



# THE **DANG** TRUTH

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*Happy Holidays!*

*The Official Newsletter of the 166th Airlift Wing | Delaware Air National Guard*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

17-23 Aug 2023    UEI Capstone    NCCA

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## AIRMEN RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS FOR AFGHAN AIRLIFT EFFORTS

**Ceremony held at Travis AFB includes 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron TSgt Matthew Keefer**

Story by 2nd Lt Casey Sturdivan, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs



*Technical Sergeant Matthew Keefer congratulates fellow recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross during a ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, California, Dec. 9, 2022. U.S. Air Force Maj Gen Corey Martin, 18th Air Force commander, recognized 24 Airmen for their heroic actions during Operation Allies Refuge. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the U.S. armed forces for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Chustine Minoda)*

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – U.S. Air Force Major General Corey Martin, 18th Air Force commander, recognized mobility Airmen for their actions during Operation Allies Refuge with the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 9, 2022.

A total of 27 Airmen from two Travis-led missions received the award for their acts of heroism and extraordinary achievements while participating in aerial flight. Three of these decorated Airmen were not in attendance.

“The world witnessed history during that airlift, borne on the shoulders of mobility heroes,” said General Mike Minihan, Air Mobility Command commander. “This recognition is long overdue for what our heroes did during those historic 17 days.”

*See DFC continued on page 2*

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



DFC continued from page 1



U.S. Air Force Maj Gen Corey Martin, 18th Air Force commander, delivers remarks during a Distinguished Flying Cross ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, California, Dec. 9, 2022. Martin recognized 24 Airmen for their heroic actions during Operation Allies Refuge. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the U.S. armed forces for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Heide Couch)

MOOSE 98's Critical Care Air Transport Team is the first CCATT to receive the DFC.

Additionally, nineteen of the recipients were awarded the "C" device for exceptionally meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions.

"You were asked to bring your expertise and your grit to a problem set that you had not experienced before and you did not disappoint," Martin said. "Because of your individual aircrafts collectively, over a hundred thousand lives were changed positively."

The DFC recipients represented nineteen different units and were comprised of two separate aerial missions: REACH 651 and MOOSE 98.

The REACH 651 crew conducted a mission to rescue evacuees from Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Aug. 22, 2021, during increased threats of suicide bombings.

To mitigate possible threats or hijacking attempts, crew members searched every evacuee prior to boarding and quickly directed them to their seats.

"Going into the mission, it was something that I never experienced," said Staff Sergeant E-Quantay Mason, Phoenix Raven team lead with REACH 651. "You can train for a lot of things but once you get put in that position, it fluctuates."

During the flight, the crew provided lifesaving actions to a suddenly ill passenger. Additionally, crew members carefully deescalated a potentially dangerous situation and ensured the safety of all service members and evacuees on board.

The flight safely evacuated more than 450 personnel to Al Udeid AB.

"I am extremely proud of my crew for their tireless efforts throughout the mission to ensure the flight deck was secure,"

said Major Drew Dela Cruz, C-17 pilot and REACH 651 aircraft commander. "The extremely good judgment they used and their calculated actions during chaos was crucial."

The crew of MOOSE 98 conducted a critical care aeromedical evacuation mission from Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Aug. 26, 2021, in response to a suicide bombing near the airfield.

MOOSE 98 was the first aircraft to land after the bombing. The crew provided the first critical care air transport team on the ground after the attack and aeromedical evacuation.

"I remember it felt like a movie. Like when you see those war movies with the litter patients coming on and the red lights. There were tracers, flares, fires and gunshots going off," said Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez, C-17 loadmaster with MOOSE 98. "I remember being like, 'Is this real?'"

The flight transported the most severely wounded personnel to receive immediate care. The wounded consisted of service members, foreign nationals and children, many of whom were critically injured. Operating under extreme circumstances, supply deficiencies, threat of fire and unstable ground security, the crew managed to load numerous patients onto the aircraft.

After loading severely injured patients, walking wounded patients continued to arrive at the aircraft for treatment with no warning. The crew triaged, treated and stabilized patients to allow for a safe departure. They continued to provide life-saving care during the flight to Ramstein AB.

"Although I was told what to expect, it was very shocking to see very young Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers walk on the plane with traumatic injuries, but my crew responded fast and effectively," said Major Katelyn Dunahoe, flight nurse with MOOSE 98. "The braveness and selflessness they all displayed is indescribable."



Distinguished Flying Cross medals are displayed during a Distinguished Flying Cross ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, California, Dec. 9, 2022. U.S. Air Force Maj Gen Corey Martin, 18th Air Force commander, recognized 24 Airmen for their heroic actions during Operation Allies Refuge. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the U.S. armed forces for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Heide Couch)



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Afghan refugees line up to board an Air Force C-17 Globemaster. (Coutesy photo)

The efforts of MOOSE 98 culminated in the single largest aeromedical evacuation airlift in Kabul Coalition Hospital’s history.

Despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles, MOOSE 98 successfully delivered all patients to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, alive.

“When I think of the names of the other people that have gotten [the DFC],

Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart, that’s wild,” said Tech Sgt Michael Raucci, flying crew chief with MOOSE 98. “It’s a huge honor.”

Rep. John Garamendi also reflected on the importance of this milestone and expressed his thanks for the execution of rapid global mobility by Travis Airmen. He honored each of the recipients with an official record of Congressional proceedings. The

Congressional Record summarizes the day’s floor and committee activities as well as includes proclamations and tributes in recognition of notable events, dates, and persons.

“The valor and heroism displayed by the men and women of Travis were extraordinary and worthy of recognition,” Garamendi said. “Simply put, Travis Air [Force] Base is the very best our nation has to offer.”

**The medals presented by Martin on Dec. 9 are among 96 DFC medals approved in a September awards board held by U.S. Air Forces Central Command. Maj Gen Martin presented the DFC to the following Airmen:**

*MOOSE 98 crew:*

- Lt Col Raul R. Montiague
- Lt Col William A. Street
- Maj Katelyn E. Dunahoe
- Maj Katie B. Lunning
- Maj Pete N. Traylor
- Maj Dominick A. Vitale
- Capt Cody M. Apfel
- Capt Jedd E. Dillman
- Capt David L. Stuppy
- Capt Spencer D. Yacos
- Master Sgt Matthew A. Newman

- Tech Sgt Matthew D. Keefer
- Tech Sgt Michael A. Raucci
- Staff Sgt Idaliz Alicea
- Staff Sgt Katherine Rosa Orellana
- Staff Sgt Courtney Smith
- Senior Airman Mario Hernandez
- Senior Airman Deniece A. Lobban
- Senior Airman Alexis C. Sanchez

*REACH 651 crew:*

- Maj Alexander A. Arcidiacono
- Maj Drew P. Dela Cruz
- 1st Lt Ryan S. Corvin

- Staff Sgt Brandon S. Jensen
- Staff Sgt E-Quantay L. Mason
- Senior Airman Kimberly S. Heiser
- Senior Airman Matthew S. Williams
- Airman 1st Class Jeremy Eda



# 166TH AIRLIFT WING CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON CLEARS THE WAY WITH NEW EQUIPMENT

Story by Senior Airman Brandan Hollis, 166th AW/PA



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del – An Airman from the 166th Airlift Wing Civil Engineer Squadron trains with a chainsaw at Redden State Forest, Delaware, Oct. 16 2022. Safety equipment is crucial to protect Airmen while operating machinery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brandan Hollis)

**T**he 166th Airlift Wing (AW) Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) has increased its functionality drastically with the addition of two new Multi Terrain Loaders. Each with the ability to scoop, grip and lift debris off the road. Subsequently this will allow the 166th AW CES to offer more services to the state of Delaware during times of crisis. Clearing roads that are obstructed can reduce the time other emergency services spend in transit and give them access to key areas during a crisis which ultimately saves more lives.

With new equipment available and ready for use the 166th CES began training in preparation for the state to use their services once more. “We are trying to exercise our capabilities so traditional Airmen get experience running equipment because if things happen it’s a real possibility most of the full time staff will be on base while the traditionals [will need the] operational capabilities to take this downrange” said 166th CES Senior Enlisted Leader, Chief Master Sergeant Kenneth Bennett. On October 16, 2022 Bennett along with several other supervisors began training the Junior Enlisted with the Multi Terrain Loaders. “Coming out here and getting hands-on experience with this equipment was awesome,” said Senior Airman Sara McVey. “This training day has made me feel comfortable and ready if we were called to go out and help the community.”

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“Civil Engineer Squadron” continued from page 4

Airmen trained on the basic techniques and safety precautions with chainsaws and the Multi Terrain Loaders, all skills necessary to accomplish a mission during an emergency in the state. “Today’s training was a superb experience,” said Electrical Systems Craftsmen, Technical Sergeant Maurice Price “Training new Airman is a very humbling experience, getting to use and share my knowledge with them so that they can be proficient at their jobs and be the best version of themselves” In the field chainsaws are used to cut debris down to smaller sizes for the Multi Terrain Loaders to then move. “This training will be a great benefit to themselves, the unit and the mission when they eventually deploy down range,” said Price. “Every time I get a job whether it is small or big, I feel like I have made a difference in the community,” said McVey. “I am looking forward to using my new skills I have learned to help the community in the future.”

The Delaware Air National Guard has been an instrumental help during natural disasters in the past. The North American Blizzard of 1996 raged across the east coast, knocking out power for weeks throughout the lower areas of Delaware. “In the late 90’s there was an ice storm that wiped out Sussex County” said Bennett “It looked like a tornado went through it, it capped all the trees, everything



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del. – An Airman from the 166th Airlift Wing Civil Engineer Squadron trains with a chainsaw at Redden State Forest, Delaware, Oct. 16 2022. Chainsaws are used to cut debris so Multi Terrain Loaders can lift them up.

including telephone poles were cut in half, everything was laying across the road.” The North American blizzard of 1996 was a severe nor’easter that paralyzed the United States East Coast with up to 4 feet of wind-driven snow from January 6 to January 8, 1996. Bennett who was a Tech. Sgt. at the time served in the state to help clear debris during a time of chaos “We went down there with whatever we had, we used dump trucks and vans with tools in hand not knowing what we were getting into and for two and a half to three days straight we did nothing but cut debris off the roads so emergency personnel could get in and help those who needed healthcare and so Public Utilities can get in and help out with the electric and the gas.”



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del. – An Airman from the 166th Airlift Wing Civil Engineer Squadron lifts debris with a Multi Terrain Loader at the Redden State Forest, Delaware, Oct. 16 2022. Safety equipment is crucial to protect Airmen while operating machinery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brandan Hollis)

The 166th CES will continue to train often to maximize the capabilities of Airmen as well as their equipment. “[The goal of] this exercise here was to get people hands-on experience and also to find out where we are lacking and what we can fix, not just individuals but also equipment,” said Bennett. “Prior to this we only had limited access [to] help the governor in any respect because we did not have trailers to move the equipment,” said Bennett “I’m very proud of this unit, now anything the governor asks for we will be able to act upon, if he needs roads cleared because trees are down, or if he needs sand removed off of Route 1 we have the equipment to do that.”

# 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron celebrates its 60th Anniversary

## The History of the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron



Airmen of the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron unload a patient from a Delaware Air National Guard C-130, circa 1990s (courtesy photo).

The 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Flight (AEF) was activated in October 1962 under the 166th Air Transport Group, Delaware Air National Guard, at New Castle County Airport. The unit initially consisted of only four personnel but had an authorized strength of 12 flight nurses and 36 aeromedical evacuation technicians trained to fly on the C-97 Stratofreighter, a large four engine strategic transport capable of carrying up to 83 litter patients.

Starting in the late 1960s, many members augmented active duty crews flying live missions to the US from Europe and Japan, as well as intratheater missions within Europe.

In 1971, the Delaware Air National Guard converted to the C-130 Hercules H2, a four engine turboprop tactical transport which can carry up to 74 litter patients and has a range of nearly 4000 miles.

Beginning in the late 1970s, the unit embarked on many significant training exercises, the first being [REFORGER](#) in Germany – the first large-scale implementation of the wartime Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System.

From 1980-85, the 142 AEF hosted SENTRY MEDIC, which involved other Air National Guard units and was one of the first field training exercise ever planned and executed by an aeromedical evacuation unit. Several training exercises took place at the Air National Guard Readiness Training Site at Savannah, GA and in May 1988, a crew participated in a large-scale test of the National Disaster Medical System at Philadelphia International Airport, flying two missions in response to a simulated civilian air disaster.

In March 1989, a crew deployed to Honduras to participate in a field demonstration of the aeromedical evacuation system and train with US Army units. In August of that year, five members traveled to the African nation of Gabon to assist with humanitarian efforts by providing medical care. In April 1990 and again in spring 1992, the unit took part in PACIFIC MEDICAL SENTRY, which involved medical skills training at Tripler Army Medical Center and a joint Air Force-Army field training exercise.

In August 1990, members of the 142 AEF were among the first aeromedical evacuation assets deployed under DESERT SHIELD, arriving in Saudi Arabia just days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They remained until January 1991, when the start of DESERT STORM necessitated the first mobilization of the entire unit. The unit was demobilized in April 1991.

In October 1991, the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Flight was redesignated as the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES).

From September 1993 through spring 1994, unit members voluntarily deployed to aid in RESTORE HOPE in Somalia.

In September 1994, several members of the 142d AES were sent to Pope AFB, NC to be available for the threatened invasion of Haiti and the following January a crew traveled to Howard AB, Panama to take part in SAFE PASSAGE, the airlift of Cuban boat people from Howard AB to Naval Air Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They utilized C-141 and Boeing 727 aircraft to transfer several hundred passengers.

In 1995, unit members began making regular two week rotations to Howard AB to fly missions in support of US Southern Command operations throughout Central and South America. In September 1995, the 142d AES deployed to Grafenwohr, Germany where it was the only US Air Force unit to take part in BROKEN BODY. The massive NATO medical exercise involved more than 4000 personnel from seven countries. The following spring, the 142d AES staged its own international exercise when it hosted the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) 4626 AES for SENTRY OCEAN ANGEL at Georgetown, Delaware.

In spring 1996, the start of JOINT FORGE/GUARDIAN in Bosnia resulted in unit members voluntarily deploying for 90-day rotations. During the next five years, numerous 142d AES members deployed to Bosnia, Macedonia and Hungary. In August 1996, a group was deployed to Honduras and El Salvador to train local medical personnel and demonstrate the aeromedical evacuation mission to host military forces.

*See AES continued on page 7*



*AES continued from page 6*

In February 1997, the 142d AES became one of the first Air Force aeromedical evacuation units to deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana, a regular war game exercise involving elements from all the military services.

In August 1997, 20 unit members traveled to Asuncion, Paraguay to assist with the training of local civilian and military medical personnel and participate in joint aeromedical evacuation exercises. The following month, two training missions were launched to RAF Lyneham, UK to again participate in joint training with the RAuxAF 4626 AES.

In April 1998, a crew deployed to Osan AB, South Korea to take part in PACIFIC NIGHTENGALE, a joint US-Korean exercise.

During 1999, cross training programs on the C-17 and C-141 were initiated with units at Charleston, SC, Andrews AFB, MD and Jackson, MS, which lead to crewmembers augmenting other units on live missions to Europe and the Caribbean. In August, 13 members took part in a joint military exercise at Mountain Home AFB, ID to experiment with telemedicine technology on aeromedical evacuation missions. The following month, a crew traveled to Cairo, Egypt to support BRIGHT STAR, a biannual desert warfare training operation involving the US, Egypt and other allied nations. During this period, the 142d AES also continued to provide support to the JRTC, participated in the AMC Rodeo and supported PATRIOT MEDSTAR, a large joint medical training contingency at Ft Drum, NY. In addition, squadron administrative personnel deployed regularly to Yokota AB, Japan, Hickam AFB, Hawaii and Travis AFB, CA to staff Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centers and augment active duty personnel.

In spring 2000, the 142d AES began support of the new Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept by deploying crews to Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait and later to Seeb North



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del.--Members of the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) load equipment into a Dover AFB C-5M Super Galaxy, 16-November-2022. The AES performed a training flight exercise that readied them for a real-world scenario. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)

AB, Oman. In the summer, members traveled to Canada to participate in MOUNTAIN STARLIGHT with the First Canadian Field Hospital. In October, seven members returned to England to again participate in joint training with Royal Air Force units.

Support of JOINT GUARDIAN in the Balkans continued into 2001. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, unit members rose to the challenge after the terrorist attacks in Washington and New York. Within hours, five crews were placed on standby alert and four unit members deployed to McGuire AFB, NJ to coordinate aeromedical evacuation for the region. The next month, 16 members deployed to Turkey and Afghanistan to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. That initial group remained deployed until spring 2002. During 2003, members continued to voluntarily deploy to Southwest Asia and Germany to support Operations ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM.

In 2001, the 142 AES was recognized

as the Outstanding Air National Guard Medical Unit of the Year.

In 2004, the 142 AES was one of only 20 Air National Guard units to win the coveted and prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Throughout 2004 through 2021, many members of the squadron continued to deploy to provide critical aircrew capabilities and operational support roles supporting the Global War on Terror in places such as Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Balad Air Base and Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center in Iraq, Bagram Air Field, Kandahar Air Field, and Camp Bastion in Afghanistan, Ramstein Air Base Germany, and CONUS locations such as Travis AFB, CA, Scott AFB, IL, Joint Base Andrews, MD, and Kelly Air Field, TX in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, RESOLUTE SUPPORT, INHERENT RESOLVE, OCTAVE QUARTZ, and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL where thousands of United States soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and other coalition members were moved throughout four Combatant Commands.

In the summer of 2005 while the squadron was nearing the end of its Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation in which a large fraction was deployed, Louisiana and Mississippi were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The remaining members at the squadron participated in domestic operations and were deployed to the compromised areas of the Gulf Coast Region, primarily to Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans, LA, to support mass evacuations and humanitarian relief efforts for the millions of residents affected by the storm and its aftermath.

In the summer of 2008, a large portion of the squadron deployed in support of another domestic operation providing aeromedical evacuation, operational and logistical support, following the devastation of Hurricanes Ike and



*AES continued from page 7*

Gustav. The teams were primarily staged out of the Gulf Coast Region of Texas helping thousands of Texas residents who were displaced by the storms.

In March 2017, members of the 142 AES went to Krakow, Poland to work with Polish Air Force's Aeromedical Evacuation Teams. Aircrew and ground support personnel liaised, shared knowledge, and showcased resources with their Polish counterparts. In the end, the clinical expertise and tactics, techniques, and procedures that were shared were instrumental in the Polish Air Force being granted it NATO certification to execute aeromedical evacuation missions.

In August 2021 when the United States was removing its military footprint and provinces and cities started falling under Taliban rule, a humanitarian crisis rapidly came to fruition. At the same time, members of the 142 AES were deployed in support of yet another AEF rotation.



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del.-- Members of the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) perform a joint training exercise with the Delaware Army National Guard., 20-August-2020. The AES practiced evacuating patients from a battlefield in a UH-60 Blackhawk to a C-130H2.5. Once stabilized, the patients would be flown to an area where they could receive a higher echelon of care. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)

As conditions worsened in the country, the United States launched a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) in Afghanistan. Members of the 142 AES efforts directly impacted Operations ALLIES REFUGE and ALLIES WELCOME participating directly on the fixed wing platforms moving the Afghan evacuees to safe havens and coordinating medical personnel to ensure the safety of the evacuees while in flight. 142 AES members, alongside with other Department of Defense personnel, overcame a number of challenges to ensure the success and continuity

of OCONUS and CONUS operations. Over the course of a few weeks, thousands of Afghans were rescued and removed from the tyranny of Taliban rule.

In 2020, COVID-19 presented a new challenge for the 142 AES. In the infancy of the pandemic in April 2020, the first team of members from the 142 AES were deployed to Charleston AFB, SC to standby for aeromedical evacuation missions that may have emerged where patients suffering from the virus had to be moved to higher echelons of care. Additionally, 142 AES members were tasked within the state of Delaware to support local hospitals and nursing homes augmenting staff who were helping to combat the pandemic. By 2021, members of the 142 AES were assisting in functions throughout the state running testing sites, vaccination sites, and at the forefront of command-and-control functions. By the spring of 2022, 79 142 AES personnel deployed in support of COVID-19 operations nationally and throughout the state.

The 142 AES is committed to the future of the organization and the ever-evolving needs of the Delaware Air National Guard and the United States Air Force. The squadron will begin its first of many 6-month deployment rotations which is part of the new model called Air Force Force Generation (AFFORGEN) phasing out the previous AEF rotation that were typically 120-day rotation for member in the aeromedical evacuation community. The squadron will find new and innovative ways to train its personnel and to embrace new concepts such as the multi-capable airmen (MCA) concept which will be critical to adhering to new doctrine of Agile Combat Employment (ACE). 142 AES aircrew members will also become trained on executing missions on the new KC-46 airframe. The squadron will stay committed to supporting DOMOPS and contingency exercises such as Patriot North/South, Mobility Guardian, Ultimate Caduceus, Green Flag and JRTC, Southern Strike, Northern Strike and other active component or NGB sanctioned exercises. Additionally, the 142 AES will stay committed to supporting United States Transportation Command Bid Missions transporting patients CONUS and throughout the INDOPACOM theaters.

From its inception, the 142d AES has been a significant presence in the field of Aeromedical Evacuation. The 142d AES has established a reputation as one of the most innovative and capable aeromedical evacuation units in the US Air Force, one capable of traveling anywhere on the globe to provide...

**THE BEST CARE IN THE AIR!**





# A MASSIVE C-5M FROM DOVER AFB ARRIVES AT NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE FOR AN AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION EXERCISE



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del.-- A Massive C5M Super Galaxy from Dover Air Force Base arrives at New Castle Air National Guard Base for an Aeromedical Evacuation exercise, 16-November-2022. The aircraft is so heavy that it had to remain on taxiway Kilo while members of the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron loaded life-saving equipment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)

The Air Mobility Command (AMC) C-5M Super Galaxy arrived from Dover, AFB with a crew made up of members from the 709th Airlift Squadron and 9th Airlift Squadron for the purpose of supporting the 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) with an aeromedical evacuation training mission.

Members of the 142d AES went to Dover, AFB the day prior to pre-position some equipment onto the C-5, as the 166th Airlift Wing does not have a high-lift truck tall enough to load equipment into the aft troop compartment. On the day of the mission the training scenario called for additional equipment to be loaded to support a larger simulated patient load. The equipment was quickly floor loaded in the cargo compartment for take-off and was set-up during flight for training purposes.

As our own fleet of C-130H2.5s, are being cleared for flight after a Time Compliance Technical Order (TCTO), we have increased the number of flights with our partners at Dover, AFB to 2-3 flights per month. Our AE crew members we are qualified to fly on Dover's C-17s and C-5s, making it possible for us to keep our skills current during the grounding.

Our partners at Dover really enjoyed coming to the 166AW, and have expressed interest in coming up again in the future.

NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del.-- Members of the 142d AES along with Dover AFB loadmasters form a human chain to pass equipment through the crew entrance door of the C-5M during an engine running onload 16-November-2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)





# PROP SWAP



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del.-- A C-130J Hercules from the 61st Airlift Squadron at Little Rock AFB arrives at the Delaware Air National Guard base on 15-November-2022. The aircraft picked up four propeller hubs that were being sent to Warner Robins AFB in Georgia for regeneration as part of a TCTO that was issued in

September 2022. The safety of our Citizen Airmen are of the utmost priority, and the Air Force is currently performing a safety 'stand down' inspection on all the C-130H models. The 166th Airlift Wing will begin receiving replacement hubs beginning on 16-November-2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Mr. Mitch Topal)



# AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

## Senior Airman Kelly Leibolt

**FSS/FSVF Services Technician**

**166AW/PA:** Talk to me about your career and its progression.

**SrA Leibolt:** I joined the military a little bit older than most folks. I was in my 30's when I joined. It was always something I wanted to do but life took me a different way. I enlisted back in February 2019. I've always been in the guard and never went active duty.

**166AW/PA:** So, when and why did you decide to join?

**SrA Leibolt:** It was something I always wanted to do. I was in high school when 9/11 happened. I wanted to join then and there but life took me in a different way. I had an opportunity to go to Slippery Rock University and play field hockey and water polo so that was the direction I went.

I used to go to recruiting fairs as part of my full-time job with the YMCA and talked to some of the recruiters and ask questions. So, I finally said, "You know what? It's now or never."

I came in and talked to some of the recruiters on base and I knew that I wanted to be with the Delaware Guard even though I was living in Maryland. The Delaware Guard had a really good reputation and some strong female leadership at the time, so I knew that's where I want to be.

Because I was working at the YMCA full-time as an outdoor center and retreat director, services



hit a lot of boxes for me. I have a degree in physical education so now I manage fitness testing which includes training unit fitness leaders. I also assist with dining services, and lodging and accommodations for members. And I've been working (training?) with Mortuary Affairs during RSD weekends.

**166AW/PA:** I know that being a female in the military presents its own set of challenges. What were some of the unique challenges you had to overcome?

**SrA Leibolt:** The Delaware Air Guard has strong female leadership which I think is very empowering. As a female in the military, I've always felt supported here. We're like a family. So no, I've never had any issues at all.

**166AW/PA:** Tell me about what you do outside of work – any hobbies, interests and the like?

**SrA Leibolt:** Great question. The South Mountain YMCA where I work always puts family first. They allow me to have a great work-life balance.

I also spend time playing ice and floor hockey, hiking and outdoor activities and reading.

**166AW/PA:** Where do you see your career progressing from here?

**SrA Leibolt:** I plan to put on my staff sergeant stripes soon. I recently took the officer exam and passed, so I'm hoping something opens up in that direction.



# Being Aware of Your Unconscious Biases

By Senior Master Sergeant Faith C. Fleischman  
166 AW Human Resource Advisor



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**H**ow do you choose your friends? Are they like you in some way? Perhaps they went to the same school, have similar hobbies, like the same sports teams, or have kids the same age as your kids. Chances are you have something in common with your friends. We tend to choose to hang out with people who are like us in some way. This is Similarity Bias and it is human nature. We have natural biases that help us choose the people with whom we like to spend time. There is nothing wrong with having biases; they are developed over time to help us categorize massive amounts of information that our brains try to simplify. The issue arises when a bias positively or negatively impacts someone else and creates an unfair advantage or disadvantage for others. What is important is that we are aware of our biases. Let's suppose you are sitting on a selection board...Do you hire the person who is most like you? Or do you hire the person who is best qualified for the position? If we don't consciously think about how our biases can influence us, we may choose the wrong candidate. When selected to sit on a promotion board, here are some things to think about; Do I prefer this candidate because he/she is like me? Or is this person the most competent? Did he/she answer the questions exactly the way I thought they should? Or did they provide a different perspective that might benefit the organization, even though it is not what I expected? This is not to say that we shouldn't choose the candidate who is most like us, if that person is truly the most qualified and the best fit for the position. Being aware of your biases can help you set them aside when making a decision to be sure you are choosing the best person for the right reasons. Important aspects to avoid biases in the workplace, and especially with Boards, include setting objective criteria. This can help prevent you from being swayed by irrelevant factors. Share the "why" behind your decisions. This will help you double check your objectivity. And lastly, don't make assumptions based solely on stereotypes. Make decisions based on examining skills and supportable objective criteria.

If you'd like to learn more about the subject of Unconscious Bias, how the HRA can assist you, or would like to schedule training for your Section, Squadron, or Group please swing by my office or send me an email. Also, don't forget the HRA Diversity & Inclusion series courses are offered to the Wing every Saturday and Sunday of RSD. Check the RSD Plan and monthly email for locations. See you there!

December	Unconscious Bias	HOLIDAY PARTIES
January	SENIOR LEADERS CONFERENCE	Leadership & Effective Communication
February	Managing Leadership Challenges & Navigating Difficult Conversations	Effective Communications: Non-Verbal Communication
March		
April	Managing Leadership Challenges & Navigating Difficult Conversations	Effective Communications: Non-Verbal Communication
May	Emotional Intelligence	Managing Stress in the Workplace & Resiliency
June	Emotional Intelligence	Managing Stress in the Workplace & Resiliency
July	NO RSD	NO RSD
August	Motivational Strategies for Leading Airmen	Coaching/Mentoring Methods 101
September	Motivational Strategies for Leading Airmen	Coaching/Mentoring Methods 101



# Promotions & Retirements

*November - December 2022*

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## **November Promotions**

Dominic J. Ascione to TSgt  
Nathan D. Moore to TSgt  
Edwin Rodriguez Jr. to TSgt  
Robert J. D. Taylor to TSgt  
Edmund H. Waldeyer to TSgt  
Zachary J. Labree to SSgt  
Trinity V. Marler to SrA  
Richard C. Meier to SrA  
Meghan L. Morrison to SrA  
Juanita Posad to SrA  
Connor J. Atkinson to AMN  
Turell E. Brooks to AMN

## **December Promotions**

Robert M. Deberardinis to TSgt  
Daniel S. Delawder to TSgt  
Larry D. Longbrake to TSgt  
Conner J. Short to TSgt  
Oluwarotimi O. Akoji SSgt  
Andre K. Mickens to SSgt  
Quinten R. McCloud to SrA  
Brody P. Obrien to SrA  
Gary R. Reese, Jr. to SrA  
Shayliz Romero to SrA  
Amil S. Williams to A1C

## **November Retirements**

SMSgt Daniel Koenigsman 166 COS  
MSgt Michael Mccarron 166 CES  
MSgt Stacey Mitchell 142 AES  
SMSgt Timothy Luko 166 SFS  
SSgt Laurel Crawford 166 OSS

## **December Retirements**

Col William Roche JFHQ  
Lt Col Timothy Fields 142d AS  
Maj Sean Kelley 142d AES  
CMSgt Charles Reburn 166th MXG  
CMSgt Daniel Stine 166th CFT  
MSgt Amy Lytle 166th AW  
MSgt Stephen Sapp 166th CES  
MSgt David Suh 166th AMXS  
SSgt Tara Martinsen 166th MXS



## *Feathers of the Wing*

A historical perspective by BG (Ret.) Kennard Wiggins, Curator of the Delaware Military Museum

### **Lieutenant Colonel David F. "Snapper" McCallister Jr.**

**D**avid McCallister was a resident of suburban Philadelphia born in 1920. He was a combat veteran of World War II flying P-51s with Eighth Air Force. During the war he wangled a few flights in the new RAF Gloster Meteor jet whetting his appetite to enter the jet age.

After the war, he was one of the founding members of the Delaware Air National Guard. His family had a catering business and one of its products was snapper soup. Hence his nickname. He was well known by ground crews all over the country for passing out free samples of his canned soup, conveniently stored in the ammo bay of his aircraft.

In civilian life he was a test pilot for All American Engineering perfecting aircraft runway arresting systems. McCallister won the 1956 Earl T. Ricks Jet Race Trophy in his F-86E "CindyLind 7th" setting a new speed record from California to New Orleans. He was a powerful advocate of air power aided in no small part by his superb writing gifts. He was a regular contributor to Air Force magazine, Flying Safety and other aviation journals. He authored a novel about fighter pilots with women problems, entitled "Sabres over Brandywine".

McCallister had a long friendship with Milton Caniff the creator of the comic strips "Terry and The Pirates" and "Steve Canyon". McCallister was the inspiration for several of Caniff's characters, "Hot Shot Charlie" and "Soup Davey". He was the Commander of the 142nd Tactical Fighter Squadron when his T-33 experienced a flame-out on take-off at Scott AFB, killing him and injuring his passenger Brig. Gen. William Spruance.



Caricature of Lt. Col. David McCallister drawn by cartoonist Milton Caniff.



# 166th Medical Group Alaska Mission

The 166th Medical Group joined 142d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to support an NGB/SG EMEDS exercise in Alaska named Arctic Eagle. MSgt Asti and TSgt French served as Blue Hen medics and patient coordinators for 20+ patients.





*Santa made a surprise visit to the 166th Airlift Wing during December RSD!*





## Need RSD Childcare?

If you have a children 12 and under... Your input is critical to possibly EXPAND and KEEP this benefit.

# DRILL WEEKEND CHILDCARE

Take the 30 SECOND survey now!



<https://s.surveypplanet.com/k2m2td19>





**UPDATE**



# **D.E.E.P.**

-- Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program --

**HELP US FIND THE NEXT DNG SOLDIER OR AIRMAN!**

**EARN CASH INCENTIVES FOR EACH REFERRAL THAT JOINS THE DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD:**

**NOW \$1,000!**

**\$500 @ ENLISTMENT PLUS  
\$500 @ DEPARTURE FOR TRAINING  
OR \$1,000 @ ENLISTMENT IF FULLY QUALIFIED**



Air  
National  
Guard



## 5 EASY STEPS!

1. FIND AN APPLICANT & SCAN THE QR CODE
2. THEY ENTER THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION
3. YOU ENTER YOUR UNIQUE ID CODE
4. RECRUITERS CONTACT AND PROCESS THE LEAD
5. YOU EARN IF THEY JOIN!

CONTACT A RECRUITER FOR MORE INFORMATION



Army  
National  
Guard





# THE DANG NEEDS YOUR HELP!

## We need volunteers to become first sergeants...



**CONTACT:** CMSgt Michael Murphy  
michael.murphy.28@us.af.mil  
DSN: 445-7549  
Com: 302-323-3370

First sergeants are a dedicated focal points for all readiness, health, morale, welfare and quality of life issues within their organizations. These are key members to the commander and are a critical link for Airmen. The first sergeant position gives highly motivated SNCO's an opportunity to grow leadership skills to prepare them for future leadership roles within an organization.

## ...and honor guard members



**CONTACT:** CMSgt Karen King      MSgt Jacquelyn Croy  
DSN: 445-7424                      DSN: 445-7424  
Com: 302-323-3424                Com: 302-323-3424

The Air Force Honor Guard Program is the final demonstration of respect, honor and gratitude for those who have faithfully defended our nation. If you desire a chance to excel above and beyond your regular duty, join the base honor guard today.



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Visit [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) or call: 800-342-9647

# MILITARY ONE**ES**SOURCE

## ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

The Military OneSource Member Connect site states, “feeling grateful does not mean you ignore the negative parts of life; it means you find the good in life despite obstacles and challenges. With practice, feeling grateful can become a habit.”

Learn to be more grateful with the tips found here:

<https://www.militaryonesourceconnect.org/achievesolutions/en/militaryonesource/Content.do?contentId=32659>

