

# Wing Tips



108th Wing  
NJ Air National Guard

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## Commander's Column

### *Flight crew's mission: It's an honor for them*

By Col. Kevin J Keehn, 108th Operations Group Commander

The 108th Wing flies in support of numerous higher headquarters missions such as airlift, air refueling, coronets and various exercises.

The aforementioned missions are demanding and fulfilling for the flight crews to accomplish. But no mission we are tasked to do is more fulfilling and demanding of the flight crew's skills than of the medical air evacuation missions, or medevacs.

The med-evac mission first came to the KC-135 community in 2003 when the Air Force began to phase out the C-9 aircrafts. And the 108th WG flew its first med-evac flight into the CENTCOM area of operation (AOR) in December 2007.

The mission typically begins with the aircraft departing from McGuire Air Force Base for a short flight to Andrews Air Force Base, Md. While at Andrews AFB, the aircraft is refueled and reconfigured into its med-evac configuration. Starting from the

front of the cargo compartment and going aft, this configuration consists of three patient support pallets which provide 15 litter spaces, four airline seats and nine regular passenger seats.

Once the aircraft is configured, it will depart to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where the flight crew will remain for 12 days and fly four to five missions into the AOR. Upon arrival at Ramstein AB, the flight crew receives an intelligence briefing, and is then put into crew rest while they wait for their first mission. Also, at Ramstein AB, the KC-135 flight crew will meet the medical personnel that will fly with them on their missions into the AOR. The medical crew, led by the medical crew director, is made up of seven people consisting of flight nurses, charge medical technicians, and air evacuation technicians.

One of the major differences between a medevac mission and a regular mission is that there are really two commanders in the aircraft during a medevac. On any other mission the aircraft commander is in charge of the entire aircraft. The commander has the final say on everything that occurs at both front and back of the aircraft. On medevac missions, the aircraft commander works in conjunction with the medical crew director on decisions involving all areas other than aircraft safety. In matters of patient care the medical crew director decisions are final.



The mission out of Ramstein AB is a six-and-a-half-hour flight, which takes you over Eastern Europe, the Black Sea and down into the CENTCOM AOR.

The arrival and departure in to the AOR occurs during darkness to minimize any surface to air threat the crew may encounter. Both the airfields and the terrain surrounding some of the airfields can also pose a threat. Some mountains are up to 12,000 feet in elevation, and many of the airfields are poorly lit. In addition, some airfields have marginal navigational aids

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## MISSIONS

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and poor runway conditions.

With an average of only two and a half hours on the ground at the AOR, the aircraft is refueled and the evacuation crews load the patients - who range from civilian contractors to U.S. and coalition military members - onto the aircraft and prepare them for the flight to Germany. In addition, during this time, the flight crew receives a weather update, files the required mission paperwork, and the KC-135 prepares for its seven-and-a-half-hour flight back to Germany.

There are circumstances where the normal medical team cannot adequately care for a certain patient. These cases normally involve patients with severe trauma such as amputations or burns. In cases such as these a team known as the Critical Care Air Transportation Team, or CCATT, is added to the crew. The CCATT is a three-person, highly specialized medical asset that can create and operate a portable intensive care unit (ICU) on board any transport aircraft during flight. The CCATT team consists of a physician specializing in an area such as critical care emergency medicine, anesthesiology, surgery, etc., along with a critical care nurse and a respiratory technician. The CCATT, with special medical equipment, can turn almost any airframe into a flying intensive care unit

within minutes. The team is experienced in the care of critically ill or injured patients with multi-system trauma, shock, burns, respiratory failure, multiple organ failure, or other life-threatening complications.

During the return flight to Ramstein AB, the medical crews monitor the patients,

down loading their equipment. After the down load is complete the flight crew returns to operations where they turn in their required post mission paperwork and are re-entered into crew rest for the following day's mission.

As stated at the beginning of the article, this is a very demanding mission for the flight crew. It is typically a 23 hour day from report time at Ramstein AB until engine shutdown back at Ramstein AB.

I have personally flown on a few of these missions. I have to say that the level of care that is given to our wounded is outstanding. From the time they are taken off the ambulance and put on the aircraft in the AOR, to when they are offloaded at Ramstein, they are treated with the utmost care and respect.

This was certainly displayed on one of the missions I flew. One of our patients out of the AOR was a triple amputee whose wounds were caused by an improvised explosive device. From the moment his litter was loaded onto the aircraft, to the moment he was off loaded at Ramstein AB, there was a flight nurse at his side taking care of him. Except for the actual takeoff and landing, she stood by his side the entire seven-and-a-half hour flight back to Ramstein AB.



take their vitals, provide medicines, and try to assist with the patient's comfort levels. Once the plane lands at Ramstein AB, the aero-medical ground crews offload the patients on K-loaders and transport them via an ambulance to the hospital at Landstuhl, Germany. There the patients receive the critical medical attention they require.

After the patients are offloaded, the flight crew will assist the medical team in

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<http://www.twitter.com/108thWing>

# A Message From the Safety Office

## Don't underestimate the power of a power tool

Any tool powerful enough to slice through wood can do the same to human flesh. Consequently, chainsaw injuries are often serious.

Before you operate a chainsaw, make sure you read and understand the operator's manual as well as ensure you have the right chainsaw for the job. The instruction manual should describe the saw's capabilities. If you rent a saw, be sure to get a demonstration of how it works - including its safety features - then make sure your saw is sharp, properly tensioned, and in good condition.

When you're going to use a chainsaw, wear protective clothing which includes a hard hat, safety goggles, gloves that give you a good grip, hearing protection, steel-toed shoes with nonslip soles, and trim-fitting clothes that won't get caught in the chain.

Start your chainsaw according to the manual's direction. Clear the work area so the chain won't touch anything but the wood you want to cut and place the saw on a level surface; never rest a saw on you. Stand to the side of the saw so you won't follow the cut through into your leg, and stand on the uphill side of your work so it won't roll into you. Hold the saw parallel to the ground with your left arm straight for better control and to reduce the chance of the saw pushing into you

if it kicks back.

Keep both hands on the saw while it's running. Work slowly and don't rush. Let the chainsaw do the work; never force it. Avoid cutting above mid-chest height.

Never attempt to cut a tree with a diameter greater than the length of the chainsaw blade and watch for branches that may spring back as you cut. Always be aware of what is in the saw's downward path after the cut. It's a good idea to take frequent breaks from cutting so you don't operate the saw when you're tired.

Carry the saw below your waist, with the engine off and guide bar pointed to the rear, so if you trip the saw drops behind you.

Although some chainsaw injuries are caused by operator error, kickback is the greatest cause of chainsaw injuries. In kick-

back, the upper chain "grabs" in the wood or an obstruction and forces the saw backward, causing operator to either lose control of the saw or lose balance. This can bring the saw into contact with the body. Some chainsaws have chain brakes that are designed to instantly stop the saw after kickback. While these don't prevent kickback, they can reduce the severity of injury from it.

If your saw is electric, make sure you use an extension cord that's approved for outdoor use and don't use the saw in a damp environment. Fuel any gasoline-powered chainsaws outdoors, being careful not to overfill or spill the fuel. In addition, never refuel a hot saw. Let it cool down first, and have a fire extinguisher nearby.

Finally, it's dangerous to work alone with a chainsaw. Have a companion within calling distance in case of an emergency. But keep bystanders and helpers at a safe distance from operation so that they will not be injured by the saw, flying chips, sawdust or by what you're working on.



## Chief Council selling poinsettias at UTA

The 108th Wing Chiefs Council is happy to announce their 5th Annual Holiday 2011 Poinsettia Sale.

Orders will be taken until Nov. 29, with delivery of the poinsettias during the December UTA.

All profits from the sale will go to the 108th Liberty Fund.

Please see any 108th chief master sergeant if you are interested in placing an order.

# Feature of the Month

## Four words drive 108th Wing honor guards

Story by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA

In the practice room of the 108th Wing's Honor Guard's office, there are various custom flags, banners, patches and other paraphernalia used by its members. A lone trophy case displaying the awards, thank-you notes and trophies that have been presented to these volunteers are also in the room.

But walking outside into the hallway of the practice room, one can see the four inspirational posters that these members hold dear.

"I was originally volunteered to do this," said Staff Sgt. Isaiah Thomas, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 108th Wing Honor Guard's detail. "But now I am starting to see and understand the real reason behind this."

And the reasons are within the four inspirational posters on the hallway that leads to their practice room. Each poster is inscribed with a single word: 'Respect', 'Discipline', 'Precision' and 'Patriotism'.



Airman 1st Class Paula Daniels at a ribbon-cutting event at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on Oct 25. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA)

The honor guard detail are there so they may serve as ambassadors to the public, present a positive image of the unit, and assist with recruiting effort. In addition, these honor guards are a ceremonial unit, and are composed of volunteers who are carefully screened for their physical ability and dexterity.

While one of their primary roles is to provide funeral honors for fallen comrades, they also serve as "guardians of the colors" by displaying and escorting the national and state flag on ceremonial occasions at official functions.

And with outmost respect these volunteers conduct the ceremonies, standing at attention for hours without moving.

"Originally I was intrigued by drill and ceremony when I first came out of basic training," said Airman 1st Class Paula Daniels. "Now I am honored when we attend funerals and 9/11 ceremonies."

With discipline they volunteer for this, as this is an additional duty. Only those persons who are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance and conduct are likely to be considered.

"Members have to ensure they are up to par with their CDCs, and they keep current with their job training and duties," said Thomas. "In the Active Duty, honor guard is your job, but in the Guard, you have to know



Honor Guards of the 108th Wing, left to right, Airman 1st Class Paula Daniels, Staff Sgt. Isiah Thomas, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Thomas and Airman 1st Class Vaughn Price prepare to march onto the 204th Intelligence Squadron of the 108th WG, New Jersey Air National Guard, ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 25. The 108th Honor Guard detail presented the colors during the ceremony here at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th W/PA)

the honor guard stuff, plus your job."

It is that discipline that helps them during ceremonies. The discipline to stand still during the ceremony and "find time to practice after they have completed their work," said Thomas.

And practice is what keeps them sharp and precise with their movements when they

conduct ceremonies. Precision is how their uniforms are worn. With each medal exactly centered on their chest, their dress shoes highly polished and their headgear precisely over their eyes. No detail is too small.

Proud and patriotic they hold high the state and U.S. flag during these ceremonies. Even as the weight of these flags bear down on their arms and shoulders.

"This takes a lot out of you," said Thomas. "But at the end, when the event is over and everyone is saying 'thank you', it's really all worth it."

*"At the end, it's all worth it,"*

*Staff Sgt. Isiah Thomas*

# We Want You

## 108th Wing Unit Public Affairs Representative Program

By Staff Sgt. Brian Carson, 108th WG/PA

Have you ever asked yourself how you could get the word out about what your section and its members are doing? Due to the hectic pace of UTA weekends, deployments, and other training requirements, there are great actions being performed by 108th personnel, both on and off duty, that often times go unnoticed.

And you can help spread those great stories, photos and videos by becoming a Unit Public Affairs Representative for your section.

The goal of the UPAR program is to increase the visibility of each section's members, their unit's activities, and to highlight the good work the 108th personnel does on a regular basis, both at home and abroad.

"The UPAR will be each sections direct link to the 108th Public Affairs office", states Capt. April Doolittle, the 108th

Wing public affairs officer. "This program will help to ensure that all 108th members are informed about what the other sections are accomplishing."

The main function of the UPAR will be to act as their unit's liaison to the 108th Public Affairs office with the intention of getting the word out to the rest of the Wing about what their shop and its personnel are doing. This can be done through any number of ways to include writing an article, taking photos, or by a simple email keeping the public affairs office abreast of what their section is currently doing, or planning on doing in the coming weeks, months, etc.

"This initiative will greatly assist in improving the awareness across the entire 108th spectrum of what all of us are doing and it will only serve to benefit the 108th community as a whole," states Doolittle.



If you or anyone in your section is interested in participating in this worthwhile program, contact the 108th Wing public affairs office at 609-754-4173.

Once a representative has been identified, training and public affairs guidance (PAG) will be given by 108th public affairs staff.



1st Sgt. Jill Moore, 108th Wing, receives the First Sergeant of the Year Award from the New Jersey Enlisted Association at a Joint Enlisted Professional Development Day event on Oct. 8. The New Jersey National Guard held a Joint Enlisted Professional Development Day at the Seaview, DOLCE Hotel & Resort in Galloway, N.J. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)



Tech. Sgt. Angela Miller, 108th Wing, receives the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Enlisted Association at a Joint Enlisted Professional Development Day event on Oct. 8. The New Jersey National Guard held a Joint Enlisted Professional Development Day at the Seaview, DOLCE Hotel & Resort in Galloway, N.J. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

# Odds & Ends

## Free mental health program available for Airmen

Attention members of the 108th Wing. A new program is now available to help Airmen deal with issues associated with stress and psychological challenges.

Led by Jill Barrett, the Wing Psychological Health Program is here to support our members' mental and emotional strength, endurance, resilience and well-being.

The Psychological Health Program can offer confidential consultations, education, resource material, and referrals to civilian providers.

Maintenance of your psychological health can improve your job performance, enhance your relationships with family and friends, and advance your skills for personal growth.

The office is located at the Wing Headquarters building 33-27, next to the Airmen and Family Readiness office. Call Ms. Barrett at 609-754-2159 or via email at [jill.barrett@ang.af.mil](mailto:jill.barrett@ang.af.mil) at anytime for a consultation.

In addition, services are also available for family members.

## Important new CSA card policies

Effective immediately the Controlled Spend Account card can no longer be used for personal use and compliance is mandatory.

This new policy applies to all military and non-bargaining civilians.

Based on feedback from Air Force leadership, general counsel, Defense Travel Management Office and the General Services Administration, the CSA can only be used for official government travel.

Please review the Department of the Air Force policy letter for the CSA card: [http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/CSA\\_Policy\\_Memo-8-26-2011.pdf](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/CSA_Policy_Memo-8-26-2011.pdf).

## 108th Marksmanship team news

The 108th Marksmanship Team once again had good competition results in October.

Here are some highlights for some competitions that the team participated during October:

At the New Jersey Governor's 20 match, Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Burkel tied for first place and ended in second after the tie breaker was calculated. In addition, Staff Sgts. James Testa finished in seventh and John Parillo in 10th place, respectively.

At the Excellence in Competition match, Burkel finished third overall, while Testa finished fourth out of non-distinguished shooters.

Finally, at the New Jersey Civilian Marksmanship Program, which is shot with the M1 Garand, 1903 Springfield and a Vintage rifle, Burkel was first place New Jersey shooter in all three matches and earned overall championship tile.

Anyone interested in joining the marksmanship team should contact Burkel at 609-754-1392 or via email at [joseph.burkel@ang.af.mil](mailto:joseph.burkel@ang.af.mil)

## Job opportunities at UMDNJ

The University Behavioral Health Care seeks individuals to provide 24/7 telephonic peer support, needs assessment and referrals for National Guard and Reserve components and their families across the country.

Their motto is: "you are never alone, anywhere, anytime."

Currently, UBHC are looking for qualified, reliable and enthusiastic candidates, preferably with military experience, to work with them.

### Job Opportunities include - apply now:

Clinical Supervisors - [11PS917238](#)

Program Coordinator - [11PS917241](#)

Mental Health Clinician II - [11PS917138](#)

Mental Health Clinician III - [11PS917235](#)

Supervising Mental Health Specialists - [11PS917240](#)

Mental Health Specialist II - [11PS917150](#)

Mental Health Specialist III (Peer Helplines) - [11PS917151](#)

Field Service Engineer - [11PS917230](#)

Secretary II - [11PS917231](#)

UBHC is a facility within the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Apply on line at <http://umdnj.hodesiq.com/>



## 204th IS celebrates opening of new facility

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA

Among family, friends, colleagues and senior leadership of the New Jersey National Guard, the 204th Intelligence Squadron of the 108th Wing, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 25 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., to commemorate the opening of their new state-of-the-art facility here at JB MDL.

The complex is an 8,000 square foot facility that allows 204th IS Airman to be a self-contained, geographically separated intelligence unit that provides an in-garrison multi-intelligence production, analysis and training capability for Headquarters Air Mobility Command's Intelligence Directorate.

Among the NJNG senior leadership was Army Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the adjutant general of New Jersey and the commander of the New Jersey National Guard; Air Force Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard; Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, commander of the 108th Wing; Air Force Col. John Wood, commander of the 87th Air Base Wing, and several legislative representatives from New Jersey.

In addition, joining the official party was Lt. Col. David C. Zink, the 204th IS commander and the recipient of the new complex.

"There is no better intel team in the United States Air Force than the folks here at the 204th," said Rieth. "Their job is critically important to AMC and to the United States Air Force."

This facility will allow the 204th to take the next step and become fully operational, said Cunniff.



From left to right, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander New Jersey Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, commander 108th Wing, and Lt. Col. David Zink, commander 204th Intelligence Squadron, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the 204th IS' new state-of-the-art office complex here at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., on Oct. 25. (Photo by Marck C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA)

The 204th Intelligence Squadron is a unique organization created in 2008 to support Headquarters Air Mobility Command's Intelligence Directorate and is the result of a National Guard Bureau and Air Mobility Command Total Force initiative

## Combine Federal Campaign celebrates 50th anniversary

The New Jersey National Guard Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has officially kicked off its 2011 campaign which will run until Dec. 15.

This year's campaign will mark the 50th Anniversary of the CFC, one of the most effective and efficient channels for philanthropic giving. The CFC gives federal workers an accountable, flexible way to make meaningful differences in the world by providing a wide range of donation options.

There are nearly 3,000 local, national and international agencies listed in this year's brochure. Contributions may be made by payroll deductions – the easiest way to give – or make a one-time gift to the charity of your choice.

Over the years, the New Jersey National Guard's CFC has been most successful in this endeavor because of the personal generosity and concerns of its

members. Every employee is urged to support this worthy cause. Catalogs and payroll deduction forms will be going out to all full time federal technicians and AGRs.

The campaign officially began Oct. 1. Please see the list of

POCs below and they can answer any questions and assist you with donations, whether they are cash, check, or payroll deduction.

108MXG - 2nd Lt. Cynthia Cano-Hewitt, 609-754-2020 or [cynthia.cano-hewitt@ang.af.mil](mailto:cynthia.cano-hewitt@ang.af.mil); 108MDG - Tech. Sgt.

Knalidi Hinkson, 609-754-4466 or [knalidi.hinkson@ang.af.mil](mailto:knalidi.hinkson@ang.af.mil); 108OG - 1st Lt. Michael Jewell, 609-754-6141 or [michael.jewell2@ang.af.mil](mailto:michael.jewell2@ang.af.mil); 108MSG - Capt. Jaime Gallagher, 609-754-2895 or [jaime.gallagher@ang.af.mil](mailto:jaime.gallagher@ang.af.mil); 108WG HQ - Capt. Kristopher D'Erasmus, 609-754-3683 or [kristopher.derasmo@ang.af.mil](mailto:kristopher.derasmo@ang.af.mil)

- Staff Sgt. Heather Zweiback, 609-754-0345 or [heather.zweiback@ang.af.mil](mailto:heather.zweiback@ang.af.mil)



[ang.af.mil](mailto:ang.af.mil) and 108CRG

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## SECURITY BULLETIN

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense – Reserve Affairs  
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)  
1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22209  
(703) 696-1171 x 548  
Robert Tizon, Force Protection Officer  
[roberto.tizon@osd.mil](mailto:roberto.tizon@osd.mil)



October 27, 2011

### Photocopying of Military Identification Cards



Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of **Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701** and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.



Many military members, family members and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC.

**FPO COMMENTS:** Criminal elements and terrorist organizations place U.S. government identifications as a high value logistical element when planning acts against the U.S. military.

Although commercial establishments are not prohibited from asking for military/government identification, many government personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition on duplication of government identification. Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to ensure a government identification card won't be counterfeited or "cloned" based on a photocopy by a commercial establishment.

It is recommended that military/DoD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of the traveler's identification.

**\*NOTE:** This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor's office, hospitals, etc...) who are allowed take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.

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REMEMBER

Should you witness activity that may be criminal or terrorist in nature, contact the Pentagon Force Protection Agency **IMMEDIATELY** at 703-692-2729