

WING *Tips*

JULY-AUGUST 2014





COMMENTARY

Opportunity and Chance

By Col. Vito A. Di Micco Jr., 108th Mission Support Group commander

While flexibility is the key to air power, the key to any successful Air Force career is seizing opportunity and chance.

I realized this when I was asked why I chose the military as a career several years ago while speaking at a High School event. I shared a brief story with them that day. A story of a young man, who had just graduated high school, was an average student and did not plan on attending college. He was trying to decide what he wanted to do with his life. He started working for a major company as a general worker on a production line. During this time he wanted more and was told if he wanted to be a manager he would need a college education. His family did not have the resources to pay for his education. After exploring different options he decided to speak to an Air Force recruiter, took the entrance test, and had a perfect score in math. After completing his physical at Military Entrance Processing Station, he chose the finance career field and was told there would be an eight to 12 month delay; however, if he would join as an open career field he would be assigned one after basic training. He told them no he would wait, and as he was leaving the building the recruiter stopped him and said, "if you really want finance you have to leave tomorrow morning," less than 14 hours later. Here was an opportunity and a chance he decided to accept so the next morning, on April fool's day 1980, he joined the service, went off to basic training and technical school. During tech school he filled out a dream sheet to go overseas but was assigned to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. At first he was disappointed; however, this turned out to be the most important assignment of his career.

By now you have all figured out this young Airman was me. When I arrived at the base I met my supervisor, a man who would change my life. He sat me down and explained his expectations: work hard, always complete your professional military education, continue your education, and be ahead of your peers. He asked me my expectations and I explained that I joined the service to start a career and contribute to the GI bill to attend college after my enlistment. He took me straight to

the education office that day and had me sign up for college classes. Three years later while going to college at night I earned my bachelor's degree. This was because I seized the opportunity and chance.

During my fourth year of enlistment I was asked to be a member of a Staff Assistance Visit team to inspect the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing, a National Guard unit. I accepted without realizing it would change the path of my career in the military. During the inspection I met the comptroller who asked me what I was planning on doing after I separated from the Air Force. He asked me if I would like to join the National Guard and offered me duty days while I was looking for a civilian job. I decided to accept the offer, so on April 1, 1984 I separated from active duty and joined the 108th TFW on April 2, 1984. It is all about opportunity and chance. Six years later I earned my commission in finance, another opportunity and chance.

In 1996 I was offered a full time position in maintenance. I had been in finance since I enlisted and this was an exceptional career broadening opportunity for me. I had a chance to learn a new ca-

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Maj. Jason Neumann, 108th Contingency Response Group, is hoisted out of a confined space during technical rescue situations training at Patriot 2014 exercise, Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Wis. July 20, 2014. Air and Army National Guard and reserve units from several states worked with local, state and national organizations to train, perform and assess their ability to respond to multiple emergencies. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jenna V. Lenski/Released)



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Meyer assumes command of 108th

Story by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Robert C. Bolton, left, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, presents the 108th Wing's colors to incoming 108th Wing commander, Col.

Robert A. Meyer Jr., during a Change of Command ceremony June 22, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. – Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr., assumed command of the 108th Wing, June 22.

After receiving a final salute from the 108th Wing's Airmen, outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Kevin Keehn, handed the 108th Wing's unit colors to Brig. Gen. Robert Bolton, commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, who in turn presented it to Meyer during a Change of Command ceremony held at the Wing's hangar.

Bolton thanked Keehn for his past leadership of the 108th. "Job well done," said Bolton.

Bolton then welcomed Meyer, a homegrown-Jersey Guardsman, to his new command. "He's been waiting for eight months for this to happen," said Bolton. "Thank you for your patience."

In addition, Bolton gave accolades to Meyer for his leadership during the Wing's recent unit effectiveness inspection at which the Wing received a highly effective score.

"The 108th Wing has received the highest score in the Air Guard to date under his leadership," said Bolton. "That's the active duty folks telling the Air Guard they are doing a great job."

After receiving the unit colors, Meyer, an Egg Harbor Township resident, thanked his family for their support and thanked the Airmen of the Wing for their loyalty and support as he assumes command of the more than 1,200 Airmen strong unit.

"To the men and women of the 108th, again, I can't say it enough. Thank you for protecting this great country and leaving a more secure world for our children," said Meyer. "I am proud and honored to serve as your commander; an organization made up of

the finest group of people, bar none."

A change of command ceremony 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 is an Air National Guard unit with 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 federal mission of the 108th Wing is to provide rapid global airpower to support both Air Mobility Command and Air Force Special Operations Command. In addition, the Wing deploys expeditionary forces in support of worldwide combat, contingency and humanitarian efforts. Their state mission is to support the governor of New Jersey in disaster or domestic emergency response situations.

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.

I am proud and honored to serve as your commander; an organization made up of the finest group of people, bar none.

Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr.

Picking up the pieces

Story and photos by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak
108th Wing Public Affairs



Members of the 108th Wing Force Support Squadron participate in a simulated search and recovery exercise at Joint Base-McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, June 24, 2014. Slabs of pork chops, chunks of chicken meat, and mannequin pieces were scattered across the field for the members to recover.

You never assume that just because you found an arm here and a leg over there that they are together and belong to the same person. You bag and tag each item as if it was a single human remain.

Senior Airman Cristin Campos, 108th Wing Force Support Squadron



Body parts and remains littered the field while the sun blazed high in the sky and vultures stalked nearby hoping for their next meal.

Thankfully, this was just a training mission and the remains that were scattered through the field were only chunks of chicken and pork chops, along with body parts taken from a mannequin.

The 108th Wing Force Support Squadron held a search and recovery class, taught by Senior Airman Cristin Campos and Tech. Sgt. Heather Bartlett, during their week-long training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, June 24, 2014.

Campos and Bartlett began by instructing the members of FSS in a classroom setting to prepare them for contingency mortuary operations and performing a search and recovery mission. Together, they informed the Airmen of the procedures and the responsibilities when setting up a contingency mortuary. The search and recovery portion of the class explained different methods to use when searching for remains and each process involved when recovering those remains.

When discussing the process of bagging and tagging the remains, Campos explains, “You never assume that just because you found an arm here and a leg over there that they are together and belong to the same person. You bag and tag each item as if it was a single human remain. You never put them together because you don’t know if that’s the same person.”

They also explained, from personal experience, how it might feel to encounter a situation where you are recovering bodies of those who have died.

“As an EMT, I responded to a call, and when my partner and I got on scene, we found two kids in the pool,” said Barlett as she shared a sad experience with the class. “They drowned. So my partner and I grabbed them out and started working them up. They were pronounced dead on scene. The point of this is just to say that we’re sitting here in class and we’re so far removed from it, but it is real. You may feel like you can handle it, but you never know. I know I had to go talk to someone after that call. This job will definitely test your resiliency. There are resources available, so talk to people because you just never know.”

After a detailed presentation and discussion about contingency mortuary operations and search and recovery methods, the class headed out to an open field to participate in a simulated search and recovery mission.

Campos and Barlett had prepared the field by scattering pieces of chicken and pork chops and parts from a mannequin across the field. After donning their protective gear, the class began their search. Step-by-step and side-by-side, the Airmen recovered all the remains. Working together, they accomplished their mission by safely discovering each remain and bagging and tagging them separately.

This training class was just an example of what Airmen can encounter in the real world as they have to search for body parts and remains of people who have passed. But unlike the real world, it was all pretend. The Airmen imagined what it would be like if the meat that they were recovering were actual human remains. Campos and Bartlett did their best to help prepare the Airmen for this type of situation.

“You never know what you’re going to get as far as what condition the body or remains are going to be in,” said Bartlett. “It’s traumatic.”



BLUM PROMOTED TO COLONEL

Story and photos by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak, 108th Wing Public Affairs

The fireworks have ceased and the ashes have fallen, but the celebration is not over yet! After enjoying a four-day Independence Day weekend, it was time to celebrate the promotion of Lt. Col. Scott Blum to colonel.

It was a beautiful, sunny morning on July 7, as members of the 108th Wing Medical Group prepared for Blum's promotion ceremony in the medical group classroom at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. With the chairs in place and the stage set, Blum's wife, Patricia, son, Tyler, and various other family and friends began to arrive for the ceremony. In attendance was the officiating officer, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, along with the leadership of the New Jersey Air National Guard, the 108th Wing and the 87th Medical group.

Blum's career began 31 years ago when he enlisted as an Airman. He rose to the rank of master sergeant before receiving his commission as a second lieutenant.

"I always look for an opportunity to tell the young enlisted personnel that I was enlisted for 14 years," said Blum. "My biggest influences in my ca-



Col. Scott Blum, right, 108th Medical Group commander, poses for a photograph with retired Col. Barry Johnson after Blum's promotion ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 7, 2014. The colonel's insignia on Blum's service coat were passed down to him starting from Col. Johnson's father, who gave them to his son, who in turn passed them on to the former Medical Group commander Col. Sandra Long who passed them on to Blum.

I always look for an opportunity to tell the young enlisted personnel that I was enlisted for 14 years. Col. Scott Blum

reer came from senior NCO's and officers. They encouraged me to go to college, do my professional military education, and be the best Airman I could be. It is my turn to pass that encouragement to the future leaders in the medical group and the Wing."

After the orders for Blum's promotion were published, Patricia and Tyler joined Blum on stage to pin on his colonel rank.

Those particular colonel's eagles have a special history behind them.



Col. Scott Blum stands proudly as his wife, Patricia, and son, Tyler, pin colonel rank on his service dress at his promotion ceremony.



Newly promoted Col. Scott Blum, 108th Medical Group commander, addresses the audience after being promoted to the rank of colonel at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 7, 2014.

Retired Col. Barry Johnson's father, Col. John Johnson, wore those insignia at his promotion in 1968. Johnson's father pinned his son with those same eagles, and Barry in turn gave them to Col. Sandra Long at her pinning. She then passed them onto Blum for his promotion. Blum said that Johnson asked him to continue the tradition and to "pass them on to a future colonel that displays honor and integrity and has earned your trust."

"I look forward to making that happen," said Blum.

CES gain good training and saves Wing money

Story by Chief Master Sgt. Timothy J. Grover, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron

As part of the 2014 sustainment restoration modernization project listing, PTFL 132007, was delivered to the 108th Wing's leadership for their approval. This was a material only project to replace the aging hangar floor lights in building 33-22. The project was approved and Maj. Eric Balint, with the help of the two state electricians, Fred Gonzalez and Norman Cunningham, put together a statement of work to achieve the Wing's goal.

With help from the Contracting Office, the project's materials were sourced to a local vendor within 25 miles of the base. This vendor, not only provided all the materials needed for project completion, but managed to do so for \$10,000 less than the government cost estimate. However, the story doesn't end here.

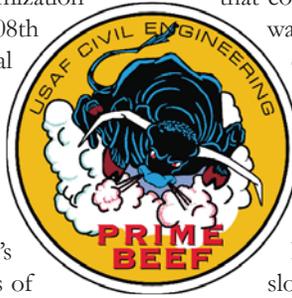
Upon the materials receipt, both state electricians verified that all parts were received and in good working order. To further enhance the relationship between military and civilian workers, Gonzalez and Cunningham took two Civil Engineer Airmen fresh from technical school under their wing. With their tutelage and guidance, Gonzalez and Cunningham taught them the crafts of the trade that the Airmen had only read about. They mentored them on everything from the simple wiring to the extensive work needed to wire multi-circuit ballast.

Teaching the newly trained CE electricians to build the lights

that conformed to the area and infrastructure already in place was an easy task compared to what came next. Upon closer examination of these historic lights the electricians could only surmise by their age that about half the light fixtures may possibly contain hazardous waste. Research was done and with too many unanswered questions, it was decided to err on the side of caution, don the correct personnel protection equipment and press on. Bagging each of the suspect lights before removing them slowed the project down, but it was the right way to complete the process and ensure the safety of everyone involved.

With the old lights down and the new ones installed, the benefit to the building occupants and the wing will be noticed not only in the work place but on the monthly utility bills as well. Based on a 10-hour day, the old lights were costing the Wing an average of \$15,000 per year. With the new lights installed the Wing will be spending an average of \$2,500 per year for an area with above standard lighting. With savings of \$12,500 per year, we are not only saving utility dollars, but we are saving resources for future generations.

All in all, this project was a job well done by the Wing, for initiating this project, and for the members of the Civil Engineer Squadron, both military and civilian, for their efforts and a successful outcome.



SAFETY NOTES

From the 108th Wing Safety Office

THE TIME IT TAKES...

- To become a safe aircrew member/technician...one lifetime
- To receive a Flight/Ground safety award...one year
- To implement a unit Flight/Ground safety program...one month
- To carry out a formal Flight/Ground safety survey...one week
- To conduct a Flight/Ground Safety Training...one day
- To hold a Flight/Ground Safety briefing...one hour
- To read a Flight/Ground Safety poster...one minute
- To destroy all of the above through a Flight/Ground Safety accident...one second

Courtesy of Canadian Forces Flight Comment

Opportunity and chance continued from page 2

reer field and gain a full understanding of how maintenance and operations work together. I was then offered the opportunity to return to finance as the comptroller for six years. I was next offered the opportunity to be the chief of financial services for the Air National Guard where I served for five years. At each step of my career, it was all about opportunity and chance.

On a sunny April fool's day of 1980 I joined the Air Force. Then in 1983 I was asked if I wanted to join the SAV team to inspect the 108th. I took the chance and all the opportunities paid off tenfold. I was once told by my grandfather every person will have opportunities in their lives; however, most of them will not take the chance or pursue them. So I say to men and women of the 108th Wing, seize the opportunities, take chances to mold your future and you will be amazed by the outcome.



108th places second

The 108th Wing softball team gives a final team cheer during the end of the championship game at the McGuire Softball Complex at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, July 24, 2014. The 108th Wing softball team came in second place against the 305th/605th/373rd softball team during the base championship games. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak/Released)



June re-enlistees

Col. Robert A. Meyer, Jr., far right, 108th Wing commander, administered the Oath of Enlistment to members of the 108th Wing at the re-enlistment ceremony at the Wing's headquarters conference room June 21, 2014. Left to right, Senior Airman Brian J. Gluck, Staff Sgts. Sean M. Joseph and Garrion Reddick, Tech. Sgts. Shevaughn T. Jorsling and William V. Lanehart, and Master Sgt. Anthony Bonventure. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak/Released)



NGB Chief coins Genna

Gen. Frank J. Grass, right, Chief, National Guard Bureau, poses for a photo with Col. Steven F. Jamison, left, 108th Wing Maintenance Group commander and Senior Airman Stephanie A. Genna, a KC-135R Stratotanker crew chief, during a ceremony at the 177th Fighter Wing at Egg Harbor Township, N.J., June 28, 2014. Grass coined Genna for her work on the 108th Wing's unit effectiveness inspection. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

CADETS TOUR WING



New Jersey Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets spend time on the 108th Wing flight line touring a KC-135R Stratotanker June 26, 2014. The cadets also got the opportunity to climb into the



boom pit and gain firsthand knowledge about the complexity of the boom operator's role during refueling operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak/Released)

FRONT AND CENTER

SENIOR AIRMAN RANDY B. MORALES

Time in service: three years active duty Army, two years ANG

Job with 108th WG: Production Controller

Civilian job: IT desktop support

Family: Mother from Manzanilla, Puerto Rico; Father from Quito, Ecuador

Favorite food: Pizza & anything smothered in BBQ sauce

Favorite movie/movie last seen: Captain America the Winter Soldier

Favorite actor/actress: Halle Berry

Favorite TV show: The Walking Dead

Favorite book/last book read/author: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks; Author: Rebecca Skloot

Favorite music genre/artist: Salsa, Merengue & Bachata

Favorite sport: Baseball

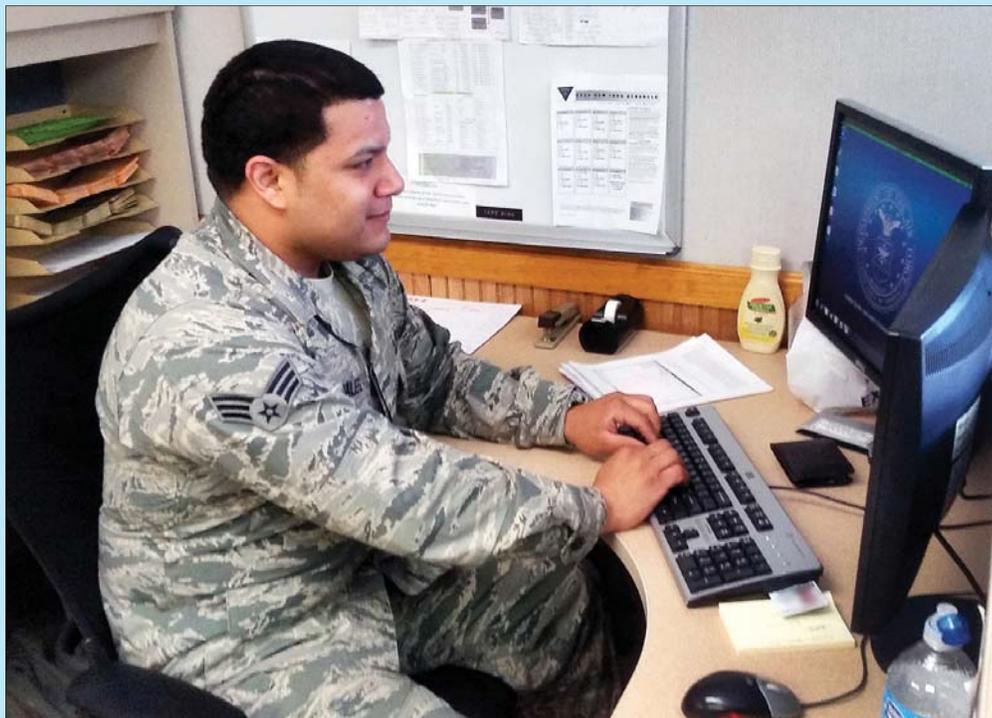
What I do in my spare time/hobbies: Mountain biking

Person I most look up to: My father for his work ethic.

My hero: My mother & grandmother.

Dream vacation: All expense paid trip to Europe.

Dream car: Tesla all electric vehicle



What I like most about the 108th: The leadership and the Airmen I work with.

If I was CC for a day: Tough one; I would set up a 5K run.

PAO AND EEO OFFICER OPENINGS

The 108th Wing has vacancies for a Public Affairs Officer and an Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.

Applicants for the Public Affairs Officer position must have a degree in one of the following academic fields: Communications, journalism, public relations, visual information, broadcasting, advertising, business/marketing, management, political science, foreign affairs, or one of the following behavioral or social sciences – international relations, sociology, psychology or social psychology.

Graduate academics degrees in the above disciplines will also be considered.

In addition, applicants for the Public Affairs Officer must meet the following requirements:

(1) Must have a valid state driver's license to operate government motor vehicles in accordance with AFI 24-301, Vehicle Operations; (2) No record of disciplinary action (Letter of Reprimand or Article 15) for failure to exercise sound leadership principles, especially with respect to morale or welfare of subordinates or engaging in unprofessional or inappropriate relationships as defined in AFI 36-2909, Professional and Unprofessional Relationships, or documented failures, or taking or failing to take action in situations, thereby exhibit-

ing a lack of integrity, or a violation of Article 107 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, false official statements; (3) No convictions by a general, special or summary courts-martial; (4) No unfavorable information file; (5) Never been convicted by a civilian court of a Category 1, 2, or 3 offense, nor exceeded the accepted number of Category 4 offenses. Category 3 and 4 traffic offenses alone are not disqualifying. NOTE: Categories of offenses are described and listed in AFI 36-2002, Regular Air Force and Special Category Accessions; (6) No recorded evidence of substance abuse, emotional instability, personality disorder, or other unresolved matters.

Interested individuals in either position should prepare a detailed resume of military and civilian experience; certified college transcripts, copy of the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test results; AF personal data printout from vMPF; a letter of recommendation from your unit commander, or employer if non-prior service; and a current AF physical test scores (military members only).

Submit the application and all supporting documents no later than close of business Sept. 14, 2014 to: 108th Wing, 33-27 Charles Blvd, JB-MDL, NJ 08641-5406, Attention: Master Sgt. Rose Quinquino.

Political activities for ANG members

From the 108th Wing Legal Office

Members of the Air National Guard and its civilian employees are encouraged to carry out their responsibilities as citizens.

However, in certain situations, they may be limited or prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities, which is defined as any activity “supporting or relating to candidates who represent, or issues specifically identified with, national or state political parties or associated or ancillary organizations.” Furthermore, additional restrictions will apply to a National Guard member on Title 10 active duty.

Several activities, though, are permissible. Members of the ANG may register and vote in any election; express personal opinions as individual citizens on candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the military; make voluntary campaign contributions to political parties or organizations (subject to certain limitations); and attend partisan and nonpartisan political gatherings as spectators when not in uniform.

Members of the ANG may also campaign for, and hold, elective partisan and non-partisan civil office if held in a private capacity that does not interfere with the performance of military duties, as long as they are not serving on extended active duty. In addition, ANG personnel may not use their military status as a political selling point; for example, no use of government facilities and no campaigning in uniform.

In the course of their private political activities, military members and federal employees may also promote and encourage others in federal service to vote, provided such efforts are not designed to influence or interfere with the outcome of elections; sign petitions for specific legislative action or place a candidate’s name on an official ballot, provided the signing is not an obligation to engage in partisan political activity and is taken as a private citizen and not as a representative of the ANG; write personal letters to newspaper editors expressing personal views concerning public issues, provided those views do not attempt to promote a partisan political cause; write personal letters, not for publication, expressing preference for a specific political candidate or cause, provided the action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign on behalf of a partisan political cause or candidate; join political clubs and attend meetings or rallies when not in uniform; serve as election officials and perform nonpartisan duties, provided such does not interfere with efficient performance of military or official duties and such services are performed while not in uniform; display political stickers on private vehicles or wear political badges or buttons when not in uniform and not on duty; serve in a local part-time nonpartisan civil office, either elective or appointive (examples are local school board or planning commission).

National Guard members may also hold certain federal, state, and local appointed or elected full-time civil offices if not prohibited by federal or state statutes or regulations. Some examples of these positions are U.S. Attorney and state judge)

Prior to seeking election or appointment to a civil office, the



member should determine whether the holding of that office will adversely affect the member’s ability to continue as a military member.

Members of the ANG may also participate in local nonpartisan political campaigns (issues relating to constitutional amendments, referenda, municipal ordinances) when not in uniform and not interfering with military duties.

Prohibited activities

Members must not use their positions in the National Guard to assist them in obtaining political office or

endorsing a political candidate or issue. This includes interfering with elections, election officials, or voters; authorizing government services or support to candidates (housing, meals, transportation); and soliciting votes or contributions for a candidate or issue; selling tickets for, or otherwise actively promoting political dinners and fundraising events.

During training periods when receiving federal compensation, members may not solicit or receive campaign contributions from any other officer, employee or person receiving compensation for services from federal funds; authorizing any solicitation or campaign fundraising activities on base or in federal buildings; give anything of value to any person in government service for the promotion of any political purpose; speaking before partisan political gatherings or participating in any radio or television programs or group discussions as an advocate of a partisan political party or candidate in their capacity as members of the National Guard.

While in uniform, ANG members may not endorse a particular candidate or position, or attend partisan or non-partisan political gatherings; conduct political opinion surveys under the auspices of a partisan political group, or poll members on how they voted; participate in partisan voter transportation drives; perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during the campaign in, or on election day; or participate in partisan political management, campaigns or conventions.

ANG members also may not attend, as an official ANG representative, partisan political events, even without actively participating; serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor in partisan political organizations; publicly advocate a partisan political party or candidate; distribute partisan political petitions, literature, badges or buttons; march or ride in partisan political parades; publish or cause to be published partisan political articles designed to solicit votes for a particular candidate or party; or display large political signs, posters or banners on private vehicles.

This article is not intended to provide full legal guidance or a legal opinion on your potential political activity, but it should serve to highlight areas of which you should be aware. There are different rules for traditional Guardsmen, technicians and AGR. Therefore, if you are contemplating candidacy for a partisan office, or if you have a specific question or need clarification, you are strongly encouraged to contact the 108th Wing Legal Office at 609-754-3870 for an actual legal opinion.

204TH HOSTS' AFRICOM THEATER COURSE

From the 204th Intelligence Squadron

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. -- Africa, continent of mystery, became a little less mysterious for 67 intelligence analysts, instructors and civil affairs personnel from the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst community. The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School presented a week-long course covering political, military, religious and social affairs in Africa.

The 204th Intelligence Squadron, Air Mobility Command's source for a variety of intelligence products encompassing every region of the world, hosted the informative course.

Course participants learned the importance of Africa's diversity and there is no "African" mindset. Religions, attitudes and loyalties vary wildly between and even within countries.

"The USAFSOS staff learned as much, if not more, from interacting with the students," said Capt. Caleb Slayton, leader of the mobile training team. "USAFSOS is privileged to be in a rare position, acting as a central repository for, in this case, all Africa deploying unit observations. The JB-MDL classroom was a great mix between Air Force active duty, Guard and Reserve, as well as inter-agency and multi-service personnel. That creates a good environment for cross-talk and sharing experiences. USAFSOS takes what it learns in one classroom and is able to share and pass it on to the next deploying unit or member."

Slayton, along with fellow instructors, Airman 1st Class Moses Chelimo and Mr. Hadi Tabit, were able to highlight the similarities



and differences in African regions and cultures. All were able to draw on extensive experience living in Africa to paint a vivid mosaic of what the continent is today, and where it is headed in the future.

"It is imperative that 204th analysts have the best available training in order to produce intelligence products that are timely, relevant and accurate, said Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Zinner. "Rather than send three members temporary duty to Hurlburt Field, Florida, we were able to fund travel for the USAFSOS instructors, allowing thirty-two squadron analysts to be trained at significant savings."

"We were able to provide additional value by offering excess class seats to other local intelligence organizations," said Lt. Col. Robert Kelly, 204th IS commander. "It is important to make every dollar count, not just in the Air Force, but across the federal government. To that end, we had students from the 204th, other Air Guard units, active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve and civilian analysts and instructors from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Air Force Air Advisor Academy. In total, we were able to facilitate savings of over \$100,000 without affecting the quality of training."

The 204th plans to host additional training teams at the Joint Base during the next fiscal year. For more information about the 204th training initiative, please contact Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Zinner at stephen.zinner@ang.af.mil.

You choice is

Senior Airman Rashawn H. Robinson, 108th Services Flight, serves food to members of the 108th Wing during a training exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, June 26, 2014. Airmen from the 108th Wing Force Support Squadron set up a small shelter system tent and a single pallet expeditionary kitchen, prepared the food and fed fellow unit members in less than two hours. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg/Released)





MAN ON THE STREET

“What are your plans for Labor Day weekend, the unofficial end of summer?”

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez



“Stay home and have a barbecue. Possibly go to the beach.”
Senior Airman Joshua Blaney, 108th Security Forces Squadron



“Since I live by the beach, I just want a backyard barbecue.”
Airman 1st Class Sal Ceraldi, 108th CES



“Going down to the beach with some friends and family.”
Senior Airman Aimee Figueroa, 108th Operations Squadron



“Have a big barbecue with family and friends.”
Senior Airman Emanuel Figueroa, 108th Security Forces Squadron



“Going to the ‘Made in America’ festival in Philly with some friends.”
Airman 1st Class Edana Kudjordji, 108th Contingency Response Group



“Road trip to somewhere with a beach.”
Senior Airman Rafael Rodriguez, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron



“I will be spending the weekend with my wife in Virginia Beach, as we always do.”
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Edmiston, 108th Maintenance Squadron



“I’ll be spending the weekend with some friends and family.”
Senior Master Sgt. Marie Sheehan, 108th Mission Support Group