



# The DANG TRUTH

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

Volume 52, No. 10 — December 2012

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

## Mission imperative to reach 100 percent manning in FY 2013

**By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

Wing manning levels have risen to a respectable level over the past year, with FY 2012 one of our best recruiting years in memory.

However, for FY 2013 there are several drivers that require the wing to make additional efforts to improve recruiting. A prime factor is money, because we live in an era of persistent accountability and greater tightening of purse strings at the national level.

To meet this challenge, a few months ago wing commander Col. Mike Feeley began a new iteration of Operation Full Strength -- a concerted effort to use wing resources to support the wing's overall recruiting efforts.

Similar efforts to improve personnel strength in the middle of the last decade helped the unit obtain a healthy manning level. However, a significant re-boot of this program is now underway to meet new challenges and take advantage of new opportunities.

Colonel Feeley has assigned four senior NCOs (Chief Master Sgt. Rick Collier, Senior Master Sgt. Jim Yetter, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Murphy and Senior Master Sgt. John Young) to work on a retooled Operation Full Strength in

absolutely imperative that we make every effort to increase our end strength."

Colonel Feeley reviewed the competition for funds and the close monitoring of unit strength across the entire Air National Guard force throughout the country. "If we have a five percent shortfall, that might not sound like much, but it could mean the loss of 60 positions."

Using operations as an example, Col. Feeley said that if we still had shortfalls in the middle of 2013, we could lose aircrews. "If another unit is fully manned, and we are not, we are at risk of losing positions in several areas."

"These are serious concerns. I want to reiterate across all units that we must change to ensure that this wing remains viable."

Colonel Feeley said

people remain key to the wing's future.

"I want my senior leaders -- group commanders, command chiefs and first sergeants -- engaging face-to-face with people in your unit on drill weekends. It should be very difficult for someone to find a senior leader sitting behind his or her desk," said Col. Feeley.

### Words from a senior leader:

**"...in these days of shrinking budgets and where our total force is getting smaller, we're all going to have to pull on the sled a little bit harder. We're all going to have to find new ways to work together to leverage the particular strengths that the three components bring to the fight."**

- Comments on the Air Force and the Total Force by Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, at the Air Force Association Air & Space Conference, National Harbor, Md., September 18, 2012.

conjunction with coordinated efforts of our recruiting office staff.

"Our biggest mission is to get to 100 percent manning," said Col. Feeley on Sept. 21 during a weekly wing staff meeting in wing headquarters. "Yes, we have other important missions, but none greater than this. In the short term, it is

# The DANG Truth

## 166th Airlift Wing Leadership

Colonel Mike Feeley.....Commander  
Colonel Dennis Hunsicker.....Vice Commander  
Chief Master Sgt. Hank Rome.....  
.....Wing Command Chief

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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).

## Dec. UTA events

### Nov. 31, Friday:

- **PT Testing:** 0730-0930, Wm. Penn H.S.  
(arrive at 0715; all participants must be in a military status approved by their unit and schedule test through Unit Fitness Monitor)

### Dec. 1, Saturday:

- **PT Testing:** 0730-0930, Wm. Penn H.S.  
- **Protestant Services:** 0745-0800, Bldg. 2815, SAT Hangar (Small Air Terminal)  
- **Catholic Mass:** 0830-0930, Bldg. 2815, SAT Hangar  
- **Promotion Ceremony:** 1030, Loeffel Rm., Bldg. 2600, Col. David Deputy to Brig. Gen.

### Dec. 2, Sunday:

- **PT Testing:** 0730-0930, Wm. Penn H.S.  
- **Change of Command Ceremonies,** 142nd Airlift Squadron and 166th Operations Group, 3:30 p.m., Operations Group Theater

## UTA schedule 2012-13

01-02 Dec 2012	06-07 Apr 2013
12-13 Jan 2013	04-05 May 2013
02-03 Feb 2013	01-02 Jun 2013
02-03 Mar 2013	13-14 Jul 2013

# Personnel actions Nov. 2012

## Enlistments:

### STAFF SERGEANT:

Bower, Daniel, 166th CFT  
Maxwell, Erin, 142nd AES

### AIRMAN FIRST CLASS:

Brown, Joseph, 166th AMXS  
Davis, Ronald, 142nd AS  
Elliott, Thomas, 166th NWS

## Promotions:

### To SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT:

Peterson, Monica, SMSgt, 166th FSS  
Pyle, Brian, SMSgt, 166th MXS  
Spruill, Daniel, SMSgt, 166 CFT

### To MASTER SERGEANT:

Cargan, John, MSgt, 166 AMXS  
Hardy, Brian, MSgt, 142 AS

### To TECHNICAL SERGEANT:

Jackson, Eugene, TSgt, 166th MXS  
Mitchell, Latroy, TSgt, 166th OSF  
Norris, Walter, TSgt, 142nd AS

## Retirements:

Mehew, David, Staff Sgt., 166th SFS

## Coming events

**Dec. 1:** Wing Holiday Party, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Clarion Hotel, New Castle, Del. (sold out)

**Dec. 5:** Delaware National Guard Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m., Grand Opera House, Wilmington.

**Dec. 8:** Children's Holiday Party, Noon to 4:00 p.m.. Register by Dec. 3 at [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net). See "OH Events" for Wilmington event.

**Jan. 12:** DNG Senior Leaders Call, Dover Downs, Del. Mandatory for all officers, senior and chief master sergeants, and 1st sergeants.

## 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](http://www.166aw.ang.af.mil)

### 166AW Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/166thAirliftWing](http://www.facebook.com/166thAirliftWing)

### DE Air Guard Recruiting Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting](http://www.facebook.com/DEAirGuardRecruiting)

### Public web site, DE National Guard:

[www.DelawareNationalGuard.com](http://www.DelawareNationalGuard.com)

### DNG Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/DelawareNationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/DelawareNationalGuard)

# Medical field job openings

Hiring for officers in these fields: multiple traditional positions; no closeout dates to apply unless indicated:

142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron:

- **Flight Nurse**

142nd Airlift Squadron:

- **GMO Flight Surgeon**

166th Medical Group:

- **Emergency Services Physicians**

- **Internist**

- **Operating Room Nurse**

- **Orthopedic Surgeon**

- **Physician Assistant**

- **Surgeon**

- **Aerospace Medical Specialist**

- **Anesthesiologist**

Officer postings: [http://www.delaware-nationalguard.com/join/air/air\\_officer/](http://www.delaware-nationalguard.com/join/air/air_officer/)

## Enlisted jobs

We're hiring for over two dozen enlisted job specialties: [www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air\\_enlisted/](http://www.delawarenationalguard.com/join/air/air_enlisted/).

For detailed recruiting information go to: **www.goang.com** (browse by state, unit or category, with full career descriptions)

# Fifteen Airmen from Logistics Readiness Squadron home after six-months in Southwest Asia

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Matwey  
Wing Public Affairs

The final four of 15 Airmen from the Delaware Air National Guard returned home Nov. 8 after completing six-month-long tours of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Southwest Asia. Their tours were staggered over the past year.

On Nov. 13 those final four Airmen in-processed at Delaware ANG Headquarters in New Castle, then returned home to their loved ones for a few weeks of well-earned downtime before returning to their civilian lives or to military duty.

Fourteen of the 15 Airmen worked at two airbases in Afghanistan, with one Airman working at an additional, undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. Each worked at the airfield's aerial port, responsible for loading and unloading cargo, equipment and passengers on a variety of Air Force aircraft.

All 15 of the returning Airmen are members of the 166th Logistics Readiness Squadron, part of the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG. A few members of the same unit previously served in Afghanistan and many served before that at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Eight of the 15 Airmen worked in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the southeast portion of the nation, and five worked at Bagram Airfield, in the northeast portion of the nation.

The four Airmen who completed their mission this week are Senior Master Sgt. Mark Currier, a resident of Har-



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

**Master Sgt. James Skillling (photo at left), Senior Master Sgt. Mark Currier, Tech. Sgt. Steve Porell and Senior Airman Lacy Porell (photo at right), each from the 166th Logistics Readiness Squadron, back home in the Small Air Terminal at the New Castle ANG Base, Del., on Nov. 13, 2012.**

ington, Del., Master Sgt. James Skillling, a resident of Newark, Del., Tech. Sgt. Steve Porell and Senior Airman Lacy Porell, a married couple who reside in Dover, Del.

This marked the 10th overseas deployment for Tech. Sgt. Steve Porell. Master Sgt. James Skillling was deployed to Kandahar Airfield where nearly 100 people worked 24/7. "It was a very busy base, but it wasn't too bad because I was able to communicate with my family each week using Skype."

The eight Airmen deployed to the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing at Kandahar Airfield were Master Sgt. James Skillling, Tech. Sgt. Steve Porell, Senior Airman Lacy Porell, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Rosan, Staff Sgt. Henry Young, Staff Sgt. Ryan Atkinson, Staff Sgt. Scott Burris and Senior Airman Jacob Canfield.

The six Airmen deployed to the 455th

Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Air Base were Tech. Sgt. Juan Mosqueda, Staff Sgt. Richard Donahue, Staff Sgt. Jessica Blighaut, Staff Sgt. Daniel Wright, Staff Sgt. Shennette Moore and Airman 1st Class Sunshine Parkes.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Currier was deployed to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

One of the 15 Airmen returned home early due to an injury.

"These Airmen did a great job at the two busiest aircraft hubs in Afghanistan," said Col. Mike Feeley, wing commander. "The Airmen helped moved thousands of tons of cargo and thousands of passengers at the two airbases which provide vital support for U.S. and coalition combat operations."

# Many Airmen with 90 days of active-duty service after 9/11 can pass their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to spouse/dependents

**By Debbie Gildea**  
*Air Force Personnel Center*  
*Public Affairs*

10/4/2012 - JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- More than 86,000 active duty Air Force members have transferred Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits to dependent family members since the benefit transfer program was implemented in August 2009.

However, many who did so were unfamiliar with the process and ended up in a difficult situation, while others want to transfer benefits but hesitate to do so because of commitments that come with the program.

Understanding how the transfer of education benefits program works starts with understanding who is eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, said Master Sgt. Joseph Cummings, AFPC education services advisor.

Anyone on active duty for at least 90 days from Sept. 9, 2001, through today (with honorable service disposition) is eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Benefit amounts vary depending on how long a member served after 9/11, and what kind of education they seek (e.g., undergraduate degree, graduate degree or certification program). Members have 15 years after retirement to use their benefits.

Being eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, however, does not mean an Airman is eligible to transfer those benefits.

The Air Force program is tied to reten-

tion, so only those on active duty after Aug. 1, 2009, are eligible for transfer of education benefits. In addition, Airmen must have at least six years of service (active duty and/or selected Reserve) as of the date of election, and they must agree to an additional four-year active duty service commitment, said Cummings.

“We frequently get applications from members who are about to retire, but that could be too late unless you are willing and able to commit to another four years,” said Cummings. “Eligibility is an issue because if you’re approaching your high year of tenure, you may not be able to commit to four more years. Advance planning is critical.”

Eligible members who want to transfer their benefits must also understand the application process and ensure they accomplish required tasks on time.

“Some people thought they applied, but they didn’t sign the statement of understanding, so their application didn’t go through,” Cummings said. “Others didn’t follow through on Total Force Service Center instructions within the 14 day window and their application expired. Some applicants never received their instructions from the TFSC because their email address was wrong.

“When you apply, it’s important that you double check all the information to ensure it’s accurate and follow the instructions you receive from the TFSC,” Cummings said. “If you don’t get approval confirmation from the TFSC, you may have missed something in the instructions.”

Another common problem occurs for applicants who transfer all of their benefits to a single dependent.

Benefits are transferred in month increments, so an Airman with 36 months of education benefits can transfer all 36 months to a single dependent, equally among all dependents, or only a month to each, as they choose. Then, if something in their life changes, they can adjust the number of months each dependent receives.

“If you transfer all your benefits to one child and that child chooses to not use them for whatever reason, you won’t be able to transfer them to anyone else,” Cummings said. “Your only option will be to retrieve your benefits and use them yourself, which you can always do later anyway. If you want to make sure one of your dependents can later use the benefit, you probably need to make sure when you apply for the program that you transfer at least one month to each dependent.”

Many Airmen who intend to use the benefit themselves after they retire or separate don’t apply for transfer of education benefits. In some cases, Cummings said, that has sad consequences.

“We get calls from Mortuary Affairs at Dover (Air Force Base, Del.) sometimes. It’s already a sad situation if Dover’s calling, but it’s really heartbreaking if a member who died didn’t transfer any benefits to a dependent,” he said. “You know, you can always retrieve the benefits for yourself later,

**Cont. pg. 5, *Transfer Education Benefits***

## Cont. from page 4, *Transfer Education Benefits*

but if you aren't here later, it's too late to for your dependents to be able to use your benefits."

Members who transfer benefits and voluntarily separate before completing the four year commitment may have to repay the government for any benefits already used by their dependents, and dependents would not be able to use the remainder of the benefits, so members who plan to separate or retire should carefully consider the implications before applying for transfer of educational benefits. However, transfer of educational benefits is a perfect opportunity for members who plan to reenlist or make the Air Force a career, said Cummings.

"If you're planning to stay in for the next four years or more anyway, then the active duty service commitment isn't really a factor," he said. "Plus, if something happens that prevents you from fulfilling that commitment, like a medical discharge, your dependents will likely still be able to use the transferred benefits and you won't have to repay the government for benefits they already used."

Eligible Airmen can apply for transfer of educational benefits through the MilConnect website at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect), or through the virtual MPF self-service actions section, accessible via the myPers website or the Air Force Portal.

"If you decide to apply, remember that all actions including submitting

the signed statement of understanding must be accomplished within 14 days of applying. If you don't complete all actions, your application will be rejected and you will have to start over later," Cummings said. "And, ADSC dates are not retroactive to the first application attempt, so if you decide to reapply a year later, that's when your service commitment will begin."

For more information about the Post 9/11 GI Bill and transferring education benefits, go to myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter "Post 9/11 GI Bill" or "9083" in the search window. Information is also available at the MilConnect website under the frequently asked questions tab. Potential applicants can also send questions to Cummings and the AFPC education services team at [afpc.dpsitedu@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dpsitedu@us.af.mil).

# Act before August 1, 2013 to transfer education benefits if you have nearly or over 20 years of service to avoid added four-year service commitment

By Master Sgt. Robert Csizmadia  
*State Education Program Manager*

All of our guard members, especially our traditionals, need to know about the eligibility requirements and changes regarding transferring Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and required service obligations attached to this transfer of benefit.

An important change is that members who are close to 20 years of service or more than 20 years of service may transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a spouse or dependents while incurring a less than a four year additional service commitment.

However, as of August 1, 2013 all transfers will incur a four year additional service commitment. Details here: [http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/transfer\\_of\\_benefits.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html).



## For more information:

Contact: Master Sgt. Robert Csizmadia  
Delaware National Guard State  
Education Program Manager, (302) 326-7012

*Application and eligibility details are at this website:*  
[http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/transfer\\_of\\_benefits.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html).

# Transfer of Post-9/11 GI-Bill Benefits to Dependents (TEB)

The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows Servicemembers to transfer unused benefits to their spouses or dependent children.

## Eligibility

Any member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009, who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, **and**:

1. Has at least 6 years of service in the Armed Forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Armed Forces from the date of election.
2. Has at least 10 years of service in the Armed Forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval, is precluded by either standard policy (Service or DoD) or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.
3. Is or becomes retirement eligible during the period from **August 1, 2009, through July 31, 2012**, and agrees to serve an additional period of service in subparagraphs (a) through (d). A Service member is considered to be retirement eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of active Federal service or 20 qualifying years as computed pursuant to section 12732 of title 10 U.S.C. **This will no longer be in effect on August 1, 2013, and on or after that date all members must comply with paragraphs 1 and 2.**
  - a. For individuals eligible for retirement on August 1, 2009, no additional service is required.
  - b. For individuals eligible for retirement after August 1, 2009, and before August 1, 2010, 1 year of additional service is required.
  - c. For individuals eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2010, and before August 1, 2011, 2 years of additional service is required.
  - d. For individuals eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2011, and before August 1, 2012, 3 years of additional service is required.
4. Such transfer must be requested and approved while the member is in the Armed Forces.

Become an informed Airman. Visit the source for all information on this page:  
[http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/transfer\\_of\\_benefits.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html)

# The Post-9/11 GI-Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

**Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill** includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational/technical training, on-the-job training, flight training, correspondence training, licensing and national testing programs, entrepreneurship training, and tutorial assistance. All training programs must be approved for GI Bill benefits.

**This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits**, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents.

## **Some of the benefits the Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay include:**

- Your full tuition & fees directly to the school for all public school in-state students. For those attending private or foreign schools tuition & fees are capped at the national maximum rate. If you are attending a private Institution of Higher Learning in AZ, MI, NH, NY, PA, SC or TX you may be eligible for a higher tuition reimbursement rate. Click here for more information. For those attending a more expensive private school or a public school as a non-resident out-of-state student, a program exists which may help to reimburse the difference. This program is called the “Yellow Ribbon Program”. (Click on the link for more information about the Yellow Ribbon Program, not everyone is eligible for the program -- [http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/yellow\\_ribbon\\_program.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/yellow_ribbon_program.html)).
- A monthly housing allowance (MHA)
- An annual books & supplies stipend
- A one-time rural benefit payment

Beginning August 1, 2011, break (or interval pay) will no longer be payable under Post-9/11 GI Bill except during periods your school is closed as a result of an Executive Order of the President or an emergency (such as a natural disaster or strike). For example, if your Fall term ends on December 15th and your Spring term begins January 10th, your January housing allowance will cover 15 days in December and your February housing allowance will cover 21 days in January.

Become an informed Airman. Visit the source for all information on this page: [http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/index.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/index.html).

# ESGR Accepting Nominations for 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

*Guardsmen and Reservists Encouraged to Nominate Supportive Employers for Nation's Top Honor - deadline January 21, 2013*

## Courtesy ESGR Public Affairs

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest award presented to civilian employers for support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. Nominations may be submitted by Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, at [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil) through January 21, 2013.

Nearly one million Americans serve in the Guard and Reserve, making up almost one-half of the nation's total military. For more than 10 years, these Citizen Warriors have responded to unprecedented national security demands and humanitarian missions spanning the globe. The civilian employers of Guardsmen and Reservists have shared in their service to our nation by standing firmly behind employees, providing essential support and greater peace of mind.

"Employers of every size and industry continue to go to extraordinary lengths to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to employees serving in the Guard and Reserve," said James G. Rebholz, National Chair, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "I urge all Guard and Reserve Service members who have benefited from their employer's support to nominate that employer for this most prestigious award. A Freedom Award nomination allows service members to acknowledge and thank their employer for the essential role they play in supporting their military career and in our nation's defense."

Each year, up to 15 of the nation's most supportive employers are selected as recipients and honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Past Freedom Award recipients supportive measures have included arranging childcare services for deployed employees, sponsoring trips to visit injured employees, and working longer hours to cover the shifts of employees at military training.

## About ESGR and the Freedom Award:

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 175 employers have been honored with the award. Established as a DoD agency 40 years ago, ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at [ESGR-PA@osd.mil](mailto:ESGR-PA@osd.mil).

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## Nominate Your Supportive Employer

Nominate your supportive employer for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest award given by the U.S. Government to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR develops and promotes a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

**Accepting Nominations November 1, 2012 - January 21, 2013 -- [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil)**

**[www.ESGR.mil](http://www.ESGR.mil), 1-800-336-4590**