



Wing Tips



108th Wing
NJ Air National Guard

April 2012, Vol. 13, Issue 4

Commander's Column Relentlessness: Great attribute for everyday challenges

By Lt. Col. William A. Liess, 108th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander

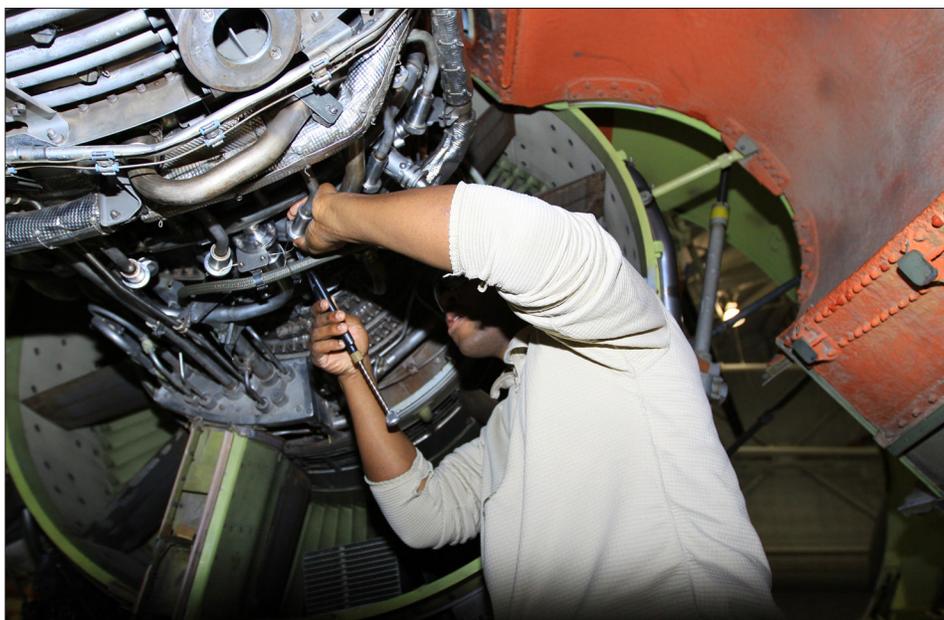
Relentlessness is a characteristic for a person who is unwilling to give up or let up.

After three years of serving as the commander of the fine men and women of the 108th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, I believe 'relentlessness' to be their defining attribute. Day in and day out; in bitter cold and blistering heat; in soaking rain and arid sun. The crew chiefs of AMXS launch and recover the Wing's KC-135 aircraft and prepare them for their next flights with dogged perseverance. Countless times I have seen our crew chiefs come out of the weather into the break room for a few minutes, only to turn right back around and return to the flight line to tend to their planes.

We can all learn from their example.

Most of us learn how to do our jobs with equipment that works as it is designed. When I was in Operations, for instance, we spent many hours practicing to respond to emergencies that could arise in flight. But any major malfunction would typically mean that we would abort the mission for which we had launched. For some of us, system failures and disrupted plans are something to complain about. But crew chiefs - like all maintainers - embrace a world where things go wrong.

Aircrafts are complex systems that will fail with statistical certainty. Crew chiefs do not get frustrated when things break, instead they fix them. It doesn't matter



how difficult the problem is, crew chiefs are out there with their planes until they are ready to fly again. The Wing's KC-135s would have been parked long ago if it weren't for the stubborn perseverance of the maintainers who kept putting them back in the air for the past five decades.

A successful maintenance operation is not only relentless; it is also calm and confident. Maintainers do not know when a system will fail or what that system will be. But when a system fails there is nothing to be gained by overreacting. No matter how difficult or unique a problem may be, maintainers size up the work required

and get it done carefully and methodically. Even the most challenging maintenance problems are broken down into a series of discrete steps.

We should all try to emulate the example of the 108th's crew chiefs as we go about our personal and professional lives. We all make plans but, as Helmuth von Moltke said, "no campaign plan survives first contact with the enemy."

When we embrace the fact that things will go wrong, we are better prepared to handle the challenges when they occur. As warriors, we must adapt and overcome in order to prevail.





A reenlistment ceremony for 108th Wing members was held at the Wing's headquarters March 10, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Posing for a group photo are, front row left to right, Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, Tech. Sgt. Michael Robinson, Master Sgt. Vincent Randolph, Col. Kevin Keehn, Staff Sgts. Kenneth Autea and Nicole Murillo. Back row left

to right, Staff Sgt. Stephen Lisi, Tech. Sgts. Rahjun George and Jeffrey McGrath, and Chief Master Sgt. Harry Johnson. Keehn, the Wing commander, performed the oath of enlistment and congratulated each reenlisting member. In addition to thanking them for their continued service and support of the 108th Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Adrian R. Rowan)

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 108th Wing, 3327 Charles Blvd., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs, unless otherwise indicated.

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A Message From the Safety Office

Don't get caught in a jam: A door jam that is

Just last week, a Soldier with the New Jersey National Guard was injured when a military truck being backed into a garage struck a partially open garage door, causing it to collapse on the Soldier.

Overhead door accidents that are serious usually involve getting crushed by a closing or falling door. Broken cables can send a door crashing, but this doesn't occur frequently. Although designs exist that can prevent a free falling door from reaching the ground, most overhead door safety devices do not safeguard this hazard.

Furthermore, other injuries occur when loops of cable spool out when a reversing edge or other safety device malfunctions, and the door hits an obstacle. When the door is raised, these loops of cable cinch down, and have resulted in amputated limbs.

Usually serious overhead door accidents involve a person getting crushed by a closing door. This will not occur with a properly safeguarded door.

Overhead doors have some hazards which are inherent, that is, these hazards are created by the function of the product and cannot be eliminated through design. The pinch point created by an overhead door and the ground or any obstacle is the most obvious and severe hazard. These are called "Inherent Pinch Point Hazards", and this is what you can do to remediate this problem:

Ensure that all door control switches are labeled for the doors they operate. Remain at the door control switches until the door operation up or down has been completed. Ensure door opens to the fully open position prior to moving vehicle through doorway open-



ing. Do not activate door control while vehicles are moving through doorway.

Do not drive through an overhead door opening while door is still moving. If there is another person available have them positioned to assist in backing up the vehicle and observing the door for full open position. When backing into

the building, the driver should have their driver side window down in order to clearly look up to insure the overhead door is in the full open position, and finally, check the height of the vehicle to make sure it will fit.

Following these steps can help prevent serious injury to you or someone within the vicinity.

Gen. Schwartz' message to Airmen on sexual assault

Sexual Assault Awareness Month reminds us to renew our collective and individual commitment to our core values and to focus on promoting an environment that prevents sexual assault. Sexual assault is criminal behavior that violates the basic tenets of our profession. There is no place in our Air Force for this crime.

All Airmen have an enduring responsibility to foster a climate of dignity and respect, and one that fosters an environment of accountability in which victims feel comfortable coming forward. We will support and protect the rights of victims and we will provide the best medical, legal, and investigative services available in both the military and civilian communities. As Wingmen and engaged bystanders, we must also intervene when we recognize a potentially unsafe situation emerge so that we ensure the well-being of all Airmen.

Sexual assault directly undermines our core values, erodes the trust and confidence upon which our institution is built, and diminishes our mission readiness. I expect each member of our great Air Force to promote and ensure a culture that does not tolerate sexual assault. Not now, not ever.



Social media: The good, the bad and the ugly



Service members who use social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube must abide by the terms outlined in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

“Commenting, posting or linking to material that violates the UCMJ or basic rules of Soldier conduct is prohibited,” said Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam of the Online and Social Media Division, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs at Fort Benning, Ga. “Talking negatively about supervisors or releasing sensitive information is punishable under the UCMJ. It’s never appropriate to be disrespectful of superior officers or NCOs, no matter if you’re in the company area or posting to Facebook at your desk at home.”

Five articles in the UCMJ deal specifically with different aspects of inappropriate behavior in public. They are Articles 88, 89, 91, 133 and 134. “It is important that all Soldiers know that once they log on to a social media platform, they still represent the Army,” Sweetnam said. “The best way to think about it is, if you wouldn’t say it in formation or to your leader’s face, don’t say it online.”

The specified articles cover contempt toward officials, disrespect toward superiors, insubordinate conduct toward superiors and conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman. Examples of this last include posting an obscene photo or linking to inappropriate material. Article 134 is a general article covering offenses such as disloyal statements and anything to the prejudice of good order.

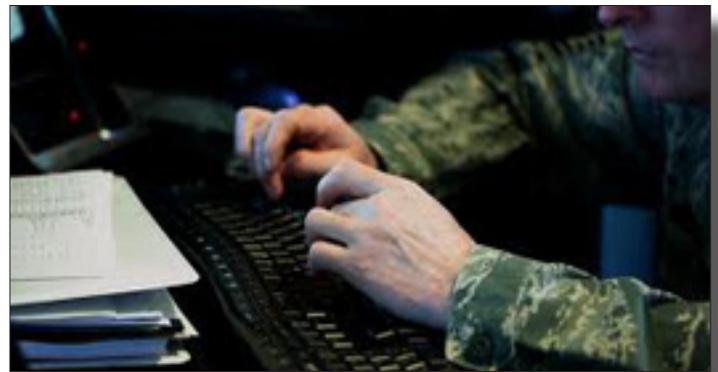
“Probably the most common example of an inappropriate post is a Soldier talking negatively about a superior,” Sweetnam said. “Some Soldiers think that once they go home and put on civilian clothes they are free to vent on social media platforms. That’s just not

the case. You don’t stop being a Soldier at the end of the duty day.”

But it’s not only about being respectful. Operational security is another consideration. “Soldiers using social media need to know that the enemy is watching,” Sweetnam said. “Releasing sensitive information on social media platforms can put Soldiers and their families in harm’s way. You have to be careful. Acting disrespectful and damaging the reputation of the Army on Facebook is no different than acting inappropriately in the local shopping mall. Soldiers are expected to conduct themselves appropriately no matter where they are, including social media platforms.”

Determining how to punish or reprimand service members for social media misuse is up to command leadership, he said. “Every case is handled on an individual basis,” said Fort Benning’s Capt. Steve Szymanski, senior trial counsel with the Criminal Law Division of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. “If a Soldier has committed a violation under the UCMJ, the punishment can range anywhere from a letter of reprimand to an Article 15 and up to a court-martial, depending on the severity of the violation.”

Social media has some unique aspects when compared to traditional interpersonal relations. Though it may be more difficult



for the command to monitor something posted on a website than something stated in the unit’s area of operations, Szymanski said, the effect of posting in the digital world can be far-reaching. “Just because you delete it, doesn’t mean 1,000 people haven’t already seen it,” he said. Szymanski suggested that service members should pause and ask themselves three questions before posting something of a dubious nature:

Would this be perceived by my commander and or the general public as something a service member should or should not do?

Does it comply with the U.S. Armed Forces’ values?

Would it be of a nature to bring discredit upon myself, my unit or the U.S. Armed Forces?

Service members are still free to express themselves through social media based on their First Amendment rights, Szymanski said. However, service members should be aware they are subject to the UCMJ at all times and that ill-advised postings that violate the code can result in legal action.

“We are expected to be Soldiers 24/7, whether it is in formation; in the bars and restaurants off post; or on Twitter and Facebook,” he said. “We are expected to be Soldiers and we are held to the standards, without compromise. The bottom line is that Soldiers should be careful about what they post online because once it’s out there, it’s out there.”





Several members of the 108th Force Support Squadron say their good-byes to families, friends and colleagues March 29 here during a farewell ceremony at the 108th Wing headquarters. From left to right, Staff Sgts. Demetrius Reyes, Levar Kinard, Senior Airmen Andre Jackson, Cristin Campos, Tech. Sgt. David McDonald, Staff Sgt. Saywonza Cuevas, Airman 1st Class Paula Daniels, and Senior Airmen Folami Shorter and Darnell Holmes. The Airmen deployed to the Middle East for a six-month tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to provide services support at lodging, fitness, morale and dining facilities there. To view more photos please visit our Facebook page by clicking on this link: [108FSS Depart](#). (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108WG/PA)



The 108th Wing Public Affairs Office provided a flight orientation for several New Jersey community and civic leaders March 28 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. To see more photos of this event, please visit our Facebook page by clicking on this link: [108WG Orientation Flight](#). (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chris Shaw, 108th Wing)

Veterans Museum hosts exhibit

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Museum and Educational Center hosts an on-going exhibit entitled Legacies of Valor: The Roles Helicopters Played in Vietnam. This exhibit is on display through August 10.

The Vietnam Conflict is often called "The Helicopter War." Helicopters including Huey and Cobra models played important roles in every aspect of the conflict. The heavy reliance on helicopters changed the way the war was fought and how men and women experienced the conflict.

This exhibit explores the roles helicopters played during the Vietnam Conflict. The exhibit highlights the experiences of New Jersey Veterans.

These roles are explained through the stories, photographs and private collections of veterans, who piloted the craft. This exhibit also showcases the collections of John Conway and The Legacy of Valor, a virtual museum focused on the Helicopter War in Southeast Asia, www.vhpamuseum.org.

Admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. Adult admission is \$5; student and senior citizen admission is \$3. Children under 10 are admitted free.

The Vietnam Veteran's Museum and Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116. The Museum and Educational Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please visit their website at www.njvvmf.org for more information.



Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Child Abuse Prevention Month
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes

JB MDL Family Walk and Talk for Prevention

Help support Child Abuse Prevention, Sexual Assault Awareness and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month with a unity walk. The event is open to adults and children who have access to JB MDL. No pre-registration required.

Details:

- 27 April 2012 at 1400
- Meet in the Fitness Center Parking Lot (on McGuire)
- No Pre-Registration Required
- Indoors if it Rains

Highlights:

- Free T-Shirt to First 100 Attendees
- Water Bottles
- Refreshments



For more information, please contact:

Family Advocacy Program
609-754-9680



Odds & Ends

Front & Center at the 108th Wing



Tech Sgt. Lakisha Santiago, 108th FSS, was recently asked some question about her time here with the 108th and her job. (Photo by Senior Airman Adrian Rowan, 108th WG/PA)

Name: Lakisha Dawn Santiago
Rank: TSgt
Time in service/history/108th job: 14 years
Civilian or Military Job: I am a recruiter for the 108th Wing
Family: married with 2 children
Favorite Food: Pralines and cream, and Ice Cream
Favorite movie: The Notebook
Favorite actor/actress: Vivica A. Fox
Favorite TV show: Family Guy
Favorite book author: Anne Rice
Favorite music genre and artist: R&B, Hip Hop / Beyonce
Favorite sport: Basketball
What I do in my spare time: Watch movies, play with my kids, play video games, walk the dog, sing and dance
Person/people I most look up to/admire: Individuals who are motivating, self-driven, give great advice and are good mentors that help guide you in the right direction
Heroes: My mother
Dream vacation: Las Vegas on my birthday: Dec. 23
Dream car: Mercedes G Class
Goals for the future: To be an outstanding mother, get promoted to MSgt and to continue to be successful in my career
What I like most about the 108th: It's like my other family. We fight sometimes but we get through it.
If I were commander for a day what would I do? Make everyone a recruiter for a day so they can experience what it's like to have the greatest job in the Air Force: Recruiting!

Calling all dinosaurs

The NJANG Dinosaurs, also known as NJ Air National Guard retirees, will be hosting their annual Spring Gathering at the Town and Country Diner in Bordentown on Thursday, May 17 at 1 p.m.

This is an opportunity to meet with fellow retirees and trade war stories.

A lunch menu for the event has been negotiated that will include a full luncheon menu with salad, main course, coffee/tea and a desert for \$20 including tax and tip. Anyone who RSVPs that they will attend will be obligated to pay even if they do not attend since the Diner will charge for the number of lunches ordered.

Alcoholic beverages are extra and must be paid when waiter/waitress serves. NO TABS.

Please RSVP to Mel Sylvester at 609-298-5970 or via Email at NuffSaidMel@aol.com. Cut-Off date to RSVP is May 11.

Task qualification training

A Task Qualification Training (TQT) event is an annual requirement that ensures all unit members are able to fulfill their primary duties while dressed in their chemical warfare suit. This year's TQT event has been scheduled for Saturday, June 9 from 9 – 11 a.m. Unit commanders may use their discretion to ensure safety, customer service, and workload issues are addressed. The intent is to ensure that all unit members have all appropriate gear, are able to don the gear properly, and perform primary duties as assigned.

What you need to do: Inventory your gear this weekend. Go to supply if missing any items. Do not wait until June 8 to find out you are missing gear. Be prepared for the training event.

If you have any questions, contact your unit Exercise Evaluation Team representative or Lt. Col. Michael Baldi, 108th Wing EET chief. EET members will be on hand to assist units complete this training event.

More information will follow as we get closer to the event.

Military Appreciation Day celebrated at Belmar in June

The Borough of Belmar, N.J. would like to invite you to their 2nd Annual Military Appreciation Day at their 5th Avenue Beach on Saturday, June 30, beginning at 10 a.m.

All active military personnel and their families will be entitled to a free beach pass, parking, lunch, music and more at the Taylor Pavilion in Belmar.

Pre-registration and proper military identification is required if planning to attend.

Please contact the Belmar recreation director, Tina Connelly, at 732-681-3700 ext. 211 or via email at recreation@belmar.com.

Taylor Pavilion is located 512 Ocean Avenue in Belmar.

Health “Lunch & Learn” workshop

Jill Barrett, 108th Wing Director of Psychological Health, will host a psychological health “Lunch and Learn Workshop” on Saturday, April 21, from 12 – 1 p.m., at building 33-69 (LRS Break Room).

The topic of this month's workshop is “Resiliency: there's an App for that”. Come discover new innovative technology options that can improve your focus and your ability to overcome adversity. **Bring your smart phone!**