



# THE DANG TRUTH

**WING CC NOTICE:** Sept RSD will be 12-13 with an additional 5 days of FSR **JUNE 2020**  
training 14-18 Sept. AT orders should be submitted asap, if needed.

### COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES

Sat - AFSC Training, Medical, etc.  
At Hoc - follow up on last RSD's recall  
Sun, Mon - RODEO/"Round Robin" Training  
Tues - AFSC Training

UPDATE - WIT training originally scheduled for 6 Jun at 0900 will be rescheduled

### WING / MAJOR EVENTS

#### 5 June - Friday:

1400-1500, RSD Review & Wing CC's Staff Meeting

#### 6 June - Saturday:

See Flying Schedule

#### 7 June - Sunday:

0800-1530, RODEO - SABC/CBRN; Bldg. 2600 - Loeffel Room

#### 8 June - Monday:

0900-1500, Round Robin; Outdoors (SABC hands-on/PAR Routes/UXO identifying/ Ground & Individual DECON/Zone Transition Point [ZTP] Training) rotating through 4 Stations - 1 hour/each

#### 9 June - Tuesday:

1300-1400, ATAG Sync; Bldg. 2600 - Loeffel Room

### ANCILLARY TRAINING

CC Talking Points: Suicide Prev. & SAPR TP #1  
Full Spectrum Readiness

### UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Military Ball 26 Sep 2020  
TRIAD Offsite: Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF)/ New Castle, TBD  
Family Day 13 Sep 2020  
Reminder: RSD for 11-12 July  
TAP Brief 12 Sep 2020

### PROMOTIONS

Rachel Gonesh to SMSgt  
Rikki Barnett to TSgt  
Matthew Keefer to TSgt  
Michael Zaicko to TSgt  
Michael Carl to SSgt  
Robert Clark to SSgt  
Jasmine French to SSgt  
Ana Kornfeld to SrA

### RETIREMENTS

Col Trevor Fulmer  
Capt Stacy Spencer  
MSgt Richard Keating  
TSgt John Grieten



*Pfc. Kelly Buterbaugh, a combat medic with the Delaware Army National Guard, gives instructions to a motorist during a drive-thru coronavirus testing mission at the University of Delaware's Science, Technology and Advanced Research Campus in Newark, Delaware, May 29, 2020. About 25 Soldiers and Airmen with the Delaware National Guard supported the saliva-based testing of roughly 400 people at the STAR Campus location.*

The Delaware National Guard's Joint Task Force Medical has completed community-based testing missions at Dover, Harrington, Middletown, Newark and Seaford.

The Curative testing initiative is a segment of the state's plan to transition from symptom-driven, hospital-based testing operations to a more proactive, collaborative community-based testing strategy. Medical specialists have cited both as being critical to reopening the economy in Delaware.

For more 166th Airlift Wing news and photos, please visit: [www.166aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.166aw.ang.af.mil)  
For more DE National Guard news and photos, please visit: [www.de.ng.mil](http://www.de.ng.mil)

## Delaware National Guard expands COVID-19 testing

June 2, 2020 — NEW CASTLE, Del. – The Delaware National Guard continues its community-based testing mission this month, which has already enabled thousands of Delawareans to get checked for COVID-19.

About 25 Soldiers and Airmen of the Delaware National Guard have been working since last month with staff members from the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, or DEMA, to increase the availability of saliva-based test kits for the coronavirus disease to individuals at temporary drive-thru locations across the First State.

"We've been working in conjunction with DEMA to make sure that at least 80,000 Delawareans receive coronavirus testing regardless if they are having symptoms or not," said Capt. Jodie Cantey, a clinical nurse with the Delaware Air National Guard's 166th Medical Group.

Cantey said that most watch an online instructional video in advance. They also receive a printed fact sheet from the on-site registration team, "but we're here just to make sure that they're comfortable with performing the test themselves."

"The person will roll up in their car, and they will be handed the testing kit," said Spc. Ashley Jacobs, a combat medic with the Delaware Army National Guard, "and they will sit in their car and perform the test on themselves, and [then] they just drop it off."

Early last month, members of the Delaware Guard worked several symptom-driven testing sites, providing logistical support there. The Guard's community-based testing missions are distinct because Soldiers and Airmen are at the forefront, running each event from start to finish.



Delaware National Guard assists the Food Bank of Delaware - Newark, DE (22-May- 2020)

### Social Media Links:

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

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



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*Stay connected during the coronavirus crisis*  
**WITH THE AIR FORCE CONNECT APP**

Team DANG,

Have you downloaded the AF Connect app from the App Store or Google Play yet?

The need for up-to-date information in an instant is imperative during this time of constant change and frequent updates.

This app will keep you up-to-date with push notifications as well as accurate and timely information at the touch of a button.

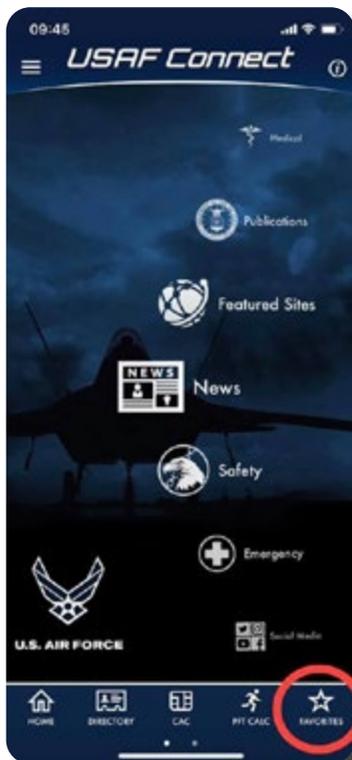
Click the following links to download on your respective device and see the following screenshots on how to add the 166th Airlift Wing's tab as a favorite.

App Store (Apple Devices):

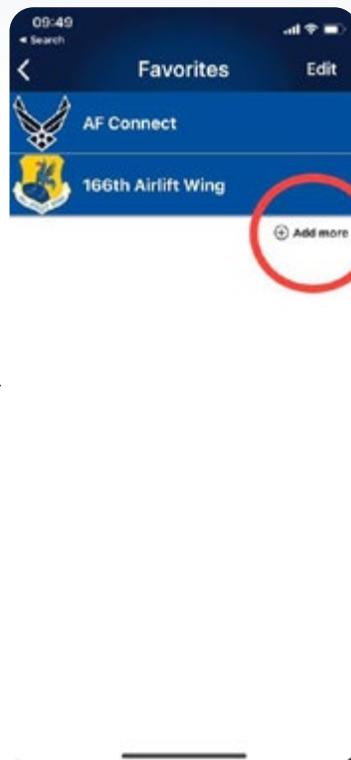
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/usaf-connect/id1403806821>

Google Play (Android Devices):

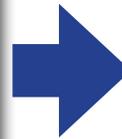
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.m360connect.usaf>



1. Tap on "FAVORITES"



2. Tap on "Add more"  
then select "166th  
Airlift Wing"



3. See these tiles  
appear that point to  
important links



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## NATIONAL GUARD DOMESTIC RESPONSE EFFORTS

**74,000**  
Guard members  
Called-Up

**ALL**  
States,  
Territories  
Involved

**107,000**  
Supporting  
Worldwide  
Operations



North Carolina National Guard members support a civil unrest mission.

### COVID CONTRIBUTIONS

- 121 Million:** Masks, gloves, gowns and other personal protective equipment distributed.
- 104.8 Million:** Meals packaged, served or delivered by Guard members.
- 1.46 Million:** People tested or screened for COVID-19 virus by Guard members.

**"We're uniquely suited for this mission. People know the National Guard is here to help."**  
Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Chief, National Guard Bureau

**30,000:** National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in 31 states and the District of Columbia assisting law enforcement authorities with civil unrest missions.

### Actions Taken

**NUMBERS:** A record 74,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in each state, territory and DC continue to support homeland response missions.

**MISSIONS:** More than 39,400 Guard members continue to support COVID-related missions by testing and screening for the virus; sanitizing long-term care facilities; supporting food banks; and ensuring proper wear of protective equipment. Another 30,000 Guard members are supporting civil unrest missions.

**RAPID RESPONDERS:** Based in over 2,600 communities, the National Guard has the **capabilities, capacity and connections** to respond wherever and however our country needs us – *Less time and distance = More lives saved.*

As of 0800 / 3 June 2020



Members of the Delaware National Guard assemble coronavirus care kits at the Delaware Emergency Management Agency warehouse in Smyrna, Delaware, May 5, 2020. The care kits, to be distributed at community-based testing sites for COVID-19, include disinfectant spray, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and bandannas or similar face coverings. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Laura Michael.)



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## Chaplain Giamello

**“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” - Saint Teresa of Calcutta**

Foundress of the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, over 5,000 Religious Women ministering to the poorest of the poor on every continent.

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)

Any society will be judged on how it treats its most vulnerable population.

Mindful, that as people of good will, we are encouraged to do small things (acts of charity) with great love for our sisters and brothers.



## Chaplain Tulloch

### Resiliency is HC, Happy Corgi!

Currently, Gus and Chaplain Tulloch, Canine Therapy Team, are not able to do unit visitations as a team until Delaware and all the local states (PA, DE, MD) have lifted their stay at home orders, but you would make Gus a super excited corgi if you made appointment to come and see him. To make an appointment for a resiliency checkup with Gus please call or text (302-463-6883) or email (susannah.m.tulloch.mil@mail.mil). Joy always!!

Hinduism is the ancient religion of India. It is not a single unified religion and has no founder, single teacher, nor prophets. Hindus believe in a universal soul or god known as Brahman who is worshipped in many diverse forms. These forms include complementary attributes of male and female deities, in human as well as animal forms. Hindu sects may have their own divinities whom they worship but these are simply different ways of approaching god. Brahman is often represented in a threefold form: Brahma as the creator of the universe, Vishnu its preserver and Shiva its destroyer.

Hindus believe that the soul is immortal and on the death of the body it transmigrates to a new life on earth. Whether this life is better or worse than the previous one depends on the amount of good or evil done in the previous life. This is the law of Karma. A series of good lives will break this cycle, leading to the ultimate absorption of the soul into Brahman.

Bhagavad Gita is one of the many holy books of Hinduism. It teaches that salvation comes through devotion and good deeds.

The temple or mandir is the spiritual and community centre for Hindus. Each family will have a small shrine in their own home for daily worship. The Hindu population globally is about 15%.

### June's Faith Focus: Hinduism

For many people the only way they find HOPE, PEACE, MEANING, and PURPOSE of LIFE is through their spiritual and faith practices and beliefs.

What Hindus Believe (information taken from: <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/Chaplaincy/Worldviews/Hindus.aspx> and is a summary not an exhaustive explanation of Hinduism)

## OPEN COMMUNICATION ABOUT RACE: TALKING POINTS FOR CCs

"The events that are taking place around the country have direct impacts on each of us, our families and our friends," said Major General Michael R. Berry, The Adjutant General, Delaware.

- As leaders, we need to acknowledge that our members are feeling many different types of emotions. We must continue to promote a diverse and inclusive culture while reaching out to listen to the experiences of unit personnel. Everyone should know that they are valued as an individual in the organization.
- Impacting all of us: The above quote is from our TAG. He is recognizing as we all are that the events that are taking place around the country concerning the unrest are impacting all of us –

friends and families. Let us not deny the real time events of our country and what is going on with our neighbors and in our own backyards.

- Different Emotional Responses: I would read to you another quote from Mg Berry, "We live, work, and have families in the communities that we are tasked with protecting, and the death of Mr. Floyd has invoked emotional responses of frustration and anger in those communities, as well as within our force."
- More work to do: the AF acknowledges that there is more work to do, to alleviate race disparity and to identify and remove barriers that stand in the way of our people's success. We are creating space for open dialogue. This is not an attempt

to prevent or change the way you may feel but, an opportunity to create discussion. -- Please distribute to your units, at a minimum, the messages from the CSAF and the CMSAF. We can also provide handouts on how to facilitate open communications about race within your units.

Additional resources are available from the following offices:

- EO – MSgt Terri Sanchez – 302-323-3508
- Director of Psychological Health – Mrs. Lakenya Baker – 302-299-9630
- Chaplain Duty Phone – 302-463-6883
- Airmen and Family Readiness – Ms. Rebecca Price – 302-547-3519



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## WHAT'S YOUR LEADERSHIP LEGACY?

By Chief Master Sergeant Robbin D. Moore, 166th Airlift Wing

Greetings.

In a meeting I attended we were asked at the session's end to determine what we would like to share as our Leadership Legacy. After some thought, I determined that after many years of service, training, operational experiences and yes, some challenges, that there are 3 E's that I feel are important to leading and supporting any organization.

My hope is that while you navigate through your leadership style and experiences, the information below will be helpful and aid you in your success. During my career in the Air National Guard, I can truly say that Empower, Encourage and Embrace in situations have proven to be a beacon to my success. So, let me share with you briefly why the 3 E's are important.

We all know that AFI 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure gives direction for responsibilities for Enlisted and Officers alike. This regulation is a gentle read as it is only 25 pages, please take the time to read it. From this document, the Air Force Leadership Levels are presented. Achieving levels is not a destiny, but most importantly a journey. In this guidance you will find the tenets of the Air Force enlisted force structure, and total force development and management. Ultimately, how we affect our Airmen, Peers and Leadership is paramount. So here we go with the 3 E's: Empower, Encourage and Embrace!

### Empower your Airmen

Our Airmen are the most important asset in today's Air National Guard, Air Force. Our Airmen rigorously chase after gaining and maintaining tactical expertise. Airmen learn to master core duty skills while developing experience in those skills. There will be mistakes made, use them as learning opportunities. Airmen are honing their followership abilities as well as learning more about themselves and their impact on accomplishing the mission. Airmen are learning how to become effective and efficient. So as leaders we are to empower our Airmen to become stronger and confident in their abilities and tactical capabilities. As you empower our Airmen, ensure you provide good opportunities



for them to be motivated, responsible and accountable for their actions and outcomes. Allow them to make decisions, even if that means they make mistakes. Assist them in the decision making process, share your processes and continue to empower them to be successful. Remember nothing beats a failure but try! Allow them to try.

### Encourage your Peers

At all levels, tactically, operationally and strategically we must encourage our peers. We must persuade and support growth as we demonstrate the ability to develop the full spectrum of institutional competencies. We must inspire one another as we are all important to the mission. We must cheer on one another, just as you desire success not only for yourselves you should also want that result for your peers. As you operate

in an environment of support and inspiration you can only aid an organization in positivity and success as you activate encouragement. This encouragement comes in many forms: mentoring, good academic stimulation, and inspiration are to name a few. Learn to encourage one another!

### Embrace your Leadership

When I say to embrace your leadership, it is meant figuratively to "accept or support (a belief, theory, or change) willingly and enthusiastically". During our careers we work really hard at the art of leadership, however in order to be a great leaders we undoubtedly must be a good followers. So as we embrace our leadership we must support their decisions, notice I did not state that you must like the decisions. You never know when the time will come for your decisions and leadership to be embraced.

I hope this information was helpful to you. The 3 E's are my gift to you, try it and see how it works for you. Ultimately, I challenge you to see what you will determine for your leadership legacy. Stay safe and be well!



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## Victim Resources: Sexual Assault and Harassment



### Reporting Procedures: Where Do I Go? Who Do I Talk To?

#### Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (SAPR)

Provide comprehensive, victim-centered services and support to individuals impacted by sexual assault through a timely and coordinated system of care. **Sexual assault** is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority when the victim does not or cannot consent.

#### Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)

A National Guard SVC is a judge advocate with **specialized training** to provide **legal representation** to Air National Guard and Army National Guard sexual assault victims who are eligible for SVC assistance.. **The SVC Office SVC: 1-844-468-4917**

#### Equal Opportunity (EO) Office

The Delaware National Guard (DNG) will provide EO and fair treatment for military personnel and family members without regard to **Race, Color, Gender, Religion, National Origin, and Sexual Orientation**, and provide an environment free of unlawful discrimination and offensive behavior.

#### Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office:

Provides quality EEO programs, services, training, and advice to the DNG community that sustains a discrimination-free workplace. **Sexual harassment** is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature between the same or opposite genders.

#### DNG Inspector General (IG) Office:

Provides The Adjutant General (TAG) a continual assessment of the state of economy, efficiency, discipline, morale, esprit de corps, and the readiness of DNG units and activities. Empowers DNG members by providing a protected outlet to report waste, fraud or abuse of law, regulation and policy.

If you are:	And you believe:	You should contact:
A military service member or a dependent family member or a spouse, ages 18 and older, and enrolled in DEERS	You were treated unfairly based on your race, color, gender, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.	The DNG/State EO Advisor (not confidential) <b>(302)323-3362</b> 2600 Spruance Dr New Castle, DE 19720
	You were sexually assaulted (Confidentiality & Privilege) You were sexually harassed (Confidentiality)	The DNG SAPR Program <b>(302) 985-7403</b> 1 Vavala Way New Castle, DE 19720
A military service member or a dependent spouse/intimate partner or dependent family member under 18	You were abused or sexually assaulted by your spouse or intimate partner	The DNG SAPR Program <b>(302) 985-7403</b> 1 Vavala Way New Castle, DE 19720
	A dependent family member under 18 was abused or sexually assaulted	<b>The National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233</b>
A DA/DOD employee, former employee, or applicant for federal employment	You were treated unfairly based on your race, color, religion, national origin, sex (includes sexual harassment) age (40 and up), disability (physical and mental), reprisal, or genetics	The DNG EEO Servicing Office (not confidential) <b>(302)323-3362</b> 2600 Spruance Dr New Castle, DE 19720
	You were sexually assaulted (Confidentiality & Privilege)	The DNG SAPR Program <b>(302) 985-7403</b> 1 Vavala Way New Castle, DE 19720
Anyone / Everyone	You have a concern that pertains to an activity or conduct of the U.S. Government, the U.S. military and / or its members	The DNG IG Office (limited confidentiality) <b>(302) 326-7701 / (302) 530-0009</b> <a href="https://www.de.ng.mil/Military-Resources/Inspector-General-IG/">https://www.de.ng.mil/Military-Resources/Inspector-General-IG/</a>

### Delaware National Guard





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## MILITARY ON<sup>1</sup>SOURCE



Mr. Jovy Juanillo  
Delaware Military OneSource  
Consultant

In sharing care with your partner during the COVID-19 pandemic, we've accepted the new normal for healthy meal planning, physical activities, routine hand washing, new levels of cleaning up, and home organization. Sharing responsibilities with your partner or extended family via virtual means when a schedule overlaps can be very tricky. Prioritizing and completing tasks is what matters and not how. Putting adult alone time on the calendar, so it is sure to be scheduled. Be sure to take some 'me' time as well. Take the time to listen to each other's perspectives and learn to appreciate each other's opinions sincerely. And always be sure to express gratitude and never take it for granted. If you need support in this arena, please don't forget to access our support options through Military OneSource, your local psychological health professional, and your chaplains. The following are links to resources available through Military OneSource.

- Call the Military OneSource call center 24/7/365 at 800-342-9647 or chat live with a consultant by logging on to [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil).
- Zero to Three <https://www.zerotothree.org/>
- Co-parenting Are you on the Same Page <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2864-coparenting-are-you-on-the-same-page>
- Co-parenting Tips when you're No Longer Together <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2879-co-parenting-tips-when-you-re-no-longer-together>
- Military OneSource also has a dedicated page to help keep you up to date with this rapidly-evolving pandemic situation by visiting [www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus).

*The Delaware National Guard assists the Food Bank of Delaware at a drive-thru mobile pantry at Dover International Speedway in Dover, Delaware, May 20, 2020. About 25 members of the Delaware National Guard helped distribute much-needed pantry items to address the increased demand for food assistance amid the coronavirus pandemic.*





# THE DANG TRUTH

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## From the Psychological Health Office

Talking Points from the Director of Psychological Health, Lakenya Baker, LICSW

302-323-3382

[lakenya.s.baker.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lakenya.s.baker.civ@mail.mil)

The events over the past several days in Wilmington, Delaware and surrounding States have provoked feelings of frustration, anger, hurt, and sadness in many people. It is normal and understandable to feel an array of feelings including a lack of hope and knowing where to go from here.

The following are some things to keep in mind:

- 1). **Do not dismiss your feelings.** They are valid and important to acknowledge.
- 2). **Express your feelings** by talking with family, friends, and others in your support system. Don't suffer alone. Talking to someone you trust helps, even if you don't understand your own feelings.
- 3). **Stay informed**, but turn off the television, radio, or social media when you need a break from coverage. Know your body's signals for information overload, i.e., headaches, crying, exhaustion, etc.
- 4). **Listen.** Many people have different viewpoints, professional experiences, and life experiences. It is important to balance talking with listening, but know your limits. If it becomes too much, it's okay to walk away.
- 5). **Keep Comprehensive Airman Fitness (CAF) pillars in mind:** social, mental, physical, and spiritual. Remember to exercise, eat and stay hydrated. Keep your mind occupied with an array of activities like reading, music, or puzzles. Breathe. Meditate. Pray.
- 6). **Look for kindness;** if you cannot find it, then create it.

### Grounding-Five Senses Exercise

First, take in a deep breath for 3-5 seconds through your nose. Hold it for 3-5 seconds. Exhale through your mouth for 3-5 seconds. Do this a few times in a row.

Next, identify.....

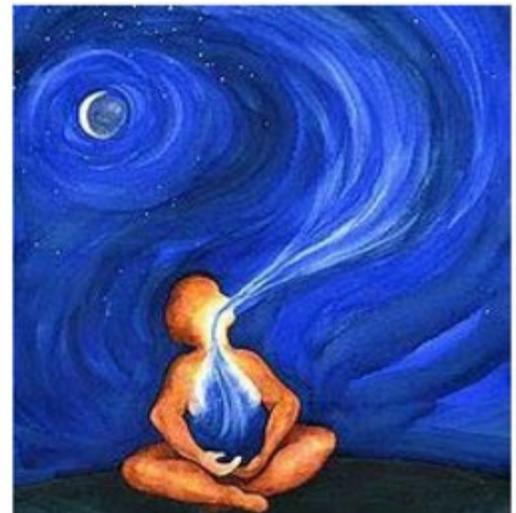
5 Things you **See**

4 Things you can **Feel**

3 Things you can **Hear**

2 Things you can **Smell**

1 Thing you can **Taste**



Chaplain: 302-326-7718

Airman and Family Readiness: 302-323-3327

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

Military One Source: 800-342-9647



# THE DANG TRUTH

## Del. National Guard steadies psychiatric center amid coronavirus pandemic

Story by U.S. Army Capt. Brendan Mackie, Delaware National Guard Public Affairs

NEW CASTLE, Del. – In April and May, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, a handful of specialized nurses and medics – all Citizen Soldiers and Airmen with the Delaware National Guard – cared for more than a dozen COVID-19 patients at the nearby Delaware Psychiatric Center.

“We’re here, and we’re available,” said Maj. Debbie Hoffmann, a flight nurse with the Delaware Air National Guard’s 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. “We’re trained and ready, and we want to do this mission.”

A total of 12 medical professionals with the Delaware Guard posted to the DPC following an April 8 statement by the state Department of Health and Social Services, or DHSS, that “five patients and three staff members have tested positive for COVID-19.” According to the information released, the patients were isolated within a unit at DPC, and staff members self-isolated at their respective homes.

By April 11, the Delaware National Guard’s Joint Operations Center received a request from the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, or DEMA, asking the National Guard to provide medical personnel to augment the remaining staff at the psychiatric center, a state-operated facility on the grounds of the Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus.

In two days, the National Guard assembled, in-processed, and deployed a medical team under the umbrella of its Joint Task Force Medical, an element founded amid the pandemic to support health-related operations across the First State.



“The Delaware National Guard has always prided itself on being ready at a moment’s notice,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Berry, the adjutant general of the Delaware National Guard. “The speed in which the joint team of nurses and medics was able to assume its support mission and seamlessly augment their DHSS counterparts and care for our neighbors – who are patients there – lives up to the ‘Always Ready, Always There’ motto of the National Guard.”

Gov. John Carney, who serves as commander-in-chief of the Delaware National Guard, spoke in May with Guard leadership about the service members at DPC. “With the outbreak there, and the degree of confidence that your people – just being there, just their presence – instilled in the staff, enabling them to go to work, and

to do the important work they do, is just incredible,” he said. “I just can’t thank the men and women of the guard enough.”

After the DNG’s joint-medical team arrived at the psychiatric center, they ultimately organized across three different shifts to deliver care for, according to the guard members, more than a dozen patients within the COVID-19 isolation unit.

Maj. Hoffmann, who serves in the National Guard in Delaware, but lives in Nashville, Tennessee, works full time as a registered nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. “I float to every different clinic that Vanderbilt has, and three weeks before I came on this mission, I was working in the COVID testing center. We had 10 of them set up, and we were testing 1,000 patients a day, and I learned all about how to keep

*Continued on page 10*



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safe there [and] how not to get exposed.”

Hoffmann, a trained infection control nurse, said the medical team worked closely with the DPC staff members to organize the isolation unit better and figure out what equipment and supplies were needed to align with CDC guidelines.

“We got everybody ready and trained to do it the right way – to keep any more patients from getting the disease,” Hoffmann said.

“This isn’t a medical facility, it’s a psychiatric center, so they’re not used to taking care of medical patients,” she added. “They’re used to them being here for their psychiatric reasons.”

A few Soldiers and Airmen posted at the psychiatric center, when asked in early May, said the guard group’s medical training and real-world experience significantly contributed to such a unique mission.

“Our military etiquette and our military mannerisms are bringing a calmness to the staff and the patients,” said Sgt. Ed Graves, a combat medic with the Delaware Army National Guard, who on the civilian side works as an EMT for Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and the American Legion Ambulance Services.

“The mission is important because we’re actually helping people, and we’re helping people in our state of Delaware,” Graves said. “This whole COVID-19 thing has really put a lot of stressors on vulnerable elements on the population, which are in this center, and with us coming in, we’re able to take care of these patients.”

Despite an obvious concern for possible exposure, the service members were thrilled that their medical expertise and technical know-how had benefited the health and well-being of the patients and staff.

“It makes me feel great,” Hoffmann said. “I feel like I’m a big part of this, and I’m using my skills to the greatest extent possible. I actually turned down another mission to come here. [This] ended up being the perfect thing because they needed an infection control nurse.”

“Our team was able to provide education and knowledge to the DPC staff members to better understand proper ways of handling isolation in a hospital setting, which reduced their anxiety levels significantly,” said Maj. Lixin Wang, a nurse practitioner with the



*U.S. Air Force Maj. Debbie Hoffmann*

Delaware Army National Guard.

The Guard’s support mission, which ran from mid-April to mid-May, ended with 14-day precautionary quarantines by its service members. The teammates said they accomplished the daily minutiae of their duties, fully staffed the facility, and had success concerning the safeguarding and caring for their COVID-19 patients.

“We had a specific job,” Graves said. “We assisted with client care, daily living tasks, accountability of clients, maintained PPE

supplies, and ensured that clients were maintaining social distancing. We also monitored vital signs and assisted other staff as needed.”

“We were able to provide 24-hour support, five days a week,” said Maj. Wang, also a nurse practitioner at her civilian job with the Wilmington Adult Medicine Clinic. “We had no hospital admissions among the patients from the isolation unit for COVID-related symptoms after we established our routine [there].”

Wang added that “more than half of the patients were cleared from isolation status and moved back to the regular unit for their routine care.”

“On our last day, the remaining patients were healthy and recovering. They were just in a quarantine status,” Graves said.

As of June 1, the handful of citizen soldiers and airmen finished their own quarantine periods, which officially marks a successful end to the DPC stabilization assignment.

“I think the take away was that this mission was a unique and undefined role that highlighted that the Guard could handle diverse missions than what our stereotypical role of assisting in times of civil unrest,” Graves said. “The same goes for our food distribution and testing support [missions].”

“I am grateful to have the opportunity to work side by side with our brave soldiers and airmen in scrubs,” Wang said. “We shared knowledge and expertise and supported each other every day and grew our friendships during the mission.”

“Even though I hope [that] we do not have to experience a pandemic again in my life, I was happy with my ability to contribute,” Graves said. “It was a satisfying mission. I think I speak for everyone on that.”