

PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING
FEBRUARY 2025

Next UTA 1-2 MARCH 2025



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The 167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office is always looking for story ideas and original content. PLEASE SEND ALL PLANE TALK SUBMISSIONS, INCLUDING STORIES, COLUMNS, AND PHOTOS TO: 167.AW.PA.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil

ON THE COVER

Idaho National Guardsmen board a C-17 Globemaster aircraft at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, January 22, 2025. Nearly 350 Idaho Guardsmen provided support to the presidential inauguration in Washington D.C. on January 20, and were bussed to the 167th Airlift Wing afterwards for transport back to Idaho on two 167th AW C-17s and two C-130 aircraft operated by the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

ON THE BACK COVER

The 167th Mission Support Group gathered for a group photo before a commanders call during the January Unit Training Assembly. The 167th MSG is comprised of the 167th Civil Engineering Squadron, the 167th Communications Squadron, the 167th Force Support Squadron, the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 167th Security Forces Squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon)



167AW 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. Mark Snyder

167th,

I had the opportunity to start Saturday of drill weekend by providing opening remarks for the wing Yellow Ribbon event. I was impressed by the number of wing and family members that attended the event due to having returned from deployment or preparing for deployment. I believe one of the reasons why the United States military is the best in the world is because we take care of and care for our service members. The Yellow Ribbon event is a classic example of the support our service members receive. We ask a lot of our Air National Guard members, so I am glad we take the time to educate our members on the many benefits associated with deployment orders. I can assure you that benefits such as the GI Bill/Yellow Ribbon Program, Tricare, Reduced Retirement, USERRA protections and Veterans benefits add up after a career of service.

Our current deployment cycle combined with a recent reduction in technician funding across the Air National Guard is a topic I need to discuss for wing awareness. The Lead Wing Expeditionary Air Base (XAB) deployment will draw key wing resources such as commanders and senior NCOs. Backfilling these key positions will be more of a challenge with the reduction in technician funding. We must, as a wing, focus on being resilient and resourceful. We will have to focus on using the resources we have available. Many members in the wing will have the opportunity to step into leadership rolls to fill voids. This is a great force development opportunity. I know that my opportunity to serve as the acting wing commander for most of 2022 was a great opportunity. We will plan to carry on the mission with less manning resources, but there may be times when we need to slow down and ensure we are doing things safely.

Many of you are aware that the Air National Guard has begun moving to the A-Staff construct. The 167th even has members that will be deploying and serving in A-Staff positions. With the reality of reduced staffing during deployments and plenty of work to go around, I have decided the time is right to build the 167th A-Staff. Congratulations to Lt Col David Groom for being selected as the A-Staff Chief of Staff and also to Maj Taylor Belfield for being selected as the A-Staff Deputy Chief of Staff. Guidance from the NGB continues to evolve on A-Staff implementation, so one of their first assignments is to ensure we proceed with the latest information as we continue to build our A-Staff. I envision the A-Staff assisting in matters that impact the entire wing, such as Continuous Process Improvement and long-range planning.

I concluded Sunday of drill by participating in a Teams meeting with our new TAG, General Seward. I can say that he is humbled and honored to be the Adjutant General for West Virginia. He is also aware that the WVANG has earned a stellar reputation amongst the Active and Reserve components. I am looking forward to the opportunity to host General Seward at the 167th.

Respectfully,
Sig

Team 167,

Welcome to February already! Unfortunately, I was not at this Unit Training Assembly. I had an opportunity to support the State Partnership Program (SPP) with our partner Qatar. The Inaugural Air Staff Airman to Airman Talks and the Best Warrior Competition (BWC) took place this month. This first ever Airman to Airman Talks and Best Warrior in Qatar set a great foundation for the future and once again showed our commitment to supporting this great country. A delegation from Peru, another one of West Virginia's State Partners, also attended the BWC and may take part in the future! There are so many exciting things the 167th Airlift Wing is doing for the SPP.

There are a few things from this month that I would like to cover even though I missed the UTA. First, congrats to CMSgt Jim Decicco from the Logistics Readiness Squadron on his retirement! Jim has been a staple in LRS for many years and will be missed. The other big news is that we had two Airmen win Outstanding Airmen of the Year for the State. A1C Tyler Barney from the Airlift Squadron and TSgt Alex Barb from the Operations Support Squadron will compete for Region Two later this month. Congratulations and good luck to both. All the Airman the wing put forward competed very well this year. I also want to take a minute to give a shout out to my former commander Lt Col Randy Wright who was selected to be the next Operations Group Commander. Congrats! He should also be pinning on colonel in the near future.

It seems like every month I talk about changes coming to the USAF and ANG. This month will be no different. There have been several uniform and personal dress and appearance changes that our Airmen need to be aware of and adhere to. I'm sure many more changes will come as the members of the new administration and SECDEF settle into their roles. Change is inevitable as you know. I ask that everyone help each other know what changes are occurring and assist each other in getting to the set standard. One big change I'm sure most may not like is the loss of the duty identifier tabs that we were allowed to wear such as the SF, CEA, FIRE, BEE, etc. I've heard this may be unpopular, but we have to meet the standards, this means those need to come off of our uniforms now.

Finally, I want to take a minute to thank The Adjutant General (TAG) Major General William (Bill) Crane for his leadership to the WVNG over the last several years. He retired at the beginning of February as the new TAG, Brigadier General James (Jim) Seward, took command. We'll learn more about the mission and vision of Gen Seward as he settles in. I hope you have a fantastic February! Thanks for all you do and as always remember to #FearTheUnicorn!

#WeAreMartinsburg
~Chief

167th Airlift Wing seeks applicants for critical firefighter vacancies

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

The 167th Airlift Wing Fire Department is looking for candidates to fill seven open firefighter positions at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Firefighters are critical to the wing's flying mission. They also provide services for the civilian side of the airport and support to the local community.

"We provide twenty-four-seven fire and emergency services to the wing and to the surrounding communities that include structural firefighting, aircraft firefighting rescue operations, offensive HAZMAT response and EMS (Emergency Medical Service) response to the EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) level," said U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Chris Taylor, 167th AW fire chief. "We run about 200 calls a year, off base and on base, but primarily our responsibility is to ensure the aircraft fly and to protect the personnel on this base."

According to Taylor, the fire department would ideally be staffed with 11 to 12 firefighters. Currently, a typical shift is manned with 7 to 8 firefighters.

Col. Christopher Sigler, who recently took command of the 167th AW, said filling the vacancies is his top staffing priority.

"We are often tasked with some of Air Mobility Command's highest priority missions and sometimes being short just one firefighter on duty can impact mission success."

As the number of firefighters on duty decreases the level of risk the wing accepts for each aircraft launch or landing increases.

"Recent events clearly show why it is important to have essential services, such as the fire department, properly staffed," Sigler said.

To offset the manning shortage, the firefighters have transitioned from three shifts to two shifts, working a 48-hours-on-48-hours-off schedule, an average of 144 hours a pay period.

"That's the max schedule that we're able to work before we're getting outside of industry standards," Taylor said.

The two-shift system enables the fire department to continue providing services to the wing, airport and community but Taylor expects big impacts this spring when 10 firefighters are slated to deploy, underscoring the importance of filling the positions.

The firefighter openings are dual-status positions meaning one would work for the West Virginia Military Authority and would be required to enlist and maintain membership in the West Virginia Na-

tional Guard.

There are numerous advantages to being employed in a dual-status position, according to Taylor, but he ranks access to military firefighter training as a top benefit.

"There's an endless amount of training courses and certifications that we can get our firefighters through the military that we just wouldn't be able to get if we were strictly state employees," Taylor said. "We have specialized subject matter experts here, and it's because of the many military courses that we're able to provide them."

A qualified applicant for a firefighter position will have a general ASVAB score of 57 and will meet the requirements of the firefighter physical fitness assessment. Beyond the basic eligibility requirements, Taylor said he is looking for coachability.

"We specialize here in training new firefighters, and the successful ones are able to be coached and mentored," Taylor said. "I encourage anyone who is interested in a firefighter job to come and spend a day with us and see what we do."

If you have questions or would like to apply, send an email to 167.FES@gmail.com. 🐾



The 167th Airlift Wing's Fire Department, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, is looking for applicants to fill eight vacancies. With as many as 10 firefighters slated to deploy this spring, low manning in this critical career field could impact operations at the 167th AW. Anyone interested in learning more about the 167th Fire Department can send a message to 167.FES@gmail.com.

167th Air Transportation Function processes passengers and cargo for flight home



Nearly 350 Idaho National Guardsmen and their cargo were transported from the 167th Airlift Wing Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, to Boise, Idaho, on two 167th AW C-17 Globemaster aircraft and two C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Jan. 22, 2025. The Idaho Guardsmen supported the presidential inauguration on Jan. 20 and were bussed from Washington D.C. to the 167th AW the morning of Jan. 22. The 167th's Air Transportation Function set up a temporary aerial port in a hangar to process the passengers and their cargo. Fourteen ATF members, along with four loadmasters, built, weighed and loaded 10 cargo and baggage pallets in just a few hours. Even with temperatures well below freezing and stubborn ice covering the flight line, the final aircraft departed Shepherd Field 55 minutes ahead of schedule, a testament to the efficiency of 167th's logistics experts and air crew. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

167th deployers attend Yellow Ribbon event



167th Airlift Wing Airmen and their families get information on benefits before an upcoming deployment during a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration event at a conference center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Feb. 1, 2025. The event serves to help Airmen and their families connect with resources before, during and after deployments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon)



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Victoria Shrieves, 167th Airlift Wing retention manager, explains education benefits to Airmen before an upcoming deployment during a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration event at a conference center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Feb. 1, 2025. The event serves to help Airmen and their families connect with resources before, during and after deployments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon)

Chief DeCicco retires from 167th LRS



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. James DeCicco, former 167th Airlift Wing materials management flight chief, addresses the audience during his retirement ceremony at the 167th base dining facility, February 1st, 2025. DeCicco served in the military for 23 years, all of which were with the 167th AW Mission Support Group in various roles. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Sencindiver)

Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Schwedsky

Hometown:

Mauston, Wis.

Job Title:

Airfield Management



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Schwedsky is an airfield manager for the 167th Operations Support Squadron and he is the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for February 2025.

As an airfield manager, Schwedsky is responsible for ensuring a safe, efficient and effective airfield environment. He inspects the runway, taxiway, parking apron, lighting and airfield clearance areas. He enforces ground safety and airfield driving requirements and responds to flight safety hazards affecting the airfield environment.

"Tech. Sgt. Schwedsky came to us from Volk Field, Wisconsin, and as the saying goes 'He has hit the ground running,'" said Senior Master Sgt. Alan Romero, 167th OSS airfield manager. "He has an abundance of experience and knowledge of airfield operations, and his can-do attitude makes him an invaluable member of the operations group and the airfield management team."

Hometown: Mauston, Wisconsin

Job Title: 167 OSS/OSA NCOIC, Airfield Management Operations

How long have you served in the unit? Start date here was January 1st, 2024, as an AGR. PCS'd from Volk Field ANGB in Wisconsin. Enlisted Aug 2016.

My job here is important because: Airfield Management ensures that operations on the airfield are running safely, efficiently and effectively. This includes managing all runways, taxiways, aprons, pavements, signs, lighting and airfield clearance areas. Working with multiple other agencies to allow for flights and all flight related operations to flow smoothly, empowering missions to be accomplished across the globe.

Civilian job: Prior to AGR, I was a traditional Guardsman and full-time student in college while helping on the family farm back home.

Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, associate's degree in aviation management (CCAF)

Hobbies: Video games, hiking, traveling, and discovering new things with friends and family.

Goals: Attend NCOA and the Advanced Airfield Manager Course. I would also like to pursue a master's degree in business.

I am proudest of: Being able to happily say I currently serve, that I've deployed & have friends and family members who have done the same thing.

People may be surprised to know this about me: I've played percussion for 12+ years to include being a part of UW-White-

water's concert and marching bands.

The most exciting thing I've done in the military: Deploying for the first time to the United Arab Emirates. Being able to experience new cultures, make new friends and learn so many new skills along the way was a tremendous opportunity I will never forget.

One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career: Always be willing to learn from those around you, no matter the difference in title, age, experience, etc. Use those opportunities to continuously better yourself both personally and professionally in any way possible.

My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing: Get to know as many people on base as possible and maintain those positive connections throughout your career. The Air Force is small, and Martinsburg is even smaller. Having those connections and support systems in place is an extremely helpful tool to have.

The best thing about working with my team is: Understanding everyone's strengths and weaknesses and utilizing those abilities to accomplish any given task that may be thrown our way. Being able to lean on others when needed, while also supporting other team members is a recipe for success in an ever-changing work environment. 🐾

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

PurpleUp Day

April is the month of the Military Child. Help us celebrate and wear your purple on **April 11, 2025** and share your pictures on our Facebook page to show your support for all our wonderful Military Kids! We will also be partnering with Common Ground and the Dept. of Education to have a Spirit week at every WV school in honor of MOMC.

WhyPurple

We wear purple to celebrate military kids! Purple references the joint environment of the military, encompassing all service branches, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veterans. Purple combines each branch's colors into one: the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard all use shades of blue, the Army uses green, and the Marines use red.

PurpleBall2025

Where: 167AW Air Guard DFAC

When: April 5, 2025

Time: Starts at 5PM

Come dressed in your Sunday best and join us for food, music, prizes and more.



FOR ALL MILITARY
FAMILIES





Winter Storms and Extreme Cold



Brrr...It's Cold Outside

A winter storm can range from moderate snow over a few hours to blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that lasts several days.

- **Winter Storm Watch** - Indicates that severe weather may impact your area.
- **Winter Storm Warning** - Indicates that a winter storm is occurring or will occur in your area.

Winter Driving

- Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal.
- Maintain a full tank of gas during the winter season.
- Install winter tires with plenty of tread and install snow chains, as necessary.
- Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions before travelling. Always travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person and keep others informed of your schedule.
- When feasible, use public transportation if you must go out during a winter storm.
- Above all, wear warm, layered clothing! Be sure to include gloves and the appropriate footwear and headwear protection.



- **Frostbite** - A condition where localized damage occurs to skin and other tissue due to extreme cold. Symptoms of frostbite include a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, tip of the nose, and ear lobes.
- **Hypothermia** - A condition brought on when the body temperature drops to less than 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, slow speech, memory lapses, frequent stumbling, drowsiness, and exhaustion.

Safety Reporting ... All In One Place **SAFEREP APP!**

Why Safety Reporting?

Quickly and easily tell safety about safety issues you see

- In the dorms
- At work
- Anywhere on base
- In flight
- While maintaining aircraft
- On the ramp



What to report?

- Dangerous conditions
 - "Near miss" events
 - Aviation specific reporting
 - Cultural issues that could lead to an accident, damage, or injury
 - Supervisor mishap report
- Report anonymously
Reports go direct to the safety office



New name, new website, new app, and a whole new look

SAFEREP is a web- and app-based way for members from every career field to identify hazards and report near-misses and even some mishaps directly to their safety offices using any computer or mobile device.



Download to your mobile device from your preferred App Store

Or

Go to <https://saferep.safety.af.mil>



Easter Egg Hunt



- Cake Walk
- Crafts and Games
- Button Maker
- Egg Hunts (Ages 0-4, 5-8 & 9-12)
- Easter Bunny
- Refreshments
- DJ Music

PLEASE Help with the fun!

We are in need of cookies, cupcakes and cakes for our cake walk. Candy needed to fill eggs. Volunteers are always welcome to join the Family Readiness Group. Please contact Ron Glazer (301-992-4803) or send an e-mail to 167AWFRG@gmail.com.



Antiterrorism & Force Protection - Suspicious Personnel

submitted by Maj. Roderick Toms

These Antiterrorism tips are general safety tips are on suspicious people and activity.

GENERAL SECURITY:

- Instruct family and friends not to provide strangers with information about you or your family.
- Be alert to strangers who are on government property for no apparent reason.
- Report all suspicious persons loitering near your residence or office; attempt to provide a complete description of the person and/or vehicle to Security Forces.
- Don't open doors to strangers.
- Report all threatening phone calls to security officials.

BE SUSPICIOUS:

- Be alert to public works crews and, if overseas, other foreign nationals requesting access to your residence; check their identities through a peep-hole before allowing entry.
- Be alert to peddlers and strangers.
- Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles; note descriptions of occupants.
- Treat with suspicion any inquiries about the whereabouts or activities of other family members.
- Report all suspicious activity to Military/Security Forces or local law enforcement.

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

The 167th Airlift Wing Antiterrorism Officer is Maj. Roderick Toms, 242-5084.





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.

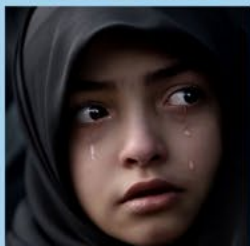


Wing POC's
MSgt Michael Seavolt, ext 5062
MSgt Shawn Green, ext 5431

For more information go to:
CTIP.defense.gov/



**There's no
One face**



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 Advocates:**

Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Kortni McCusker

Zachary Sparber

Alexandra Jackson

Brooke Miller

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

Online Chat: www.safehelpline.org





ACCOLADES



Welcome

Lt Col Austin Hovermale, AW
SrA Samuel Ambrose, SFS
AB Tylor Feist, MDG
AB Kobe Money Penny, MXS
A1C Evan Williams, MXS
AB Delanie Black, MDG
SrA Carter Maxey, AS
AB Nathan Shoemaker, AS
SrA Anthony Viccellio, MXS
SrA Caleb Schaffer, MXS
SrA Cinddy Aji, CPTF

Welcome Back from Technical Training

AB Cason Russell, SFS
AB Fletcher King, SFS
AB Addison Carpenter, CES
Amn Blace Myers, MXS
A1C Joshua Mendez Santos, MXS
A1C Elias Tompkins, MXS
A1C Lucy Tiokeng, MXG

Promotions

To Airman

Anderson Darby, MXS
Blace Myers, MXS

Promotions

To Airman 1st Class

Colton Hutton, FSS
Ty Messick, AS
Jade Thompson, FSS

To Senior Airman

Marquise Gullledge, MXS
Joshua Kreps, LRS
Jonathan Morrow, CS

To Staff Sergeant

Cody Eichelberger, SFS
Ryan Greene, LRS
Patrick O'Brien, AMXS
Kylee Premo, CPTF
Natalie Rowe, OSS
Ponswat Savusdiphol, OSS

Promotions

To Technical Sergeant

Phineas Jones, AS
Cody Kennedy, AS
Jason Mayles, AW
Kortni McCusker, CPTF
Devin Sullivan, FSS
Robert Burkhart, AMXS
Jeffrey Langerhans, AMXS

To Master Sergeant

Alex Barb, OSS
Daniel Lewis, CES

Retirements

CMSgt James DeCicco, LRS
MSgt Brian Woodiel, AS

Update to DAFI 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Department of the Air Force Personnel- Applicable to Air Force Only

Effective 1 February 2025, the following standards in DAFI 36-2903 are updated for Air Force personnel only. This memorandum is not applicable to USSF members. This policy will remain in effect until further official guidance is published in the next update of DAFI 36-2903.

- Duty Identifier Patches (i.e. Career Field Identifier patches) are no longer authorized for wear. Duty Identifier Tabs, as identified in paragraph 12.8.1, commander insignia, and USAF Graduate patches, as identified in paragraph 5.1.6.2.4 are still authorized for wear.
- Nail polish: When in uniform, nail polish will be clear or French or American Manicure.
- Clarification on male facial hair (beards): Unless male Airmen have a current medical waiver or religious accommodation IA W paragraphs 3.1.2.2. and 3.1.2.3, at the start of each duty day, male Airmen must be clean-shaven.
- Clarification on male hair standards: Addition to paragraph 3.1.2: Hair will not touch the ears.
- Addition of definition for "Gig Line" for use in wear of Dress Uniforms: "When members wear shirt tucked into trousers or slacks with front fly opening, the button front edge of the shirt, the outside of the belt buckle (when required) and the edge of the fly will align. This alignment creates a gig line. The gig line should be straight and neat."

I expect compliance with these updates as the military duty of the total Air Force. My point of contact for these changes to DAFI 36-2903 is the Air Force Military Compensation Policy Division, AF/Al PA, email: af.alpa.workflow@us.af.mil.

DAVID W. ALLVIN
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

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

