

PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING
MAY 2025

Next UTA 5-8 JUNE 2025



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The 167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office is always looking for story ideas and original content. PLEASE SEND ALL PLANE TALK SUBMISSIONS, INCLUDING STORIES, COLUMNS, AND PHOTOS TO: 167.AW.PA.Public.Affairs@us.af.mil

ON THE COVER

A C-17 Globemaster III aircraft with the 167th Airlift Wing lands on the runway as part of a routine training flight at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 4, 2025. The C-17 can take off and land on runways as short as 3,500 ft and only 90ft wide, making it the most flexible cargo aircraft in the airlift force. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon)

ON THE BACK COVER

Airmen with the 167th Airlift Wing, conduct refueling operations on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 4, 2025. With a 28,000 gallon fuel capacity, the C-17 Globemaster III can travel up to 2,400 nautical miles without refueling. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)



167AW WING COMMANDER
Col. Christopher Sigler

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 167th,

The Outstanding Airmen of the Year ceremony Saturday was a great opportunity to recognize three of the finest Airmen in the 167th. I am a firm believer that the 167th has some of the best Airmen in the air force and that every Airman contributes to the success of our strategic airlift mission, regardless of their AFSC.

The 167th is currently #1 for manning out of the entire Air National Guard which consists of ninety wings. Our recruiters have the luxury of being more selective than many units which inherently gives us the advantage in quality Airmen from the start. Adding to this, our unit has also earned a top reputation throughout the air force which leads to retention since members want to be a part of a winning team. Our retention of talent results in experienced Chiefs throughout the wing. With this cycle of recruiting quality Airmen and retaining them through the rank of CMSgt, it is hard to go wrong in the middle.

Airmen in the 167th contribute to our strategic airlift mission in many ways. One way that is easy to overlook is the role Airmen play in upholding high standards. Officers and commanders often feel it is their responsibility to set high standards but that is also true for Airmen. I assure you, when Airmen are setting a high standard, it holds officers and commanders more accountable.

Last month I had the opportunity to brief at our Newcomers Orientation. I randomly picked members and asked them what section they are working in. I then explained to them how they tie in to successfully accomplishing our worldwide mission. I wasn't stumped by any sections, and I don't anticipate being stumped in future Newcomers Orientation briefings. I know that our Airmen are contributing to mission success, from the salute at the gate, through the salute as an aircraft is marshalled out for a flight.

Congratulations to all of our outstanding Airmen. Keep setting a high standard and contributing to our unit's mission success.

Very respectfully,
Sig

Team 167,

This UTA was brought in with some rain and more rain. That didn't stop us from celebrating our 2025 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Here are a few (but not all) of their accomplishments: In our AMN category winner, A1C Tyler Barney was an interim scheduler and coordinated a multitude of operational missions, local training missions, and over 500 simulator events. He managed 1,740 training days and \$235K in travel funds. As a loadmaster he flew 186 hours on 62 sorties and contributed to operations FREEDOM'S SENTINEL and INHERENT RESOLVE. In the NCO category, MSgt (then TSgt) Alex Barb, was the WV ANG rep for SECAF's international affair office and played a key role in diplomatic relations with our new State Partner Gabon. He advocated for E-6 and below ranks for the career enlisted aviator grade review which secured appropriate rank structures for 2,900 aviators. He was also a key stake holder in the Ops Group's \$10.5 Million maintenance operations project. He also participated in numerous operational missions and exercises. Finally, in our SNCO category, MSgt Sara Church had dual roles as a services superintendent and installation personnel readiness NCOIC. She processed 314 members for critical missions while leading a flight of 25 Airmen. Sara played a vital role in personnel readiness by verifying eligibility for 336 members and issuing 175 deployment orders while streamlining processes for the 2024 Sentry Unicorn REV. She also oversaw \$20k in DFAC repairs and spearheaded a cashless DFAC transition all while managing a \$114K lodging budget and saving the unit \$15K sourcing MRE's. All of our winners also supported their fellow Airmen and their community in various ways throughout the year. Congratulations winners and keep up the great work!

Last week the wing had a great opportunity to meet one of the first 167th Aeromedical Evacuation (AE) airmen. Janet Hughes joined the wing in 1958 and served for four years. She was an inspiration on many levels. She currently holds the World Record in the 800m and one mile. She set those aged based records at age 85 running the mile in nine minutes. She was excited to be here and see all the changes, but the wing was equally excited to host her. A photo of her and the original AE personnel is in the heritage room in Bld 120.

Finally, I want to congratulate SMSgt Michael Seavolt from the Security Forces Squadron, who was recently promoted to SMSgt. I also want to give a big congrats to Lt Col Kevin Marmillion from the Operations Group and TSgt Rebekah Duvall from MSG on their retirements after decades of service..

As we move into spring, take time to soak in some time outside in the sun and enjoy friends and family, but always remember to #FearTheUnicorn!

#WeAreMartinsburg
~Chief

167th Airlift Wing's Outstanding Airmen of the Year recognized during ceremony

by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle

The 167th Airlift Wing's Outstanding Airmen of the Year were recognized during a ceremony in the wing's dining facility, May 3.

The Outstanding Airman of the Year award program recognizes Airmen for their superior leadership, job performance, personal achievement and community involvement.

Airman 1st Class Tyler Barney, 167th Airlift Squadron, Master Sgt. Alex Barb, 167th Operations Support Squadron and Master Sgt. Sara Church, 167th Force Support Squadron were honored as the top Airman, Non-commissioned Officer and Senior Non-commissioned Officer, respectively for the wing. Barney and Barb were also recognized as the Outstanding Airmen of the Year in their categories for the West Virginia Air National Guard.

"In this wing specifically, we have exceptional Airmen and it's especially challenging to be selected for Airman of the Year," said Col. Christopher Sigler, 167th AW commander. "When you have strong Airmen coming into the wing and a strong chief force mentoring the young Airmen, it's a great dynamic and we have a winning team."

Airman 1st Class Barney's accomplishments include the coordination of 25 operational missions, 116 local training missions and over 500 simulator events while serving as an interim operations scheduler. As a loadmaster, he flew 186 hours on 62 sorties, transporting 236 tons of cargo and 226 passengers, playing a critical role in high impact operational missions.

Recently promoted to master sergeant, Barb was the West Virginia Air National Guard's representative for the Secretary of the Air Force's international affairs office and played a key role in the diplomatic relations with Gabon, West Virginia National Guard's newest State Partnership Program partner. Additionally, he advocated for the ranks of E-6 and below for the career enlisted aviator grade review which secured appropriate rank structures for 2,900 aviators.

Master Sgt. Church, who is currently serving overseas, was recognized for outstanding leadership and operational efficiency in her dual role as the services superintendent and installation personnel readiness non-commissioned officer in charge. She processed more than 300 members for critical missions while leading a flight of 25 Airmen. She oversaw wing dining facility repairs and upgrades and managed the lodging budget, securing accommodations for 1,300 personnel.

"Airmen, you're upholding the standard of professionalism," Sigler said, "and you set a high bar. Thank you for all you do to support the mission." 🐎



U.S. Air Force Col. Christopher Sigler, 167th Airlift Wing Commander, stands alongside the 167th Airlift Wing's Outstanding Airmen of the Year, Master Sgt. Alex Barb and Airman 1st Class Tyler Barney, loadmasters with the 167th Airlift Squadron, during a ceremony at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, WV, May 3, 2025. Not pictured is Master Sgt. Sara Church, 167th Force Support Squadron Sustainment Services Superintendent, who was named the Wing's Outstanding Airman of the Year at the Senior NCO level. Barb and Barney were also recognized as the winners in their respective categories at the state level during the ceremony. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)

Port Dawg Memorial Run 2025



Top left: Airmen with the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron attach tie-down devices to a chain, each device representing a fallen airman from the air transportation career field, prior to the annual Port Dawg Memorial Run at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 4, 2025. Air transportation specialists are affectionately known as "Port Dawgs". The event has grown into an annual tradition across the aerial transport community. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)

Top right: Tie-down devices hang across a chain, each tie-down representing a fallen member of the air transportation career field, during a ceremony prior to the start of annual Port Dawg Memorial Run at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 4, 2025. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon)



Bottom left: Airmen with the 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron, memorialize fallen airman from the air transportation career field during the annual Port Dawg Memorial Run at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 4, 2025. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)



Bottom right: Air transportation specialists with the 167th Airlift Wing participate in the annual Port Dawg Memorial Run, commemorating fallen members of their career field, at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 4, 2025. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon)

Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Tech. Sgt. Whitney Robinson

Hometown:

Bunker Hill, W.Va.

Job Title:

Personnel Specialist

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Whitney Robinson is a personnel specialist for the 167th Force Support Squadron and the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for May 2025.

As a personnel specialist, Robinson is responsible for assisting Airmen with various personnel activities from reenlistment to retirement and everything in between. She conducts in and out processing, unit deployment management duties and customer service functions.

Robinson's supervisor, Master Sgt. Ricky Miller, said Robinson plays a pivotal role in the personnel function's success.

"Over the last couple months, Tech. Sgt. Robinson has really stood out to me as our unit deployment manager (UDM) and as a full-time member of the Force Support Squadron," Miller said.

As UDM, Robinson recently prepared 13 members of the force support squadron with their readiness and out-processing for deployment, while she also completed the non-commissioned officer academy course.

"Tech. Sgt. Robinson sets a great example across the wing with her willingness to help, can-do attitude, and top-notch customer service," said Miller. "She is always willing to share her innovative ideas with leadership, that have proven successful both in customer service and personnel duty processes. She is highly motivated and paving a great path for our FSS airmen to follow."

Hometown: Bunker Hill, WV

Job Title: Personnel Systems Manager/Unit Deployment Manager/Customer Service Personnel

How long have you served in the unit? I have been with FSS for about a year and a half.

My job here is important because: I assist in being the link to your entire military story. We are the last you see before heading to basic training, one of the first you see when you return. We handle your enlistments, your awards, your DD214s, your performance briefs/reports, your promotions, your separations, your retirements. We make sure that the story of your career is on paper, and you receive the benefits



you're entitled to. We are supporting the mission by supporting the individual members. I had no idea before I cross-trained how paramount FSS is, and I am so proud to be here.

Civilian job: AGR in FSS as a Personnelist

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration

Hobbies: Recreational for FUN sports, I tend to get a little too competitive either way though. I love reading and have started a book club on base, if you're interested shoot me an email. I mostly enjoy spending time outside with my family.

Goals (military and/or civilian): My ultimate goal is to retire at CMSgt, I am still debating whether I want that to be at NGB or with the 167th. I suppose I'll let opportunity choose but I'll be making short term goals that lead to Chief until then.

I am proudest of: My family who has not only supported but encouraged my service. I was blessed with parents that provided this support, and I chose the most incredible husband as well. My daughter makes me more proud by the moment as well. I am thankful and at times undeserving, they are what keeps me going.

People may be surprised to know this about me: I may or may not have an incredible karaoke rendition of "I Wanna Dance with Some-

body" by Whitney Houston at my disposal....at all times.

The most exciting thing I've done in the military is: I performed CPR on a cardiac arrest patient in Arizona while on orders and he ended up surviving. I still think about it to this day, shout out to medical.

One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career: If you can't make a change to the culture, be the change to the culture. Accountability is one of the most important and honorable characteristics you can have. When you help your fellow airmen, they don't forget you when you need a hand.

My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing: Take every opportunity you hear about, it may put a wrench in your plans but the stories, friends, and experiences you gain could change what you want to be when you grow up. I put off my degree, missed birthdays, felt homesick, etc., now I have my degree, a wealth of knowledge and experience, and a home in friends all over the world.

The best thing about working with my team is: We are a team that collaborates, encourages, and has compassion for each other. I could be having a terrible day and the next hour I am laughing to the point of tears. We work hard and show up for each other.

Electrical Safety Around Water

To stay safe around pools, hot tubs, and spas:

- Hire a qualified electrician for safe wiring.
- Use covered outdoor outlets to keep them dry.
- Install and test Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) monthly to prevent shocks.
- Keep electrical devices at least 6 feet from water—opt for battery-powered items when possible.
- Never handle electrical devices while wet.
- Ensure power lines are safely positioned over pools and diving boards.
- Stay out of the water during storms.
- Schedule regular electrical inspections.
- Know how to shut off power in emergencies.

Electrocution is deadly, and wet skin or surfaces increase the risk. Signs of electrical shock in water include tingling, muscle cramps, and paralysis. If someone is being shocked, turn off the power but do not enter the water—use a non-conductive rescue tool and call 9-1-1 immediately.



167th Airlift Wing Fire Prevention Office
For more information call 304-616-5753

Shelter-in-place (SIP) / Lockdown / Storm Shelter



Shelter-in-Place - Use Designated SIP location

- Use: Hazmat and CBRN shelter up to 3 hours. Protects personnel from heavier vapors that accumulate at lowest elevation (ex. Chlorine gas).
- Recommended location: Room on the highest floor of the building with limited windows



Lockdown

- Use: Active Shooter incident
- Recommended location: An enclosed room with lockable door and covered windows is ideal.



Storm Shelter - Use designated location

- Use: Protection in severe weather (ex. Tornado).
- Recommended location: Lowest floor, innermost room with limited windows/bay doors.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Questions/Comments/Concerns?
Please reach out (EXT. 5288)



GARY SINISE
FOUNDATION ★ PROUDLY PRESENTS



GARY
SINISE & THE
LI DAN BAND

**MILITARY SUPPORT CONCERT
FREE SHOW**

HOSTED BY THE 167TH AIRLIFT WING

Date: August 1, 2025

Time: Gates open at 1700

Location: Emivest Aerospace Hangar
751 Novak Dr. Martinsburg, WV



Tickets are available through the 167th AW First Sergeants, the 167th Military & Family Readiness Program Office (304-616-5590) and CMSgt Dan Ritenour (304-616-5355)

TO SUPPORT OUR NATION'S HEROES, VISIT GARYSINISEFOUNDATION.ORG

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.





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.

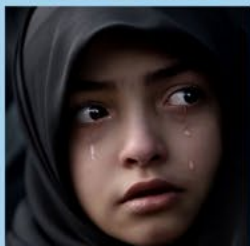
Wing POC's
MSgt Michael Seavolt, ext 5062
MSgt Shawn Green, ext 5431



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



**There's no
One face**



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 Advocates:**

Zachary Sparber
Alexandra Jackson
Brooke Miller

**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





ACCOLADES



Welcome

AB Tyler Luketic, AS
A1C Bryan Lee, SFS
A1C Afxentis Nikolaidis, MXS
AB Keegan Azar, AS
A1C Alann Patricio-Reyes, MXS
AB Riese Knott, CS
A1C Kevin Zill, CS
SrA Allee Proctor, FSS
SSgt Jessy Knight, FSS

Welcome Back from Technical Training

AB Aiden Harding, MXS
A1C Shawn Wilt, MXS

CDC High Score

SrA Jared Jungkeit, CES
SSgt Gregory Dash, MXS

CCAF Graduates

MSgt James Wood, LRS
MSgt Philip Henderson, MSG
SSgt Mary Connor, OSS
TSgt Trey Stamey, LRS
SSgt Tracy Coleman, AS
SSgt William Gossard, AMXS
MSgt Donald Broschart, CES
SSgt Craig Sipes, CES
SSgt Ethan Wilson, SFS

Promotions

To Airman

Fletcher King, SFS
Victor Mullen Merceruio, SFS
Cason Russell, SFS

To Airman 1st Class

Aiden Carpenter, AS
Abby Good, MDG
Dalton Leab, AS

To Staff Sergeant

Trevor Albanese, MXS
Malachi Cloud, AMXS
Jack Fleagle, CES
Andrew Wolfe, FSS

Promotions

To Technical Sergeant

Mitchell Alderding, CES

To Senior Master Sergeant

Ryan Hodges, CES

To Captain

Mitchell Gaylor, AMXS

Retirements

Lt Col Daniel Zappe, OG
MSgt Anthony Dunnigan, OSS

Duvall retires from 167th Logistics Readiness Squadron

U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Justin Walther presents Tech. Sgt. Rebekah Duvall with a wooden plaque during her retirement ceremony at the 167th Airlift Wing, May 4, 2025. Duvall served in the squadron in various capacities for 20 years. She will continue to work as the 167th Logistics Readiness Resource Manager as a civilian technician. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kozak)

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 wv167RA@gmail.com





WEST VIRGINIA AIR GUARD

ANG20

RESCUE