

# WINGA

## *Tips*

MARCH 2015



U. S. AIR FORCE KC-105R  
A. F. SERIAL 62-2541



44  
108 WG



## Farewell...Not really!

By Lt. Col. Matthew Paternostro, 108th Operations Group Deputy Commander



For those that do not know me, I am currently the deputy Operations Group commander. Col. Tom Coppinger has graciously allowed me to use his column to say farewell and thanks.

I will be leaving the 108th Wing to take on a new position at Joint Force Headquarters as the director of operations effective May 1. So

I'm leaving, but not really because I will still be flying here and will still be involved at the state level in the operations of both the 108th Wing and 177th Fighter Wing.

I began my career here as a navigator on the KC-135E with 170th Air Refueling Group, and just finished my last four years as the commander of the 141st Air Refueling Squadron. I am flooded with so many memories of my 23 years at this Wing. When I look back at my accomplishments and what we as a cohesive unit have accomplished, I am amazed. We have been at war in two decades. We deployed to Pisa, Italy to support operations over Bosnia in the mid 90's. To this day, that was my favorite deployment. Then it was off to Incirlik, Turkey for our rotations for Operation Northern Watch.

As we all remember, during 9/11 we were involved with homeland defense missions protecting the northeast corridor airspace for Operation Noble Eagle and supporting the North-

east Tanker Task Force alert mission. During the Global War on Terror, we were off to Spain, the Azores, and Oman where we stayed in tents for the first time. At least they were air conditioned! We made the best of it there and managed to have a good time flying the real missions we had trained for so much.

More recently, we were tasked with the continuous rotations in U.S. Central Command and Pacific Command that still continue to this day. I was most impressed with this Wing when we responded to two hurricanes: Irene and Sandy. We were on state active duty helping our local communities. Despite the incredible operations tempo, we somehow rose to the occasion during the many inspections and exercises including our most recent inspection at which we were graded highly effective. All of this would not have been possible without the entire Wing working as a team to complete the mission.

I have to begin my 'thank you' by thanking the leadership of this Wing, past and present, who have guided us through these decades of high operations tempo. Thank you to the maintainers that have given me safe airplanes to fly, even though they are more than 50-years old. I was blessed as a commander to have the incredible men and women of the 141st who never wavered from their dedication to duty. It has been an honor to be part of such a distinguished group of aviators. Finally, too numerous to mention are the various professional relationships I have formed with every group in the wing.

Looking forward as I say farewell, I will not forget where I came from and 'grew-up'. I will always have the best interests of the 108th in my mind at JFHQ. I promise you, I will engage the state congressional leadership along with the officer and enlisted associations to explore ways to gain future missions for the wing and keep us relevant. I know we have had a long week of training so I will not interrupt your drill any further. Thanks and farewell, for now.

**Senior Airman Ryan Galante from the 108th Maintenance Squadron, 108th Wing, removes an overnight snowfall from a KC-135R Stratotanker at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Feb. 17, 2015. Galante operates the forced air deicing system from the enclosed operator cabin at the end of the 42 foot boom of the GL 1800 deicer truck. (U.S. Air National Guard photo and graphics by Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg/Released)**



This funded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of Wing Tips are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 108th Wing, 3327 Charles Blvd., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs, unless otherwise indicated.

[www.facebook.com/pages/108th-Wing](http://www.facebook.com/pages/108th-Wing)  
[www.twitter.com/108thWing](http://www.twitter.com/108thWing)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/108th\\_wing](http://www.flickr.com/photos/108th_wing)  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/108thWing>

### WING TIPS STAFF

*Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr.* - Commander, 108th Wing  
*Maj. April B. Doolittle* - Public Affairs Officer  
*Mr. Raymond Knox* - Public Affairs Superintendent  
*Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen* - NCOIC, Photojournalist  
*Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg* - Videojournalist  
*Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez* - Photojournalist  
*Staff Sgt. Brian Carson* - Photojournalist  
*Staff Sgt. Jacquelyn E. Vasvari-Toke* - Photojournalist  
*Senior Airman Kellyann Novak* - Photojournalist  
*Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun* - Photojournalist



# Our job never stops

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun, 108th Wing Public Affairs

“You have to have a want and need to make a difference,” said Senior Master Sgt. Julie Schechter, the 108th Wing Command Post superintendent. “There is no room for error in this job. It is too critical to do otherwise.”

The 108th Wing Command Post Airmen work every day at all hours to include holidays and natural disasters. Each member works 12-hour shifts with a partner to receive and give messages for the wing. They have to have someone at the console at all times. During emergency situations, they are the first to find out in order to spread the word.

“We currently have eight Airmen working full time, one traditional guardsman and one Airman in training,” said Schechter. “We are the only shop in the unit to have all enlisted members, and we report directly to the Vice Wing Commander. We are his eyes and ears.”

To keep up with such a demanding job, they continuously read and learn technical materials to maintain their certifications

to operate the console. They have to meet a monthly requirement to keep the certification, which is why the command post is mostly composed of full-timers. The requirement makes it difficult for traditional guardsmen, like Tech. Sgt. Katelyn Murphy, who only work once a month during drill weekends.

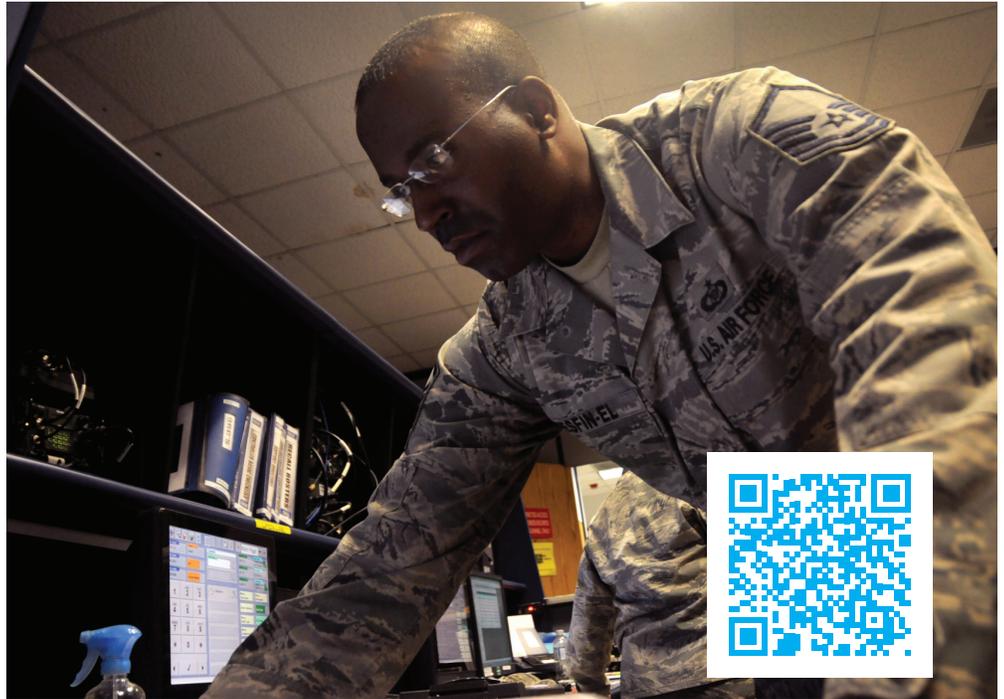
“I have to work 16 hours on the console during drill to keep my certification,” said Murphy, a command post craftsman for the 108th Wing. “I was only able to have this position because I worked full time before.”

Command post must work quickly and efficiently to handle any circumstance. They go through daily checklists to not overlook small details with everyday tasks, but they don’t have guidelines for everything.

“It’s not just about working a shift, but to have the integrity to always do what’s right,” said Schechter. “We need to be self-sufficient and held to a higher standard to prevent mistakes.”

In 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit the east coast. The command post had to react using their training and experience to make the best decisions.

“Flying aircraft were told not to



**Master Sgt. Elijah Mesfin-EI, a 108th Wing Command Post controller, checks the console during his shift Feb. 8, 2015, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Command post serves as the eye and ears of the wing commander where they work every day at all hours to receive and send messages for the entire wing.**



**From left to right, back row, Master Sgt. Elijah Mesfin-EI, Staff Sgts. Glenn Davis and Christina Krajcovic, Tech. Sgts. Mike Primavera and Michael Hickey, front row, Senior Master Sgt. Julie Schechter, Tech. Sgts. Katelyn Murphy and Carly Lang, 108th Wing Command Post controllers, pose for a photo Feb. 8, 2015, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.**



land,” said Schechter. “We notified the commander and CE (sic) notified us when they checked the fuel lines. Everyone was able to work together to deal with something we’ve never dealt with before.”

“We’re always here,” said Murphy. “Anyone can always call us if they need something. Even if it’s late.”

# Airmen participate in Read Across America

Story by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

The sounds of chattering children, musical instruments and teachers instructing students echoed through the halls of Atlantic City's Brighton Avenue School. With the creak of the front doors opening, the noise level dipped as Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard entered the building.

The five Airmen, representing Joint Force Headquarters, the 108th Wing, and the 177th Fighter Wing, all came together to participate in Read Across America.

Founded by the National Education Association, Read Across America coincides around the time of renowned children's author Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, and features military and community members coming together to read to children in local schools.

The Airmen were greeted by Courtney Mitchell, who acted as the teacher-military liaison.

"It means so much to the kids to have the National Guard here," said Mitchell.

Mitchell then led the Airmen to the classrooms where they would be reading to the students.

In one of the school's classrooms, Airman 1st Class Hannah Bartlett, an administrator from the 108th Wing, read Peggy Rathmann's "Officer Buckle and Gloria" to Tayler Adams' fifth-grade class. After she finished, Bartlett answered student's questions on everything from military food to what adventures she had been on.

"I went to Guam with the Wing," said Bartlett. "That was fun, but it was a lot of hard work."

Tech. Sgt. Archie Mason, a recruiter with the 177th Fighter Wing, lightened the mood with a short question-and-answer session before he began reading and asking students if they liked books as much as their siblings.

"To come out and talk to the children is really great," said Mason. "I have older children, so I really don't get a chance to sit down and have these interactions, so it's nostalgic for me, but, more importantly, the children, the looks on their faces, the surprise; it's amazing to be a part of that type of transaction."

Tech. Sgt. Janeen MacGray, from New Jersey Joint Force Headquarters, was overwhelmed with all of the smiles she faced as she read to the second graders.

"It meant a lot to see how much they enjoyed listening," said MacGray. "It's a very rewarding feeling."

"You know they're getting something out of it, and at the same



Airman 1st Class Hannah Bartlett, 108th Wing, reads Peggy Rathmann's "Officer Buckle and Gloria" to a group of fifth graders at the Brighton Avenue School, Atlantic City, N.J., during the Read Across America event, Feb. 24, 2015.

time we're getting something out of it," said Mason. "It was a great experience."

In New Jersey, Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard volunteer to participate in these events. The Department of Defense encourages all members of the armed services to participate in the Read Across America program.

Each Airman received a card from their classroom signed by the students thanking them for their time and for promoting literacy.



Senior Airman Tyshawn G. Jenkins, 108th Maintenance Squadron, 108th Wing, reads "The Nose Book" by Al Perkins to a group of preschoolers at the Hawthorne Park Elementary School, Willingboro N.J., during the Read Across America event, Feb. 27, 2015.

# Coppinger assumes command of Ops Group

Story and photos by Master. Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs

In a double ceremony, Mount Laurel resident Lt. Col. Thomas P. Coppinger assumed command of the 108th Operations Group and was promoted to colonel Feb. 8.

The ceremony, which was held at the Group's headquarters at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., included family, officers and enlisted members from the various squadrons Coppinger commands, as well as members of the New Jersey Joint Force Headquarters - Air command and staff.

"The truth is that none of us here achieve what we achieve on our own," said Coppinger. "Even if you are working completely alone, in a locked office, you bring with you the experience you gained from parents, teachers, coaches, coworkers, peers, previous supervisors and the people you work for."

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey and the former commander of the 108th Wing, presented Coppinger the Operations Group guidon. Cunniff then proceeded with the promotion ceremony, assisting Coppinger's wife, Alane, and their children, Melissa and Aidan, in properly attaching the colonel's eagles on to his epaulettes.

As Operations Group commander, Coppinger is in charge of the 141st Air Refueling Squadron, the 150th Special Operations Squadron, the 204th Intelligence Squadron and the 108th Opera-



**Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, passes Lt. Col. Thomas P. Coppinger the Operations Group guidon during an Assumption of Command ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Feb. 8 2015.**

tions Support Squadron.

"Every day when we come into work, we have to realize that people are looking to us, looking at how we handle things and they are learning," said Coppinger.

Coppinger received a bachelor of engineering in electrical engineering from Manhattan College, N.Y. Upon being commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, Coppinger attended pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, and thus began his active duty Air Force career.

In 2000, Coppinger left the active duty Air Force and joined the New Jersey Air National Guard where he initially served as an instructor pilot with the 141st ARS at the Joint Base.

"Even if you have not read the ANGI (Air National Guard Instruction) on mentoring," said Coppinger. "You are doing it every time you interact with people. By the decisions you take, you are influencing the people around you."

During his time with the 108th Wing, Coppinger has been the wing's plans officer, chief of training, chief of standardization and evaluation, squadron operations officer, squadron commander and deputy group commander. In addition, he has also deployed numerous times in support of Operation's Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

All this experience is wrapped up in Coppinger's approach to command.

"Every day is a new opportunity to make a positive difference in someone's life, so don't let it go to waste, do the right thing for the right reason...(and) they'll say, hey, that guy was a good role model. That's what I hope to be for you guys."



**Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, assists Lt. Col. Thomas P. Coppinger's wife Alane, right, and their children, Aidan, second from left, and Melissa, in properly attaching the colonel's eagles on their father's epaulettes during an Assumption of Command and promotion ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Feb. 8 2015.**

# A new AF medal and you

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg, 108th Wing Public Affairs

“So what are all those ribbons for?” “Did you ever shoot anyone?” These are standard fare interrogation questions middle schoolers may ask when they see you in uniform. Those two same questions may often be merged to suggest that you are awarded a ribbon every time you shoot someone.

Though some among us may aspire to be the next American Sniper and rack up silver stars and bronze stars for our combat actions, most of us will not. The majority of us will just do our jobs here at the 108th Wing, accomplish the mission and accept whatever accolades come our way.

As some of you may have noticed in your Virtual Military Personnel file, you have a new ribbon. The Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal has been awarded to most of the 108th Wing.

“But I didn’t do anything nuclear related,” you may say. “I’m not personally stopping our enemies from building a nuke and I don’t work in a silo with my finger on a button.” No, and it’s probably best that some of you keep your button pushing skills limited to World of Warcraft. But you are a valuable member of the 108th Wing and as such you belong to an organization that provides tanker



support to the Strategic Command mission.

Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James, approved the award in May of last year and said, “there is no mission more important to our nation’s security than the nuclear mission.”

That’s it—we support the mission in our own way and we are being recognized for it. So when your family, friends or total strangers ask what you did to be awarded the NDOSM, you can proudly say that you are a part of an organization that provides tanker support to the Strategic Command mission and contribute to making the world a safer place.

Before all you newly minted nuclear operators dive bomb the Force Support Squadron desk, just know that they don’t have any NDOSM ribbons or medals to disburse. You can purchase them at the base clothing sales on Texas Avenue, but know that they have a very hard time keeping them in stock right now.

Also, if you have visited virtual MPF and it is not already loaded there and you believe you are entitled to it, please go to your squadron awards monitor. Do not go to the MPF about this award; you will be asked to go back to your awards monitor.



Photo above: Senior Master Sgt. Janeen Fillari, a paralegal with the 108th Wing, was promoted to chief master sergeant Feb. 8, 2015 at the Wing’s headquarters in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Fillari’s husband, Dean, son, John Crowe, and parents, John and Joan Sambona, were present at the ceremony. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released) Photo left: Senior Master Sgt. Maria Hamlin is promoted to chief master sergeant by 108th Wing Commander, Col. Robert Meyer, during a ceremony held in a packed 108th Wing headquarters conference room. Hamlin is accompanied by her husband, Herb, and three children, Aaron, Aiden and Alexis. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Carl Clegg/Released)



# Re-enlistments



The 108th Wing held a re-enlistment ceremony Feb. 7, 2015 at the Wing headquarters in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. From left to right, Senior Airman Mike DeMarco, 108th Security Forces Squadron, Staff Sgts. Orlando Velez, 108th Medical Group, 108th Logistic Readiness Squadron, Master Sgt. Tom Revak, 108th LRS, and Col. Robert A. Meyer, Jr., 108th Wing commander, who administered the oath of enlistment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

# DOWN the Hall

A Christian-Based Devotional • Everyone Welcome  
Saturdays of Drill 12:35-12:50 p.m. XP Room, 108th Operations Building

Don't Forget to  
Move Up Your  
Clocks One  
Hour Sunday  
at 2 a.m.

*Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Petersen, center, superintendent, 108th Global Mobility Squadron, 108th Wing, is promoted to chief master sergeant by his brother, retired Brig. Gen. Robert Petersen, right, and retired Col. Brian Bradner Feb. 26, 2015 at the Wing's headquarters at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)*



*Staff Sgt. Dante Rosini, 108th Civil Engineer Squadron, checks his mobility bag at the 108th Wing, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Feb. 7 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)*





## Master Sgt. Andre L. Williamson



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak/Released

**Time in Service:** 28 years  
**Job with 108th:** Chaplain Assistant, Superintendent  
**Civilian Job:** Retired Airline Employee  
**Favorite Food:** Caribbean  
**Favorite TV Show:** King of Queens – Kevin James  
**Favorite Music Genre:** Gospel  
**Favorite Sport:** Basketball  
**What do I do in my Spare-Time:** Read, watch old movies, work with inner-city youth  
**Person I Most Look Up To:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**My Hero is:** Billy Graham  
**Dream Vacation:** Bali  
**Dream Car:** BMW  
**My Goals for the Future:** Produce leaders for the future.  
**What I like about the 108th:** Freedom to use my skills outside of my career field.  
**If I Was Commander for a Day:** I would implement more mentor programs and get local communities involved with family events hosted by the 108th.

## Hey, did you know?

By Staff Sgt. Jacquelyn E. Vasvari-Toke, 108th Wing Public Affairs

According to AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, only white or light grey long sleeve shirts can be worn under your physical training t-shirt. Socks for PT uniform must be black or white, and there is no restriction on the color of your sneakers with the PT uniform. Furthermore, members can wear black or navy spandex under PT uniform shorts.

In regards to the Airman Battle Uniform, the sage green watch cap can only be worn with ABU authorized outer garments or the PT uniform. The watch cap must be folded all the way around the cap, so that the folded edge is no more than three inches wide. The sage green fleece will be zipped no lower than the top of the name tape. And the sage green fleece can only be worn outdoors with the ABU; must be removed when indoors.

Cold weather accessories such as gloves, scarves or earmuffs can only be worn when wearing authorized outer garments. Hand-

held electronic devices, if worn on the belt/waistband, or clipped to a purse will be plain black, silver, dark blue, or gray. Devices that are not worn on the belt/waistband/or clipped to a purse can be any color.

And now you know. As GI Joe would say, “knowing is winning half the battle.”



# facebook

If an overnight weather event is going to cause the 108th Wing leadership to order a work cancellation or delay, you will be notified through Command Post and the 108th Wing's Facebook page. Please note that a closure or delay posted to the JB MDL Facebook page is for their personnel only.



## *In honor of Women's History month, who is a woman that inspires you and why?*

*Photos by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun, 108th Wing Public Affairs*



*"My grandmother. She raised me and worked hard for her family."*

Senior Airman  
Kenneth H. Roman  
108th MDG



*"My 7-year-old daughter, Olivia, inspires me. She strives to do her best and competes with me for good grades."*

Airman 1st Class  
Ray Guadalupe  
108th MXS, Avionics



*"My fiancé, Donta Kelley. She works hard and is dedicated to any job."*

Airman Devon Gordon  
108th LRS, Supply



*"My mother because she puts up with me."*

Airman 1st Class  
Nicholas Lower  
108th MXS  
Aerospace Propulsion



*"My grandmother. She showed that anything is possible. She showed real sacrifice by raising nine kids plus grandchildren."*

Staff Sgt. Paula Daniels  
108th FSS



*"My grandmother. She is very intelligent and taught me the importance of saving money and working hard."*

Senior Airman Corey Greene  
108th CF, Client Systems



*"My mom because she raised three kids on her own while working full time."*

Airman 1st Class Kristine  
Rodriguez, 108th SFS



*"My mom. She's been through a lot and stayed positive. She made me a better person."*

Airman 1st Class Malik Cisson  
108th Student Flight

# Training like a BOSS!

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

As you walk up the short stairs and look inside the rectangular box, you can imagine being in the air and getting ready for a refueling mission. All that is missing is the humming of the KC-135 Stratotanker's engine, and to some degree, the cold breeze you get from being in the boom pod in back of the air plane.

"This is as realistic as it can get," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Sylvester, 141st Air Refueling Squadron boom operator. "The projection screens are state-of-the-art projectors, the visuals are excellent, and the boom pod itself is an exact recreation of the aircraft."

The 108th Wing will be using a high fidelity trainer - Boom Operator Simulation System - to provide real training in a virtual environment for their boom operators.

The simulator utilizes new technology and allows boom operators to maintain training requirements more easily. The look, feel, and operation of the simulator are modeled almost exactly after the KC-135, said Sylvester, "Since the boom operator controls the connection between the receiving and fueling aircraft during the refueling process, it is very important that the simulation is accurate and realistic as possible."

Sylvester will be one of the first boom operators to be trained and certified on the equipment. He will then be an instructor for



the other boom operators in the Wing.

With all the training that a boom operator requires to maintain their proficiency – approximately five months of air refueling technical school and survivor skill training – it is critical that these Airmen log-in as many flying and training hours as possible. Since some of these Airmen are traditional Guardsmen, one weekend a month, two weeks annual training, it is difficult to schedule training. In addition, if weather doesn't cooperate when a refueling mission is scheduled, the Airmen would lose that opportunity to practice the in-flight transfer of fuel from the tanker aircraft to the receiver aircraft.

"It doesn't matter if we have a real-weather cancellation," said Sylvester. "If that happens, the boom operator can come here with an instructor and recreate the exact mission that they were going to fly and do all the training they would have done in the air."

But the most important aspect of this simulator is the safety it can provide to the boom operators.

"We can experience in a safe environment malfunctions that we might see in an aircraft and react accordingly," said Sylvester.

In other words, they can train for mission hiccups, like a BOSS!



**IF IT'S INTERESTING, WE'RE INTERESTED. CALL PA AT 754-4173**



Throughout history, extraordinary women have fought tirelessly to broaden our democracy's reach and help perfect our Union. Through protest and activism, generations of women have appealed to the values at the heart of our Nation and fought to give meaning to the idea that we are all created equal. As today's women and girls reach for new heights, they stand on the shoulders of all those who have come before and carry forward their legacy of proud achievement. This month, we celebrate countless pioneering women and the victories they won, and we continue our work to build a society where our daughters have the same possibilities as our sons.

Courageous women have called not only for the absence of oppression, but for the presence of opportunity. They have demonstrated for justice, but also for jobs -- ones that promise equal pay for equal work. And they have marched for the right to vote not just so their voices would be heard, but so they could have a seat at the head of the table. With grit and resolve, they have fought to overcome discrimination and shatter glass ceilings, and after decades of slow, steady, and determined progress, they have widened the circle of opportunity for women and girls across our country.

Today, more women are their family's main breadwinner than ever before. Women are nearly half of our Nation's workers, and they are increasingly among the most skilled. At the same time, more than 60 percent of women with children under the age of 5 participate in the labor force. This increasing participation of women in our workforce has bolstered our economy and strengthened our families, and it has demonstrated that the policies that benefit women and working families benefit all of us.

But not all of the rules that govern our workplaces have caught up with this reality, and today, too many of the opportunities that our mothers and grandmothers fought for are going unrealized. That is why I am committed to tearing down the barriers to full and equal participation in our economy and society that still exist for too many women. All women deserve equal pay for equal work and a living wage; the Con-

gress needs to raise the minimum wage and pass a law that ensures a woman is paid the same as a man for doing the same work. I continue to call for increased workplace flexibility and access to paid leave -- including paid sick leave -- so that hardworking Americans do not have to choose between being productive employees and responsible family members. And I have proposed a plan that would make quality child care available to every middle-class and low-income family in America with young children. These are not only women's issues -- they are family issues and national economic priorities.

We know that when women succeed, America succeeds. The strength of our economy rests on whether we make it possible for every citizen to contribute to our growth and prosperity. As we honor the many patriots who have shaped not only the destinies of other women, but also the direction of our history, let us resolve to build on their efforts in our own time. As a Nation, we must join our voices with the chorus of history and push forward with unyielding faith to forge a more equal society for all our daughters and granddaughters -- one where a woman's potential is limited only by the size of her dreams and the power of her imagination.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2015 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2015, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. I also invite all Americans to visit [www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov](http://www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov) to learn more about the generations of women who have left enduring imprints on our history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA