

# PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING

FEBRUARY 2024

Next UTA 2-3 MARCH





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### ON THE COVER

*A fuel truck arrives at the rear of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to begin fueling operations while the aircraft is running to eliminate downtime during specialized fueling operations training at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Feb. 4, 2023. The training prepares crew members on refueling the aircraft in austere and contested environments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver)*

### ON THE BACK COVER

*U.S. Air Force Major Nicholas McFadden and Lt. Col. Joshua Greenspan, pilots with the 167th Operations Group, use the aircraft's instrument panel to transfer fuel during specialized fueling operations at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Feb. 4, 2023. The training prepares crew members on refueling the aircraft in austere and contested environments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. 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. Mark Snyder**

Mighty Airlift Wing!

Alright! I got in good with Punxsutawney Phil and leveraged great weather for February UTA – I figured if he couldn't see his shadow and encourage an early spring, he could also ensure we were not dealing with icy crud for Drill! With the nice seasonal weather, the base was again a hub of activity, most noted on the empty flightline with many of our members (to include Chief Snyder) out and about on various missions. Happy to witness first-hand and receive anecdotal feedback from sections that members were getting it done over the course of the weekend.

One of the highlights from another busy weekend involved the Chantilly Academy of Fairfax County, VA. Comprised across fifteen different high schools, forty-eight Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets came to Martinsburg to learn more about the wing mission. Their visit started with a tour of the Home Station Check (HSC) hangar with an aircraft surrounded by scaffolding and ended with a local orientation flight. The trip generated much excitement, inquisitive questions, and a strong desire to pursue a military career. Much thanks goes out to the team that aided in making the cadet's visit so memorable and inspiring! I also contend that even the simplest efforts to encourage a budding interest in the National Guard goes a long way. One of our biggest strengths is in the communities where we live and interact daily as a citizen choosing to serve in uniform. Never turn down an opportunity to speak to our mission and what drives you to serve – the interested youth of today could be our unit members of tomorrow!

State Command Chief Ives pushed the results of the 2024 WV Outstanding Airmen of the Year (OAY) competition out on Saturday afternoon. It is an extremely proud wing commander that applauds all four of our competing 167 AW members in running the table! SrA Steven Heaton, SSgt Jordan Delinski, MSgt Paul Noel, and MSgt Anthony Tinsman all won for the state in their respective categories. Excitement builds as these four state winners advance to the Regional Phase of the annual OAY competition. Best of luck going forward and know that the entire wing will be cheering for your success!

As I type this the Monday after UTA, it is not lost on me that we are less than four weeks from another Drill Weekend, even with the extra day in February this year! Two months into another busy year for the 167th and I am most appreciative of your commitment to mission accomplishment – keep driving forward! Until March UTA when we rally back together for some Drill goodness: be well, stay safe, and most importantly: STAY MIGHTY

--Marty

Team 167,

It is hard to believe that it's already February! Where did January go? It's probably an indicator that 2024 is going to fly by. Speaking of flying, I was TDY over February UTA so I missed getting to see all of you. It is always eye opening getting to see the military machine in full operation when I travel. Just know that our mission does not move forward without everyone doing their part. I'm fortunate to get to see the end product of everyone's hard work when we deliver cargo, but that wouldn't happen if each piece of the puzzle isn't correctly snapped into place. I know I've said it before, but I'll say it again, the 167th truly is the best Airlift Wing in the Air National Guard!

The board for the State Outstanding Airmen of the Year was completed late last month and I'm excited to announce that the 167th took all four categories this year! Our winners are as follows: AMN – SrA Steve Heaton (Emergency Management), NCO – SSgt Jordan Delinski (Air Transportation), SNCO – MSgt Paul Noel (intelligence), and First Sergeant – MSgt Tony Tinsman. If you see these Airmen out and about, give them a huge congratulations. They will complete at the regional level soon. Martinsburg's sweep is a testament to the hard work that our members put forth every single day. Our Airmen crush it daily performing their AFSC's all while strongly supporting their local communities across the four state region. The 167th AW winners modernized processes, supported our State Partners, assisted multiple countries across the globe, participated in Defender 23, helped with the Jamboree, and worked some joint functions, to name just a few things. If you're interested in being considered as an Airmen of the Year, get with your supervisor or myself to see about ways you can get involved and set yourself up for success. If you're a supervisor and see potential in an Airman, encourage them, give them opportunities, and work with them to get them to their goal!

I was fortunate to be able to participate with some members from HQ and MSG in Vision Day 24 at the State Capitol in Charleston. We had the opportunity to talk about the Air National Guard with some of our West Virginia Legislators. Legislators are working hard for the WV National Guard and one of the bills working its way through the legislature would offer tuition assistance to the spouse and children of Guard members. If this bill makes it through, it would be extremely beneficial to our families and add to the long list of benefits for serving in the WV Air National Guard.

Lastly, as we move into the exercise in April and our mission generation deployment shortly thereafter, let's make sure we continue to check on each other. Let's ensure we know what to expect from the exercise and deployment and we are properly equipped both mentally and physically to do our part. And let's continue to help the families of members who have deployed. Keep up the good work out there and always remember to #FearTheUnicorn

-Chief

# 167th Communications Flight redesignated as squadron

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

A ceremony marking the redesignation of the 167th Communications Flight as a squadron was held at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, W.Va., Feb. 3, 2024.

During the ceremony the 167th Communications Squadron guidon was revealed and the 167th Communications Flight guidon was furled for the final time.

Air National Guard units nationwide are redesignating their communications flights to communications squadrons due to the growing responsibilities and emerging mission-sets required of the communications career field.

There's been many technological advances since the communications flight was established at the 167th nearly 60 years ago, explained Lt. Col. Donald Carpenter, 167th Communications Squadron commander.

"Now we're on the cusp of a new technological era with artificial intelligence, machine learning and large language models," said Carpenter. "A new season requires a new ap-

proach, and the Air Force sees that and is realigning the force to do that."

The 167th Communications Squadron units enables the information technology infrastructure of the wing. They are responsible for the computer and networking hardware, printers, cell phones, handheld tablets, software deployment, software updates, communications security for the classified network, radio equipment, wireless networks, base fiber optic and copper infrastructure that connects the wing to the Department of Defense network.

As a squadron, the communications unit is postured to take on additional roles to protect cyberspace platforms and to meet expeditionary and mission generation support requirements.

Carpenter acknowledged that there will be challenges as the squadron adjusts to the new mission-sets but said they will get through it.

"We've been on a journey for three years to reshape the organization to what it is today," he said. "We'll continue to drive that needle forward to much greater success." 🐾



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Thomas, reveals the 167th Communications Squadron guidon held by Senior Master Sgt. Jason Ruby, as Master Sgt. Jacob Kent holds the 167th Communications Flight guidon before it is retired during a ceremony marking the redesignation the 167th Communications Flight to a squadron at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, February 3, 2024. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Donald Carpenter, 167th Communications Squadron commander, addresses attendees of the Communications Squadron redesignation ceremony at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, February 3, 2024. The redesignation was needed to meet the emerging mission-sets of the communications career field. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by A1C James DeCicco)



# CONGRATULATIONS

## 167th Airlift Wing and West Virginia Air National Guard

### Outstanding Airmen of the Year

#### Airman



**Senior Airman Steven Heaton**  
167th CES

Senior Airman Steven Heaton is an Emergency Management Journeyman for the 167th Civil Engineering Squadron. He orchestrated emergency management training for 163 personnel, compiled materials for 27 building managers, conducted Disaster Response Force Training for 75 personnel and created guides for players and inspectors for the wing's readiness exercise. As the lead CBRN Defense Course Instructor, he facilitated 15 three-hour courses bringing the wing to a 98% training compliance rate. He served as the lead coordinator for the Wing's CBRN All-Hazard Management Response exercise and facilitated Disaster Response Force coordination during the exercise. Senior Airman Heaton also completed 36 credit hours towards his bachelor's degree in emergency and disaster preparedness.

#### Non-commissioned Officer



**Staff Sgt. Jordan Delinski**  
167th LRS

Staff Sgt. Jordan Delinski is an Air Transportation Journeyman for the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron. He led the Joint Inspection and loading of eight cargo increments, including 21.7 short tons of cargo and 529 kilograms of explosives, while coordinating the movement of 2 battalions in the 19th Special Forces Group. He facilitated the redeployment of the 104th Fighter Squadron as part of exercise Combat Hammer, conducting Joint and HAZMAT Inspections loading 24.8 short tons of cargo on two aircrafts, and similarly supported exercise Sunshine Rescue, inspecting and processing 56.18 short tons of cargo. Additionally, he served as the Joint Inspector for the 175th Wing during the large-scale, German led exercise Air Defender 23. Staff Sgt. Delinski sought further professional development, completing a first line supervisor course and an aerial port operations course.

#### Senior Non-commissioned Officer



**Master Sgt. Paul Noel**  
167th OSS

Master Sgt. Paul Noel is an Operations Intelligence Craftsman for the 167th Operations Support Squadron. He served as an Intelligence Subject Matter Expert at the West Virginia National Guard SME Exchange in Qatar. He also served as a SME for an AMC Intel Realistic Training Review Board and Formal Course Review. He designed an open-source monthly intelligence brief on relevant world threats and priority intelligence requirements providing situational awareness of world events for command staff and unit members. He oversaw the analysis and development of 20 intel scenarios for the wing's Readiness Exercise and created numerous products to aid leadership's decision-making process during the exercise. As a representative of Autism Speaks, Master Sgt. Noel partnered with Virginia House of Delegates to develop and implement legislation to provide classroom security cameras to protect disabled children.

#### First Sergeant



**Master Sgt. Anthony Tinsman**  
167th LRS

Master Sgt. Anthony Tinsman is the First Sergeant for the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron. He spearheaded the development and implementation of the ANG Command Chief and First Sergeant SharePoint automations, streamlining access to and approval for professional development courses. He helped facilitate numerous disciplinary actions, meticulously following administrative procedures while prioritizing the Airmen's well-being which fostered a culture of fairness and compassion. He facilitated open discussion sessions with the members of his squadron to gain an understanding of their needs and aided in conflict resolution which contributed to the overall well-being of his squadron. Master Sgt. Tinsman supported four wing morale events and he volunteered as a recreation league basketball coach and high school basketball camp coach.



## Junior ROTC Cadets enjoy orientation flight on 167th C-17 aircraft



Cadets from the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Chantilly Academy in Fairfax County, Va., joined 167th Airlift Wing aircrew on a C-17 Globemaster aircraft training mission Feb. 3, 2024. The orientation flight familiarized the cadets with the aircraft and gave them an opportunity to interact with the crew. Clockwise from top left: U.S. Air Force Maj. David Groom, 167th Operations Group pilot, fields questions from the cadets prior to the flight. Cadets enter the C-17 aircraft through the ramp at the rear of the aircraft. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Zac Butler, a loadmaster with the 167th Operations Group, talks with retired Chief Master Sgt. Al Clemmons, Junior ROTC instructor, and cadets. Tech. Sgt. Zac Butler points out features of the C-17 cargo aircraft to cadets. U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Smith, a loadmaster with the 167th Operations Group, talks with cadets on the flight deck prior to departing for the orientation flight. Tech. Sgt. Zac Butler answers the cadets questions about the C-17.



## Loadmasters, fuels specialists conduct specialized fueling operations training



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Crunkelton and Master Sgt. Ryan Finley, loadmasters with the 167th Operations Group, review operating procedures during specialized fueling operations training at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Feb. 4, 2023. The training prepares crew members on refueling the aircraft in austere and contested environments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Crunkelton, a loadmaster with the 167th Operations Group, awaits fuel delivery during specialized fueling operations training at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Feb. 4, 2023. The training prepares crew members on refueling the aircraft in austere and contested environments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)



# FUNCTION FOCUS

## MUNITIONS FLIGHT

Our 167th Airlift Wing munitions specialists are responsible for the safety, security and accountability of all nonnuclear munitions and related components on the installation. From small arms ammunition to distress signal kits and aircraft flares, these Airmen work with high attention to detail as they store, assemble, inspect, account for and transport weapons systems to complete mission across the world.





# Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

**Staff Sgt. Alana Lynch**

Hometown:

**Pittsburgh, Pa.**

Job Title:

**Aircrew Flight Equipment Specialist**



Staff Sgt. Alana Lynch is an aircrew flight equipment specialist for the 167th Operations Support Squadron and the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for February 2024.

As an aircrew flight equipment specialist, Lynch is responsible for ensuring that all flight and safety equipment is in perfect working order. Aircrew Flight Equipment specialists make sure Airmen have the supplies necessary for any situation. From packing emergency items like parachutes and survival kits to maintaining regularly used items like flight helmets and oxygen masks. Lynch's supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Duckwall, said she is professional and works hard on and off base.

"She has proven to be a reliable [Drill Status Guardsmen] and is continuing to progress well in her 7-level upgrade training," Duckwall said. "She is on her way to graduating college early with a degree in broadcast journalism. She dedicates a lot of time to volunteering to a few different initiatives at West Liberty. Most recently, she represented the state of West Virginia in the annual Miss Earth pageant."

**Hometown:** I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but currently live in West Liberty, West Virginia.

**Job Title:** I am a Staff Sergeant in the Aircrew Flight Equipment shop. Operations group, Operations Support Squadron.

**How long have you served in the unit?** I will reach my 5th year as an enlisted member this August. I have been at the 167th since signing.

**My job here is important because:** AFE handles the direct care of life support equipment as well as life support training for our pilots and crew members.

**Civilian job:** In my civilian life, I am a full-time student studying broadcasting. I am also a dance coach!

**Education:** Along with my high school diploma, I am currently a senior broadcasting student at West Liberty University.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy hiking, dancing, riding horses, and competing in pageants.

**Goals:** My current military goal is efficiently work through my 7-level training. My current civilian goal is to graduate with high honors in December.

**I am proudest of:** I am proudest of my personal versatility and ability to excel in various hobbies, activities, and jobs.

**People may be surprised to know this about me:** As mentioned before, I compete in pageants and currently I hold the Title of Miss West Virginia Earth. My personal platform is to educate and motivate proper recycling habits where I support family-owned recycling centers to further my mission.

**The most exciting thing I've done in the military is:** The most exciting thing I've done in the military thus far is complete my Airman Leadership School to earn the rank of Staff Sergeant.

**One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career:** One of the most valuable lessons that I've learned throughout my military career is to always ask questions!

**My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing:** My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing is to take advantage of learning and experience opportunities when they come your way!

**The best thing about working with my team is:** The best thing about working with my team is the strong sense of leadership that we have! 🐕



# Military and Family Readiness Program Office

## ***Summer Camp is Coming!***



Now is the time to sign your children up for a summer camp adventure. Consider sending them to a military friendly summer camp this year! Registrations are now open for numerous summer camps both in and out of West Virginia for your children to enjoy. For more information on camps available, contact the Military and Family Readiness Programs Office. Additional camp information can be found on the summer camp announcement flyers on the following page. Give your child the opportunity to learn, explore, and grow this summer!

### **Save the Date for these Upcoming Events**

3 May 2024: VA Benefits and Services Briefing, 0800-1500, Base Auditorium

4 May 2024: Military Retirement Planning Seminar, 0830-1230, Base Auditorium

14-15 May 2024: Boots to Business Entrepreneur Class, 0800-1500, Base Dining Facility

These events are open to WVNG service members, spouses and significant others.



*The Military and Family Readiness Program Office is located in Bldg. 120, lower level. For more information contact Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager Sherry Lewis at 304-616-5590 or 1-866-986-4325*



## 2024 Summer Camp DATES & LOCATIONS

Find out how we're  
more than a camp.

Applications for 2024 Summer  
Camp open **January 17,  
2024!** Keep this card as a  
handy reminder OR pass it  
along to a military-connected  
family who would benefit from  
Camp Corral's programs.

APPLICATION DATE  
**January 17, 2024**

★ **CAMP  
CORRAL** ★

Strengthening America's  
military families  
one child at a time...

Find more information at  
[www.campcorral.org](http://www.campcorral.org)

Combined Federal Campaign #84788



[www.campcorral.org](http://www.campcorral.org)

★ **CAMP  
CORRAL** ★

Triangle Y Ranch Camp	Oracle	AZ	June 9-14
Collin County Adventure Camp	Anna	TX	June 16-22
YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin	Middleville	MI	June 30-July 5
Eastern 4-H Center	Columbia	NC	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Hanes	King	NC	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Carson	Princeton	IN	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Loma Mar	Loma Mar	CA	June 30-July 5
YMCA Camp Gorham	Eagle Bay	NY	June 30-July 6
YMCA Camp Wood	Elmdale	KS	June 30-July 6
Camp Lakotah	Wautoma	WI	July 7-13
4-H Memorial Camp	Monticello	IL	July 14-19
Camp Southern Ground	Fayetteville	GA	July 21-26
YMCA Camp Seymour	Gig Harbor	WA	July 21-26
Camp Cole	Eastover	SC	July 21-26
YMCA Camp Classen	Davis	OK	July 21-27
YMCA Camp Shady Brook	Deckers	CO	July 28-August 2
Camp Holiday Trails	Charlottesville	VA	July 28-August 2
YMCA Camp Weaver	Greensboro	NC	August 4-9
YMCA Camp Marston	Julian	CA	August 4-9
YMCA Camp Ernst	Burlington	KY	August 4-10

# SUMMER CAMP



## 2024 Summer Youth Camps EARLY REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE

Contact us to receive an application or scan the QR code below to  
register your camper or to become a camp volunteer:

**Camp Conley**

**Ages 9-14**

When:

June 23-28, 2024

**\$100.00**

if you register before  
March 1, 2024

**\$125.00**

if you register after  
March 1, 2024



**Where: Camp Dawson**

REMINDER:

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE  
ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 1, 2024

**Youth Leaders**

**Ages 15-17**

When:

June 23-29, 2024

**\$150.00**

if you register before  
March 1, 2024

**\$175.00**

if you register after  
March 1, 2024



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)

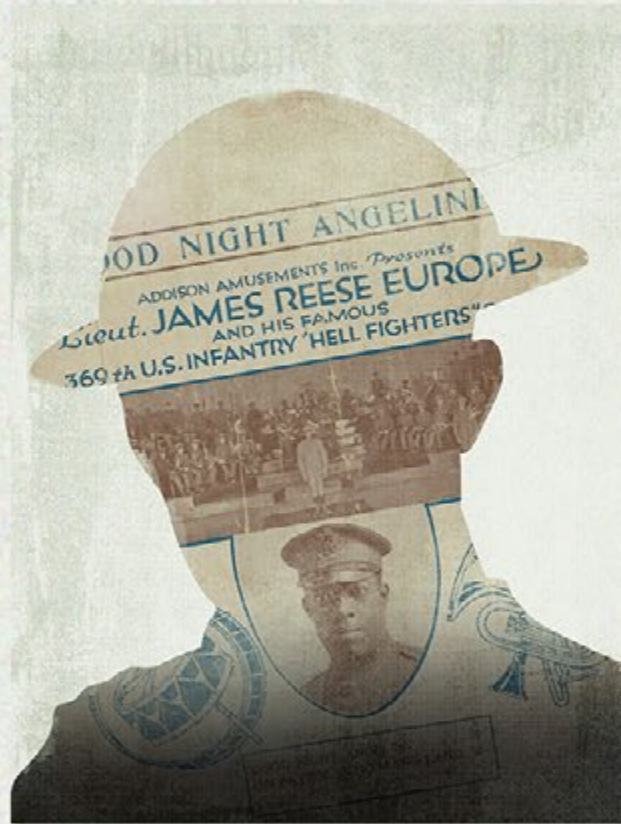
Lisa Dixon, 304-791-4055 or [lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.dixon22.nfg@army.mil)

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





# AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS



*featuring composer James Reese Europe*



*featuring band director Leonora Hull Brown*



*featuring artist Horace Pippin*

## FEBRUARY IS — BLACK HISTORY MONTH —

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. Each year the Department of Defense (DoD), along with the rest of the Nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of African Americans.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has chosen for the 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts."

Lt. James R. Europe brought African American music genres international while leading the 369th Infantry Regiment "Hell Fighters" band.

His Black musicians proudly played their own original music, including jazz, blues, ragtime, and patriotic tunes, amazing European audiences who were unable to replicate their unique sound. Lt. Europe and his band were celebrated as heroes upon their return at the war's end.

Europe was one of the first mainstream African American mu-

sicians. He is recognized as a composer, arranger, and American band leader and is credited as a major figure in transitioning ragtime into jazz and popularizing social dancing across the social class spectrum.

Leonora Hull Brown, a Women's Army Corps member during World War II, was crucial in creating the military's only all-Black female band.

Brown helped form the group after being denied participation in the all-White band. As the only one with musical experience, and with just 8 weeks until their first performance, Brown taught the women volunteers how to play instruments. Their first performance far exceeded expectations.

This group became recognized as the 404th Armed Service Forces band as it fought an uphill battle against discrimination and sexism. After several performances, they were defunded by the Army. However, through community activism, they were reinstated.

Horace Pippin is one of the most celebrated African American painters of the 20th century and a veteran of World War I. Being self-taught, Pippin used a linear art style with powerful design and expressive color. Pippin enlisted in what would become the Army's 369th Infantry Regiment. During his service, a sniper shot permanently disabled his right arm.

Pippin wrote a vivid account of his wartime service and experiences in a 61-page journal which contains numerous battlefield illustrations detailing his injury and which inspired his later work.

The stories of incredible artists like Lt. James R. Europe, Leonora Hull Brown, and Horace Pippin exhibit just a few of the countless contributions to the arts made by African Americans. Their complex, trailblazing work has impacted the hearts and minds of millions of people.

During this special observance, the DoD honors the contributions made by African Americans in the arts and celebrates diversity, inclusion, and accessibility for all Americans.





# What are Unauthorized Disclosures?



## ■ What are Unauthorized Disclosures (UDs)?

**An Unauthorized Disclosure (UD)** is the communication or physical transfer of classified national security information (CNSI) or controlled unclassified information (CUI) – including OPSEC Critical Information – to an unauthorized recipient.

## ■ What are My Responsibilities as DOD Personnel?

**DoDM 5200.01** requires all **DOD Personnel** to protect Critical Information and Indicators (CII). For example, the timing and location of deployment of wing medical personnel would be Critical Information, and the preparation of medical equipment for this deployment would be an Indicator.

## ■ Why do DOD Personnel Have this Responsibility?

The unauthorized disclosure of CNSI, CUI, or CII can seriously damage America's national interests and needlessly jeopardize American lives. Not even a year ago a member of the Air National Guard was suspected of leaking highly classified military documents on social media. **OPSEC is everyone's responsibility.**

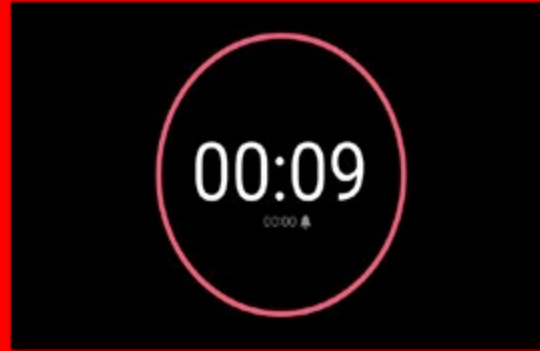
**Critical Information (CI)** is specific facts about friendly activities, intentions, capabilities, or limitations that an adversary seeks to gain an advantage. **Indicators** are detectable actions and patterns that can be interpreted and pieced together to reach conclusions or estimates concerning friendly intentions, capabilities, or activities.

For more information on DOD policies regarding Unauthorized Disclosures and your responsibilities, make sure to read through [DoD Manual 5200.01](#), [Executive Order 13526](#), and [Executive Order 13556](#). Each of these will help clarify how to safeguard and declassify CNSI, how to identify and protect CUI, and how to safeguard critical information and indicators useful to adversaries.



# **ARE YOU READY?**

Readiness Exercise : April 17 -21



**CAN YOU GET YOU MASK ON IN 9 SECONDS?**



**MAKE SURE YOUR  
HOOD IS ON  
CORRECTLY WITH  
BUCKLE CONNECTED  
AND STRING TIED**



**DON'T FORGET YOUR  
SUSPENDERS AND  
RETENTION CORD**



**Installation Office of Emergency Management**  
Questions/Comments/Concerns? – Please reach out to us! (EXT. 5288)



# Misinformation

Misinformation thrives on social media where anyone can share almost anything they choose, and attention spans are short. Here's a quick guide to help you understand what misinformation is and how to recognize it.

## Why do people share misinformation?

Many people share misinformation unknowingly and sometimes with good or altruistic intentions — whether to articulate their perspectives, warn others away from danger or join others in trying to make sense of the world around them.

But some research suggests that some people also knowingly share things they suspect are false — whether to damage “the other side” in a political debate, get social media likes and shares, or conform to their ideological identities.

Bad actors — such as hyperpartisans, trolls and even foreign agents — create and share disinformation to cause division and confusion, to promote political interests and points of view or for financial gain.

Mis- and disinformation are fundamentally exploitative in nature, often targeting our most deeply held values and beliefs to **elicit a strong emotional reaction** that overrides our more rational thought processes.

**Watch out!** While the emotions most often elicited by mis- and disinformation are fear, anger and outrage, more agreeable emotions like curiosity and hope are also used to bypass our cognitive defenses.

## Misinformation:

Information that is misleading, erroneous or false. Misinformation is generally shared — and sometimes created — by people who are unaware that it's inaccurate. This is the best term to use when the intent of the creator or sharer is unknown.

## VERSUS

## Disinformation:

A subset of misinformation that is deliberately created or shared with the intention to misinform and mislead others, usually to achieve a desired ideological, political or financial result.



**Remember:** The intent behind the creation or amplification of false information is often impossible to determine.

## Types

Adapted from First Draft's [seven types of mis- and disinformation](#), created by Claire Wardle.

Misinformation can be categorized based on what makes it false or misleading. The following five types are commonly found online:



### False context

An image, video, quote or other piece of content is presented in a new, false context that changes its meaning.



### Fabricated content

Misinformation that is entirely made up, such as computer-generated imagery or entirely fictional reports presented as “news.”



### Stolen satire

A specific type of “false context” misinformation in which all or part of a piece of satire is presented as authentic.

### Imposter content

Content — such as a fake tweet from a public figure, or a fake ad — that falsely uses a well-known name, brand or logo to fool people into believing that it is authentic.



### Manipulated content

Photos, videos, graphics and other types of content that have been “doctored” in some way, such as having one or more elements artificially added or removed.



## Red flags

## WATCH OUT!

If you see these common misinformation themes and “rumor cues,” proceed with caution:

## Phrases

- “Let that sink in”
- “The media won’t report this”
- “Make this go viral”
- “Do your own research”
- “There are no coincidences”

## Patterns

- Manipulated text on signs or t-shirts
- Doctored “amazing” nature or space photos
- Photos of protests and crowds
- Screenshots of articles with no links

## Your best defenses

1. Checking out unfamiliar people and sources
2. Glancing through social media comments for replies that call a post into question
3. A quick internet search using key terms from a questionable post

## Key resources

- [“Misinformation” lesson](#) from NLP’s Checkology® virtual classroom
- NLP’s weekly email newsletters: [The Sift®](#) (for educators) and [Get Smart About News](#) (for non-educators)
- NLP’s [Viral Rumor Rundown blog](#)
- [First Draft](#) website
- [The Media Manipulation Casebook](#)



# Guidance on Political Activities for 167 AW Military Personnel, DSGs and AGRs

As we move toward the 2024 election season, all 167 AW military personnel must be aware of the limitations that affect their participation in political activity. While all personnel are encouraged to carry out the obligations of citizenship, they must be mindful of the longstanding tradition that the military organization remains apolitical. The primary guidance concerning political activity for military members is found in [DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces](#).

Generally, you **MAY**, provided you are not in uniform and do not otherwise act in a manner that could reasonably give rise to the inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement:

- Register, vote, and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.
- Promote and encourage others to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute use of their official authority or influence to interfere with the outcome of any election.
- Join a partisan or nonpartisan political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform, subject to some restrictions (come talk to your JA team).
- Serve as an election official, if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with the performance of military duties, is performed when not in uniform.
- Sign a petition for a specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot, if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.
- Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing the member's personal views on public issues or political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letterwriting campaign or a solicitation of votes for or against a political party or partisan political cause or candidate. If the letter identifies the member as on active duty (or if the member is otherwise reasonably identifiable as a member of the Armed Forces), the letter should clearly state that the views expressed are those of the individual only and not those of the Department of Defense or the West Virginia National Guard.
- Make monetary contributions to a political organization, party, or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates, subject to the limitations (come talk to your JA team).
- Display ONE political bumper sticker on the member's private vehicle.
- Attend partisan and nonpartisan political fundraising activities, meetings, rallies, debates, conventions, or activities as a spectator when not in uniform and when no inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement can reasonably be drawn.
- Participate fully in the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

Generally, you **COULD** if you are not in uniform and do not otherwise act in a manner that could reasonably give rise to the inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement; however, you must be aware of other restrictions in law:

- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities, rallies, conventions (including making speeches in the course thereof), management of campaigns, or debates, either on one's own behalf or on that of another, without respect to uniform or inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement. Participation includes more than mere attendance as a spectator.
- Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.
- Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles, letters, or endorsements signed or written by the member that solicits votes for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause. This is distinguished from a letter to the editor as permitted above.
- Serve in any official capacity with or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.
- Speak before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Conduct a political opinion survey under the auspices of a partisan political club or group or distribute partisan political literature.
- Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee or candidate during a campaign, on an election day, or after an election day during the process of closing out a campaign.
- Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for any political cause or candidate.
- March or ride in a partisan political parade.
- Display a large political sign, banner, or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a private vehicle.
- Participate in any organized effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls if the effort is organized by or associated with a partisan political party, cause, or candidate.
- Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote partisan political dinners and similar fundraising events.
- Attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces, except as a member of a joint Armed Forces color guard at the opening ceremonies of the national conventions of the Republican, Democratic, or other political parties recognized by the Federal Elections Committee or as otherwise authorized by the Secretary concerned.
- Make a campaign contribution to, or receive or solicit (on one's own behalf) a campaign contribution from, any other member of the Armed Forces.
- Commissioned officers shall not use contemptuous words as prohibited by Article 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice or participate in activities proscribed in DoD Directive 5200.2, Personnel Security Program, and DoD Directive 1325.06, Handling Protest, Extremist, and Criminal Gang Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces.



# Oh say, have you seen a Unicorn?

Oh say, have you seen a Unicorn  
That mythical creature of legend born

Why yes, I saw one in the sky  
I looked up, and it flew by

I thought the woods was where they roam  
I thought so to, who would have known

Are you sure it wasn't Pegasus  
Yes, though it seems incredulous

I heard they travel the world around  
You never know where they'll be found

They are on the go, with little warning  
With a smell like jet fuel in the morning

'Bullets and beans' is what you feed 'em  
In their hooves is the sound of freedom

If you watch close, you may see one again  
Near a red tail flash on the side of a plane

And on a quiet day you may find the herd  
Resting on the flightline in Martinsburg

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





## Antiterrorism & Force Protection - Travel Security

*submitted by Maj. Roderick Toms*

These tips address travel security.

One time when complacency can get us in trouble is when we travel. Here are a few tips that will increase your security the next time you go TDY, leave, or PCS to an OCONUS location.

- Avoid using military style bags such as A-3, B-4 or duffel bags, unless traveling Military Air.
- Remove all military logos, patches and stickers from your luggage.
- Ensure your luggage tag doesn't show your rank or military address.
- Travel in conservative civilian clothing when using commercial transportation or when traveling military airlift if you are connecting with a flight at a commercial terminal in a high risk area.
- Don't wear distinct military items such as organizational shirts, caps or issued shoes or glasses.
- Wear a long sleeved shirt if you have a visible U.S. affiliated tattoo.
- Remember to be aware of your surroundings, be suspicious and don't become the target.
- Do not use rank or duty title when registering in a hotel (if possible)
- If staying in same hotel for extended period of time, try to change rooms
- Try to get a room on the 2nd to 6th floors
- Ensure room is locked and valuables are secured (e.g., safe, take them with you)

REMEMBER: Antiterrorism and Force Protection is EVERYONE'S job.  
The 167th Airlift Wing Antiterrorism Officer is Maj. Roderick Toms, 242-5084.





# 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)

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





# 167th LEGAL TEAM

The 167th Legal Office provides professional legal advice and counsel to command and staff agencies.

We also provide on-target and on-time legal advice and assistance to military members, retirees and their family members. Legal assistance is provided in a wide range of areas including:

- Family Law
- Will & Living Wills
- Landlord-Tenant Issues
- USERRA Rights.

The contents of your legal assistance appointment are attorney-client privileged.

All staff members are Drill Status Guardsmen (DSGs) and have limited availability to provide legal assistance outside of the UTA weekends.



*Need to create a will or power of attorney? Access the worksheet [here](#).*



*If you are under investigation for military misconduct or subject to adverse military administrative action, please contact the Area Defense Counsel for legal advice.*

Headquarters (Bldg. 120) Rm 114  
Phone: 304-616-5336; DSN: 242-5336  
[167HQ.JA.Legal@us.af.mil](mailto:167HQ.JA.Legal@us.af.mil)

## AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL



### AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Capt Teresa Saunders, WVANG  
Area Defense Counsel

[Teresa.Saunders.7@us.af.mil](mailto:Teresa.Saunders.7@us.af.mil)

You may contact the West Virginia Area Defense Counsel (ADC) if you think you need legal representation because you are subject to a command investigation, adverse administrative action, or non-judicial punishment under the West Virginia State Code. Your ADC has offices at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, WV and at the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, WV.

The ADC provides members of the West Virginia Air National Guard (130th and 167th AW) 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/OPBs
- 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 email to make an appointment.

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





# 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

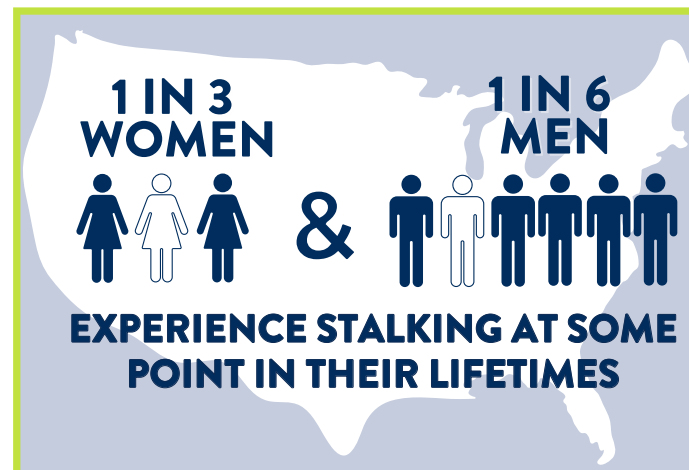
1-888-373-7888.

Wing POC's  
MSgt Michael Seavolt, ext 5062  
MSgt Shawn Green, ext 5431



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

# STALKING IN THE UNITED STATES



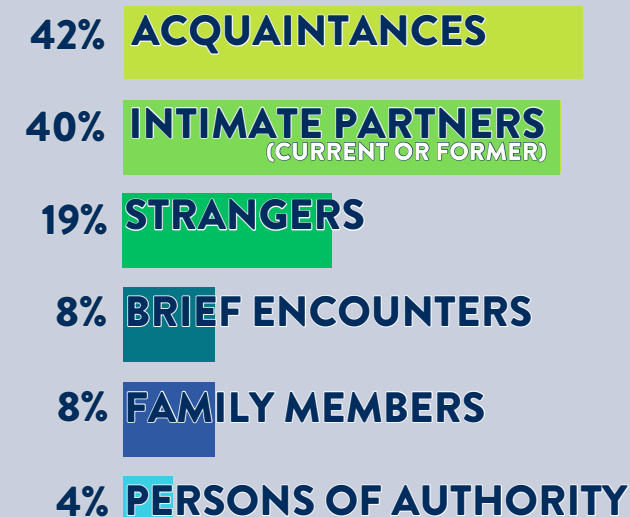
APPROX. 13.5 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STALKED IN A 1-YEAR PERIOD

### MOST COMMON STALKING TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY VICTIMS:



Most stalkers use multiple tactics.<sup>3</sup>

### WHO ARE STALKERS?



### Citations

1. Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2. Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. 3. Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155.

**SPARC**  
STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER  
[STALKINGAWARENESS.ORG](http://STALKINGAWARENESS.ORG)





# ACCOLADES



## Welcome

SSgt Ashley Almeida, AW  
 A1C Dalton Sudek, MXS  
 AB Cason Russell, SFS  
 Amn Dalton Leab, AS  
 Amn Aiden Carpenter, AS

## Welcome Back from Technical Training

AB Aaron Farris, CPTF  
 Amn Khyree Morris, HQ  
 AB Christian Shepherd, LRS

## CDC High Scores

SSgt Jason Mitchell, CES

## Promotions

### To Airman

Jakob Crans, MXS  
 Wesley Mills, LRS  
 Wiliam Stafford, LRS

### To Airman 1st Class

Joshua Kreps, LRS

### To Senior Airman

Cameron Layne, OSS  
 Michael McDonald, SFS  
 Emilie Miller, MDG

## Promotions

### To Staff Sergeant

Michael France, SFS  
 Gregory Fuqua, SFS  
 Kyle McKay, SFS  
 Destinee Moore, FSS

### To Tech Sergeant

Bradley Derito, MXS

### To Master Sergeant

Anthony Adams, CS

## Promotions

### To Captain

Benjamin Smith, SFS

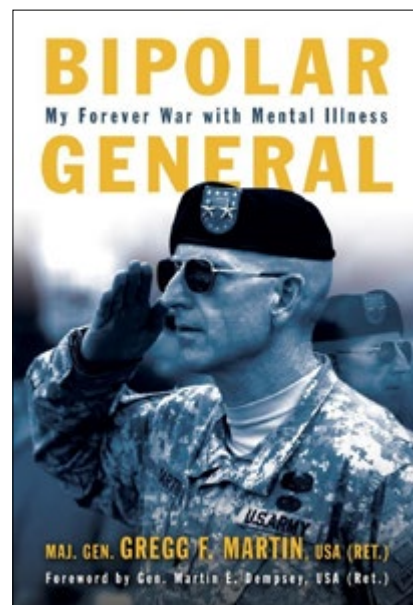
### To Lieutenant Colonel

Wayne Harrison, FSS  
 Keith Michael, MDG

## Retirements

Lt Col. Scott Frazier, AS  
 SMSgt Robert Twigg, AS  
 SMSgt John Kaffka, AS

The 167th Psychological Health Program will be hosting retired Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin over Zoom on Saturday, March 2, at 1500 to discuss his experiences living with a mental illness and talk about his latest book, *Bipolar General: My Forever War with Mental Illness*.



## Retirees Association

The 167th Retirees Association is an "All Ranks, All Services" organization which meets the third Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs in the Base Auditorium, Building 120. Retirees are welcome to drop in or contact us at [wv167RA@gmail.com](mailto:wv167RA@gmail.com)



## Thunder is Triumphant

After counting all the votes, the name "Thunder" has emerged victorious as the top choice for our mascot's name. Thank you to all who participated in the process. When the time is right "Thunder" will make appearances to bring some smiles, lighten the mood and help us celebrate our successes. Contact the Public Affairs Office if you'd like to book "Thunder" for your event.



