

PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING

OCTOBER 2024

Next UTA 2-3 NOVEMBER 2024



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ON THE COVER

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dave Rinard, 167th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, waves an American flag from the top of a C-17 Globemaster aircraft as it pulls into a parking spot at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 26, 2024. Rinard was one of approximately 150 167th Airlift Wing Airmen who deployed overseas for three months to serve as an expeditionary airlift squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

ON THE BACK COVER

West Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Brig. Gen. David Cochran, Col. Bill Annie, 167th Airlift Wing deputy commander, and West Virginia Air National Guard Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Ives, greet 167th Airlift Wing Airmen on their return from an overseas deployment, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 26, 2024. Approximately 150 167th members deployed for three months to serve as an expeditionary airlift squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)



167AW WING COMMANDER
Col. Martin Timko

Mighty Airlift Wing!

Quite the spooky atmosphere for our Saturday beginning to October UTA! Anecdotal-ly, I did not hear of any travel accidents caused by the thick morning fog and I am quite happy to hear that everybody made it to base safe. Of course, as the sun rose, the fog dissipated and we were treated to glorious Fall weather for our Drill Weekend (always figures, right!?) The pleasant weekend made it quite enjoyable as both Chief Snyder and I got out and about the installation, checking-in with folks, and witnessing the many efforts happening over UTA. As always with Drill Weekend, Martinsburg was a busy hive of activity, and this commander appreciates your efforts in getting after readiness requirements!

While our fellow deployers are enjoying some well-deserved downtime, I was happy to see the aircraft ramp filled back up and the flyers getting after a local trainer on Saturday. We will be back to a more 'normal' wing come next UTA when we have all of our deployers back into the ranks, regaling us all with their deployed stories and experiences. As 2024 continues to time out, we are left with just two more UTAs to knock-out our annual training events while managing all the rest of our daily and mission taskings and responsibilities. My charge to us all is not to coast into the end of the year but accelerate through the finish line of 2024!

As we have gotten into Fall, some leadership change has occurred from both the National Guard and Air Mobility Command (AMC) perspectives. Gen Steven Nordhaus is the newest Chief of the National Guard Bureau and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally, the new AMC Commander is Gen John Lamontagne. Chief Snyder and I look forward to attending the latest conferences in which we will get the latest insights and priorities from these new leaders with regards to both our Guard perspective and Mobility Air Force perspective as well. Our first in the queue will be later this month at the Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium.

As I opened with the spooky Saturday weather, I am reminded that Halloween is just weeks away. Prior to that event, the Family Readiness Group will sponsor our own Halloween Bash for the kiddos on Saturday, 26 October in the Civil Engineering Hangar (Building 119) from 1300-1500. Always a great time with many fun activities for our wing families and a nice prelude to trick-or-treating at the end of the month. Be sure to emphasize safety for the youngsters as the nights get dark sooner and visibility gets challenged. I am personally looking forward to our Wing Gala next weekend and will be impressed to see our wing family members all dressed to the nines! November UTA is right at the start of the month, which will be upon us before we know it. Until then, stay safe, stay smiling, and most importantly: STAY MIGHTY

--Marty

Vision

The Premier Airlift Wing
Mission Ready, Committed to Airmen and Community,
and Dedicated to Continuous Improvement



167AW WING COMMAND CHIEF
Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Snyder

Team 167,

Happy (early) Halloween! I have to say, no matter what the weather man forecasts you can always predict great weather for the UTA. It has been rainy for weeks, but the UTA Gods sent the clouds packing and gave us a gorgeous weekend. The Wing was excited to welcome home our deployed Airmen after months of working overseas. I am sure they will have many stories and tales to share over the next few months as they re-integrate into the unit. A big shout out to all the team members who worked to get them off the aircraft and to their families, as well as getting them in processed over the following couple days. One of the big events for the weekend was the Mission Support Group's Air Medal ceremony for MSgt Joshua Pluta and TSgt Jessie Trejo our Security Forces Squadron (SFS) Ravens. They are the first SFS Airmen at this Wing to receive this prestigious medal for their dedicated service during the tumultuous Afghanistan withdrawal. Their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the aircrew and aircraft, as well as hundreds of Afghans, shows the excellence that our Security Forces demonstrates daily. Congrats and job well done Josh and Jessie!

The 167th bid adieu to CMSgt Robbie Bowers this weekend. He has been a staple in the Force Support Squadron for many years and will now get to enjoy a much-deserved retirement. Thanks Chief for your years of outstanding support to this Wing, you will be missed!

Col Timko and I recently attended the CSAF Wing Commanders Conference. While there, one of the big topics was standards. Uniforms, personal appearance and patch wear were among some of the topics discussed. We need to ensure that we as a Wing adhere to all standards. This goes above and beyond beards, ponytails, and patches but also how we perform our jobs. In the last months, 47 Airman lost their lives, and a significant amount of equipment was damaged or destroyed, all due to human factors which are preventable. As we move forward with the Great Power Competition and accepting risk at lower levels, it's going to be imperative that we have a deep understanding of our AFSC's. We here at Martinsburg routinely do things right, but we need to stay locked in and not rest on how we have done things in the past.

As I close out my comments for October, I would like to make a plug for our Honor Guard. They are looking for members and it is a great opportunity to support the Wing and our community. The Honor Guard is asked to do several events throughout the year on and off base. If you have the time, I'd encourage you to reach out to one of our Honor Guard Airmen on how to become a member! Thanks for all you do as a Wing and always remember to #FearTheUnicorn!

#WeAreMartinburg

~Chief

167th concludes overseas deployment

by Staff Sgt. Edward Michon

Airmen with the 167th Airlift Wing returned home to West Virginia on Sept. 26, ending a three-month deployment overseas.

Approximately 150 Airmen with the 167th served as an expeditionary C-17 squadron, supporting airlift functions in theatre with other units as part of the Air Force Force Generation (AF-FORGEN) deployment model.

This was the 167th's first AFFORGEN deployment, mobilizing a large group of Airmen from various squadrons to fulfill a role in an overseas environment. Previous deployments consisted of Airmen volunteering to fill specific capacities on an as-needed basis.

"It's one thing to fly one mission together here at home, but when you're deployed together for several months, you really get to know each other and develop a strong bond," said Col. Christopher Sigler, 167th Operations Group commander. "This type of deployment brings the unit closer together."

During the deployment, 167th aircrews executed nearly 1,100 flying hours, flew 586 sorties, carried 17.4 million pounds of cargo and 3,588 passengers, and loaded 2,430 pallets and 363 pieces of rolling stock.

167th maintenance personnel also worked 2,078 maintenance discrepancies totaling 4,939.5 maintenance man-hours, achieving a mission capable rate of 94.5%, the highest rating in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve for the duration of the deployment.

According to Col. Michael Sherman, 167th Maintenance Group commander, the Multi-Capable Airmen (MCA) training maintainers received prior to the deployment greatly contributed to their success.

"The MCA training paid massive dividends in executing the mission," said Sherman. "They developed a mindset that everyone was there to support the entire mission, not just their job."

That dedication spilled over to other tasks beyond their own duties, allowing 167th Airmen to perform maintenance and repairs to aircraft from other units operating at the base, facilitating the delivery of combat air power.

"Our team was truly extraordinary in providing safe, reliable and sustainable aircraft in support of the mission," said Sherman.

During the course of the deployment, the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron consistently met mission requirements, engaged in leadership training and assisted other units, even traveling to other locations to do so.

"I couldn't be more proud of the effort they made to constantly go above and beyond," said Col. Martin Timko, 167th Airlift Wing commander. "When our folks are asked to do something, they do it in such an extraordinary manner and it leaves a positive impression on our peers." 🐾



167th Airlift Wing Airmen, returning from an overseas deployment, walk across the flight line at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 26, 2024. Approximately 150 Airmen deployed for three months as an expeditionary airlift squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)



Children of 167th Airlift Wing members anxiously await the arrival of their loved ones as they returned from a three-month overseas deployment, Sept. 26, 2024. The return marked the first large scale deployment and homecoming in nearly 20 years. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Matt Meyercheck and his wife Jess embrace at his return from an overseas deployment at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Sept. 26, 2024. Approximately 150 aircraft operators, maintainers and support personnel deployed as a Mission Generation Force Element under the Air Force Force Generation deployment model. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

Airmen recognized for their accomplishments during deployment

Senior Master Sgt. Ashleigh Palmer, center, was promoted, June 26, 2024. Maj. Jon Alexander and Senior Master Sgt. Dirk Hennon pinned on her new rank. "Ashleigh deserves this promotion for not only what she has accomplished at home, but also for the tireless work she has put into taking care of our team as we begin this deployment. It's awesome to have her on our side," said Lt. Col. George Fay, 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander.



Staff Sgt. Andrew Shilling recieved the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron coin of excellence from Lt. Col. George Fay, 167th EAS commander, for supporting the 155th EAS deployment as well as being a linchpin of continuity for the swap over to the 167th EAS.



Lt. Col. George Fay, right, presented Senior Airman Collin Roberts with the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron coin of excellence for his outstanding performance as part of the advanced echelon to the deployed location.



Staff Sgt. Ray Morales, recipient of the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron coin of excellence, is congratulated by Lt. Col. George Fay, 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander. "Since we have arrived, Ray has stood up the 167th EAS Maintenance Consolidated Tool Kit program and trained his team ensuring CTK was operational within one day of arrival," said Fay.

Lt. Col. George Fay, second from right, presented coins to Tech. Sgt. Michael Nasuti, Tech. Sgt. James Doane and Tech. Sgt. Lee Watts, for excelling at their duties at the deployed location.



Lt. Col. George Fay, left, 167th Expeditionary Air Squadron commander, recognized Tech. Sgt. Travis Turner, Master Sgt. Chris Orr and Staff Sgt. Mackenzie Daniels for their dedication to the mission and excellent performance.



Airmen recognized for their accomplishments during deployment

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Mousch, center, displays a certificate he was presented to recognize his promotion. Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Moore, Tech. Sgt. Tyler Hinson, Senior Airman Gavin Miller and Maj. Jon Alexander are pictured with Mousch.



Maj. Jon Alexander, right, presented Staff Sgt Kohl Holderbaum, second from left, with his promotion and presented him with a coin for his outstanding work ethic.

Master Sgt. Tom Yeargan, center, was promoted and presented with the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron coin for his dedication to keeping the fleet healthy and meeting mission requirements. Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Moore, Master Sgt. Chris McCormick, Tech. Sgt. Travis Turner and Maj. Jon Alexander are pictured with Yeargan.



Lt. Col. George Fay, center, presented coins to Master Sgt. Kristen Windle and Master Sgt. Bre Spessard for their outstanding contributions. Windle established essential accounts for mission success and meticulously managed rosters and recall systems. Spessard stood up the expeditionary airlift squadron Go/No Go programs, meticulously identifying and rectifying errors to ensure regulation compliance.

Staff Sgt. Tyler Miller was recognized as a top performer for consistently demonstrating exceptional performance as an aerospace ground equipment maintainer, showcasing his expertise in troubleshooting and repairing generators and AC carts. He is pictured with Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Moore and Maj. Jon Alexander.



Lt. Col. George Fay, center, recognized Maj. Taylor Belfield and Tech. Sgt. Greg Copenhaver. Copenhaver tirelessly supported evening launches and covered for ill colleagues. Belfield established a crucial relationship with wing intelligence to deliver real-time reports to crews, despite an injury.

Airmen recognized for their accomplishments during deployment

Lt. Col. George Fay, center, recognized Tech. Sgt. Dave Smith, left, and Tech. Sgt. Corey Chaney. Smith proved to be an indispensable asset during the deployment, serving as the Red X authority on A shift for GAC and assisting Com-Nav troops with issue resolution. Chaney consistently demonstrated exceptional expertise in resolving aircraft discrepancies. Beyond his own duties, Chaney voluntarily extended his expertise to other maintenance shops.



Tech. Sgt. Travis Commer, center and Tech. Sgt. Keith Potter, second from right, were presented with the 167th Airlift Wing Command Chief coin by Chief Master Sgt. Mark Snyder, second from left, and they were presented with the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron coin of Excellence by Lt. Col. George Fay, left. Maj. John Alexander, led the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron maintainers during the deployment.

Anthony Pierson, third from left was promoted to the rank of master sergeant and was coined by Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Moore, second from left. Master Sgt. Chris Sheldon, third from right and Master Sgt. Dave Chandler, center, pinned on Pierson's new stripes.



Major Taylar Belfield, left, was honored with West Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Brig. Gen. David Cochran's, coin of excellence for her tireless dedication in providing critical intelligence to the crews, demonstrated through her collaboration with the 618 AOC and her ongoing efforts to expand intel collection.

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Snyder, 167th Airlift Wing command chief, left, visited the deployers and presented some of them with his coin. Staff Sgt. Dave Price was coined for his dedication to his role in the C-17 expeditionary airlift squadron contingency operations, along with his exceptional technical skills and positive attitude, which resulted in zero missed missions.



Master Sgt. Michael Thompson, center, was promoted for his exceptional performance in the C-17 Comm / Navigation shop with the 167EAS/MX. His contributions to the mission were recognized by Maj. Michael Stark, left, who presented him with a coin. The rank was pinned by Tech. Sgt. Skylar Hinson, second from right, and Senior Airman Gavin Miller, second from left. Maj. Jon Alexander, right, noted the excellent work Thompson does not only while deployed but also at home station.

Airmen recognized for their accomplishments during deployment

Lt. Col. George Fay, 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander, right, coined Tech. Sgt. Skylar Hinson, Senior Airman Tyler Rice, Staff Sgt. Dane Labrie and Staff Sgt. Jacob Miller. Hinson was lead technician for a quick turn flare down/upload on at home station, ensuring aircraft made it to the deployed location in a timely manner. Labrie quickly mastered the aircraft debrief process, effectively engaged with aircrew, reported write-ups to leadership, and accurately input engine hours into GO81. Rice constantly transported AGE equipment, towing lox carts, power units, and non-powered stands to TA, TAC, ANB, and Mike ramps. Matthew, as the lead for multiple aircraft, successfully managed and executed a wide range of maintenance operations with skill and professionalism.



Maj. Jon Alexander, left, recognized Tech. Sgt. Kraig Kline, Master Sgt. Jason Rapsack, and Master Sgt. Nick Comer for their efforts at the deployed location. Kline was a versatile and dedicated team member who made significant contributions to the maintenance and readiness of aircraft during his deployment. Rapsack demonstrated his expertise and leadership, completing 45 Red X jobs and accumulating over 84 man-hours. Comer was a vital asset to the supply chain operations during his deployment, providing constant monitoring and communication to the 436th Supply Chain Operations Squadron regarding shortages and quick turnarounds of parts and supplies.



West Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Brig. Gen. David Cochran, center, recognized Master Sgt. Chris Sheldon, left, and Staff Sgt. Cory Michael, right, presenting them coins of excellence. Sheldon coordinated daily work calls, served as a point of contact for flight line maintenance activities, and performed his Crew Chef duties exceptionally well. Michael flew on a mission to transport a 4-star General and his team, and aided in over twenty oil filter changes and engine runs due to extreme temperatures. He also responded to multiple MRT requests from GADM to repair C-17s broken on station, including an APU change, sheared starters, and follow-on engine runs for ELEN shop repairs.



Twelve members of the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron graduated from the 4-week Grand Slam Leadership Academy, at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. The course focuses on applying Airman Leadership qualities to supervisor-related scenarios and group discussions aiming to enhance the leadership skills of participants. Graduates were: Senior Airman Trevor Albanese, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baker, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Barrow, Staff Sgt. Mary Connor, Staff Sgt. Chason Day, Tech. Sgt. Skylar Hinson, Tech. Sgt. Lano-na Mathis, Staff Sgt. Jacob Matthew, Staff Sgt. Tyler Miller, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Mousch, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Sclararo and Tech. Sgt. Corey Chaney.



Members of the 167th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron met with U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, Timmy Davis, Aug. 28, 2024. The Ambassador shared his personal story of how he rose from a frontline Marine to his current position, emphasizing the importance of hard work and dedication. Ambassador Davis provided an update on the current status of the Israeli peace talks and emphasized the significance of the partnership between the West Virginia Air National Guard and Qatar.

167th Security Forces Ravens awarded Air Medals for Afghanistan evacuation



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Joshua Pluta and Tech Sgt. Jessie Trejo, 167th Security Forces Squadron, are awarded Air Medals with C devices by Col. Corey Gause, 167th Mission Support Group commander, during a ceremony at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Oct. 5, 2024. The C device denotes combat conditions, as the Airmen were recognized for their efforts during Operation Allies Refuge, the August 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan and the largest noncombatant evacuation in Air Force history. Pluta and Trejo are the first 167th Security Forces Squadron Airmen to receive Air Medals. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Joshua Kozak)

Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Airman 1st Class Tyler Barney

Hometown:

Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

Job Title:

Loadmaster



Airman 1st Class Tyler Barney is a C-17 Globemaster aircraft loadmaster for the 167th Airlift Squadron and he is the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for October 2024.

As a loadmaster, Barney is responsible for supervising the loading and unloading of cargo, vehicles and people on C-17 aircraft. His duties include mathematically preplanning the correct placement of the load on the airplane, providing passenger comfort and safety, and securing cargo. Additionally, he recently covered the aircrew scheduling office coordinating aircrew to cover missions, local training flights, flight simulator training and more.

"This young man has done everything we have asked of him and continuously looks to improve himself, the unit, and the people that surround him," said his supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Glazer. "A1C Barney is a pleasure to fly with and is someone we can all trust to get the job done even when no one is looking. He knows when to joke, but also knows when it's time to put his head down and get to work."

Glazer explained that Barney was hired to backfill the aircrew scheduling office while the staff members were deployed so he had minimal training or supervision.

"He absolutely crushed it doing the work of several ranks

above him all on his own at times, demonstrating his reliability and his invaluable contributions to mission readiness," said Glazer. "The development and maturity of this young man impresses me every day."

Hometown: Berkeley Springs, WV

Job Title: Aircraft Loadmaster

How long have you served in the unit? I enlisted 2 years ago.

How does your job support the 167th's mission? Loadmasters are responsible for safely and efficiently loading the aircraft, as well as accomplishing tasks before, during, and after the flight to facilitate the movement in the safest way possible.

Civilian job: I am currently employed on base, working in aircrew scheduling, assigning pilots and loadmasters to local flights, and missions.

Education: I am a full-time college student studying Homeland Security at American Military University.

Hobbies: I like to spend time outside with my family and girlfriend, hiking, fishing, or camping.

Goals: My main goal is to create a comfortable life with my family and take them to some of the amazing places I have been blessed to see.

I am proudest of: I am proudest of continuing my education, because I don't enjoy school, but I know it's for the best.

People may be surprised to know this about me: I have been to more than 10 different countries.

The most exciting thing I've done in the military is: Travelling and seeing new places is the most exciting thing for me.

One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career: One of the biggest lessons I have learned is to be flexible. It's great to know what to expect, but it's just as important to be willing and able to adapt.

My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing: From the beginning of military careers, a common piece of advice is to not volunteer for anything in basic training. That is no way to go about your military career. While blending in is often the easier path to choose, treating every task like it's a test, and welcoming the most challenging tasks will bring much more satisfaction.

The best thing about working with my team is: We are blessed to travel around the world together and we share a common goal of completing the mission and helping others. 🐕

USAF Units of Action: Combat Wings, Air Base Wings, Institutional Wings defined

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs



ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Department of the Air Force implementation of a new construct that will evolve wings into cohesive Units of Action by separating into Combat Wings, Air Base Wings and Institutional Wings will be a phased approach, starting no later than the summer of 2025.

The new concept will create several organizations capable of conducting deployed combat operations, as well as base defense. Under this future construct, base, institutional and combat missions will transition into distinct organizations – called Institutional Wings and Combat Wings – each with separate commanders.

Air Force combat wings will be structured as mission-ready Units of Action and will have all the necessary elements stationed together at the same installation where they can train together on a day-to-day basis.

Deployable Combat Wings will evolve to deploy as fully-trained teams and will replace the Expeditionary Air Base and Air Task Force models previously announced in Sept. 2023.

Combat Wings will focus on mission-level warfighting readiness, supported by Air Base Wings who are focused on power projection platform readiness (the installation).

Institutional wings will continue to provide support and capabilities essential to the organize, train and equip requirements of the USAF.

The goal is 24 Deployable Combat Wings fielded to meet the Air Force's rotational demands and provide depth for emerging crises – 16 Active Duty and 8 Reserve Component Wings.

The phased implementation approach includes:

- Establishing Air Base Wings at installations that host Combat Wings and/or Institutional Wings with supported/supporting relationship.
- Establish the deployable variant of the combat wing: the Deployable Combat Wing. Each DCW will have a redesigned concept of support for GPC schemes of maneuver, including Agile Combat Employment, to ensure the wings are prepared to execute their wartime functions and missions with assigned Airmen and units.

The Air Force will begin deliberately implementing Combat Wings, Air Base Wings and Institutional Wings across the force as early as summer 2025. The first Combat Wings should be ready to deploy elements by late 2026 (FY27).

Evolution from XAB to ATF to CW

In 2023, the Air Force established the Expeditionary Air Base (XAB) as an initial force presentation model in its transition from Air Expeditionary Wings to a future force presentation model. The Air Force has been deploying Airmen under the XAB construct since the fall of 2023 and will continue to do so in the coming years.

The first Air Task Forces entered the AFFORGEN cycle during the reset phase in summer 2024 and will become deployment ready in the fall of 2025. These initial ATFs will replace some of the XABs as the US Air Force's deployable unit of action.

During this pilot period, the Air Force will deploy Airmen using both the XAB and ATF force presentation models. Concurrently, the Combat Wing, Air Base Wing and Institutional Wing phased approach will begin. Combat Wings will replace ATFs and XABs.



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1636

To Our National Guard Team

Today, I am humbled to serve as the 30th Chief of the National Guard Bureau. My wife Shannon and I are excited to serve with you—our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. I intend to approach every day and every task with my Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): Service, Optimism, & Passion.

Over the past 35 years, I have been shaped by assignments both in the active duty and in the National Guard as a traditional Guardsman, a temporary technician, and an active Guardsman. My experience with joint combat deployments and caring for our service members during their toughest days has taught me the importance of people. Our Soldiers, Airmen, and National Guard families will always be my highest priority. My focus on Soldiers and Airmen will guide my decision-making to best serve you, the services, the Department of Defense, the interagency, and our allies and partners. We will advance our readiness, partnerships, and modernization to accelerate and integrate emerging capabilities. If we all commit to even 1% incremental improvement every day, we will enhance our professional force, out-compete any strategic competitor, deter aggression, and prevail in conflict if deterrence fails.

Current events remind us that we face persistent threats both in the homeland and abroad. The Army, the Air Force, and the American people rely on us to provide robust capabilities, capacity, and strategic and operational depth—each and every one of you are critical to our success. We must eliminate ANY harmful behavior that hurts others and weakens our elite and cohesive teams. Integrity, selflessness, duty, honor, and excellence are all part of our core values. Lean on your teammates and remember your warrior ethos as we work with relentless purpose to guarantee freedoms for the next generation.

I firmly believe the National Guard is an elite and ready warfighting force—Always Ready, Always There! If we can succeed at our most challenging missions, then we can succeed at any mission. For the past 387 years, the incredible men and women of the National Guard have risen to every challenge and proven themselves on the battlefield and in our communities. Thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and mission focus. I look forward to serving with you as we work together to drive progress through continuous improvement for our National Guard.

Stronger Together, Stronger Tomorrow,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "St. S. Nordhaus".

Steven S. Nordhaus
General, U.S. Air Force
Chief, National Guard Bureau

Decoy 81

by Senior Airman Zachary Bennett, 167th Airlift Wing Religious Affairs Airman



**Senior Airman
Zachary Bennett,
Chaplain Assistant**

My dream as a four-year-old kid was to travel the world, transport cool cargo, and wear a flight suit. I later joined the 167 AW to be a Loadmaster. As a member of the Student Flight, we were able to visit our sections, watch our mentors, and learn what we would be doing once we returned from Technical School. One day, as our group walked to the Operations building, we noticed a memorial plaque for the crew of Decoy 81. When we arrived at our section, someone asked about the plaque. The senior Loadmaster explained, on 7 October 1992, while on a local training mission, one of our C-130's, Decoy 81, struck a power-line near Berkeley Springs--all six crewmembers perished.

As Loadmasters we often hear stories of accidents, incidents, and crashes, but that day it stuck with me. While we are able to travel, transport cool cargo and wear a flight suit, we must also realize our job is very serious, mission critical, and inherently dangerous.

Recently, I learned that on the thirtieth anniversary of the Decoy 81 event, the Wing dedicated a tree and a memorial bench located on the hill near the track overlooking the base. So, the next time you walk past the Operations Group, take a moment to look at the images on the plaque and read the names... Lt Col Steinberger, Capt Adams, MSgt Griffith, SSgt Hinchman, SSgt Jones, and TSgt Funkhouser. When you go to the track, visit the bench and pause to remember the families of these men in your prayers. Take a young airman with you, tell them the story...may these Airmen's service not be forgotten.



GLORIFYING GOD
SERVING AIRMEN
PURSUING EXCELLENCE



Protein Shakes Pulled from Military Base GNC Stores Because They Contained Hemp Seeds

Military.com | By Thomas Novelty

Published September 23, 2024 at 5:13pm ET

GNC, a major vitamin, health supplement and nutrient retailer, pulled a protein supplement from the shelves of its stores on military bases this month because it contained hemp seed -- a banned substance for service members.

An internal GNC notification dated Sept. 12, a screenshot of which was shared on the the Air Force amn/nco/snco Facebook page this weekend, was sent asking for immediate removal of four products of Huel ready-to-drink protein shakes.

"This product should be pulled from the shelves IMMEDIATELY and HELD IN THE BACK ROOM until you receive further instructions," the interoffice correspondence email to all GNC military stores reads. "Please note your store could have product arriving in future orders."

Nicholas Sero, the director of public relations for GNC, confirmed to Military.com in an email that the memo was authentic. He added that, on Sept. 5, the GNC field team noticed the Huel products which contained hemp seed protein, "which is not permitted for use by active-duty military members" and added the retailer took "immediate action to alert and adjust."

Hemp, which comes from the same plant as cannabis, is banned in the military, and service members who knowingly use the products can be penalized under Article 92, failure to follow orders, or Article 112a, wrongful use or possession of a controlled substance, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Sero added that the formal memo was sent Sept. 12 to "ensure all stores completed the removal." GNC currently has 87 stores on military bases, he added.

"GNC's field team quickly identified the issue with the ingredient and acted immediately to notify stores and corporate headquarters on the day of launch," Sero said. "As a further precaution, we issued an additional memo to ensure that all products were removed from the shelves. GNC deeply values our relationship with the military community."

Sero added that any service members who purchased any of the products can return them for a full refund to their nearest GNC store.

This isn't the first time GNC has pulled products at military stores. In 2013, the newspaper for Fort Jackson, South Carolina, reported that the dietary supplement Craze was taken off store shelves after studies claimed the product contained a derivative of methamphetamine.

That Army newspaper also reported that the Marine Corps pulled a dietary supplement called OxyElite Pro from shelves over fears it may have been a factor in cases of acute hepatitis and liver failure in Hawaii.

The latest incident at GNC, however, illustrates how service members are often exposed to hemp and cannabidiol, otherwise known as CBD, or even tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive component of marijuana known as THC, without even knowing it.

Attitudes about marijuana, and the presence of byproducts such as hemp and CBD in retail products, have changed and grown significantly in the past decade. Most states have legalized marijuana use recreationally, medically or both. Only 10 states in the country do not allow marijuana use in any form, according to MJBizDaily, a trade publication that follows cannabis developments.

Regardless of legalization status in the state they reside in, service members are not allowed to consume marijuana or CBD and hemp products.

But amid widespread legalization of marijuana, many of the service branches have been changing their policies.

In 2022, Air Force officials began trying out a THC pilot program that would allow an otherwise perfect recruit who tests positive for marijuana the opportunity to retest before joining the ranks. Earlier this year, Military.com reported that the Navy was no longer removing recruits from boot camp if they showed up with detectable amounts of marijuana in their system.

Lawmakers are also open to changes. In May, a provision in the House's version of the annual defense policy bill would stop marijuana testing for recruits seeking to join the military. The final version still needs to be hammered out between the House and the Senate before the policy becomes law.

In May, President Joe Biden's administration also aimed to reclassify marijuana as a less risky and dangerous drug on the federal government's list of controlled substances -- although such a move would likely not change much for veterans or service members, Military.com previously reported.



*See your
1st Sergeant
to Purchase
Tickets*

*Holiday Inn
301 Foxcroft Ave.
Martinsburg, WV 25401*

*The 167th Airlift Wing
Cordially invites you to*

*Meet Me at
Midnight*

Military Gala

*October 12, 2024
6-10 pm
Doors open at 5*



**Saturday, 26 October,
1-3 PM
167th AW, Bldg. 119**

FAMILY READINESS GROUP PRESENTS THE...



| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| GAMES | CRAFTS |
| CAKE WALK | TRUNK OR TREAT |
| PINATAS! | COSTUMES |
| HAY RIDE | FUN!! |



**Cake & Candy Donations
Appreciated by 25 Oct.**

**Drop off at Sherry Lewis' Office
@Military & Family Programs**

Contact is Ron Glazer at 167awfrg@gmail.com or 301-992-4803



VEHICLES NEEDED



**Sat., 26 Oct,
1-3 PM**

**FRG Halloween
Bash**

- Decorate to impress and be named the best trunk
- Share treats with our military kids
- Any vehicle can be used
- Families vote on best trunk
- Special prize to top winner

Park your trunk on base in front of bldg. 119.

Contact is Ron Glazer. 167awfrg@gmail.com/301-992-4803



EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention Week: October 6-12, 2024



Eighty-four percent of fires are accidental, such as those caused by poor electrical wiring or careless behavior..

- Smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide detectors should be installed on every level of your residence, outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall, at the top of open stairwells, or at the bottom of enclosed stairs, and near (but not in) the kitchen.
- Install A-B-C type fire extinguishers in your home and teach family members how to use them.
- Inspect extension cords for frayed or exposed wires or loose plugs.
- Make sure outlets have cover plates and no wires are exposed.
- Place heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials.

Other considerations:

- Family communication
- Evacuation plans
- Emergency pet care
- Necessary medications
- Important paperwork



Antiterrorism & Force Protection - Travel Security

submitted by Maj. Roderick Toms

These tips address travel security. One time when complacency can get us in trouble is when we travel. Here are a few tips that will increase your security the next time you go TDY, leave, or PCS to an OCONUS location.

- Avoid using military style bags such as A-3, B-4 or duffel bags, unless traveling Military Air.
 - Remove all military logos, patches and stickers from your luggage.
 - Ensure your luggage tag doesn't show your rank or military address.
 - Travel in conservative civilian clothing when using commercial transportation or when traveling military airlift if you are connecting with a flight at a commercial terminal in a high risk area.
 - Don't wear distinct military items such as organizational shirts, caps or issued shoes or glasses.
 - Wear a long sleeved shirt if you have a visible U.S. affiliated tattoo.
 - Remember to be aware of your surroundings, be suspicious and don't become the target.
 - Do not use rank or duty title when registering in a hotel (if possible)
 - If staying in same hotel for extended period of time, try to change rooms
 - Try to get a room on the 2nd to 6th floors
 - Ensure room is locked and valuables are secured (e.g., safe, take them with you)
- REMEMBER: Antiterrorism and Force Protection is EVERYONE'S job.

The 167th Airlift Wing Antiterrorism Officer is Maj. Roderick Toms, 242-5084.



Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

**Have questions? Need Help?
We're here for you!**

**West Virginia National Guard
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:**

Jenny Colagrosso

Office: 304-561-6681; DSN: 623-6681

24 hour Blackberry: 304-541-0573

jenny.r.colagrosso.civ@mail.mil

167th Airlift Wing

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:

Lindsey Hash

Office: 304-616-5991; DSN: 242-5991; Cell: 304-839-9157

lindsey.hash@us.af.mil

167th Airlift Wing

Volunteer Victim Advocate:

Emily Beightol-Deyerle

Office: 304-616-5251; DSN: 242-5251; Cell: 304-268-3706

emily.beightol_deyerle.2@us.af.mil

24/7 Sexual Assault Support for DoD Community

DoD Safe Helpline:

Call: 877-995-5247

Texting: (*55-247);

Texting outside the US: (202-470-5546)

Online Resources: www.safehelpline.org

Online Chat: www.safehelpline.org



167th LEGAL TEAM

The 167th Legal Office provides professional legal advice and counsel to command and staff agencies.

We also provide on-target and on-time legal advice and assistance to military members, retirees and their family members. Legal assistance is provided in a wide range of areas including:

- Family Law
- Will & Living Wills
- Landlord-Tenant Issues
- USERRA Rights.

The contents of your legal assistance appointment are attorney-client privileged.

All staff members are Drill Status Guardsmen (DSGs) and have limited availability to provide legal assistance outside of the UTA weekends.



Need to create a will or power of attorney? Access the worksheet [here](#).



If you are under investigation for military misconduct or subject to adverse military administrative action, please contact the Area Defense Counsel for legal advice.

Headquarters (Bldg. 120) Rm 114
Phone: 304-616-5336; DSN: 242-5336
167HQ.JA.Legal@us.af.mil

AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL



AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Capt Teresa Saunders, WVANG
Area Defense Counsel

Teresa.Saunders.7@us.af.mil

You may contact the West Virginia Area Defense Counsel (ADC) if you think you need legal representation because you are subject to a command investigation, adverse administrative action, or non-judicial punishment under the West Virginia State Code. Your ADC has offices at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, WV and at the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, WV.

The ADC provides members of the West Virginia Air National Guard (130th and 167th AW) with legal representation when facing potential adverse or administrative actions. Your ADC is an experienced Judge Advocate located outside of your local chain of command, which prevents any appearance of, or possible command influence or conflicts of interest. This allows Airmen of the WVANG to receive completely confidential representation and assistance.

You may need to contact your ADC if you are facing any action against you such as:

- WV Non Judicial Punishment
- Administrative discharge and Demotion actions
- Denial of Reenlistment
- Referral EPRs/OPBs
- Suspect Rights Advisements
- LOCs, LOAs, and LORs
- UIF entries and control rosters
- Any other adverse actions in which counsel for an individual is required or authorized

The ADC is not able to assist in certain areas such as personal civil legal matters and congressional complaints. However, if you have any questions as to the availability of our services, please email to make an appointment.

The Area Defense Counsel is available for WVANG members only. Sister services must contact the nearest servicing base for representation.



COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

STOP Human Trafficking

Force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person to provide labor, services, or commercial sex.

Victims come from all backgrounds and can be women, men, and children.

Any minor (under 18 years of age) involved in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.

Recognize SIGNS

Physical/Environmental Indicators include signs of abuse, no identification, confined to worksite.

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators include submissive, anxious, lack of free will.

REPORT IT

Chain of Command

Local Law Enforcement

DoD Inspector General Hotline

1-800-424-9098 or visit <http://www.dodig.mil/hotline>

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888.

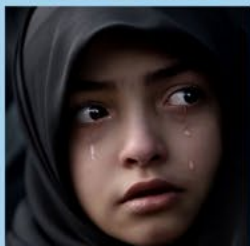
Wing POC's
MSgt Michael Seavolt, ext 5062
MSgt Shawn Green, ext 5431



For more information go to:
CTIP.defense.gov/



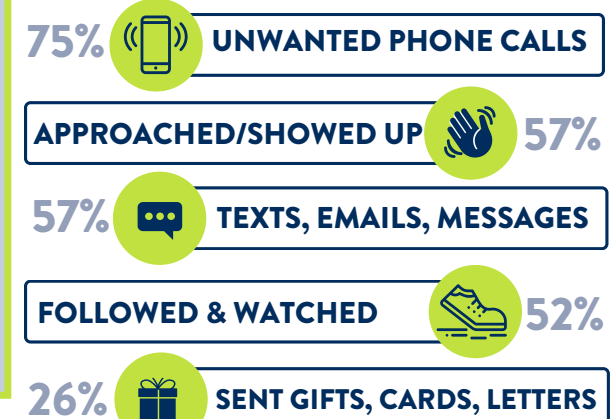
There's no
One face



STALKING IN THE UNITED STATES



MOST COMMON STALKING TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY VICTIMS:

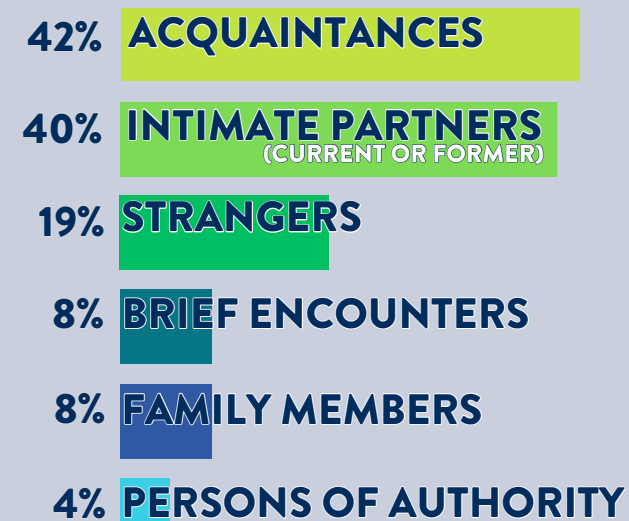


Most stalkers use multiple tactics.³



APPROX. 13.5 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STALKED IN A 1-YEAR PERIOD

WHO ARE STALKERS?



Citations

1. Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on Stalking. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2. Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). Stalking Victimization in the United States. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. 3. Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155.

SPARC
STALKING AWARENESS AND RESOURCE CENTER
STALKINGAWARENESS.ORG



ACCOLADES



Welcome

A1C William James, MXS
A1C Logan Herring, CES
A1C Ethan Sine, CES
AB Jaden Himes, LRS
AB Ryan Sigler, AS
A1C Ethan Hardy, MXS
AB Maddox Ordaz, LRS

Welcome Back from Technical Training

AB Wilford Nutter, OSS

Promotions

To Airman

Hannah Skoda, MDG

To Senior Airman

Brooklyn Crate, LRS
Lucas Stutzman, SFS

To Staff Sergeant

Brooke Miller, OSS
Brian Pittman, LRS

To Master Sergeant

Cody Henry, LRS
Joshua Webber, AW

Retirements

Lt Col James Holsinger, OG
TSgt Jet Heng, LRS

167th hosts guest speaker for National Hispanic Heritage Month

Nitzalis Rivera, CEO and Language Specialist at Spanish 4 All, gives a presentation on Puerto Rican culture and history to members of the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Oct. 6, 2024. Rivera also shared her story of moving her family to Hagerstown, Maryland, from Puerto Rico and the cultural challenges that her and her children experienced. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman James DeCicco)



Retirees Association

The 167th Retirees Association is an "All Ranks, All Services" organization which meets the third Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs in the Base Auditorium, Building 120. Retirees are welcome to drop in or contact us at ww167RA@gmail.com

