

WING

Tips

AUGUST 2015



358 Days to Normal



Bring Family Values to Work

By Lt. Col. Matthew M. Paroda, Commander 150th Special Operations Squadron

What is your definition of family? The answer seems easy but not as easy as you think.

The typical response is, “two parents and one or more children.” Traditionally this answer holds true but, in today’s society, this description does not define nor completely encompass all that is a family.

Merriam-Webster lists seven definitions of family with the first two being: a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head, or a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation.

In this article, I will tell you why these definitions define us in the military and how using the family aspect can bring a unit closer, more in sync, and more effective. Additionally, I will ask for your view of a unit and challenge you to refocus on your fellow Airmen by using family values to cultivate a positive work environment.

So, how do these definitions define us? As New Jersey National Guardsmen, Active Duty Guard, technicians, or traditional Guardsmen, we come together under one roof and under unified leadership to accomplish one goal: To protect our state and nation. Our AGRs and technicians work with each other almost every day. When deployed, AGR, technicians, and traditional Guardsmen spend more time together than with their traditional families. We create friendships and trust which brings us to our next description of family.

The second definition is the essence of what the military is and who we are as Airmen. Although each Airman has different beliefs, backgrounds, and ethnicities, we all have similarities that bring us together. That connection is the military and the belief that we will sacrifice ourselves for the betterment of those around us and the freedom that makes our nation great.

We share a bond that most people do not understand and one that most will never have the privileged to experience.

So what is my point? As Guardsmen, we need to embrace our fellow Airmen and treat each other like family. My belief in this ideal began when I played football at the United States Air Force Academy. From the day my fellow teammates were first introduced during basic training, the seeds were planted. With each hardship we experienced, that belief grew and strengthened. We became brothers who would help, work, push, praise, and maintain accountability for each other. We formed a bond and we would do anything for each other. Through trials and tribulations, we strengthened our bond through common goals and accomplished each milestone we set. This ideal was acknowledged during my tenure and has grown through the years. Currently the Air Force football team has created a “way of life” and uses the “brotherhood” model as persistent motivation and now as a recruiting tool.

This “way of life” has been at the center of my Air Force career. At each of my assignments, the family mentality has always made my job easier and more enjoyable. The underlying theme was and continues to be, when you create an environment based on family core values, those values emanate trust. Through trust comes integrity, and integrity breeds success.

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

On the cover: Senior Airman Ashley V. Chytraus, a crew chief with the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, holds her personal protective equipment in front of a KC-135R Stratotanker at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., June 16, 2015. Chytraus was in a motorcycle accident June 21, 2014. The collision broke two vertebrae in Chytraus's neck, crushed her hand, mangled the quadriceps tendon in her leg, forced two splintered ribs into her liver and fractured her elbow. In addition, she died while being medevaced to the hospital. 358 days later, she passed all portions of the Air Force Physical Fitness Test and received an excellent. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released, design by Master Sgt. Carl Clegg)



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Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun - Photojournalist
Airman 1st Class Maria Rella, Broadcast Journalist



358 Days to Normal

Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,
Photos by Mater Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing



With chest heaving, arms pumping and pink running shoes a blur on the pavement, Senior Airman Ashley Chytraus crossed the finish line at her annual Physical Fitness Test on June 14.

Although the 25-year-old crew chief with the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing scored an "excellent," she admitted being disappointed that her run time and pushups were a bit off her usual standards.

But she was willing to forgive herself.

Only 358 days earlier, Chytraus was on a medevac helicopter being carried away from the scene of a horrific motorcycle crash. She died and was revived on the helicopter and then spent the next month in a medically-induced coma.

She'd been on her way to drill on her pink and blue Honda CBR-1000 when the driver of a silver Cadillac made an illegal turn and crossed into her path. The collision broke two vertebrae in Chytraus's neck, crushed her hand, mangled the quadriceps tendon in her leg and forced two splintered ribs into her liver. It was the worst liver laceration the hospital had ever seen, she was later told.

"All I remember is turning the corner down the street and waking up a month later," Chytraus said. "I'd been sleeping for so long that the wounds and the surgeries just turned to scars."

"...sometimes the guy upstairs says I'm going to give you this challenge and see how well you do."

Chytraus had come to love the controlled chaos of the flight line, turning wrenches, dragging fuel hoses and making last-minute checks on aircraft before sending them into the sky.

From her hospital bed, with a tracheotomy tube in her throat, the flight line seemed very

far away.

But Chytraus made it clear to her doctors that if there was a way back, she was going to find it.

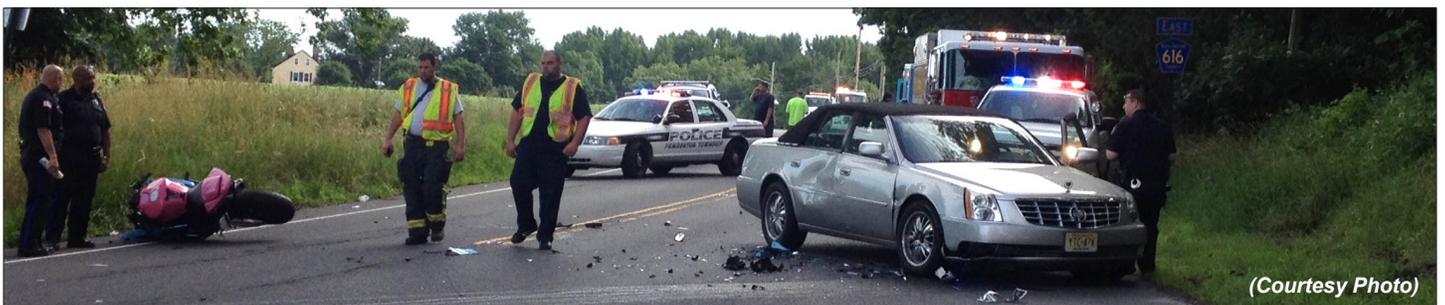
"Something that people realize when they get to know me is my attitude and my drive. I want to go forward in my life," she said. "There are challenges you come to in life and sometimes the guy upstairs says I'm going to give you this challenge and see how well you do."

Although Chytraus said she was comforted when she woke up because she was surrounded by her parents, siblings and the man she eventually married, she couldn't shake the thought that her Air Force career was over.

She'd enlisted at 19 while attending Burlington Community College, which is along the flight path of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The young woman who was uncertain about her future found the answer by simply looking up.

"Planes were flying overhead and I was like 'What am I doing?'," she said. "I knew that's what I wanted."

She became a crew chief and mechanic with the 108th Wing, which flies the KC-135R Stratotanker. It was a natural fit. A self-proclaimed "gear monkey," Chytraus grew up around her father's automotive repair shop, fixing cars, trucks and motorcycles.



(Courtesy Photo)

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358 Days to Normal

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Chytraus began her journey back to the flight line by relearning to walk. The combination of the damaged tendon in her leg and the loss of 30 pounds of muscle required a gradual progression from a walker, to crutches, and finally, a cane before Chytraus could walk on her own.

Immediately after the crash, the doctors were most concerned about the two broken vertebrae in Chytraus's neck.

"Most people who break those end up paralyzed or die from asphyxiation," Chytraus said. "For some reason, I wasn't paralyzed and the bones healed on their own. It's something I can't explain."

But as her rehabilitation progressed, the biggest threat to a full recovery emerged from an injury that at first appeared miniscule compared to the rest of the trauma Chytraus suffered – a hair-

"For some reason, I wasn't paralyzed and the bones healed on their own. It's something I can't explain."

line fracture near her elbow. As it healed, her arm locked at a 90-degree angle and remained that way for nearly six months.

"It was the biggest scare," Chytraus said. "Being in the military, you can't not have an arm. I thought I might be medically discharged. It was stressful."

A surgery to unlock the elbow was successful. But Chytraus was still too weak to return to her job.

Her rehabilitation efforts intensified. Her therapist, an Army Reservist, developed a routine that incorporated all of the motions required of Chytraus's normal duties; turning wrenches, screwdrivers and changing aircraft tires.

She returned to her job as a full-time technician with the 108th in May. She took the physical fitness test a month later and passed.

Chytraus says both came to pass because she had good luck -- and never wavered from her objective.

"Goals. I wanted to get back to work and be able to do my job," she said. "Goals. I wanted to take my test without any waivers and at least come close to my score last year."



She's uncertain which goal is next. She's considering finishing her undergraduate degree and becoming an officer.

Chytraus is sure at least of this.

"I died and came back," she said. "What could be greater than that?"

Chytraus got engaged three weeks after she was discharged from the hospital and married two weeks later to the boyfriend who had been at her bedside every day of her coma. That relationship, and the thought of the strain her crash and recovery put on her family, provides the answer to the question she gets asked all the time:

"Do I want to get back on?" Chytraus said. "The answer is yes. Of course. It doesn't scare me. I'm still alive. But there's other people in my life now that, after all this ... it's worth staying around and not risking it."

To see a video of Senior Airman Ashley Chytraus' story, please visit the 108th Wing's YouTube page at: youtube.com/108thwing or visit the 108th Wing's home page at 108arw.ang.af.mil



Fundraising within the Air Force

108th Wing Staff Judge Advocate

Are you part of a private organization or unofficial activity? Thinking about sponsoring a fundraiser? Before you execute a fundraising plan, make sure you send a request for a legal review prior to sending out notices or setting up shop. The Air Force has strict rules with regards to fundraising, especially pertaining to games of chance like raffles or other gambling.

In accordance with Air Force Instructions 34-223 and AFI 36-3101, the following general fundraising rules apply:

1. Requests for fundraising events must be approved by the 87th Air Base Wing commander or designee. They cannot compete with AAFES.

2. Cannot solicit funds or gifts for themselves on Air Force installations. However, private organizations may accept or solicit gifts and donations off-base if:

a. The private organization clearly indicates they are a private organization, not the base or any official part of the Air Force. Members may not officially endorse any non-federal entity, to include all private organizations.

b. Neither the donor nor the gift is recognized publicly; however, recognition can be made to members of the private organization or those present at an event benefiting from the donation/gift.

3. Cannot sell alcohol or operate games of chance.

4. Private Organizations can only conduct two fundraising activities per quarter. This does not apply to private organization sales at Air Force schools or unit souvenirs to members of the school or unit.

5. Cannot conduct games of chance, lotteries, raffles, etc. Exception: Those private organizations which are composed primarily of Department of Defense personnel or their family members may conduct raffles on installation on an occasional, infrequent basis with approval of installation commander or his designee. Raffles must be in compliance with state and local law and be for the benefit of DoD personnel or their families, not be conducted in workplace, and during non-duty time. See para 10.16 in AFI 34-223.

6. All fundraisers should be conducted away from the workplace, as defined by the installation commander or as delegated Joint Ethics Regulations 3-300(a)(2). There should be no official endorsement of the activity or fundraiser.

These rules by no means encompass all of the guidance regarding fundraising, but they can stand as a guideline for you. If your fundraiser does not comply with these guide-

lines, it's likely you are about to violate an Air Force instruction. Feel free to contact the 108th Legal Office to discuss your proposed fundraiser and get ideas to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable regulations. Remember that fundraising requests start with 87th Force Support Squadron and are approved by the 87th Air Base Wing.

The Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst
AIR FORCE
2015
BALL
Celebrating the Best in Air Power
1800 2300
Friday, 25 September 2015
@ The Merion
Cinnaminson, NJ

The 108th Wing POC for this event is Capt. Cynthia Cano-Hewitt and she can be reached at 609-754-3683.

Family Matters

Continued from page 2

When one instills family values to one's squadron, group, or wing, one makes sure to work a little harder, a little longer, and with more precision. When it comes to family, one will do whatever it takes to never let them down whether it is one's traditional or work family.

Now that I am a New Jersey National Guardsman, I feel that we have a unique bond select few have a chance to experi-

ence. When I entered the 108th Wing, I remember being told "Welcome to the National Guard Family." We need to internalize those words and epitomize what it means to be a family.

My hope is that you introduce values of family in the work force and create a unit environment. One where Airmen take pride in his or her work and strive to never let their family members down.

Dust, wind or shine

Photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

At Udeid Air Base, Qatar -- Expeditionary maintenance airman work as a true total force team comprised of Airmen and aircraft from more than 70 different Active, Guard, and Reserve force providers supporting five different weapon systems. In addition to generating combat airpower, the group provides unique capabilities for the entire area of responsibility to include crash recovery; aircraft battle damage repair, on-site depot liaison engineers, and centralized repair facilities for avionics, precision measurement equipment, oxygen bottles, brakes, wheels, and tires. Many times these airman work in extreme conditions from heat, wind and sun exposure to ensure the mission is completed and aircraft fly and land safely.



Technical Sgt. Ellison Cason, 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit, hydrates while the aircrew aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker completes their function checks June 7, 2015 Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Palacios-Conde, 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit, snaps together a locking device on a KC-135 Stratotanker engine cover during pos-flight inspections June 7, 2015 Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Palacios-Conde, Senior Airman John Brown and Staff Sgt Marius Kelsey, 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit, prepare to cover the engine of a KC-135 Stratotanker during a wind storm over 50 knots June 7, 2015 Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.



Job openings in the 108th Wing

ENLISTED PARALEGAL

The enlisted legal career field has been in existence since 1955, and continues to play a very prominent role in The Judge Advocate General Corps. TJAGC's primary mission is to provide legal counsel to commanders, first sergeants, and other key personnel on a broad spectrum of legal and administrative matters. The paralegal plays an integral part in achieving this mission. Consequently, the paralegal apprentice/journeyman/craftsman supports virtually all areas of the legal office, including military justice, claims, civil law, legal assistance, contracts, and environmental law. Within these divisions, paralegals conduct legal research, interview victims and witnesses, and draft opinions and documents. They also support investigations of serious incidents, such as aircraft, missile or rocket accidents.

To submit a retraining application, contact any 108Wing recruiter. Minimum eligibility requirements include: the ability to type 25 words per minute, a minimum general AQE score of 50, no derogatory information in your records and two interviews with Legal Office personnel. If you are interested, please contact Staff Sgt. Brian Carney, paralegal, regarding the paralegal program at 609-754-3870 during any drill day.

108TH LRS FIRST SERGEANT

The 108th Logistics Readiness 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 Quinquinio, no later than close of business Aug. 23. A board will be conducted during the September 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*.

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 FSA.

Must possess a Community College of the Air Force degree or must complete this degree within 18 months of completing the FSA. Have a minimum ASVAB score of 41 administrative and 62 general, minimum physical profile of PULHES 322221, and possess a current 7-skill level. 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.



108TH MXG GROUP SUPERINTENDENT

Area of Consideration: All current 108th Wing chief master sergeants and promotable senior master sergeants, and possess an Air Force Specialty Code within the Maintenance Group, are eligible to apply. This is a deployable, drill status Guardsman position. The Group superintendent will be a tenured, experienced and well broadened individual with a good working knowledge of the Maintenance Group.

Position Description: The Group superintendent is a member of the commander's staff and performs duties at the operational competence and strategic vision levels of leadership. The Group superintendent provides leadership and management in organizing, training, equipping and mobilizing the group to meet home station and expeditionary mission requirements. A Group superintendent will serve a minimum 3-year tour. Additional responsibilities are detailed in Air National Guard Instructions 36-2109, *The ANG Command Chief Master Sergeant Program*.

Application Procedures: Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, military resume, current Record Review RIP, letter of recommendation from Unit Commander (SQ/CC or above), letter of recommendation from a 108 Wing chief master sergeant, and a current passing Fitness Assessment.

Submit applications to Master Sgt. Rebecca Orsini, Bldg. 33-33, Wonnacott Ave, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ 08641-5406 or electronically to rebecca.a.orsini.mil@mail.mil no later than close of business Aug. 23. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview over September's unit training assembly.

Around The Wing



Gen. Darren W. McDew, Air Mobility Command commander, left, shares a humorous moment with Staff Sgt. Herbert Grant, fuel systems technician from the 108th Maintenance Group, at Joint Base McGuire Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 22, 2015. McDew visited the wing to discuss the current and future flying platforms of the Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released)



Col. Vito A. Di Micco, left, commander, 108th Mission Support Group, passes the 108th Civil Engineer Squadron guidon to Maj. Eric A. Balint during an Assumption of Command ceremony at the 108th Wing, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 18, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

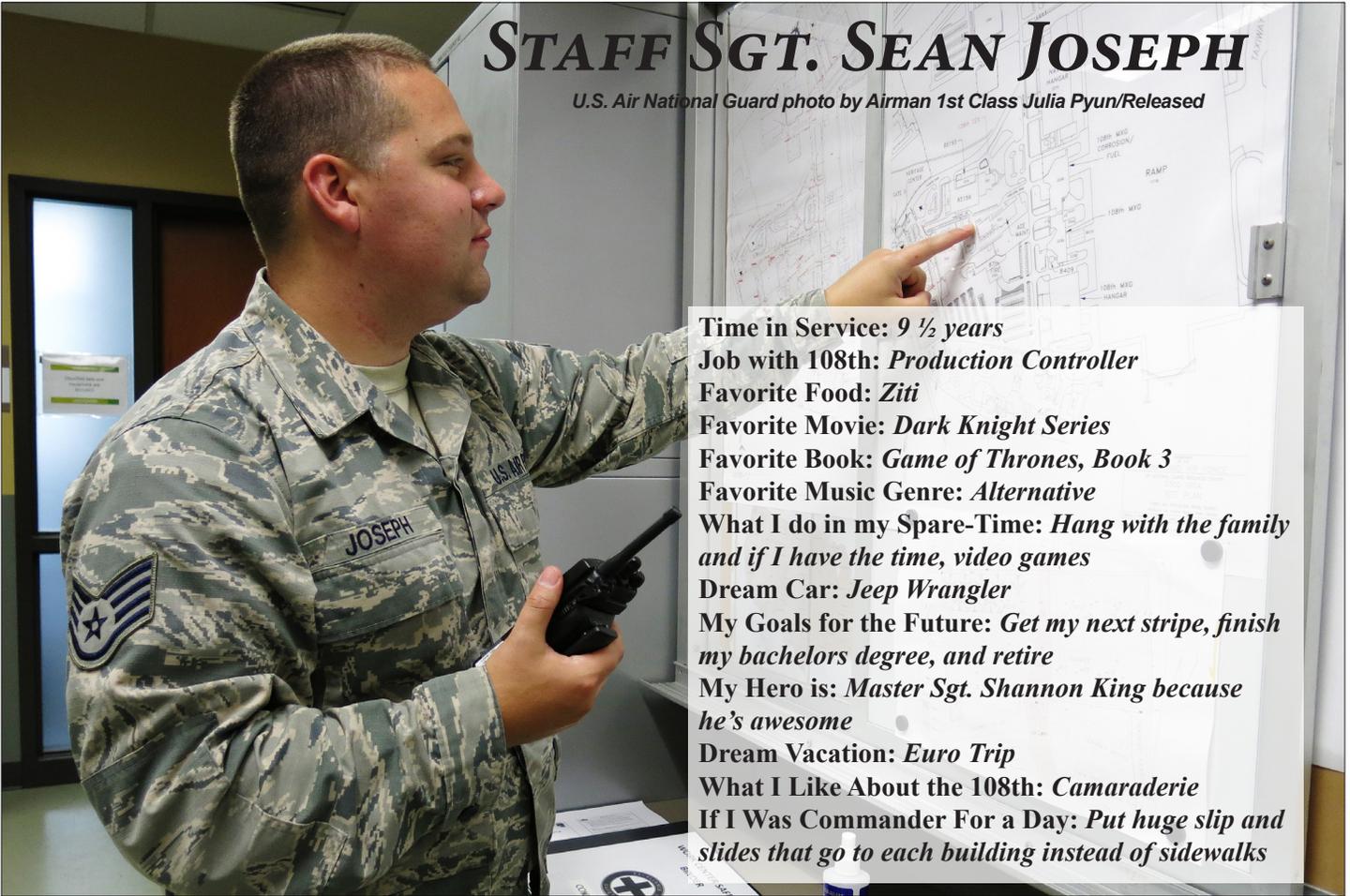


MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. - Tech. Sgt. Matthew Hecht, right, receives the Distinguished Graduate Award for NCO academy Class 15-5 from Chief Master Sgt. Conrad Dawes, enlisted space operations functional manager for Air Force Reserve Command, August 13, 2015, at the I. G. Brown Training and Education Center. The distinguished graduate award is presented to students in the top 10 percent of the class. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Harlan/Released)



Col. H. I. Ed Kingdon Jr., Director of Air National Guard Security Forces, right, presents Master Sgt. Olivia McMahan, a squad leader for the 108th Security Forces, with an award for being the ANG recipient of the 2014 Air Reserve Component Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 23, 2015. Along with being the ANG's Senior NCO top cop, McMahan, who recently returned from a year-long deployment in Afghanistan, won the Senior NCO of the Year award for the New Jersey Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Carl Clegg/Released)

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



STAFF SGT. SEAN JOSEPH

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released

Time in Service: 9 ½ years
Job with 108th: *Production Controller*
Favorite Food: *Ziti*
Favorite Movie: *Dark Knight Series*
Favorite Book: *Game of Thrones, Book 3*
Favorite Music Genre: *Alternative*
What I do in my Spare-Time: *Hang with the family and if I have the time, video games*
Dream Car: *Jeep Wrangler*
My Goals for the Future: *Get my next stripe, finish my bachelors degree, and retire*
My Hero is: *Master Sgt. Shannon King because he's awesome*
Dream Vacation: *Euro Trip*
What I Like About the 108th: *Camaraderie*
If I Was Commander For a Day: *Put huge slip and slides that go to each building instead of sidewalks*



Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Zinner, left, receives the Major General Richard "Craig" Cosgrave Chief's Award from retired Maj. Gen. Richard Cosgrave, center, at the 108th Wing's conference room in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Aug. 21, 2015. The award is given to an outstanding chief master sergeant in the New Jersey Air National Guard that demonstrates superior performance, community service, professionalism and leadership in the highest standard expected of a chief master sergeant. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)

They Want You!

By Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th Public Affairs



Their movements are sharp and crisp. Their uniforms are spotless and tailored fit. And their medals and decorations are so highly polished, you could use them as mirrors.

These individuals represent the 108th Wing Honor Guard and they want you on their team.

The 108th Wing Honor Guard's primary mission is to represent the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard at all public and official ceremonies. Ceremonies include those for visiting dignitaries and military officials, funerals for deceased military personnel and their dependents, retirement ceremonies and even weddings. In addition, when requested to present the U.S. colors at sporting events, this highly selective unit is responsible for such tasking.

Every Saturday during drill weekend, the 108th Wing Honor Guard team will practice basic standing and drill movements, as well as color detail movements with rifles and flags. The team is all voluntary, so those who are chosen are required to take this additional duty by agreeing to sign a one year contract to dedicate themselves to the program.

"It is an incredible program," said Chief Master Sgt. Grieg Moore, 108th Force Support Squadron superintendent. "Airmen who join this team receive a lot of training so their appearance can be sharp. They will learn a lot of tradition and it will reflect in how they develop their careers."

For Staff Sgt. Paula Daniels, being in an honor guard team is a very rewarding additional duty. Daniels has been with the 108th Wing Honor Guard team since 2011 and has participated in numerous ceremonies.

"After a ceremony, you feel like you are giving back to those who have served," said Daniels. "You let them know that their service has meant something."

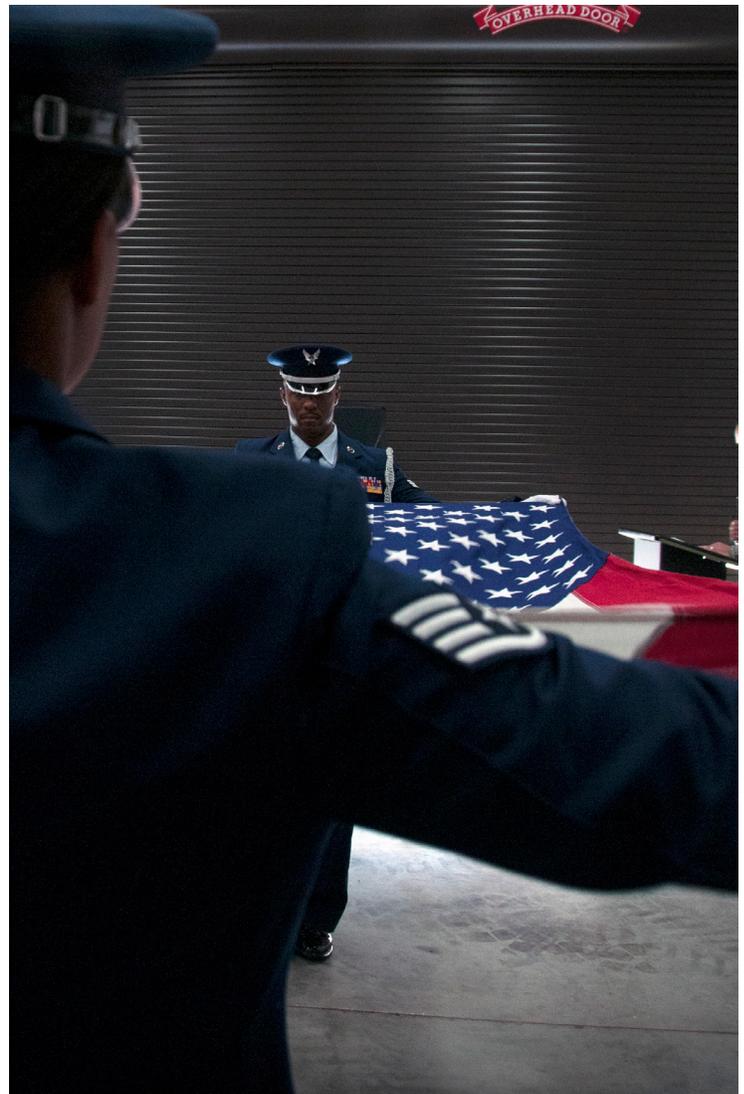
Though participating at certain ceremonies as an Honor Guard member can be rewarding, some are challenging said Daniels, currently the Honor Guard team manager. "Dealing with a deceased family member is very tough," said

Daniels. "As an honor guard member you have to keep your military bearings when you present a flag to a widow or a child."

Members who want to join the 108th Wing Honor Guard team should notify Daniels at 609-754-2716 or via email at paula.t.daniels2.mil@mail.mil, as well as let their immediate supervisor know that they are interested.

So, if you are looking to sharpen your drill and ceremony skills, attend events as a representative of the 108th Wing, and develop your military career, think about joining this selective team. There is also an opportunity to train and work with the active duty Base Honor Guard.

"All you need to do is show up and be willing to participate," said Daniels.





Re-enlistments

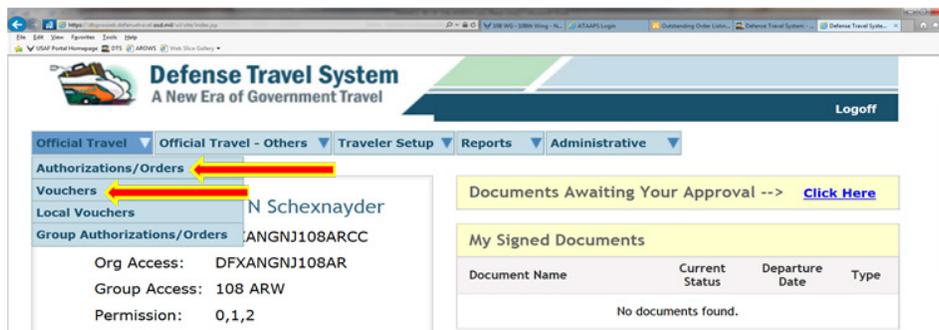


Members of the 108th Wing decide to continue to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States” and further their careers in the New Jersey Air National Guard during a reenlistment ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 18, 2015. Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr., 108th Wing commander, center, performed the Oath of Enlistment for his Airmen. Left to right, Staff Sgt. Brian Oliver, Senior Airman Darrell Willis, Col. Meyer, Staff Sgt. Alba Fernandez and Command Chief Master Sgt. Daryl K. Fortner. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Kellyann Novak/Released)

FINANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

TRAVEL PAY TIP:

Ensure you were paid for all TDY's in DTS. Review the “Authorizations” tab & the “Vouchers” tab. For every authorization you have, there should be a corresponding Voucher. If you see one and not the other, you could be due money. Ask your ODTA for assistance.



File your voucher upon returning from TDY. Check out the OTO (Outstanding Travel Orders) list located on the CPTF SharePoint->Under Libraries->Outstanding Orders Listings

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



What is the best part of your job?

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez



"Meeting new people."
A1C Michelle Castrillon,
108th Logistic Readiness
Squadron



"The people I work with."
A1C Tiffany Brooke Roberts,
204th Intelligence Squadron



"The people I work with."
A1C Alexis Clark,
204th Intelligence Squadron



"The military family."
TSgt Alan R. Morin, Jr.,
204th Intelligence Squadron



"Learning new things."
A1C Michael Debonis,
108th Maintenance Squadron



"Fixing the airplanes."
SSgt Herbert L. Grant,
108th Maintenance Squadron



*"Supervising, defending my
guys and making sure they
have everything to accomplish
the mission."*
TSgt Jerrod T. Minger,
108th Maintenance Squadron



*"Making sure my commander
makes it to meetings on time."*
SrA Mohammed A. Siddiqui,
108th Civil Engineers