



# Wing Tips



108th Wing  
NJ Air National Guard

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## 108th Wing welcomes new commander



Col. Kevin J. Keehn addresses the crowd during the change of command ceremony at Hangar 33-33. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Adrian Rowan, 108th WG/PA)



Senior Airman Esmeralda Ayala, a member of the 108th Wing Honor Guards, stands at attention at the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Adrian Rowan, 108th WG/PA)

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs office

**JJOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J.** – With a KC-135 Stratotanker at their backs, the Airmen from the 108th Wing stood at attention inside Hangar 33-33 here May 20, as Col. Kevin J. Keehn assumed command of the 108th Wing from Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff.

Keehn accepted the 108th Wing's flag from Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, New Jersey Air National Guard commander, during a Change of Command ceremony here in front of his wife, Connie, and children.

He would not be where he is today without the support of his family, said Keehn. "Thank you for having my back."

Cunniff, the outgoing commander, also thanked his family for their support and thanked the Airmen of the Wing for their loyalty and support while he was the commander.

"You are the best Airmen in the Air

Force," said Cunniff. "You made my job as commander much easier".

Cunniff was recently appointed the Adjutant General of New Jersey and has assumed command of the approximately 8,500 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard.

A change of command is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding officer to another. The passing of unit colors and standards from an outgoing to an incoming commander ensures that the unit and its Airmen are never without official leadership. Additionally, it signifies a continuation of trust and an allegiance of the Airmen to their unit's commander.

The 108th Wing has a unique history. They are the result of the consolidation of two outstanding organizations; one with

a rich tradition of fighter operations, and the other with a distinguished background in airlift and air refueling. The two units merged in 1993 with a vision of becoming "America's best air refueling wing." The new 108th Wing overcame many obstacles and reorganizations as the objective wing was developed in the Air National Guard.

The Wing performs air refueling and airlift missions supporting U.S. and coalition contingency operations. In addition, the Wing provides dedicated rapid response airlift to the Department of Defense in support of United States government crisis response events abroad and domestically.

Since 9/11, the 108th Wing has deployed Airmen around the globe in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.



**Col. Robert Meyer, left, vice commander, assists on tacking new rank on recently promoted Airmen at the Wing's monthly promotion ceremony May 20 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Adrian R. Rowan, 108th WG/PA)**

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### Editorial Staff

Col. Kevin J. Keehn	-----	108th Wing commander
Capt. April B. Doolittle	-----	Public affairs officer
Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Knox	-----	Public affairs superintendent
Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez	-----	Public affairs specialist
Staff Sgt. Brian Carson	-----	Public affairs specialist
Tech. Sgt. Eric Erbe	-----	Photographic support
Senior Airman Adrian Rowan	-----	Photographic support
Airman Kellyann Novak	-----	Photographic support



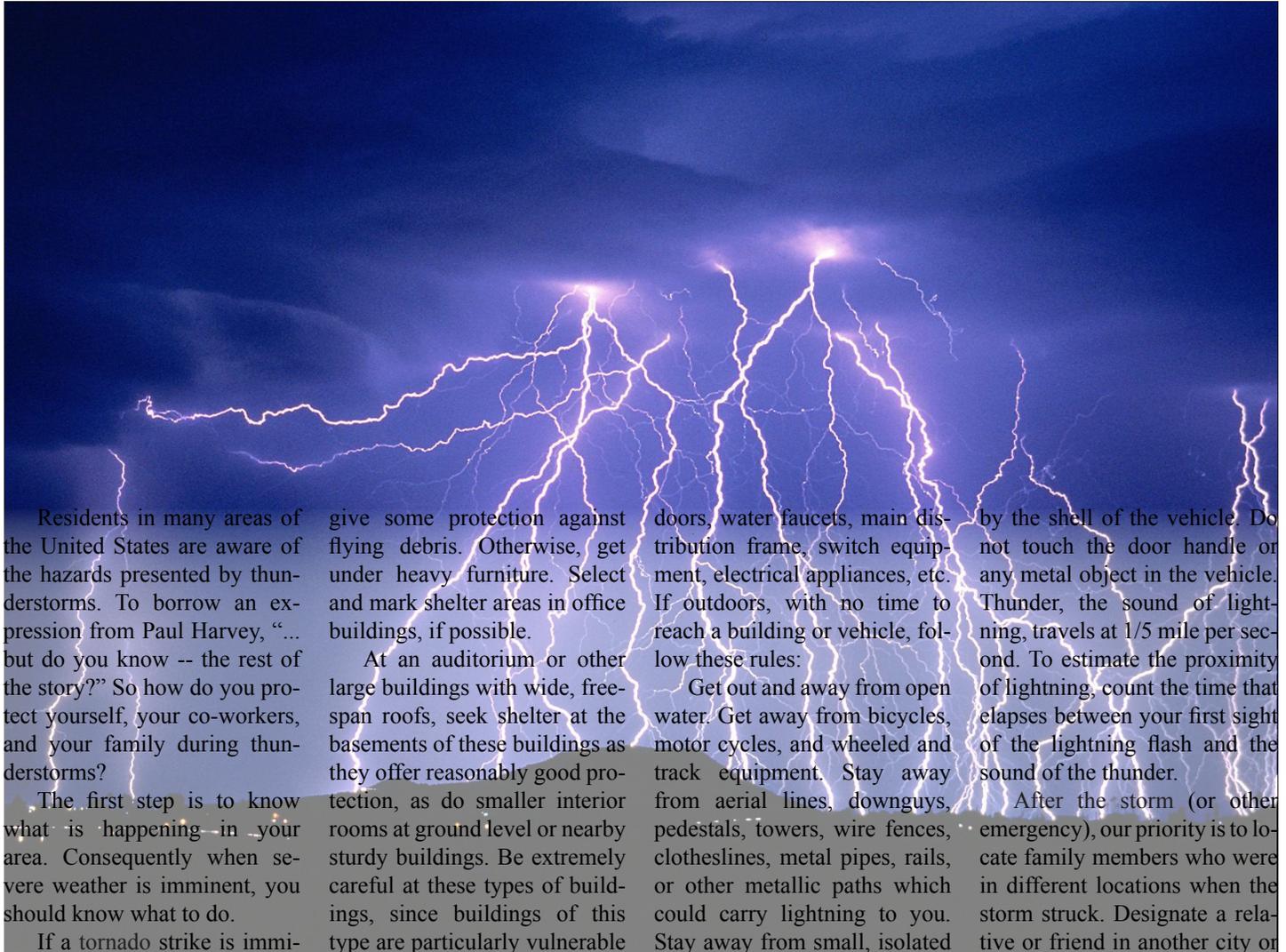
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<http://www.twitter.com/108thWing>

# A Message From the Safety Office

## *Storms: Protecting Yourself, Co-workers, and Family*



Residents in many areas of the United States are aware of the hazards presented by thunderstorms. To borrow an expression from Paul Harvey, "... but do you know -- the rest of the story?" So how do you protect yourself, your co-workers, and your family during thunderstorms?

The first step is to know what is happening in your area. Consequently when severe weather is imminent, you should know what to do.

If a tornado strike is imminent, take the following action when in any of these situations:

If at an open country, seek inside shelter if it is close by and time permits. If there is not time to escape, lie flat in the nearest depression, such as a ditch or ravine. A parked vehicle is unsafe as a shelter during a tornado or severe windstorm and should be avoided.

At an office building, the basement or an interior hallway on a lower floor of an office building is safest. Upper floors are unsafe. If there is not time to descend, a closet or small room with stout walls (bathroom), or an inside hallway will

give some protection against flying debris. Otherwise, get under heavy furniture. Select and mark shelter areas in office buildings, if possible.

At an auditorium or other large buildings with wide, free-span roofs, seek shelter at the basements of these buildings as they offer reasonably good protection, as do smaller interior rooms at ground level or nearby sturdy buildings. Be extremely careful at these types of buildings, since buildings of this type are particularly vulnerable to tornado wind damage, due to the large roof expanse upon which the wind force may act and also the relatively large area between roof supporting walls.

In homes without basements, take cover in the smallest room with stout walls, or under heavy furniture, or a tipped-over upholstered couch or chair in the center part of the house. Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. Protect your head.

When lightning (thunderstorms) threatens, get inside a home or large building. Keep away from windows, exterior

doors, water faucets, main distribution frame, switch equipment, electrical appliances, etc. If outdoors, with no time to reach a building or vehicle, follow these rules:

Get out and away from open water. Get away from bicycles, motor cycles, and wheeled and track equipment. Stay away from aerial lines, downguys, pedestals, towers, wire fences, clotheslines, metal pipes, rails, or other metallic paths which could carry lightning to you. Stay away from small, isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas. Avoid being the highest object on the surrounding landscape. In open areas, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. In a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees. Don't get under a natural lightning rod such as a tall tree.

If you are isolated in a field and your hair stands on end - indicating lightning is about to strike - drop to your knees and bend forward putting your hands on your knees. **DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND.**

When sitting in or driving a vehicle, you are protected

by the shell of the vehicle. Do not touch the door handle or any metal object in the vehicle. Thunder, the sound of lightning, travels at 1/5 mile per second. To estimate the proximity of lightning, count the time that elapses between your first sight of the lightning flash and the sound of the thunder.

After the storm (or other emergency), our priority is to locate family members who were in different locations when the storm struck. Designate a relative or friend in another city or state as the contact following a disaster. Without a contact plan, families frantically search and add to the already overloaded emergency management communications system.

If you don't have a family emergency action plan, take time to develop one. Make certain everyone knows the safest place to seek shelter in the event of a tornado, the rendezvous point to use if lightning strikes the house and starts a fire. Pre-planning saves lives. Reacting at the height of the storm (without a plan) may place you needlessly in harm's way.

# Dignity - Pride - Honor

**Come Join The 108th Wing Honor Guard  
An Opportunity To Build Confidence & Leadership**

Potential Benefits:

Paid Status for All Details

Gain Recognition

Positive Bullet Statements for Quarterly Awards & Promotion Packages



**For more information contact:**

TSgt Jone - 609-754-3303 - [Jamie.Jones@ang.af.mil](mailto:Jamie.Jones@ang.af.mil)

MSgt Holba - 609-754-6503 - [Lauren.Holba@ang.af.mil](mailto:Lauren.Holba@ang.af.mil)

**Join Now & Help Build a Team of Excellence!**

# GI Bill News!

By Master Sgt. Francisco Beltran-Bell

Many articles have been written about the Post 9/11 GI Bill. I hope this article opens the eyes of those eligible service members who have not taken that first step to qualify for this precious benefit, or to transfer it to a dependent.

The inspiration for this article came to me as I sat at my dining room and read an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about college student debt within our area. It stated that in New Jersey, the average college graduate has more than \$23,000 in debt - fifth highest in the nation.

Furthermore, according to the U.S. Department of Education, Rowan University's in-state annual tuition of \$19,344 ranks as one of the highest in the nation. The College of New Jersey's annual tuition also ranked high in its report.

I bring all of these facts about the cost of college in New Jersey to make the point that the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the most historic benefit we will see in our lifetime. This benefit provides a service member with tuition, fees, book stipend

and Basic Allowance for Housing at any in-state public institutions. The BAH is paid based on the Zip Code of the school, at the rate of an E - 5



with a dependent. The eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill is determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify, Air National Guard members will need at least 90 days

of Title 10, Active Duty Orders in support of a contingency after Sept. 11, 2001. Full-time Active Guard Reserve (AGR) became eligible for the benefit after Aug. 1, 2011. For more information about the percentage of eligibility, based on your activation time, contact your Retention Office or visit the VA's website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

Also, this benefit can be transferred to your dependents. As a reminder, the member has to have received the Certificate of Eligibility from the VA prior to the National Guard Bureau approving the transfer request. Members will have to review the Statement of Understanding form to evaluate the need for a service commitment, as this is a critical part of the transfer process. Contact your Retention Office if you have any questions

As a member of the New Jersey National Guard, we are eligible for numerous educational benefits, to include Tuition Waiver at all state colleges and universities. In addition, AGR personnel have access to the Active Duty Tuition Assistance Program. Please ensure that you have all the pertinent information, prior to making a decision to use the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

## Officer vacancy at MXG

The 108th Wing's Maintenance Group has a vacancy for a commissioning opportunity to be an Aircraft Maintenance Officer, AFSC 21A3.

This announcement is open to current New Jersey Air National Guardsmen, and individuals that are eligible to become members of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Members desiring consideration for this position should prepare a military resume, letter of intent, copy of current fitness test, copy of college transcripts, and copy of AF Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) scores.

Applicants must possess qualifications or be willing to become qualified as outlined in AFMAN 36-2105 and ANGI 36-2005.

Application packages should be sent to Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Danley, 108 FSS/CC, 33-24 Charles Blvd., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, 08641, 609-754-2245 and must be received no later than close of business Aug. 12, 2012.



A 108th Wing's KC-135 Stratotanker, piloted by Lt. Col. Tom Mason, takes off from Atlantic City International Airport May 29. Mason, a 108th Wing pilot, was on his final flight for the Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

# Odds & Ends



## NJ Building Trades Helmets to Hardhats Career Fair

Saturday, June 23, 2012  
9 AM – 1 PM

ATTENTION: Veterans Seeking Employment in Construction

Fort Dix Army Base – Timmerman Center  
8th Street (Pennsylvania Avenue) Fort Dix, NJ 08640  
RTE 68 Gate at Fort Dix

*If you do not have a current military ID for base access, you must pre-register or you will not be allowed on base. After pre-registering, you will need a Valid/Current Photo ID at the gate upon arrival.*

**PLEASE REGISTER BY: June 15, 2012**  
To Request a form online, e-mail [h2h@njbtc.org](mailto:h2h@njbtc.org)  
or fax 732-499-0150

For more information contact Chris DiMeo @ 732-499-7295 or [chris@njbtc.org](mailto:chris@njbtc.org)

**\*\*If you are currently in the military wear your uniform. If you are no longer in the military please dress for success\*\***

Directions to RTE 68 Gate at Fort Dix, NJ

N.J. Turnpike to Exit 7 (Fort Dix) Route 206 South (go to second traffic light – about 1/2 mile) to Route 68 (left fork from Route 206). Route 68 will provide entrance to the installation where the SSG Terry Hemingway Reception Center is located on the left.



## 108th Wing UPAR Program

By Staff Sgt. Brian Carson, 108th Wing Public Affairs Office

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.



Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Bowen, a boom operator, shows the KC-135's boom receptacle to several students from a local school visiting the base. The 108th Wing provided a base tour to more than 60 students from Saint Josephs Grade School, Toms River, N.J., May 30 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The seven and eight-year old students were brought on board a KC-135 Stratotanker and provided with a tour of the aircraft, which included a visit to the cockpit and the aft section. To view more photos of our Airmen's hospitality, visit and like our Facebook page by following this link: [108th Wing](#). (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA)

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## *Street Smart*

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Created by Florida S.A.F.E. (Stay Alive From Education)

**Focus on consequences of decisions  
while driving**



Join us for an interesting, interactive and informative presentation given by paramedics on the protocol they follow in attempting to save the life of a driver who made a poor decision to either drink and drive or utilize distractions such as a cell phone or texting while driving.

Hard hitting and graphic with humor keeping the audience fully engaged throughout the performance.

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**Joint Base**

**McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**

## ***STREET SMART***

**Timmermann Theater  
Conference Center, Dix  
Bldg 5441 8<sup>th</sup> Street**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

***3 times to choose from***

**8:00 AM, 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM**

**These performances times  
are for the:**

***Expeditionary Center, 108<sup>th</sup> ARW,  
621<sup>st</sup> CRW, Army Support Activity  
Dix, MAG 49, HMLA 772, VR 64,  
NOSC ,FRC and all other Dix  
units.***

**There will also be an 8:00 PM  
presentation for all  
evening/swing shift workers.**

**Sessions run approximately 1  
hour.**

***POC  
87<sup>th</sup> ABW  
Safety Office***



**2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event - Ocean City, NJ**  
**The Ocean City Music Pier**  
**801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ**  
**October 11, 2012**  
**9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Join us **October 11, 2012** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military and veterans spouses at The Music Pier, 801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ. This event will be a one-of-a-kind **FREE** hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

<p><b>Employers</b>  <b>Must register for FREE at</b>  <b>HoH.GreatJob.net</b></p>	<p><b>Job Seekers</b>  <b>Register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net</b>  <b>To guarantee admission.</b>  <b>Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</b></p>
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This hiring event is being sponsored by The American Legion, Cape May County, hosted and cosponsored by the Morvay/Miley Post 524, Ocean City, NJ, and is conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The American Legion, the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, NBC News, and other local partners.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com).



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