

BIOGRAPHY: Senior Airman Joel Miller
Outstanding Honor Guard Member of the Year FY 2009
Delaware Air National Guard

Senior Airman Joel Miller is a resident of Newark, Delaware, and is a 2005 graduate of Caesar Rodney H.S., Camden-Wyoming, Del.

Airman Miller is an aircraft metals technician assigned full-time to the 166th Maintenance Squadron, part of the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard, located in New Castle, Del.

Airman Miller volunteered for and deployed as an aircraft metals specialist with the Madison, Wisconsin ANG in 2008 to Balad Air Base, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There, he quickly learned new aircraft systems and did an outstanding job in repairing combat fighter aircraft on a base with a bare minimum of equipment and resources. He also volunteered for and deployed with unit members to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan from Dec. 2009 to Jan. 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2008 he participated in the presidential support mission called Banner Express at New Castle Airport, Del. In Jan. 2009 he deployed to Washington, D.C. for the 56th Presidential Inauguration to assist with the Joint Task Force providing security for the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

He was a key member of the Delaware ANG F-86 aircraft assembly team that helped repair and restore a historic unit aircraft from the Korean War era. Hundreds of parts had to be inspected, cleaned and sorted in the disassembled aircraft. This was tedious work that required extreme patience. The aircraft now stands proudly at the base main gate due to his and fellow unit members' hard work and dedication.

He recently received four welding certifications with stainless steel, aluminum, titanium and mild steel. Airman Miller aggressively accomplished these Air Force 7-level tasks at his current 5-level specialty skill category. As a member of the unit's 2009 Air Force Operational Readiness Exercise and Operational Readiness Inspection team he quickly prepared the fabrication section for this critical event, working extensive hours with the squadron's unit deployment manager. During the ORI deployment he was recognized as a top performer. He was instrumental in fabricating the aircraft overhead racks in the C-130 aircraft cargo compartment; using raw material, he manufactured highly functional storage racks for the control of life support equipment on the aircraft.

He provided practical help to dozens of award recipients in a worthy cause when he drilled and tapped all trophies for the Special Olympics Delaware Plane Pull fund-raising competition in 2009.

Airman Miller was selected as a "black rope" Honor Guard leader during his Air Force technical school due to his interpersonal skills and the teaching and guidance he provided to school members. He personally recruited two individuals into the Delaware ANG, and guides individuals into appropriate squadrons. He is two classes away from earning his college degree in aircraft metals technology.

Since Nov. 2007 Airman Miller has been an active member in the Delaware ANG Honor Guard, participating in over two dozen ceremonies (color guard, funerals, and high profile assignments to include general officer retirements and promotions and a governor's breakfast meeting). He was chosen to represent the Delaware ANG at the 2008 Delaware State Fair dinner with Del. Governor Jack Markell. To advance his career he will attend Air Force Airman Leadership School at Dover AFB, Del. in Feb. 2010.

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