

PLANETALK

167TH AIRLIFT WING

JUNE 2025

Next UTA 2-3 AUGUST 2025



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MARTINSBURG



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ON THE COVER

167th Airlift Wing aircrew perform touch and go landings in a C-17 Globemaster aircraft during a local training flight at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 7, 2025. Touch and goes involve landing on a runway and taking off again without coming to a full stop. This training maneuver is used to maximize pilot proficiency. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by 2nd Lt. Almeida)

ON THE BACK COVER

Maintainers assigned to the 167th Maintenance Group, clean the underside of the wing of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 4, 2025. Regular maintenance and care helps ensure that aircraft meet the standards necessary to complete the mission and safeguard the crew aboard. (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,

I hope everyone had a productive super drill. I see the value in having super drills so that sections can focus on their specific training requirements for two days. The additional two days also allows time to incorporate longer training events and wing requirements such as emergency response scenarios. I was impressed by how the super drill planning committee leveraged proactive scheduling through the super drill SharePoint site. In order to train efficiently, we need to know what training we are due, and when it is scheduled. The proactive scheduling allowed us to show up with a plan over drill. I am looking forward to seeing the final post-drill readiness percentages but have already heard of some impressive statistics. Force Support Squadron (FSS) just briefed me that the wing completed over 400 delinquent evaluations around the super drill timeframe.

Many wing members also cherish the fact that after June super drill there is no drill in July. I hope everyone that is able gets a chance for a break this summer. We have worked hard but we all need to take a break to stay fresh since we still have more work to do. If you will miss seeing your fellow Guardsmen over a July drill, don't worry, we still have opportunities to interact around the corner. The wing is hosting the second annual firetruck pull on July 18th as an opportunity to educate surrounding schools about 167th Airlift Wing opportunities. Also, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will be here before you know it on August 1st to offer a free concert for military members, veterans, and their family members.

The summer also represents a mid-point for many of our Lead Wing XAB members that are deployed. Let's continue to support them and their families in any way that we can. I know we are all looking forward to seeing them back home safely and ensuring they get their well-deserved time off as well.

Very respectfully,
Sig

Team 167,

What an action and training packed super drill we had! A lot of work went in to making this UTA a complete success so many thanks to the team for making it happen. Leading up to the UTA the medical group did a 60+ hour hands on class on tactical combat casualty care (TCCC). It ended with a full-scale scenario which included simulated explosions, gun fire, and aircraft. Our Medical Group is getting out in front of the training required for the Great Power Competition.

This drill we said good-bye to MSgt Daniel Malamas (Maintenance Group) and MSgt Justin Bird (Medical Group) after their decades of service to the Air National Guard. I wish you both the best in retirement! As members retire it opens rank for others to promote. I'd encourage everyone to make sure you're not the reason you're not getting promoted. What I mean is get your PME completed. Wing leadership just returned from Camp Dawson and the SRRB, ACB, and FDC. During this process we noticed that there were several members who were high TIG and had not completed their required PME, thus making them non-promotable. Please take the time to enroll and complete this education as soon as you can throughout your career!

The rain didn't dampen the activities across the wing this weekend. Security Forces did several small arms classes and responded to the active shooter exercise. The Operations Group did water survival and specialized fueling operations training (SFO) and MXG and MSG did a litany of other training and AFSC related duties while supporting the unit. All of this culminated in the squadrons enjoying some much-deserved downtime and friendly competition Sunday afternoon. The wing hosted pickleball, volleyball, and disc golf competitions. Hats off to the volleyballers and disc golfers who braved the rain to show their skills! The rain also helped wash off some members from the Medical Group who took a pie to face for a fundraiser. It was nice to walk around the base and see our airmen enjoying some camaraderie and social time. The 167th has been very busy over the past several months and this break in the bustling schedule was much needed.

As we move into the 100 days of summer, be safe and relax. If you're a motorcycle rider be extra cautious while riding! The roads are full of distracted drivers as you know. I'd also like to wish you a Happy 4th of July. Our nations independence and continued freedom rest on the shoulders of warriors like yourself. Thanks for all you do and for your continued commitment to service! As always, remember to #FearTheUnicorn!

#WeAreMartinsburg
~Chief

167th Airlift Wing conducts annual extended drill weekend

by Tech. Sgt. Edward Michon

The 167th Airlift Wing conducted an annual four-day extended unit training assembly, June 5-8, at Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

The four-day drill weekend, known as "super drill", offers wing members more time to focus on their specific training and readiness requirements, versus the standard two-day drill weekend.

"The focus this year was for sections to have their specific training on Thursday and Friday," said Col. Christopher Sigler, 167th Airlift Wing commander. "This is a big help for sections that must routinely balance serving the entire wing while also working on their training during a typical two-day drill."

One example of this was with a full-scale tactical combat casualty care (TCCC) exercise conducted on Thursday for the 167th Medical Group. With support from other sections, 167th medical personnel practiced their skills in a simulated high-stress combat situation using live-role players and manikins, further developing life-saving skills needed in combat environments.

In addition to allowing more time for sections to accomplish training events and annual training requirements, the extended drill yielded the opportunity for required emergency response drills, such as an active shooter exercise which was conducted on the final day of the extended drill.

Completing annual requirements like these gives the wing more time in upcoming unit training assemblies to focus on important events scheduled over the next year, such as the Foundational Readiness Inspection (FRI), the Mission Generation Force Element (MGFE) certification event and the Combat Readiness Exercise (CRE).

The added time allowed the wing to celebrate accomplishments on Sunday afternoon with a morale event, including picnics, cookouts, and competitive sports such as volleyball, pickleball and disc golf to enhance camaraderie and team-building.

"Having an opportunity for all sections across the base to interact with each other is important," said Sigler. "Having a majority of our members in for four days greatly assisted us in knocking out requirements, honing job-specific skills and encouraging unit cohesion." 🐎

Top four photos: The 167th Medical Group conducted a Tactical Combat Casualty Care exercise at Shepherd Field, June 5, 2025, the culmination of a 60-hour hands-on training course. Bottom left photo: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Samuel Hardman and Tech Sgt. Dave Walter from the 167th Security Forces Squadron conduct Red Man training as part of combat skills training at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 6, 2025. The Redman suit is a full-body training suit used in law enforcement tactical training environments and is designed to simulate real world combat. Bottom right photo: A 167th Airlift Wing C-17 aircraft launches from Shepherd Field for a training flight, June 7, 2025.



Memorial Bench for C-130 crash victims set at courthouse

by Kate Shunney, Morgan Messenger

Morgan County's Courthouse is now a memorial site for the victims of the 1992 crash of an Air National Guard training flight on Fairview Drive just east of the downtown area.

Fellow Air Guard member Alice Lantz led the effort to place a public memorial to the pilot and crew of the C-130, known as "Decoy 81," which clipped a high tension electric line during an training exercise in October of 1992, and crashed to the ground, killing all aboard the flight.

The crew included Alfred J. Steinberger III, Lt. Col., 45, of Leesburg, Va.; Dallas O. Adams Jr., Capt., 32, of Upper Marlboro, Md.; Frederic E. Jones, Staff Sgt., 24 of Martinsburg; James T. Hinchman, Staff Sgt., 31 of Inwood; George F. Griffith, Master Sgt., 56, of Moorefield; and John R. Funkhouser, Technical Sgt., 32 of Martinsburg.

Lantz witnessed the crash and knew the crew who perished. She has spent several years raising money and designing the memorial with help from the families and fellow Guard members.

In January, the Morgan County Commissioners approved the placement of the bench in front of the courthouse.

On Thursday, May 15, Gingrich Memorials delivered the marble bench and set it in place with a crane, between two of the three flag poles at the front of the courthouse.

The 800-pound bench is one of two public memorials – another will be a historical marker set on Fairview Drive at the site of the crash, Lantz said last week. A ceremony to dedicate the marker will be held later in the year.

"Though the tragedy of the Decoy 81 crash happened almost 33 years ago, it is remembered and mourned by many local residents, those who served with the crew members, those who responded as Fire and EMS from not only Morgan County but numerous surrounding towns and of course the families of the crew.

The placement of the bench allows for everyone to see it and a place to sit, reflect, pray and feel surrounded by the wonderful men we lost," Lantz said of the effort to remember the crew.



Royal Air Force leader visits wing



U.S. Air Force Col. Christopher Sigler, 167th Airlift Wing commander, right, accepts a framed and signed heraldic crest from Wing Commander Mark Concarr, Deputy Commander of the Royal Air Force Support Force at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 7, 2025. The design of the crest is rooted in the history of the Royal Air Force in the Second World War and articulates the support given to the flying Wings, with the background representing the Middle East Theatre of Operations, where the original formation was formed and spent the majority of its wartime service. The objectives of Wing Commander Concarr's visit is to develop closer engagement between the Royal Air Force and Air National Guard and enhance interoperability.

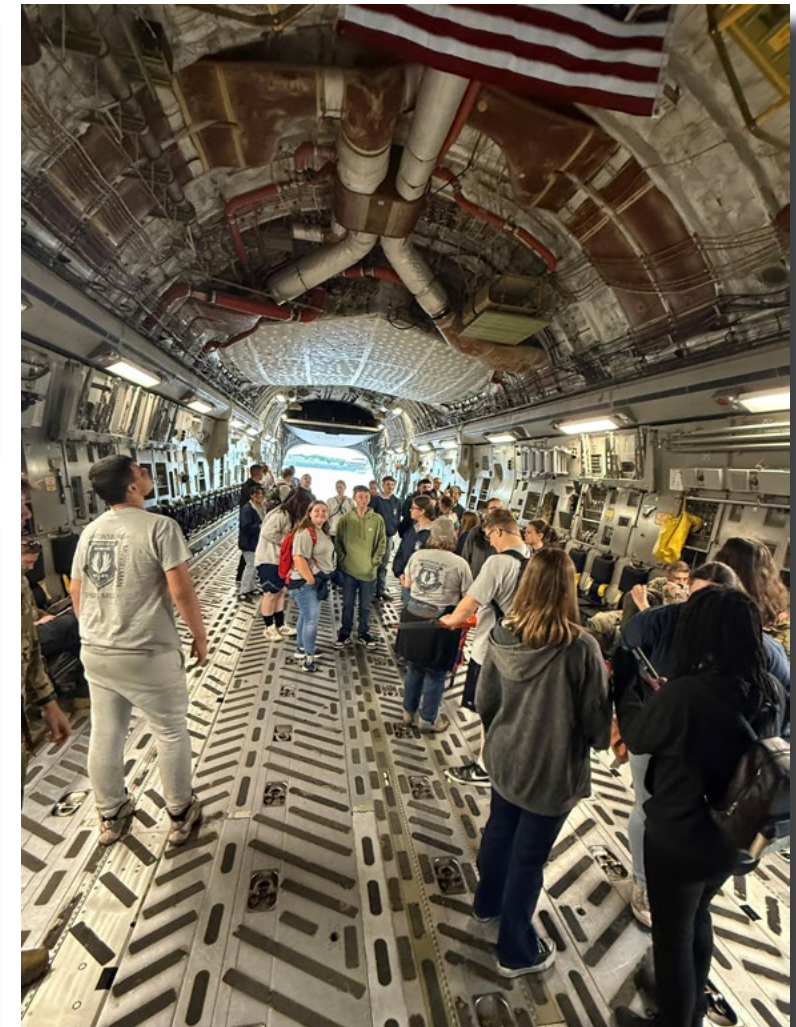
Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets visit 167th Airlift Wing



Top left: U.S Air Force Col. Randy Wright, 167th Operations Group commander, speaks to cadets from the Haymarket Academy's Air Force Junior ROTC program in preparation for the student orientation flight at the 167th Wing auditorium, Martinsburg, West Virginia May 21, 2025. The purpose of the orientation flight was to familiarize the members with military aircraft and encourage interest.(U.S Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Ashley Almeida)

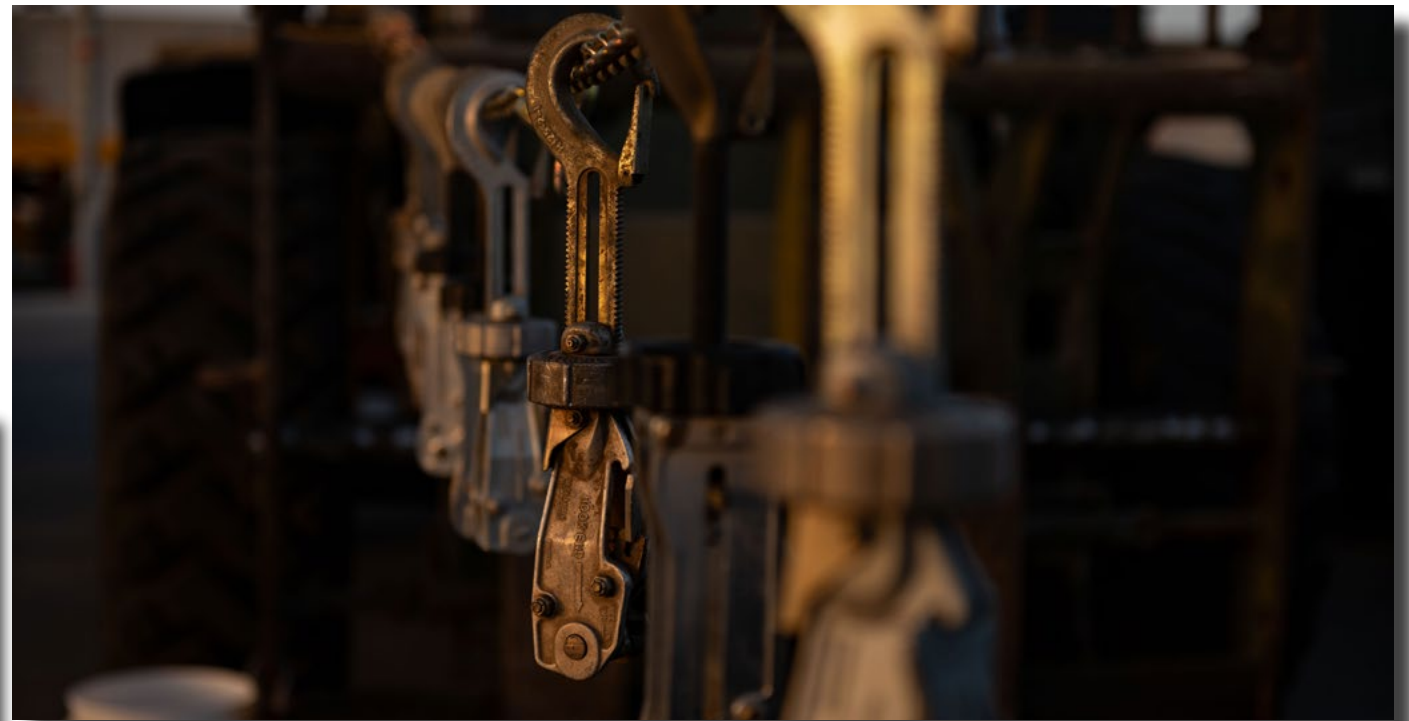
Bottom left: Cadets with the Air Force Junior ROTC from Martinsburg Academy to pose for a group photo in front of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in preparations for their orientation flight at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 21, 2025. The purpose of the orientation flight was to familiarize the members with military aircraft and encourage interest.(U.S Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Ashley Almeida)

Right: Cadets with the Air Force Junior ROTC from Martinsburg Academy explore a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as part of an orientation flight at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, West Virginia, May 21, 2025. The purpose of the orientation flight was to familiarize the members with military aircraft and encourage interest.(U.S Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Ashley Almeida)



Port Dawg Memorial Run 2025

Deployed members of the 167th Airlift Wing organized and participated in a Port Dawg Memorial Run at their overseas location, May 17, 2025. As part of the memorial, Airmen attached tie-down devices to a chain to represent fallen Airmen in the air transportation career field, then gathered for a group run. Air transportation specialists are affectionately known as "Port Dawgs". The event has grown into an annual tradition across the aerial transport community.





CE civilian staff train military counterparts

Top left: U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jack Johnson, 167th Civil Engineer Squadron, repairs the roof of a storage shed at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 2, 2025. Bottom left: U.S. Force Staff Sgt. Cole Mathess and Airman 1st Class Jack Johnson, 167th Civil Engineer Squadron, attach new shingles to a storage shed at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 2, 2025. Below: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Stanley and Staff Sgt. Jalen Newcome, with instruction from Hunter Minnick, 167th CES West Virginia Military Authority, repair a storage shed at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, West Virginia, June 2, 2025. The 167th CES West Virginia Military Authority civilian staff trained 167th CES Airmen on proper construction techniques as they replaced shingled roofs, rafters and siding on four storage sheds on the installation. The collaborative effort highlights the willingness of the West Virginia Military Authority civilian staff to train the squadron's drill status guardsmen. (photos courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Matt Laign)



Airman SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Airman 1st Class Cesar Vasquez

Hometown:

Chambersburg, Pa.

Job Title:

Maintenance Management Analysis

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Cesar Vasquez is a maintenance management production specialist for the 167th Maintenance Operations Flight and he is the 167th Airlift Wing Airman Spotlight for June 2025.

As a maintenance management production specialist, Vasquez is responsible for collecting and analyzing data to ensure operations run efficiently. He develops plans and production schedules to meet operational and maintenance needs. He also monitors maintenance performance data systems for compliance with established procedures and audits deficiencies in areas such as equipment performance, scheduling and resources.

Vasquez recently graduated from his initial technical training and stepped into a maintenance management analyst role due to work center vacancies. "Eagerness to take on any task with a positive attitude is one of his greatest strengths," said Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Ritenour, 167th MOF senior enlisted leader, noting the outstanding customer service that Vasquez has been providing to the maintenance group.

"He has been extremely receptive to requests for specific data and routinely provides products that go above and beyond what is required," Ritenour said. "Everything he produces is quality, if there is a better way to do something, he finds it."

Hometown: Chambersburg, Pa

Job Title: Maintenance Management Analysis

How long have you served in the unit? 1 year and 4 months



My job here is important because: I work on the scheduling of maintenance for our C-17 aircrafts and its parts as well as working with Maintenance Information Systems. I also assist in collecting and presenting analytical data that allows us to see how efficient and mission capable ready our aircrafts were, are and will be.

Civilian job: I work within Human Resources at Manitowoc Cranes. We manufacture Manitowoc, Grove & National cranes. I work directly with all of production which includes welders, painters, assemblers, etc.

Education: I received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Shippensburg University.

Hobbies: Spending time with my wife and daughter; creating memories whether it's something as simple going out to eat or looking for a thrill and going to ride rollercoasters (my daughter LOVES them). I enjoying working out, watching/attending sporting events, mainly soccer, football, baseball, as well hunting. I also enjoying watching The Office.

Goals: Keep pursuing further education to move up within my career field. Militarily, I would like to see what the end of contract looks like but realistically I would like to be here in Martinsburg for the

next 20+ years.

I am proudest of: My Dad. Hands down the hardest working individual I know. He has shown me how to take on some of the hardest days head-on. He has overcome a lot of adversity being here in the states and with all that, he is still caring, humble and so optimistic.

People may be surprised to know this about me: My family is from Ecuador so I would spend all my summers there up until I went to college. I also play tennis.

The most exciting thing I've done in the military is: I was coined for deescalating a "gate runner" that solely spoke Spanish.

One/Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned throughout my career: You can always teach an old dog new tricks (speaking for myself as I joined at the Air Force at 31).

My advice to the newest Airmen in the Wing: Don't ever count yourself out, good things take time, so be patient and keep working hard.

The best thing about working with my team is: The comradery. There is a true sense of family here. 🐾



Summer Is On the Way

Extreme Heat: Temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for the region and last for several weeks are defined as extreme heat

Heat Cramps

- Muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. Although heat cramps are the least severe, they are often the first signal that the body is having trouble with the heat.

Heat Exhaustion

- Typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock.

Heat Stroke

- A life-threatening condition. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.



Actions

- Drink water
- Stay inside
- Take breaks, if outside



**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

Antiterrorism & Force Protection - Surveillance Operations

submitted by Maj. Roderick Toms

These tips address recognizing surveillance operations and actions to take if you suspect someone is conducting surveillance operations.

DEFINITION

- Continuous or periodic act of observing a person, a place, or a thing for the purpose of gathering information.

TYPES:

- Stationary
- Enroute Or Moving
- Technical Surveillance

INDICATORS:

- Illegally or suspiciously parked vehicles (e.g., along the installation perimeter or by high risk facilities)
- Occupied parked vehicles
- Personnel in unauthorized areas
- Personnel taking photographs, sketches or observing specific operations (air traffic, vehicle traffic, construction, etc.)

ACTIONS:

- Conceal your suspicions
- Do not force a confrontation
- Stop operations being observed
- If possible and would not alert suspects
- If operations are critical or sensitive, immediately stop actions
- Call the authorities (remember all details and make a report)
- Attempt to keep individuals under observation until authorities arrive

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.

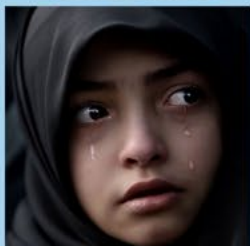
Wing POC's
MSgt Michael Seavolt, ext 5062
MSgt Shawn Green, ext 5431



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





Welcome

SrA Michael Crabtree, LRS
AB Alyssa Crespo, FSS
AB Zackary Rees, CS
SSgt Cody Whetzel, MXS
A1C Gage Seeders, MXS
AB Isarit Trejo-Medina, OSS
AB Tiffany Kohan, FSS

Welcome Back from Technical Training

A1C Jaedn Etter, MXS
A1C Kendon Jenkins, LRS
A1C Yovelle McGregor, LRS
Amn Jaden Himes, LRS
A1C Daniel Zelaya, MXS
A1C Ashley Ferran, MXS
A1C Kade Melton, MXS

Promotions

To Airman

Maleina Heslen, LRS

To Airman 1st Class

Jakob Crans, MXS
Kaitlyn Cullen, MDG

To Senior Airman

Benjamin Jensen, LRS
Hunter Link, CS
Conner Shade, SFS

To Staff Sergeant

Connor Albright, LRS
Avah Rivera, FSS

To Technical Sergeant

Rebecca Campos, AW
Joshua Lihou, MXS

To Master Sergeant

Maggie Burkhart, MOF

Retirements

MSgt Robert Estes, FSS

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 vw167RA@gmail.com



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

