



# THE **DANG** TRUTH

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July, 2022

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



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## SPECIAL MISSION SILVER ARROW

*Delaware Air National Guard units plus up intra-theater airlift capability in Germany*



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del – DANG Airmen receive a briefing prior to departure for Special Mission Silver Arrow, 16-July-2022. Several units will spend approximately three weeks in Germany as part of a seasonal rotational force exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)

On Saturday 16-July-2022, the 166th Airlift Wing forward deployed 53 members (including three from the 189th Airlift Wing from Arkansas) and two C-130H aircraft to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to participate in Special Mission Silver Arrow.

Special Mission Silver Arrow is a rotation mission meant to plus up intratheater airlift capability. Our personnel will operate in the US EUROPEAN COMMAND (USEUCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) to support European Deterrence Initiative (EDI) activities while also augmenting USEUCOM airlift capacity with C-130 aircraft.

All members are voluntarily activated pursuant to 10 USC 12301d which applies to U.S. reserve components. They will mainly be conducting tactical airland operations transporting personnel and equipment from one location in the AOR to another location in the AOR. There is also a potential to

### UPCOMING EVENTS

8-9 Sept	First Line Supervisor Course	NCCA
11-Sept	Family Day	NCCA
17-18 Oct	Triad Conference	JFHQ
4-Dec	Unit Holiday Events	NCCA
17-Dec	Military Ball	NCCA
7-Jan	Senior Leader Conference	TBD

### 2023:

TBD (Tenative) Contemporary Basis Issues (CBI)	JFHQ
17-23 Aug 2023 UEI Capstone	NCCA

### Social Media Links:

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

See "Silver Arrow" continued on page 2

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



“Silver Arrow” continued from page 1

participate in Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training (JA/ATT) missions and aeromedical evacuation training missions.

This is also a great opportunity for our members to plan a large movement from the Continental United States to Europe. Although the 166th Airlift Wing participated

in previous Silver Arrow rotations in 2017 and 2019, this is the first opportunity of this nature for many of our members. Although the vast preponderance of this tasking is filled by the 166th Operations Group and 166th Maintenance Group, the 166th Mission Support Group also provided personnel.



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del – DANG Airmen are joined by the Delaware National Guard ATAG, Brigadier General Kenneth M. Haltom and Command Chief Master Sergeant Robbin D. Moore before departing for Special Mission Silver Arrow, 16-July-2022. Several units will spend approximately three weeks in Germany as part of a seasonal rotational force exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del – DANG Airmen board a C-130H2.5—the first of two chalks—for departure for Special Mission Silver Arrow, 16-July-2022. Several units will spend approximately three weeks in Germany as part of a seasonal rotational force exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del – The first C-130H2.5 begins the engine start-up procedure before departing to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, 16-July-2022. Several units will spend approximately three weeks in Germany as part of a seasonal rotational force exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del – DANG loadmasters begin load a C-130H2.5 for chalk two for Exercise Silver Arrow, 16-July-2022. The second chalk departed approximately one hour behind the first. Both are bound for Ramstein Air Base in Germany. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Mitch Topal)

# BASE TOURS ARE BACK!

*Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation students visit the DANG*



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del. -- The first base tour since COVID restrictions were lifted happened on Wednesday 29-June-2022 when thirty-eight students and staff from the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation (DASEF) visited the Delaware Air National Guard base. The DASEF mission is “to inspire and educate the people of the Delaware Valley in learning about Science, Space, Technology, Engineering, Earth’s environment and Mathematics through the use of our academies, presentations, symposiums, professional development, events and activities and the resources of the Environmental Outpost.”

These students, between the ages of 8 through 12,

attended a presentation in the OG theater from several SMEs including operations, flight crews, security forces, aeromedical evacuation, maintenance, intelligence, public affairs, and fire/rescue.

After the presentation, the students toured a static C-130 then moved through a number of display stations set up by the various sections. Students received hands-on demonstrations organized by section SMEs.

The tour ended at our Station 33 fire house where they were invited to take turns inside the cab of our Rosenbauer Panther crash truck spraying water from the bumper turret. After a few hours in the hot sun, getting a little wet was a great end to a perfect day!

# The 166th Medical Group welcomes a new commander



NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Del. – The 166th Medical Group welcomed a new commander on 6-June-2022. Lieutenant Colonel Christine G. Estacion will take over command from Col. Gywn Parris-Atwell, who will be retiring on 1-August. Her retirement ceremony as well as the change of command will be held during August RSD.

Lt. Col. Estacion was previously Chief Administrator for the 175th Medical Group, 175th Wing,

Maryland Air National Guard. In that position she managed the administration functions of the Group including commander support, finance and budget, medical logistics, biomedical equipment maintenance, medical records administration, patient customer service, provider credentialing, staffing, and medical readiness and training.

Let's give Lt. Col. Estacion a DANG warm welcome and wish her much luck and success in her new role!

# AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

## Staff Sergeant Peter Buoncristiano

166th Airlift Wing Operations Group – Aircraft Loadmaster

Staff Sergeant Peter Buoncristiano is happiest when he is involved in many things. As a full-time student finishing his bachelor's degree in education and a full-time loadmaster with the DANG, SSgt. Buoncristiano always welcomes new challenges while maintaining a full schedule that is in constant flux.

Whether it's getting called in on weekends or after hours, assisting with base tours, training for Airmen when they come back from school, running point for the student flight program in the loadmaster section, scheduling, putting together trips, and helping with travel vouchers, he does it all.

During the recent base tour for the Delaware Aero Space Education Foundation (DASEF), SSgt. Buoncristiano took responsibility for coordinating the base visit with the 166th Operation Group and several other sections. He was especially interactive with the students, taking a hands-on role in showing them the many components of the DANGs mission.

SSgt. Buoncristiano's primary responsibility as an aircraft loadmaster is to maintain the weight and balance of the aircraft, manage loading and offloading operations, and take part in airdrop operations. He joined the DANG for some of the college benefits and to gain valuable experience while traveling the world on various deployments.

"I really get a sense of fulfillment when you're doing the job because you get to see the direct impact that you have on the mission every day that you show up to work," said Buoncristiano.

One of his more notable missions was in 2021 when



deployed for four months to Ali A-Salem air base in Kuwait. Besides having an opportunity to travel throughout the region, SSgt. Buoncristiano had a part in the noncombatant evacuation (NEO) mission during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. The mission was to move Afghanis from different locations in the Middle East and ferry them to airports where they could travel to new locations in Europe.

"It was very hectic. I don't think I'll ever see anything like that again in my life – how crazy it was at that time. But it was also really rewarding – something that I'll always remember," he said.

SSgt. Buoncristiano took a semester off from college during the NEO mission in Afghanistan but will pick up where he left off during the upcoming Fall semester.

"I'm going to be finishing my bachelor's in education because one day I'd like to be a history teacher," he noted.

"A lot of my time and effort goes into the wing because I enjoy it. I really like the people here, I enjoy the mission, and am very fulfilled when we successfully complete or even taking part in our missions. That's something people are going to know about. I'm talking about 20 or 30 years from now when people are asking about what we did."

In his free time, SSgt. Buoncristiano is learning how to ride a motorcycle with the help of fellow loadmaster Master Sergeant Michael Magobet and is taking all the safety courses that go along with that.

He also enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to the gym, and hiking and camping



# Promotions & Retirements

July 2022

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## Promotions

Richard Meier Lt. Col.  
Andrew Harlan 1st Lt  
Andrew Vierzba 1st Lt  
Alexys Bowers to TSgt  
Adam Osmola to TSgt  
Richard Quartarone to TSgt  
Antonio Roberts to TSgt  
Ryan Strong to TSgt  
John Foxx to SSgt  
Savannah Steinbeiser to SSgt  
Selena Almodovar to SrA  
Kayla Lane to SrA  
Sara Mcvey to SrA  
Benjamin Albanese to A1C  
Alexa Nunez Alcocer to A1C

## Retirements

MSgt Scott Quinn 166 LRS  
TSgt Brian Naldzin 166 AMXS



# Feathers of the Wing

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

## New Castle County Airport (ILG)

From a WWII ferry base to a home for the DANG and general aviation



The DANG flight line in the early 1950's

New Castle County Airport was constructed in 1941, and during World War II was the primary East Coast base for Ferry Command. The airport served as the last depot for aircraft modifications before their ferry flight to the European Theater of Operations. The airport became a Transport Command Base around 1944 and Ferry command was integrated into the Air Transport Command, a precursor of Military Air Transport Service (MATS) which later became Military Airlift Command (MAC) and finally became Air Mobility Command (AMC) in 1992. New Castle Airport was also a primary operating location for the WASP (Women's Air Service Pilots) from 1942-1944.

After its formation in 1946, the Delaware Air Guard occupied a facility near present-day Penn's Way on the west side of the New Castle Air Force Base. They

constructed a headquarters building (1504) across the street that was used until 1994 when the present headquarters building was completed.

In 1949, the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, flying F-86 Sabres, was based at the airport at our present location on Basin Road. The 4<sup>th</sup> was known as the highest scoring fighter unit in Europe in WWII. They transferred to Korea in 1950 where it was once again the premier fighter unit. New Castle Airport was a joint use airport until December 1957 when the USAF relocated all its active duty assets to Dover AFB. Some people may still remember B-29s parked in the corner of the base near the old Peter Pan Diner (Home of the B-29 Burger) at Basin Road and Route 40.

With the departure of the Air Force, the DE ANG moved (in one week!) across base to the vacated facilities in December, 1957. Subsequently, the airport was placed under civilian control as a New Castle County facility and has remained a dual-use civilian/military facility to this day.



# **THE AIR FORCE HONOR GUARD NEEDS YOU!**

**Be a part of one of the greatest organizations in the military!**



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.

To learn more contact:

SMSgt Karen King  
DSN: 445-7424  
Com: 302-323-3424

MSgt Jacquelyn Croy  
DSN: 445-7424  
Com: 302-323-3424







# DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD FAMILIES

# Back to School BASH



Backpack & School Supply

DRIVE-THRU



DNG-J9 Child & Youth Programs is hosting our annual **BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!** Once again back by popular request, this year's event will be a drive-through distribution.



Our support of deserving military families is as strong as ever. Together with Operation Homefront, we're helping distribute school supplies to military children with a drive-through Back-to-School Bash Event.

Generous school supplies and backpack donations courtesy of **Operation Homefront** and local **Dollar Tree** stores. When you drive in, you will make your way through some cool and exciting program stops. Pick up some fun swag and treats. And get some helpful resources to make the 2022/2023 school year a success! As a bonus, **USO Delaware has dinner covered!**



**Limited supply of 350 backpacks!**  
 You **MUST pre-register** to reserve your child's backpack.



NORTH	SOUTH
<p><b>Wednesday, 24 AUG 2022</b>                      1730 - 1900 HOURS  <b>DNG Joint Force Headquarters</b>                      1 Vavala Way, New Castle, DE</p>	<p><b>Thursday, 25 AUG 2022</b>                      1730 - 1900 HOURS  <b>Smyrna Readiness Center</b>                      103 Artisan Drive, Smyrna, DE 19977</p>

**REGISTER** → <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DABAA29A3FF2-dngback2>

You may need to register on a non-government device

*The event is no cost and open to all current DNG Soldiers, Airmen, Families and DE Guard Youth.*

**You MUST pre-register our Guard Kids attending, so we have enough backpacks & Dinner!**

*Priority given to our deployed Families.*



SCAN ME

**Rain or Shine – we are a go! In the event of inclement weather, we will move indoors at the same facility for the event!**

**The DNG-J9 event is put on with the support of our Community Partners**



**For questions, please contact:**

**Patrick Devlin, CTR**  
 Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator  
 302-326-7518 OFFICE  
 patrick.m.devlin.ctr@mail.mil



Follow Us  
 @ DENGChildandYouthPrograms

DISCLAIMER: This event flyer is not an endorsement for the company/organization or its affiliates named within the content of the message.



**SAVE THE DATE**

# **FAMILY DAY**

11 September 2022  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
DE Air National Guard

**OPEN TO FAMILIES & FREE FOR DEERS DEPENDENTS**





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

# MILITARY ONE SOURCE

The “Dog Days of Summer” are here; you know what that means: outdoor activities! Families are congregating around the pool, parents are grilling, and kids are getting hungry. Why not save some money on your barbecue essentials?

The Commissaries and Exchanges found on installation and bases worldwide can alleviate the stress on your pocketbook so you can enjoy all the traditional summer foods we’ve all grown to love.

Check out the link below for facts about the resources, benefits, and special deals only available at your local Commissary and Exchange!

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/recreation-travel-shopping/commissary-exchange/commissary-and-exchange-benefits/>





# Stay safe from the heat this Summer!

## Practice HEAT SAFETY Wherever You Are

Heat related deaths are preventable. Protect yourself and others from the impacts of heat waves.



**Job Sites**  
Stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade as often as possible.



**Indoors**  
Check up on the elderly, sick and those without AC.



**Vehicles**  
Never leave kids or pets unattended - LOOK before you LOCK



**Outdoors**  
Limit strenuous outdoor activities, find shade, and stay hydrated.



## Heat Related Deaths **ARE** Preventable **LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK**



The temperature in your car can quickly become deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°



Time Elapsed: 10 Minutes



Time Elapsed: 20 Minutes



Time Elapsed: 30 Minutes



Time Elapsed: 60 Minutes



nhtsa.gov



# A message from the 166th AW Chaplain Corps

To change the world, we must look inward. If we fill our hearts with peace and love, we will see the change.

Avina Celeste

### “You can never change what you are willing to tolerate.”

This type of statement often refers to changes in our society, but our focus today is on inward change. Over the last few months, the conversation has been around the change we are willing to make to better ourselves. Take the time this month to reflect upon your progress. What changes have you made and what areas of your life have you settled to tolerate? Do you feel like it is too late to make some necessary changes to improve your mental, physical, social or spiritual health? Let me encourage you by saying, it is not too late.

We often feel like inward change has to be a journey we take by ourselves, with no assistance from others. This is not true. Though we are the ones that have to make the final decision, we can always lean on others to support us along the way. There is a passage of scripture found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 which says, “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”

As we continue to navigate the summer months, be encouraged to

not tolerate areas of your life that needs some adjustments for the better, but also don’t tackle this feat alone. Build a support system, so when you began to lean toward tolerance, they can help you get back on track to change.

- Chaplain William Guy, 166 AW/HC

#### Upcoming Strong Bonds Events:

- Family Weekend Event, August 26-28, 2022

## 166th Chaplain Corps



Chaplain, Lt Col Giamello



Chaplain, Capt Guy



MSgt Jason Mell



SSgt Justin Kallner



SSgt Joseph Scholz

### Contact the Chaplain Corps

[166.AW.166.DANG.Chaplain.Corps.Org@us.af.mil](mailto:166.AW.166.DANG.Chaplain.Corps.Org@us.af.mil)

Chaplain Office: 302-323-3367 (leave a general voicemail)



## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE AF 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):

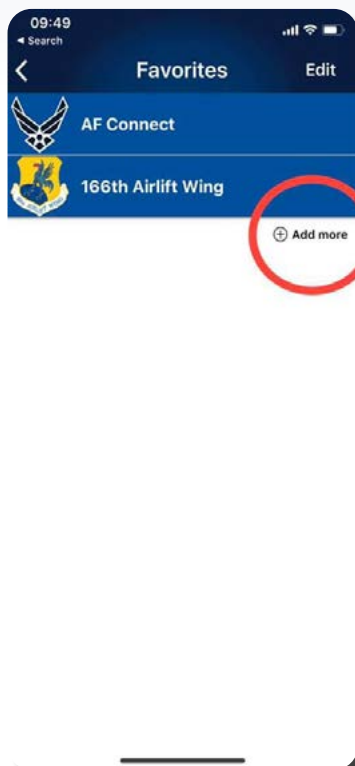
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/usaf-connect/id1403806821>

Google Play (Android Devices):

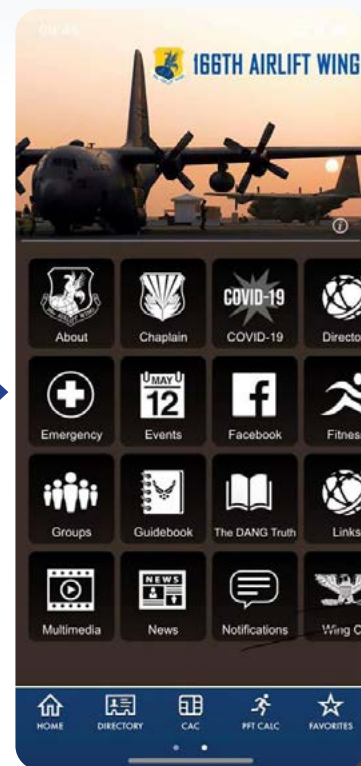
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.m360connect.usaf>



1. Tap on "FAVORITES"



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



3. See these tiles  
appear that point to  
important links