



The DANG TRUTH

Mission First, Safety Always -- The Safe Way is the Delaware Way

Volume 53, No. 3 — March 2013

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

Outstanding Airmen of the Year Delaware Air National Guard FY2012

Recognized for leadership and performance, community involvement, and significant self-improvement



Air National Guard photos/Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright and Tech. Sgt. Rob Meredith (166 MDG photo)

Airman of the Year:

Airman 1st Class
Joseph L. Gilford
166th Civil Engineer
Squadron

NCO of the Year:

Technical Sgt.
David S. Gazzara
166th Civil Engineer
Squadron

**Senior NCO
of the Year:**

Master Sgt.
Jamie D. Kohr
142nd Airlift Squadron

**First Sergeant
of the Year:**

Senior Master Sgt.
Kathleen Walsh-Shell
166th Medical Group

**Honor Guard Member
of the Year:**

Technical Sgt.
Bonifacio M. Tee, III
166th Security Forces
Squadron

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey
Wing Public Affairs

The five Delaware Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year for FY2012 have been named after a lengthy selection process.

Airman of the Year is **Airman 1st Class Joseph L. Gilford**, a knowledge operations officer in the 166th Civil Engineer Squadron. Airman Gilford is an honor graduate of Air Force Basic Military Training, and was awarded the only Engineering Assistant coin of excellence for his work at Air Force Civil Engineer Silver Flag training. He volunteered over 24 hours at the Ft. Leonard Wood Fitness Center, and has completed 24 credits at Wright State University in marketing.

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is **Tech. Sgt. David S. Gazzara**, an explosive ordnance disposal team leader

in the 166th Civil Engineer Squadron. Sgt. Gazzara was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exceptional meritorious service as an EOD team leader while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He represented the wing for the Loncki Memorial five-mile run, finishing top in his age category for the last three years. He enrolled in the Air Force Senior NCO Academy, and completed his Community College of the Air Force Associates in Applied Science EOD degree.

Senior NCO of the Year is **Master Sgt. Jamie D. Kohr**, 142nd Airlift Squadron. Sgt. Kohr is a flight engineer instructor, hand-picked and certified by squadron leadership to become one of seven such instructors. He is enrolled in his final two classes to obtain his CCAF associates degree, and is a volunteer for D.C. Cares, USO Delaware, Special Olympics Delaware and the Susan G.

Komen for the Cure organization.

First Sergeant of the Year is **Senior Master Sgt. Kathleen Walsh-Shell**, former public health craftsman and now first sergeant in the 166th Medical Group. She is an honor graduate of Air Force BMT and a distinguished graduate from the Environmental Health Specialist program, Brooks AFB. She has a B.S. in Health and Physical Education and is a certified athletic trainer at a public middle school.

Honor Guard Member of the Year is **Tech. Sgt. Bonifacio M. Tee, III**, a security forces craftsman in the 166th Security Forces Squadron. Sgt. Tee was activated for Operation Noble Eagle, and deployed twice for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The five AOY, plus Airmen of the Quarter and other members, will be honored March 2 at the Delaware ANG annual Enlisted Recognition Banquet.

The DANG Truth

166th Airlift Wing Leadership

Colonel Mike Feeley.....Commander
 Colonel Dave Byerly.....Vice Commander
 Chief Master Sgt. Hank Rome.....
Wing Command Chief

DANG Truth Editorial Staff

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Editor's note: Digital issues posted on our Air Force Public Web site, and on our Facebook page (editions not mailed).

March UTA events

March 1, Friday:

- **PT Testing:** 0730-0930, Wm. Penn H.S. (arrive at 0715; all participants must be in a military status approved by their unit; schedule prior to test date through Unit Fitness Monitor; must wear only the Air Force Physical Training Uniform; no exceptions/waivers permitted for any male/female uniform items.)

March 2, Saturday:

- **PT Testing:** 0730-0930, Wm. Penn H.S.
 - **Promotion ceremony:** 1030, Loeffel Room, Del. ANG HQ, Brig. Gen. Tom Thomas, National Guard Assistant to Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, to major general. RSVP by 27 February 2013.
 - **Delaware ANG 'Year 2012' Enlisted Recognition Banquet:** 1700, Deerfield Golf & Tennis Club, 507 Thompson Station Rd., Newark, Del., 19711.

UTA schedule FY2013

02-03 Mar 2013	13-14 Jul 2013
06-07 Apr 2013	03-04 Aug 2013
04-05 May 2013	07-08 Sep 2013
01-02 Jun 2013	

Personnel actions February 2013

Enlistments:

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS:

Harley, Trevel - 166 SFS
 Herdandez, Hector - 166 MXS

Promotions:

To TECHNICAL SERGEANT:

Henson, Alvin - 142 AS
 Janssens, Brian - 166 LRS
 Sparacio, Joseph - 166 CES

To STAFF SERGEANT:

Marsolais, Heather - 142 AES
 Williamson, Richard - 166 AMXS

To SENIOR AIRMAN:

Elliott, Thomas - 166 NWS
 Pelle, John - 166 NWS

To AIRMAN:

Rodriguez, Edwin - 166 LRS

Retirements:

Carter, Sheila, Lt. Col., 142 AES
 Hoopes, Paul, Staff Sgt., 166 CES
 Johnson, Richard, Tech Sgt., 166 CES
 Luce, Gerald, Master Sgt., 142 AS
 Morris, Gary, Tech. Sgt., 166 CFT
 Peet, Dawn, Chief Master Sgt., HQ DE ANG
 Powell, Dwayne, Tech Sgt., 166 MOF
 Ullman, Christopher, Tech. Sgt., 166 MXS
 Walther, Thomas, Master Sgt., 166 CFT

March 3, Sunday:

- **PT Testing:** 0730-0930, Wm. Penn H.S.
 - **Protestant Services:** 0745-0800, Bldg. 2815, SAT (Small Air Terminal) Hangar
 - **Catholic Mass:** 0830-0930, Bldg. 2815, Small Air Terminal Hangar
 - **Promotion ceremony:** 1130, Loeffel Rm., HQ Del. ANG, Senior Master Sgt. Marcia Price, to chief master sergeant.
 - **Change of Command,** 1530, 166th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Small Air Terminal, Bldg. 2815.

DE ANG Recruiting:

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

DE ANG Retention:

(302) 323-3413

Web Resources:

166AW Air Force Public Web site:

www.166aw.ang.af.mil

166AW Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/166thAirliftWing

DE Air Guard Recruiting Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting

Public web site, DE National Guard:

www.DelawareNationalGuard.com

DNG Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/DelawareNationalGuard

Medical openings

Hiring for officers in multiple traditional positions; no closeout dates apply unless indicated
 Online: www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air_officer/:

142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron:

- Flight Nurse, Medical Service Corps Officer

142nd Airlift Squadron:

- GMO Flight Surgeon

166th Medical Group:

- Aerospace Medical Specialist, Dentist,
 Family Physician, Flight Surgeon,
 Internist, Medical Service Corps Officer,
 Physician Assistant, Surgeon

Enlisted jobs

We're hiring for over a dozen enlisted job specialties: www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air_enlisted/. For full career descriptions visit: www.goang.com (browse by state, unit or category).

Coming events

Apr. 27: DNG All-Ranks Military Ball, Dover Downs, RSVP NLT 08 April. Event flyer: http://www.delawarenationalguard.com/press/events/pdf/2013_Military_Ball.pdf.

May 4: JEC 6th Annual Bowling Tournament, 6:00 p.m., Retirees welcome! Bowlerama, Rt. 9, New Castle, DE. Sign-up four members per team, cost \$40.00/team, \$3.25 for Shoes. POC Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Lee, 323-3559.

June 3-5: Leadership Challenge Program-I course
June 5-7: LCP-2 (both classes full; POC Wing Command Chief Hank Rome)

Airmen of the Quarter

166th Airlift Wing - FY 2012

1st Quarter:

Airman: Senior Airman

Katelyn E. Williams

166th Civil Engineer Squadron

NCO: Staff Sgt.

Eugene A. Jackson

166th Maintenance Squadron

Senior NCO: Master Sgt.

Steven D. Turi

166th Civil Engineer Squadron/
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight

3rd Quarter:

Airman: Senior Airman

Joseph L. Gilford

166th Civil Engineer Squadron

NCO: Technical Sgt.

Aaron W. Sweeney

166th Civil Engineer Squadron/
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight

Senior NCO: Master Sgt.

Daniel W. Lord

166th Communications Flight

2nd Quarter:

Airman: Airman 1st Class

Gregory A. Bullock

166th Logistics Readiness Squadron

NCO: Staff Sgt.

Jacob A. Ferger

166th Force Support Squadron/
Sustainment Services Flight

Senior NCO: Master Sgt.

Shannon Daniels

166th Logistics Readiness Squadron

4th Quarter:

Airman: Staff Sgt.

Meagan L. Igartua

166th Civil Engineer Squadron

NCO: Technical Sgt.

David S. Gazzara

166th Civil Engineer Squadron/
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight

Senior NCO: Senior Master

Sgt. Jamie D. Kohr

142nd Airlift Squadron

Student Flight members fit in



(Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey)

Members of the Delaware Air Guard Student Flight in the Small Air Terminal on Feb. 2, 2013.

Retention initiatives for motivated unit Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Sam Lewis
Retention Office Manager

Greetings to my fellow DANG Airmen! I have recently been selected as the new Retention Office Manager and will take over responsibilities that used to be covered by Master Sgt. Gerald Miller before he retired.

I am more than happy to assist you with the following programs:

- The Montgomery GI Bill and Kicker
- Bonuses
- Student Loan Repayment
- Post 9-11 GI Bill and Transfer of Education Benefits
- State Tuition Assistance Reimbursement
- Career Motivation Program
- Cross training opportunities

I will also be working closely with your **Unit Career Advisors** so that they can be a valuable resource for you as well. The first hot item I want to draw your attention to are the upcoming cutoff dates:

March 15, 2013: Cutoff for Spring Semester Tuition Assistance Application

Aug. 1, 2013: Post 9-11 Transfer of Education Benefits service obligations exemptions expire. **EVERYONE** applying to transfer benefits after Aug. 1, 2013 will incur an additional 4 years, even if you are eligible to retire. Act now to take advantage of 1, 2, or 3 year obligations for those of you nearing or already eligible for retirement!

Feel free to contact me at 323-3413 or email samuel.lewis@ang.af.mil and visit me on Facebook www.facebook.com/TSgtSamuel.Lewis.



(Air National Guard photo/
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey)

Retention Office Manager Tech. Sgt. Sam Lewis next to C-130s on the flightline, April 15, 2012



(Air National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright)

The Delaware Air Guard Recruiting Team: Tech. Sgt. Sam Lewis, Tech. Sgt. Kristen Favors, Senior Airman Desmond Overton, Master Sgt. Tanya Harris and Tech. Sgt. Terrence Parker; each reaches out to the local community in person, online and by phone to inform prospective members of the benefits of joining.

Recruiting to our local community

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey
Wing Public Affairs

Tap into our Delaware Air Guard Recruiting Team -- literally! Just tap some keys to access the Recruiting Team's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting, scan the messages or post a question. You will get a quick response from a recruiter. You can also see images of new recruits as they take the oath of enlistment, often alongside leaders of the units they are joining.

Or, just pick up a phone and dial (302) 323-3444 to reach a recruiter.



Visit www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting



(Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey)

Master Sgt. Henry Culley, facing forward, is congratulated by Senior Master Sgt. Lorne Peterson, left, at Sgt. Culley's retirement ceremony held Jan. 13, 2013 at HQ, Delaware Air National Guard.

Forget American Idol; how about singing for 'The DANG Tones'!

By Tech. Sgt. Beth Brown
166th Medical Group

Have you ever had the following thoughts?

"Those judges on "American Idol" would not think twice about how good of a singer I am."

"Who wouldn't want me on their

team on "The Voice"?!?!"

"I really wish I could sing the National Anthem at this ceremony."

"I miss singing in a choir with other talented singers."

If so, contact Tech. Sgt. Beth Brown or 1st Lt. Fred Abel to inquire about how you can become part of "The DANG Tones"!

We are currently seeking volunteers to sing in a choir that could support ceremonies and functions of the Delaware Air National Guard with various multi part patriotic songs, anthems, etc.

To inquire: Tech. Sgt. Beth Brown: 302-323-3386, or 1st Lt. Fred Abel: 302-326-3119

Chief James Caudell congratulated by wing Airmen after milestone flight

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey
Wing Public Affairs

On Feb. 1, 2013, the Dow Jones Industrial Average for stocks closed above 14,000 for first time since Oct. 2007, but a more important local record was being set that day. Chief Master Sgt. James Caudell, a C-130 loadmaster and the loadmaster section chief in the 142nd Airlift Squadron stationed at the New Castle ANG Base, broke the 10,000 hour individual safe flying mark.

Upon landing, Chief Caudell thanked fellow Airmen for showing up, for their camaraderie and the chance to work with so many members in the Delaware Air Guard over his past 38 years of service in the unit since December 1974.

Chief Caudell has experience in the last two airlift aircraft models starting when the unit had the original C-130A transport aircraft to the present-day C-130H model acquired in the mid-1980s.



(Air National Guard photos/Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey)

Chief Master Sgt. James Caudell is greeted by fellow crewmembers and unit Airmen February 1 after his crew's aircraft landed at the New Castle Air National Guard Base and he surpassed 10,000 mishap-free flying hours.



He has served as an aircraft loadmaster, an instructor loadmaster, a flight examiner and now a loadmaster superintendent, and has participated in as great a variety of airdrops and missions as anyone who has served in the unit. He will retire later this year after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 60.



One hundred Airmen of Delaware Air Guard complete final preparations, begin deploying to Southwest Asia

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey
Wing Public Affairs

About 100 Delaware Air National Guardsmen from the 166th Airlift Wing are heading overseas again to the Southwest Asia combat zone to serve for four months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Airmen began departing the New Castle ANG Base on Feb. 26 to travel aboard unit C-130H model transport aircraft, with others leaving on scheduled departures from the New Castle ANG Base Feb. 28. They will make stops during the flight to reach their overseas base at an undisclosed location, serving alongside fellow Air Guardsmen from the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas ANG. Airmen and aircraft will swap-out around the two-month mark to bring the total number of people deploying to about 100.

The Airmen are from two groups in the 166th Airlift Wing; the 166th Operations Group, which includes all C-130 aircrew and other Airmen with various critical job functions, and the 166th Maintenance Group, which includes crews who maintain and repair the aircraft. The Airmen will serve under U.S. Air Force Central Command, and are prepared to operate anywhere in USCENTCOM's 20-nation area of responsibility.

"Our crews are conducting normal pilot and aircraft commander certification training, and normal C-130 airdrop and assault landing training in preparation for their mission. A lot of the training is reestablishing muscle memory for air crews," said 166th Operations Group Commander Lt. Col. Rob Culcasi days before the first aircraft departed. "We're sending experi-



(Air National Guard photos/Staff Sgt. Nathan Bright)

Airmen 1st Class Melvin Durham and James Wright, aircraft mechanics, 166th Maintenance Squadron, monitor jacks stands while a C-130 nose is lifted for repairs on its main landing gear on Feb. 25, 2013.

enced aircrews and a significant number of younger aircrew."

166th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Mike Feeley said, "Our operations and maintenance personnel have done an exceptional job in refining their skills and preparing their equipment and aircraft for this deployment. They are well trained, equipped, and ready to accomplish our nation's tasking. Their dedication and the sacrifices of their families are greatly appreciated." Col. Feeley added that the unit is reaching out to support the families of deploying members.

Deploying Airmen are primarily residents of the states of Del., Pa., Md. and N.J., with several from other states.

On Tuesday morning, Feb. 26, Dr. David Williams, a dentist and one of five recently named Honorary Commanders of the Delaware Air National



Staff Sgt. Aaron Taylor, an aircraft mechanic work leader, 166th MXS, fills a hydraulic jacking manifold with hydraulic fluid.

Guard, visited with Airmen in Base Operations before the sendoff.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Delaware State Senator Nicole Poore will visit the base for a tour and to observe the sendoff. She represents the 12th Senate District which covers much of Old New Castle to Delaware City and southward.

Ten years ago: Deployment history was made

(We are reprinting this article from *The DANG Truth* of August/September 2003 to commemorate the service and sacrifice begun 10 years ago this month by our unit members leading up to the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom and through the first year of overseas deployments.)

Wing geared up for future deployments after finishing history-making mission overseas in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Matwey and Staff Sgt. Jason Brooks, with contributions from Lt. Col. Carol McTamney
Wing Public Affairs, and HQ DE ANG Public Affairs

NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, August, 2003 - Over one hundred members of the 166th Airlift Wing are preparing to deploy overseas to Southwest Asia in a matter of days, returning to the same base in Southwest Asia they departed mid-July. Four C-130 aircraft with aircrew, maintenance and support personnel expect to leave in two packages on or about Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

These airmen are serving their country in their second overseas deployment just a month and a half after returning from their March to July, 2003 mission to Southwest Asia.

At the beginning of March, 2003, over 200 Del. Air National Guard personnel from the 166th Airlift Wing were put on active duty status for 365 days for possible deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Several hundred members planned for deployment with a sense that war with Iraq could start at any moment. A seriousness of purpose felt by airmen and their families alike.

On the weekend of Mar. 8-9, six aircraft with crew left the New Castle County Airport for Southwest Asia with an undetermined return date. Approximately two weeks later, the maintenance

contingent deployed to join the aircraft and crews.

Upon arriving at their destination, members found a bare-bones airbase in the process of being established. They had to set up their own living quarters, pitching about 60 tents. Within two days of arriving, "things were under control and we were ready to start work," stated one deployed member.

The population at this initial deployed location was 3,000 strong. The DE ANG was part of the 485th Air Expeditionary Wing, and teamed with the ANG unit from Okla. City, Okla. to form the 746th Expeditionary Aerospace Squadron. The 485th AEW also included ANG units from Nashville, Tenn., Charleston, W.Va., Louisville, Ky., St. Joseph, Mo., and an Air Force Reserve unit from Niagra Falls, N.Y. In total, there were 46 C-130 aircraft, along with two F-15 squadrons.

At an elevation of 2,500 feet, the daily temperature varied from 50 degrees Fahrenheit at night and the need for a jacket, to 90-95 degrees Fahrenheit during the day. For the first two weeks, there was the constant presence of a chemical-biological threat; therefore, each member was required to be within five minutes of his/her chemical warfare

gear. The workdays were long; the maintenance team worked 12-hour shifts, while the aircrews worked 16-20 hours days.

Tent City consisted of a leveled area, where deployed airmen stood up approximately 360 tents, for living quarters alone in a matter of days. Through contributions and donations from businesses such as *Home Depot* and *Lowe's*, airmen had tools and materials to build framework, floors, and even doors for their tents, which all aid immensely in keeping tents, airmen, and possessions clean and safe from the wild abuse of frequent sandstorms. Before the maintainers and ops support personnel arrived, the aircrew members that arrived shortly before had erected tents for them. A day before they arrived, however, a vicious sandstorm blew down about 30 of the unsecured tents, which all needed to be erected again. Two miles away was Maintenance City and a mile farther still was Ops Town. Each of these areas came with their own needs for tents and makeshift structures to work out of.

With no clean potable water within miles, bottles of water were trucked in from local distributors. On average, each airman used about four bottles of water a day; between using the water

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Historic, cont. from pg. 10

for drinking, heating MRE's, brushing teeth, and cleaning off dirty tools and parts — the bare-bones base used almost 12,000 bottles of water a day. Very few refrigerators found their way to Tent City; drinks were often as warm as that particular day was. The chow hall was as close as one-half mile from Del. Air Guard tents.

The threat of war was heightened on March 17, when President Bush issued an ultimatum during a televised address, saying "Saddam Hussein and his sons must leave Iraq within 48 hours. Their refusal to do so will result in military conflict commenced at a time of our choosing."

On March 19, after Iraq did not comply with the President's demand, U.S. and British forces entered Iraq in force, in the air and on land, in an operation to be called Operation Iraqi Freedom. The lion's share of 166th AW man-hours were devoted to this mission for the next four months.

The Del. Air Guard flew missions supporting a cadre of war support functions including re-supplying troops with ammunition, weapons, and equipment, extracting wounded and KIA's, POW transport, and special operations. Many of these missions were flown at night, requiring crews to operate using night vision goggle (NVG) techniques. Teamwork was again an absolute necessity.

Relocation to second base

On May 1, President Bush declared that major combat operations were over in Iraq. Our C-130s units kept busy transporting U.S. and coalition forces and supplies into and within Iraq, Afghanistan, and several other nations in the SWA theater.

In early May, the entire Del. ANG unit (together with the ANG units from Okla. City, Charleston, W.Va. and St. Joseph, Mo.) relocated to an undisclosed location in a nearby country in SWA.

These combined units joined a base with a combined population of over 6,000. They became part of the 379th AEW supporting 24 C-130's and a host of other aircraft including F-15's, F-16's, C-22's, two Australian C-130's, C-17's, E-8C J-STARS, RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft, and KC-135's refuelers.

Upon arrival at their second operating location, the members of the 166 AW found, instead of tents, semi-permanent structures and trailers that were used as offices and common areas. In the center of Camp Andy (what their new Tent City was called) was an area referred to as the Wagon Wheel, a common area where support functions like the Finance Office, PERSCO, and the JAG office were located. The media trailer was also here, where airmen could make morale calls home, check e-mail, and check out movies. There was also a gym, a pool, a coffee bar provided by the Chaplain's service known as "Jack's." There was even a beer tent, where with a beer ration card, an airman could enjoy up to three alcoholic beverages a night. Airmen reported that the difference between the first location versus the second was like the difference between night and day.

Still, the newfound luxury did little to quell the oppressive heat of mid-day, where temperatures soared well above 120 degrees; maintainers even recorded temperatures on the flight line above 140 degrees. The wind offered little to no relief at all, and airmen commonly said that it was more akin to turning a hair dryer on your face and body.

On July 4, airmen got official word that they would all depart the theater for home on July 11.

All aircraft left with about 45 minute intervals between takeoffs. Their first destination was a short refueling stop at a U.S. Naval support facility at Souda Bay, Greece, on the island of Crete. Royal Air Force Station Mildenhall, U.K. was their next destination, where the unit stayed overnight.

Departing RAF Mildenhall on July 12, the aircraft headed for St. John's Bay, Newfoundland, Canada, at a civilian airport for another refueling stop. Their first U.S. stop was Pease ANG base, N.H., where aircraft landed over a several hour period, with the last aircraft touching down at sunset. Leaders including 166th AW Commander Ernie Talbert and 166th Maintenance Commander Karl Kromer, along with the Del. Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, met the members when they landed on U.S. soil.

In early afternoon the next day, Sunday, July 13, all six aircraft took off from Pease in a tight grouping. Just after 3:30 p.m. they landed at New Castle Airbase, Del., where over 2,000 family members and friends, along with airmen and retirees, met the returning airmen on a warm and beautiful summer day under clear blue skies. Before landing, the six-ship formation completed two low-level flyovers, tipping their wings to the home station crowd assembled below.

Maj. Pat Houtman, a C-130 pilot in the 142nd Airlift Squadron, said "I felt just plain happy," upon his return.

Looking to the future, Col. Ernie Talbert, 166 AW Commander, said, "What is significant is that over 200 of our members remain mobilized, activated under federal orders, giving DoD the authority to re-deploy the 166th AW in order to meet the theater airlift needs of the U.S. military."

(This article is a look back at historic deployment activity a decade ago, and is an exact reprint of the article text that appeared in the August/September 2003 edition of The DANG Truth).

Retired Delaware National Guard Adjutant General Arthur Episcopo dies; top Guard commander 1989 to 1993

Retired Lt. Gen. (Del.) Arthur V. Episcopo, age 82, of Wilmington, Del. and Rehoboth Beach, Del., and a past Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, passed away peacefully at his home on February 2, 2013 surrounded by his friends and family.

Current Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala delivered the eulogy for Gen. Episcopo on February 6, and a Delaware National Guard Color Guard and dozens of uniformed troops honored the memory of the Guard's former commander at his funeral in Wilmington on February 7.

Born in Newark, N.J., Gen. Episcopo was the son of the late Anthony and Lena (Robertiello) Episcopo. He graduated from Brown Technical H.S. in Wilmington, Del. in 1949, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of New York and was also a graduate of Temple University Technical Institute and the Mercer County Community College. He retired from the E. I. DuPont Company, the Chestnut Run Site, in Wilmington.

General Episcopo retired in 1993 from the Delaware Army National Guard at the rank of major general after 42 years of enlisted and commissioned service. Upon retirement, the governor awarded him the state's highest award; the Delaware Conspicuous Service Cross (first Gold Star) and promoted him to lieutenant general.

While in the Delaware Army National Guard, he served as an air defense officer, intelligence officer, and signal officer. He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1972 and from numerous other Army schools during his service. Gen-



eral Episcopo enlisted in 1951, worked his way to the enlisted rank of master sergeant, then earned his commission through the state Officer Candidate School program. He commanded Battery D, 1st Battalion, 198th Artillery as it transitioned into a signal unit. He served in various positions in the 198th and 261st Signal Command, including as commander of the latter. He became the Adjutant General for Delaware on January 26, 1989.

General Episcopo was a member of the Association of the United States Army, National Guard Association, MOAA, the Reserve Officers Association, and the Air Force Association. His other memberships included the United Way of Delaware where he served as a former Director; Delaware Combined Federal Campaign where he was chairman; St. Anthony's Church and its Finance Committee; the Men of Malvern; Chestnut Run Federal Credit Union where he was a Director and past

President; St. Francis Hospital Institutional Review Board; the Knights of Columbus Dover Council 4182; the DuPont Country Club; the Air Mobility Command at Dover AFB; the Delaware Historical Society; Winterthur and Hagley Museums; AUSA; Delaware Sports Museum and the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society.

Gen. Episcopo received several awards including The United Way of Delaware Directors Chairman Award, the Wilmington Kiwanis Community Service and Leadership Award, the Columbus Day Breakfast Committee's Distinguished Community Service Award, the Police Athletic League Community Service and Leadership Award, and the Columbus Day Monument Committee Outstanding Community Award. Other official commendations were awarded for Outstanding Community Service from Wilmington City Council, New Castle County Council and the Delaware State House of Representatives.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Bonita "Bonnie" (Bandiera) Episcopo; his sister, Lorraine Shannon and her husband, Wayne of Wilmington; sisters-in-law, Phyllis H Episcopo of Wilmington, Lorraine Wasik of Dickson, Tenn., numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Kenneth A. Episcopo in 1982, and his brother, Christopher A. "Christy" Episcopo in 1985.

Source: Newspaper obituary, official military biography and 166th Airlift Wing Public Affairs.