

# 167<sup>th</sup> AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

## STATIONS

Martinsburg, WV

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

Colonel Jane B. Taylor

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew I. Wolkstein

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

Relocating West Virginia Aeromed: The West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing will be transferring its aeromedical evacuation squadron to the West Virginia ANG's 130th AW, reports the Charleston Gazette. The 167th AW, in Martinsburg, converted to C-5s from C-130s so

can no longer support the aeromed mission. The 130th AW in Charleston flies the C-130 and expects to house the aeromed squadron in existing buildings, beginning this fall, although the newspaper reports that a West Virginia Guard official said the full transfer could take several years.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (June 3, 2011) -- Four members of the 167th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron came from Martinsburg, W.Va. to take a water survival training course with instructors from the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston. The 167th AES is officially part of the 130th AW as of Oct. 1, 2010, but the physical move is set for a future date. While the unit as a whole has yet to move, that's not stopping them from training at their future home. Maj. Christopher Taylor, an aeromedical nurse with the 167th AES, said the training provided by the 130th AW instructors was beneficial. "These guys know what they're doing," Taylor said. "The instruction was great, and the facility here was nice." All fliers must go through water survival training, but for aeromedical personnel, they not only focus on saving themselves, but the patients and passengers they're responsible for as well. "This training really opens up the eyes of the younger people coming in," Taylor said. "It helps people jump over the edge, push themselves and get the training they need. They may not realize how important it is at the time, but when deployed, and the flight or fight mode kicks in, you remember your training ... and this saves lives." Master Sgt. Jesse Hager, an Aircrew Flight Equipment Continuation Training Instructor with the 130th Airlift Squadron, instructed the life saving training course. To be qualified to train others in water survival and life saving techniques he had to go through extensive training - Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape, combat survival, water survival, parachuting classes and an instructor certification program. "I have to be trained in all the things fliers are, with the exception of pilot or navigation training," Hager said. "I'm basically the ground guy who knows what the fliers need to know if something happens and they find themselves out of the air." The responsibility of conducting training that could be used in a life or death situation isn't lost on Hager. He takes a lot of time to ensure his training scenario goes smoothly. "It took a couple of days just to prep the equipment," Hager said. "The equipment has to match our operational equipment for the best training. Just this morning before the training it took another two hours to prep the pool and have everything ready and safe." "Knowing the training you provided could possibly save their lives, that's when the sense of responsibility really kicks in." This was the first water survival training conducted for the 167th AES in Charleston. Hager said the key to the integration process is working together and adapting to the way each other does things. "I think today was a good first page in building a relationship between us, the instructors and the aeromedical personnel." Taylor agreed with Hager's assessment. "Everything is looking good," Taylor said. "It seems we're being met here in Charleston with open arms and the training we did here today went very well." The 167th AES personnel are required to have water survival training every three years to stay current. Taylor, who has put this training to use in a rescue operation downrange, said that it doesn't matter if you're brand new or have been doing this job for several years, refresher training is vital to mission accomplishment.

## Sources

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*Unit History. WV ANG. West Virginia National Guard Yearbook, 1996.* National Guard Association of West Virginia.