



# THE DANG TRUTH

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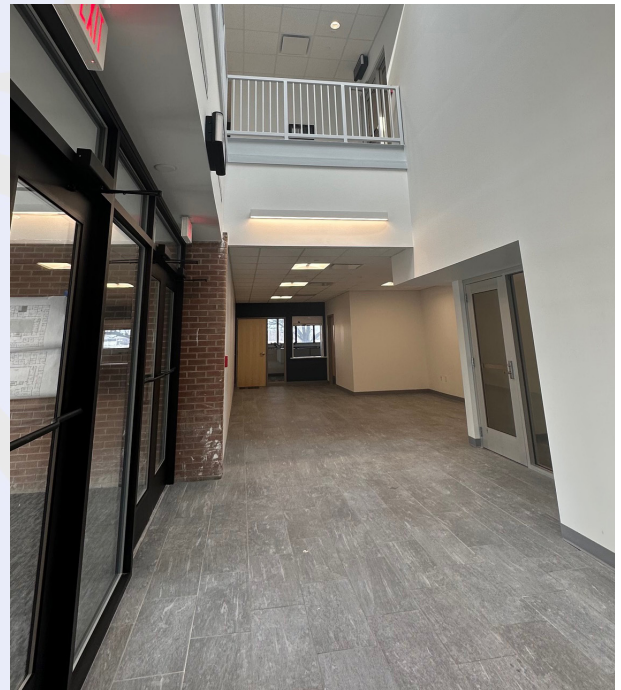
## UPCOMING EVENTS

11 Feb	State of the State
20 Feb	State of the Guard, JFHQ
2 March	S.B.I Duncan Award Ceremony
7-8 April	TRIAD Meeting, JFHQ
22 April - 23 May	Silver Arrow

## Building 2600 - The Reinhabitation Begins

By Col. Jeremy Meartz, MIssion Support Group Commander

After years of patiently waiting, the airmen that call building 2600 home have finally begun the process of moving back into the facility. These airmen have been displaced across the base, often working in much closer quarters than they are accustomed to, in order to facilitate the complete renovation of the building. The Civil Engineer Squadron and the Base Contracting Office have been working tirelessly to bring the project across the finish line as soon as possible, while also ensuring it is completed in accordance with the design specifications.



(Courtesy Photo)

The goals of this project were to bring a refreshed look to the Wing Headquarters building, update its failing utility systems, and right-size its workspaces to increase efficiency and better meet the changing needs of the Air National Guard. The project officially began on May 17, 2019 when the wing selected Jacobs to begin the design process. Architects and engineers from Jacobs led a three-day design charrette with members of the wing to learn more about their needs and requirements. Their objective was to ensure they incorporated all of the...

See "Reinhabitation" continued on page 2

## Social Media Links:

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

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





*"Reinhabitation" continued from page 1*

...requirements and as many of the needs as possible. The Civil Engineer Squadron received final approval of the design from ANGRC/A4 on March 22, 2021 and immediately began the effort to secure funding for construction. The final construction contract was awarded at the end of September 2022 and the majority of the work began shortly after wing airmen removed all the furniture during the January 2023 drill weekend.

There are several major changes to the facility that will be immediately noticeable upon entering. Some of these changes were to create efficiency and some were to bring the facility up to current construction code. The first and most obvious is the removal of the circular stairwell inside the front doors. While this was a nice feature in the original design, it had to be removed to create an enclosed stairwell that met fire escape requirements. One change that the occupants of the second floor will especially

appreciate is the addition of an elevator. An elevator was included in the design when the building was originally constructed, but was cut from the project for budgetary reasons and the elevator shaft had been used as a closet until now. Other noteworthy changes are the bathrooms have been moved to the interior of the building on both floors, and the hallways have also moved to the center of the building in order to create larger office spaces.

The airmen of the 166th Airlift Wing should be commended for their flexibility and professionalism while being displaced from their work centers. They have ensured the mission continued without interruption. Special thanks go to the members of the Civil Engineer Squadron, the Contracting Office and the Comptroller Flight for the countless hours spent on this project. Their diligence and perseverance will ensure the facility is ready to meet the needs of the 166th Airlift Wing today and for the next generation.







The 166th Airlift Wing hosted a base tour for Glasgow High School's ROTC class on January 16, 2025. The students were educated in the various missions of the Delaware Air National Guard. They also got the opportunity to speak to airmen from different career fields to learn more about the job opportunities available to them if they consider enlisting.

(U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Airman Mackenzie Snyder)







## Airman Spotlight

### Technical Sergeant Hermina Ionce

166th Communications Flight

I enlisted in the Delaware Air National Guard on May 24, 2017, five days after becoming a U.S. citizen. At that time I was in my late 30's, which is typically the age when many service members retire from military service. I was highly motivated and very honored to join the Air Force, fully committed to giving my 100% to succeed.

My main reason for joining the military was to serve and to inspire fellow immigrants to give our loyalty to the United States of America, the country who welcomed us and gave us opportunities we could not even dream of in our native countries.

I was born and raised in Northern Transylvania, Romania, during the Cold War. I graduated from Law School in 1998 during a time when Romania grappled with an unstable political and economic climate. A lack of employment opportunities forced me to leave the country and move to the Middle East, where I worked as a flight attendant for Emirates Airlines until 2013. My time with Emirates offered great opportunities. I traveled the world, experienced diverse cultures, and formed lifelong friendships. While working as a flight attendant at Emirates, I obtained a college degree in Aviation Security and a Master's degree in Business Administration and Aviation management from Coventry University, UK.

I began my military journey as an Administration Apprentice at the Wing Office. During my tenure at the Wing, I was assigned to the Airman and Family Readiness Office for over a year. In 2022, I joined the Force Support Squadron as an Administration Craftsman, later earning my Services AFSC and my Safe Serve Instructor Certificate.

On September 27, 2024, I graduated from the Non-



Commissioned Officer Academy at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee. I am proud to be part of the Best NCOA Flight of 2024, the recipient of The CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Award. The in-residence NCOA experience has been a life-changing and eye-opening, solidifying my purpose as an airman and an NCO. I strongly encourage everyone to pursue the opportunity.

Recently, I was hired as a full-time employee with 166th Communication Flight as a Records and Information Management Specialist, and I am awaiting technical school for my new career field. I am very grateful and excited about this new opportunity as I am currently working on a Cyber Security degree.

One of the greatest challenges I've faced in my military career was overcoming bias and cross-cultural communication barriers. Being a non-native English speaker, born and raised in Eastern Europe, I was subject to stereotypes, bias and misunderstandings.

I've become very determined not to let these hurdles stop me, and I educated myself on effective communication strategies.

As a Senior Airman, I took a few college courses on Communication at Air University. My former employer, PNC Bank, provided plenty of training on cross-cultural communication as well. In addition to putting the effort in my education, I was fortunate to have a few great mentors here at the 166th Airlift Wing and at PNC.

A core belief I hold is that military service is a privilege and honor and should never be taken for granted. Be humble, stay motivated, and wear the uniform with pride. If you ever find yourself lacking motivation, or things not going as you wish, just remember the day you took the Oath of Enlistment: that commitment is a powerful reminder of your purpose and the journey ahead.



## Promotions & Retirements

January 2025

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### Promotions

Epiphany Richards to Airman  
Jessica Boardley to Senior Airman  
Tyler Norton to Senior Airman  
Abigail Hines to Senior Airman  
Britney Hines to Senior Airman  
Noelle Kuehn to Senior Airman  
Alexis Wilkerson Senior Airman  
Ryan Fedorkowicz to Technical Sgt.  
Joseph Merkel to Technical Sgt.

### Retirements

Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Florian, 142 AES  
Master Sgt. Matthew Secamiglio II, 142 AS







## OPERATION FULL STRENGTH

### PRESENCE & PUBLICITY

- PURPOSEFUL MESSAGING
- EFFECTIVE MARKETING
- INCREASED VISIBILITY

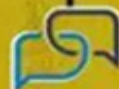


### PARTNERSHIPS

- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- TARGETED PARTNERS
- SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS

### COMPETITIVE POSITIONING

- IMPROVE BENEFITS
- COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES



### REFERRALS

- IMPROVED INCENTIVES
- INCREASE LEAD GENERATION

### PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

- VACANCY MANAGEMENT
- RETENTION EFFORTS
- NEW MEMBER INTEGRATION



END STRENGTH  
GOAL

95% +



HAVE AN IDEA?  
SEND IT OVER!

