took on one of two baggage pallets. The troop ladder was lowered as the pax stairs were brought up to the tail. I couldn't believe I was able to see our National Guard working so close together. Here at Portland many units and two military components came together for a mission. Once the PAX were loaded the final pallet was placed in the area where the personnel had just walked. This was a fully loaded lift.

0955 – Even after hearing radio broadcasts of a local F15 returning, due to a malfunction, and fire/emergency personnel lining the runways, we still were 5 minutes ahead of schedule when the tower gave us the go. Today MSgt Nathan Smith was our engineer, working beside SMSgt Jake Fairburn, due to a check-ride review for Smith. Great to learn how our Airmen are tested or evaluated to be sure they are current in their job knowledge.



1200 – Landed in Anchorage, AK, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Within 20 minutes we had the personnel coming down the troop ladder and filing out of the front of the aircraft. 20 of the 73 passengers remained to assist with offloading. Once the nose was opened and lowered

the off-load operations began.

1330 – The joint team successfully unloaded and lined up equipment on the ramp. Mission complete! WELL, not really, this was just a stop before we had to leave again to Portland, for our second load. We already accomplished so much by moving half a unit, with equipment and personnel. The training and work our members complete prepares them for successful missions and I was witnessing it firsthand!

1620 – Local take-off. Really, we're going back for more?! This experience was like none other for this Chief. These Airmen, our Airlift Squadron team, were professional in every way; great ambassadors for West Virginia. They were telling our story in deeds, through sweat and hard work.

2055 – Landed in Portland.

2130 – Checked into hotel.

2230 – Had dinner at hotel. Where did the day go??? Who says flying missions are easy? Not!

26 March 2014

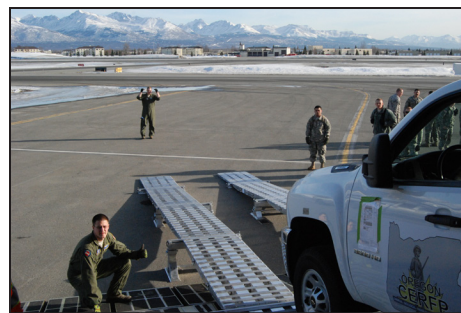
0630 – Woke on my own.

0700 – Took flight duty uniform to laundry room to "freshen" it up. Then I joined Chief Shambaugh and Lt Col Magners for breakfast.

0945 – Departed hotel/stopped for snacks on the way.

1015 – Loaded aircraft.

1045 – Started loading aircraft with truck/trailers. Found out that the Kentucky Guard left us an extra trailer. I learned that our team helps where they can and after they calculated space/weight, we approved to add the single trailer to the back of the aircraft. Great effort by multiple units! The cooperation between the army and air organizations proved the efficiency of the guard. A final pallet was loaded, personnel climbed the troop ladder and the final baggage pallet came on board. The sequence was deliberate to maximize time and space constraints, to include safety measures. The cargo was tight but within limits, I was told. I watched Chief Shambaugh walk down the cargo area, adding equipment and pallet weights into his PDA device. With per-



sonnel he told me we were at 106,000 pounds!

1404 – Take off. Again, an unbelievable experience, even on trip two!

Summary: We repeated off load procedures after landing. The flow was even better the second time at Elmendorf. We experienced another hotel check-in and dinner before bed.

The next morning a couple of us had breakfast, stopped at a couple souvenir shops and I captured a few photographic memories before heading back to the hotel for a nap. What? I wasn't even tired yet. The 2315 wake-up on 27 March was futile because I hadn't really slept. Check-out at 0030 hours and in the air at 0330 hours on 28 March was a shock to my system. MSgt Smith explained how the air flows through the boot strap turbine before I was called up to the flight deck to see the Northern Lights! An amazing aircraft and an amazing world we live in! Who travels in the middle of the night, by the way? We do! Our mission around the globe never stops and the people who call themselves Airmen accomplish relevant tasks for America's citizens before they open their eyes, from their cozy beds.

Arriving back in Martinsburg at 1420 was so welcomed by this CMSgt. Although the mission with our 167th Airlift Squadron members revealed their highly trained skills and I enjoyed working with them, I certainly missed home...and a regular schedule! A very special thanks goes out to the fine crew of Decoy 76: Lt Col Kevin Miller, Lt Col Don Magners, Major Kip Blackman, CMSgt Roland Shambaugh, SMSgt Jake Fairburn, MSgt Mike Kalbfleisch, MSgt Nathan Smith, TSgt Brad Snider, TSgt Ryan Owings, SSgt Shane Hott and SrA Mike Crunkleton.



"Dress for the slide, not the ride"

by Senior Airman Nathaniel Taylor



photo courtesy of Maj. William Brohard

Maj. William Brohard displays the equipment he wore during his motorcycle accident on May 4. Brohard wears more personal protective equipment (PPE) than is required by both the DOD and the DOT.

With summer now in full-swing, more and more motorcycle riders are on the roads enjoying the warm weather. But as riders increase their time on the road, they also increase the chance of being involved in an accident.

Maj. William Brohard, assigned to the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron, learned this first hand when he wrecked his motorcycle while he was on his way to report for drill on May 4.

"I decided to ride my motorcycle to drill," Brohard said. "The air temperature was a little cool that morning, so shortly after leaving my neighborhood I began to warm my tires by swerving back and forth in my lane."

Brohard, who has been riding motorcycles for more than 30 years, said that this is something he does anytime the temperature is a little cold to help bring the tire temperature up so that he is able to quickly stop without sliding if he needs to.

"Evidently, the tires were colder than I expected and on the third swerve the front tire slid out bringing me and the bike to the ground in a fraction of a sec-

ond," he said.

Brohard and the bike slid along the road for several feet at nearly 35 mph. His arm had been pinned down by the bike and was resting between it and the pavement.

"I quickly pulled my arm out, slid along the road a bit longer and soon came to a stop," he said.

Surprisingly, Brohard was completely unscratched and unbruised despite being partially pinned-down by the bike. Brohard credits his jacket and pants for protecting him during the wreck.

"One of the most important safety features when riding your motorcycle isn't on the bike, it's on your body," Brohard said. "I wear more protective gear than is required by both the Air Force and the Department of Transportation. Had it not been for the body armor plates in my pants and jacket I would have received injuries to my legs and severe injuries to my left arm."

Adding, "Although per the AFI, a motorcycle jacket and pants are only 'strongly encouraged,' I would place (them) on your personal, standard equipment list, I did and it paid off."

Wing members who are looking for guidance on the Air Force's policy toward motorcycle safety should consult Air Force Instruction 91-207, The US Air Force Traffic Safety Program.

According to Senior Airman James Semler, a 167th occupational health and safety technician, the AFI lays out all required personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn by military personnel while operating a motorcycle. The Air Force standard is more stringent than what the DOT requires of civilian riders.



photo courtesy of Maj. William Brohard

Brohard's aromour-plated motorcycle jacket protected his arm when it was pinned to the rode by his motorcycle during the accident. Brohard, who slid many feet before coming to a stop, encourages wing members to invest in PPE to help prevent any serious injuries while riding. "The optional gear didn't save my life that day, but it saved me from a painful experience and a long recovery period."

"If riders aren't wearing the proper equipment required when they try to come on base, Security Forces should turn them around and make the rider leave, it would then be up to the rider to find other means to get on base," Semler said.

Unit members wishing to ride their motorcycles on base are required to attend an initial motorcycle safety brief given by the commander as well as attend an annual pre-season motorcycle safety brief hosted by the wing commander.

In addition, any Airman who wants to ride a motorcycle on base must attend a basic rider's course either sanctioned by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation or a state accredited course, Semler said. Also, Airmen are now required to do additional training within three to five years of their initial training.

Anyone who is interested in attending the safety course or have any questions involving motorcycle safety in general should contact Master Sgt. Derek Miller or Semler in the wing's Safety Office.



Buddies

continued from page 4

eral framework of the original Base Buddy program; matching military mentors with students throughout the local school system for weekly 20 to 30 minute mentoring sessions in the schools. While the Elevators component pairs wing members with elementary school students, there is also an E-mentoring component for proctored career specific Q&A sessions online for high school students, and a Speaker Series component, where educators can request a speaker to visit a school to speak on spe-

cific topics of interest.

The program itself has evolved into a full partnership between the West Virginia Department of Education and various military and non-profit organizations; to include the West Virginia National Guard. Its goal is to help mentor and graduate high school students and generate future generations of productive West Virginia citizens who embrace learning and the value of education for fuller, enriched lives either in the workforce or as they pursue postsecondary education.

This initiative should keep the original Base Buddy program alive and well. While

the wing continues to work with its original partner, Bunker Hill, Tuscarora Elementary School has recently enrolled in the program following this past school year's Spring Break. Although the footprint is currently smaller at Tuscarora, the program was a big success in the new school and the intent has already been expressed for its continuation in the Fall. Going forward, the goal will be to grow the new state program in multiple schools, if possible, thereby multiplying the impact the men and women of the wing have on tomorrow's leaders, dreamers and citizens throughout our local communities and state.



Social media tips- think before you post



Air Force Graphic

1. Guard members may identify themselves as and include their rank, military component and status. However, if they decide not to identify themselves as Guard members, they should not disguise, impersonate or misrepresent their identity or affiliation with the National Guard.

2. When expressing personal opinions, Guard members should make it clear that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the National Guard. They are also encouraged to use a disclaimer such as: "The postings on this site are my own and don't represent the National Guard's positions or opinions."

3. As with other forms of personal public engagement, Guard members

must avoid offensive and inappropriate behavior that could bring discredit upon themselves and the National Guard. This includes posting any defamatory, libelous, obscene, abusive, threatening, racially or ethnically hateful or otherwise offensive or illegal information or material.

4. Correcting errors and misrepresentations made by others about the National Guard should be done professionally and respectfully, not emotionally. Guard members should contact their chain of command or public affairs office for guidance if they are uncertain about the need for a response.

5. When posting political content, Guard members must adhere to policy in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10. They should also not imply National Guard endorsement of any opinions, products or causes other than those already officially endorsed by the National Guard.

6. Guard members should use privacy settings on social networking sites so only their "friends" can view their photos and updates. They should also recognize that social network "friends" and "followers" could affect determinations in background investigations for security clearances.

7. The National Guard, Army or Air Force logo and other symbols may be used in unofficial posts as long as the symbols are used in a manner that does not bring discredit upon the Guard, result in personal financial gain or give the impression

of official or implied endorsement.

Safety

8. Guard members should not release personal identifiable information, such as Social Security number, home address or driver's license number that could be used to distinguish their individual identity or that of another Guardsman.

9. Guard members are also not allowed to release National Guard email addresses, telephone numbers or fax numbers not already authorized for public release. By piecing together information provided on different websites, criminals can use information to impersonate Guard members and steal passwords.

10. Guard members should not post information that would infringe upon the privacy, proprietary or personal rights of others or use any words, logos or other marks that would infringe upon the trademark, service mark, certification mark, or other intellectual property rights of the owners of such marks without the permission of the owners.

11. Finally, Guard members should review their accounts daily for possible use or changes by unauthorized users and should install and maintain current anti-virus and anti-spyware software on their personal computers.

For answers to social media questions, Guard members should contact their local public affairs office or the National Guard Bureau Social Media Team at ngbpa.socialmedia@mail.mil.

For Our Service Members And Their Families

* FRG Meeting- Tuesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. in the Wing Conference Room. Open to all.

* The 167th Family Readiness Group will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Small Air Terminal, Bldg. 130.

Child & Youth Programs:

* The Operation Military Kids Adventure Teen Camp will be held June 29 to July 2 at Jackson's Mill. The camp is for military teens ages 13 to 17. Events include swimming, shooting sports, Military 101, teambuilding and much, much more. If you are interested in attending, contact Laura Davis, OMK Director, for a scholarship to cover the FULL cost of the \$500 camp. Email her at Laura.davis@mail.wvu.edu or call 304-406-7020.

Please access the links below for more information on the OMK Adventure Camp as well as registration and camp forms.

<https://167aw-ii-01.ang.ds.af.mil/hq/frg/Shared%20Documents/Ads%20and%20Invitations/OMK%20ADVENTURE%20TEEN%20CAMP.pdf>

<http://4-hyd.ext.wvu.edu/>

http://4-hyd.ext.wvu.edu/events_forms/omk-teen-adventure-camp

* Do you have a 16-year-old looking for a FREE summer opportunity? There is a FREE summer opportunity to attend the Joint Science Technology Institute (JSTI) July 19 - Aug. 1 in Aberdeen, Md. Students should apply at <http://www.orau.org/center-for-science-education/events/jsti/default.html>

JSTI for Students is a two-week, all expenses paid, residential science technology engineering & math (STEM) program for current high school students in the United States. The purpose of the program is to expose students to scientific research through hands-on projects, to enable students to work with real-world scientists, and to increase students' awareness of STEM career opportunities. Thirty-six (36) participants will be selected for JSTI 2014. Eligibility requirements: student must be 16 by July 19, 2014, student must be a U.S. citizen, student must be a high school student in the 2014-2015 school year, student must have a teacher recommendation, student must be willing to work cooperatively in a group and follow instructions

Projects currently planned include robotics, water analysis (wet chemistry), forensics analysis, bacteria resistant surfaces and operational research analysis, 3D printing and programming Arduino/Raspberry PI. For questions/concerns about this opportunity, please contact Denise Baken, president of the Shield Analysis Technology, LLC, at 703-993-9226 or via email at dbaken@shieldanalysis.com

* The Eastern Panhandle First Tee Day Camp will be held June 23-26 from 8 a.m. until noon each day. Youth ages 8 to 14 may participate in the event at the Locust Hills Golf Resort in Charles Town.

There is no charge to military families. For more information on the program and a registration voucher please access the links below.

<https://167aw-ii-01.ang.ds.af.mil/hq/frg/Shared%20Documents/Ads%20and%20Invitations/2014%20First%20Tee%20Registration%20%20Voucher.pdf>

<https://167aw-ii-01.ang.ds.af.mil/hq/frg/Shared%20Documents/Ads%20and%20Invitations/FIRST%20TEE%20SUMMER%20CAMP%20INFO.pdf>

* A Fall RC/CPR/First Aid Youth Training Retreat is slated for Sept. 19-21 at Camp Dawson. The normal cost for the camp is \$140. Youth ages 12-17 are welcome to attend. Grant money has been received to send (10) 167th Airlift Wing youth to the upcoming camp for free. For more information contact Donna Truman, child and youth coordinator for the West Virginia National Guard, at 304-201-3754 or email her at donna.s.truman.nfg@mail.mil Please access the link below for a grant application and either email it to Sherry Lewis at sherry.lewis@ang.af.mil or bring it to the Family Programs Office in Bldg. 120.

<https://167aw-ii-01.ang.ds.af.mil/hq/frg/Shared%20Documents/Ads%20and%20Invitations/Grant%20Application%20for%20Teen%20Leadership%20Summit%20%20First%20Aid%20Youth%20Training%20Retreat.pdf>



The Family Programs Office is located in Bldg. 120, lower level. For more information contact Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager Sherry Lewis at 304-616-5590 or 1-866-986-4325 or the A&FRPM's assistant, Staff Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein at 304-616-5576.

Your country needs you

Your country needs you

It's your spouse who is a service member. But you play a vital role in helping the military carry out its mission.

As a member of the military, your spouse has important responsibilities. Being in the military isn't just a job. A lot depends on each service member's ability to fulfill his or her duties. There can be serious consequences if those duties are not performed as ordered. The work of all service members helps keep millions of people safe and secure. So your spouse must be able to focus and do his or her best at all times. That's where you come in.

Your important role

Military families face some unique challenges and the military's needs may come first at certain times. You may be separated from your spouse for long periods of time during training missions or deployment.

By helping keep your family strong, you play an active part in keeping the military strong. You can help your spouse do his or her best and stay focused on the job at hand. How? One way is by offering your spouse your understanding, support and help. Another important way you can help is through your active role in keeping

things running at home.

This is especially important when your spouse is called away for training or deployment. Service members can't be at their best if they are worrying about things back home. You can give your spouse the peace of mind knowing that during these times, the family and household is in good hands – yours!

Focusing on families

The changes that military life brings can be challenging to relationships.

Military families are the military's biggest asset. That's no secret. That's why the military devotes a lot of resources toward families. Military life comes with lots of support.

There are programs and services designed to help keep relationships healthy and strong. For example, the military offers counseling, information and referrals on a wide range of topics affecting couples. Military and Family Life Consultants (MFLCs), directors of psychological health (DPHs) and chaplains offices offer counseling on relationships, parenting, stress and similar issues. Other programs help improve interpersonal skills and strengthen family relationships.

A world of opportunity

The military can help you in many other ways, too. The military can help you with financial matters. It can help you with legal issues. There are recreational facilities and youth programs for your children.

There are also programs to help you advance your education and your career. You may even be eligible for help with the costs of starting a small business.

And the military gives you other opportunities too. You'll meet many new people and make new friends. You'll take part in many new experiences.

Getting a helping hand

Military life may be very unfamiliar to you right now. There's a lot to learn! The military has its own way of doing things. Its own rituals and customs – even its own way of telling time! And for civilians, this can all be confusing and overwhelming at times.

But millions of military spouses have been in the same position you find yourself in. They made the adjustment and so will you! And they are ready to help.

The military community is one that is rich in tradition, history and service. And it's a community in which military families help each other.

Your role as a military spouse is invaluable. Adjusting to military life does take some work. But the work you put into it matters. It matters to your family. It matters to your country!

Most of the information above comes from a publication available in the Family Programs Office titled *Adjusting to Military Life, What Spouses Need to Know!* of the "Serving Us" series. For a copy of the magazine stop by the Family Programs Office on the lower level of building 120 to pick one up while supplies last.

Sherry Lewis, 167 AW Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager
167 AW Family Programs Office
Building 120, lower level
304-616-5590
866-986-4325

Hey Military Teens!

Join us for:

OMK

Adventure
Teen Camp!



When: Sunday, June 29 to
Wednesday July 2

Where: Jackson's Mill,
Weston WV

Who: Military Teens
Ages 13-17 during
June 29-July 2, 2014

Cost: FREE for our
Military Teens!

Sponsored By: WV
Operation Military Kids

Register: <http://4-hyd.ext.wvu.edu/>
Laura @ 304-406-7020
Laura.davis@mail.wvu.edu

What are we going to be doing?

Swimming, Shooting Sports, Fire Circle, Military 101, Teambuilding, Community Service Project, Outdoor Cooking, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Survival Skills, Sports, Leadership Traits and having lots of fun!

Spots are limited, so don't miss out and register today!!



PTSD Awareness Month – Take the Step



Dr. Daniela Lupu

Starting in 2010, Congress named June 27th PTSD Awareness Day. According to the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), about 60 percent of men

and 50 percent of women will experience a traumatic event in their lifetime and the numbers are even higher for members of the armed forces. Roughly 7 or 8 out of 100 people will develop PTSD within their lifetime. It is estimated that between 11-20% of Afghanistan and Iraq wars veterans, 10 out of 100 Gulf War veterans and 30% of Vietnam veterans experience symptoms of PTSD.

Many myths and misunderstandings

exist about this medical illness. The article below addresses some of them. If you are interested in learning more about this topic or need additional resources, stop by my office or send me an email at daniela.lupu@ang.af.mil. There may come a time when you might be a wingman for someone who is struggling with trauma. Knowing this information can help you help them.

Busted! PTSD Myths Hurt You, Career

by Jayne Davis, DCoE Public Affairs

The earth is flat.
Money buys happiness.

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is not real; it's just in your head.

Some myths carry greater consequences than others. Myths about what PTSD is, who it affects, why you might have it and what can be done are unfortunately, common and harmful. Not being able to distinguish between fact and fiction can be the difference between living with hope and promise and living with despair for someone with the diagnosis.

Myth: Only Weak People Get PTSD

Identifying truths about PTSD is challenging given that it's not easily understood either by someone experiencing the related psychological symptoms or by their family and friends. Being uninformed contributes to numerous misconceptions about the disorder, such as having PTSD means you're not mentally tough. That plays particularly well in the military culture where standards of toughness are high and implemented with rigor.

Stress reactions to combat situations such as having nightmares, increased anxiety and reliving a traumatic event aren't necessarily indicators of PTSD, but if they persist beyond a short-term

period, it could result in a diagnosis. Some service members may be reluctant to acknowledge these symptoms for fear of being considered weak in character or unreliable, two further myths which keep them from seeking treatment and benefiting from support.

Myth: Treatment Doesn't Work

That treatment doesn't work is one of the more damaging myths about PTSD. Treatment does work. Decades of research have produced many successful treatment therapies, such as cognitive processing therapy and prolonged exposure therapy, and identified early intervention as key to positive treatment outcomes.

One positive step you can take to understand and manage symptoms that may be associated with PTSD is to download "PTSD Coach," a mobile app loaded with information and management and support resources.

Myth: Getting Care Will Hurt My Career

Many service members remain under the impression that receiving treatment will diminish or curtail their military career — another unfounded myth.

Military leaders continue to increase and impart their understanding of PTSD facts and how to effectively address unit members showing signs of psychological health concerns. Not seeking help once you become aware of problematic behavioral changes in yourself can be far more damaging. Behaviors associated with PTSD, like angry outbursts or attention deficits, can compromise your mission readiness or your unit's trust in you. Courageous service members have come forward to share their experiences and recovery stories in Real Warriors Campaign video profiles, further challenging the myth that treatment doesn't work.

Check out these resources for more PTSD myth-busters:

- Dispelling the Myths About PTSD
- PTSD Treatment Options
- Promising Treatments for PTSD
- PTSD Self-assessment
- PTSD: What Unit Leaders Need to Know
- Dispelling the Myths About PTSD & Other Psychological Health Issues

Learn about PTSD and do your part to raise awareness of the disorder by visiting the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD website. Don't spread myths about PTSD. Get the facts.

Did you know: Reserve component survivor benefit plan



Once you have received your 20 year letter, you will need to make your Survivor Benefit Plan Elections and return the form to ARPC.

To request your 20 year letter you can make a request on the MyPers website via the MyPers link on the Personnel share-point page. <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/login/redirect/home>

You can also request information on your current RCSBP Election if you have already made an election.

MyPers also has a RCSBP Calculator that you can access.

*Any questions you can contact MSGT Jacki Smith at ext 5544 or ARPC at 1-800-525-0102

Wing to hold ESGR event

ESGR: There will be an ESGR Wing event on Friday, August 8th. All wing members are encouraged to invite their civilian employers for an ESGR sponsored introduction to the wing, base tour, and free luncheon.

This will give your employers a chance to see the wing and garner an informed, firsthand look at our citizen-soldier roles & responsibilities. Just as importantly, it will illustrate to your civilian employers how pivotal their support is to the sustained mission success of the 167th Airlift Wing and Joint Base West Virginia operations.

More information will be provided as we get closer to the event. All wing members are encouraged to engage with their employers early, to ensure each has the opportunity to attend the event. The Wing POC for this event will be Capt Chris Tusing, X5240. Registration will begin following June's UTA.

Movin' In, Movin' Up, Movin' On

Welcome

Airman 1st Class Joseph Guiney, SFS
Airman 1st Class Blake Terry, AS
Senior Airman Benjamin Hubbard, CES
Senior Airman Georgia Nordman, LRS

Promotions

TO SENIOR AIRMAN
Justin Ruppenthal, LRS
Benjamin Saweikis, CF
Timothy Loughran, LRS
Erica Graham, FSS

TO STAFF SERGEANT
Christopher Johnson, MXS
Kraig Kline, MXS
Greg Copenhaver, OSS

TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT
Helen Wolfley, CPTF
Melissa Smith, LRS

TO MASTER SERGEANT
Robert Fluharty, AW

TO SECOND LIEUTENANT
Rodney Brown, FSS
Ryan Day, AS

TO FIRST LIEUTENANT
Gavin Miller, AS

Retirements

Senior Master Sgt. Denise Smearman, MDG
Master Sgt. Denise Walters, MSG
Tech. Sgt. Robert Hadley, LRS

AMVETS seeking
new members

FREE
2014-2015 membership
American Veterans
(AMVETS) Post 38
Bring your military ID,
DD-214 or discharge
Tour the facilities and sign up
July 1 through July 7, 2014
186 Boat Dock Drive
Falling Waters, WV
For more details contact
Ken Bercaw, Post
#38 Adjutant
at 304-274-8982



THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
I AM A WARRIOR.
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR,
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.



How sweet it is...

As STARBASE instructors, it is our hope for students to visit our classrooms here on base in fifth-grade and leave full of enthusiasm for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). STARBASE 2.0 is designed to capitalize on that excitement to further develop STEM skills and knowledge in an afterschool setting. It was evident that 2.0 participants were overjoyed to be given the opportunity to better develop their skills in robotics and improve their programming and maneuvering of the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3 robots this school year.



During the last three meetings, shouts of excitement, laughs, and bursts of “hurrahs” could be heard echoing in the halls of Martinsburg South Middle, as students competed to maneuver their robot to the finish line. Undoubtedly, this year’s highlight was having all four robotics teams compete in a small-scale robotics maze using the

EV3STORM. With the guidance of the STARBASE instructors and STEM mentors, each 2.0 participant learned how to control the EV3STORM robot remotely with an iPad using the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® app.

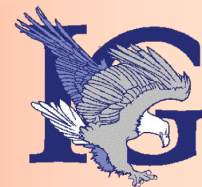
Last week, members of the group celebrated their accomplishments with sweet treats at their graduation ceremony. This celebration was a time for students to look back on the collaboration, commitment, and triumphs they have shared with their STEM mentors since the beginning of the school year.





Mission Ready IS Inspection Ready

167th Airlift Wing Office of the Inspector General Inspections



Wing Fuel Spill Plan tested, TAP inspected

In conjunction with the Environmental Management office and the Maintenance Group, the Inspector General's office facilitated a tabletop exercise to test the capabilities and limitations of the Wing Fuel Spill Plan.

The one-hour exercise brought to light some weaknesses and strengths in the plan. Many sections are not equipped with enough absorbency material to contain a fuel spill but the exercise determined that communication between sections during a spill worked well.

Approximately 35 unit members participated in the exercise and included Maintenance, Emergency Management, the Fire

Department, Security Forces, and Safety.

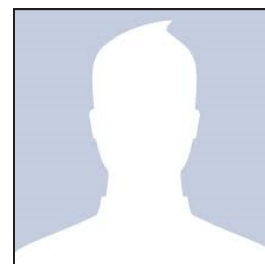
The tabletop is a precursor to a full response exercise, scheduled for June 18.

The Transition Assistance Program was inspected by the IGI in May. TAP is a program mandated by Congress to address the needs of Airmen that are transitioning from active duty to civilian life.

The 167th TAP program is managed by the Family Programs Office and is currently servicing 155 unit members who are transitioning off active duty.

The Fuel Spill tabletop exercise and TAP final reports can be found on the 167th IGI SharePoint site.

MEET OUR TEAM!



Master Sgt. Keith H. Taber is currently serving as the 167th Airlift Wing's IGI Superintendent and Wing Self-Assessment Program Manager. Taber joined the unit as a traditional guardsman in 1987 and was hired as a technician in 2000 as a Powered Systems Support Technician. In 2007, he was hired into the MXG Quality Assurance office. Taber lives in Smithsburg, Md. with his wife and daughter. He enjoys camping, hunting and home brewing and hates to have his picture taken.

MICT: The proper way to answer questions

When performing a self-assessment within MICT, each checklist question must be assigned an assessment answer.

Questions should be answered as complete as possible to demonstrate and validate the assessment answer to an inspector that is virtually conducting an inspection.

While assessment notes may not always be required, the assessor should make a conscientious effort to make the answer as complete as possible.

Notes for questions should be completed with information that fully substantiates the answer. They should be as specific, thorough and as reasonable as possible.

Notes can include guidance references, actions taken, or other substantiating information. When referencing documents, the physical or network location of documents should be included.

Supporting documentation should be attached to a checklist question to substantiate the answer or

the support information that is input in the assessment notes field.

Documents may include items such as guidance references, training logs, appointment letters, and meeting minutes.

Remember, never include any documentation that is considered Personally Identifiably Information or classified.

For more information, refer to the MICT Business Rules located on the Wing IGI SharePoint page or contact the Wing IGI office directly.

LOOKING AHEAD...

June

6-11 SARC program inspection

July

12-17 Information Protection Program inspection

August

13 Anti-Terrorism Exercise

167 AW/IG TEAM

Maj. Andrew Schmidt, *Inspector General*

2Lt. Heather Wright, *Scenario Planner*

MSgt. Keith Taber, *MICT Manager/IGI Superintendent*

Lt. Col. Mark Wallace, *Director of Inspections*

CMSgt. Billy Gillenwater, *Inspector*

MSgt. Julie Lozinski, *Wing Inspection Team Manager*

Building 120/Room G39, 167AW.IGI@ang.af.mil

My other mother, my other father



by Chaplain (Capt.)
Ronald Faith

June UTA finds itself wedged in the middle of the days that we set aside to honor our moms and dads. We often celebrate with that special dinner, a bottle of cologne or at least a trip to the card aisle at

Walmart; which is usually still packed at 11 p.m. on the eve of, ask me how I know. As you grow older and these days roll around perhaps you begin to see there is more to be considered than just your blood line.

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans by saying "Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me." He teaches us to realize that there are others who come along side us in our lives from time to time and fill in the parental void. Here was a lady that was not a biological parent to Paul but on one of his missions had "adopted" this full

grown man as a second son. At her house Paul had what we might call refrigerator privileges.

This way of thinking is nothing new. Naomi is another example of God's tender stories. We see how a desolate widow, who herself had lost two children, demonstrated this sacrificial motherly lifestyle to others. Her maternal love for Ruth had an incredible temporal and eternal impact. She came along side of Ruth, a new immigrant (a former daughter-in-law) at a very vulnerable time in Ruth's life and accompanied her through some world rocking transitions. Because of Naomi's love and guidance Ruth then was privileged became the great-grandmother of King David. He was the great, great, great...father of the Messiah.

Paul benefited from taking the parental role as well. Timothy and Titus were both referred to by Paul as "my son in the faith." While they had physical fathers they received their spiritual DNA from Paul. Paul would hand the torch to them to carry his ministry on to the next generation.

Paul complained at times that there are ten thousand teachers out there but

not many fathers. A teacher does their job and then goes home. A father or mother's job does not end with the day. Fathers and mothers are called to persevere through the mess, literal and figurative and love till the end.

These substitute parental roles can be: 1.) Complementary, like two hands clapping, you see something positive in your mom or dad that can be reinforced by others. 2.) Compassionate, sometimes you need a safe harbor in the storms of life when your immediate family is making the waves. 3.) Convenient, due to circumstances you have someone that is nearby when your folks are far away. 4.) Contradictory even, while it may be hard to acknowledge every parent has blind spots and weakness where another can stand in the gap.

Along with your birth parents this season perhaps there needs to be a card sent to that neighbor, aunt, supervisor...that took you under their wing and through some growing pains of life. Are you now at the place in your life where you may be able to help parent someone in the right direction?

The New NCO Way

by Marc V. Schanz, Air Force Magazine, Senior Editor

USAF is attempting to improve its NCO development, as it expects more from its enlisted force in the years ahead.

SMSgt. Kevin Thomas, the Air National Guard liaison to the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, is in many ways the face of senior non-commissioned officer evolution.

A veteran aerospace ground equipment mechanic, he transitioned to the Air National Guard from Active Duty in the mid-1990s, serving in professional military education assignments, then as a logistics analyst at 1st Air Force before arriving at the Pentagon as the ANG's

liaison to the CMSAF in August 2013. He is also the first Air Guardsman to serve in the new billet.

"The idea was to have a liaison in the office that [CMSAF James A. Cody] could reach out to on an immediate basis, that impacted the Air Guard and enlisted airmen," Thomas said of his day-to-day duties. Chief Cody felt "he needed to get representation from Active [Duty], Guard, and Reserve" to help guide deliberations on policies which would affect all corners of the enlisted Total Force. Thomas is now a subject matter expert for senior leaders and is in the middle of some wide-reach-

ing policy changes.

ONE GOAL, ONE PRODUCT

As such, Thomas has spent a great deal of time in and out of meetings that are in many ways determining how the Total Force will look in the future. He will often liaise with the ANG Readiness Center for personnel discussions surrounding the "three-in-one" initiative—USAF's push to combine as many of the Active Duty, Air Force Reserve, and ANG instructions and regulations into one product. "There are impacts to the Guard in decisions every day," and knowing the impacts of decisions made at the Air Staff level is critical

to good AFRC and ANG integration.

Thomas' two-year tour at the Pentagon is an example of how USAF wants to build its senior NCOs into more strategic assets to be utilized across the Total Force.

When Thomas finishes his tour, he will have valuable exposure to the "executive level" of the Air Force, he said, and will have knowledge of how policies are formed and implemented. Upon completion, Thomas anticipates he will return to an Air Guard- or National Guard-centric organization.

"When people are wondering 'what is going on at the Pentagon?' I'll be able to help," he said. "I'll be able to give insight, that this is part of the process, and I'll help build trust between [the Air Guard and USAF leadership]."

Thomas' position is just one of many into which the Air Force wants to put senior NCOs in the coming years. With its Fiscal 2015 budget being vetted on Capitol Hill, USAF leaders have made the case that another painful round of personnel reductions are needed: an estimated 25,000 cut from the end strength over the next five years to offset rising personnel costs and help pay for modernization and readiness needs.

"While we are going to be smaller, ... how we execute that is going to be hard," CMSAF Cody said in a March interview. "It's going to be hard on our airmen and our families. There is a lot of uncertainty right now."

While USAF is cutting aircraft and equipment, it is also focused on reducing its personnel costs—as are the other services—while retaining the hard-earned experience and talent in an NCO cadre built from years of combat operations. With a large majority of the force in the enlisted ranks, Cody and senior USAF leaders say the service is looking to retain and possibly expand the roles and responsibilities of its most talented NCOs.

This means changes to NCO professional military education, changes to developmental special duty assignments, and—potentially—a rethinking of the appropriate roles for and responsibili-

ties of NCOs serving in billets now held by company grade officers, according to Cody and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.

The USAF force-shaping debate is spurring a broad and deep look at the functions, roles, and development of the non-commissioned officer. As USAF draws down, there is opportunity to get some of these processes ironed out.

"There's a lot of goodness going on," Cody emphasized. "We are still very much looking at how we are evolving and developing [the enlisted] force to make sure they have the capabilities and skill sets the nation demands."

Today, approximately 82 percent of airmen are enlisted, and the service knows any changes to personnel compensation and benefits will have wide-ranging repercussions.

USAF also wants to establish master sergeant promotion boards, in an attempt to help identify high performers earlier in their enlisted careers (senior NCOs go before boards, but moving from tech sergeant to master sergeant does not require a board). Cody and Welsh have said repeatedly they want to see these promotion boards established. The sooner the Air Force can identify its "performers," they say, the better for the long-term health of the service as it tries to tighten up and survive the sequester while still retaining as much human capital as possible.

Cody said USAF is looking to execute master sergeant promotion boards "next year, as long as we have the capacity to do so. ... It's not that we are not promoting the right people today, but the roles and responsibilities [of NCOs] today as opposed to 30 years ago have changed, and so that process should change," Cody said.

SOUL SEARCHING

Cody's office has inherited the drive to improve senior NCO development from his predecessor, former CMSAF James A. Roy, but the issue has only grown in importance as the service is now faced with some deep soul searching about what it expects out of all its airmen in the

years ahead. "Do I worry about losing people in all this? Absolutely," Cody said during a tour of USAF bases in the Pacific last summer with Welsh. "But we have the most capable people we have ever had today. And down to the youngest airmen, they all understand they are a part of what we are going through." As the force shrinks in the coming years, the argument goes, every individual airman becomes even more important, not just in their particular job or field, but as a leader helping to mold and retain the force, and pass on that experience and perspective to younger airmen.

Cody, a career air traffic controller, said a good number of junior enlisted airmen he's come across over the years don't think of themselves as having leadership potential because of the way the enlisted force emphasizes technical skills. It's the goal of USAF leadership to retain the knowledge airmen have built up in the first decade of their careers and pass it on to their fellow airmen.

"People get really good at their job, they like their job, and they're happy to do that job," Cody said at last September's Air & Space Conference.

The Air Force builds the enlisted force this way because of the technical, skill-driven nature of the work of the enlisted force—from life support shops to flight lines to communications squadrons. For the first 10 to 12 years of an enlisted person's career, an airman will work to master a particular skill set.

"You're proud to be an airman, but you're probably just as proud and sometimes more proud to do the job you do and think less about being an airman," Cody said. USAF wants to take the airmen who might leave the service at the end of an enlistment and convince them that there are greater opportunities in the force.

Therefore, USAF is looking very closely at what it dubs "deliberate development," or making sure junior NCOs identified as solid performers continue on with the service, and move into leadership roles, joint and international assignments, and eventually senior positions. To

accomplish this, the service is retooling how it approaches key leadership billets in the enlisted force, particularly “developmental special duties”—a series of 10 special assignments to include military training instructors, recruiters, USAF Honor Guard, first sergeants, professional military education instructors, career assistance advisors, technical training instructors, US Air Force Academy trainers, military training leaders, and airman and family readiness center NCOs.

These positions were filled largely on a volunteer basis prior to 2013, Cody noted in March. Now the billets are drawn from nominations at the major command level, from staff sergeants to master sergeants, and these positions are of great influence across the NCO corps. They have been identified as jobs that cultivate “strategic” airmen. From the point of recruitment, through tech training and Airman Leadership School, NCOs will get the chance to directly guide and influence the force before going back into their career fields with added experience. Anomination-based process ensures these duties are filled and a ready pool of candidates can meet demands.

The growth of senior enlisted leaders in special assignments, fellowship programs, and joint billets has steadily increased as command chiefs and senior leaders see more value in building senior NCOs with broad exposure to many aspects of today’s Air Force.

SMSgt. Melanie Noel, who prior to her arrival in Washington, D.C., served a long career in security forces, personnel, and in basic military training, recently participated in USAF’s Congressional Fellow program in 2013.

“I tried to give perspective on the enlisted population of the Air Force,” she said. “It’s a point of view [staffers] didn’t get often.” Noel noted she served on the House Armed Services Committee during many of the debates surrounding the courts-martial emanating from abuses at JBSA-Lackland, Texas. As a former first sergeant at Lackland, with one stint in BMT and the other in tech school, Noel’s views were valuable to her member’s

office.

An airman assigned to the billet does not give official USAF statements (those must come through the legislative liaison) but is in a position to give perspective about how certain aspects of the service work, in addition to learning about the legislative process. Noel was also the first senior NCO in the Congressional Fellows program. The Air Force decided in 2011 that it wanted to open the opportunity to senior enlisted airmen, an initiative driven by then-CMSAF Roy and expanded under Cody. She cut the program short, however, when she learned she was selected for promotion to chief master sergeant, and now is moving into a position in the Air Force’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office on the Air Staff. Another senior NCO, this one with an intelligence background, will follow on in the position soon and more senior NCOs are expected to follow in years ahead.

“I think it was a huge opportunity and is something we need to spend more time and get more folks into,” Noel said of her experience. “We’ve talked a lot about whether we need a highly educated enlisted force, but I think it’s absolutely critical for a senior leader. You want someone who, when they sit at the table, at a [combatant command] or at NATO in a senior position, [is] able to speak and be in concert with their boss and represent your background. ... You can only do that if you have the experience and education to go along” with it, she said.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

In addition to ensuring senior NCOs get to fill special duty assignments, USAF is also retooling how it educates and builds the senior enlisted force. Welsh, speaking in February at the Air Force Association’s Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, announced a series of changes in the works for the NCO corps that would hopefully aid airmen in making sure they focus on job performance while also getting the right professional military education.

Welsh said airmen would be required to complete an associate’s degree, through the Community College of the Air Force or another institution, and enlisted airmen

must attend Airman Leadership School then the Noncommissioned Officer Academy (for senior NCOs, they will have to attend the Senior NCO Academy for further development). Both the NCOA and the SNCOA are going to transition to a “blended learning” curriculum in the near future, Welsh said, which will shrink the length of the residence course in both schools and will not repeat material covered in the correspondence portion. Welsh said a beta test of the SNCO Academy correspondence course had run, and both academies would be fully operational with the new program by the end of this spring.

“Everything is connected, from recruitment on,” Cody said in March, adding that USAF will be “evolving” PME and it will take several years to get right. “We are bringing the level of learning and comprehension to a much higher level,” he said, adding that blended learning also allows the service to be “more predictable” in its PME practices.

While Cody views the debate on the roles and responsibilities as a separate one from the “churn” of the budget now unfolding, Welsh has made no secret his interest in exploring what USAF expects of senior NCOs—to include having them assume billets formerly reserved for officers. “What we are doing is ... opening our aperture to have the discussion about where we think the best utilization of our talents, specifically the talents of our enlisted force, should be,” Cody said in March.

Especially over the last two decades, the enlisted realm has “evolved to a much different place than when we first established their traditional roles,” Cody said. He singled out the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott AFB, Ill., as one organization that has already taken some roles formerly performed by officers and placed them under the charge of senior NCOs. While there is no one effort or study looking at these issues, Cody said, the Air Force is having a “broad discussion” about many different mission areas.

Air National Guard member molds future Airmen

by Air Force Tech. Sgt. David Eichaker, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va., May 27, 2014 - The Air Force basic military training instructor is vital to the development of making future airmen, and the Air National Guard plays a relevant role in that process.

Air National Guard members who apply and are accepted carry out a four-year assignment as an MTI before returning to their home units.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Maria Escobar is one of those Guard members. She left her human resources specialist job at the 102nd Intelligence Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts, to begin her MTI tour at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, in 2010.

Escobar said her own basic training experiences encouraged her to pursue her current path, which has taken her back to where it all began for her. "My military training instructor inspired me to become an MTI," Escobar said. "She was a great leader and mentor and she exemplified what a true airman needed to be."

Escobar said her experiences of being on the 102nd Intelligence Wing honor guard, along with working in personnel, have had a positive effect on her MTI assignment. Although the two duties might not seem conducive to being an MTI, she said, the honor guard gave her training in drill movements, while her personnel job contributed to successful record keeping - two essential skills when working with trainees.

"I also wanted to give back to the Air Force," she said. "I love to teach and mentor," adding that as an MTI, she is able to accomplish both.

Despite the long hours and grueling schedule MTIs face every day, the responsibility of transforming civilian trainees to airmen can be exceptionally rewarding. "The changes are amazing, and it is not only noticeable by the instructors, but also their families," Escobar said, adding that her biggest reward from being an MTI is the pride she feels in turning young civil-

ians into airmen.

With almost four years of MTI duty on her resume, Escobar reflected on what she called one of her most treasured moments: giving trainees their graduation coins during their basic training graduation retreat ceremony.

"The retreat ceremony is when they get promoted to Airmen," she said. "I [know] at that moment that the Airmen standing there (are) a representation of all the hard work and dedication that we achieved as a team." Escobar said that while serving as an MTI, she also served on a special team to evaluate other basic training squadrons for compliance, which in turn gave her a larger understanding of Air Force policies and procedures.

She said this has advanced her career and provided more opportunities at her home unit.

"Due to my current assignment as an MTI, it helped me get a new job at the 102nd IW as an inspector general assistant," she said.

And those she works with have no doubt she'll succeed in her new position.

"Staff Sergeant Escobar is truly a consummate professional and outstanding (noncommissioned officer)," said Air Force Master Sgt. Troy Moore, Escobar's supervisor at the 737th Training Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. "She is considered one of the elite among the instructor force, and she is also a leader among other MTIs."

Moore added that Escobar's crowning achievement while assigned to basic mili-



photo by Benjamin Faske

Air Force Staff Sgt. Maria Escobar, a military training instructor with the 737th Training Group, addresses a trainee during basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, May 20, 2014. Escobar, a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, volunteered for MTI duty to teach and mentor future Airmen.

tary training was when she received her master military training instructor distinction and earned the right to don the blue rope on her uniform.

"(The) Blue rope is a master military training instructor who is considered the 'best of the best' of the MTI corps, and so is Staff Sergeant Escobar," Moore said.

Opportunity for Air National Guard E-6s and E-7s

ALEXANDRIA, VA, May 28, 2014 - The Air National Guard is looking for outstanding NCOs to fill four-year controlled tours on active duty to serve as Military Training Instructors at Lackland AFB, Texas. The application window is open through June 30th. The application package can be found at this link:

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/eangus.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/Files/Guard_Reserve_MTI_Application.pdf