





# COMMENTARY

## A tribute to a warrior, patriot and a hero to all Airmen

By Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force;

I am the very proud son of an American fighter pilot, one of that treasured group who served in three wars, built an Air Force, and gave it an enduring example of courage and mission success. My dad was a hero. As a young man, I asked him who his combat heroes were; he gave me only two names. One was Maj. Gen. Frederick "Boots" Blesse and the other was Col. George E. "Bud" Day. My dad was not easily impressed, so I knew that if they were his heroes, they were very, very special men. I was right.

Earlier this year, my wife Betty and I had the distinct honor of attending Boots Blesse's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. And earlier this week, I heard that Col. "Bud" Day had also "flown west." Our Air Force is in mourning. We know we can never replace him, but today, as he is laid to rest, we can honor him.

Many of you know his story. He fought in the South Pacific as a U.S. Marine in World War II and later became the Air Force's most highly decorated warrior. He was a Medal of Honor recipient with nearly 70 decorations, which span three wars and four decades.

The medals say a lot about Bud Day,



but they cannot capture his unbreakable spirit, the life-saving impact he had on his fellow prisoners during his time in captivity, and the inspiration he has been to countless Americans who've been fortunate enough to have heard his story or shaken his hand.

In Vietnam in 1967, Maj. Day commanded a squadron of F-100s, the "Misty" FACs (Forward Air Controllers).

Theirs was one of the most dangerous combat missions of the war, and they suffered high casualties.

On August 26, Day was shot down and captured. Seven days later, despite having a dislocated knee and a badly broken arm, he escaped captivity and evaded the Viet Cong for 10 days. He was recaptured just two miles from a U.S. Marine Corps camp at Con Thien. Getting so close to freedom only to be recaptured would have broken the will of most men. Not Bud Day.

He was eventually moved to a prison camp known as The Plantation, where he was tortured daily, and was later moved to the Hanoi Hilton. Due to his resistance and toughness, Day became an inspiration to other POWs. His roommate at The Plantation, Sen. John McCain, wrote, "He was a hard man to kill, and he expected the same from his subordinates. They (his roommates) saved my life--a big debt to repay, obviously. But more than that, Bud showed me how to save my self-respect and my honor, and that is a debt I can never repay."

In 1973, after more than five and a half years in captivity, he was released.

See, **Tribute**, on Pg. 8

Cover: **JUST KEEP DRILLING....**  
Chief Master Sgt. Grieg Moore, 108th Contingency Response Group superintendent, drills onto the pavement on the taxiway at Volks Field, Wis., to survey the taxiway's durability to support aircrafts during Patriot Exercise 2013. Moore and several Airmen from the 108th CRG participated in the exercise, which ran from July 15-20, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Beau DeLeon/Released)



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# EVERY AIRMAN COUNTS

*Fellow Airmen,*

*I need your help in fixing a problem that directly relates to our overall readiness – sexual assault. This is a problem each and every one of you has a part in solving. As Airmen in the world’s greatest Air Force, treating each other with dignity and respect is absolutely essential. Our mission effectiveness is built on trust and nothing can be allowed to violate that trust.*

*We are launching the “Every Airman Counts” campaign in an effort to hear more from you on how best to address the issue of sexual assault prevention and response within our organization. The first initiative beginning today is a public facing blog where Airmen can post suggestions, ideas, or concerns, and senior leaders and subject matter experts can join the dialogue. In addition to the blog, later this month, we will host senior leader web chats that will be moderated forums for real-time information exchange between our Airmen and experts in this field.*

*Sexual assault is an issue that affects us all. It’s important for us to know exactly where and what the issues are so that we can address them with undivided focus. I need every one of you to share your thoughts on how we can best ensure that we have an environment where dignity and respect are prevailing qualities in our daily relationships.*

*There’s no doubt that with your help, we can make our Air Force family stronger and eliminate sexual assault from our service. For more details on this campaign, I invite you to log onto the Air Force Portal today.*



*Gen. Larry O. Spencer  
USAF Vice Chief of Staff*

# Mandatory discharge for sexual assault

By Staff Sgt. David Salantri, Secretary of the Air Force public affairs

The Air Force recently adopted two new measures to eliminate sexual assault from within the ranks, including requiring discharge for Airmen who commit sexual assault, and requiring the Air Force's most senior commanders to review actions taken on these cases.

According to Capt. Allison DeVito, chief of JAG's victim issues and policy branch, both of the recent changes are part of the Air Force's initiative to combat sexual assault and to foster mutual respect and dignity among fellow Airmen.

When combined with existing programs, the Air Force's efforts to end sexual assault and support those who report it have been increasing significantly throughout the past year. At the same time, the Air Force is experiencing a surge in its prosecution rates for sexual assault, with similar results being shared by other services.

DeVito explained that, as of July 2, after completing any disciplinary action for sexual assault, commanders must initiate administrative discharge processing for any Airman, officer or enlisted, found to have committed a sexual assault offense.

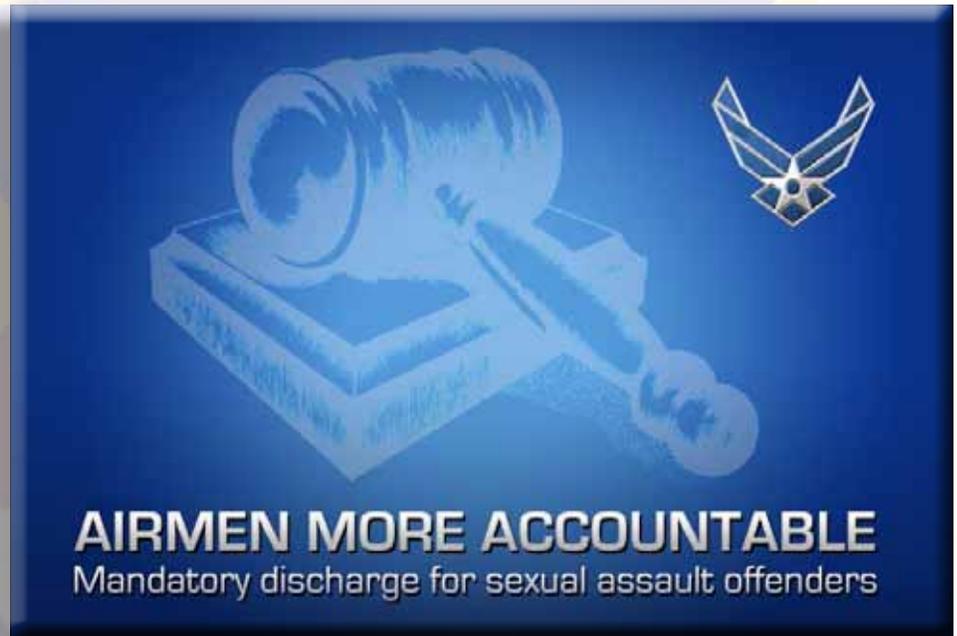
This new requirement, which covers a wide-range of sex offenses, is triggered by a finding that the Airman committed the offense.

Once a commander has information alleging that an Airman has committed a sexual assault offense, the commander must promptly refer the case to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

If the commander believes that the evidence uncovered in the investigation substantiated the allegation, then the commander will take appropriate criminal or administrative action, and following that, he must process the offender for administrative discharge.

In addition to the recent policy change, DeVito said a new provision explicitly states that an Airman, who engaged in an unprofessional relationship while serving in a special position of trust, such as a recruiter or military training instructor, is also subject to administrative discharge.

Airmen, who are involuntarily separated from the Air Force under these pro-



visions, may receive a discharge under "other than honorable" conditions.

DeVito added that another change made to the discharge process requires that an Airman be advised of his right to request review by a general officer. The case can be reviewed if the Airman believes the commander's recommendation for involuntary separation was initiated in retaliation for having made an unrestricted report of a sexual assault within the previous 12 months. This change further eliminates any perception that an Airman, who reports a sexual assault, may be subject to discharge simply for reporting.

Also on the books, effective June 27th, the Under Secretary of the Air Force directed that any commander who makes a disciplinary decision regarding an Airman who commits a sexual assault, must report that decision to his servicing general court-martial convening authority, who has attained the rank of brigadier general or higher. The general court-martial convening authority will then review the intended disposition and take any further action he deems appropriate.

This change also requires that the general court-martial convening authority must review the case and its disposition after all disciplinary and administrative action is completed and must report the actions taken in the case to AFOSI in writing.

Upon receipt of this report of command action, AFOSI will close out the investigative file by attaching a copy of the report of command action to the case file.

DeVito said that, to date, 369 service members, of which are mostly Airmen, have received legal services from an Air Force SVC. These SVCs are attending interviews by AFOSI, the prosecution and defense counsel. They are also attending trials of subjects with the victim-client, assisting victims in obtaining expedited transfers, and helping victims receive military protective orders to ensure the assailant does not contact the victim except as needed to prepare for trial. Currently, the Air Force is the only service providing SVCs to service members.

"Sexual assault has no place in our Air Force," said Gen. Mark Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the Air Force. "We live in a culture of respect. We cherish our core values of integrity, service, and excellence. But in order to ensure all Airmen experience and benefit from those values, we must eliminate sexual assault in our ranks."

For more information on the new policy changes, visit [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil) and search for AFI 36-3206, Administrative Discharge Procedures for Commissioned Officers, and AFI 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen.

# Wing participates in 2013 Patriot Exercise

By 112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Wisconsin Army National Guard

With temperatures and humidity soaring in mid July, more than 2,000 Soldiers, Airmen and civilian first responders came together to participate in a massive training exercise at Volk Field and Fort McCoy, Wis., July 15-20.

Approximately 50 Army and Air National Guard units representing 26 states participated in Patriot Exercise 2013, an annual joint-service exercise that tests Guardsmen's ability to assist local and state first responders contending with multiple emergencies. The goal of the exercise is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each agency's current response plans.

Patriot 2013 is a milestone for the exercise, which has been conducted at Volk Field for approximately 10 years. Consequently, this year marks it as the National Guard's first Joint National Training Capability-accredited exercise, putting it on par with such major active duty exercises as Ardent Sentry and Red Flag.

For the past 12 years, the National Guard has dramatically enhanced its warfighting abilities to support combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But less-acknowledged is the Guard's additional role: helping save lives within their state.



The National Guard is at the forefront of many disaster relief operations, most recently its responses to Hurricane Sandy and the Boston Marathon bombing, as well as wildfire and flood rescue operations. Being ready and available to help support their state's respond to any kind of emergency is just as important as supporting combat operations overseas.

Supporting domestic operations requires a different mindset than most military members are familiar with. Instead of leading operations, they take on a support role by aiding the rescue efforts led by civilian emergency managers.

Lt. Col. Saul Hage, Patriot 2013 exercise director, said the National Guard has a host of different capabilities to provide emergency support to civilian rescue efforts. The Patriot exercise provides a venue, he said, tailored to train National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to support any hazard that might come along, using the unique equipment and personnel they possess. It's a bottom-up approach that allows participating units to request what types of emergency response they would like to train.

"We don't like to sit there and say

just one event [might happen] because as we've seen in our nation, anything can happen at any time," Hage said. "We want to be ready for anything."

The intent of this year's scenario was to create an emergency situation that quickly overwhelmed local and state response agencies, forcing state government officials to call up the National Guard to support civilian response efforts. In this case, exercise disasters started with tornadoes that devastate two Wisconsin cities, while a terrorist organization simultaneously launches a cyber-, radiological- and conventional-based attack.

The exercise had civilian and military personnel searching for victims, decontaminating residents and neighborhoods, transporting patients and conducting site recovery command and control.

This year's exercise marks the first time that elements of the U.S. Army Reserve have participated in the exercise. Last year, the Secretary of Defense authorized Reserve forces to be called up to active duty at the request of a state governor to aid in emergency operations.

Civilian agencies involved in the training included: the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Lacrosse Hazardous Materials Response Team, the State of Wisconsin Radiation Protection System and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Members of the New Jersey National Guard's 108th Contingency Response



See, **Patriot**, on Pg. 7

# Mother's Surprise



*Airman 1st Class Rafael Rodriguez, a civil engineer with the 108th Wing, surprises his parents, Rafael Rodriguez Sr. and Elba Ramirez, when he returns home from an approximate six month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Rodriguez landed in U.S. soil the morn-*

*ing of June 27, 2013 and then drove home to surprise his parents who were not expecting his return until July. During his deployment, Rodriguez, performed various base maintenance and moral projects at Bagram Airfield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)*



## Re-enlisted!

*Col. Andy Keane, 108th Operations Group Commander, performs the Oath of Enlistment for the Reenlistment Ceremony of 108th Airmen at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, June 22, 2013. Left to Right: Tech. Sgt. Shareef Lewis, Staff Sgts. Raymond Szwak, Dante Rosini Jr., Col. Andy Keane, Tech. Sgt. Ginger White, Master Sgt. Andre Williamson, Tech. Sgt. Leonard Simmons, and Senior Airman Timothy Fitch. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric Erbe/Released)*

# PATRIOT

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Group provided air support for supply runs, medical evacuations, and other operations throughout the Patriot Exercise.

Because it provided a new learning experience for both her and her unit, 2nd Lt. Dominoe Strong of the 108th CRG expressed how much she enjoyed working at Volk Field.

“I came along with because I wanted to do something different,” said Strong, as planes roared to life behind her on the runway. “We’ve been running non-stop since day one. As soon as we hit the ground, we’re off again.”

Lt. Col. Christian Lawlor, a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot with the 108th Wing, explained that his unit was fortunate to have such a great opportunity to work with other Air and Army units, because it provided training they normally would not receive.

“The Guard is more like a family than anything for me,” said

Lawlor, as his crew scrambled around him. “My job is different than most other pilots, but that’s what makes it great.”

Just as important as the action in the field is the communications and command functions that exists behind the scenes. National Guard commanders and leaders learn to communicate effectively with their civilian counterparts, who have developed similar response tactics but have differences that can cause delays – delays that could cost people their lives.

Standard operating procedures and regulations dictate how military personnel respond to an emergency; civilian first responders use best practices encapsulated in the incident command system guidelines produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Both sides learn to adapt to and incorporate those different guidelines in their own operations to improve their efficiency.

Volk Field is one of only four Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Centers in the nation which provides a year-round integrated training environment with state-of-the-art facilities for units to enhance their combat capabilities and readiness.

## JACKSON STANDS OUT AMONG A SEA OF GREEN

By 1st LT. Cynthia M. Cano-Hewitt, 108th Maintenance Squadron

Through some tough competition, an Airman from the 108th Wing stood out among his fellow service members at a mixed martial arts competition.

From July 20 thru 21, the 98th Army Training Division conducted a Combative Tournament that was open to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including Guard and Reserve components. Senior Airman Leon Jackson, Structural Repair Shop at the 108th Maintenance Squadron, attended the event and proudly represented the 108th Wing. Among all the members that participated in the competition, Jackson was the only Air Force participant, and after a rigorous and challenging two-day event, he took first place in the entire Combative Tournament.

“Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) is something more than mixed martial arts,” said then 98th Division commander, Brig. Gen. Dwayne Edwards during last year’s competition. “It is about a skill that is indispensable in an environment where Soldiers may need to close the distance and fight the enemy at close quarters.”



Senior Airman Leon Jackson, center, was awarded first place in the combative tournament held by the 98th Army Training Division, July 20, 2013. (Courtesy photos)

“It was a lot of fun, but I wish there were more participants from different branches,” said Jackson when asked about his thoughts on participating in the event. “It was all Army personnel and me, from the New Jersey Air National Guard.”

Jackson further said this is an annual event and anyone interested can get more information by either contacting the Modern Army Combative Headquarters at 253-250-1423 or e-mail Josey Huffman at [josey.d.huffman.mil@mail.mil](mailto:josey.d.huffman.mil@mail.mil).

# Don't be a loser

By Senior Master Sgt. James V. Granato Jr., 108th Wing Safety Office

Cost of living, inflation and taxes—these are the topics we are all concerned about. They're topics that creep into every conversation at home and at work because they deal with money, a subject near and dear to all of us.

What is funny is how people express concern over living costs and then ignore an equally important factor in keeping costs at a minimum: safety. If you think that safety doesn't have much to do with the cost of living, read on.

On the job accidents cost the U.S. economy about \$3.4 million every hour for every work day, which adds up to \$6.8 billion per year and we all end up losing because of this.

That total includes \$1.5 billion in lost wages, \$3.8 billion in lost production and \$1.5 billion in medical expenses and that is just the measurable part of the costs.

This is a substantial drain on the economy and again we all end up losing because we pay for it in our roles as taxpay-

ers, wage earners and consumers.

This is why safety should be important to cost-conscious people. It's not the only reason for being safe, however it may be the only reason some people understand. Yet we all are losers when we are injured.

Hazards exist in many forms. We attempt to keep them at a minimum around here and our goal is to send you home in good condition at the end of each workday. However we can only do it with your cooperation. You are important to this job or you wouldn't be here, you're also important to your family and your community.

Safety is part of doing a good job. You can't get hurt and still do a good job. When an injury occurs, there's something wrong, and the injured person is the first to find out about it in the form of pain and suffering.

The next question is why some people ignore safety rules. There are numerous reasons, but we'd all have to be psychia-

trists to understand them. However there are some that are quite obvious.

Many people are likely to break safety rules that they consider unimportant or contrary to their philosophy of life. This might be based on an over-inflated sense of self-importance.

People who disregard safety rules may also be reckless both on and off the job. They have a manufactured false sense of security. They're confident that accidents always happen to the other guy.

As previously noted, there are many good reasons for being safe, but it all narrows down to two choices. You either play it safe or trust your luck. There is no in between. You either make safety a part of your job or you become a chance taker. And in the end, the odds are always against the chance taker.

So don't be a chance taker. Treat safety with the respect it deserves. When you lose at the game of chance taking, you will lose BIG.

## Tribute

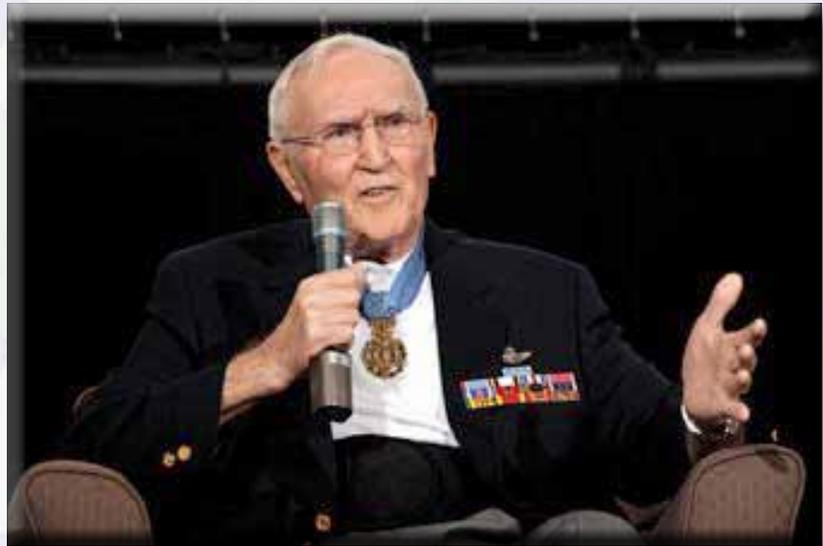
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The damage by the enemy permanently scarred his body, but his spirit emerged unbroken. A year later he was back on flight status, he became vice commander of the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing, and retired from active service in 1976.

Col. Bud Day spent a great amount of his remaining years sharing his story with our Airmen, young and old. Over the past 22 years, many of those Airmen have experienced multiple combat deployments themselves, leaning on the lessons Bud Day passed on to all of us, including his two sons, who proudly serve.

He deeply understood the challenges we face as a military service, "trying to keep America aware of the fact that Airpower has been a substantial reason that we exist as a free nation."

I spoke with Col. Day on the phone a couple of months ago, simply to introduce myself and thank him, on behalf of our entire Air Force, for his



remarkable lifetime of service. I hung up feeling incredibly proud to be an Airman, and grateful that my real-life hero was even more impressive than I had imagined.

Future Airmen will honor his name and treasure his story, not because of the awards and buildings named in his honor, but for the legendary character,

the unbreakable spirit and the values he demonstrated each and every day.

Airmen today strive to embody the same honor, courage, and integrity shown by Col Day and those who fought beside him. And we honor the sacrifices they made in the spirit of airpower and freedom.

"Push it up" Sir...we're still following your lead.

# Family Day 2013



# HOMETOWN HEROES SALUTE





# FRONT AND CENTER: HEATHER ZWEIBACK



**Name:** *Staff Sgt. Heather Zweiback*  
**Time in Service:** *10 years*  
**Job with 108th:** *108 Contingency Response Group Knowledge Operations Manager*  
**Civilian Job:** *Management Assistant DCMA Springfield*  
**Favorite Food:** *Tostadas*  
**Favorite TV Show:** *True Blood*  
**Favorite Music Genre:** *Depends on my mood*  
**Favorite Sport:** *Sleeping*  
**What do I do in my Spare Time:**  
*Read books*  
**Person I Most Look Up To:** *My dad*  
**My Hero is:** *I try to pick out a different hero every day and let them know how awesome they are!*  
**Dream Vacation:** *Lying on a beach in Hawaii, as long as I have my 400SPF sun block*  
**Dream Car:** *Red '69 Chevy Camaro*  
**My Goals for the Future:** *I hope to one day take over the world and implement nap time and ice cream Mondays.*  
**What I like about the 108th:** *The people*  
**If I Was Commander for a Day:** *I would open the 108th gate, and implement nap time and ice cream Sundays.*

## Thunder Road gate to open to traffic

Starting 5 a.m. Sept. 3, you will have a choice to either come in the usual way to work or come in through Thunder Gate.

Thunder Gate???

Yes, the road next to the F-105 Thunderchief mounted on a pedestal, which offers direct access to the 108th Wing from Texas Avenue. That Thunder Gate!

Beginning on Aug. 19, you will see a message sign on Texas Avenue alerting everyone that a new traffic light will be installed.

By Aug. 26, the light at Texas Avenue and Thunder Road will be up and the attendant signage will be installed four days later.

And on Sept. 3, the gates will be open and you can skip the traffic circle in the morning and the base exchange traffic in the afternoon.



**Senior Airman Janelle Stokes, center, 204th Intelligence Squadron, 108th Wing, sings the national anthem during the unveiling of a bronze relief sculpture, which includes the fifth Medal of Honor recipient from New Jersey, Pfc. Henry Svehla, at the state's New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J., July 12, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)**



# MAN ON THE STREET

*“MXS Airmen talk about their favorite summer activity”*

Photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs



*“I like to go swimming.”*  
- Senior Airman Gregg Abrahamsen



*“I enjoy playing softball.”*  
- Master Sgt. Anthony Bonventure



*“Barbecuing.”*  
- Airman 1st Class Mostafa Eldasher



*“I like to play sports. Any sport.”*  
- Senior Airman Dennis Chesney



*“Attend summer beach parties: “Electric Soo””*  
- Airman 1st Class Guillermo Ferreras-Morel



*“I enjoy going to amusement parks.”*  
- Senior Airman Mecca Jennings



*“Going to the beach, body surfing and tanning.”*  
- Senior Master Sgt. John Swantek



*“Having a barbecue around the house and spend time with family and friends.”*  
- Lt. Col. Steven Jamison