

BIOGRAPHY: Technical Sergeant Tracy Ashman Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year FY 2009 Delaware Air National Guard

Technical Sergeant Tracy Ashman is a resident of Bear, Delaware, and was born in Manchester, Jamaica.

Sergeant Ashman serves as services specialist in the 166th Force Support Squadron, part of the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard in New Castle, Del. She is a traditional, part-time member of the unit.

She graduated from Delcastle Technical H.S., Wilmington, Del. in 1996. She next graduated from the University of Delaware in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and then graduated from Wilmington College in 2007 with a Masters degree in business with a concentration in healthcare.

Her military career began in February 2000 as she enlisted with the Delaware Air National Guard, 166th Services Flight, (now the 166th Force Support Squadron), New Castle, Del.

In 2003 Sgt. Ashman was deployed for six months to the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She arrived at Al Minhad Air Base, UAE, a bare base and was tasked to assist with base build up. While at Al Minhad Air Base, she distributed cots, blankets, and pillows for members arriving to the base. She instrumental in setting up a dining facility and began providing hot meals four times daily for a base populace of over 1,200 personnel. Sgt. Ashman participated in the implementation of a recreation tent that provided movies, internet services, and phones for members to contact family. Subsequently, she was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for her service at Al Minhad.

As the 166th Force Support Squadron training/lodging manager Sgt. Ashman's key duties include providing lodging support for about 100 Guard members for the monthly unit drill, updating the training program, scheduling training for the unit, and completion and implementation of the annual training plan. Sgt. Ashman also provides mentoring to new airmen, encouraging them and letting them know about the educational opportunities and benefits that the military provides. With the help of military tuition assistance benefits Sgt. Ashman was able to complete her nursing degree and obtain a masters degree, and is currently earning two more masters degrees in nursing education from Wilmington College

During the last year, Sgt. Ashman supported the 166th Airlift Wing in preparations for the Air Force Operational Readiness Inspection, participated in many of the Operational Readiness Exercises, and was readily available for extra duty preparing for the inspection. Sgt Ashman served as the lodging NCOIC, and provided support to the kitchen upon request.

Sergeant Ashman works full-time is a civilian nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Christiana Hospital. In her spare time she also teaches clinical instruction at Wesley College in Dover, Del.

During down time, Sgt. Ashman travels with her family and engages in volunteer opportunities. She performs missionary work with the Bethesda Healing Center Church in N.Y.C. She travels with the church and provides medical care to people in Africa, twice travelling to Kenya on missionary trips. Sgt. Ashman also provides required support for Special Olympics Delaware fund-raising events with skilled manpower provided by Delaware ANG members to organize and manage daily activities.

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