

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resources Available to Military, Community Members Affected by Aircraft Crash at Thunder Over the Blue Ridge Air Show

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – Resources are available in the form of counseling and support for those affected by the aircraft crash that occurred Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, at the 2011 Thunder Over the Blue Ridge Air Show hosted at the 167th Airlift Wing.

Those in the community are encouraged to seek out support if they feel that viewing the accident traumatically affected them. The best way of coping with a traumatic event is to share experiences with others and when needed seeking out professional support. This will help assist in a quick recovery.

“The 167th Airlift Wing is concerned about our community and our family members. We understand that you are mourning with us,” said Col. Roger L. Nye, commander of the 167th Airlift Wing. “In this difficult time we all need to take care of each other.”

Unit leadership has been in contact with numerous schools in the tri-state area to ensure that children will have access to grief counseling on Monday if needed.

Military members and their families may seek support in the aftermath of this tragedy by contacting Daniela Lupu, Director of Psychological Health (DPH) at 304-616-5939 or 304-596-3129; the Chaplain’s Office at 304-616-5319 or 717-794-0111; Military One Source at

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<http://www.militaryonesource.com> or 1-800-342-9647; the Veteran's Administration Hospital at 304-263-0811; or Military and Family Life Consultants (MFLCs) at 304-545-5714 or 1-800-646-5613.

Civilians needing support are advised to contact their local pastors or go to <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/mentalhealth>, a site with a list of resources focusing on coping with a traumatic event. Other support facilities include East Ridge Health Systems at 235 S. Water St., Martinsburg, W.Va., and 304-263-8954; Behavioral Health Services at 99 Tavern Road, Martinsburg, W.Va., and 304-263-7023; and the American Red Cross at 304-725-5015.

Nye said that although the pilot was the only one physically affected, Wing officials recognize that many, many people were emotionally affected by the tragedy.

The incident is under investigation by federal and local authorities, who are now in control of the scene. All inquiries should be made to the National Transportation and Safety Board public affairs at 202-314-6100.