

# PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING  
DECEMBER 2022

Next UTA 7-8 JANUARY 2023





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### ON THE COVER

*Families of 167th Airlift Wing members enjoy holiday activities in an aircraft hangar as part of the 167th AW Family Day at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Dec. 4, 2022. Approximately 1,000 family and friends attended the holiday event which had been cancelled the two previous years due to COVID. Face painting, balloon animals, bounce houses, STEM games, gingerbread house decorating, hot cocoa bar and aircraft tours were among the many activities in the hangar. See more photos on page 6. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)*

### ON THE BACK COVER

*Graphic by Airman James DeCicco*



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



167AW ACTING WING COMMANDER  
**Col. Christopher Sigler**

## 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**

167th,

I don't know about you, but Sunday was one of my favorite UTA days in a long time. One highlight from Sunday was attending the Toys for Tots auction at the Small Air Terminal. What a great way to raise funds for charity. Chief Jody Miller absolutely crushed it while entertaining as the auctioneer. The other highlight was observing the mass turnout for Family Day Sunday afternoon. It is estimated that 1,000 family members joined us to meet our co-workers and learn more about what we do. I was at a conference a couple of weeks ago and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Brown, said it is time to reopen our bases. The 167th certainly delivered on his request. A lot is asked of us in the Air National Guard and often we are enabled to continue our service because of the support we receive from our family and friends. Thanks for bringing them out and I know we will see some of them again as future Guardsmen.

While filling in for Col Timko, I have had the opportunity to speak with groups of people that are not very familiar with the Air National Guard. One of the first things I tell them is that we are unique because we not only serve our country, but also our state and community. I often use the 167th Fire Department as one example of service to the community. The Tabler Station bridge dedication ceremony for SSgt Logan Young that was on Saturday, is a reminder of our continued commitment to serving our community and as a reminder of SSgt Young's Air Force core value of service before self. Did you know that the 167th Fire Department responded to 174 mutual aid calls in the past year? Another example of Guardsmen serving the local community is the Division of Corrections (DOC) mission. I had the opportunity to visit the Airmen and Soldiers that are supporting the DOC mission at the Eastern Regional Jail in Martinsburg. The DOC staff continually told General Cochran, Chief Ives, and I how appreciative they were to have National Guard support.

It is clear the 167th Airlift Wing has earned respect in our community for our professionalism and service. We have also earned respect at the state and national level as evident in recently being selected to serve as a lead unit in the future for the new Expeditionary Airbase (XAB) construct. It is an honor to be selected as a lead unit and I know we will be ready.

I pray everyone has a safe and happy Holiday break. You deserve it!

Respectfully,  
Sig

Team,

I can't remember a bigger crowd in attendance for our annual Christmas Family Day event than what I witnessed this past Sunday. Seeing the hanger full of hundreds of kids running from one event to another with mom and dad in tow was simply awesome. It was long overdue. We had to keep attendance limited the last few years due to Covid. But not this year. Col Sigler and I really enjoyed getting out there and meeting your families. Thank you to so many of you that worked behind the scenes to make this event spectacular. I think our families really enjoyed the day. The pride I saw in their faces as I made my way around was priceless.

Saturday morning a contingent of 167AW and local fire department personnel accompanied the family of our fallen brother SSgt Logan Young to the Tabler Station Bridge extending over I-81. Together we dedicated this bridge in his honor so that we will always remember him, and his families sacrifices. Like many of you when I cross that bridge and see his name, I think of him and all of those who have sacrificed their lives for service to our nation. We will never forget him.

Part of wrapping up each year is looking back at all the accomplishments and highlights of our members via the Outstanding Airman of the Year nomination process. If you know someone within your sections who has totally knocked it out of the park this year, please get with your leadership and share their accomplishments. Let's put the spotlight on our very best.

It's been a long year with many challenges and plenty of accomplishments. Like you I'm looking forward to some time off to spend with family and friends. Col Sigler and I ask that if you are going to drink, please have a plan that includes a designated driver. Always be mindful of others and step in if/when you see someone who has had too much to drink. Enjoy your holidays but please be safe no matter what you are doing.

From my family to yours I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I look forward to kicking off 2023 with you.

God bless you and your families!

Your Chief,  
Chief Brawner #8



# Bridge dedicated in honor of fallen 167th Airlift Wing firefighter

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

A bridge dedication ceremony was held on the Tabler Station Overpass which carries County Route 32 over Interstate 81 in Berkeley County, West Virginia, Dec. 3.

Per West Virginia Senate Concurrent Resolution 17, the bridge was renamed the U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Logan A. Young Memorial Bridge.

Staff Sgt. Logan A. Young, a fire fighter with the 167th Airlift Wing, lost his life in the line of duty while responding to a mutual aid call for a barn fire in Kearneysville, West Virginia, December 27, 2020.

"This ceremony today serves as a moment of fond remembrance for our friend and brother firefighter, Staff Sgt. Logan Young," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Frye, 167th Airlift Wing firefighter and ceremony narrator. "This dedication ensures that future generations will continue to remember and honor his sacrifice in the line of duty."

Firefighter Captain Bradley Wright, South Berkeley County Station 20, drafted the resolution to have the bridge, which is located less than two miles from the 167th Airlift Wing, renamed to honor Young.

"Our hope is that by renaming this bridge in Logan's memory, that passersby will see his name and learn about his story, not the story of Logan's death but the story of Logan's life," said Wright. "When they search him, they'll no doubt see his smiling face and read about his ded-

icated service to his fellow man. They'll know that he was a Steelers fan, that he was a loving father, that he was proud of his military service, that he was proud of his family, and that above all, that Logan was a hero."

Wright expressed gratitude to Young's mother who assisted him with the draft process and acknowledged the support he received from the West Virginia legislators who supported the resolution.

Brig. Gen. David Cochran, Assistant Adjutant General – Air, West Virginia National Guard, called Young a "tremendous Airman and warrior."

"He brought joy to all those privileged to be in his circle," said Cochran. "May we all be inspired by service and his memory as we strive to be our best every day, just as Logan did."

Link to West Virginia SCR17, US Air Force SSGT Logan A. Young Memorial Bridge: [http://www.wv-legislature.gov/bill\\_status/bills\\_text.cfm?billdoc=SCR17%20SUB1.htm&yr=2022&sesstype=RS&i=17&houseorig=s&billtype=cr](http://www.wv-legislature.gov/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=SCR17%20SUB1.htm&yr=2022&sesstype=RS&i=17&houseorig=s&billtype=cr)

The December 27, 2020, fire that took Logan Young's life was determined to be arson and remains under investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's hotline at 1-800-233-FIRE. 🐕



U. S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David Cochran, Assistant Adjutant General – Air, West Virginia National Guard, addresses the audience at a bridge dedication ceremony in Berkeley County, W.Va., Dec. 3, 2022. The Tabler Station Overpass was renamed the U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Logan A. Young Memorial Bridge. Young was a firefighter for the 167th Airlift Wing and lost his life while fighting a fire Dec. 27, 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)



Above: Firefighter Captain Bradley Wright, South Berkeley County Station 20, speaks at the bridge dedication ceremony for the U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Logan A. Young Memorial Bridge, Dec. 3, 2022. Wright drafted the resolution the led to the bridge renaming. Right: U.S. Staff Sgt. Andrew Bartley, 167th Honor Guard member, places a wreath during the bridge dedication ceremony, Dec. 3, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)





# Harrison takes command of 167th Force Support Squadron

by Staff Sgt. Edward Michon

The 167th Airlift Wing hosted a change of command ceremony for the 167th Force Support Squadron during December's unit training assembly in the base dining facility, Dec. 3, 2022.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Benjamin Mathias relinquished command of the 167th FSS to Maj. Wayne Harrison. Mathias received the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony.

"It truly has been the highlight of my career to watch each member of the squadron learn, grow, get pushed out of their comfort zone and realize their capabilities continue to expand," said Mathias.

Mathias served as the 167th FSS commander for the last two years and will be assuming a new position at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in the Air Force Reserve as a Joint Operations Officer.

Maj. Harrison is stepping into command with experience at the National Guard Bureau, joint staff service and in his most recent role in the Office of the Inspector General.

"I will be your advocate; I will always be there for you," said Harrison. "I want to see you progress. I want to make sure you grow. I want you take my place one day." 🐾



**Left:** U.S. Air Force Maj. Wayne Harrison salutes Lt. Col. Corey Gause, 167th Mission Support Group commander as Harrison assumes command of the 167th Force Support Squadron during a change of command ceremony at the 167th base dining facility, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Dec. 3, 2022. Harrison was formerly the Director of Inspections at the 167th Airlift Wing Office of the Inspector General and is replacing Lt. Col. Benjamin Mathias, 167th FSS commander since 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff

**Above:** U.S. Air Force Maj. Wayne Harrison addresses the audience after assuming his new role as 167th Airlift Wing Force Support Squadron commander during a change of command ceremony at the 167th base dining facility, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Dec. 3, 2022. Harrison is stepping into his new position with experience at the National Guard Bureau, joint staff service and in his most recent role as Director of Inspections at the 167th Office of the Inspector General. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver)



# 167th Airlift Wing Family Day 2022





## Ceremony marks change of 167th Comptroller Flight commander

by Staff Sgt. Edward Michon

The 167th Airlift Wing hosted a change of command ceremony for the 167th Comptroller Flight during December's unit training assembly in the base dining facility, Dec. 3, 2022.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. James Domenico received the Meritorious Service Medal before relinquishing command of the 167th CPTF to Capt. Aaron Hansrote.

Domenico has been the 167th CPTF commander since 2015 and will be moving into a new position as Deputy United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the West Virginia Air National Guard.

"It took a while to build a team to get to where we are at now," said Domenico. "But I'm more confident in them than ever before. It has been a journey."

As the guidon was passed to Capt. Hansrote he took the time to thank his peers and family members, acknowledging the responsibility he will take on in his new role.

"I know there will be a long road ahead of me," said Hansrote. "It won't be easy but I am excited and thankful for this opportunity." 🐕



U.S. Air Force Col. Chris Sigler, commander, 167th Airlift Wing, passes the guidon to Capt. Aaron Hansrote, signifying Hansrote's new role as 167th Comptroller Flight commander during a change of command ceremony at the 167th base dining facility, Dec. 3, 2022. Hansrote took command of the flight, previously commanded by Lt. Col. James Domenico. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Michon)



## Remedial Investigation fieldwork underway at 167th AW

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily beightol-Deyerle

A Phase I Remedial Investigation (RI) is underway for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

PFAS are a diverse group of compounds that are persistent and resist degradation in the environment.

PFAS contamination of the Big Springs Deep Well which feeds the Big Springs Water Treatment Facility in Martinsburg has been attributed to the use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) previously used for firefighting activities at the 167th AW.

The City of Martinsburg has since installed a granular activated carbon filtration system to remove PFAS from the water. However, environmental restoration efforts continue following the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

Under the CERCLA construct, an RI is conducted after a preliminary assessment, a site inspection, and an expanded site inspection are completed.

A preliminary assessment was conducted at the 167th in 2015, followed by a site inspection in 2018 and an expanded site inspection in 2020.

"We're continuing to work with our environmental restoration team at the National Guard Bureau as we progress through the remedial investigation and the CERCLA process," said Carlie Paine, environmental manager for the 167th Airlift Wing. "This will be a multi-year endeavor; it's a very deliberate process."

The Air National Guard Environmental Restoration Branch contracted Leidos to conduct the RI. Leidos will conduct the RI in a phased approach so that early data can inform decisions and actions later in the RI.

Fieldwork for the RI commenced in November with plans to evaluate 13 areas of concern. During the RI, additional data will be collected to define the extent of PFAS contamination identified during previous site inspections, assess the potential risks to human health and ecological risk, and provide information to support remediation options.

The field work for the RI will include aboveground geophysics and fracture trace analysis, groundwater screening, borehole geophysics, monitoring well installation, synoptic groundwater elevation surveys, groundwater sampling, source area soil sampling, surface water and sediment sampling.

"The importance of these environmental restoration efforts cannot be overstated, and we're committed to the long-term measures needed to get to PFAS remediation," said Col. Christopher Sigler, 167th Airlift Wing commander. "We're thankful to The City of Martinsburg for their continued efforts to provide safe drinking water for our community."

For more information about the PFAS at the 167th Airlift Wing please visit <https://www.167aw.ang.af.mil/PFOS-PFOA-Information/>.



**Rock Water Drilling company uses a geoprobe machine to collect soil borings as part of a remedial investigation for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Nov. 15, 2022. The borings are classified by geologists and samples are collected for further lab testing. The remedial investigation is part of a long-term study to determine the extent of PFAS in the ground at the base. The PFAS contamination has been attributed to the use of aqueous film forming foam previously used to fight fuel fires. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Airman James DeCicco)**





## Airman particpates in Veteran's Day program



Left: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Phineas Jackson, 167th Communications Flight, speaks at the Veteran's Day program at Butterfly Ridge Elementary School, Frederick, Md., Nov. 11, 2022. Jackson shared with the students his experiences from his active-duty Army service as well as his experiences as an Air National Guardsman. (courtesy photos)

## Families join Airmen for Family Day chapel services



167th Airlift Wing members and their families participate in a holiday chapel service in the Wing's dining facility, as part of the Wing's Family Day activities, Dec. 4, 2022. Master Sgt. Seth Place, Staff Sgt. Jacob Orlando and Senior Airman Victor Orlando performed the music for the service. (courtesy photo)

## Heritage and Diverstiy Council enjoys Christmas-themed meeting



U.S. Air Force Capt. Rodney Brown, Staff Sgt. Philip Corbett and Senior Master Sgt. Lona Lozinski share holiday traditions in their families during the 167th Airlift Wing Heritage and Diversity Council meeting, Dec. 4, 2022. Hot cocoa was served, and the participants played a game to learn about Christmas around the world. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)



# Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

**Airman 1st Class Kylee Premo**

Hometown:

**Charles Town, W.Va.**

Job Title:

**Financial Manangement Technician**

Airman 1st Class Kylee Premo is a financial management specialist for the 167th Comptroller Flight and the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for December 2022.

As a financial specialist, Premo is responsible for managing accounting records and systems, processing financial transactions, performing audits and financial analysis and providing customer service to the Airmen of the 167th AW.

"Airman 1st Class Kylee Premo has been a go-getter since enlisting in the unit," said Master Sgt. Bryan Turner, the 167th CPTF financial management superintendent. "I could see immediately that A1C Premo is energetic, driven, and determined to gain as much knowledge as she can about our career field to better serve our Airmen. Within her first few weeks of duty, she had already reorganized our customer service area to help expedite members in and out-processing. A1C Premo doesn't shy away from new tasks or challenges and is always looking for more ways to help the flight. I am excited to see her progression and think she will prove to be a great asset to the unit in the future."

**Hometown:** Charles Town, West Virginia

**Job Title:** Financial Management Technician

**How long have you served in the unit?** 1 year

**How does your job support the 167th's mission?** I help airmen with their travel pay needs by assisting as an LDTA (Lead Defense Travel Administrator). I also support members by ensuring that they are being paid properly. No money, no mission.

**Civilian job:** Full time student

**Education:** Sophomore at West Virginia University studying Accounting

**Hobbies:** Skiing, hiking, working out

**Goals:** To finish my degree and continue my education by pursuing a master's degree in forensic accounting

**I am proudest of:** Being able to balance my military career and education while still having a social life

**People may be surprised to know this about me:** I turned 18 in the middle of basic training

**The most exciting thing I've done in the military is:** I enjoyed the festivities on super drill and being able to bond to my team. It helped me break out of my shell being in a fun social environment.

**One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career:** Take a step out of your comfort zone

**My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing:** Don't be shy, make connections

**The best thing about working with my team is:** The friendly environment and supportive leadership





## Cool Chaplain Contemplations from the Deep Freeze

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ronald Faith



**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ronald Faith**

Each year the Air National Guard (ANG) selects three chaplains to support Operation Deep Freeze (ODF). This polar mission provides airlift support to the National Science Foundation at McMurdo Station in Antarctica to other locations throughout the continent. The 109th ANG from New York State is the only unit who flies LC-130 aircraft, which are equipped with skis for landing on ice and snow. Each year from October through February the 109th deploys to Antarctica. Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, driest continent in the world. It is classified as a desert, but ironically, it holds the world's largest supply of fresh water, stored in frozen form, of course. The Arctic gets its name from Arcturus, the brightest star in the northern sky. The name Arcturus means, guardian of the bears. This is due to the star's relative position to Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, not far from the North Star, Polaris. "Antarctic," is the opposite direction of the northern sky.

The geographic size of the continent dwarves the continental United States and it is the tallest continent in the world. Not that it has the highest mountains in the world, but the general elevation is of the continent as a



whole. The South Pole, for example, is an eight hundred mile journey from the nearest ocean shore line, and sits on nearly two miles of ice. If you have allergies, imagine a place where there is, no pollen, no pets, no dander, and virtually no dust. If you're an outside person, there are no pests to bother you, so no mosquitoes, no flies, no spiders, no ticks no snakes, and don't worry about rats or mice they are not there either. You can't get poison, rashes, or bee stings.

Unless you are providing heat to an area where snow can melt, or moisture can develop, there is no rot, mold, or mildew, being the driest place on earth. Food can last for years outside. While I wouldn't eat it, there are dead seals, and hanging mutton in explorer R.F. Scott's Discovery Hut, that has been there for 112 years. But, if you like trees, plants, flowers, grass, they are not there. If you are a pet lover, the closest thing to a land mammal are seals that come up through tidal cracks in the ice. But you can't pet them, and they just lay there for days and weeks. Counting penguins, there are three or four types of birds but they only make it to McMurdo Station in the later austral (southern hemisphere) summer.

When it comes to people, there are no children. The youngest person there this year was seventeen, but that was not common, and there are no old, old people. The oldest this year was around 70. Disease and sickness are low amongst the population because in order to get there everyone has to be physically qualified, tested, and vaccinated. The population is noticeably male, and noticeably white. The people groups that make up one thousand folks at McMurdo station are often referred to as a three legged stool. This triad of people is composed of: the scientists, who are doing the research; the military, the Air Force who provide the airlift to, and around the continent, and the Navy ships that bring in the supplies; and the contractors, who provide the infrastructure such as electric, water, sewer, maintenance, waste removal...anything Mission Support Group would do on an Air Force base.

The conversation, which happens regularly around the mealtime tables, is stimulating, diverse, and intriguing. Many folks who are selected to go there are professionals, and experts in their fields. You may have lunch with NASA scientist who is launching satellites and connecting

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GLORIFYING GOD  
SERVING AIRMEN  
PURSUING EXCELLENCE







(continued from page 11) radar arrays, retired military, and members of the three letter government organizations. You might have breakfast with someone who is driving a bulldozer eight hundred miles to the south pole and back with supplies. The man I shared a bathroom with, works on the long duration balloon project for NASA. Because of the exclusivity of the location, and the desire of people

to get there, you will find bank managers who are cooking food, and doctors who are running recreational programs, and firefighters who are school history teachers. A portion of the people are "polarly transient." Meaning, they work in Alaska during the six-month boreal summer as tour guides, or commercial fishermen, and then come to Antarctica during the six-month austral summer.

Life is simple there. Think about it, you do not need to buy groceries, buy clothes, buy laundry detergent, or buy toilet paper, it is all provided. The food is good, you do not have to cook meals or wonder what you will make for dinner, you only have to choose from several options that are provided, (and unless you work in the galley, you never need to wash dishes). There is no need to pay rent, pay bills, buy gas, or drive a car, you can walk pretty much anywhere in town in ten minutes. Even if you want to drive, where are you going to go outside of town except to the airfield. Your biggest regular expenses can be toothpaste, soap, deodorant and underwear. Even so, only the first three are available at the only store in town, and the last one requires some planning. Amazon may not stop by for six months. When you go to the store, you don't need to spend time deciding which brand to buy, there is only one brand of each. Ninety percent of everyone there are on the same schedule, 7:30-5:30. So if you want to hang out with someone you simply do it after work, no planning needed. You may have a different job, but you are all about the same mission, science. From October through February, it really doesn't matter what time you want to do something outside, it is light, you never have to worry about trying to get it in before the sun goes down, because it doesn't. And from March through September, it doesn't really matter if you want to do something outside, it is dark. (The station population drops from one thousand to around two hundred during the dark, winter months). The primary constant is the

cold, the variable kicker is the wind. It is known as the katabatic wind and it is the strongest wind in the world. It is predictably unpredictable. There are only few flights scheduled per week, but it is normal for flights out to change on an hourly basis. You may plan all you want, but God decides, through the wind, how those plans will work out.

While there is technology, it is so limited that you hardly notice it.

People had cell phones, but they aren't on them, because they don't work as they were intended. You could send texts and check email on a limited basis. They say the internet capacity for the entire station is equal to one cell phone. One of the things that I had to think about to notice, because it was not noticeable, was in the hundreds of conversations I had while I was there, no one mentioned anything that was going on in the outside world. There was no talk about politics, or the economy. No one discussed the war in Ukraine, what was happening in China, or global warming. The only question I remember hearing was, who won the world series. The first thing I noticed coming back home to the states is the noise, except for the wind, Antarctica is incredibly quiet. It is amazing to think the American Military has been involved with the discovery and science of Antarctica since January 19, 1840, when Naval Captain Charles Wilkes charted some 1500 miles of the continent's coastline. In November 1929, Admiral Byrd flew the first flight over the South Pole. The Navy landed the first plane at the South Pole October 31, 1956. A regular American presence of the Navy and scientists began on the continent in 1946, known as Operation High Jump. In 1955 this would morph into what is still called today, Operation Deep Freeze where the Department of Defense provides support the National Science Foundation. In 1996, there would be a handoff of the seasonal mission from the Navy to the Air National Guard. The Navy still annually brings in an icebreaker, a supply ship and a tanker to restock McMurdo Station and remove the waste and containers from the continent. Since that time 1996 the mission of supplying religious support has annually fallen to three Air National Guard chaplain rotations per year. This is now supplemented with Navy chaplain and had included a civilian priest from New Zealand. If you have interest in an Antarctica presentation, please reach out to Chaplain Faith, [ronald.faith@us.af.mil](mailto:ronald.faith@us.af.mil).





## Merry, Merry around the World: December Holiday Traditions from Countries and Cultures around the World

by Senior Master Sgt. Lona J. Lozinski, 167th Airlift Wing Human Resource Advisor, Heritage and Diversity Council Chair

December is a time of festivities, family time and reflection as we close out another year and look ahead to the next. Around the world, people of numerous faiths and cultures find meaning in the month of December, celebrating various holidays from Channukah to Yule and Kwanzaa to New Year. In America, many of our December traditions focus on the Christian holiday of Christmas. In addition to the December 25th holiday, here are a few other December holidays celebrated in the United States.

**Chanukah:** 28 November-6 December 2022. Chanukah, sometimes spelled phonetically as Hanukkah, is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean Revolt. The menorah (candelabrum) that were burned at the Second Temple rededication were said to have enough oil for a single night but the flames continued to burn for eight nights. Because of this event, the nine branched menorah is the centerpiece to Chanukah. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Chanukah begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, which means that on the Roman calendar, the dates will change every year. On each of the holiday's eight nights, a candle is added to the menorah after sundown. The ninth candle, called the shamash ("helper"), is used to light the others. Blessings are recited and traditional Chanukah foods such as latkes (fried potato cakes) and sufganiyot (jam-filled doughnuts) are shared. During the festivities traditional games such as dreidl are played and gifts are exchanged with loved ones.

**Winter Solstice/Yule:** 20-21 December.

**Kwanzaa:** 26 December – 1 January. This African American holiday was created by an American in the 1960s as means to create a unifying tradition for African Americans. Kwanzaa is a seven day holiday and the word is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Families celebrate Kwanzaa in their own individualized way but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. The most recognizable feature of the Kwanzaa holiday is the Kinara, a candelabra similar to a menorah that holds seven candles, each representing one of the principles or values of African culture. The seven principles in English are Unity, Self Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. On each of the seven nights, families gather and a child lights one of the candles; an African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.

In America, Christmas is the most widely celebrated holiday in December and it is held dear by Christians around the world as well. But Christmas traditions differ from country to country and culture to culture. Here are a few Christmas traditions from other countries.

**Germany:** Pickle in the Tree. Parents hide a pickle shaped ornament in the tree and the child that finds it receives a special treat. There are many different ideas as to the origin of the Christmas Tree Pickle ranging from a marketing campaign promoting glass ornaments to a story of a starving soldier who believed that a gift of a pickle saved his life.

**Ukraine:** Cobweb Christmas. In the Ukraine, cobwebs are considered good luck and accepted, especially around Christmas time. The tradition stems from folklore about a poor widow and her children. A pinecone took root in their floorboards and grew into a tree. They didn't have enough money to decorate the tree but spiders in their home took pity on them and spun webs on the tree on Christmas Eve. As sunlight touched the webs, each strand turned to silver and gold, creating wealth for the family. Ukrainians honor the folklore by decorating their trees with artificial spider webs.

**The Netherlands:** Shoes for Sinterklaas. The Dutch celebration of The Feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6 includes a tradition in which children place their shoes out on St. Nicholas Eve (Dec. 5) to be filled with treats by St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas day is also celebrated in other countries such as Romania but the tradition of setting out shoes for St. Nick has extended to other countries such as France where children will set their shoes out on Christmas Eve.

**Italy:** La Befana. In Italian folklore, La Befana is a witch that delivers gifts to children on the even of Jan. 6, the Feast of Epiphany, the last day of the of the Twelve Days of Christmas, which concludes Christmas festivities in Italy. La Befana is rooted in a folktale about a witch who refused to travel with the Three Wise Men to greet the newly born Jesus Christ. She regrets her decision and sets out alone but never finds him. Instead, she decides to leave gifts for other children she meets along the way. Each year, Italian children set out shoes or stockings for La Befane to fill.

**Austria:** Krampus. Another mythical figure that would appear on the eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas, Krampus is a demon like figure that would accompany Saint Nicholas to visit children on the eve of St. Nicholas day. While St. Nick would reward the good children, Krampus would punish the ill-behaved. Today, young men dress up as Krampus and parades

are held in countries such as Austria and Germany to celebrate Krampus.

If you are interested in learning more about Christmas traditions, visit the HRA office pick up trivia pages and coloring sheets as well as a cup of hot cocoa from the Hot Cocoa Bar sponsored by the Heritage and Diversity Council.

*The 167th Airlift Wing Human Resource Advisor strives to empower, educate and equip Airmen to leverage diversity through training and initiatives that enhances cultural competencies and through this, create an inclusive culture within the organization.*

*The mission of the 167 Airlift Wing Heritage and Diversity Council is to promoting the heritage and culture of Wing members and the broader community in an organic, grassroots effort to support inclusion and diversity at the 167 Airlift Wing. All members of the 167AW population are invited to join regardless of gender identity, cultural background, religious affiliation, or military status.*





# CAMP CONLEY 2023

Early Registration

**\$100**

- If you register between Dec. 1 thru March 1, 2023.
- \$125.00 after March 1 thru May 1.
- No applications will be accepted after May 1, 2023

Who can attend?

**WVNG  
Military  
Dependents  
Ages 9-14**

**When  
June 25-30, 2023**

**Where  
Camp Dawson,  
Kingwood, WV**



**WHAT WILL I DO AT CAMP?**  
SWIMMING, REPEL TOWER,  
FIRING RANGE, SPORTING  
EVENTS, ARCHERY, ARTS &  
CRAFTS, TEAM BUILDING, ROCK  
WALL, DRUG AWARENESS  
ACTIVITIES, BARRACK LIFE, &  
MUCH MORE

**For more information, application or to volunteer please contact:**

Susan Izzo, 304-561-6720 or [susan.c.izzo.nfg@army.mil](mailto:susan.c.izzo.nfg@army.mil)

Lisa Dixon, 304-791-4055 or [lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil)

Kerrie Elmore, 304-201-3115 or [kerrie.a.elmore.mil@army.mil](mailto:kerrie.a.elmore.mil@army.mil)



**JUNE 25 - JULY 1, 2023  
CAMP DAWSON, KINGWOOD, WV**

- EARLY REGISTRATION FEE \$150.00 Dec. 1 - March 1, 2023  
\$175.00 after March 1 - May 1, 2023 (Limited Scholarships)
- NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 1, 2023

.....  
Youth Leaders Camp is designed for participants entering all classes of high school for School Year 2022 who have a desire to be a leader in their community and school. YLC is physically demanding and mentally challenging to enable Youth Leaders to build confidence, team building skills, integrity, and learn how to motivate and influence others.

.....  
During the week-long camp Youth Leaders will participate in the following activities:

**Rappelling, Water Survival, Physical Training, Drill and Ceremony, Swimming, Pizza Party/Dance, Rock Wall Climbing, Weapons Firing, Ethics Class. Military Customs, Guest Speaker, Military Display, Organized Athletics, Leadership Opportunities, First Aid Training, Obstacle Course, Karaoke, & Graduation**

.....  
Transportation will be provided to and from several pickup sites throughout the state.

.....  
For more information or application please contact us:

Susan Izzo, 304-561-6720 or [susan.c.izzo.nfg@army.mil](mailto:susan.c.izzo.nfg@army.mil)

Lisa Dixon, 304-791-4055 or [lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil)





## SCRA Auto Lending and Leasing

Preventive Law Tip-Credit Monitoring for National Guard Members

Did you know that the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), which provides servicemembers and their dependents with certain financial and due process protections during periods of certain active-duty military service, also includes auto lending and leasing protections?

The SCRA applies to members of the National Guard component mobilized under federal orders for more than 30 consecutive days. SCRA rights may be exercised by anyone holding a valid power of attorney for the servicemember. Some SCRA protections also apply to dependents.

The most notable protections include vehicle repossession safeguards, vehicle lease terminations, and auto loan interest rate caps, as described briefly below and in more detail at the below link.

- If a borrower finances or leases a vehicle prior to entering military service, an auto finance company cannot repossess a vehicle during a consumer's military service without a court order.
- Interest on most loans that were incurred prior to military service is capped to no more than 6% per year (including auto loans).
- Servicemembers can terminate auto leases early, and without penalty, after entering military service or receiving qualifying military orders for a PCS or deployment.

To learn more: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/service-members/the-servicemembers-civil-relief-act-skra/#:~:text=The%20SCRA%20is%20a%20law,defense%20needs%20of%20the%20Nation>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1522946/download>

## AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL (ADC)



**Capt Bradley Dunkle**  
Area Defense Counsel for all  
members of the WVANG

### AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL (ADC) CONTACT INFORMATION:

Capt Bradley Dunkle, WVANG  
Area Defense Counsel

Office: [Bradley.dunkle1@us.af.mil](mailto:Bradley.dunkle1@us.af.mil) (UTA)

OFF UTA: 304-412-3456 (cell)  
[bdunkle@dunklewv.com](mailto:bdunkle@dunklewv.com)

If you are needing representation concerning investigation for military misconduct, actions of counseling, or administrative discharge; you may contact your Area Defense Counsel (ADC). Your ADC has offices located at the 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, WV and at the 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Charleston, West Virginia

The ADC provides members of the West Virginia Air National Guard with legal representation when facing potential adverse or administrative actions. Your ADC is an experienced Judge Advocate located outside of your local chain of command, which prevents any appearance of, or possible command influence or conflicts of interest. This allows airmen of the WVANG to receive completely confidential representation and assistance.

You may need to contact your ADC if you are facing any action against you such as:

- WV Non-Judicial Punishment
- Administrative discharge and Demotion actions
- Denial of Reenlistment
- Referral EPRs/OPRs
- Suspect Rights Advisements
- LOCs, LOAs, and LORs
- UIF entries and control rosters
- Any other adverse actions in which counsel for an individual is required or authorized

The ADC is not able to assist in certain areas such as personal civil legal matters and congressional complaints. However, if you have any questions as to the availability of our services, please call to make an appointment.

*The Area Defense Counsel is available for WVANG members only. Sister services must contact the nearest servicing base for representation.*



## Antiterrorism & Force Protection - Surveillance Operations

*submitted by Capt. Roderick Toms*

These tips address 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- Ensure room is locked and valuables are secured (e.g., safe, take them with you)

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 Capt. Roderick Toms, 242-5084.





# Happy Holidays!!

## Holiday Home Fires Safety & Prevention



Christmas lights are a great way to spread holiday cheer, but they can also significantly increase the risk of fire and electrical injuries if not used properly. Given that there are increased hazards associated with holiday decorations, it is important to keep safety at the forefront of your decorating. Here are some tips to keep in mind when you and your family are decorating:

### Don't be Clark Griswold: Safely Decorate Your Home for the Holidays:



#### Don't Overload Extension Cords

Fire departments respond to an average of 230 home fires caused by Christmas trees each year. The results are a yearly average of six deaths, 22 injuries and \$18.3 million in property damage, the NFPA reported.

Don't connect more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.

Check that your smoke alarms are working properly.

Always turn off tree lights prior to going to bed or leaving your home.

Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from any heat source, such as a fireplace, radiator, candles, or interior home lights.

Check all cords for frayed wires or excessive wear.

Falling tree needles indicate the decoration is losing hydration.



**“We hope for the best but prepare for the worst.”**



# 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

**167th Airlift Wing**

**Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:**

Lindsey Hash

Office: 304-616-5991; DSN: 242-5991; Cell: 304-839-9157

lindsey.hash@us.af.mil

**167th Airlift Wing**

**Volunteer Victim Advocate:**

Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Office: 304-616-5251; DSN: 242-5251; Cell: 304-268-3706

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)







# Combating Trafficking in Persons Program Management Office

## U.S. Department of Defense

### *What is Trafficking in Persons (TIP)?*

The **use of force, fraud, or coercion** to compel a person to provide labor, services, or commercial sex. Any minor (under 18 years of age) involved in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking (no force, fraud or coercion need be proved). TIP is the recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for the purpose of exploitation. In sex trafficking, it also includes soliciting and patronizing.

*Common Types of TIP: Labor Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, Child Soldiering, Domestic Servitude, Debt Bondage/Peonage, Involuntary Servitude*

### **Who is at risk?**

#### **Victims can be of any:**

- Race
- Gender
- Nationality
- Social status
- Economic status
- Immigration status

#### **Vulnerable populations:**

- Undocumented migrants
- Runaway and homeless youth
- Women and children with limited resources
- Oppressed social or cultural groups
- People displaced by natural disaster or civil conflict
- Victims of prior sexual or physical abuse

### **What are some indicators of TIP?\***

#### **Physical/Environmental indicators. Victims may:**

- Have signs of physical abuse (bruises, cuts, burns, broken bones)
- Not possess identification papers
- Live at or be confined to their worksite
- Be escorted or closely monitored at all times
- Be in debt bondage to employer
- Suffer medical conditions such as serious communicable diseases, injuries from violence or hazardous work conditions, malnutrition, dehydration

#### **Psychological/Behavioral indicators. Victims may be:**

- Fearful
- Submissive
- Anxious
- Nervous
- Depressed
- Dependent on others
- Emotionally abused
- Lacking ability to move freely

\*Indicators listed are not absolute signs of TIP, but when presenting with several are a sign of TIP.

### **How to respond if TIP is suspected:**

If you suspect a TIP situation, do not get directly involved. **Report the situation to the appropriate authority immediately:**

Chain of Command

DoD Inspector General Hotline

**1-800-424-9098, or visit**

**<http://www.dodig.mil/hotline/>**

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

**1-888-373-7888**

Local Law Enforcement

**Report and avoid** any establishments or persons that you believe may be involved in TIP.

**Never act alone**, you may want to help, but trafficking situations are dangerous.

**[www.ctip.defense.gov](http://www.ctip.defense.gov)**





# ACCOLADES



## Welcome

AB Hannah Skoda, MDG  
AB Conner Shade, SFS  
AB Wesley Mills, LRS  
SrA Kathleen Grunhard, FSS  
SrA Rhett Maurer, SFS  
SrA Phillip Gavigan, CES  
TSgt Sarah Andrews, OSS

## Promotions

### To Airman

Brandon Ritchie, CF

### To Senior Airman

Savanna Anderson, MXG  
Dylan Ramsey, SFS  
Liam Mahoney, CF  
Morgan Domenico, AMXS

## Promotions

### To Staff Sergeant

Phineas Jones, CF  
Cortney Shambaugh, AS  
Haylee Marshall, FSS  
Robert Suchman, AW  
Lauren Leonard, FSS

### To Senior Master Sergeant

Justin Walther, LRS

## Retirements

Lt. Col. Jeff Musser, AW  
MSgt Stephanie Shields, OG  
MSgt Kris Rata, MSG  
MSgt Derek Premo, SFS  
TSgt Daniel Broughton, MXS

## Policy guidance regarding unfurling of U.S. Flags at sporting events

Service members may not participate in unfurling of the U.S. Flag while in uniform with over-sized flags that are being held horizontally. This has become somewhat common, particularly at large sporting events. This is not in accordance with guidance and policy.

Per OSD(PA), service members holding a giant flag \*while in uniform\* is not authorized. DoDI 5410.19 Volume 3, Section 3: Honors to National Symbols, 3.1 "The U.S. Flag Code and Related Authorities," indicates that uniformed members should render proper honors to the flag, which is defined in the U.S. Flag Code.

Section 8 of the U.S. Flag Code states, "the flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free."

DoD policy is that uniformed service members will uphold the highest standards of honor and respect for the U.S. flag as is described and intended in the U.S. Flag Code. Service members can hold the flag NOT in uniform

References:

**DoDI 5410.19 Vol 3:** [https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/541019\\_vol3.PDF?ver=IWpK809XpK6I5FdZMI0gaQ%3D%3D](https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/541019_vol3.PDF?ver=IWpK809XpK6I5FdZMI0gaQ%3D%3D) (page 6/7)

**U.S. Flag Code:** <https://www.military.com/flag-day/us-flag-code.html>



(Courtesy Kivett Productions)

## 167th AW leaders serve holiday meal



U.S. Air Force Col. Bill Annie, 167th Airlift Wing vice commander, Chief Master Sgt. Troy Brawner, 167th Airlift Wing command chief, and Col. Chris Sigler, 167th Airlift Wing commander, serve wing members lunch at the base dining facility during December's unit training assembly at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Dec. 3, 2022. As part of a long-standing tradition at the 167th, wing command staff serve their peers and subordinates a meal during the holiday unit training assembly. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Michon)





# Happy Holidays

*From the 167th Airlift Wing*