

PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING
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Email comments to:
usaf.wv.167-aw.list.PA-Public-Affairs@mail.mil



Col. Maty Timko
Wing Commander

Capt. Stacy Gault
Public Affairs Officer

Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle
Public Affairs Superintendent

Staff Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver
PA Specialist

Senior Airman Edward Michon
PA Specialist

Airman 1st Class Steven Sechler
PA Specialist

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usaf.wv.167-aw.list.PA-Public-Affairs@mail.mil

ON THE COVER

167th Airlift Wing aircraft maintainers perform routine maintenecce on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as part of a home station check, or routine aircraft inspection, at the Martinsburg, W. Va., Air National Guard base, Feb. 02, 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Edward Michon).

ON THE BACK COVER

Staff Sgt. Mitchell Taylor, an aircraft maintainer for the 167th Airlift Wing, conducts an engine inlet inspection on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as part of a home station check, or routine maintenence inspection, at the Martinsburg, W. Va., Air National Guard base, Feb. 2, 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Edward Michon).



Col. Martin Timko
167AW WING COMMANDER

Mighty Airlift Wing!

Happy February UTA! It seems like just yesterday that we were wrapping up January and another month is upon us. It looks as if Punxsutawney Phil may have it right: he didn't see his shadow this year so spring should be right around the corner – as signified with sixty degree weather in the forecast for the coming week.

In that mode of the unit moving forward into the future, the ripple effects continue from our wing change of command to begin the year. Let me again congratulate both Col Chris "Siggy" Sigler on taking command of the Operations Group as well as Lt Col Chris "Nuts" Nasser on taking command of the Mission Support Group. I personally have known both of these fine officers for decades and am excited about the leadership and guidance they will bring to their respective groups.

– Stay Mighty!

Vision

The Premier Airlift Wing
Mission Ready, Devoted to Airmen and Community,
Dedicated to Continuous Improvement



Command Chief Master Sgt. Troy Brawner
167AW WING COMMAND CHIEF

Thank you for a productive UTA. Our council presidents held a Joint Council meeting that was attended by many. I look forward to seeing some of the great ideas shared at the meeting come to fruition as we attempt to re-energize our council teams. If you haven't participated in your council I highly recommend that you do.

This weekend we welcomed our new Wing 1st Sgt Jacki Weddle to headquarters. Make no mistake about it.....she is full of energy and passion and is jumping full speed into her new role. Col Timko and I are excited to have her on the team.

We say farewell and congratulations to Chief Michael Hill (Communications Flight) on his retirement. Thank you for your 26+ years of service. We will miss you.

I am extremely excited to congratulate our Outstanding Airmen of the Year; SRA Erin Engle (MDG), TSgt Jeremy Grove (MSG), MSgt Mike Zittle (MXS), 1st Sgt Jacki Weddle (MXS). Best of luck to them as they move on to the state competition.

Thank you for making the 167th AW the best it can be. Please continue to keep our deployed members in your thoughts and prayers.

Chief Brawner

Group commanders assume new roles in separate ceremonies

by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver

Two group commanders transitioned to their new roles within the 167th Airlift Wing during two separate ceremonies this weekend at Shepherd Airfield, West Virginia.

Lt. Col. Charles Nasser assumed command of the 167th Mission Support Group Saturday and Col. Christopher Sigler assumed command of the 167th Operations Group Sunday.

Family, friends, and Airmen attended both assumption of command ceremonies to welcome the incoming commanders.

Col. Marty Timko, commander of the 167th Airlift wing, presided over both ceremonies.

"I probably couldn't think of a finer officer, or colleague, or friend in which I'm going to lean on pretty heavily, that is going to be leading, in my opinion, the most diverse group on base- just for all of the things that mission support touches on the daily mission," Timko said of Nasser.

Nasser said his vision is simple. "Fly, fight, and win."

"Remember your oath and what it means, we are here to win the war and do our part to help the warfighter," Nasser said.

Sigler, who previously served as the 167th Mission Support Group commander, is excited about his new opportunity as the the operations group commander and returning his focus to the flying mission.

"I can't think of someone who has more perspective, openness, and a kind heart to really see both sides of the coin when issues arise." Timko said of Sigler.

Sigler commended the airlift squadron for the flying experience of its full-time staff and said he is looking to continue to foster and grow those skills, returning as a full-time commander in May himself.

He added the group must consistently strive to maintain preparedness, training, and leadership to ensure mission accomplishment for both its members as well as its affiliated units.

"You know there's a lot going on in the world and the 167th is right there," Sigler said. "What I'm looking for [in my Airmen] is to be thoroughly trained and prepared to fly safely around the world for our challenging missions." 🐾



Top left photo: Col. Marty Timko, 167th Airlift Wing commander, congratulates Lt. Col. Charles Nasser during a ceremony marking Nasser's assumption of command of the 167th Mission Support Group. Top right photo: Lt. Col. Charles Nasser addresses the audience at his assumption of command ceremony, Feb. 1, 2020. Bottom left photo: Col. Christopher Sigler tells his vision for the 167th Operations Group during his assumption of command ceremony Feb. 2, 2020 at the 167th Airlift Wing. Bottom right photo: Col. Marty Timko, 167th Airlift Wing commander, congratulates Col. Christopher Sigler upon his assumption of command of the 167th Operations Group. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Airman Edward Michon)

Black vulture study continues

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (USDA-APHIS) Wildlife Services and the 167th Airlift Wing teamed up again recently to tag 30 more black vultures in Martinsburg, W.Va., in an effort to mitigate potential aviation hazards.

Since December 2018, 494 black vultures have been fitted with red alphanumeric tags in West Virginia, 255 of those were tagged within five miles of the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport, home to the 167th.

The black vultures, a protected migratory bird, were first spotted in the area in 2017 at the Argos Cement Plant, seemingly attracted to the plant's deep quarry and the heat thermals from the large kiln.

Argos, the 167th and the USDA-APHIS, have been working together tagging birds and last year jointly funded telemetry devices to aid in an on-going study of black vultures in the area conducted by Conservation Science Global.

There have been more than 300 reported sightings of tagged black vultures since the study began.

"The more data we collect, the better we can formulate strategies to manage the threats and the damage," said Chad Neil, a wildlife biologist for USDA APHIS Wildlife Services-West Virginia and part of the 167th AW's Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) team.

Anyone who spots a tagged black vulture is asked to send an email to vulture.tag@gmail.com with the location of the sighting, a tag number if visible and any behavioral information. 🐾



Tech. Sgt. Gregory Copenhaver, Tech. Sgt. Mark Darlington, Chad Neil, Airman 1st Class Anthony Jacoby and Master Sgt. Nate Smith tagged 30 black vultures Jan. 16, 2020 in Martinsburg, W.Va., as part of a black vulture study aimed at mitigating potential aviation hazards. Red tags with alpha-numeric codes were attached to the birds to help track their behavior.



Higgins receives Tommy Downs award

Maj. Christopher Tusing, right, 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, presents Staff Sgt. Charles Higgins with the 2018 Tommy Downs award on behalf of the Air National Guard's Air Transportation Advisory Group, Jan. 11, 2020. Higgins competed against Airmen from 85 other ANG air transportation units and was selected for the award based on his leadership and impact to the career field, outstanding performance in his air transportation duties, display of core values and mentorship efforts of his subordinates.

Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Master Sgt. Sonia Walls

Hometown:

Columbia, Md.

Job Title:

NCOIC Paralegal

Master Sgt. Sonia Walls is a paralegal for the 167th Airlift Wing. She has been in the unit for 12 years.

As the non-commissioned officer in charge of paralegal, she is responsible for assisting the wing's Staff Judge Advocate in providing legal guidance to commanders, first sergeants, supervisors and unit members.

"It is important that our members are always ready for the mission, so my team and I provide things like legal assistance for wills, powers of attorneys, notary assistance, review of legal documents, and tenant and landlord agreements," Walls said. "Our job is ever so demanding."

The legal team's goal is to reinforce the Air Force Core Values and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, she said.

"As the law office superintendent, Master Sgt. Walls is not only my right-hand person in managing the enlisted Judge Advocate personnel and the legal operations, she is also my trusted confidant and grounding force," said Maj. Jenny Naylor, 167th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate General. "I sincerely appreciate her energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the legal profession, and her contagious positivity and optimism that ceaselessly brighten our shared work life."

When not in wearing the uniform, Walls is an auditor and runs a property management business with her husband.

"People may be surprised to know that I love construction work and building things with my hands," Walls said.

She installs cabinets, dry wall and floor tiles but said she leaves the electrical work to her husband.

She hopes to buy a senior living apartment building in the future.

She also intends to grow her family by becoming a foster parent.

"I am proudest of my family to include my two grand kids, two daughters, my son-in-law and my wonderful, always supportive husband," she said.

Walls has a master's degree in business administration, a bachelor's degree in accounting and two associate degrees, one in paralegal and one in information management.




Her military career goals include finding time to complete her professional military education in order to be promoted to the top enlisted ranks.

Walls lists a number of lessons she has learned in her career both from family members and supervisors: kindness, patience, listening and communicating, and empathy.

"I have been so blessed and had some amazing role models throughout my life. I would like to take what I have learned from them and use it to help others. That includes being a role model for every Airman I see who is in need of assistance," Walls said. "If I can help one person know that they are worthy and capable of doing whatever they put their mind to, that would be a blessing for me."

Her advice to the newest Airmen is to stay productive. "If you see something that is not right or that is not efficient, then think of a way to make it better," she said. "Bring some solutions to the discussion."

Walls' hobbies include biking, fishing, camping, skydiving and white water rafting. "I rafted a class four rapid in Maine, and was thrown into the water," she said.

She also volunteers 10 hours a week as the financial secretary for her church. 



For Our Service Members And Their Families

Airman & Family Program Office

Upcoming classes/workshops/trainings open to 167th Service Members and their spouse:

- 6 February – 1300 - Maintenance classroom building 307 - Personal Financial Counselor's (PFC) class on CAR BUYING
- 20 February – 1300 – Maintenance classroom building 307, PFC class on SAVING AND INVESTING
- 5 March – 1300 Maintenance classroom building 307, PFC class on RETIREMENT PLANNING STARTER
- 7 March – 1300 – Base Auditorium - PFC class on UTILIZING MILITARY ONESOURCE
- 8 March – 1300 – Maintenance Classroom building 307 - PFC class on PAYING FOR COLLEGE
- 19 March – 1300 – Maintenance Classroom building 307 - PFC class on APPROACHING RETIREMENT WITHIN 12-24 MONTHS

167th Family Readiness Group (FRG)

Upcoming events open to all 167th Service Members and their family

- 10 March – 1530 – Wing Conference Room building 120 - Next Quarterly FRG Meeting. The meeting is open to all 167th service members, their families, and retirees.
- 18 April – 1300-1500 – Dining Facility – EASTER EGGS-TRAVAGANZA & EGG HUNT. Open to all 167th service members and family
- 24 October – 1300-1500 – CES building 119 – HALLOWEEN BASH. Open to all 167th service members and family

HELP WANTED - If you're wanting to become more involved in the Wing's events and volunteer program, contact the 167th Family Readiness Group, at email 167awfrg@gmail.com, to let them know what you'd like to help with. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming events.



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

WING CARE TEAM QUICK REFERENCE

Chaplain Corps

304-616-5319

Chaplain Ronald Faith

Chaplain Jonathan Yost

Chaplain Jumaane Green

Chaplain Clinton Dunham

Chaplain Joshua Stevens

Personal Financial Counselor

304-543-6452

Jerry Zeigler



Director of Psychological Health

304-616-5939

Cristina Firescu-Williams

Airman and Family Readiness

304-616-5590

Sherry Lewis

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

304-616-5991

Anthony Johnson

The Tax Refund

by Jerry Zeigler, AFC, 167th Airlift Wing Personal Financial Counselor



Jerry Zeigler, AFC
Personal Financial
Counselor

Many of us dread taxes, yet many of us also look forward to the tax refund. If you typically get a tax refund just remember that you are giving the government an interest free loan throughout a year or more. So if you'd rather withhold less and use it or save it each month, you can adjust your withholding. There is a new W-4 now (the S1 or S8 or M4 type choices are going away). The IRS has kindly provided a new withholding estimator to help determine the best way to fill out the new W-4 form for you and you can find that at <https://www.irs.gov/payments/tax-withholding>.

But if you prefer having that buffer or that "forced" savings, what should you do with that refund money? Well whatever the best choice is for you. However, besides paying bills, buying necessities, and using it as fun money - I would like you to consider using some of it or all of it for a few other things.

1) Making extra debt payments. Having debt reduces options – you have to pay the debt (well as long as you don't want the problems associated with not paying). Paying debt off may allow you to enjoy that tax refund every month instead of just during that summer vacation. Or it may be the jump start your path to becoming debt free.

2) Boost your savings. Maybe you could use some more money in your emergency fund. Maybe you need to save for your next car. If you struggle with spending money that is sitting in a savings account, there is another option. When you file your Federal tax return you can choose to apply the refund or a portion of the refund to US Savings Bonds. The I bonds have some inflation protection and the portion of the refund designated for the savings bonds won't pass through your bank account. Note that you can't cash in I bonds for the first year and there is an interest penalty if cashed in before 5 years.

3) Boost your retirement investing. Your future self will thank you. I still haven't met anyone who said they saved too much for retirement, but if this is you please let me know. Many of us don't invest enough for retirement. We know this because about half of the people retiring today only have social security for retirement income.

Maybe your tax refund does have to go to bills, car repairs, other needs, or a once in a lifetime vacation. But if it doesn't, consider these other options to help place yourself in a better financial position.

If it is financial, the PFC can assist.

Jerry Zeigler, AFC®, MBA

304-543-6452

PFC2.WV.NG@zeiders.com

MilTax: Military OneSource offers free tax prep

By Terri Moon Cronk, Defense.gov / Published January 19, 2020

WASHINGTON (AFNS) --

Tax season can be a dreaded time of year for many people, but the Defense Department's Military OneSource offers the MilTax program to ease filing stress for service members and their families.

There is no need to worry about costs in tax preparation because the services are free. MilTax kicks off on Military OneSource Jan. 22, offering electronic filing via do-it-yourself software and personalized support from a tax consultant.

Those who qualify to use the free MilTax program are active duty service members and their families, National Guard members and Reservists, survivors and veterans who have left the service in the last 365 days, said Kelly Smith, DoD's Military Community and Family Policy program analyst.

Smith emphasized that whether filing on one's own or seeking out assistance from a tax consultant, MilTax services are available year-round for extensions and circumstances unique to the military community.

"It is important for service members and families to know that they have options when it comes to support during tax-filing season," she said.

"Services are offered well past the tax deadline," she said, noting that some service members may file extensions, have additional properties, are looking to sell their homes and other situations that are unique to military members.

"Tax consultants can let families know how to maximize their refund," she added.

A particular advantage of using MilTax is the military tax expertise that the Military OneSource tax consultants bring with them to each session.

They are certified public accountants or enrolled IRS agents, she said. They are knowledgeable about costs incurred during permanent changes of station, living in more than one state during the year, how to navigate benefits survivors may be entitled to and other military-specific issues.

The tax consultants are up to date on tax-law changes that would affect service members.

"Something we're constantly working on and striving to do within military community and family policy is to raise awareness about the services that are offered through Military OneSource, so we're constantly letting people know what's available, and that support is essentially an entitlement to them to help them live their best military life," Smith said.

To use MilTax beginning Jan. 22, visit the MilTax website, call 800-342-9647 or live chat to schedule an appointment with a Military OneSource tax consultant.

The Spiritual Child

by Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua Stevens



**Chaplain (Maj.)
Jonathan Yost**

Military commanders have known for years that spiritual core strength is key to developing and maintaining ready and resilient Airmen. General Eisenhower, Commander in North Africa, Normandy, and the Western Front believed people should have strong spiritual core. He made a spiritual core resiliency statement the motto of the United States of America in 1956 after he became Commander-in-Chief. That motto was later printed on all our currency and strongly declares, "In God we trust."

In recent years, western society has slowly pushed spirituality out of the public square. Today, research scientists have noticed a diametric response to our culture's decline in spiritual core strength, with an incline in depression and suicide. Death by suicide is now the second highest cause of death for our youth ages 10-24. Clinical psychologist and brain

research scientist Dr. Lisa Miller and her colleagues have shown that the healthiest brains belong to those who have a daily interaction with a benevolent higher power in a community of spirituality. People with high spiritual core strength outperform their peers in every dimension of positive psychology including grit, determination, resiliency and optimism.

Furthermore, developmental psychology points to a strategic window of developmental opportunity with our initial entry Airmen demographic. The developmental window is during the transition from late adolescence into early adulthood (ages 18-25). In this developmental window Airmen are able to easily integrate healthy habits and values due to the malleable nature of their psyche in transition.

In conclusion, when leaders use strategic communication to endorse the value of spiritual core strength and provide Airmen with opportunities and resources to meet their spiritual needs, the Air Force has the best opportunity to grow a healthy community with less mental health problems like depression and suicide.

GLORIFYING GOD
SERVING AIRMEN
PURSUING EXCELLENCE



Antiterrorism & Force Protection: Travel Security

submitted by Lt. Col. Tim Rice, Wing Antiterrorism Officer

These Antiterrorism tips are on recognizing surveillance operations and actions to take if you suspect someone is conducting surveillance operations.

DEFINITION

- Continuous or periodic act of observing a person, a place, or a thing for the purpose of gathering information.

TYPES:

- Stationary
- Enroute Or Moving
- Technical Surveillance

INDICATORS:

- Illegally or suspiciously parked vehicles (e.g., along the installation perimeter or by high risk facilities)
- Occupied parked vehicles
- Personnel in unauthorized areas
- Personnel taking photographs, sketches or observing specific operations (air traffic, vehicle traffic, construction, etc.)

ACTIONS:

- Conceal your suspicions
- Do not force a confrontation
- Stop operations being observed
 - If possible and would not alert suspects
 - If operations are critical or sensitive, immediately stop actions
- Call the authorities (remember all details and make a report)
- Attempt to keep individuals under observation until authorities arrive

REMEMBER: Antiterrorism and Force Protection is EVERYONE'S job.

These tips, and other important information are located in the CJCS Guide 5260, Service Member's Personal Protection Guide: A Self-Help Handbook to Combating Terrorism, which can be found on the base intranet.

REMEMBER: Antiterrorism and Force Protection is EVERYONE'S job. The 167th Airlift Wing Antiterrorism Officer is Lt Col Tim Rice, 242-5084.





ACCOLADES



Welcome

AB Alayna Jones, MDG
A1C Whitney Salisbury, MOF
SSgt Margaret Flanagan, CPTF
TSgt Eric Houston, SFS
Maj Lea Doyle, AS

Welcome Back from Technical Training

A1C Liam Mahony, CF

CDC High Scores

A1C Travis Johnson, CF

Promotions

To Airman

Charles Adams, AS
Cody Griffith, CES
Peter Dunne, AS

To Airman First Class

Joel Romero, LRS
Haley Curry, LRS

To Senior Airman

Connor Collins, AS
Gerald Martz, MXS
Layla Mayes, MXS
Sylas Simpson, MXS

Promotions

To Senior Airman

David Speaker, CF
Rebecca Campos, AS
Anthony Jacoby, AS
Thomas, Spillaine, AS
Tristan Rowlan, AS
Isiah Redman, AS
Abigail Michael, AS
Michael McLaughlin, LRS

To Staff Sergeant

Skylar Hinson, MXS

Promotions

To Technical Sergeant

Isaac Ausherman, SFS
Cody McCarthy, SFS

To Master Sergeant

Michale Culver, LRS
Sara Church, FSS

To Senior Master Sergeant

Jackie Weddle, AW

To Major

Tyler Walburn, MXS



The 167th Airlift Wing's Wing Care Team set up photo booths in the dining facility during lunch on both days of the February unit training assembly to encourage a little fun and interaction with the Airmen. Left photo: Ready for the big game, Capt. Clinton Dunham and Capt. Rodney Brown pose with football props on Superbowl Sunday. Right photo: Tech. Sgt. Jacob Bixler, Master Sgt. Jennifer Tinsman, Staff Sgt. Katrina Santamaria and Master Sgt. Nicole Lee, all members of the 167th Communications Flight have fun with the Valentines Day props. The Wing Care Team is comprised of the Airmen and Family Readiness office, the Chaplain Corps, the Director of Psychological Health, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and the Personal Financial Counselor. (Photos courtesy of Sherry Lewis)

