

# PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING  
SEPTEMBER 2021

Next UTA 2-3 OCTOBER 2021



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### ON THE COVER

A C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, operated by the 167th Airlift Wing, flies over Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Aug. 19, 2021, at the conclusion of a memorial service for Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp. Rowekamp was the wing's chief of aerospace medicine before he passed on Aug. 6. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

### ON THE BACK COVER

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Chris Sheldon, a maintainer with the 167th Maintenance Squadron, inspects a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft for any loose debris before an engine run event at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 10, 2021. Aircraft engine runs are performed routinely throughout the year ensuring aircraft engine maintenance standards. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver)



167AW WING COMMANDER  
**Col. Martin Timko**

## Vision

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



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

Mighty Airlift Wing!

As promised, I owed the wing the results of our AMC IG Capstone inspection and I could not be more pleased to do so. The 167th Airlift Wing received an Overall Grade of EFFECTIVE and within that overall assessment, the incorporated four Major Graded Areas received the following: Managing Resources – EFFECTIVE, Leading People – EFFECTIVE, Improving the Unit – EFFECTIVE, and Executing the Mission – EFFECTIVE. Congratulations Team Martinsburg – you ran the table in demonstrating our ability, capability, and commitment to improvement with our unique Mountaineer Pride. As expressed by the AMC/CC, the DANG, TAG, and especially this commander: you should all be proud of yourselves for this achievement!

Not skipping a beat with his new command, our Assistant Adjutant General – Air (AAG-Air), Brig Gen Cochran, paid a visit to the 167th over September UTA. With a full agenda of visiting personnel throughout the base, the general along with State Command Chief Stevens, made a point to attend the meetings of all the enlisted councils as well hosting a commander's call. AAG-Air continues to be impressed by the Airmen of the 167th while we tackle our daily missions for both the State and the Nation. Next on the schedule will be meetings later this month with senior leaders from both the Air and Army of the WVNG as we consolidate our efforts towards TAG's priorities while excelling as the Premier Airlift Wing.

As anticipated last month, the SECAF implemented the DoD mandatory COVID-19 vaccination order across the total force. As the wing spooled-up its vaccine distribution process, I also wanted to afford wing members the opportunity to gain further education, ask questions, and voice concerns about this readiness requirement. Starting this weekend and continuing forward, our experts from MDG, Chaplain Corps, and Legal/Judge Advocates will offer guidance and information to those members having a need during this effort. I remind all members of a few basic points concerning this vaccination process: the USAF has a compelling interest in mission accomplishment and immunization of personnel provide protection against deliberately released biological agents and naturally occurring infectious disease. Additionally, the immunization decision is part of military readiness, unit cohesion, good order and discipline, and the health and safety of both the member and unit. Ultimately, as a worldwide, mobility asset, immunizations in conjunction with your Individual Medical Readiness, are just another way to protect yourself and your unit that can be sent anywhere at any time throughout the globe.

Hints of autumn are starting to show in the morning while summer asserts itself over its waning days. The wing is closing-out its last efforts on orders and expenditures for FY21 with an eye on our fiscal priorities for FY22. With school buses back on the road and classes back in session across communities, I am looking forward to seeing my oldest at his college Parents Weekend at the end of the month. As football season starts back up with games to watch, it will just be a few weekends from now when we all assemble again in October. Until then, keep smiling, stay healthy, be safe, and pending when I will see you all for October UTA: STAY MIGHTY!

--Marty

Team,

Another very busy drill has come and gone. I hope you and your teams were able to get in some good training and sharpen your skills.

We had the opportunity to welcome our new ATAG (and old friend) Brig Gen Cochran back to the wing for a weekend visit. He and CCM Stevens were all over the base speaking with different groups and councils. His energy level is contagious! I look forward to his leadership at the state level.

Congratulations! Your hard work and dedication to the UEL inspection paid off. We did great! I must say I'm not one bit surprised. The inspectors clearly saw our Mountaineer pride shine through, and they brought that to my attention more than once. The report is being finalized and will be shared with all of you in the coming weeks.

As you know the mandate has been issued for all DoD members to receive the Covid-19 vaccination. Col Timko and I both know there is a lot of emotion surrounding this requirement and how each of you feel about it could be anywhere from completely agreeing with it to the opposite end of the spectrum of absolute disagreement. On Saturday our MDG, JAG's office, and Chaplain's office offered 2 separate briefings to help better inform you on the requirement as well as answer your questions. I hope you found the discussions worthwhile.

It's been a challenging month for many of us as we saw the chaos unfold in Kabul as the U.S. withdrew the last troops from Afghanistan after 20 years of being there. Many of our members have spent a considerable amount of time there. I thank each of you for your service. You answered the call. Be proud of all that you did there.

Fall is fast approaching and with it we will start to see some of our RCP deployers begin to return. Let's make sure we are set to make their transition seamless. I look forward to seeing them.

Just a few weeks until we are together again for October drill. Until then, take care and have a great month!

Your Chief,  
Chief Brawner

# West Virginia Guardsmen played pivotal role in Afghanistan evacuation missions

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Soldiers and Airmen of the West Virginia National Guard were critical components of Operation Allies Refuge, the Department of State-led project of evacuating Afghan citizens, which took place prior to the United States' complete withdrawal from Afghanistan Aug. 31, 2021.

The 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston and 111th Engineer Brigade, currently deployed to Kuwait, all provided specialized assistance to this important operation.

Two separate aircrew from the 167th Airlift Wing, which flies the U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, participated in the transport of passengers and cargo into and out of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. In total, the Martinsburg-based unit completed 14 sorties over 13 days carrying 37.7 short tons of cargo and 1,224 passengers.

In addition to the pivotal work of the C-17 crews, a team of specialized security forces, known as U.S. Air Force Phoenix Ravens, deployed from the 167th Airlift Wing and 130th Airlift Wing to provide security for the aircraft operating in and out of Afghanistan. Five total Ravens from the West Virginia Air National Guard helped to secure aircraft access on the ground and for the flight crews through flight deck denial procedures that ensured the safe evacuation of personnel out of Afghanistan.

The 111th Theater Engineer Brigade, which is comprised of units from the Active Duty Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard and is commanded by a West Virginia National Guard Soldier, has been the lead unit for all engineer aspects of safe-haven locations in Kuwait and Qatar.

This unit planned and oversaw the construction from the onset of Operation Allies Refuge to include fabricating lodging, medical, dining and in- and out-processing facilities. In addition to the engineer operations, the 111th Engineer Brigade provided command and control, medical, logistical, and public affairs support for more than 5,000 Afghan evacuees.

"I could not be more proud of the work that our West Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen performed during Operation Allies Refuge," said Brig. Gen. William Crane, Adjutant General of West Virginia. "On top of all the other missions our people are engaged in - from COVID response to Hurricane Ida and wildfires in California, West Virginia Guardsmen stepped up to the challenge and answered the call when needed most. This is what we train for and I know our men and women are full of pride for what they accomplished during such a dangerous and tense operation."

The West Virginia National Guard is home to more than 6,400 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen in over 60 units and two flying wings throughout the State of West Virginia.



*A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III carrying Afghanistan evacuees arrives at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Aug. 22, 2021. NAS Sigonella is currently supporting the Department of Defense mission to facilitate the safe departure and relocation of U.S. citizens, Special Immigration Visa recipients, and vulnerable Afghan populations from Afghanistan. NAS Sigonella's strategic location enables U.S., allied, and partner nation forces to deploy and respond as required to ensure security and stability in Europe, Africa, and Central Command. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. William Chockey)*



*U.S. Air Force Airmen attached to a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III conduct a medical evacuation of evacuees from Afghanistan, Sept. 3, 2021. Naval Air Station Sigonella is currently supporting the Department of State mission to facilitate the safe departure and relocation of U.S. citizens, Special Immigration Visa recipients, and vulnerable populations from Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrea Rumble)*



# Memorial service held for 167th Airlift Wing flight doc

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

A memorial service to honor Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp was held in an aircraft maintenance hangar at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg W.Va., Aug. 19.

Rowekamp, the wing's chief of aerospace medicine and the West Virginia deputy state air surgeon, passed at his residence in Sharpsburg, Md. on Aug. 6.

"Dr. Barry Rowekamp was a testament to his profession and in his service to this wing," said Col. Marty Timko, 167th AW commander. "With deeply rooted empathy, he genuinely loved and cared for each Airmen at Martinsburg, most especially his colleagues in the medical group."

Rowekamp was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and promoted to the rank of colonel by the state of West Virginia during the service.

Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Moore delivered the eulogy.

"I have the honor to share with you the life of one of the greatest men we will ever have the privilege of knowing, Dr. Barry Lewis Rowekamp," Moore began.

As Moore detailed Rowekamp's life story, he interjected humorous accounts of Rowekamp's upbringing in a military family, his entrance into medical school and then the military and his experiences working for medical practices and eventually starting his own practice.

Moore concluded by saying, "If doc were here today...he would share with us five rules to live by, leaving us better, just the way he always had a way of doing."

Those five rules were: never underestimate the power of a smile; take time to listen to one another; know when to speak and when to listen; be an advocate; splurge on your friends, especially if it's food; always persevere, live your best life and choose happiness.

The base honor guard rendered military honors, during the ceremony, including the folding and presentation of the American flag, the firing of three volleys and playing of taps. Folded American flags were presented to Rowekamp's sister, Beth Rowekamp, and his brother, William Rowekamp.

The service concluded with a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft flyover to honor Rowekamp who often flew on the 167th's local training sorties and international cargo missions.

Rowekamp joined the 167th AW in 2010 and logged more than 760 hours in the unit's aircraft. He previously served as a reservist flight physician supporting the 302nd Tactical Fighter Group at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. 🐕

**Clockwise starting at top right: Friends and family of Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp, including Rowekamp's dog, Suz, and West Virginia National Guard and 167th Airlift Wing leadership stand for the playing of Taps during a memorial service to honor Rowekamp. Next: Members of the 167th Airlift Wing watch as a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft approaches Shepherd Field for a flyover at the conclusion of the memorial service for Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp. Next: Lt. Col. Kevin Culbert, 167th Medical Group commander, presents a flag to William Rowekamp, brother of Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp, during the memorial service. Next: 167th Airlift Wing Honor Guard members, Staff Sgt. Tim Sencindiver and Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Engler, conclude a flag folding during the memorial service for Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp. Next: Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Moore, 167th Airlift Wing loadmaster, delivers the eulogy for Lt. Col. Barry Rowekamp, during a memorial service for the wing's chief of aerospace medicine.**





# 167th conducts COVID-19 vaccine information sessions

by Senior Airman Edward Michon

The 167th Airlift Wing conducted COVID-19 vaccine information sessions in the wing auditorium during September's unit training assembly, Sept. 11, 2021. The 167th Medical Group created and presented the session, titled "COVID-19 Vaccine: Informed Confidence".

The information sessions were directed toward the wing's currently unvaccinated members, with a goal of communicating information about the COVID-19 vaccine, address concerns and answer questions from members.

The Secretary of the Air Force directed National Guard members be fully vaccinated by Dec. 2, 2021 in accordance with a memorandum issued by U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Aug. 23, mandating Coronavirus disease vaccinations for all members of the Armed Forces under Department of Defense authority.

Service members will receive the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 @ vaccine through a military provider, which is currently the only vaccine approved by the FDA.

"We have a commitment to readiness," said Brig. Gen. David Cochran, assistant adjutant general - Air, West Virginia National Guard. "We want you to understand and be educated on what's going on with the vaccine."

Lt. Col. Kevin Culbert, 167th Medical Group Commander, began the sessions by explaining to the audience how the COVID-19 vaccine was developed, it's effectiveness and possible side

effects.

"A majority of U.S. hospitalizations have been the unvaccinated population," said Culbert. "The vaccine greatly reduces the chances of severe illness and we are lucky to have access to this vaccine."

Chief Master Sgt. Tracie Darby, 167th Medical Group chief, explained the process of medical exemptions to the vaccine, which can be found in [AFI 48-110 IP](#), Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases.

Religious accommodations for the vaccine were presented by Major Ron Faith, 167th Airlift Wing chaplain, found in [DAFI 52-201](#), Religious Freedom in the Department of the Air Force.

167th legal team representatives were also available during the session to address legal concerns and answer questions.

"Everybody here is a mobility asset," said Col. Marty Timko, 167th Airlift Wing commander. "Immunizations are in place to keep you protected out there where the mission has to be done, anytime."

For more information, members are encouraged to work with their chain of command. Members may contact the 167th Medical Group to schedule their COVID-19 vaccine. 🐾



**Top Left:** U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kevin Culbert, 167th Medical Group commander, communicates information about the COVID-19 vaccine to members of the 167th Airlift Wing during a COVID-19 vaccine information session at the 167th base auditorium, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 11, 2021. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Steven Sechler) **Top Middle:** Members of the 167th Airlift Wing listen to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kevin Culbert, 167th Medical Group commander, as he speaks during a COVID-19 vaccine information session at the 167th base auditorium, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 11, 2021. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Edward Michon) **U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Tracie Darby, 167th Medical Group chief, answers questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine medical exemptions during a COVID-19 vaccine information session at the 167th base auditorium, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 11, 2021. During the sessions, Culbert explained how the COVID-19 vaccine was developed, it's effectiveness and possible side effects. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Steven Sechler)**

# DoD mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Information

## Background:

- On 23 August 2021, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, which will now be marketed as "COMIRNATY" for prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The FDA approved COMIRNATY and the FDA authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine under emergency use authorization have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably.
- On August 24, 2021, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin directed the Secretaries of the Military Departments to immediately begin full vaccination of all members of the Armed Forces under DoD Authority on active duty or in the Ready Reserve, including the National Guard, who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 will only use COVID-19 vaccines that receive full licensure from the FDA, in accordance with FDA-approved labeling and guidance.
- On 3 September 2021, the Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. Frank Kendall, released a memorandum and additional guidance to all Air Force commanders to implement the DoD mandatory vaccination order. The SecAF memorandum specifies that unless exempted, all Ready Reserve members, including National Guard, will be fully vaccinated by 2 December 2021.

## What happens if a Service member refuses to get the vaccine?

Required vaccinations are nothing new to the U.S. military. As Secretary Austin said, "We are confident the men and women of our military – even the ones who have been hesitant – will comply with this requirement, just as they do when given any other mission-essential order."

That said, should a member of the military decline to accept it, without a valid medical or administrative exemption, we will make available to him/her a full range of resources – to include individual and professional medical advice – to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. We want our people to be fully informed about any medical procedure, this one included.

If counseling and informal efforts fail to convince, a member's chain of command could, as a last resort, take appropriate administrative or appropriate disciplinary action commensurate to the alleged offense. Commanders have a range of tools available to them and will ultimately make judgments based on the circumstances of each case in consultation with legal and medical professionals.

## What if a Service member has religious objections to the vaccine or has a medical condition that would make vaccination inadvisable?

Service member may request exemption from the vaccination requirement for reasons of religious accommodation through the normal administrative process. Service member may also request medical exemption and must be approved by a military health professional.

## What guidance do we have for Religious Accommodation Requests?

DAFI 52 201 23 June 2021) is the latest guidance for Religious Accommodation and combines many of our former separate documents into one document to economically address religious accommodation issues from deviations from AFI 36 2903 to immunizations and medical treatment.

## Under what condition would I be eligible to seek a medical exemption request?

Medical exemptions may be based on pre existing conditions or result from vaccine adverse reactions and should be consistent with the CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID 19 Vaccines: [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2F covid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html#vaccinated-part-clinical-trial](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2F covid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html#vaccinated-part-clinical-trial) For the COVID 19 vaccines, IAW CDC guidance, contraindications include: 1) severe allergic reaction (after previous dose or to a component of the specific COVID 19 vaccine; 2) immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (allergy to a component of the specific COVID 19 vaccine; and 3) development of pericarditis or myocarditis after the first dose.

## What this means for Service members:

- Service members are fully vaccinated if two weeks or more have passed since receiving the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or two weeks after receiving a single dose of a one-dose vaccine.
- Service members with previous COVID-19 infection are not considered fully vaccinated.
- Service members who received vaccination outside a military facility will provide documentation (e.g., the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card) to their unit medical group to within 72 hours of vaccination to update their respective immunization records.
- Members who are actively participating in COVID-19 clinical trials are exempt from mandatory vaccination against COVID-19 until the trial is complete. (See 3 September 2021 DAF Covid 19 Vaccination Implementation Guidance, paragraph 1.4.3.)
- Service members may be lawfully ordered to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

## How do I request a medical exemption request?

Service member will need to obtain a letter from their civilian healthcare provider(s) that contains the diagnosis, reasons and timeframe for medical exemption with medical justification.

The Service member will need to make an appointment with the unit medical group provider who will make the medical exemption determination. The exemption determination will be based on the health of the vaccine candidate and the nature of the immunization under consideration. Medical exemptions may be temporary (up to 365 days) or permanent in accordance with Air Force policy.

## Are the COVID 19 vaccines effective?

Studies show that COVID 19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID 19. Getting a COVID 19 vaccine will also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID 19. COVID 19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID 19. It typically takes 2 weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (against the virus that causes COVID 19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID 19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to build protection. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer BioNTech's COMIRNATY or Moderna COVID 19 vaccines, or 2 weeks after the single dose Johnson Johnson's Janssen COVID 19 vaccine.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2F8-things.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2F8-things.html)

## Are the COVID 19 vaccines safe?

Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe. COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. Learn more to [bust myths and learn the facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#). COVID-19 vaccines were developed using science that has been around for decades.

## If I have already had COVID 19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID 19 vaccine?

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 because: Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover from COVID-19. AND vaccination helps protect you even if you've already had COVID-19. Evidence is emerging that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19. [One study](#) showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than 2 times as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>



# Vigilant Guard 2021 serves as catalyst to grow 167th search and rescue capabilities

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

They changed the tires on their equipment trailer, prepped their communication devices, loaded their Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) kits and headed south from Martinsburg to Charleston, W.Va. for Vigilant Guard 2021.

Vigilant Guard is an annual large-scale disaster response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This year West Virginia hosted the event.

167th Airlift Wing fire fighters, Tech. Sgt. Robert Laidlow, Staff Sgt. Mitch Alerding, Staff Sgt. Jared Feaster and Staff Sgt. Jeff Powers prepared for and responded to Vigilant Guard as if it were a real-world event.

"We're trying to improve our capabilities as far as responding to natural disasters within the state and within the region," said Master Sgt. Christopher Taylor, 167th Civil Engineering Squadron fire chief.

The 167th Fire Department's primary mission is to support aircraft operations at Shepherd Field and they also provide mutual aid response to off-base emergencies.

"Vigilant Guard is a starting point for us. We're testing our capabilities, testing our equipment

and seeing where we're at," Taylor said.

The exercise scenario, a stalled hurricane hovering over West Virginia, provided an opportunity for the 167th fire fighters to join with their 130th Airlift Wing and 178th Wing counterparts to hone their skills in structural collapse, vehicle extraction, high angle rope rescue, surface water rescue and swift water rescue. They also watched demonstrations on how to care for animals impacted by flood waters.

"Vigilant Guard offers the whole start to finish aspect," said Tech. Sgt. Laidlow. "My team got to do things we've never done before. It was a great week of training."

According to Laidlow, Vigilant Guard enabled his team to exercise everything from the initial notification, logistics, and communications, to the skill sharpening and finally reconstitution where they inventoried equipment and sought funding avenues to replace lost or broken equipment and used supplies.

Following Vigilant Guard, the next steps for the 167th's US&R program are to obtain additional certifications and acquire essential equipment so the program can reach its full potential, Taylor said. 🐕



**Tech. Sgt. Robert Laidlow, 167th Fire and Emergency Services, monitors and keeps account of the firemen assigned to his team during collapsed structure training a part of Exercise Vigilant Guard 2021 August 27, 2021. Vigilant Guard is an annual large-scale disaster response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command, in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, that brings federal, state, and local military personnel, public safety, first responders, and private sector partners. The multi-day hands-on and simulated training exercise supports the development, enhancement, and interoperability of disaster response assets within a joint operations environment. ( U.S Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Eugene Crist )**



**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Powers, a fire fighter for the 167th Airlift Wing, conducts a still water rescue as part of Vigilant Guard 2021 training, Aug. 28, 2021. Vigilant Guard is an annual large-scale disaster response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command, in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, that brings federal, state, and local military personnel, public safety, first responders, and private sector partners. The multi-day hands-on and simulated training exercise supports the development, enhancement, and interoperability of disaster response assets within a joint operations environment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Gregg York)**





## 9/11 20th anniversary remembrance ceremony

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jeff Blankenship, a member of the 167th Airlift Wing base honor guard, presents a commemorative wreath during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 11, 2021. The 167th conducted the ceremony, which included a wreath laying, the playing of taps and a moment of silence, to honor the victims, families and heroes of the 9/11 attacks. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Edward Michon)

Top right: Tech. Sgt. Paul Noel, an intelligence specialist for the 167th Operations Support Squadron, discusses the events of 9/11 and current threats surrounding the anniversary of the attack, during a morning briefing with the 167th Operations Group, in the 167th Airlift Wing base auditorium, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 11, 2021.

Bottom right: Capt. Sam Harrison, 167th Airlift Wing pilot, conveys his experience as an aircraft commander flying evacuees out of Afghanistan recently, to the 167th Operations Group during a morning briefing in the 167th Airlift Wing auditorium, Sept. 11, 2021. Harrison and his crew flew three C-17 Globemaster III aircraft missions in and out of Afghanistan, as part of the largest air evacuation effort in U.S. history. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)





# Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

**Tech. Sgt. Victor Carter**

Hometown:

**Hagerstown, Md.**

Job Title:

**Vehicle Mechanic**



Tech. Sgt. Victor Carter is a vehicle mechanic for the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron on the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for September 2021.

As a vehicle mechanic, Carter inspects, troubleshoots and repairs a wide range of general purpose and special purpose vehicles used at the 167th to carry out the wing's mission.

"Tech. Sgt. Carter is truly an asset in Vehicle Maintenance. He is always willing to learn and take on new challenges," said Master Sgt. Derek Brown, 167th LRS vehicle fleet manager.

**How long have you served in the unit?** 9 years

**How does your job support the 167th's mission?** We maintain vehicles and equipment that airmen use to fuel, load/unload and help maintain and move the aircraft.

**Civilian job:** 167th Vehicle Maintenance Federal Technician

**Education:** CCAF

**Hobbies:** Spending time with family

**Goals:** To run my own farm.

**I am proudest of:** All 3 of my kids

**People may be surprised to know this about me:** I was 36 when I first enlisted.

**The most exciting thing I've done in the military is:** I spent 16 months TDY with the 421st Combat Training Squadron.

**One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career:** Get your PME done and out of the way early, and continue to better yourself no matter what your age.

**My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing:** there are many opportunities here, sometimes you may have to seek them out. 🐕



## West Virginia Air National Guard leadership joins 167th AW for September unit training assembly



*Left: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David Cochran, assistant adjutant general – Air, West Virginia National Guard addresses Lt. Col. Kevin Culbert, 167th Medical Group commander, and members of the 167th Medical Group during a morning formation at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 14, 2021. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver)*



*Right: U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. David Stevens, West Virginia Air National Guard command chief, delivers advice and addresses concerns during a Rising 6 council meeting in the Communications Flight classroom at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 12, 2021. The purpose of the Rising 6 is to provide mentorship to the ranks of E1-E6, share information and foster career development. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Steven Sechler)*



*Left: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David Cochran, assistant adjutant general – Air, West Virginia National Guard, speaks to an Airman about physical fitness training at the Logistics Readiness Squadron during a visit to the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 12, 2021. Cochran was the wing commander for the 167th from Aug. 2018 to Jan. 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Steven Sechler)*



*Right: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David Cochran, assistant adjutant general – Air, West Virginia National Guard, delivers advice and addresses concerns during a Rising 6 council meeting in the Communications Flight classroom at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 12, 2021. The purpose of the Rising 6 is to provide mentorship to the ranks of E1-E6, share information and foster career development. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Edward Michon)*





## 167th Security Forces protect people, property and resources

Above: U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Deven Morris, a 167th Security Forces Squadron security forces specialist, remains vigilant while posted at the gate of the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 10, 2021.

Top right: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Wetzel, a 167th Security Forces Squadron security forces specialist, fills out weapons issue paperwork for the oncoming shift at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 14, 2021.

Middle right: U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Isaac Ausherman, a 167th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, ensures safety as Airmen attend weapon qualification training at the 167th Airlift Wing firing range, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 12, 2021. Combat arms instructors are Air Force Security Forces personnel who train base populace on the use of small arms such as the M4 carbine.

Bottom right: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brian Riffey, a 167th Security Forces Squadron security forces specialist patrols the base perimeter as part of a routine check of the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 10, 2021. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver)





Master Sgt. Rebecca Reaves, 167th Airlift Wing administrative superintendent, assists Senior Master Sgt. Robert Fluaharty, 167th AW human resource advisor, with his mission oriented protective posture gear as Staff Sgt. Tim Sencindiver, 167th Airlift Wing public affairs specialist, right, dons his gear, as part of an emergency management exercise, Sept. 12, 2021, at the Martinsburg, West Virginia air base. In addition to donning and doffing MOPP gear, Airmen participated in accountability training, critical asset identification and shelter in place procedures. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

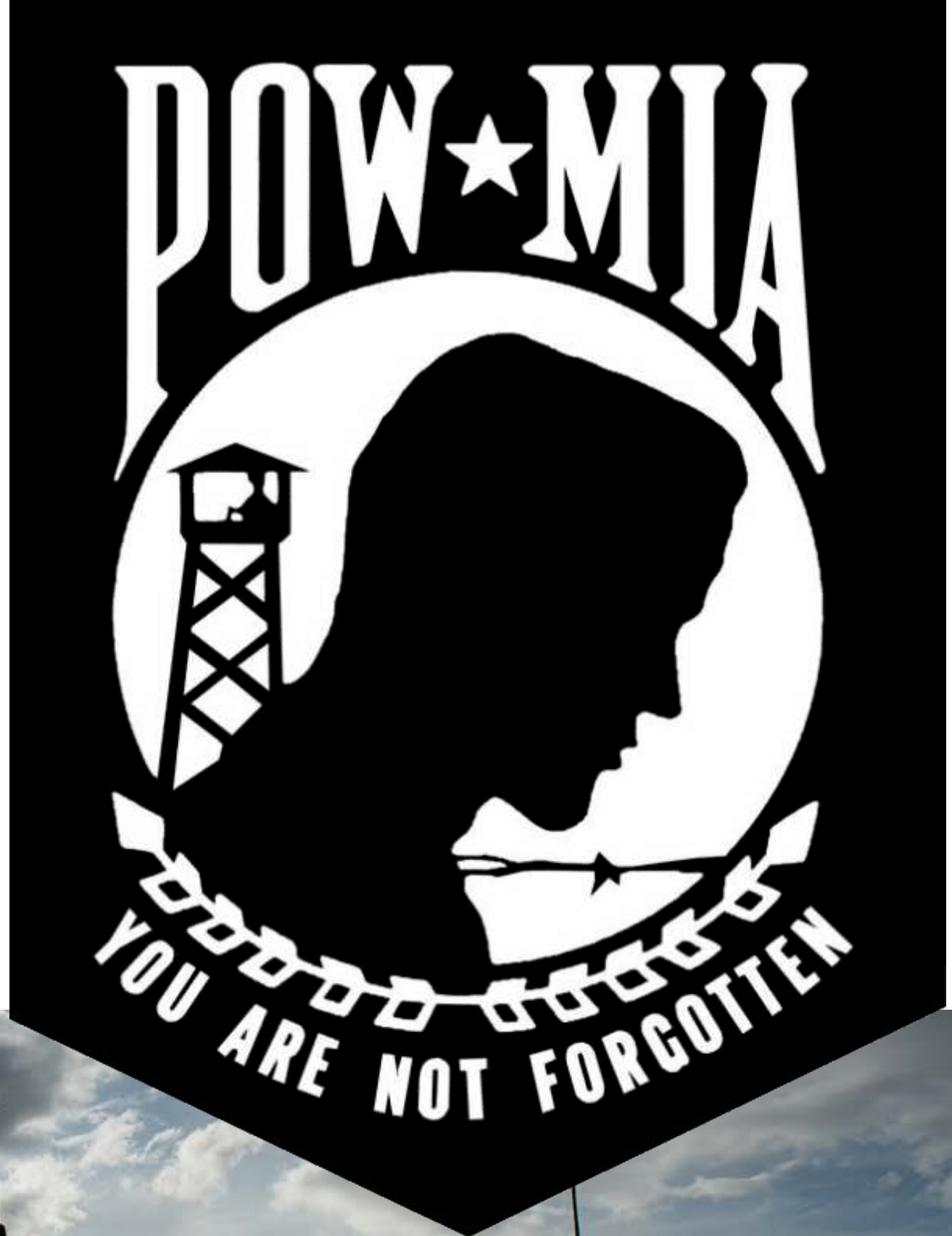


Saturday, 2 October 2021, 0600-1800

# **POW/MIA 12 hr Remembrance Run/Walk**

Register your six-Airmen teams  
with CMSgt Jason Meacham

Your team can sign up for one  
or multiple 15-minute blocks





## ECHO inclusive leadership

by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Fluharty, 167th Airlift Wing Human Resource Advisor



**SMSgt Robert Fluharty**  
167AW Human  
Resource Advisor

What does it take to be Inclusive?

Some leaders are naturally able to create an environment with consideration and collaboration. These leaders are open and engaging with everyone around them.

Some of us need a reminder. How do we ECHO the leaders we want to be.

1. Start with understanding how the Emotions you and others have impact your reactions and decisions.
2. Take a moment and be Conscious of your bias. How you see the world may not be its true reflection.
3. Listen to the people around you. Let them be Heard as the best ideas come from a diverse audience.
4. Don't dismiss the Opportunity presented by someone not in your inner circle. Different perspectives create better solutions.

Connect with your Human Resource Advisor for training and coaching on becoming an inclusive leader.



## Religious accommodations in the Air Force

by Chaplain (Maj.) Ronald Faith



**Chaplain (Maj.)  
Ronald Faith**

Recently, there have been questions regarding religious accommodations. Religious accommodations include exceptions to dietary practices, grooming, personal appearance and apparel, worship practices and medical treatment. The following paragraph is taken from the 23 June 2021 Department Of The Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 52-101. It is intended to provide some general awareness but is very limited in scope. The actual instruction is 37 pages, and incorporates other guidance as well. For a clearer understanding please read the instruction at: [https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_hc/publication/dafi52-201/dafi52-201.pdf](https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_hc/publication/dafi52-201/dafi52-201.pdf). If you have questions feel free to contact a chaplain, Jag officer, or medical provider.

It is Department of the Air Force (DAF) policy to place a high value on the rights of Airmen and Guardians to observe the tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all. (1.1) Commanders must create an environment in which Airmen and Guardians are free to practice their religious or secular worldview, while respecting the beliefs of others, unless such practices have an adverse impact on mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, good order and discipline, health or safety (1.2.2.) Airmen and Guardians may request religious accommodations from a policy, practice, or duty. As the right to request religious accommodation is based on the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes, it is critically important to fully consider and appropriately value an Airman's or Guardian's request. (2.2) The first question to answer is whether the request is based on the expression of sincerely held beliefs (e.g., conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs). (2.3.) Any restriction on the expression of sincerely held religious beliefs must use the least restrictive means with respect to the applicant to achieve the compelling governmental interest (CGI). (2.4) CGI "is a military requirement that is essential to accomplishment of the military mission." (p.24) When the policy, practice, or duty from which the member is requesting accommodation does not substantially burden the expression of sincerely held beliefs related to conscience or moral principles, the needs of the requesting member are balanced against the needs of mission accomplishment. In this case, the request will only be denied when the needs of mission accomplishment outweigh the needs of the member. (2.6)

GLORIFYING GOD  
SERVING AIRMEN  
PURSUING EXCELLENCE





## Be prepared for and income interruption

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



**Jerry Zeigler, AFC**  
**Personal Financial**  
**Counselor**

As of this writing even though we haven't seen it in the news much, the US government has approached it's debt limit – again. The US treasury has warned that they are using “extraordinary measures” to avoid reaching the limit and can do so for maybe another 3 or 4 weeks. This obviously causes me to think about when Federal employees and military service members find their income under threat due to delayed legislation.

I've written about the ways to mitigate interrupted or reduced income in the past. Two of the key factors I always mention are the emergency fund and debt. Keeping your emergency fund fully funded at 3 to 6 months of expenses goes a long way to making an income interruption event much less stressful and much less of a problem. Minimizing debt has a similar impact, but also gives you flexibility-you have fewer obligations that your money has to be directed towards.

Here are 3 other strategies that can be helpful – two of them only if you have enough income and flexibility to do them when times are good.

1) Pay ahead on loans. Many mortgage and auto loans allow you to pay ahead. They'll let you apply extra payments to future monthly payments. I discovered this by accident once when I was trying to pay extra principal on a mortgage and they applied it to the next month's rent. I found some peace of mind by staying a month ahead. If money got tight I could opt not to pay one month, because it was already paid. If you try this strategy just make sure that the extra payment does go to later payments and not towards principal (although paying principal early has the benefit of paying off the loan sooner).

2) Keep your pantry full. Make sure you at least have a few weeks of food stocked up. Or at least having enough covered that you can significantly reduce how much you regularly spend on groceries (just buying perishables) during the period of interrupted income. But don't let stuff expire.

3) This one isn't the preferred approach, but if it is needed then it should be done. If there is still a source of employment income from which 401K payments or other retirement account payments are made, then then these payments can be reduced temporarily to provide more income for current expenses. Once the income interruption period is over try to do your best to “make up for lost time”. In the case of your income being delayed, making extra contributions to “catch up” should be reasonable for brief time.

Having your income interrupted or reduced is no picnic, but being prepared for it makes it easier to get through. We know interrupted income happens to people whom do everything right. We know it happens when it shouldn't, so make the effort to be prepared. And if you discover it difficult to prepare, that may be a time to seek some professional assistance from a financial counselor like me.

If it is financial, the Personal Financial Counselor can assist.

Jerry Zeigler, AFC®

304-543-6452

PFC2.WV.NG@zeiders.com





## You Are Invited to the Military BOSSLIFT at 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, WV 9 November 2021



### What is a BOSSLIFT?

Local Employers of West Virginia, supportive of Reserve Component Service Members, are provided the opportunity to observe and participate in military training and operations to better understand and support the mission of the National Guard and Reserve.

Proposed Itinerary: Meet at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg for a continental breakfast and introductions; board bus for informational tours, briefings and hands on simulators at the wing; venture to hangar for tour and orientation flight on C-17 Aircraft

Flight space is limited. Please RSVP with enclosed form to:

HQ WVANG/WV ESGR  
Attn: Rita McCallister, VST  
1679 Coonskin Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311  
Rita.d.mccallister.ctr@mail.mil  
304 341-6262 Office  
304 542-7089 Cell



       I accept with pleasure        I decline with regret

### BOSSLIFT REGISTRATION FORM West Virginia Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, WV 9 November 2021

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Duty Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SSN: leave blank – Rita will contact you as this is PII  
(Social Security required for Military Flight Manifest)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone for Emergency POC: \_\_\_\_\_

### RSVP by October 15, 2021

**Schedules and Directions will be sent upon receipt of this form**

Please send form to:

Rita McCallister  
WV ESGR  
1679 Coonskin Drive  
Charleston, WV  
25311  
Or email form to:  
[rita.d.mccallister.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:rita.d.mccallister.ctr@mail.mil)

MSgt Jennifer Cooper  
167 MDG  
304-616-5107  
[jennifer.cooper.18@us.af.mil](mailto:jennifer.cooper.18@us.af.mil)

## Antiterrorism & Force Protection- Surveillance Operations

*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

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.







Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from 15 September - 15 October of each year. The observance is celebrated during this time frame due to many significant events for various Hispanic communities which fall within the observance period. The President issues a Proclamation each year calling on the people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe National Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multi-ethnic and multicultural customs of their community. The theme for this event changes each year.





## COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### **STOP** Human Trafficking

Force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to provide labor, services, or commercial sex.

Victims come from all backgrounds and can be women, men, and children.

Any minor (under 18 years of age) involved in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

### Recognize **SIGNS**

Physical/Environmental Indicators include signs of abuse, no identification, confined to worksite.

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators include submissive, anxious, lack of free will.

### **REPORT IT**

Chain of Command

Local Law Enforcement

DoD Inspector General Hotline

1-800-424-9098 or visit <http://www.dodig.mil/hotline>

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888.



167<sup>TH</sup> AW POC:  
MSgt Michael Seavolt  
CTIP Program Coordinator  
ext 5759

For more information go to:  
[CTIP.defense.gov/](http://CTIP.defense.gov/)

## Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

Have questions? Need Help?  
We're here for you!

West Virginia National Guard  
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:

Jenny Colagrosso

Office: 304-561-6681; DSN: 623-6681

24 hour Blackberry: 304-541-0573

[jenny.r.colagrosso.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jenny.r.colagrosso.civ@mail.mil)

167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing

Volunteer Victim Advocate:

Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Office: 304-616-5251; DSN: 242-5251; Cell: 304-839-9157

[emily.beightol\\_deyerle.2@us.af.mil](mailto:emily.beightol_deyerle.2@us.af.mil)

24/7 Sexual Assault Support for DoD Community

DoD Safe Helpline:

Call: 877-995-5247

Texting: (\*55-247)

Texting outside the US: (202-470-5546)

Online Resources: [www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)

Online Chat: [www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)







# ACCOLADES



## Welcome

AB Noah Carder, CPTF  
A1C Emma Rohrbaugh, MDG  
A1C Jason Smoot, AMXS  
SrA Jacob Hoyer, CF  
SSgt Timothy Abrell, LRS  
TSgt Joshua Kyer, FSS

## CDC High Scores

A1C Madison McGrew, MDG

## Welcome Back from Technical Training

AB Connor Albright, LRS  
A1C Connor Waters, FSS  
A1C Raymundo Morales, MX

## Promotions

### To Airman First Class

Dalton Hornbarger, CF  
Christopher Ehinehart, SFS  
Dallis Myers, MDG

### To Senior Airman

Madison McGrew, MDG  
William Gossard, AMXS  
Ethan Wilson, SFS  
Kyle Jackson, SFS  
Constance Phillips, LRS  
Julianne Arnold, LRS

## Promotions

### To Staff Sergeant

Whitney Potts, MDG  
Brandon Trucks, AMXS  
Gregory Tenney, SFS  
Braden Stutzman, SFS

### To Master Sergeant

Jackquelyn Swartz, LRS  
Christopher Barrow, MXS  
Joshua Clark, LRS

### To Captain

Heather Caviness, FSS  
Hanna Staubs, MDG  
Kyle Hunter, MOF

## Retirements

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Thomas, OG  
MSgt Nicole Lee, CF

## Unit Effectiveness Inspection Exceptional Performers

### IG Coin Recipients

Major Michael W. Stark, OSS  
Senior Master Sergeant Emily A. Beightol-Deyerle, AW  
Senior Master Sergeant Jeffrey M. DeMille, OG  
Senior Master Sergeant Charles RD. Moore, OSS  
Technical Sergeant Jessica L. Dube, MXG  
Senior Airman Sage M. Burdette, FSS  
Airman First Class Craig H. Sipes, CES

### DAFIA SG Coin Recipients

Master Sergeant Jennifer N. Cooper, MDG  
Master Sergeant Justin M. Bird, MDG

### Individual Recognition

Major Jenny L. Naylor, AW  
Senior Master Sergeant Sarah E. Jenkins, OSS  
Master Sergeant Bennett J. Norton, LRS  
Master Sergeant Derk G. Slonaker, MXG  
Master Sergeant Christopher W. Taylor, CES  
Master Sergeant Daniel R. Wean, AMXS  
Technical Sergeant Nicholas J. Comer, LRS  
Technical Sergeant Jet Heng, LRS  
Technical Sergeant Joshua D. Pluta, SFS

### Team Recognition

Aircrew Flight Equipment, OSS  
Aircrew Training, OSS  
Airfield Management, OG  
Chaplains Team, AW  
Command Post, AW  
Fire and Emergency Services Flight, CES  
Fuel Section, MXG  
Host Aviation Resource Management Office, OSS  
Inspector General Team, AW  
Intelligence Flight, OSS  
Unit Deployment Managers, LRS  
Maintenance Group Command Support Staff, MXG  
Mid Shift Flight Team, SFS  
Munitions Flight, MXS  
Quality Assurance Office, MXG

*U.S. Air Force Col. Marty Timko, 167th Airlift Wing commander, presents a recognition coin to Master Sgt. Jennifer Cooper, 167th Public Health non-commissioned officer in charge, for her efforts leading up to last month's Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone event at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 12, 2021. Overall, the 167th received a grade of effective as a result of the inspection. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Steven Sechler)*



