



# Wing Tips



108th Wing  
NJ Air National Guard

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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN The State Partnership Program

By Maj. Joseph J. Stewart, 108th MSG Exec Officer

You may not be familiar with the term “nation building.” For some, it may conjure up thoughts and images of United Nations intervention or activities in various parts of the world.

Perhaps some would think of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) operations during and after the Cold War or other military engagements such as, Bosnia, Kosovo, Libya, Pakistan, Iraq and also International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) led operations in Afghanistan. These are but just a few examples of where US Forces are engaged in helping our allies, friendly and partner nations. Some are rebuilding their new found national identities, others request assistance in recovery efforts from natural disasters, and some have called for protection from aggressor states and international terrorist organizations. Wikipedia, defines “nation building” as: “The development of behaviors, values, language, institutions, and physical structures that elucidate history and culture, concretize and protect the present, and insure the future identity and independence of the nation.”

The Air National Guard has been a vital partner in international and domestic operations since the creation of the Air Force and with roots leading back to the foundation of our nation. Since the end of the Cold War and the consequent collapse of the Soviet partner states, new independent states

emerged and were initially viewed by the west as opportunities to rebuild a safer and more secure global community. In 1993, The National Guard Bureau initially proposed to pair National Guard forces with three Baltic States - Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia) - to begin military to military contact programs. This was an effort to place U.S. reserve component forces in the region to demonstrate a military presence that is much less provocative.

Months later, seven more countries were added to the list and South Carolina, New Jersey and New York were jointly partnered with the Country of Albania. South Carolina soon withdrew and New York would later be partnered with South Africa. So began the almost twenty year relationship the New Jersey National Guard has enjoyed with Albania. What was a direct outgrowth of European Command “Joint Contact Team Program” is now called the State Partnership Program (SPP). The State Partnership Program now boasts nearly 70 partnerships in all 5 geographic combatant commands worldwide.

When given the opportunity to explain the State Partnership Program and what the NJNG is doing in Albania with a civilian audience, a question often asked, “Isn’t that like nation building?” To a degree it can be viewed that way; however there are other greater dynamics at play. Enduring relationships secures direct access for the US



with foreign governments, often times protecting our national interests in that region. Yes we are helping to shape the hearts and minds of one of our newest allies. The State Department is introducing democratic principles, institutions and ideals, while the Department of Defense (DoD) are demonstrating military capabilities of a western civilized nation. DoD supports civil law and authority, border protection, military professional development, regional defense, combat terrorism, and response to national emergencies in times of natural and manmade disasters. The NJNG

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JB MDL IS CURRENTLY AT EPCON ALPHA

## Commander's Column: The State Partnership Program



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has also been a key participant for the Department of State in the facilitation of military to civilian activities as well as introducing new civilian to civilian relationships from state and local government levels.

The 108th has been a significant contributor and have participated in events that involved Airmen from our Medical Group, Security Forces, Civil Engineers, Recruiting, Counter Drug and Logistics.

One thing to note about our efforts, Albania, per capita, deployed more troops to Iraq and also for ISAF led operations than any other of our European allies. When other nations were pulling out, Albania sent even more troops saying, "We went in with the U.S; we will come out with the U.S."

One of the most isolated nations in the world for the past 50 years has now become a significant contributor and key player in the stabilization of Eastern Europe.

National leaders have often expressed

that when operations in Iraq and Afghanistan draw down a much greater emphasis will be placed upon our engagements in security cooperation and security assistance activities around the world.

The State Partnership Program places us center stage in a global community, and we are ready. Subject matter experts from all functional areas across the wing can and will be called upon to demonstrate their capabilities, not just in Albania but anywhere around the world.

If this plays out as the experts say, we need to keep the emphasis on our personal readiness, our skills and ancillary training current. The ability to speak more than one language will have a higher demand and the Air Force provides entitlements for various languages.

To learn more about the NGB State Partnership Program and the impact it is making around the world, you can go to the following link: <http://www.ng.mil/features/ngssp/default.aspx>

## MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS OFFICERS VACANCIES

**As an MSC Officer you are a Health Care Administrator. You are involved in unit operations and training, patient administration, medical logistics management, personnel management/administration at a staff headquarters, or practicing your specialty in a field environment.**

If you would like to apply please submit the following to Tech. Sgt. Shane Clark 108th FSS/ Recruiting

- 1) Professional Resume

- 2) College Transcripts
- 3) GRE/GMAT Scores
- 4) AF Personal Data Printout from VMPPF
- 5) AF PT Test
- 6) Letter of Recommendation from Unit Commander

Packages are due by Sept. 16, 2012

Any questions contact TSgt Clark at 609-754-4587 or [shane.clark.3@ang.af.mil](mailto:shane.clark.3@ang.af.mil)

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## SAFETY OFFICE NOTES

# Four Ways to Prevent a Dog Bite!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs each year. Tragically, children and the elderly are the most frequent victims. What's more, statistics prove that the majority of biting canines are not stray Pit Bulls, but our own household dogs!

### **Why dogs bite**

Most dog bites are reported as "unprovoked." However, something causes a dog to bite, and victims are often taken by surprise.

Many people see dogs as gentle, devoted creatures that live to serve and rescue. But beneath that soft fur is a predatory hunter. Domesticated or not, dogs live by their instincts. These instincts tell them to chase prey, guard their territory, protect their young and defend themselves when cornered.

### **Learn how to protect yourself**

Some people think that if you encounter an aggressive, frightened or otherwise dangerous dog, you're bound to receive a nasty bite. But there are ways you can protect yourself. Here's how.

#### **1. Learn the warning signs**

Dogs constantly communicate and usually give some type of warning before they bite. Most warning signs you can see; others you hear. They include: Growling, snarling or aggressive barking. Shyness or fear, such as when a dog crouches, has his head low or tail between his legs. Fur raised up, ears erect, body stiff, tail high. An unnaturally still or unresponsive dog (many fighting breeds have been bred for their ability to disguise aggressive intentions). A dog in pain will bite anyone that touches him -- even his owner

#### **2. Avoid dangerous situations**

Follow these tips to avoid coming face-to-face with a biting dog:

Stay away from dogs that are in cars, chained or cornered -- they often feel vulnerable and will bite to protect their territory. Never run past a dog -- joggers and children on bicycles can trigger their instinct to chase and attack. Don't go near a dog that's eating, chewing, sleeping or caring for puppies. Never tease a dog or play too rough. Be careful around older dogs -- they may be blind, sensitive to touch or hearing-impaired. Never leave infants or children alone with a dog -- according to the CDC, infants top the list for dog-related deaths. Never try to break up a dog fight



with your hands; use a water hose, stick, or throw a blanket over the dogs to disorient them (children should call an adult for help). Keep your face away from your dog's, especially when disciplining

#### **3. Know self-defense moves**

Many people are bitten because they unintentionally provoke or escalate an attack. If you're approached by an aggressive dog, don't make eye contact or move suddenly, says Mitzi Robinson, who runs Bulli Ray Enterprises, a dog-bite prevention company in San Diego, Calif. This can challenge a dog and cause him to attack.

Stand motionless, like a statue. Face the dog, but turn your head away.

If a dog lunges at you, don't try to overpower him. If you're holding something, put it into his mouth. "If you don't have anything in your hand, put your arm up to protect your face," Robinson says. If you're knocked to the ground, don't move or scream. Pretend that you are a turtle: curl up in a ball face down, and cover your head with your arms. Stay in this position until the dog leaves.

#### **4. Make your dog people-safe**

Take your dog to training classes -- develop his respect for humans. Your dog should be part of the family -- unsocialized, "outdoor" dogs bite more frequently than "indoor" dogs. Establish house rules and standards of behavior for your dog -- this will make your pet happier, more respectful and safer to be around.

Dogs are magnificent creatures, but you must fully understand them to safely co-exist together. Once you've learned to respect dogs, they can truly be your best friend.

#### **What to Do If You're Bitten**

If you are bitten and don't know the dog, try to remember what he looked like and where he went. Your doctor needs to rule out the possibility of a rabies infection.

Wash your wounds with plenty of warm, soapy water or saline solution, and cover with a clean, dry dressing. Call your doctor immediately. Renee Ralls, a home-care nurse in Sonoma County, Calif., warns, "Be sure your tetanus vaccination is up to date. Tetanus is a common virus, and infections can be fatal." Report the incident to the police, your local health department and an animal control agency.

# COMBAT SKILLS - APPLIED!

Tactical Area 3 Charlie was filled with smoke, explosions and the fog of war as nearly eighty 108th Wing Contingency Response Group (CRG) Airmen pushed themselves to the limit during the Combat Skills Training (CST) exercise in June.

The Airmen negotiated the Improvised Explosive Device lane, demonstrated their abilities to perform tactical movements, applied tactical care under fire and negotiated the combat life saver litter course during the training.

CST is a military course of instruction used to increase the combat effectiveness and survivability of the Contingency Response Forces.

This training provides the foundation needed to conduct these duties.

The reality of today's world situations means the CRG could be sent into a combat environment at a moment's notice.



Senior Airman William Lopez, center, prepares to move out his staggered-formation patrol. Airmen from the 108th Contingency Response Group train to hone their combat skills at a tactical assault course in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst June 8. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

The potential operations tempo of the Contingency Response Group mandates being prepared. The nature of our business

does not lend itself to concrete, inflexible ways of doing things.

The CST training program is designed to incorporate numerous Air Force skills into the Groups Integrated Base Defense Plan.

This training is designed to provide the Group with a combat ready, worldwide deployable asset.

Security Forces members put on the field training exercise to test application of everything the members learned through presentations and instruction in the first two days of the class.

Each member was taught critical wartime skills, such as base defense skills, battlefield trauma, improvised explosive device detection and tactical movements which led up to the last days Combat Challenge or Field Training Exercise.

All members of the CRG successfully completed the program which is part of the Contingency Response certification.



Senior Airman Beau DeLeon, left, evaluates the injuries to a simulated casualty, while Staff Sgt. Anthony Monico, right, prepares to check the casualty's airway at a tactical assault course in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst June 8. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

# NJ Air National Guard welcomes new state command chief

**FORMER 108TH WING TOP ENLISTED NCO ASSUMES WITH VISIONS, GOALS FOR NJ AIRMEN**

*Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Kellyann Novak, 108th Wing Public Affairs*

On a sunny day in June, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., was the scene of the end to one Airman's career and the beginning of another.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, until recently the 108th Wing command chief master sergeant, assumed responsibility as the state command chief from outgoing Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Francis during a Change of Authority ceremony at JFHQ June 9.

It was a sad farewell to Francis - who has served in this position from 2009 until 2012 - as he relinquished his authority by handing the guidon over to Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard. But Francis leaves his post with a small piece of wisdom from the Greek historian, Thucydides, stating that "the nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors, will have its thinking done by fools."

Accordingly, Francis encourages each and every enlisted member to, "do your PME and get your CCAF!"

In addition, special "thanks" was given to Francis for his many years of service in the armed forces as well as to his family for their continued support and sacrifices over the years.

Following tradition, Falca-Dodson pre-



sented Morton with the guidon, conferring him as the New Jersey State Command Chief in front of his peers and family members.

As the new state command chief, Morton will be the senior enlisted representative for the enlisted members of New Jersey Air National Guard.

He will be responsible for giving advice to the adjutant general and the commander of the NJANG on several issues, to include: mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and the welfare of the

command's enlisted Airmen.

Morton also has personal objectives while serving in his new capacity.

"One of my main goals will be to take care of Airmen and build a more resilient enlisted core for the adjutant general, governor, and President," said Morton.

Furthermore, as the future of the NJANG is unpredictable, Morton has a vision for the Airmen of New Jersey's two Wings, the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing.

"I would like to see an increase in education, a more technology oriented guard, and a more resilient core by eliminating the stigma of asking for help and instead use the resources made available through family and airman programs," said Morton.

As he assumes authority over his new post, it may seem as though Morton is saying goodbye to friends and coworkers at the 108th Wing, but that is not how he feels.

"I'm not leaving the 108th, I'm now in a better position to serve our Airmen," said Morton.



*Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, right, Command Chief Master Sergeant Michael Francis, center, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Vincent Morton render honors during a Change of Authority ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on June 9.*

## WELSH 'HUMBLLED' TO SERVE AS AF CHIEF OF STAFF

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn J. Jones, Air Force Public Affairs Agency

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (AFNS)** -- The Air Force chief of staff flag passed to the service's 20th chief in a ceremony here Aug. 10.

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, a 36-year Airman, stepped into the position, taking over for Gen. Norton Schwartz, who also retired from the Air Force during the ceremony.

"Mark is respected throughout the Air Force for his exceptional leadership and ability to connect with Airmen," Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley said.

Raised in an Air Force family, Welsh said he found a role model in his father, a decorated combat pilot.

"Today, I think he'd be proud of me," Welsh said. "And any day a kid can make his dad proud is a great day."

Welsh emphasized the need for Airmen to understand the importance of the other services in joint operations, but also said Airmen shouldn't underestimate the combat capabilities of their own service in winning today's fight.

"No one else can bring what we bring to the fight, and any real warfighter knows that," he said. "Don't ever doubt yourself or this service."

Welsh also addressed his stance on issues affecting the well-being of Airmen.

"When it comes to Airman resiliency, suicide prevention, and sexual assault prevention and response, I believe you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem," he said. "There is no middle ground."

Welsh also said the Air Force must shape the future and that will require innovative thinking and different approaches to problems, along with modernization.

Welsh was nominated by the president May 10 and confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 2.

In his previous position as the commander of U. S. Air Forces in Europe, he was in charge of Air Force activities in an area of operations covering nearly one-fifth of the globe.

Welsh, a 1976 graduate of the Air Force Academy, has served in numerous



**Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley passes the chief of staff flag to Gen. Mark A. Welsh III during a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 10, 2012. Prior to his new position, Welsh was the commander of U. S. Air Forces in Europe. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Michael J. Pausic)**

operational, command and staff positions, such as commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, vice commander of Air Education and Training Command and associate director for military affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"When I became a squadron commander, I felt excited. When I became a wing commander, I felt proud. When I became a major command commander, I felt privileged and a little bit old," he said. "Today when I was sworn in as chief of staff of the Air Force, I felt humbled to be given the honor of leading its incredible Airmen."

His experience includes nearly 3,300 flying hours, most of which came in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon.

As the ceremony ushered in a new chapter in Air Force history, it also served as the final chapter for Schwartz's four years as the service's senior uniformed leader and his more than 39 years of military service.

Schwartz's career began in 1973 after graduating from the Air Force Academy. He has logged more than 4,400 flying

hours and participated in military operations in Vietnam, Iraq and Cambodia.

"Anyone looking for an example of Air Force core values need look no further than Gen. Norty Schwartz," Donley said. "Thank you for your lasting contribution to our Air Force and the character and quality of your service."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta presented Schwartz with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, which is awarded to service members who perform exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility.

The award citation highlighted his success in restoring excellence in the Air Force nuclear mission, his efforts to partner with joint and coalition teammates in support of operations worldwide, modernizing the Air Force's air and space inventories, and care for Airmen and families. Schwartz's wife Suzie was also recognized for her devotion to Airmen and family support programs.

"The vVAir Force has afforded us an honorable and rewarding journey for the entirety of our adult lives," Schwartz said.