

WING

JUNE 2015 *Tips*



Life is full of opportunities, chances

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.

While speaking at a high school several years ago, I was asked why I chose the military as a career. I shared a brief story of a young man, who had just graduated high school, was an average student and did not plan on attending college. A story about someone who was trying to decide what to do with his life, and who had 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 but his family lacked the resources to pay for his education.

After exploring different options he decided to speak to an Air Force recruiter and 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. His answer was no and he would wait. As he was leaving, the recruiter stopped him and told him "if you really want finance you have to leave tomorrow morning." 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 and went off to basic training and technical school.

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 of me: work hard, always complete your professional military education, continue your education, and be ahead of your peers.

He asked me what were my expectations. I told him I joined the service to start a career and contribute to the GI Bill to attend college after my enlistment. That day, he took me straight to the education office 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. 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 were my plans 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, and on April 1, 1984 I separated from active duty and joined the 108th TFW the next day. It is all about 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 career 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. 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 the men and women of the 108th Wing: Seize the opportunities, take chances to mold your future, and you will be amazed by the outcome.



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

A 108th Wing Maintenance Airman salutes a departing KC-135 Stratotanker from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 2. The aircraft held approximately 50 Airmen from the Wing who were on their way to the CENTCOM area of responsibility in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



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First Deployment

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen



There's a first time for everything.

In a person's life there will be the first time you ride a bicycle or the first time you drive a car without your parent riding shotgun, and of course, your first kiss.

The military is no different: Except the most significant first is your first deployment.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Senior Airman David G. Abreu. "I'm a little anxious, excited, nervous; it's a mix of emotions."

When news of his unit's deployment first came out, everyone in the shop wanted to go. Abreu had just finished his associates' degree in criminal justice and was planning on getting his bachelors in criminal justice at Kean University.

For the 108th Wing hydraulic mechanic, deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of operations in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel, gives him the opportunity to put his skills to the test in a combat environment.

"I was told 'just be ready to do the job and do it right,'" said Abreu.

For his role in the operation, Abreu will be responsible for everything on the KC-135R Stratotanker that deals with hydraulic and pneumatic systems, especially the boom. The KC-135R, which can carry up to 200,000 pounds of fuel, uses the boom to transfer fuel to American and coalition aircrafts. The mid-air refueling gives fighters and bombers longer reach on combat missions.

"The boom is exclusively the hydraulic shop's responsibility," said Abreu. "It's what makes this aircraft special."

Operation Freedom's Sentinel is the new United States military mission in support of operations in Afghanistan and is the United

States' part of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission. This particular deployment will also include support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the all-encompassing war on terrorism operation in the CENTCOM AOR.

Abreu will not be alone for his first deployment. More than 140 Airmen will be deploying in and out of the AOR in support of Freedom's Sentinel during the summer.

And because this is a new operation, this will be their first time in support of this new mission.



Col. Robert A. Meyer, Jr., right, 108th Wing commander, has a discussion with Senior Airman David Abreu at the passenger terminal in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 2, 2015.

NJ Airmen Deploy to CENTCOM in Support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Freedom's Sentinel

Story by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez
Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen



A 108th Wing Airman marshals a departing KC-135 Stratotanker at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 2, 2015. Approximately 50 Airmen from the 108th Wing deployed overseas to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel.

Approximately 50 Airmen from the 108th Wing departed aboard several of their KC-135 Stratotankers June 2 here.

In total, more than 140 Airmen mostly from Burlington, Mercer, Ocean, and Union counties, as well Bucks county Pennsylvania and Brooklyn, N.Y., will rotate in and out of the U.S. Central Command area of operations over the next couple of months, ensuring mission readiness and a successful completion of their tour in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel.

The deployment, which is the largest aircraft tasking for the Wing since 9/11, will consist of aircrews, maintenance and logistics support personnel who will provide support with mid-air refueling missions, aircraft maintenance, and logistics operations.

"This is what it's all about," said Col. Robert A. Meyer, Jr., 108th Wing commander. "All of your hard work, training, long hours in your shops, and weekends away from your family is what has prepared you for this mission."

For Senior Airman David Abreu, who has a goal of becoming a fireman in his hometown, the opportunity to deploy will help his goal.

"There are a couple of emotions going through me," said Abreu, a Union county resident. "I'm excited, scared, but I'm also ready to fulfill my obligation and earn my veteran's status, which will help me with my goal of becoming a fireman."

For Staff Sgt. Michael Escott this deployment is another mission to add to his already distinguished military career. The Ocean county resident deployed to Dubai and Kuwait as a Sailor with the Navy. After more than eight years in the Navy Reserves, his unit was moved to another area too far to commute, allowing Escott to bring his skills to the 108th Wing over a year ago. His experience as a policeman in Northern New Jersey and in the Navy ensures that

his fellow Airmen are in good company.

"I'm not sure what I'll be tasked with over there," said Escott, a materiel management specialist with the 108th Logistic Readiness Squadron. "But all I want to do is complete the mission and return home safely to my wife and children."

"These Airmen never cease to amaze me," said Meyer. "When the call to duty is made, it doesn't matter how tough is the mission, these Airmen will answer the call. They know they will leave jobs and families behind. But they live by the Air Force core values of *Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do*, and these values will drive these Airmen to complete their mission and make our state proud."



Airmen from the 108th Wing board a KC-135 Stratotanker at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 2, 2015. Approximately 50 Airmen from the 108th Wing deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel.

Pride Month Celebrates Service of LGBT Personnel

Story by Claudette Roulo, American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department and the nation depend every day on the service of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender personnel, Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said June 5.

"They are an integral part of our armed forces and our Department of Defense and our nation."

Speaking at the DOD Pride Month ceremony at the Pentagon, Work recalled that for far too long, gay, lesbian and bisexual service members, LGBT DOD civilians, and their partners and families were unable to serve.

"They were forced by law to compromise their values. To choose between serving the country they love and ... being true to themselves," he said. "Today we celebrate that that chapter in our history is now over and increasingly forgotten."

The ceremony, and all of DOD Pride Month, is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the importance of diversity within the department, "and the values that make our department strong," Work said.

He noted that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said at the signing ceremony for the Human Goals Charter in April that "What matters is an individual's patriotism, their willingness to serve their country and their qualifications to do so. And that's all that ever should."

"I firmly believe that our all-volunteer force is now stronger because of the diversity and culture of inclusion we celebrate this very day and this entire month," Work said. "The United States military is, without a doubt, the finest in the world today."

While many attribute that strength to technology, he said, in reality the U.S. military's power is provided by its uniformed members and civilians.

"They are the heart and soul of this force," Work said.

And that force is at its best when it reflects the diversity of the nation, he added.

America has made a lot of progress since his 27 years in the Ma-

rine Corps, Work said.

"Back then ... if it was discovered that you were gay or lesbian, you would have been ostracized. You would have been made to feel incapable. You would have been made to feel unworthy of serving our nation."

"I think almost everybody in this room probably knows many phenomenal service members that were separated from the military -- either because they were found out, or because they themselves became tired of living a lie," the deputy secretary told the audience.

"We as a department (and) as a nation have worked to fix this -- to re-instill trust, faith, dignity and respect in our system."

Still he said the department must pay particular attention to removing any existing barriers for families and partners of LGBT personnel.

"We must therefore continue to work every day -- every day -- to ensure that DOD is a model of equal opportunity and fair treatment."

"Because, if there is any single thing that we have learned since the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," it is that all the predictions by some that our force would be weakened could not have been further from the truth," he added.

Instead, Work said, the military has gained strength and skill from its rich diversity.

"Upholding the individual liberties and worth of every American is the bedrock principle upon which our nation was founded, and generations of American troops -- including many gays and lesbians -- have fought and died to preserve that principle," the deputy secretary said.

"I am extremely proud to be a member of a Department of Defense that is committed to upholding these ideals."





Summer Safety Begins with Risk Management

By Air Force Safety Center Public Affairs

Increased travel and leisure activities that go hand-in-hand with the summer months require increased emphasis on risk management, said Air Force Chief of Ground Safety, Bill Parsons.

While Airmen and their families make the most of recreational opportunities during the summer, the

safely at summer's end and ready to accomplish the mission. Summer safety is the extension of our *Quest for Zero* mishaps."

Whether traveling, participating in water activities, sporting events or cookouts, Airmen should identify, assess and mitigate all risks to include: trip

"Unfortunately, that same period ended last year with 17 fatalities"

Air Force Chief of Ground Safety, Bill Parsons

period between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends is the most important time to incorporate risk management in off-duty leisure activities. This is accomplished by using the same safety processes as those used on duty, Parsons said.

"Unfortunately, that same period ended last year with 17 fatalities," Parsons said. "We need every Airman to commit to making that number zero this year, and we do that by using the same risk management skills we apply on the job to ensure everyone returns

planning that ensures enough rest and preparation for contingencies; no alcohol while driving or participating in recreational activities; and use of appropriate protective gear in all activities.

"Most mishaps are preventable," Parsons said, "and mishap prevention requires doing the right thing. Sometimes the right thing is as simple as stepping up and stepping in when we see something that doesn't look right. That alone can avert a potential disaster."



Re-enlistments



Col. Andrew Keane, left, 108th Wing Vice Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Daryl Fortner, right, 108th Wing Command Chief, flank newly re-enlisted Chief Master Sgt. Bob Hansen, 108th Wing Maintenance, Tech. Sgt. Luis Mendoza, 108th Security Forces Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Ivan Martinez, a 108th Wing crew chief. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



I, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I
WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN
AND DOMESTIC; THAT I WILL BEAR
TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE
TO THE SAME; AND THAT I
WILL OBEY THE ORDERS OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AND THE ORDERS OF THE OFFICERS
APPOINTED OVER ME, ACCORDING
TO REGULATIONS AND THE UNIFORM
CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

SO HELP
ME GOD.



LEFT: Col. Vito Dimicco Jr., left, presents Lt. Col. Paul Novello with a certificate of retirement at Novello's retirement ceremony May 16, 2015 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Novello was the commander of the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released). **ABOVE:** Master Sgt. Olivia McMahon holds up coins presented to her by Col. Robert Meyer, 108th Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Daryl Fortner, 108th Wing Command Chief on May 17, 2015. McMahon was lauded for her outstanding performance as a Security Forces Squad Leader. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)

Civil Engineers Looking for a First Shirt

The 108th Civil Engineering Squadron has a vacancy for a first sergeant.

Any eligible enlisted member desiring consideration should prepare a detailed resume of military and civilian experience, letter of recommendation from member's unit commander, a letter of intent, a copy of current fitness test results, and a Records Review RIP.

Applications will be submitted to the 108th Wing Headquarters, Master Sgt. Rose Quinquino, no later than close of business June 15. A board will be conducted during the July unit training assembly, and if qualified, you will be notified of the date and time in advance. A position description of the job can be found in Air Force Instructions 36-2113, *The First Sergeant*.

SPECIALTY QUALIFICATIONS: The person selected must meet the requirements of AFI 36-2113, *The First Sergeant*, AFI 36-2618, *The Enlisted Force Structure*, and must fully comply with AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*. Strong written and verbal communication skills are necessary, as well as the ability to work long and irregular hours.

PRE-BOARD REQUIREMENTS: Must be a promotable technical sergeant or master sergeant. Must have scored 80 or above on last two fitness tests, or 90 or above on most current fitness test; no failure or exemptions within the past 12 months. Must enroll and complete the U.S. Air Force Senior NCO Academy Course upon selection for first sergeant duty and must complete the course within



12 months after attending the First Sergeant Academy. Must possess a Community College of the Air Force degree or must complete this degree within 18 months of completing the FSA. Must have a minimum ASVAB score of 41 Administrative and 62 General, minimum physical profile of PULHES 322221, and possess a current 7-skill level. In addition, you must be financially stable and meet minimum U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard standards and overall image must exceed minimum standards.

Questions may be directed to the 108th Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant at 609-754-8510.



Staff Sgt. Janette Sheppard

Time in Service: More than 11 years

Job with 108th: Mobility section with 108th LRS

Favorite Food: Thai food

Favorite movie: Never Ending Story

Favorite Book: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Favorite Music Genre: Hard Rock

Favorite Sport: Volleyball

What do I do in my spare-time: Homework. I'm working on my MSW while I work full-time.

My Hero is: My mother. She has been my mentor, biggest supporter and best friend.

Dream Vacation: Egypt

Dream Car: Red Shelby GT350 Mustang

My Goals for the Future: To become a licensed clinical social worker and alcohol and drug counselor by December of this year.

What I like about the 108th: Everyone here is like family.

If I Was Commander for a Day: Make Otto do a pig roast every drill Sunday.



Tech. Sgt. Keith Pugh, a unit career advisor from the 108th Wing, watches a video about tribal leadership during the Unit Career Advisement training class May 16, 2015 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The class focused on training the unit's career advisors about their responsibilities and what they can do to help their Airmen. They are picked by the commander and must be in good standing with the unit and have good communication skills. Airmen can go to their UCA with any questions about their career progression. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released)





Have you or someone you know had a strange injury that could have been prevented if safety was a factor?

Photos by Airman 1st Class Maria Rella



"I rolled up on an accident scene and the person went through the windshield and his head was decapitated because apparently they didn't wear a seatbelt."
Master Sgt. Thia Ramadhin,
108th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"I was just running around playing in my backyard. I think I had like a basket on my head. I was pretending I was in a shuttle or something and I kind of ran into my camper; got my first black eye."
Airman 1st Class
Robert Applegate, 108th
Logistics Readiness Squadron



"When I was younger, I ran into the corner of a wall at Shop-rite because I wasn't paying attention. My mom was calling me and I ran...yeah, so, that's how I ended up with this scar on my head."
Airman 1st Class
Daniel Young, 108th
Logistics Readiness Squadron



"One time, our ball was stuck in this corn maze. So we got a lacrosse stick and I went to go whack it down, and I missed and I ended up hitting my friend in the head."
Airman Christopher Wood,
108th Communication Squadron



"My dad. He went down a sled and, to stop, he put his foot down and he broke his ankle into three pieces. He put his foot down and it hit the hay at the end of the hill."
Airman 1st Class
Joshua Espinoza, 108th
Maintenance Squadron



"Last pregnancy, I actually broke my pinky toe and the one next to it because I was running in my house towards the bathroom."
Tech. Sgt. Myriam Cuadra,
108th Maintenance Squadron

Communications quality assurance managers finish work

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, I.G. Brown Training and Education Center

MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. -- Communications experts called their first gathering for quality assurance training at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center here successful after meeting for a full week earlier this month.

At least 62 Air Force communications experts met for the Air National Guard Communications Quality Assurance Managers' Workshop, May 4-8, in Wingman Hall.

"The class was successful in the fact it brought us all together for the first time," said Master Sgt. Crystal M. ChinQuee-Smith, with the New Jersey National Guard.

ChinQuee-Smith, a communications expert for the 108th Wing, also serves as the vice chair for the ANG's communications quality assurance managers working group. The group covers six national regions.

"The amount of knowledge shared was invaluable," said Chin-

Quee-Smith.

ChinQuee-Smith said that the workshop helped standardize and identify many of their duties and additional duties assigned across the ANG's wings and units. Some of those duties were not taught during their formal, Air Force communications schools.

The working group also discussed and developed approaches to improve.

"We have 23 take-a-ways to work on and will be splitting those up between all regions," said ChinQuee-Smith. "Getting the chance to sit down and actually talk and present information was vital."

ChinQuee-Smith said that they chose the TEC for their training because of its central location and its amenities.

"We hope to return next year," said ChinQuee-Smith

Communications experts gather for quality assurance training and discussion at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center here during the Air National Guard Communications Quality Assurance Managers' Workshop, May 4-8, in Wingman Hall. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Givens/Released)



FINANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

TRAVEL PAY TIP:

When traveling on temporary duty status, always pay for your own expenses, ensuring your name is on all applicable receipts. When in doubt, check the Joint Travel Regulations Appendix G for expenses that can be claimed. JTR link:

<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/>

*** Avoid the Kick Back***

Top reasons travel vouchers are kicked back in DTS: Itinerary does not match AROWS orders; Receipts and AROWS orders missing from voucher.

MILPAY TIP:

AROWS E-certification starts your pay for most orders (except BMT). When E-certifying be sure to select "Did Not Occupy Gov't Quarters" if you paid for lodging.

FM Customer Service Contact Information
3327 Charles Blvd
Joint Base MDL, NJ 08641

Customer Service Line: 609-754-4178
Customer Service Fax: 609-754-2110
Customer Service e-mail: 108-wg-fm-customer-service@mail.mil



Inspector General here to help

By Maj. Drew Eisenhofer, 108th Wing Inspector General

It is my honor to be appointed as the 108th Wing's Inspector General (IG). Our office's job is to ensure unit readiness and address complaint resolution. Those two tasks are vitally important to the Wing, and in the course of performing them, my team and I look forward to interacting with each and every Airmen throughout the year.

Our office is comprised of two sections. The first is IG. They plan, direct, evaluate, and analyze exercises and inspections in accordance with the Air Force Inspection System (AFIS). This section utilizes members throughout the Wing as subject matter experts to assist in grading events. These Airmen are also known as the Wing Inspection Team, or WIT. The second section is IGQ, or complaints resolution. These individuals execute the complaint resolution process and by proactively train all mem-

bers of the 108th about IG processes and fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) issues.

In the upcoming months, we will publish articles on various IG subjects, to include, but are not limited to, the AFIS, the Commander's Inspection Program (CCIP), the IG Evaluation Management System (IGEMS), Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT), Self-Assessment Communicator (SAC) policy/guidance, and the complaints resolution process.

In the meantime, our team will be traveling about the 108th Wing to spread the word about our organization and what we can do for you. That being said, I would like to introduce you to our team, located in rooms 108 and 110 of building 3327 (Wing HQ). It is our honor to serve you.

“It is our honor to serve you.”



Inspector General:
Maj. Drew Eisenhofer



Director of Complaints
Resolution: Lt. Col.
Sean Lardner



Superintendent: Senior
Master Sgt. Michael
Edmiston



WIT OIC: Lt. Col.
Stephen Henske



Inspections
Superintendent: Chief
Master Sgt. Harry
Johnson



MICT Manager: Tech.
Sgt. Steven Sultzbach



Inspection/IGEMS
Monitor: 2nd Lt.
Jacquelyn Vasvari-Toke