



# The DANG TRUTH



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



# UTA events

## May 1 Friday:

- PT testing, 7:30 a.m., Base Fitness Area
- Immunizations, 2-3 p.m., Clinic
- Restricted Area Badge photos, outprocessing, SFS, Bldg. 2703, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Finance Customer service: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Bldg. 2600/Pay Section.
- Gas mask fit testing by appt. only, 323-3449/326.

## May 2, Saturday:

- PT testing, 7:30 a.m., Base Fitness Area
- Restricted area badge photos, outprocessing, SFS, Bldg. 2703, 8-11:30 a.m./12:30-3:30 p.m.
- Commander support staff training, 8-9 a.m., HQ, Bldg. 2600, Loeffel Room
- FSS Customer Service: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- PME, CDC and ECI Testing: 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., FSS, HQ, Bldg. 2600
- Finance Customer service: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Bldg. 2600, Pay Section
- Chief's Council mtg., Noon-1 p.m., CES Training Rm.
- Wing change of command ceremony, 1:30 p.m., DE ANG main hangar, Bldg. 2902.
- Pre-Season Motorcycle Safety Briefing, 3-3:30 p.m., Bldg 2805, OPS Theater. POC Maj Meartz 323-3522

## May 3, Sunday:

- PT testing, 7:30 a.m., Base Fitness Area
- Protestant Services, 7 a.m., S.A.T., Bldg. 2815
- Catholic Mass, 8 a.m., S.A.T., Bldg. 2815
- Restricted Area Badge photos, outprocessing, SFS, Bldg. 2703, 8-11:30 a.m./12:30-3:30 p.m.
- Immunizations, Physicals, Bldg. 2801, Clinic, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Finance customer service: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- PME, CDC and ECI Testing: 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., FSS, Bldg. 2600
- FSS Customer Service: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Weapons Training, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Company Grade Officer Council mtg., 11-11:45 a.m., CES Break Room, POC 1st Lt. Valerie Harwood, 323-3369
- Junior Enlisted Council meeting, Noon-12:55 p.m., Bldg. 2821, LRS Training Room
- CCAF Graduation, 1:30 p.m., Loeffel Room
- Retreat, 3 p.m., Bldg 2600, Flag Pole

# Coming events

**May 13:** Kiwanis Luncheon

**May 16:** DE NG All-Ranks Military Ball, Dover. POC: Maj. Kimberly Lindgren, (302) 326-7132.

**June 5:** Pre-Deployment Yellow Ribbon event

**June 6-7:** Special Olympics Delaware

**June 26-28:** Strong Bonds in Baltimore

## UTA schedule FY15

02-03 May 2015	01-02 Aug 2015
06-07 Jun 2015	12-13 Sep 2015
11-12 Jul 2015	

# Career News

## April 2015

(Unless otherwise noted, personnel actions are effective April 2015)

### Appointed:

None this period.

### Enlistments:

Glessner, Todd, Staff Sgt., 166 CES  
Martoro, Anthony, Airman 1st Class,  
166 LRS

### Promotions:

#### To Technical Sergeant:

Lind, Sean, 166 SFS

#### To Staff Sergeant:

Pelle, John, 166 AW

#### To Senior Airman:

Andrews, Richard, 166 CES  
Depledge, Lucas, 166 CES

### Retirements:

Baker, Bruce, Master Sgt.,  
166 CFT

DeFrancesco, John, Master Sgt.,  
166 MXS

Lesisko, Matthew, Master Sgt.,  
142 AS

McCausland, David, Master Sgt.,  
166 LRS

Thomas, Thomas, Maj. Gen.,  
DE ANG HQ

## 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:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCBthSguwq9CkpF-CbsXENAQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBthSguwq9CkpF-CbsXENAQ)

166AW DVIDS page:

[www.dvidshub.net/unit/166AW-DANG](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/166AW-DANG)

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](http://www.DelawareNationalGuard)

DE National Guard Facebook page:

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

## Medical openings

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

142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron:

- Flight Nurse

166th Medical Group:

- Aerospace Medical Specialist
- Bioenvironmental Engineer
- Family Physician
- Internist

## Officer jobs

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

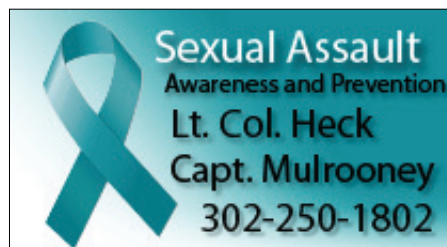
## Enlisted jobs

[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).

## On the cover:

**Six C-130H aircraft taxi on the runway at the New Castle Airport on April 12, 2015 prior to their launch for a multi-ship formation flight and airdrop mission over drop zones in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This was the wing's first formation flight of this size since July 2003 when wing aircraft returned home from Southwest Asia in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Michaels)**



# Tremendous joint training, air power

By Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala  
*Adjutant General,  
Delaware National Guard*

Two events stood out during our Unit Training Assembly weekend of April 11-12 which deserve further comment – the Delaware Air/Army National Guard joint Operation Cyclone exercise, and the 166th Airlift Wing's multi-ship C-130H formation flight.

Operation Cyclone was our joint training exercise with Airmen and Soldiers responding to a simulated tornado that swept through New Castle County. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations to all members of our Delaware National Guard Family on conducting such an outstanding State Emergency Operations Exercise. I had the occasion to visit all aspects of the exercise on April 11 at the River Road Training Site and the New Castle ANG Base, as well as the command sections.

I was impressed with the planning, coordination and cooperation of all elements of our Force, and the team work of the hundreds of personnel participating in the exercise.

Everything I observed throughout the inspection was testimony to your commitment to work together, Army and Air, to achieve success. You demonstrated why our Delaware National Guard is held in such high esteem by all citizens of Delaware.



Major Gen. Frank Vavala

To all of you who supported this endeavor, regardless of where or how, I am in awe of the dedication, skills, experience, selfless service and competence that you exhibited. It is reflected in the Team Delaware National Guard approach. Please accept my appreciation for your efforts!

All in the 166th Airlift Wing are to be commended for the successful launch on April 12 of six of our mighty C-130 Hercules aircraft and the execution of this three-hour multi-ship, multi-state airdrop mission to Pa. and N.J. and back home to New Castle. What an awesome display of capability!

**See Tremendous, pg. 4**

166th Airlift Wing leadership

**Col. Don Bevis**

*Commander*

**Col. David B. Walker**

*Vice Commander*

**Chief Master Sgt. Shaune Peters**

*Wing Command Chief*

## DANG Truth Editorial Staff

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Email comments to:

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

## Wing Mission Statement:

The mission of the 166th Airlift Wing is to provide tactical airlift and airdrop of troops, cargo and passengers using C-130 aircraft, plus aeromedical evacuation, civil engineer and network warfare functions.

## Wing Vision Statement:

To be ready, relevant, and reliable Airmen who are highly trained and motivated to aid the state and nation.

**Tremendous, cont. from pg. 3**

Thousands of people along the route saw and heard our aircraft in flight. Many more learned this was a Delaware Guard mission due to the advance notice we provided the community via our Public Affairs outreach and the resulting news media coverage.

It's been 12 years since we have been able to achieve this degree of success when our aircraft first participated in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. I realize it is a team effort and many contributed, but I want to especially single out the "can do" team performance of our entire 166th Maintenance Group.

Our Delaware Air National Guard has, once again, demonstrated that we are ready, reliable, relevant and essential to the defense and well-being of our state and nation.

It is my distinct honor to serve with such an outstanding team of professionals. I am proud to be a member of our Delaware National Guard family.

# Add 46 feet to finish line

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

On April 7 the 166th Civil Engineer Squadron had the William Penn H.S. track reassessed at the request of the 166th Force Support Squadron to ensure compliance with Air Force fitness standards.

The track was found to measure 400 meters, not 440 yards as initially thought.

Starting this May UTA all Airmen must comply with the accurately measured distances.

No action will be taken to alter past physical fitness test results.

Runners for the 1.5 miles will complete six (6) laps plus an additional 46 feet, and walkers for the 2.0 kilometer distance will complete five (5) full laps.

The 1.5 mile run start line is any lane at the first large triangle. The finish line is at the end of any lane at the fifth large triangle.

If you need further information, contact your unit fitness monitor. For further reference, go to AFI 36-2905, page 78.



*U.S. Air National Guard photo illustration by 166th Force Support Squadron*  
**The green arrow (foreground), pointing to the first triangle, shows the starting line for the 1.5 mile run, and the blue arrow (background), pointing to the end of any lane at the fifth triangle, shows the finish line for the 1.5 mile run on the William Penn H.S. track in New Castle, Del. Airmen of the Delaware Air National Guard use this track during warm weather for physical fitness testing.**



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Horgan

A C-130H aircraft takes off from the New Castle Airport on April 12 as part of the six-ship formation flight.

# Six-ship sensation

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

Hundreds of Delaware Air Guardsmen gathered on Sunday morning, April 12, 2015 to witness a rare sight – the launch of a six-ship C-130 Hercules formation training flight that traversed four states and air dropped training loads at two separate and uniquely challenging drop zones.

Airmen throughout the wing assembled next to the fire house to observe the aircraft taxi out to the runway and launch during our April Unit Training Assembly. This event coincided with a commander's call directed by Col. Michael Feeley, wing commander.

A loud "Yeah!" erupted from Feeley as the sixth aircraft lifted off at the end of the runway. He said, "This is a culmination of effort from every unit and Airman in the wing, and without their contributions, this could not be accomplished."

The six aircraft, using call sign "Trek 10," carried 36 aircrew members aboard for the 576 nautical-mile mission. Each aircraft carried a standard airdrop configuration of six crew; two pilots, one combat systems officer, one flight engineer and two loadmasters.

The route flown avoided heavily populated areas to minimize noise, and was coordinated with civilian agencies to ensure safety.

The aircraft flew in what Lt. Col. Ned Kolbjornsen, Director of Operations, 142nd Airlift Squadron, calls a "pretty big bubble," which refers to the approximate two-mile distance from the first to the last aircraft in the formation. He said the challenge of leading a large formation is that it is less maneuverable than a smaller two-ship formation. "Changing a large formation's altitude, heading and airspeed requires a lot of time and airspace to accomplish. It necessitates coordination with air traffic control to de-conflict other air traffic in the local airspace," said Kolbjornsen.

Two weeks' of extensive planning and coordination were required by mis-

**See Six ship, pg. 6**

**Six ship, cont. from pg. 5**

sion planners in the tactics shop to develop the route, prepare the navigation charts, and perform the quality control checks necessary for a successful mission.

Countless hours of additional time was spent by the maintainers to ensure all six aircraft were ready to fly. To ensure a successful six-ship launch, the 166th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepared a seventh C-130 aircraft as backup in case one of the initial six aircraft experienced a last minute mechanical glitch.

Teams from the 166th Logistics Readiness Squadron Small Air Terminal prepared airdrop training loads and loaded them onto the aircraft. They were also tasked to ensure safety and give clearance to drop at the Coyle Drop Zone, N.J. When the airdrops were completed, they recovered the loads from both drop zones and trucked them back to home station.

Master Sgt. Chris Coarse, a 142nd AS loadmaster on the mission, praised the SAT crews who coordinated the effort and sent a malfunction officer and essential personnel to both drop zones. "They did everything we asked them to do, which was no small task. They were awesome in that respect," said Coarse.

The route weaved out of New Castle leading westward up the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal towards the Chesapeake Bay. The formation then turned northwest, following the Susquehanna River towards Harrisburg, Pa. and on to the King drop zone on the Bollen Range at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

There, each aircraft successfully airdropped a load known as Containerized Delivery System. For training, each CDS is comprised of four 55-gallon drums of water strapped together,



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

**Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala congratulated Airmen.**

with a parachute attached for stabilization purposes. "CDS has been continually used in combat and relief operations since the 1950s," said Coarse. They can be configured to drop food, water, ammunition, fuel or humanitarian supplies to troops in the field.

Recovery teams from both the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Delaware ANG collected the items for transport back to the New Castle ANG Base aboard a flatbed tractor trailer.

The second part of the mission began when the aircraft headed northwest, through the small mountains of Pennsylvania for mountain flying training.

The ships then turned southeast, tracking the Susquehanna River to the tip of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, and continued south over New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties, Del.

It then headed west into Maryland, then turned southeast and flew over Ocean City. Once over the Atlantic Ocean, the aircraft turned north to Cape Henlopen, Del., then northeast towards of Cape May, N.J. It then flew along the shore up to Surf City, N.J.

The formation then headed west and went "feet dry" over Wharton State Forest and proceeded towards the Coyle Field Drop Zone. There, each aircraft completed a 3,500 lb. heavy equipment airdrop. For training purposes, each "heavy" is a package of railroad ties used as weights strapped to an aluminum pallet. According to Coarse, this type of airdrop is typically used to safely deliver vehicles, howitzers, lumber or other large, necessary supplies to troops in the field.

The crews gained valuable training that can only be gained in such a large formation flight with air drops.

"We accomplished a lot of mandatory formation and airdrop training for a lot of air crew on this mission," said Kolbjornsen. "It was a very good, necessary training opportunity." He said that each aircrew member is required to perform two heavy airdrops and two CDS airdrops every six months, and this mission resulted in currency and proficiency training for many of our traditional air crews.

Coarse emphasized the learnings gained by the aircrews during the mission. "We have 'bean counters', which are training events that aircrew members need to check off in order to be considered current and proficient. However, this opportunity gives air crews real-life experience that you can't otherwise quantify."

Major Gen. Francis Vavala, adjutant general, Delaware National Guard, observed the flight. In a message to all Airmen, he wrote, "What an awesome display of capability!" He added, "I realize it is a team effort and many contributed, but I want to especially single out the 'can do' team performance of our entire 166th Maintenance Group."

**See Six ship, pg. 7**

**Six ship, cont. from pg. 6**

The wing is assigned eight Lockheed-Martin C-130H2 Hercules transport aircraft. However, due to real-world commitments, a rigorous maintenance schedule and training requirements, up to this April the wing has only had the opportunity to fly several five-ship formation flights in recent years.

What made this day extra special is that it has been nearly 12 years since that many of our aircraft did a formation flight. The wing's last six-ship formation was in July 2003 when the wing's C-130s left Pease ANG Base, N.H. for the New Castle ANG Base on the last leg of their return flight home after completing four months of combat zone duty in Southwest Asia in



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Michaels*  
**First State C-130s lined up on the ramp at the New Castle Air National Guard Base prior to engines starting for the six-ship formation flight on April 12, 2015.**

support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The wing will attempt additional six-ship formation flights during the year.



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Valerie Harwood*  
**Wing commander Col. Mike Feeley during a T.V. interview prior to the six-ship formation flight on April 12, 2015.**



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Michaels

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Jackson and Airman Destinee Capponi, 166th Medical Group, Delaware Air National Guard, move a mannequin inside a en route patient staging system tent April 10, 2015 at the New Castle ANG Base, Del. The work is in preparation for the next day during Operation Cyclone, a Delaware National Guard joint training exercise when Airmen and Soldiers respond to a simulated tornado that has swept through New Castle Co., Del., and Army Black Hawk helicopters will evacuate simulated wounded personnel to the air base, with patients prepared for aeromedical evacuation and loaded onto Air Force C-130s to be moved to additional care.

# Cyclone brings medics together

by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright  
*Wing Public Affairs*

The distinctive “thwop-thwop-thwop” of an incoming UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter fills the air, overcoming the wind and excited voices of nurses and medics inside the tent.

A team of four, wearing large goggles and work gloves, stands outside waiting and watching the bird come in for landing. Two wear Army Combat Uniforms, and two wear Airman Battle Uniforms. They huddle together

and wait for the medic to exit the helicopter as it touches down.

The ground personnel (medics from the Delaware Air National Guard 166th Medical Group and the Delaware Army National Guard Medical Detachment) already know one thing about their patients—they will be civilians rescued from recent cyclone damage.

Once inside the large, well-lit, modern tent that contains the en route patient staging system (ERPSS), patients

are surrounded by nurses and medical technicians from the two Delaware National Guard units. The UH-60 flight medic updates the teams on what information she has on the patients, and what care she provided on the way.

The sound and fury of the helicopter taking off is lost on the medical teams inside the ERPSS tent, as they are already engrossed in life-saving care of the wounded.

**See *Cyclone*, pg. 9**



## **Cyclone, cont. from pg. 8**

However, this is just an exercise, and a cyclone hasn't hit New Castle County, Del. The patients, while showing life-like bloody wounds, bandages, and intravenous tubing, are nothing more than training dummies. But it is as close to real as planners can get.

The day-and-a-half exercise, dubbed Operation Cyclone, kicked off April 11 and was designed to prepare multiple elements of the Delaware National Guard to work jointly to respond to a natural disaster. As the summer storm season approaches, leaders wanted to train and evaluate how the Army and Air will come together if called to assist civilian agencies in a mass casualty situation.

Operation Cyclone also tested the Delaware Guard's ability to work with other state Guard units, set up and run Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration Operations, extricate victims from collapsed buildings, provide immediate care and

load them onto a helicopter, unload patients from a helicopter and prepare them for aeromedical evacuation, and load patients onto a C-130 transport aircraft for an AE flight.

In other words, it was a busy time for many in the Delaware National Guard.

Back at the ERPSS positioned just beside base fire house, the medics are triaging the critical patients and entering information into the system that allows them to be aeromedically evacuated on a C-130. "No one gets on an aircraft unless they are on the manifest," explains Maj. Stacie Gosting, 166th MDG clinical nurse.

Along with the wound dressings, catheters, and IVs, there must be correct paperwork for each patient. "A bandage gets put on, if it's not documented, it's not done," says Gosting.

The medics, Army and Air nurses and medical technicians, stand and work side-by-side in the crowded tent. They

run catheters, they check vitals, and they put one patient on a ventilator. Eventually, they load the patients up on trucks, and walk out to the flight line.

Aboard a C-130, a team from the 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron finishes preparing the racks that will hold the patient litters. A flight nurse stands on the ramp and signals to the ground teams to bring on the litters. As other medics from the squadron yell out "Come to me, come to me!" the four-person ground team carries the patient aboard and places the litter in the rack system that creates bunk-beds for the wounded.

166th MDG and Army Med Det medics pass on the paperwork and vital information about the patients as the engines on the C-130 crank up. The 142nd AES will take it from here, providing "the best care in the air" as they take them to distant hospitals that haven't been overwhelmed by the disaster.

Guard medical teams, like the ones engaged in this exercise, have a broad range of nursing specialties. "It's nice in the Guard; you have lots of very skilled people from different areas, so together you make a great team," says Gosting.

"We got to do actual patient play with Air Force personnel, see how they interact with their patients and their ERPSS, and how they run their business," said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Benson, Delaware ARNG Medical Detachment NCOIC.

It was the first time most Soldiers in the Med Det have interacted with their Air Guard brethren. They appreciated the chance to train together on taking care of patients in responding to a disaster scenario. "Excellent training for us today. All my Soldiers were fully engaged and enjoyed everything we were doing," said Benson.



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Horgan*

**Nurses and medical technicians from the 166th Medical Group and the Delaware Army National Guard Medical Detachment work together to assess the injuries to a patient just brought in via helicopter. They will have to stabilize and assess the patient's needs, document everything, and prepare "him" for aeromedical evacuation aboard a C-130 transport aircraft.**

# LEADing the way

**By 1st Lt. Valerie Harwood**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

Three Delaware Air National Guard Airmen will be departing this June to receive a free world-class education.

Airmen 1st Class Sharon Dominguez and Luke McFadden have been accepted into the 2019 United States Air Force Academy graduating class, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Airman 1st Class Ryan Weber has been accepted into the USAFA Preparatory School. Upon completion he will be eligible to apply for the 2020 USAFA graduating class.

Dominguez is a North Hagerstown, Md. native. She graduated from North Hagerstown High School, Md. and is currently enrolled at the University of Delaware in Newark. Dominguez enlisted in the Delaware ANG in August 2012 and is a certified radio frequency transmission systems technician.

McFadden is a Bear, Del. native. He was home schooled and graduated high school from the Powle Institute and is currently enrolled at the University of Delaware. McFadden enlisted in the Delaware ANG in January 2013 and is a certified aircraft environment and electrical systems apprentice.

“I joined the Delaware Air Guard because it seemed like a good opportunity and I recommend it to anyone,” said McFadden. “I want to major in electrical engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy.”

Weber is a Newark, Del. native. He was home schooled and graduated high school from the Mount Sophia Academy



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Valerie Harwood*  
**Airmen 1st Class Ryan Weber, Sharon Dominguez and Luke McFadden pose for a photo. The three have the U.S. Air Force Academy in their future.**

and is currently enrolled but on military leave from the University of Delaware. Weber enlisted in the Delaware ANG in April 2013 and is a certified metals aircraft technologist.

“I heard about the Air Force Academy on base through a meeting Col. Castaldi [166th Maintenance Group commander] held and he explained there were opportunities for Delaware Guardsmen age 23 years old and younger to attend the Academy through the LEAD [Leaders Encouraging Airmen Development] program,” said Weber.

The LEAD program was developed by Air Force leaders to encourage aspiring enlisted Airmen to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. Upon completion of the program, LEAD Airmen are commissioned as second lieutenants with a bachelor’s of science degree.

Airmen applying to the USAFA through the LEAD program have an advantage compared with high school applicants

because Airmen do not need to obtain a nomination from a U.S. senator or congressman. In place of a nomination, enlisted Airmen only need to receive an endorsement from their local commander.

According to the USAFA, they receive more than 12,000 applicants each year, and admits just over 1,000 as cadets.

In order to be eligible to apply to the USAFA all three Airmen had to be of good moral character and meet basic eligibility requirements. Also, each service member must be at least 17 years old but not past their 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year they enter the Academy, be a United States citizen, and unmarried with no dependents.

The USAFA is a challenging environment by design. Their mission is to inspire and encourage excellence in their applicants, and competition for an appointment is highly competitive.

**See LEADing, pg. 11**

**LEADIng, cont. from pg. 10**

The USAFA assesses potential cadets through academics, athletics, character and leadership potential as demonstrated by the life experiences and achievements of each applicant.

“The Academy is an amazing opportunity and I would encourage every young Airman to apply, I mean it’s a \$435,000 education, for free essentially!” said Dominguez. “Of course you pay with your time in service but that is the ultimate goal here, to become an officer in the world’s greatest Air Force.”

If Weber is accepted into the Academy after Preparatory School, the three Delaware ANG Airmen combined will receive a free college education worth

over \$1,248,000, not including Weber’s 10-month USAFA Preparatory School.

The preparatory school accepts only 240 cadet candidates annually and is designed to academically, physically and militarily prepare qualified young men and women to enter the Academy.

“I could see myself making the military a career after my five year commitment,” said McFadden. “I have two older brothers in the Delaware Army Guard and I joined the Air Guard because I was interested in doing hands-on electrical work.”

USAFA cadets can choose from majors in aeronautical engineering, astronautical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical

engineering, engineering mechanics, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, chemistry, biochemistry, materials science, computer science and management.

The USAFA will develop cadet skills, character and motivation.

A cadet’s future with the Air Force will allow for focused ambition, purposeful self-discovery and impactful study during their college years.

If you are interested in the LEAD program contact your supervisor and base education office for guidance.

To learn more about the U.S. Air Force Academy, visit [www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil).

# Kids deploy for fun



*U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright*

**One of the stations was a brief by the Delaware Army National Guard Safety Office. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brooke James gives Rebekah, left, and Ruth Bright a quiz on home and bicycle safety. The girls are the children of proud father Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright, 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard.**

**By Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

The children of Delaware Army and Air National Guardsmen were put through a kinder, gentler version of a deployment line during the annual Delaware National Guard Children’s Spring Party held April 18 at the First Regiment Readiness Center in Belvedere, Del.

The event, themed for April’s Month of the Military Child, was a fresh change from the usual egg hunt. There were still crafts and horse rides, but now kids went to various stations to get a stamp, do an activity, and get a treat. This included getting ID tags, getting their fingerprints, height and weight, writing a letter home, riding a “cavalry” horse, and taking a picture with a Humvee. The day finished up with every child getting a certificate and a coin from a sergeant major or chief master sergeant.