



DEFENDER

Magazine of the West Virginia National Guard



WELCOME HOME!
130th Airlift Wing
members return from
Afghanistan

Guard members
take part in “active
shooter” exercise

Leadership Camp
teaches teamwork,
discipline

SUMMER 2012

Command Messages	3
Educate yourself!	4
130th Airlift Wing members return from deployment	5
Exercise, exercise, exercise! Active shooter targets Guard	6
C-5 conversion draws to a close	7
Around the West Virginia National Guard	8
YLC takes dedication, teamwork, discipline	10
Special Olympics brings smiles to athletes, Guard volunteers	11
167th Airlift Wing preps for deployment	12
Hook up! Slingload ops at Camp Dawson	13
Good samaritan feeds Soldiers, first responders	14
Recruit Sustainment Program readies new troops	15



Page 5



Page 6



Page 7



Page 10

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On the cover:

Members of the 130th Airlift Wing returned from a 120-day deployment to Afghanistan July 13, 2012. Airmen were greeted with shouts, screams and tears of joy by family members and friends at Yeager Airport in Charleston, W.Va.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Billy Hinamon, 130th AW Public Affairs



Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer

State Senior Enlisted Leader
Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence R. Vance

State Command Chief Master Sergeant
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The Adjutant General

As many of you know I am a huge fan of history. I feel that by looking at the past we can make sure we repeat successes and not failures.

We all go to work every day to ensure we are providing for our family and for hopes that they have a better life because of it. Recently, I had the privilege of talking to several of our retirees across both the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard. These men and women are the ones I thank for all of the opportunities they have given me and the WV National Guard.

Whether it was chewing me out when I messed up, mentoring me on how to be a leader, or making sure I didn't kill myself jumping out of an aircraft, these folks were there for me and investing in my future.

That is the power that lies behind Joint Base West Virginia. Creating opportunities for men and women to raise their families in West Virginia and serve the National mission. By in-



Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer

vesting in these endeavors, we are providing members of the WVNG full-time employment opportunities to build their families' future and

the future of the WVNG.

One example of a veteran that continues to give back to America is Hershel "Woody" Williams. I will end with a quote he gave to the WV Veteran's Legacy Project talking about the men and women from W.Va. who serve in the military.

"I want to say West Virginia has been my home. I've worked in other states. But I'm always drawn back to West Virginia. I think we're unique people in many, many ways. One of the most outstanding ways is, per capita, we have had more people serve our armed forces than any other state. We have had more prisoners of war. We have had more people killed, per capita, than any other state. So, there is a patriotism in the state of West Virginia that I don't think you find in other places. And if America ever got into trouble, West Virginians would be there. I have no doubt of that."

The State Senior Enlisted Leader

Looking for that next challenge after completing your SSD and NCOES requirements for promotion consideration? You're probably looking for that certain thing that will give a motivated Soldier an extra edge during the next promotion board.

Have you thought about competing in the WVARNG Best Warrior Competition? Competing in the BWC can open opportunities to attend specialty schools that will give you an edge. When a promotion board member reviews your records and sees you've won the Soldier or NCO of the Year completion, this indicates a top block Soldier. Promotion board members are always looking for those special qualifications and achievements that make a successful leader.

Have you considered competing for the Ger-

man Armed Forces badge for military proficiency at Camp Dawson? Obtaining the German Armed Forces badge is another way of proving you are top block.

Have you ever heard of Sergeant Audie Murphy? Who is Sgt. Audie Murphy? What is the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club?

Sgt. Audie Murphy is America's Most Decorated World War II Combat Soldier. As a squad leader, he consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism, and regard for the welfare of his Soldiers.

The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club is an elite organization of NCOs whose demonstrated qualities and abilities are characterized by those of Sgt. Audie Murphy. Membership in the ARNG SAMC is a reward for NCOs whose leadership



Command Sgt. Maj. Vance

and performance merit special recognition.

These opportunities may be what you are looking for to give you that extra challenge and boost toward promotion!

The State Command Chief Master Sergeant



Command Chief Master Sgt. Bowe

As I write to you today it will be my last article as your State Command Chief Master Sergeant. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your State CCM for the past seven years. I want to thank each of you for volunteering to serve our Nation, for fighting the Global War on Terror and for keeping our Air National

Guard and the state of West Virginia strong.

We've overcome many challenges such as BRAC for the 130th and the C-5 conversion for the 167th. Great milestones, but times have become tougher with budget cuts and new airframe transformations at the 167th Airlift Wing. This is the sign of the times, it's not going to get easier to stay viable in the future.

With this being said, I believe you are the best Airmen in the world. I whole-heartedly believed this then; and now, after 7 years of traveling around the Nation and seeing our Air Force, and meeting with so many of you and witnessing the tremendous feats you accomplish every day, I am convinced even more.

Your pride and professionalism are awesome and continue to make the difference in our ability to accomplish our mission. We dominate in air, space, and across the planet because of you. You truly are our Nation's greatest asset.

In the Global War on Terror you've taken the fight to the enemy and defeated them everywhere you engaged. As the war continues, you must remain resolute, strong, and prepared to fight anytime and anywhere that our liberties, or those of our allies, are threatened. I am confident that just as those who came before us overcame challenges, you will continue to soar ahead with courage, commitment, and conviction.

I have had opportunities that very few have the luxury of receiving and have truly been blessed. The professionalism and dedication demonstrated by all of you is incredible. As I reflect back over my 41 years and 9 months, there have been great times and hard times and I can truly say the great outweighs the bad and if I had to do over again I wouldn't change a thing.

Now for the last time, as always, I salute you and your families for your sacrifices, May God bless you all.

State Colleges, Universities offer education opportunities for National Guard members

by 2nd Lt. Madalyn M. Oltman
Education Services Officer

The West Virginia National Guard Education Office has been working with numerous institutions to help provide our Soldiers and Airmen with the best educational opportunities available. There are a variety of programs that Universities offer that cater to the non traditional style of our National Guard members. Currently, Concord University, West Virginia University, University of Charleston and Wheeling Jesuit University have programs that accommodate our chaotic lifestyles.

Concord University's Regents Bachelors of Arts program is especially well suited for active duty Guardsmen. With the RBA program students are allowed to add an Area of Emphasis to document their expertise which will provide seamless transition from the RBA to an online Masters program of their choice.

West Virginia University offers an Executive Masters of Business Administration Cohort for National Guardsmen. This program is targeted specifically towards working professionals and provides flexible schedules through the combination of online course work augmented by some classroom interaction.

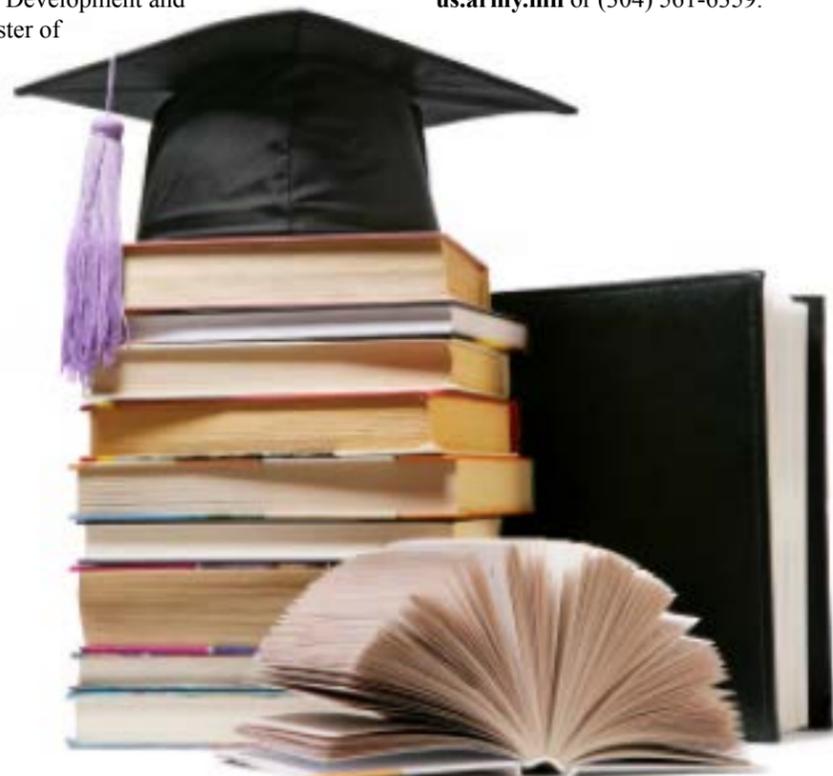
The University of Charleston is also offering an Executive Masters of Business

Administration program geared towards National Guardsmen. The University offers a grant to WVNG members to help alleviate some of the cost.

Wheeling Jesuit University has programs that challenge students to lead effectively and affect positive change in organizations. The Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership and Development and Master of

Science in Organizational Leadership offer Guardsmen the opportunity to develop intellectual and personal skills needed to function as managers and executives in the work force.

For additional information on these programs, please contact Sgt. Brandon Hodge in the West Virginia National Guard Education Office at Brandon.hodge@us.army.mil or (304) 561-6359.



News You Can Use

Program offers healing for wounded warriors

The mission of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is to assist in the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings.

For more information, please visit www.projecthealingwaters.org or Maj Michael Beckner at 304-561-6333. You can also email virginias@projecthealingwaters.org for regional information.

Website offers tutor services for military families

School is in! The Defense Department offers military families access to free, online tutoring at Tutor.com. The site offers professional tutors who can assist with homework, studying and test preparation. Services are available to students of any age -- from kindergartners to high school seniors -- with help offered in more than 16 subjects.

For more information, please visit <http://www.tutor.com/military>.

Like to travel? Space A can get you there.

Space Available Flight, better known as Space A or military hops, is a unique privilege provided to servicemembers, retirees and their families.

Under the Space-Available program, eligible passengers can fill unused seats on DoD-owned or controlled aircraft once all the space-required passengers and cargo have been accommodated.

Visit <http://www.military.com/Travel> for more information.

130th Airlift Wing members return from Afghanistan

by Staff Sgt. Shane Arrington
130th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (July 13, 2012) -- C-130s landing at Yeager Airport in Charleston, W.Va. usually happen without fanfare, but on Saturday, July 13, there were tears and screams as one carrying Airmen returning from their deployment touched down to reunite them with their loved ones.

The contingent of 130th Operations, Maintenance and Support personnel flew and maintained C-130 aircraft while completing 280 missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

"For the last 120 days these men and women have been engaged in the Global War on Terrorism," said Col. Jerry Gouhin, 130th Airlift Wing commander. They were in Afghanistan originally and then in mid-rotation they moved to another location. They had a mission capable rate of more than 90 percent, which is outstanding by any standards whether peacetime or wartime. They flew more than 2,800 hours, which is something we would typically fly in a year here, they flew in 120 days."

Gouhin also mentioned that the deployed Airmen not only put up impressive numbers, but also did it with a mishap free safety record. He said he's proud of everyone who deployed and their amazing accomplishments -- especially considering toward the end their families were fighting a war of their own back home.

"Their families have been through a major storm here in West Virginia with power outages and they've also had to deal with that," Gouhin said. "Everyone has done a super job. The commitment of these men and women is phenomenal. Like I've said, I couldn't be more proud of what they've accomplished and what they give to the state and Nation every day."

The National Guard used to be referred to as "weekend warriors," but for many members, such as Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Fallecker, Flight Engineer with the 130th Airlift Wing, this wasn't their first deployment. It's never easy leaving family and friends behind, but Fallecker said technological advancements and familiarity with simply being deployed help make things go a little more smoothly.

"This is my third deployment and everyone gets a little easier with the communications back home," Fallecker said. "Internet is better every time we go back, news feeds are better every time we go back, the infrastructure there for us personally is getting much better -- it all makes it a lot easier to keep in touch with the folks at home and stay abreast of current events. We were all aware of the storm pretty much within a couple of hours of it happening."

Fallecker said fortunately his family had somewhere to go with power, but it wasn't easy on those who lost communications with their families. He said no one liked it, but they had a job to do and you just have to "keep on keeping on."

While it was difficult to be gone, and toward the end without communication for some, it is also not easy being the ones left behind. Fallecker's wife, Jennifer, said while she's proud of the job her husband does while deployed she's beyond happy to have him back.

"We're just going to relax and spend time with each other," Jennifer said. "You never really get used to it, but this one has been hard on the kids. My husband missed our son's first birthday as



Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Fallecker, Flight Engineer with the 130th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard, poses with his daughter after returning to Charleston, West Virginia from a 120-day deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bryan G. Stevens)

well as his daughter's eighth. He's been deployed before, but this is the first one she remembers. There were no behavior problems or anything like that, just sadness."

Fallecker's daughter Jaiden said she missed her dad a lot, but talking on the phone with Skype made it easier. She also said she looks forward to going on vacations and fishing with her dad - something Fallecker also looks forward to.

"On leave I'm going to get back into my leisure time, my fishing," Fallecker said. "Were going to take a little vacation, spend some quality time with each other and just have some fun this summer before the kids go back to school."

All in all Fallecker said he just can't wait to get back into his routine. He said the toughest part about returning is not stepping on the toes of what the spouses have set up while their husbands or wives are deployed.

"The jobs the spouses have at home are incredibly difficult, and I think people fail to realize that sometimes," Fallecker said. "And even when you come home getting back into the regiment your spouse is used to doing by his or herself is difficult. The transition takes time. You can't just jump in feet first."

Active shooter exercise tests Airmen mettle

by Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Taylor
167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. (August 1, 2012) -- Members of the 167th Airlift Wing participated in an on-base, active shooter drill early Wednesday morning. The drill was designed to simulate an active shooter scenario and evaluate the base-wide response.

"We have these drills so that if a situation does occur, our personnel are trained on how to respond to the incident," said Capt. Timothy Rice, the base antiterrorism and intelligence officer.

Adding: "These types of scenarios are happening throughout the world and these drills help to better educate our people."

The drill which incorporates various elements and tactics that terrorists have used before, is one of five exercises that the Department of Defense requires from its agencies annually, said Senior Master Sgt. David Stevens, the base emergency manager.

"The DOD really emphasizes the importance of active shooter drills," Stevens said. "There has been a lot of focus on the active shooter because of the Fort Hood shooting."

"Everything in the scenario is realistic, there is nothing that is totally off the wall," Stevens said. "We want to make them realistic and we want to make them relevant."

Wednesday's drill was no exception to that rule.

It began with a simulated car bomb that was positioned outside building 134. Several loud explosions coupled with smoke that was released from a suspicious vehicle acted as the bomb. Casualties played by base personnel littered the sidewalk and grass of the immediate area.

The drill became an active shooter scenario when a gunman, played by Rice, opened fire as emergency vehicles arrived on scene. The shooter then made his way to building 120, leaving several more casualties in the surrounding area. When Security Forces personnel arrived at building 120 they found the shooter inside and were able to successfully detain him.

After the building was secure, the base Fire Department worked in conjunction with local emergency responders to treat and transport casualties.

According to Rice, This year's drill was



Senior Master Sgt. John Cordova and Tech. Sgt. Max Kline handcuff Capt. Timothy Rice, playing the part of an active shooter, during an exercise at the 167th Airlift Wing on Aug 1, 2012. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Dickson, 167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

different than previous drills.

"What is different this year is that while we are doing our drill here, three other locations around the state will also be participating in drills," he said.

Small exercises that consisted of intelligence updates to base personnel were held throughout the week leading up to the drill, Rice said. This intelligence was meant to build up to the drill day and make the scenario seem more real.

The scenario forced individuals who are usually in secondary roles to step up and become main players, Stevens said. It was designed to test every aspect of what could happen in a real situation.

Both Rice and Stevens emphasized the importance of training and being prepared for any situation.

"It goes back to training," Rice said. "The more you do it the better off you are going to be. If you only practice something once or twice every three years, you are going to end up behind the eight ball."

"These drills are absolutely beneficial to the Wing's effectiveness," said Rice. "You have to train to find out what is missing and what isn't there in your plans. If you don't practice, you will never know."

"Executing these types of scenarios allows us to test our plans," said Stevens. "We are training and utilizing all our resources making sure we can do what we need to do when it is time to come to the fight."

Rice stressed how important it is to work side-by-side with the local resources available in Berkeley County.

"The more you train with an agency that you don't normally work with, the better you will understand each other's capabilities," he said.

"We rely heavily on our civilian responders," Stevens said. "Being a guard unit, we don't have everything that the active duty has within our internal response mechanisms. With something of this magnitude we definitely need that asset (civilian responders) here on station to source our people to various hospitals."

Stevens went on to say that "Being able to reach outside the fence and pull in resources is enabling us to do a lot more than we could do with just us running an internal exercise."

To Rice, the main reason for having these types of drills is to educate and make personnel more comfortable in a wide range of situations.

"My biggest thing is that everyone is more familiar with an active shooter scenario or with any incident that occurs on base," Rice said. "This is a real event that could occur anywhere and it is something that we can't mess up."

(Editor's note: The 130th Airlift Wing and Army National Guard Headquarters in Charleston, W.Va. along with Camp Dawson in Kingwood also participated in the Aug. 1 active shooter exercise.)

C-5 conversion draws to close with taxiway extension

by Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein
167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. (August 8, 2012) -- Blame Mother Nature.

If it hadn't been for her, the final phase of the 167th Airlift Wing's C-5 conversion process would have been completed by now. Instead the steady rains which saturated Martinsburg in April and May of last year delayed completion of the C-5 taxiway extension.

Completion of the final phase of the base's conversion process is expected to wrap up by the end of this month.

"This is the last military construction project for the base's C-5 bed down," said Maj. Paul Henry, the Wing's deputy base civil engineer. The Wing is currently home to 11 C-5 aircraft.

The contract for the final phase of the airfield's conversion was awarded in 2010 to Atlantic Contracting & Material Co., Inc., based in Upper Marlboro, Md.

"We really didn't start actual active construction until April of 2011," Henry said.

Adding: "We didn't move mountains, but we moved a lot of earth."

The price tag of the last upgrade to the airfield was just shy of \$10 million with the overall four-phase, half-decade plus undertaking costing approximately \$50 million.

Under the final phase, the taxiway was realigned and widened by 15 feet.

"It's now 75 feet of taxiway with 25 foot paved shoulders on each side," Henry noted.

New LED lights were installed on the existing portion of the taxiway to the west allowing for the entire taxiway to be illuminated, with the new energy saving lights. Originally the project was slated for hot mix asphalt to be used for pavement, but concrete was used instead. Henry said the upgrade to concrete did not run the project over budget and is more practical.

"It's a rigid pavement versus a flexible pavement, the lifespan of (the concrete pavement) is a lot longer," Henry said. He noted that as long as it's maintained, the concrete pavement can last for the next 20 years. Approximately 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of concrete was placed.

The extended taxiway also allows for C-5 pilots to launch their aircraft without having to make a U turn.

"They can just go right off and launch



Contractors spray paint lines onto the edge of the newly aligned taxiway at the 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg WV, July 25, 2012. Final touches are being made to the taxiway, which was recently realigned and extended; the final C-5 conversion construction project at the base. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

off the extended overrun take-off area," he said. "It will save a lot of fuel and a lot of wear and tear on the landing gear."

The base access road and taxiway Hotel were extended to the realigned taxiway Alpha and rehabilitated.

"Bill Walkup (manager of the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport) affectionately named the access road Henry Way many years ago during snow removal operations," said the Wing's deputy base civil engineer.

Henry said completion of the final phase of the conversion project will "definitely improve the quality of the airfield itself."

One man has had a hand in every stage of the multi-phase C-5 conversion process with regards to the airfield itself.

"Rick McLaughlin has been involved in every airfield project that we have done," Henry said. "He's my right hand man. He's out there day in and day out."

McLaughlin, a native of Berkeley Springs who now calls Martinsburg home, has close ties with the base. His brother retired as a C-130 maintenance crew chief from the 167th Airlift Wing in 2002. During that time McLaughlin got to know Lt. Col. Bill Burkhart who spearheaded the base's overall C-5 conversion process before retiring.

As an inspector for Atkins Global based

in Nashville, Tenn., McLaughlin was tasked with ensuring work on the three runway projects and taxiway extension were done to specification.

He arrived on the job in May, 2006 with plenty of experience. He was an engineer at the Martinsburg Veterans Administration Hospital from 1981 to 1986. For the next 20 years he oversaw the revamping of Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Va., before landing in his current role.

He refers to himself as a "loaner to the Guard."

More than a "loaner," McLaughlin is an expert at understanding the intricate details of airfield's overall upgrade.

He noted that one detail of the upgrade seemed complex, but was actually quite logical when put into context.

"The primary runway length is the same as it was when we started - 7,815 feet," McLaughlin said. However, the 2008 east extension project added another 1,000 feet of pavement that can only be used for takeoff to the west and landing to the east.

He noted the total length hasn't changed. It went through phases when the runway length had to be reduced because of construction but the refurbishing did not reduce it.

McLaughlin said each phase of upgrading the airfield had its unique challenges.

SUMMER 2012



SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN AT THEIR BEST



(Above) Melanie Boyles, wife of Chief Master Sgt. David Boyles, douses her husband with champagne after achieving 10,000 hours flighttime. (photo by Sgt. Anna-Marie Ward, JFHQ-WV Public Affairs Office)



Clarrysa Kelley, 16, from Helvetia, W.Va., provides help as a junior counselor to Lexi Guthrie, 9, from Morgantown, W.Va. on June 25. Children at Kid's Kamp at Camp Dawson, W.Va. learned how to effectively shoot bows and arrows at the archery range during camp. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sara Yoke, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment)



Members of the 130th Airlift Wing returned to Charleston, West Virginia after a 120-day deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Billy Hinamon, 130th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)



Sgt. Aaron Anderson, West Virginia National Guard, helps load bottled water onto a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter July 1. The water was bound for Greenbrier County, W.Va. to provide relief to local citizens left without power following strong storms that devastated the state June 29. (photo by Lt. Col. David Lester, JFHQ-WV Public Affairs Officer)



Maj. Thomas W. Mills, 77th Brigade Troop Command, West Virginia Army National Guard, discusses relief efforts with First Lady Joanne Tomblin in Fayetteville, W.Va., at the 911 Center. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Bryan G. Stevens)



Employers traveled to Fort Pickett in Blackstone, Va. to visit with members of the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron as part of the Employer Support of the Guard And Reserve BOSS lift. Employers have the opportunity to see what their citizen-Soldier employees do during their time in uniform. Bosses also have the chance to participate in some "Army training." (photo by Beth White, ESGR)

Discipline, team work keys to success at YLC

by Staff Sgt. Debra Richardson
153rd Public Affairs Detachment

KINGWOOD, W.Va. (June 24, 2011) -- Stunned silence sweeps over a bus filled with teenagers from across the state as Army and Air National Guard Soldiers wearing yellow shirts scream orders for the new campers to get off the bus.

"Move, move, move!" they shout as one by one, the campers line up single file along the bus, waiting for further instruction.

As the campers shuffle into a small building to check-in, the yellow shirts make their way down the line. "Spit out that gum," "straighten your hat" and "stop eye-balling me" are just a few corrections made as the line winds through the reception hall.

The first day, reception, is the most gut-wrenching day for those who opt to spend a week at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, W.Va., attending Youth Leaders Camp.

"The first day sets the tone for discipline for the duration of the week," said Air Force Master Sgt. Victor Perry. "For many of these kids, discipline has never been enforced at their home or in their school."

Perry, a recruiting and retention supervisor with the 130th Air Lift Wing, has volunteered at Youth Leaders Camp for the past 12 years.

Throughout the week, campers learn team-building by working as a team to rappel, climb a rock wall, compete in organized sports, conduct water survival, learn first aid and complete a timed obstacle course.

Each platoon competes for streamers which they attach to their platoon's guidon. Winning a competition not only means bragging rights, but earns the platoon the right to eat first for the entire day.

"The competitive nature really starts to take over the campers by about day three," Perry said. "The campers start to act as a team and make on-site corrections. They want to win but it's obvious that they want each of their teammates to succeed with whatever task they're



Elyssa Montgomery, a junior-TAC (Teach, Advise, Counsel) instructor, directs the platoon leader of her group to rejoin the formation after giving him instructions on June 24 at Youth Leaders Camp at Camp Dawson, W.Va. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Sara Yoke)

completing."

At graduation each year, a video highlighting the week's activities and the campers' progression is shown to all the kids, parents and staff in attendance. The parents are shocked to see their kids being reprimanded on the first day and are awe-struck to see them leading and following as the video progresses.

"After watching the video from the first day, parents wonder why these kids come back," Perry said. "But throughout the week, we build close relationships with all of the kids and at the end of the week, they don't want to leave."

Youth Leaders Camp is often described as a mini boot-camp, where most of the participants are current members of their high school junior reserve officer training corps, or JROTC.

"But that's not the case," Perry said. "These kids come from everywhere and JROTC is not a prerequisite. "This camp gives every camper an opportunity to lead and be led. The camp is designed for them to fail if they try to make it as an individual; teamwork is the only avenue for success here."



A camper in Elyssa Montgomery's platoon carefully makes his way to the top of the rock wall on June 27 at Camp Dawson, W.Va. Montgomery is a junior-TAC (Teach, Advise, Counsel) instructor at Youth Leadership Camp. She returned to the camp as an instructor after being a camper for three years.

Guard members support community during Special Olympics

by Spc. Penni Harris
153rd Public Affairs Detachment

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (June 2, 2012) -- West Virginia National Guard members participated in the Special Olympics Summer Games this weekend at Laidley Field.

"[Guardsmen] help us with every single aspect [of the Summer Games]," said Tabitha Lair, Olympic Village coordinator. Approximately 192 Airmen and Soldiers volunteered to set up tents, assemble bocce courts, make and serve food to Olympians and volunteers, and provide craft materials and put crafts together with participants. "They [provide] about 75-80 percent of the volunteers we have," Lair said.

Olympians ages eight through adulthood participated in track and field, tennis, aquatics, cycling, softball, bocce and golf. Guardsmen were stationed at the Olympic Village tents to assist participants with arts and crafts, face painting, and karaoke in between competition events. "They are wonderful with the children," Lair said.

"Essentially, the [National Guard] is a community-based organization. It is important for the Guard to give back to

the community because the community supports us in our war [and] state duty efforts," said Air Force Maj. Todd Miller, co-officer in charge of Special Olympics Summer Games events for the West Virginia National Guard.

"Participating in community-based events, demonstrates to the community that we don't just talk it, we walk it," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Vance, state command sergeant major of the West Virginia National Guard.

"I think it gives guardsmen a sense of fulfillment, [that] they can do something special ..." added Sgt. 1st Class Mary J. Ambler, JFHQ-WV, "that's what we do, we help people."

The West Virginia National Guard has been participating in the Special Olympics Summer Games for eight years. "The guard plays an instrumental role. We probably couldn't pull off this event with the same degree of success without the involvement of the West Virginia Guard. That's how vital they are to this event," said John G. Corbett, CEO of Special Olympics for West Virginia.

Corbett stated that Guard volunteers see the impact they have on the athletes.



"This is their [athletes] weekend to be the stars. They have been working hard with their volunteer coaches for weeks. They're proud of what they accomplish," he said. "Summer Games is such a heart-warming experience. Everyone involved seems to come here with a smile on their face and leave here with a smile on their face."



West Virginia National Guard members spent the June Drill weekend volunteering in the W.Va. Special Olympics Summer Games. Guard members assisted with sporting events and recreational activities such as softball, golf, track and field, face painting and crafts. (photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Billy Hinamon, 130th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

Martinsburg Wing bound for Afghanistan

by Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Taylor
167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. (July 2012) -- Members of the 167th Airlift Wing are set to deploy in early August to aid in the drawdown efforts in Afghanistan.

The unit's commander said the deployment carries some historical weight as it is the first time the Wing has deployed a large amount of its C-5s at once.

"As a Wing, we used to deploy all the time with the C-130s, it was the normal thing to do with that weapons system," said Col. Roger L. Nye, commander of the 167th Airlift Wing. "When we converted to the Strategic Airlift mission, it was more of a mission that we would fly out of home station."

According to Nye, there have been other C-5 units that have done similar missions in the past that required them to deploy a large amount of personnel. However, this is the first time the 167th Airlift Wing has done such a mission since converting to the C-5s.

"This will put us back to our C-130 roots," he said. "It will give us the opportunity to go as a unit and fly a mission dedicated to a specific location."

The Wing is used to such deployments, he noted.

The history and experience that Wing personnel acquired during the C-130 days



are still fresh in everyone's minds, he said. "It is just like the ORI scenario," Nye said. "We go someplace and we fly the mission with everything self-contained there."

The commander believes the Wing's personnel are essential to the successful completion of the upcoming mission.

"This Wing has amazing people," he said. "They work hard, they know their business and they always do an outstanding job. I am confident, that due to their knowledge, their experience, and their God-given drive to do the mission, they will have mission capability rates well above anything thing we have ever seen."

Adding: "There will be some great results out of this mission."

The Wing has proved its self since day one of the C-5 conversion, he said.

"We have always been a crucial part of the mission," he said. "During the surge mission last year we had more aircraft in the air than any unit; active, guard or reserve. When we are asked to do a mission, we step forward and we prove that it can be done."

This mission will show that the Wing has continued to pull its weight, he said.

"This will be another feather in our cap."

Nye believes this mission will show that the Wing can handle any weapon system that it is converted to in the future

"The C-17 is a weapons system that deploys more than a C-5 ever has," he

said. "If they give us C-17s, they want to know we can do the deployment mission. If we convert to C-5Ms, they will know that we are an airlift Wing that has the drive, willingness and ability to perform the mission."

The deployment will last for several months and will affect the base's current operation tempo, said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Long, a flight line expeditor with the 167th Airlift Wing

"We are currently running three TACC (Tanker-Airlift Control Center) tails a week along with two local lifts and two guard lifts every other week," Long said. "During the deployment we will reduce our TACC lifts to one tail a week, but our local and guard lifts will remain the same."

"This mission will be our first long-term deployment as a C-5 group," he said. "Our members are up to the challenge and view it as a great opportunity to prove themselves in the C-5 world."

Though there will only be a small change in the Wing's operation tempo, the biggest effect this mission will have is on the deployed Airmen and their families, he said. Those who are getting deployed will be faced with being away from home for an extended period of time. Despite this, the Airmen deploying all volunteered for this mission.

"Missions of this nature definitely validate the guard and show that we are essential to the overall force," Long said.

HEAVY LIFTERS



(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Gomolka, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, (Airborne) secures chains to a mine-resistant, ambush protected vehicle prior to slingload operations at Camp Dawson near Kingwood, W.Va. (Right) A CH-47 Chinook helicopter flies through the air with an MRAP securely fastened underneath. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Sara Yoke, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment)



(Above) A Chinook helicopter prepares to land near the rappel tower at Camp Dawson. (Right) Soldiers with the 2nd Bn., 19th SFG (Abn.) slingload an MRAP to a Chinook during an exercise.



The CH-47 Chinook flies a slingloaded MRAP through the skies above Camp Dawson. The Chinook has a triple hook system, which provides stability to large external loads or the capacity for multiple external loads. Large external loads such as 155mm howitzers can be transported at speeds up to 260km/h using the triple hook load configuration. Multiple external loads can be delivered to two or three separate destinations in one sortie. This twin-rotor helicopter also boasts a troop capacity of 36 and a sling-load capacity of 26,000 pounds (center hook), 17,000 pounds (forward and aft hooks) and 25,000 pounds with a tandem load.

Good Samaritan feeds Soldiers, police, firemen

by Staff Sgt. Debra Richardson
153rd Public Affairs Detachment

LEWISBURG, W.Va. (July 5, 2012) -- "How many times have people seen something bad and thought, 'someone should fix that,'" Robert Dorsett asked. "We saw the aftermath of the storm and we wanted to help."

Robert and his wife, Lori came to West Virginia from San Antonio, Texas, to attend the PGA tour at The Greenbrier. Their son, Travis, lives in Lewisburg. But the Dorsetts were shocked when they came to Lewisburg and discovered just how bad the situation really was.

"We drove into the Wal-Mart parking lot to ask if we could help cook for the volunteers working for the power companies, but we were told they had contracted cooks," Lori said. "We asked if they knew of an organization that needed any help or assistance and they told us about the emergency operations center, EOC, that was set up at the fire house."

Following the storm, the EOC staged out of the Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department. The EOC includes the W.Va. National Guard, the police, public works, fire fighters and various other relief personnel. In total, the group was 50 personnel strong, and climbing.

The fire department had been cooking for everyone but their supply of food was quickly diminishing and cooking three meals a day was taking its toll on the fire station crew, who was responsible for helping load and unload water while also responding to emergencies.

"We were trying to work on different operations and having to cook and clean takes people away from the main mission," Doug Beard, safety officer with the volunteer fire department, said. "The Dorsetts offered to cook and we were so relieved. It freed up our personnel to do other things and everyone was pleased."

Robert and Lori said they purchased their tickets for the Classic months ago but have yet to make it to the golf tournament or a concert.

"I love golf but this is more important,"



Robert Dorsett, an attorney in Austin, Texas, grills hot dogs in the Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department kitchen Thursday, July 5. Dorsett, his wife Lori, and son Travis cooked for the West Virginia National Guard, state and local police and fire fighters. The Dorsetts volunteered to cook and purchased the majority of the food served. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Debra Richardson, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment)

Robert said. "We might eventually get over there but if not, that's ok because the tournament is no longer our priority."

The EOC runs 14-hour a day missions and receives various emergency phone calls after hours. The soldiers are called out to haul emergency generators to hospitals or nursing homes and the fire department is often called out to respond to emergency situations. But regardless of when these personnel return to the EOC, there is always a hot meal waiting on them.

"I can't really put our appreciation for Robert, Lori, and Travis into words," Spc. Richard Hatton, assigned to 156th Military Police Detachment in Monaville, W.Va., said. "In times of emergency, we just jump in our trucks and go but it's the small things, like having a hot meal, that keep us going and enable us to continue to assist the community."

During a visit to the EOC, Maj. Gen. Melvin L. Burch, West Virginia National Guard, was fortunate enough to arrive during meal time and enjoyed the lunch

provided. "When people give up tickets to a big event like the Classic to come here and help others, that's what being an American is all about," Burch said.

"It's truly something to see firsthand the kindness and generosity of people in a situation like this," added W.Va. Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer. "We're always focused on Soldiers and Airmen out helping the communities. It is heartwarming and greatly appreciated when you experience the community reaching out and helping us."

"Thanks to neighbor helping neighbor, storm victims have received a tremendous amount of very much needed help," said Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin. "I am truly thankful for the generosity and compassion shown by the Dorsett's and so many others like them."

"We'll return to West Virginia soon to see our friends because we've met some amazingly generous people here," Robert said. "There's a real sense of community in West Virginia and we enjoyed being a part of the relief effort."



(Above) Warriors of the WV Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program put their newly developed skills of land navigation and radios to use during a land navigation training event at Camp Dawson, near Kingwood W.Va. May 5. (Below) An RSP recruit hides in the bushes during a paintball and ambush training event at Camp Dawson, May 5. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Penni Harris, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment)

Program teaches future Guard members skills, discipline

by Spc. Penni Harris
153rd Public Affairs Detachment

KINGWOOD, W.Va. (May 5, 2012) -- Warriors of Companies C and D of the West Virginia Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program participated in multiple training events for their monthly drill.



During drill weekend, future Soldiers are trained on the physical, mental, and financial aspects to prepare them for basic training, said Master Sgt. Marcus V. Williams, RSP Co. C unit noncommissioned officer in charge.

Throughout the year, recruits are trained on drill and ceremony, land navigation, and the assembly and disassembly of the M16 rifle and M9 pistol in order to create proficiency in those areas, said Master Sgt. Robert L. Jewell, RSP Co. C Unit NCOIC. Additional activities, such as this weekend's rappel tower, rope bridge and rock wall promote motivation and self confidence in the warriors, Jewell said.

This weekend, warriors participated in a radio training course, paintball and ambush simulation, land navigation training course, 50-foot rock wall climbing, rappel tower training, rope bridge training, the physical fitness test, and ended with rides in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

The radio training, paintball and ambush simulation, and land navigation training courses were organized to prepare warriors in their techniques of navigation and the familiarization of their weapons, said Williams. The rock wall, rappel tower, and the rope bridge were prepared in

expectations of building self-confidence, said Jewell and Williams.

In addition to courses and activities, warriors were put in a field training exercise environment during the night. Warriors were given cots and sleeping bags and slept in tents for the duration of the weekend.

The things that they got exposed to this weekend will really give them a solid foundation for basic training, said Pvt. 1st Class Jakob P. Potts, a member of the 119th Sapper Company.

"Pretty much everything that they got to do this drill was incredible as far as how much it's going to give them a stepping stone up against the other [Soldiers] in their platoons or companies," he said. Potts has recently returned from one station unit training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and is completing his last RSP drill this month as a battle hand-off before beginning training with his unit.

The weekend concluded with an awards and battle hand-off ceremony to honor those recruits shipping before the next drill, warriors who have been promoted, and Soldiers who have recently returned from Advanced Individual Training or OSUT and will be joining their units next month.

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History of the Guard



On August 5, 1917, the entire membership of The National Guard was drafted into federal service for World War I. After war was declared in April, 1917, National Guard units were first called into federal service by President Wilson under the militia clause of the Constitution. A recruiting party looking for new men to fill the ranks of Washington National Guard units prior to their departure from Tacoma for service in World War I. This detachment uses the same type of static displays employed by Guard recruiters today. Among the featured items are their current weapons, the Model-1903 bolt-action, magazine fed, Springfield rifle and a .30 caliber Browning machine gun. The sign headed "GENERAL PERSHING SAYS" reads as follows: "All young men should be encouraged to join a unit either of the National Guard or of the organized reserves. The most appropriate place for such first service in the National Guard." (Photo courtesy The National Guard)