

JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

THE CAPITAL GUARDIAN

www.dc.ng.mil / Fall 2015

HOOP DREAMS

Read about how one soldier continues to chase her childhood dreams..
Story on page 26



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Lt. Col. Kevin McAndrews

Director, Public Affairs Office

In this issue you will find that the Capital Guardians are busier than ever. From the F-16 flyover at the Redskins game, to our State Partnership with Jamaica, providing traffic and crowd control in support of the historic Pope Francis visit, and our Joint Command Run down East Capital street, we keep on rolling.

In this issue you will find stories and photos of these events and more. I am personally proud to be a member of the D.C. National Guard, one of the most vibrant, active, high-profile, elite organizations in the country. For two centuries we have protected the nation's capital. We've fought in every major war including the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nothing brings that home more than realizing we have units and personnel deployed all over the globe today. Every day DC guardsmen continue to carry out the mission of protecting America and our freedoms. The more I learn about the history of the D.C. National Guard and the National Guard as a whole, the more I realize the tremendous heritage we are all part of.

As I ponder our current missions, I'm awed by what our D.C. guardsmen have done over the past two centuries. It's much more than a list of historical facts. Each of us is connected to those who have gone before us, more than we often realize, whether carrying out our day-to-day missions, or deploying to areas of global conflict.

If some of those past Guard members from two hundred years ago could see what we are doing today, they would truly be amazed. The caliber of personnel in our ranks is first-rate; and the missions we accomplish are monumental. It's a humbling experience to bring the highlights of our service to the forefront in this issue.

CONTRIBUTORS

COMMANDING GENERAL

MG Errol R. Schwartz

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

BG Renwick L. Payne

DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

Lt. Col. Ronald C. Stamps

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Lt. Col. Kevin McAndrews

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Lt. Col. Brad Benson

Maj. Michael Odle

Maj. Renee Lee

Capt. Nathan Wallin

CPT Ronald McDaniel

CPT Miranda Summers-Lowe

STAFF WRITERS

MSgt Craig Clapper

SrA Sumeana Leslie

SrA Erica Rodriguez

SFC Khalia Jackson

SGT Jennifer Amo

SPC Malikah Anderson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Capt. Nathan Wallin

MSgt Craig Clapper

SrA Justin Hodge

SrA Sumeana Leslie

SrA Erica Rodriguez

SSG Gigail Cureton

SGT Tyrone Williams

LAYOUT & DESIGN

SrA Justin Hodge

CONTACT US

CAPITAL GUARDIAN

2001 East Capitol St SE
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 685-8700

www.dc.ng.mil



MG Errol R. Schwartz

Commanding General, DCNG

The District of Columbia Army and Air National Guard continues to be an elite organization in our nation. We've had several successes over the past few months, including our support of the historic visit to America by Pope Francis in September.

With flawless execution, we helped make sure this momentous event took place in a safe, positive environment that was enjoyed by the thousands of people who lined the streets to see the Pope.

Pope Francis arrived at Joint Base Andrews Sept. 22. The following morning he was welcomed by the president at the White House, followed by a papal parade along Constitution Avenue. On Sept. 24, his final day in Washington, he made history by becoming the first pope to address both houses of congress.

Everywhere he went, Capital Guardians were in the background doing what we do best, protecting the nation's capital and its citizens. We couldn't have done a better job! Thanks to each one of you who worked long hours before, during and after the visit. As you always do, you made us proud!

For the D.C. Guard, the hits just keep on coming. The 113th Wing was recently recognized for its outstanding work. They were awarded the Distinguished Flying award at the National Guard Association Conference in Tennessee, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, or AFOUA. This is the fifteenth time in the unit's history they have earned an AFOUA for operational performance and mission accomplishment. They are a showcase unit with an amazing track record of getting the job done.

COMMANDING GENERAL

Congratulations to each and every member of the wing. You are doing incredible work each and every day, 24/7.

In the midst of the current race for the presidency, we are already preparing to support the 58th presidential inauguration. To some of us, this is old hat. But in 2009, the first inauguration of Pres. Obama, the event drew the largest number of people of any in the history of Washington, D.C. This and the support we provided to the inauguration in 2013 were tremendous successes in planning and execution by our citizen Soldiers and Airmen. As part of the team, the D.C. Guard and thousands of Guard members from across the states, kept both events safe and enjoyable.

This is our "Super Bowl," and it's where we shine the best. The D.C. National Guard has participated in just about every inauguration going back to the last century. During President Lincoln's inauguration in 1861, war was imminent, and we provided security for the president by riding horses alongside his carriage, bucking the horses to provide cover in case of an assassination attempt.

What we do best is planning and execution, and whomever is elected next year, we will be ready for the inauguration and proud to march in the parade and support other events.

Every organization needs a road map. Ours is our Vision and Mission statements, and the core values of the Army and Air Force.

We are the military first responder in our nation's capital and have been, with more than two centuries of service under our belts. We must keep our edge by maintaining ready, trained and equipped military forces. Each one of us should be extremely proud of this heritage. As your Commanding General, I'm proud of each one of you as you carry on all of our missions today and into the future.

PROHIBITED PRODUCTS CONTAINING MARIJUANA, HEMP, OR SYNTHETIC CANNABIS



LTC Thomas W. Forrest

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, DCNG

The purpose of this article is to remind all D.C. National Guard members that in the United States there are many food and drink products and personal care products which contain marijuana, hemp seed oil, and synthetic cannabis. Some of these foods and drink are now being sold lawfully in states which have legalized the use of marijuana and personal-care products are even more widely available.

These products can cause a positive military urinalysis test. Although these are lawfully sold to civilians in many jurisdictions, members of the Armed Forces are prohibited from consuming or using these products. This prohibition is for the health, safety and readiness of the force.

Both the Army and Air National Guard specifically prohibit the use of any products containing the following: marijuana; synthetic cannabis (sometime called “Spice”); and hemp. Also, Soldiers and Airmen may not consume any food or drink or use personal-care product that contains or is derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil.

Army Regulations and Air Force Instructions are clear regarding the prohibitions of marijuana, hemp seed and hemp-oil products and synthetic marijuana. Army Regulation (AR) 600-85, The Army Substance Abuse Program, Chapter 4-2p states, “this regulation prohibits Soldiers from using hemp or products containing hemp oil.” Air Force Instruction (AFI) 44-120, Military Drug Demand Reduction Program (30 January 2014), paragraph 1.1.5, as well as AFI 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) Program (8 July 2014), paragraph 3.2.2, which states, “Studies have shown that products made with hemp seed and hemp seed oil may contain varying levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), an active ingredient of marijuana which is detectable under the Air Force Drug Testing Program.

To ensure military readiness, the ingestion of products containing, or products derived from, hemp-seed or hemp-seed oil is prohibited.”

The Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) prohibits the use of marijuana, hemp-seed and hemp-oil derived products. The failure of active duty personnel to comply with the prohibition of the use of these products is a violation of the UCMJ and results in the initiation of an administrative separation action for Guard members.

Article 112a, UCMJ, also prohibits the unlawful use of any other substance prescribed by the president or listed in Schedules I through V of § 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 USC § 812). In addition, this regulation prohibits Soldiers and Airmen from using hemp or products containing hemp oil. It prohibits using controlled substances “for the purpose of inducing excitement, intoxication, or stupefaction of the central nervous system.”

This prohibition also includes “controlled substance analogues” such as synthetic cannabis and other THC substitutes (e.g., “Spice”). The Federal Analogue Act, 21 U.S.C. § 813, is a section of the United States Controlled Substance Act of 1986 which allowed any chemical “substantially similar” to a controlled substance to be treated as if it were the controlled substance itself, but only if intended for human consumption. These similar substances are sometimes called “designer drugs.”

Hemp, or Cannabis Sativa, is the plant that naturally contains the substance THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. The military urinalysis test is considered positive for marijuana use when THC is found in urine.

Some other products like foods and drinks may contain THC. You must be careful. Ingestion of food and drink which contains marijuana will result in intoxication and a positive urinalysis test for THC. If you are uncertain whether a hemp food or beverage is legal, read the ingredients listed on the label. If the label lists hemp, marijuana or THC as an ingredient it is illegal and you cannot consume it. If after reading the label you are still unsure, contact the manufacturer or distributor of the product to ask if it contains hemp, marijuana, or THC. If it does, it is illegal and you must not eat or drink it. You are advised to err on the side of caution if you are still uncertain that the food or drink is free of hemp, marijuana, or THC.

Manufacturers are also making personal care products which contain hemp oil. Even though it is impossible to become intoxicated from using these products, inadvertent ingestion or exposure through eye contact or breaks in the skin can allow THC to enter your body and cause a positive urinalysis test result. The positive drug test would be the basis for an administrative separation action.

Always remember that unless you are certain that food, drink, or a personal-care product is free of marijuana, hemp seed oil, and synthetic cannabis you may not use it. Military readiness requires you to be healthy, safe, and drug free.



CSM Wayne L. Bowser, Sr.

Senior Enlisted Leader, DCNG

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians (Capital Guardians)

As your Senior Enlisted Leader of the District of Columbia National Guard, I wanted to reflect just a moment on our organization as we come together to support each other and our community. That is the DCNG Command Run, annual cookout and diversity day events. On 12 September 2015 The DCNG conducted the first DCNG Command Run. The command run was led by the senior enlisted leaders of the DC guard. The DCNG has over 1400 Army National Guard soldiers and just over 1200 airman. This was truly a day to remember. Every unit in the District of Columbia National Guard gathered in front of the DC Armory to participate in an annual Joint Command Run. Soldiers and airmen could be heard chanting and clapping loudly to military cadences as they ran through the streets of the Capitol Hill neighborhood. “The event turned out excellent,” said BG Renwick Payne. “The leadership’s goal was to build community support and esprit de corps and we have achieved our goal.” People who live in the community watched and cheered on the guardsmen as they ran. One Soldier commented that it was great seeing the people who live in the community cheering them on. “It is good to see the whole DC National Guard organization running together. This shows unity and camaraderie amongst the members,” said PFC Flowers. After the run and busy day of training, Soldiers and Airmen joined their Families at the Diversity Day Cookout at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. The cookout, included foods highlighting the diversity of the District of Columbia National Guard and children’s games/activities. This was our end of summer/end of fiscal year celebration. Thanks to all who attended and assisted.

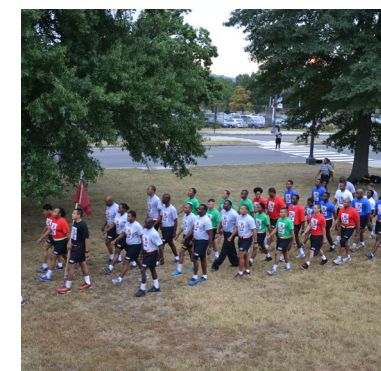


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MG Errol R. Schwartz, commanding general, D.C. National Guard receives the, "National Guard Youth Foundation Spirit Award" for his support and contributions to the DC National Guard Capital Guardian Youth Challenge program, during the opening ceremony between the Washington Nationals, and San Diego Padres, on August 27, 2015. Cadets from the Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy, Class 45, also presented the colors during the opening ceremony.(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Justin Hodge)



Blue Yonder

113th Wing F-16 Fighting Falcons soar over FedEx Field, moments after the National Anthem to kickoff the 2015 NFL season. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Philip Bryant)

CAPITAL DIVERSITY DAY

SPC Malikah Anderson

District of Columbia Public Affairs Detachment

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 600 Soldiers and Airmen from every unit in the District of Columbia National Guard gathered in front of the District of Columbia Armory to participate in an annual fun run Sept. 12.

Soldiers and airmen could be heard chanting and clapping loudly to military cadences as they ran through the streets of the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

“The running event turned out excellent,” said Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne, Adjutant General, District of Columbia National Guard. “The leadership’s goal was to build community support and esprit de corps, and we have achieved our goal.”

People who live in the community watched and cheered on the guardsmen as they ran. One Soldier commented that it was great seeing the people who live in the community cheering them on.

“It is good to see the whole D.C. National Guard organization running together, and not as an individual unit. This shows unity and camaraderie amongst the Soldiers,” said Pfc. James Flower, Army National Guard.

After the run and busy day of training, Soldiers and Airmen joined their Families at the Diversity Day Cookout at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

The cookout, which included foods highlighting the diversity of the District of Columbia National Guard and children’s games and activities, was an end of the summer/end of fiscal year celebration.

“The leadership’s goal was to build community support and esprit de corps, and we have achieved our goal.”

Members of the District of Columbia National Guard participate in annual District of Columbia fun run Sept. 12. The joint run included 600 Soldiers and Airmen from every unit in the District of Columbia National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by SSG Gigail Cureton)



Brigadier General George Degnon serves Soldiers and Airmen during the annual District of Columbia National Guard Diversity Day picnic on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by MSgt Craig Clapper)

BOUNDLESS PARTNERSHIP

SrA Sumeana Leslie

113th Wing Public Affairs

KINGSTON, JAMAICA – MG Errol R. Schwartz, Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard traveled to Kingston, Jamaica for a State Partnership Program (SPP) visit Aug. 20. During the visit, Schwartz reviewed the development of the humanitarian assistance program, and the disaster response program developed with the Jamaica Defense Force.

“The DC National Guard had its first international subject matter exchange with Jamaica in February 2004,” said CPT Tamara Tomlinson, D.C. National Guard State Partnership Program coordinator.

“The relationship is beneficial for both counterparts; for Soldiers and Airmen primarily, because they are able to experience real-life scenarios that they would not ordinarily experience, helping them advance their development and prepare us all in the event of a mobilization.”

The SPP offered training opportunities for service members from both the Jamaican Defense Force and the D.C. National Guard, particularly in the areas of combating drug and arms trafficking, organized crime and gangs,

money laundering, criminal justice reform, economic development, financial stability, and medical care.

In his remarks welcoming Schwartz and the SPP teams, U.S. Embassy Kingston Chief of Mission Ambassador (Designate) Luis G. Moreno emphasized DCNG’s contributions in helping “advance U.S. policy objectives in the Caribbean,” particularly in their joint JDF-DCNG efforts in aircraft maintenance and boat patrol.

“The exchange has been very effective because we have been able to exchange our subject matter expert knowledge and assisted one another in a number of ways that have benefited the Jamaica Defense Force and the DC National Guard,” said Jamaica Defense Force Deputy Chief of Defense Staff Brigadier Rocky R. Meade. “We look forward to the program continuing for a very long time.”

“I look forward to this partnership between myself and the leaders of the Jamaica Defense continuing,” said Schwartz. “We have different levels of expertise that we are able to offer one another, and I also look forward to having more success in the future.”



Maj. Gen. Errol Schwartz, Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard, speaks with members of the Jamaica Defense Force at the Moneague Training Base, Moneague, Jamaica, Aug. 19. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sumeana Leslie)

Pope Francis visits D.C.

Soldiers and Airmen provide security and traffic control in support of local authorities.

Lt. Col. Kevin McAndrews

Director, Public Affairs Office

The D.C. National Guard provided security and traffic control support to local authorities throughout Pope Francis' visit to Washington in September, his first visit to the United States as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

More than 400 Soldiers and Airmen were on duty throughout the district providing security assistance and traffic management in several points near the Basilica, along the parade route, the ellipse and the National Mall. Personnel supported local authorities to ensure safe and secure events during the visit.

"Our primary mission was to support local authorities to make this a safe event for the thousands of people who were in the district to see the pope," said Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, D.C. National Guard commanding general. "We were in direct support of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, the D.C. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Park Police and U.S. Secret Service."

D.C. Guardsmen who supported the mission were sworn in as special police by the D.C. Metropolitan Police.

The mission was also being supported by Guard members from several other states including West Virginia, Massachusetts, Alaska, Kentucky, Delaware, Nebraska, Maryland, Nebraska and California.

The West Virginia National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, deployed to D.C. to support the overall mission. The CERFP provides search and rescue, decontamination and medical support in the event of natural or man-made disasters.



Spc. Kenyatta Sears, D.C. Army National Guard, maintains control over the crowd during the 2015 Papal Visit in Washington, D.C., Sept. 23. Sears was one of more than 150 DCNG guardsmen supporting Operation Roman Watch as crowd control and traffic management. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Erica Rodriguez)

PILOT FOR A DAY

MSgt. Craig Clapper

113th Wing Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Six year-old Naomi Clements walks hand-in-hand with her Wingman, Maj. Kelly Drescher, 201st Airlift Squadron pilot, into the packed auditorium, wearing her own flight suit and a mix of excitement/nervousness across her face. She has a busy schedule ahead of her, including a ride in an F-16 flight simulator and lunch on board a C-40 with a special surprise added in. Today, Naomi is Joint Base Andrews' honorary "Pilot for a Day."

Sponsored by the non-profit Check-6 Foundation, the Pilot for a Day (P4D) program is designed to give young children battling serious illnesses a break from their daily stresses and simply "have as much fun as military regulations allow (as stated in the P4D oath of office). Multiple units from across Joint Base Andrews team up to give the honoree a small taste of what life is like in the Air Force. "What an honor to be able to give back to someone like Duke (Naomi's father, a

Six-year-old Naomi Clements explores a UH-1 helicopter with her Wingman, Maj. Kelly Drescher, 201st Airlift Squadron pilot, before taking flight at Joint Base Andrews, Md., July 30. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sergeant Craig Clapper)



To learn more about the Check-6 Foundation, visit www.check6.org.



Six-year-old Naomi Clements shares a story with her Wingman, Maj. Kelly Drescher, 201st Airlift Squadron pilot, before tour of the 113th Wing, Joint Base Andrews, Md., July 30. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sergeant Craig Clapper)

113th Maintenance Squadron weapons specialist) and his family, who have given so much to this country in spite of the devastating hardships they have faced," said Lt. Col. Rob Balzano, founder and president of the Check-6 Foundation.

Naomi was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 18 months and has been fighting a courageous battle ever since. She was selected by the Check-6 Foundation to be the P4D from the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and by pure coincidence, it was discovered that her father, Tech. Sgt. Duke Clements, worked with Balzano for years on alert duty at Joint Base Andrews.

"Once I found out Naomi was to be our next P4D, I knew we had to make this event even more special than before", Balzano said. "Without a moment of hesitation, the D.C. Air National Guard family came together to show their support. It was an incredible experience to be a part of."

Naomi was accompanied by her father and her five brothers, Andrew, 15, Elijah, 14, Daniel, 12, Micah, 9, and Gabriel, 4. The day started with a few gifts

from multiple organizations, including a patch from NASA astronaut, Navy Capt. Barry "Butch" Wilmore that was flown during his recent six-month tour aboard the International Space Station. From there, Naomi took a ride in both a UH-1 helicopter and F-16 simulator, toured a KC-135 Stratotanker with the 459th Air Refueling Wing, watched a military working dog demonstration and was then paid a surprise visit aboard a C-40 by none other than "Elsa" from the Disney movie "Frozen". As the "Frozen" movie played on the aircraft, Naomi and Elsa sat side by side, talking about the things that children like to talk about, while enjoying a slice of "Baltimore Bomb" pie made especially for her by Dangerously Delicious Pies.

After eating her distinguished visitor meal and saying goodbye to Elsa, Naomi was visited by D.C. Metropolitan Police arriving in Trooper 2 where she watched her father receive a quick ride in Trooper 2 across the 201 AS ramp towards the Air Traffic Control Tower. After touring the JBA tower and operating a fire hose with the JBA fire department, she then received a special phone call from the U.S. astronauts Scott Kelly and Kjell

Lindgren currently aboard the International Space Station and orbiting 250 miles above the Earth.

At the end of the day, Naomi took center stage. She was given a standing ovation and a few more gifts including a tiara adorning her long, blond hair from special guest Quina Anderson, Ms United States 2009, a certificate from Check-6 to pay the Clements family's mortgage for two months and a final, sentimental gift. Naomi was given a shadow box containing a Check-6 shirt that Naomi's mother Anne, who passed away in 2012, personally embroidered in 2006. After graciously accepting her gifts, Naomi stood by her father who expressed his gratitude for the wonderful experience Naomi and the Clements family had that day.

"This was a day when not only Naomi was celebrated, but the whole family. Check-6 really locked in on the aspect that it isn't just the child who faces the fight, it's the whole family. You are more than my Wingmen, you are my family," said Clements.

SOLDIER IS A



SHOOTING STAR

SFC Khalia Jackson

715th Public Affairs Detachment

WASHINGTON, DC – D.C. Guard member, Spc. Kenyatta Sears made the All-Army Basketball Team after a five-day trial camp. The team will play against Division II colleges across the country.

“I am excited to show what I can bring to the team and help the team make a noise in the Army,” Sears said.

As a Soldier and athlete, she continues to pursue her favorite sport. She started playing basketball in the 5th grade at the community church. She played guard throughout high school and college, and played semi-pro with the Lady Stallions in her hometown of Hampton, Va.

Her favorite player is Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. “I loved his game ever since he was No. 8 with the Lakers. The way he took control of the court and nobody could really stop him, that’s what I aspire to be.”

After she graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice, Sears joined the 273rd Military Police Company, District of Columbia National Guard. “I was proud to join the military in this capacity because I have always dreamed of coming back to the community and protecting it.”

While awaiting placement into the 273rd, she was in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion where she met former All-Army basketball player, Staff Sgt. Ashley Bowman.

“I first heard about All-Army Sports at Advanced Individual Training, but Staff Sgt. Bowman mentored me through the entire process of being accepted into the trial camp,” Sears said.

Bowman played All-Army and All-Armed Forces basketball for two years, winning two gold medal. As a mentor, Bowman shares her experiences with Sears and has provided support along the way.

In order to participate in the trial camp, Sears had to provide her basketball profile and video highlights from her college and semi-pro games. Impressed with her talent, she was accepted as a participant.

“Spc. Sears displays rare talent you do not see from a lot of players in today’s game. She’s very persistent and determined to be the best at what she does and I admire that about her,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Aaron Bryant, assistant coach for the All-Army Women’s Basketball Team. “Like the best in the game of basketball, Michael Jordan, once said, “Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win Championships.” In order for us to be successful during our college tour, we must incorporate those values.



“She’s an incredible Soldier, always squared away and will go above and beyond to do what is asked of her. “I think she will have an exceptional career in the DC National Guard. Although we won’t be able to physically practice basketball together, I send her workouts and give her advice on a daily basis.”

Staff Sgt. Ashley Bowman



Spc. Kenyatta Sears stands with All-Army teammates on October 23, 2015 at Fort Benning, GA. (Courtesy Photo)

A young boy sits atop his father's shoulders watching the USAF Thunderbirds perform at the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Airshow, Friday Sept. 18. The airshow featured aerial demonstrations and static displays of the military equipment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Capt. Nathan Wallin)



Air Power on Display

SrA Erica Rodriguez

113th Wing Public Affairs

The D.C. Air National Guard participated in the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Air Show Sept. 18 to 19.

As one of the most active and unique units in the Air National Guard, the 113th Wing was able to showcase its mission to their local community and other military personnel during the free, public air show.

The air show, comprised of the ANG, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active duty, featured many aerial demonstrations, static displays of military vehicles and equipment, entertainment for kids and various vendors including recruiters.

The event was especially important to the 113th

members because it gave them a chance to engage with the local community.

"I'm glad they brought the Air Show back finally," said 1st Lt. Charlie Wilkinson, 121st Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot. "I think it's important for us to be out here and get some face-to-face time with the people living within the area; the people we help support and defend. It's nice for them to be able to see that we are here and what we are doing here."

Wilkinson was one of the pilots who stayed with the F-16 static display during the event to answer spectator questions about the aircraft, the 113th mission and what it takes to become a pilot.

to support and defend the people

Spectators were also able to check out the wing's domestic operations capabilities first hand. The wing's Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailer, Mobile Emergency Operations Center and the Fatality Search and Recovery Team equipment were on display along with some of their operators that could explain the capabilities and importance of each.

Beyond the displays, the 113th also kicked off the aerial demonstrations and ceremony with the time honored Missing Man Formation to honor fallen service members for POW/MIA day.

"It's an honor for us to be able to participate as the opening act of the Joint Base Andrews show this year," said Brig. Gen. George Degnon, 113th Wing Commander. "It's an opportunity for us to integrate with the active duty and the Reserve as well as other services here in the National Capital region as we showcase the military."

That coordination, with all joint forces coming together, in support of community relations, made the show a great success.

"It was an honor and a privilege to open the show with our missing man formation of F-16s. This is also an opportunity for us to integrate with the Active Duty and Air Force Reserve; as well as other services here in the National Capital Region, as we showcase our military."

Brig. Gen. George Degnon
113th Wing Commander



Patrons of the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Airshow, walked through, and photographed static displays of USAF aircraft, on Friday Sept. 18. The airshow also featured aerial demonstrations of military equipment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Capt. Nathan Wallin)

DCNG CIVIL ENGINEERS TO THE **RESCUE**



113th Civil Engineer Squadron Heavy Equipment Operators SSgt. Keenan Willis and A1C Timothy Blake remove an old section of sidewalk during a deployment for training to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by CMSgt. Andrew Baker)

Lt. Col. Eric Swanson

113th Civil Engineer Squadron

NEW LONDON, Conn. – A team of 38 Airmen from the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed for two weeks of training at the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) in June.

The Airmen are executing a variety of construction, renovation, and maintenance projects in support of the Academy. This work includes installing heaters and drinking fountains; replacing over 35 signposts with decorative cast posts; replacing damaged sections of sidewalks; replacing

drop ceilings and installing new high voltage switchgear and other electrical equipment to upgrade the campus infrastructure. In addition, the team is training and conducting preventive maintenance on several of the many portable and permanent generator sets the USCGA uses.

This is the second year of the joint partnership between the USCGA and Air National Guard Civil Engineer units.

"The experience has been nothing short of fantastic for the CGA's Facility Engineering

Branch. The 113th Wing (DCANG) team has really impressed everyone at the Academy, their hard work and positive attitude was contagious and they continued to build upon the impressive reputation that the two previous ANG units left from the year before. Without their help most of these projects would have been deferred to a contractor or scrapped entirely, so it was a blessing to have the crew of the 113th spend two weeks helping us out!" said Lt. Liam McCue, Construction Project Manager with the Academy.

In 2014, two units erected a masonry and wood building and installed electrical and plumbing infrastructure for use as a restroom facility adjacent to sports fields. These previous two teams left a lasting impression on the Academy's Facilities Engineering department, which prompted them to request ANG support during 2015. The joint arrangement between the ANG and the USCGA provides a twofold benefit; the ANG gets hands-on training on real-world projects, and the Academy benefits by receiving low cost labor and the ability to execute projects they otherwise would not have the funding to complete. The Coast Guard estimates the overall savings to be close to \$250,000.

The Academy was founded in 1876. Its setting along the banks of the Thames River provides a unique setting for the Air Force engineers to practice their AFSC specific skills while executing value added projects for the Academy. Airman 1st

Class Sierra Murphy, on her first CE deployment for training describes the training so far.

"The experience is unique. It is cool that we are part of the Academy for a couple of weeks. I appreciate the experience of being in Connecticut," said Murphy.

Teamwork was widespread with everyone chipping in to complete the projects, while using their individual skillsets.

"I like everyone doing different jobs in different fields. It gives each Airman a perspective of the different shops," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Munoz.

The sentiment was echoed by Staff Sgt. John Simpson, who

was working closely with the electricians.

"This DFT has given the Power Production Shop a unique opportunity to install a 600 amp transfer switch. Even though we learn about transfer switches and the way they operate, the electricians would normally do the installation. I am thankful to the USCGA for giving us this opportunity."

Overall, the experience has been a very successful training event that has greatly benefited both the 113th Civil Engineer Squadron and the United States Coast Guard Academy. The Airmen of the 113th have improved their skills while learning about the culture and history of the Coast Guard.

113th Civil Engineer Squadron Water and Fuel System Maintenance specialists TSgt. Rodney Allen and SSgt. Michael Kammerer install a new water fountain while deployed to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by CMSgt. Andrew Baker)



"The experience has been nothing short of fantastic!"

2015

113TH WING RECEIVES OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

MSgt. Craig Clapper

113th Wing Public Affairs

For the 15th time in their history, the D.C. Air National Guard's 113th Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for operational performance and mission accomplishment, setting a clear track record as a showcase unit that can get the job done.

"The Capital Guardians are committed to exemplifying the highest standards in the military with exceptionally meritorious service to both country and community," said Brig. Gen. George Degnon, 113th wing commander. "Although an Air Guard unit, we support numerous Active Duty commands and conduct daily operational missions protecting the skies of D.C. and providing strategic airlift for the First Lady, members of Congress, and the executive branch."

The 113th Wing distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service by flawlessly executing more than 1,500 F-16 missions and 480 Aerospace Control Alert missions with more than 2,500 total flying hours protecting the nation's capital. The unit also conducted 14 First Lady and Second Lady missions, 16 congressional delegation missions and 33 White House and Department of Defense missions.

During 2015, the 113th Wing also deployed more than 500 members in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, multi-national exercises PITCH BLACK, TRI-SLING and CRUZEX, as well as joint-forces exercise SENTRY SAVANNAH, while accomplishing both their peacetime and wartime missions.

Members from the 113th Wing contributed to the community throughout the year through volunteerism, providing safety and security during high-visibility events such as the Martin Luther King 50th Anniversary "March on the Capital," the Independence Day celebration and other national events in Washington.

The Outstanding Unit Award was established January 6, 1954 and is awarded by the Secretary of the Air Force to numbered units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

Command Chief Warrant Officer retires after 39 years of service

SGT Jennifer Amo

715th Public Affairs Detachment

"Debbie, I wouldn't be where I am without you," he said as he faced his wife. After addressing each of his personal guests individually, Mueck declared, "You guys are the epitome of what a family should be."

WASHINGTON, D.C. –After 39 years of dedicated service, the United States military wished farewell and good luck to one of their most senior warrant officers. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Steven Mueck was given his retirement orders October 17 in a ceremony at the District of Columbia National Guard Armory.

Mueck enlisted in the active Army in 1976, five years before commissioning as a warrant officer. His 10-years active service took him to Sinai, Egypt for two six-month tours as the Aviation Safety Officer and Multinational Force and Observers Commander's Pilot. Additionally, Mueck attended the Canadian Army Jump School while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division. Mueck came to the DCNG in 1986 and later became the unit's third Command Chief Warrant Officer. He retired with more than 10,000 hours of accident-free flying hours.

A third-generation Washington D.C. native, Mueck explained he does hold a few significant "firsts" within his family. Mueck was the first to join the American military as an Army Soldier after coming from a long line of German Navy service members. His brother, Capt. Andy Mueck, who served as the master of ceremonies for the day, joined the U.S. Navy after the honoree and has since retired.

In attendance, among Mueck's peers, leaders, and subordinates from the DCNG, sat his wife, son, mother, father, and family and friends. During

his remarks, the honoree made sure to recognize those he held closest to his heart with gratitude and humorous stories about how they have made a difference in his life.

"Debbie, I wouldn't be where I am without you," he said as he faced his wife. After addressing each of his personal guests individually, Mueck declared, "You guys are the epitome of what a family should be."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the retiree received the Legion of Merit award, the Meritorious Service Medal, a presidential letter signed by President Barack Obama, a replica of the Minute Man Statue, a retirement pin, a retirement certificate, and retirement orders relieving Mueck of duty as of October 31, 2015. Additionally, the DCNG recognized Debbie Mueck with a Spouse Retirement Certificate for her unselfish, faithful and devoted service during her husband's stint in the military.



The Adjutanat General of the District of Columbia National Guard, Brig. Gen. Renwick Payne, presents the District of Columbia Meritorious Service Medal to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Steven Mueck at his retirement ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters, District of Columbia Armory on Oct. 17, 2015. Mueck served in the Army for 39 years. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by SGT Tyrone Williams)

"This is a bittersweet moment as one of our trusted and true members parts ways with us."

BG Renwick L. Payne
The Adjutant General, DCNG



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(240) 857-4012