



# THE DANG TRUTH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2  
FEBRUARY 2025

## CONTENTS

<a href="#">Level Up</a>	<a href="#">Page 1</a>
<a href="#">Airman Spotlight - TSgt. Christensen</a>	<a href="#">Page 3</a>
<a href="#">Promotions and Retirements</a>	<a href="#">Page 4</a>
<a href="#">Operation Full Strength</a>	<a href="#">Page 5</a>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

20 Feb	State of the Guard, JFHQ
28 Feb-2 March	RSD Weekend
2 March	S.B.I Duncan Award Ceremony
4-6 April	RSD Weekend
6 April	TAG & ATAG-Army Change of Command
7-8 April	TRIAD Meeting, JFHQ

## Level Up: 166th Communications Squadron Connects the Mission at Home and Abroad

By: Capt Nathaniel Rocha, Director of Operations, 166th Communications Squadron & NIPRGPT

The roar of engines, the scramble of pilots, the tense anticipation before a mission – these are the sounds and sights often associated with the Air National Guard. Behind the scenes, a newly designated unit ensures those missions run smoothly, no matter the location: the 166th Communications Squadron.

Recently transitioning from a communications flight to a full-fledged squadron, the 166th CS has amplified its capabilities and impact. They are the invisible force that enables communication across units, from the cockpits of an aircraft soaring through the sky to command centers coordinating operations miles away, whether at home or deployed in a remote location.

“Our mission is simple: ensure seamless communication, anytime, anywhere,” says Technical Sgt. Jesse Enrique, a network infrastructure technician with the squadron. “Whether it’s troubleshooting a system outage at our home station or deploying with the JISCC to support disaster relief efforts, we’re always on, always ready.”



(Courtesy Photo)

### Social Media Links:

Facebook: 166th Airlift Wing Instagram: @166thAirliftWing Flickr: delawareairnationalguard

See “Level Up” continued on page 2

...And *that's* the DANG Truth!





*"Level Up" continued from page 1*

The JISCC, or Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, is a deployable communications kit that allows the 166th CS to establish remote network and radio capabilities anywhere in the world. This vital asset has played a crucial role in major events like Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, multiple presidential inaugurations, and joint exercises, demonstrating the squadron's commitment to supporting domestic operations.

The squadron's expertise isn't confined to U.S. borders. Several members recently returned from deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield, showcasing their ability to excel in challenging environments. Adding to their list of firsts, three members were part of the Air Force's inaugural Expeditionary Air Base (XAB) A-Staff, setting the standard for future deployed personnel. Their experience is now shaping how the Air National Guard prepares for future deployments, with the 166th CS working alongside NGB A3/10 to establish XAB/DCW certification events for lead wings.

But the 166th CS isn't resting on its laurels. Recognizing the ever-changing technological landscape of modern warfare, the squadron is actively seeking innovative ways to integrate new tools and processes. By embracing concepts like NIPRGPT (<https://chat.niprgpt.mil>), a system this article was written in part by, they are reshaping how they operate, improving efficiency, and strengthening their ability to provide top-tier customer service to the 166th Airlift Wing.

The 166th CS understands that true strength lies not just in technology, but in the bonds of its Airmen. The squadron prides itself on its high morale, unit cohesion, and camaraderie, recognizing that a positive and supportive environment is essential for mission success. This emphasis on shared purpose naturally extends to mentorship, with seasoned airmen like Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Spruill, a veteran with over 31 years of experience, taking pride in guiding the next generation. "We have a responsibility to pass the torch," he says. "Seeing younger airmen develop their skills and rise to the challenge is incredibly rewarding." In the 166th CS, dedication to the mission and dedication to each other go hand-in-hand.

From supporting national emergencies on home soil to pioneering new operational models in the Middle East, the 166th Communications Squadron exemplifies the Air National Guard's motto: "Always Ready, Always There." Their dedication to technical excellence, mentorship, unwavering support, commitment to innovation, and strong unit cohesion ensure the lines of communication stay open, now and into the future fight.

The 166th Communications Squadron: Connecting the mission, one byte at a time, at home and around the world.







## AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

### Technical Sergeant Marissa Christensen

*166th Maintenance Operations Flight*

Technical Sgt. Marissa Christensen's decision to join the military was influenced by her father, who was active-duty Air Force before joining the Delaware Air National Guard towards the end of his career. His service filled her with pride, and she aspired to follow in his footsteps. During her senior year of high school, she grappled with the choice between joining the military or going straight to college. However, witnessing her brother's graduation from basic training solidified her decision to enlist. Additionally, being one of four siblings, she didn't want to burden her parents with the financial strain of paying for more than two diplomas.

Joining right out of high school, basic training was pivotal in shaping her confidence and resilience. It taught her to approach tasks one step at a time, instilling the belief that she could overcome any challenge. The structured environment and rigorous training ensured that she was well-prepared to tackle her responsibilities and contribute effectively to the mission.

Christensen started her career as a Crew Chief, specifically in the Repair and Reclamation section. Over the years as a Crew Chief, she earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. Eventually, she moved into the Maintenance Operations Center, where she was promoted to Technical Sergeant. She has supported multiple missions in locations such as Germany, Greenland, and Antarctica.

Christensen faced the challenge of balancing school and the Guard, as well as adapting to the switch from nightshift

to dayshift during orders or drill weekends. A unique aspect of her journey was her decision to move from Texas, where she attended high school and her family resided, to live with her grandparents and join the DANG.

As a nurse outside of the Guard, Christensen is currently contemplating whether to pursue a bachelor's degree and commission as an officer in either Aero Med or medical fields. Alternatively, she may choose to remain enlisted with the maintenance group. Her deep connection with her maintenance team makes it difficult to envision leaving them.

One quote that has always resonated with Christensen is Captain Miller's (Tom Hanks) line from 'Saving Private Ryan': "I don't gripe to you. I'm a Captain. There's a chain of command. Gripes go up, not down. Always up. You gripe to me." A message to other leaders and Junior Enlisted, "I think it is important not to lose yourself in your emotions around young airman or the people you lead. We are all human, we're going to have gripes and stressful/bad days, but it is important to control yourself and not take it out on those around you, and especially those that you lead, and on both ends, try to be understanding of how a decision came to be and/or trying to come up with better solutions if the decision is lacking."

Tech Sgt. Marissa Christensen's career in the Air National Guard has been shaped by personal determination and a commitment to excellence. As she continues to navigate her path, she remains grateful for the opportunities and experiences that have defined her journey.





## *Promotions & Retirements*

February 2025

---

### **Promotions**

Walter Abel to Senior Airman  
Joshua Debeary to Senior Airman  
Kacie Hymers to Senior Airman  
Camila Lascano to Senior Airman  
Jerome Patton to Senior Airman  
Alexandria Brown to Staff Sgt.  
Taylor Fisher to Staff Sgt.  
Sawyer Sanchez to Staff Sgt.  
James Traynor to Staff Sgt.  
David Buchanan to Technical Sgt.  
George Kotsis to Technical Sgt.  
Samuel Loftin to Technical Sgt.

### **Retirements**

Senior Master Sgt. William Chakwin, 142nd AS  
Technical Sgt. Cage Foxe, 166th FSS







## OPERATION FULL STRENGTH

### PRESENCE & PUBLICITY

- PURPOSEFUL MESSAGING
- EFFECTIVE MARKETING
- INCREASED VISIBILITY



### PARTNERSHIPS

- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- TARGETED PARTNERS
- SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS

### COMPETITIVE POSITIONING

- IMPROVE BENEFITS
- COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES



### PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

- VACANCY MANAGEMENT
- RETENTION EFFORTS
- NEW MEMBER INTEGRATION

### REFERRALS

- IMPROVED INCENTIVES
- INCREASE LEAD GENERATION



END STRENGTH  
GOAL

95% +



HAVE AN IDEA?  
SEND IT OVER!

