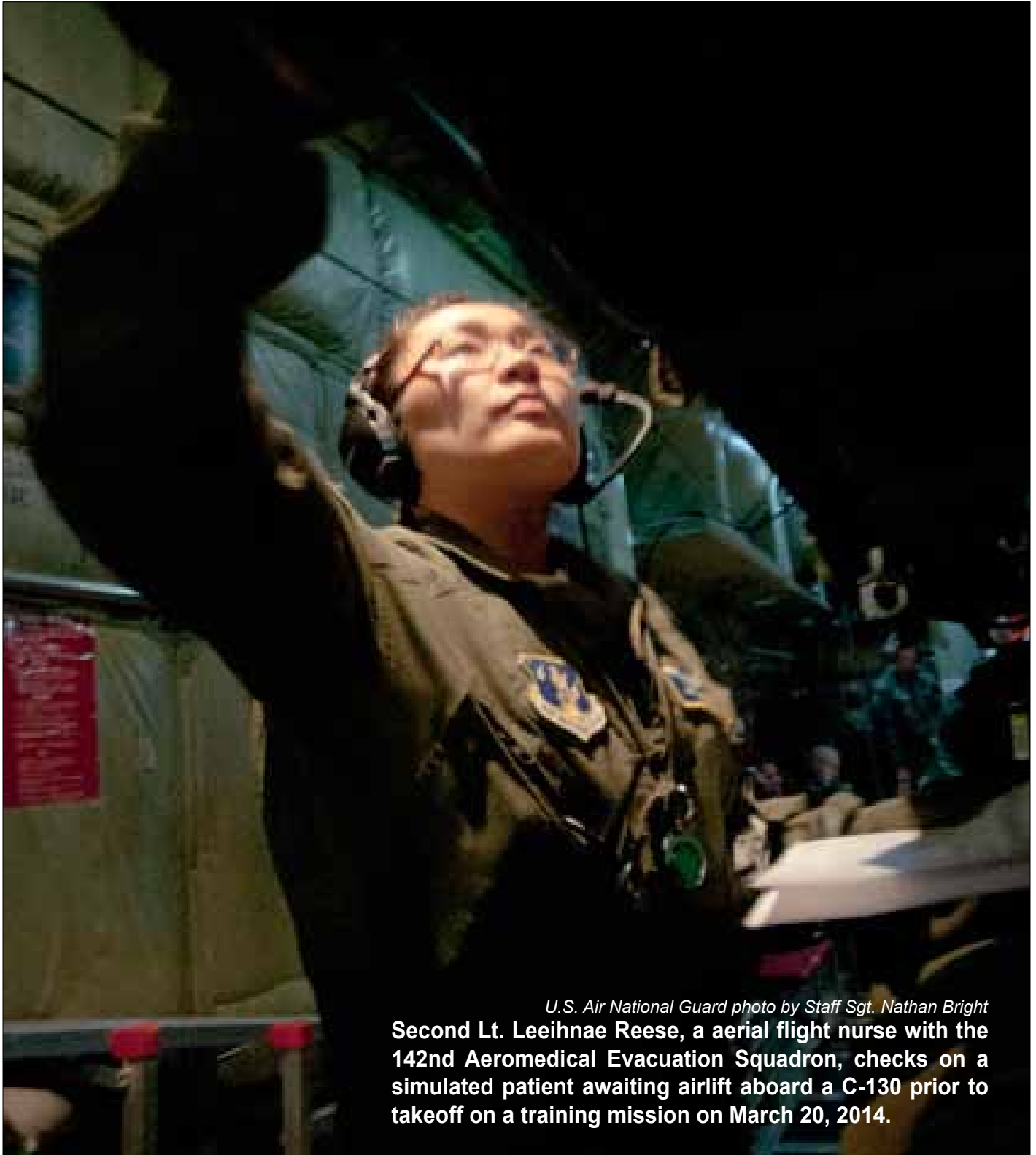




# The **DANG TRUTH**



166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard - New Castle ANG Base, Delaware



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright*  
**Second Lt. Leeihnae Reese, a aerial flight nurse with the 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, checks on a simulated patient awaiting airlift aboard a C-130 prior to takeoff on a training mission on March 20, 2014.**

# UTA events

## April 4, Friday:

- PT testing, 7:30 a.m., Base Fitness Area
- Immunizations, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., Clinic

## April 5, Saturday:

- PT testing, 7:30 a.m., Base Fitness Area
- Immunizations, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Clinic
- Promotion ceremony, Chief Master Sgt. Lorne Peterson, 2:30 p.m., Loeffel Rm., HQ
- Retirement ceremony, Chief Master Sgt. Glenda Carpenter, 3:30 p.m., Loeffel Rm., HQ

## April 6, Sunday:

- PT testing, 7:30 a.m., Base Fitness Area
- Protestant Services, 7:45 a.m., Bldg 2815, SAT
- Immunizations, 8-10 a.m., Clinic
- Catholic Mass, 8:30 a.m., Bldg. 2815, SAT
- Promotion ceremony, Chief Master Sgt. Glenn Davis, 3:30 p.m., Loeffel Rm., HQ.

## UTA schedule 2013-14

05-06 Apr 2014	02-03 Aug 2014
03-04 May 2014	06-07 Sep 2014
*21-22 Jun 2014	*Note the revised June UTA dates
12-13 Jul 2014	

# Career News March 2014

## Enlistments:

Abdallah, Saidi, A1C, FSS  
 Cleveland, Jennifer, A1C, 142 AES  
 D'Onorio, John, A1C, 142 AS  
 Hamilton, Durell, A1C, 166 CFT  
 McCormick, Kimberly, A1C, FSS  
 Tice, John, SRA, 142 AES

## Promotions:

### To Lieutenant Colonel:

Meiggs, John, 166 NWS

### To 1st Lieutenant:

Chin, Christopher, 166 NWS  
 Hayes, Gretchen, 142 AES  
 Kelly, Patricia, 142 AES  
 Rutt, Mark, 166 MDG

### To Chief Master Sergeant:

Davis, Glenn, HQ DE ANG

### To Technical Sergeant:

Daly, Michael, 166 SFS  
 Reedy, Mark, 166 MXS

### To Staff Sergeant:

Ross, Bryan, 166 FSS

### To Senior Airman:

Smedley, Shane, 166 AW  
 Knight, Austin, 166 MXS  
 Escorcia, Alejandra, 166 FSS

### To Airman 1st Class:

Burgos, Jeremy, 166 CES

## Retirements:

Esler, Domenic, Master Sgt. 142 AS  
 White, Roscoe, Tech. Sgt., 142 AS

## Operation Full Strength

Operation Full Strength meets weekly to plan, execute and evaluate initiatives to support recruiting. They welcome your ideas. Email to: 166aw.fullstrength@ang.af.mil.



## DE ANG Recruiting:

1-800-742-6713, 1-866-NOW-DANG,  
 or Local (302 ) 323-3444

## DE ANG Retention:

(302) 323-3413

166AW Air Force Public Web site:

[www.166aw.af.mil](http://www.166aw.af.mil)

166AW Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/166thAirliftWing](http://www.facebook.com/166thAirliftWing)

166AW YouTube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBthSguwq9Ckpf-CbsXENAO>

DE Air Guard Recruiting Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting](http://www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting)

Go ANG Delaware Recruiting page:

[www.goang.com/de](http://www.goang.com/de)

DE National Guard web site:

[www.DelawareNationalGuard.com](http://www.DelawareNationalGuard.com)

DE National Guard Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/DelawareNationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/DelawareNationalGuard)

## Medical openings

Hiring for officers in traditional positions; no closeout dates apply unless indicated:

[www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air\\_officer/](http://www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air_officer/)

142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron:

- Flight Nurse

142nd Airlift Squadron:

- GMO Flight Surgeon

166th Medical Group:

- Aerospace Medical Specialist, Bioenvironmental Engineer, Family Physician, Flight Surgeon, Internist.

## Enlisted jobs

Visit:

[www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air\\_enlisted/](http://www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air_enlisted/)

For career descriptions: [www.goang.com](http://www.goang.com).

# CHILD CARE

All Delaware National Guard members can obtain low-cost (\$10/weekend maximum), high-quality and state licensed drill weekend child care in Newark, Del., just 10 miles southwest of the New Castle Air National Guard Base. Tender Loving Kare Child Care & Learning Center (TLK) is located off state routes 896 and 40, at 22 Peoples Plaza Shopping Center, Newark (Glasgow), Del., 19702. Register by calling Jill Foster, assistant director, TLK, directly at (302) 836-1411. Website: [www.tenderlovingkare.com](http://www.tenderlovingkare.com).



## Coming events

**April 4:** Grand Opening, Delaware Air National Guard Career Center and Recruiting Office, 250 S. Main St., Newark, Del., 2 p.m.

**April 12:** Delaware National Guard Children's Spring Egg Hunt, Noon-2 p.m. Registration Deadline: April 8. 198th Readiness Center, 1401 Newport Gap Pike Wilmington, DE 19804. Ages: 12 and under. Free; includes lunch. Bring a canned food item to help with DNG's War on Hunger! Register online ([www.jointservicessupport.org](http://www.jointservicessupport.org)). Mail registration to: Child and Youth Program Coordinator Patricia Crilley, Smyrna Readiness Center 103 Artisan Dr., Smyrna, DE 19977. Registrations may also be emailed to [patricia.a.crilley.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:patricia.a.crilley.ctr@mail.mil).

**May 14:** The Kiwanis Club of Wilmington 54th Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon, Hotel DuPont, 11th & Market Sts, Wilmington, Del. 19801, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Military personnel (duty uniform) or appropriate civilian attire. \$28 per person. RSVP by May 9, 2014. POC: Major Ira A. Crowe (302) 323-3084.

**May 17:** Military Ball, 4:30 p.m., Dover Downs. POC: Army Guard Sgt. Garrett, 326-7715

# Think before you act: It only takes a second to 'go viral'

**By Christa D'Andrea**  
*Air Force Recruiting Service  
Public Affairs*

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- Have you ever done something you wish you could take back? Said something mean ... wrote something inappropriate ... behaved in a way that was disrespectful? I'm sure you have or you wouldn't be human.

However, in today's society some of these behaviors never go away, even if you tried to delete them. They are documented in Facebook status updates, Instagram photos, Vine videos and on a number of other social media sites. And it only takes a second for your documented actions to go viral.

You may know a few of our fellow Airmen (and Soldiers) recently made headline news for all the wrong reasons. Within the last few weeks photos that were taken several years ago popped up on a number of official Air Force Facebook pages, including ours. These photos show Airmen acting in a way that is utterly disrespectful and is not consistent with the Air Force's core values.

There is no need to perpetuate the situation by describing the photos to you, but as you can imagine one photo of one Airman can taint the American public's view on the Air Force and the type of people we employ, as a whole.

As an Airman, you have the duty to be

an ambassador for the U.S. Air Force; therefore, you must always be cognizant of your actions -- in and out of uniform.

There is no margin for error in today's digital world where everyone has a camera and a video recording device in the palm of their hands. Air Force Instruction 1-1, "Air Force Standards," outlines what your responsibilities and standards of conduct are as an Airman. It also outlines the responsible use of social media and how it applies professionally and personally. Every Airman should be acutely aware of this AFI and its contents. When everything is laid out in front of you, there are no excuses about not knowing what you can and cannot do on social media.

Unfortunately, there are still some individuals who neglect to stop and think before they act. For those in the news recently, something they may have found funny in the moment is now haunting them. And in one case, there were multiple people in the situation, and not one person thought to stop and think about the consequences of what they were about to do. The result -- their images as Airmen are forever corrupted.

Social media is not the enemy. It's actually a fantastic venue to inspire and talk to others about what the Air Force has to offer, what it's like to be part of something bigger than yourself, and what an honor it is to be an Airman.

**See *Think before acting*, pg. 4**

## The DANG Truth

166th Airlift Wing Leadership

**Col. Mike Feeley**  
*Commander*

**Col. Rob Culcasi**  
*Vice Commander (acting)*  
**Chief Master Sgt. Hank Rome**  
*Wing Command Chief*

## DANG Truth Editorial Staff

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*Multimedia Specialist*

**Staff Sgt. Andrew Horgan**  
*Photojournalist*



**The DANG Truth** is an authorized Air Force publication for the members of the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard. Contents of *The DANG Truth* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office, 166th AW, Delaware ANG, New Castle, DE 19720-1615.

Email comments to:  
[166AW.PA@ANG.AF.MIL](mailto:166AW.PA@ANG.AF.MIL)

# Free, online and self-paced cross-cultural communication course for CCAF-credit

**By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

The Air Force Culture and Language Center is accepting applications starting April 10 for the summer 2014 session "Introduction to Cross-Cultural Communication."

The enrollment window is April 10-13, 2014, and class dates are May 1-Aug. 6, 2014

This course is entirely online and self-paced, and offered at no charge to enlisted Airmen -- to include all active duty Airmen, Air Force reservists or Air National guardsmen enrolled in Community College of the Air Force programs. The course fulfills three resident hours of either social science or program elective credit required for CCAF degrees.



Course managers encourage participants to sign up as soon as possible. When the course is full, enrollment will end -- and that may be well before the enrollment window closes.

"In some cases, we have had to shut off enrollment as early as two or three days into the window," said Olin Goodhue, the AFCLC's chief of education support. "Airmen are very eager to take our classes, and when the classes are full, they're full."

More information on CCC, including enrollment directions and frequently asked questions, are available on the AFCLC's website, <http://culture.af.mil>, under the "Courses" tab.

This article includes some content from an AFCLC article titled "Enrollment for free CCAF-credit culture course now open" by Jodi L. Jordan, AFCLC Outreach Team, published March 07, 2014.

# On-base English composition course for CCAF-credit

**By Lt. Col. Francis Pollock**  
*Deputy commander*  
*166th Maintenance Group*

This summer Delaware Technical Community College will offer an English composition course on base at the 166th Airlift Wing in New Castle for CCAF requirements. It is open to all enlisted members, and there is a course fee.

The class will start on May 27, 2014 and will need a minimum of 12 participants. It will meet on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Those who are interested please contact Mr. Mike McCloskey at [mccloskey@dtcc.edu](mailto:mccloskey@dtcc.edu) for registration details or Dr. Chris Pollock at [LittleBrit75@aol.com](mailto:LittleBrit75@aol.com).

**Think before acting**, cont. from pg. 3

In your personal life, it's a lifeline to friends near and far.

You, in fact, can be your own worst enemy. Don't become the subject of the next viral photo or video. Hold on to your personal self-worth and live by the Air Force's core values daily.

Be a great Airman first and ensure the Air Force image -- and your image -- always mirror the core values.

## Retention Office Manager six-month unit visitation schedule:

The visits are 30 minutes, but each FSS/DFAC visit is one hour.

Tentative unit visit schedule:

**April UTA:** Saturday 0730 CFT, Sunday FSS/DFAC 1130

**May UTA:** Sunday FSS/DFAC 1130, Sunday 1500 LRS

**June UTA:** Saturday 0730 MXG, Sunday FSS/DFAC 1130

**July UTA:** Saturday 0745 OG, Sunday FSS/DFAC 1130

**August UTA:** Saturday 0730 AES, Sunday FSS/DFAC 1130

**Sept. UTA:** Saturday 0730 CES, Sunday FSS/DFAC 1130



April 2014 Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault**



*"We need cultural change where every Service member is treated with dignity and respect, where all allegations of inappropriate behavior are treated with seriousness, where victims' privacy is protected, where bystanders are motivated to intervene, and where offenders know that they will be held accountable by strong and effective systems of justice."*

*Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel*

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April is recognized across the country by both civilian and military communities. April offers a unique opportunity to build on existing momentum to fight this crime and ensure all Service members are treated with dignity and respect.

What can we do during April? We should offer messages and activities that reinforce our personal and unit commitments to the elimination of the crime of sexual assault in the military.

- **Live our Values:** Every Service member, at every level in our military, must adhere to and internalize Service values and standards of behavior.
  - *Underpinning our entire program is the need for every Service member – from new recruit to General Officer – to live the core values of our profession: integrity, trust, dignity, respect, fidelity, and courage.*
  - *We continue to strive for an environment where professional values, team commitment, and respect define how we treat one another at every command, workplace, and throughout our military community.*
- **Step up:** Our entire DoD community has a critical role in preventing and responding to sexual assault and must intervene to reduce risk, stop inappropriate behavior, and report crimes
  - *Bystander intervention is vital in helping to stop unsafe behavior.*
  - *Service members' decision to act could prevent a sexual assault.*
- **Stop Sexual Assault:** Our aim is to reduce, with a goal to eliminate, the crime of sexual assault from the Armed Forces.
  - *In order to prevent sexual assault, every member of the DoD Community must be committed to advancing an environment where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.*
  - *Sexual assault is not only inappropriate behavior, it is criminal behavior.*

**Initiatives to Convey Values + Actions = Prevention:** Consider using the entire month of April for SAAM activities to generate maximum awareness. Below are event ideas, starting with those of potential highest payoff:

- Purposeful engagements by unit Commanders reinforcing leadership's commitment to values and action
- Facilitate meetings between victims, commanders, and leaders to deepen understanding of victim issues
- Organize visits and volunteer efforts at local rape crisis centers for leaders to more fully understand depth of problem
- Display large teal ribbon in high visibility areas with signage explaining the ribbon and SAAM
- Kick off the month with a speaker talking about their personal experiences as a way to demonstrate public commitment
- Conduct run/walks to show solidarity around the theme and communicate support for victims
- Install signage at key locations on bases/installations, such as InfoKiosks and sign boards at entrance gates
- Implement social media campaign with regular SAPR messages and reminders
- Hold local ceremony to recognize those who help victims, to include community responders
- Place articles throughout April in base media, profiling SAPR efforts, outstanding care providers, and Commander's commitment

**Resources to Help:** Go to [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil) for the following:

- SAAM Messages from Senior Leaders
- Recent SAPR Initiatives
- Links to Key SAPR Programs
- Sample Media Materials
- Sample Speech for Commanders
- Graphics to Download



**Values + Actions = Prevention of Sexual Assault**

SAPR program details can be found at [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil). Contact [SAPRO@sapr.mil](mailto:SAPRO@sapr.mil).

# Delaware Air National Guard opens first off-site Career Center and Recruiting Office

## *Ribbon cutting in Newark on April 4th*

**By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

On Friday, April 4, at 2 p.m., the Delaware Air National Guard will celebrate the grand opening of the first Delaware ANG Career Center and Recruiting Office in the state.

The facility is located at 250 South Main St., Suite 108, Newark, Del. (Rittenhouse Station). **Newark Mayor Polly Sierer** and senior leaders of the Delaware National Guard will attend and cut the ceremonial ribbon.

This is the first such facility located outside of the New Castle Air Guard Base since the unit's founding in 1946. The National Guard Bureau has provided approximately \$250,000 in federal funding to stand up the facility.

"The Newark location allows us to strengthen our historically close ties with the greater Newark area and makes us more accessible to residents of the Eastern Shore of Md. and southeastern Pa.," said **Senior Master Sgt. Mike Davis**, recruiting and retention superintendent, Delaware ANG. "We want to be part of the new development underway on South Main St. and capitalize on the proximity to the Univ. of Delaware campus."

**Brigadier Gen. Carol Timmons**, assistant adjutant general for air, Delaware National Guard, said, "This new



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey*

### **The new Delaware Air National Guard Career Center and Recruiting Office on South Main St., Newark, Del., March 26, 2014.**

facility allows us to reach many more people face-to-face so they can better learn about the attractive training and educational opportunities the Air Guard provides. Our members have found that they can continue their civilian career or attend school full-time while serving their state and nation part-time while at the New Castle ANG Base, located just 11 miles away from Newark's South Main Street."

The Delaware Air Guard recruiting team is actively taking calls from the public at (302) 323-3444. The facility will be staffed during regular business hours by the Delaware ANG Recruiting and Retention Team, recipients for two years running of the ANG Patriot Team Award for Excellence in Recruiting as

the best recruiting team in ANG Region IV (the nine states of Del., Pa, Md., Va., Ohio, W.Va., Ky., Ind. and Mich., plus Washington D.C.). The five-person team consists of recruiting office supervisor Master Sgt. Tanya Harris (named the 2013 ANG Recruiting Office Supervisor of the Year for Region IV), retention office manager Master Sgt. Sam Lewis, and recruiters Tech. Sgt. Terrence Parker, Tech. Sgt. Kristin Favors, and Staff Sgt. Desmond Overton.

"We're excited about having a footprint in the community that allows us to reach more people who might know very little about the Delaware Air National Guard and the training and benefits available to them," said **Master Sgt. Harris**.

# Story told: Delaware National Guard wartime deployments 2001-2012

**By Retired Brig. Gen. (DE) Kennard R. Wiggins, Jr.**  
*Delaware Air National Guard*

*Comments regarding the new book, "Delaware National Guard 2001-2012, An Operational Deployment History" which is being distributed to currently serving military members of the Delaware National Guard (to Airmen and Soldiers in all Air and Army Guard units). The JFHQ Comptroller office has a limited number of copies for purchase upon request from retirees.*

**J**ust picked up my copy of this book documenting the Delaware Army and Air National Guard activities over the last decade. It is an extraordinary story little known by most of our citizens. I worked for most of last summer and fall on this project as Executive Editor, attempting to weave many tales into a narrative story. We had a huge amount of material as the Army Guard has been very busy and remains so. The Air Guard has been almost constantly deployed.

Here is an excerpt from a letter written on September 6, 2009, by Delaware Army Guard 1st Sgt. Richard Hitchens describing convoy missions in Iraq to family and friends:

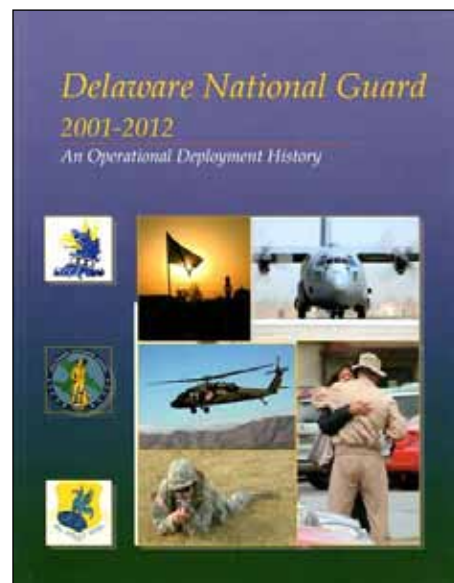
"Outside the wire you notice the people young and old standing and walking by the road side, especially the children with their hands held out begging for anything you will throw at them, mainly food and water. They are very dirty with dirty clothes and no shoes on their feet and very skinny. There was one little boy maybe 4-6 years old who was wearing an old superman costume who would dance a little for you to get some food. The

Soldiers say the little girls and boys remind them of their own kids. As you drive along the routes it breaks your heart to see these kids like this living in their small mud houses or tents with no floors or doors. I think to myself why are these kids not in school then I realize there are no schools out here, maybe in the cities but not out here."

Here's a personal favorite anecdote from Delaware Air Guard Loadmaster Master Sgt. Christopher Coarse:

"We were doing an R&R run to Kuwait. We were based at Karshi-Khanabad Airbase (K-2) in Uzbekistan. It was a long trip that started around 2200 on this particular night. If we had been allowed to go directly over Iran to Kuwait it would've been a little under four hours. However, our routing took us south and then across, causing the trip to swell to eight hours with winds. We stopped in Bagram, Afghanistan to pick up our passengers. Our mode of transportation was a Texas ANG airplane, which we weren't all that familiar with. The airplane had been properly configured from the start, which saved us a lot of time. Upon landing at Bagram, the "Ramp Tramp", an Army troop, informed me that we'd have 55 passengers and six pallets. I informed him that we can take one or the other, but not both. He assured me that his Colonel said we could take both. I invited him to extend my invitation to come out and show me how. Obviously, my invitation was declined.

"Our passengers showed up and we departed. About 2-3 in the morning, most of the crew was having a hard time staying awake. The passengers were all asleep. Suddenly, we started



**Cover of the brand new 169-page book, *Delaware National Guard 2001-2012, An Operational Deployment History*.**

chucking out flares. It woke everyone up! Tensions with Iran had been increased lately and we were somewhere over the Persian Gulf. Previous trips through the region on aircraft equipped with RAW gear (radar warning) had revealed lots of radar in the area.

"My first thought was that we were the sacrificial lambs and we were getting shot at! The second sequence of flares chucked out and I called up front to ask what caused it. Chris Farmer, the Navigator replied that we didn't get any indications and asked if we had been using the pickle switches in the back. Steve Hoffman piped right up and worked his way to the Army troop that was attempting to use the left urinal. Come to realize this particular airplane had been equipped with forward cargo compartment pickle switches and the troop was attempting to flush the urinal! Crisis averted."

# The state of the 166th Airlift Wing

**By Col. Mike Feeley**  
*Wing commander*

We've read a lot in the local news media recently about some future possibilities for our wing's cyber mission and for our C-130H model aircraft. Inevitably there will be more reporting of local and national news for many months ahead as it relates to funding, choices and reactions.

A recent congressionally-directed report by the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force had some good news for the Air National Guard in their recommendations; we take heart in the quality of the report and hope decision makers heed the advice. You can read the report yourself at <http://ngaus.org/blog/14/02/national-commission-structure-air-force-good-news-air-national-guard>.

In short, there is a lot of information out there, but rather than engage in speculation, I want to put some things into perspective. I want each Airman on this base, and your family, to have a good sense of what your leadership is thinking and doing as you perform your part in our mission.

**The 166th Airlift Wing and the Delaware Air Guard are not going away.**

We are secure in our mission sets for the time being, we expect and are planning for a steady state of operations, and there is no notice from higher HQ of imminent change.

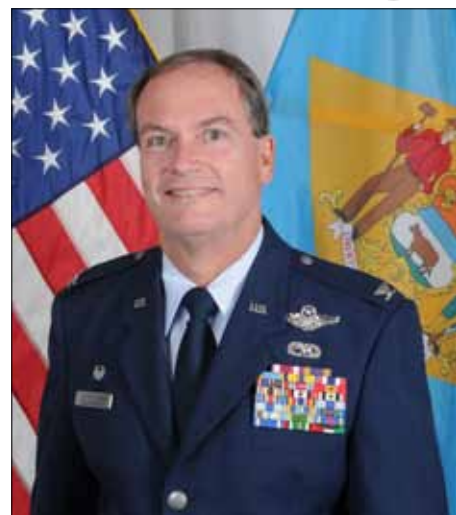
Yes, there are budget issues that will impact our base in some way, shape and form in the years ahead. Federal spending on defense is no longer in the growth mode it was in the last decade. And, there is an ongoing national debate over what level of priority there will be for newer aircraft and upgrades to existing aircraft.

Your senior leadership, up through the adjutant general, are talking about these matters. And because we are part of a team, your governor and congressional delegation are also engaged.

However, know that our great C-130 mission continues, our aeromedical evacuation squadron still provides "The Best Care in the Air" as they bring home America's wounded heroes, and our network warfare squadron remains engaged in the cyber realm.

We will be tasked for a variety of missions in the years ahead, some predictable and some unpredictable. That is nothing new. Flexibility remains the key to airpower, and our Airmen and your

We will be tasked for a variety of missions in the years ahead, some predictable and some unpredictable. That is nothing new. Flexibility remains the key to airpower, and our Airmen and your



**Colonel Mike Feeley**

leaders have grown to be pretty flexible.

I do want you to know that as an organization we have managed many similar issues before related to aircraft modernization and replacement, the potential loss of our aircraft fleet and base closure, and standing up new missions. We've also managed base infrastructure improvements and increased our overall end strength. We've managed these challenges successfully during times of war and times of peace.

Our hard work and our focus on the mission today is what gives me and your senior leadership a high level of confidence that we will once again be able to successfully meet any future challenges.

**See State of the wing, pg. 9**





U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey

**The New Castle Air National Guard Base ramp, firehouse, new and old hangars, April 5, 2012.**

**State of the wing, cont.** from pg. 8

**Every Airman has a critical Air Force Specialty Code, each job matters, you are important today and tomorrow, and we need you.**

I expect each commander – from flight to group level – each officer, and each Airman – from E-1 to command chief – to remain fully engaged in our profession of arms. Apply the same diligence and excellence in the day-to-day results you achieve in your job that you and your fellow Airmen have so admirably exhibited for years.

This excellence in mission performance is the heritage of this unit, proven when our founders created this unit after bringing our nation to victory on two fronts in World War II. It has been reinforced in modern times with our wartime deployments of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Our heritage includes other contingency missions near and far, to include many humanitarian relief missions we've successfully conducted to assist the citizens of our state and nation.

**Always remember to remain the great Airman Ambassadors to our community that you have been since our unit was founded in 1946.**

As former commanders and unit Air-

men made famous by word and deed in decades past, *"This unit has class."* We are Delaware's Hometown Air Force, a contingent of fighting men and women closely connected to our local community, and who Fly, Fight and Win in Air, Space and Cyberspace.

Ours is a noble mission. We are a key part of the nation's defense outside the U.S., and serve our fellow citizens when natural disaster or other tragedy strikes at home. To say we are reliable, ready and relevant is not a slogan. It is for real. You have gained the right to feel pride in our track record of service to our state and nation.

Remember your fellow citizens, whose identity is unknown to you, who offer to pay for your cup of coffee before you realize it, and who speak those few heartfelt words, *"I got this. Thank you for your service."* Or the times when a stranger comes up to shake your hand, and says, *"I just want to say thank you."* Not many people in this great nation hear those words, but the two percent of us who wear our nation's uniform do hear them, and they are meaningful words from a grateful nation. They are spoken by our fellow citizens who recognize your value in their lives, and in the life of our nation.

**Have I told you what a great job each of you are doing?**

You are doing a great job. I notice it, and I also want you to notice it. We manage change, we develop our Airmen, we put Integrity First, we value Service before Self, and we strive to maintain Excellence in All We Do. We do this with, and because of, you. And we do it every day. And I sincerely thank you for your dedication to duty.

**Your senior leaders have your backs; they are focused on the missions of today, and those of tomorrow.**

While we can't see the future, we are looking hard at our options, listening, collaborating, and trying to shape that future so that the Delaware Air Guard, and the 166th Airlift Wing, remains the viable, effective and proud organization it has been for the past 67 years. We want the Airmen of the Delaware Air Guard who serve here at the New Castle Air National Guard Base in 2046, a century after our founding, to be proud of the actions we all take in 2014 to execute our mission and plan for the future. Some of those future Airmen are indeed reading these words today, while in uniform on this base.

Remember that Delaware is the First State, and we honor our common heritage by action taken every single day by our newest Airman, all the way to our adjutant general and elected leadership, so that we will remain Delaware's Hometown Air Force.