

SCHOOL NEWS

Air National Guard presents Bishop Dunn with a mission flag

By EMMA FRIEDRICH

On Friday, January 26, the 105th Airlift Wing, of the New York Air National Guard, presented Bishop Dunn Memorial School with a mission flag. The flag itself traveled around the world, on the unit's C-17 cargo plane, from Stewart International in Newburgh, to Spain, Germany, Turkey, Iraq, and Afghanistan, to name a few. According to Major Eric Durkins, this was the plane's longest continuous mission abroad, from December 2017 to January 2018.

The presentation of this flag came about when Master Sergeant Robert Hoag heard about the way Bishop Dunn students pray and respect the men and women of our military. "One day, early in the school year, my wife, [Bishop Dunn's 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Hoag] came home and explained to me that you all pray for the men and women of the military," said Hoag. "We were surprised and also very thankful for it; to hear a school come together like this, and having our backs every day is very special."

Hoag also went on to thank them for the respect and ceremony the students perform each day to lower the flag. "We are thankful to you, because to most men and women in the military the flag isn't just a symbol for our country, but it represents our brothers and sisters, both past and present, that have served, fought, and died for our country."

Mrs. Hoag asked if the 105th Airlift Wing could present the school with a flag, "but we didn't want to just give you a normal flag in a box, we wanted it to be



Mrs. Hoag's 4th grade class poses with the 105th.

special," stated MSgt Hoag. After talking with his unit, they all agreed to travel on their next mission around the world with the flag on display within the aircraft, to be presented to the school on their return.

The students of Mrs. Hoag's 4th grade class also presented the 105th Airlift Wing with a plaque of a world map that each student signed, to be taken with them wherever they journey next.



MSgt Robert Hoag explains why the 105th wanted to present Bishop Dun with a special flag.



Students present the 105th with a heart felt message on a world map that they've signed.



(From Right to Left) Maj Eric Durkins, CMSgt Robert DiResta, AIC Mary Arizaga, Principal Nancy Benfer, MSgt Robert Hoag, and TSgt Toby Senoglu.