

AIRLIFT CHRONICLE



GEORGIA
**AIR NATIONAL
GUARD**





GA FAMILY TAKE ON NEW ROLE

Maj. Ileana O'Shea and Capt. James O'Shea explore new roles within the Air National Guard!

AIRPORT WELCOMES AIRLINE

SAV Airport welcomes Air Canada.

STRONG BONDS WEEKEND EVENT

165th Chaplains host weekend event in ATL!

ON THE COVER

The 165th Airlift Wing participated in a disaster response drill with the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport and Chatham Emergency Management Agency and other local emergency response agencies for a simulated plane crash. The live drill is a three-year requirement for the airport to maintain their FAA part 139 operating certificate. The Defense Support to Civil Authorities is a unique mission set of the National Guard and it is important that we are ready to respond when called upon.

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Public Affairs

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GEORGIA GUARD FAMILY TAKES ON NEW ROLE

STORY BY: STAFF SGT. CHELSEA SMITH



Maj. Ileana O’Shea, a 116th Air Control Wing deputy chief nurse, readies for a three-year assignment as a bilateral affairs officer to Argentina beginning July 2017. As a bilateral affairs officer, Ileana O’Shea will coordinate engagements between the Georgia National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Argentina.

Her husband Capt. James O’Shea, 165th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, and her four-year old son will accompany her on the move.

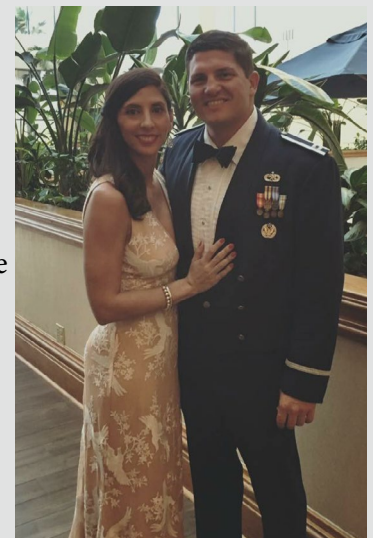
Maj. O’Shea brings emergency and disaster response experience from her Air Guard position as deputy chief nurse for the 116th Medical Group, Detachment 1, Homeland Response Force, as well as civilian experience as an emergency room nurse.



“I’m excited about this unique opportunity to partner with the Argentine military while working jointly with U.S. active duty members at the U.S. Embassy,” said Maj. O’Shea. “So far I’ve had the opportunity to attend the state partnership program signing ceremony and planning meetings in Argentina and was able to host several Argentine representatives during Georgia

National Guard’s recent Vigilant Guard exercise.”

Maj. Ileana O’Shea will be continuing to build relationships from her previous partnership work by coordinating emergency and disaster response, and strengthening cooperation in peacekeeping operations and readiness alongside the Argentine military. Currently Maj. O’Shea is working on the rollout of a medical humanitarian assistance mission, a “Women in the Military” forum which highlights the unique experiences of women serving in the armed forces, and a five-day collaborative exchange between Argentinian and 165th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crews set to highlight innovative and emerging practices within the aviation maintenance career field.



As his wife prepares for the new role, Capt. James O’Shea concludes an assignment as the battlefield airmen program manager in the A5 Directorate at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. For more than a year, he acquired equipment for battlefield airmen personnel, assisted in the management of \$1.1 billion National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation spend plan, and prepared correspondence for Congress



members. He departs carrying strategic knowledge and best practices he can implement in his role at the 165th AW, but the transition to MBA student and part-time Traditional Guardsman will be equally demanding, he said.

“Learning the acquisitions process, working with industry and having to research and canvass for industry-leading products was valuable experience,” he said. “I’ve gained invaluable knowledge of the NGREA process which I hope to share with others at the unit level, and I’ve made contacts at NGB I can reach out to with questions in the future.”

The couple, who have been married for seven years, pivot to new roles professionally and as husband and wife, they said, “We’ll probably be together now more than we’ve ever been before,” said James.

Atop establishing a new work-life tempo in a foreign country, both look forward to a culturally-enriching experience living in South America.

“We are approaching the move with an open mind,” they said. “We’ve been very lucky to have opportunities come our way and have been in the right position to say yes to those opportunities. Moving out of your comfort zone is difficult, but it really challenges you and makes you an asset to your organization.”

Governor Deal announced the Georgia National Guard state partnership with the Republic of Argentina in 2016. Argentina is the second state partner for the Georgia National Guard along with the Country of Georgia. In support of theater commander’s security cooperation objectives, the National Guard has been building relationships world wide through State Partnership Programs since 1993.



165AW SUPPORTS AIRPORT WELCOMING OF NEW AIRLINE

STORY BY: LT. COL. DAVID SIMONS

Members of the 165th Airlift Wing supported the Savannah Airport Commission in welcoming Air Canada to the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. The 165th Fire Department was present and showered the airplane as it arrived at its gate at the Airport. In addition, Commander of the 165th Maintenance Group, Col. Pete Boone and Public Affairs Officer, Lt. Col. David Simons attended a reception hosted by the Savannah Airport Commission at the Chatham Club in downtown Savannah. Col. Boone was welcomed by Airport Executive Director Greg Kelly who said “we were honored to have the 165th Fire Department welcome Air Canada with a traditional water cannon salute. The airport and the Air National Guard have a wonderful relationship as they are supportive in our operations at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport.”



Air Canada is the first scheduled airline in two decades to offer non-stop international flights to the Airport. The 165th Fire Department is the first responder in case of an aircraft emergency at the airport and their facility was paid for by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Savannah Airport Commission, and the National Guard Bureau.

LIFE IS LIKE...

Strong Bonds Weekend Event

COMMENTARY BY: TECH. SGT. AMBER WILLIAMS

'Mama always said, "Life is like a box of chocolates". But in Strong Bonds that box of chocolates is a jar filled with red and green marbles. The green marbles are symbolic of good and the red marbles are less than favorable. Everyone has both red and green marbles and everyone starts out with a different combination. You can't change what life has handed you, but when you do your part, you increase your green marbles.

This last month, I attended the Strong Bonds – Got Your Back weekend event hosted by the 165th Airlift Wing Chaplains Office, in Atlanta, Georgia. Airmen from 165th Airlift Wing and the 116th Air Control Wing attended the event.

The weekend started out Friday night with a brief introduction and meet and greet. Then Saturday morning we started the official course which covered everything from communication in relationships, to understanding how we respond differently under stress, understanding your personality type and how it plays into your habits and communication style, and setting yourself up for success.

My main takeaway from the course was a refresher in communication techniques. For instance, communicating expectations in relationships and family and also communicating when something doesn't meet your expectations.

The course ended at 3:30 in the afternoon, which gave us plenty of down time to relax and explore the area with other Airmen attending the class.

Overall, I'm very glad I had the opportunity to attend the event. Although we can never completely get rid of the red marbles in our lives, We can certainly do more to increase the green marbles in our jar by planning for success, surrounding ourselves with meaningful friendships and relationships, and maintaining those relationships with positive communication.

As Forrest Gump once said, "I don't know if we have destiny, or if we're all just floatin' around accidental-like on a breeze, but I, I think it's a little of both."

Boater's Safety Course!

Event: The Boater's Safety

When: June 7th from 0830AM to 3:00PM

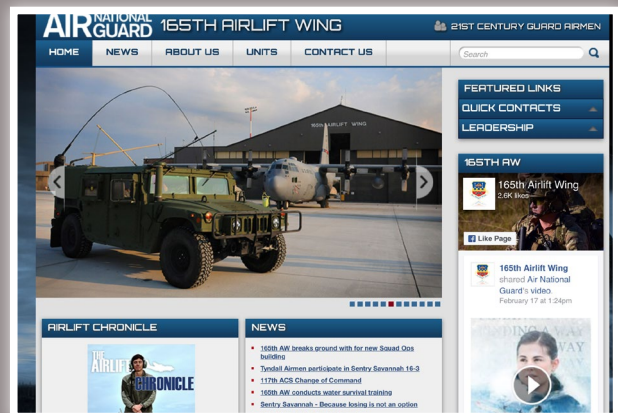
Where: At 165 AW Headquarters Building 302 big classroom

Who: Members from 165 AW, 165 ADC, GSU's, and dependents ages 12 years & up.

How: Go to <https://www.goutdoorsgeorgia.com/> to set up profile to register for class and then register under Events and Hunter Boater Classes being sure to pick June 7th.

Must sign up online.

Any questions please contact TSgt Chuck Aldridge or MSgt Sam Lewis at 912-966-8206/8380 of the 165 AW Safety Office.



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Check it out at: <http://www.165aw.ang.af.mil>

UPCOMING NGAUS CONFERENCE

Make Your Plans now, to attend the 69th Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Georgia and Georgia Enlisted Association (EANGGA) Conference June 2-4 2017. We will be hosting the conference at the beautiful Stone Mountain Marriott Evergreen Conference Center and Resort. The Evergreen Conference Center is a luxurious AAA 4-Star lake-front resort nestled at the foot of Georgia's majestic Stone Mountain.

All conference activities, except for golf, will be located in the Hotel Conference Center. We have selected a fun conference theme of "Race on Over to the 2017 NGAGA Conference." This is to highlight our National Conference being held in Louisville, Kentucky this year... home of the Kentucky Derby Race! We will have lots of fun activities related to the theme throughout the weekend! Friday night dinner is an all you can eat seafood and prime rib buffet. You will be able to eat at your leisure from 6 pm to 10 pm. You can also stroll out to the pool to enjoy the entertainment and hospitality area. The Saturday Business Session and Professional Development has a phenomenal line up. This will be a great opportunity to hear about contemporary issues and interact with the speakers. We wind up Saturday with the evening gala, with a short business session, awards, and dance. Best of all, it's under one roof - no driving unless you want to! Buck and Joni Bennett, along with Jeff and Melanie Freeman will co-chair the conference. They and the NGAGA Board, are working hard to make this another great conference.

For registration information, please check out the website at <https://www.ngaga.org/events/state-conference>.



COL. SHOWALTER RETIRES

Col. Jon J. Showalter, director of operations for the Georgia Air National Guard, recently held a retirement ceremony on Saturday May 6, 2017 at the 165th Airlift Wing after 29 years of service. The presiding officer for the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Jesse T. Simmons Jr., Assistant Adjutant General – Air.

Col. Showalter is the Commander of the Joint Air Operations Center, for the Georgia ANG, Joint Force Headquarters Clay National Guard Center, Dobbins Air Reserve Base. JFHQ commands and controls all ANG units to provide trained, equipped ready forces to meet the full spectrum federal and state missions. He manages all Air National Guard assets during federal and state emergencies.

Col. Showalter graduated from the University of Kansas and received his commission through the ROTC program in 1989. He completed undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas and C-130 initial qualification training at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. Colonel Showalter is a command pilot with over 5900 flying hours, including 487 combat sorties and 118 combat support sorties in Southwest Asia.

Col. Showalter's previous assignment was as the Commander of the 158th Airlift Squadron, 165th AW. He is a resident of Savannah and flies fulltime for FedEx.

CHECK US OUT ON 



165th AW AIRMAN RECOGNIZED

STORY BY: LT. COL. DAVID SIMONS



The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Military Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at the Westin Savannah Harbor. This year's Outstanding Airman of the Year was awarded to Staff Sergeant Joshua Crawford of the 165th Air Support Operations Squadron. Staff Sgt. Crawford serves as a Joint Terminal Air Controller (JTAC) who recently completed an assignment in Djibouti, Africa in support of the East African Response Force (EARF). Because of his civilian job requirements, accepting the award on Staff Sgt. Crawford's behalf was his commander Lieutenant Colonel Robert Noren.

"We are very proud of Staff Sgt. Crawford as he exemplifies the citizen-Airman concept of the Air National Guard," said Colonel Rainer "Speedy" Gomez, Commander of the 165th Airlift Wing. "The 165th has always had strong performers and Staff Sgt. Crawford is just another shining example of leadership."



The Savannah Chamber's Military Affairs Council annually presents awards to the Soldier of the Year, Marine of the Year, Coast Guard Person of the Year, Naval ROTC Student of the Year, Civilian of the Year, and Airmen of the Year.

Giving this year's luncheon invocation was the 165th AW Chaplain, Major Brannon Bowman.



DREW HUNT RECEIVES GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD MEDAL



STORY BY: LT. COL. DAVID SIMONS

Colonel Rainer "Speedy" Gomez, Commander of the 165th Airlift Wing presented the Georgia National Guard Commendation Medal to Mrs. Drew Eustis Hunt, the Military Affairs Director for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce in a ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, May 26, 2017. Assisting Col. Gomez was 165th AW Honorary Wing Commander, Dr. Bill Cathcart, a previous recipient of the Georgia National Guard Commendation Medal.

Mrs. Hunt was cited for outstanding achievement while in her role as the Community Relations Director for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. From December 2012 to April 2017, Mrs. Hunt was assigned to bridge Savannah Area Chamber membership of 2,200+ coastal businesses with all military assets and personnel in the Savannah region. She also represented the Coastal region in the Chamber's Military Support Initiative; a long-standing multi-year partnership of the City of Savannah, Chatham County Government, The Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) and Savannah Area Chamber who fund Washington DC representation assuring military support of the region from the Pentagon and Capitol Hill representatives. She coordinated financial support for special occasions which include visiting domestic and international military VIP partners, such as the Republic of Georgia, Argentina, Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. Mrs. Hunt assisted in developing community awareness for emerging leaders by linking the 165th, Hunter and Ft Stewart missions to Leadership Savannah classmates annually.