



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
 BUILDING S-0-47  
 FORT INDIANTOWN GAP  
 ANNVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17003-5002

Date: November 7, 2014

To: The State Armory Board

From: Major General Wesley E. Craig *Wesley E. Craig 11/7/14*  
 The Adjutant General

Subject: Request to name Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, Aviation Maintenance Instructional Building after John Stanko.

In accordance with the State Armory Board instructions, this is a formal recommendation to the State Armory Board to name the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site Aviation Maintenance Instructional Building after John Stanko. His record of service and contributions to the Army National Guard's aviation force is highly exemplary and is the basis for this request.

No one has been more responsible for the development of Army National Guard aviation than John J. Stanko, Jr. Because of his nearly 40 years of service to the Guard aviation community, he is rightly known as the "Father of ARNG Aviation."

Born in 1922 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he served in the Army Air Forces in Europe as a B-24 bomber pilot, flying 12 combat missions during World War II. After the war, John Stanko took up residence in Danville, Pennsylvania, and joined the Air Force Reserve. He became a light aircraft pilot in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1954, and since the day he volunteered, John Stanko loved serving in the Guard. In the following decade, he became a qualified armor officer, commanding the 104<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company in Lancaster. In May 1966, Major Stanko reported to National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon for a four-year tour as an aviation staff officer. In 1972, he was recalled to serve at NGB as the head of the new Aviation Logistics Center with the civilian rank of GS-14, military technician. Five years later, he became Chief, ARNG Aviation Division, a position he held for 16 years. During his tenure, he was most satisfied with his role in the creation of ARNG aviation logistics, maintenance, and training organizations and infrastructure. It was his recommendation that established the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site (EAATS) at Ft. Indiantown Gap. By the time of his retirement in 1993, ARNG aviation was arguably the largest, separate military aviation force in the world.

All who worked with John Stanko recognized him as an innovative and dedicated leader whose enthusiasm was infectious. To those who knew him best, John Stanko was a welcoming father figure. He was also respected for his considerable airmanship skills in a number of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. In recognition of his many accomplishments, John Stanko was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 1983.

Honoring John Stanko's outstanding, exemplary service to the Army National Guard aviation organization by naming the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site Aviation Maintenance Instructional Building after him is fitting tribute to the memory of this National Guard hero. I request this building be named the "John Stanko Aviation Instruction Center."