



Commander's Column

Integrity, responsibility go hand-in-hand

By: Col. Kevin Keehn, 108th Operations Group commander

Recently there has been a lot of press about an ANG unit manipulating the system for certain individuals own personal monetary gain. Needless to say, those actions are a career killer and can be also illegal. There have of course been numerous emails, policy letters and the required meeting to discuss this issue. The bottom line is, certain individuals were doing unlawful acts for their own personal gain and were punished for it. It all really boils down to personal integrity. The following article is a reprint from one I previously submitted, but I felt the time was right to have it published again.

As members of the New Jersey Air National Guard we are subject to many different and increased obligations than our fulltime civilian counterparts. We are different in the way we dress, in our conduct, our appearance, in the performance of our jobs, and of the sacrifices we may have to make because of our military affiliation.

All of us are familiar with the many rules and regulations that are necessary to insure we can meet and perform our job. The reasons for the more stringent rules and greater expectations are very simple. We are sworn to defend this country, and we are entrusted with billions of dollars worth of equipment and facilities. Our reliability must be twofold: we must do what we are asked to do by our commanders and not do that which is not authorized.

Furthermore, two cornerstones of our military affiliation are integrity and responsibility. Integrity and responsibility must enter into all of our thoughts, words and deeds. Your integrity must be absolute. There is no aspect of our Air National

Guard duties which allow us the opportunity to lie, cheat or steal. In fact, to do any of those would go against exactly what the Air National Guard stands for. If we are to be successful, we must be completely open and honest in our operations, staff work and relationships with others. Nowhere are personal integrity and responsibility more important than in our ground and flight crews.

Strict adherence to procedures and tech orders are essential to safe, effective operation and maintenance of our equipment. Failure to do so can degrade our combat capability; damage or destroy equipment; or worst of all lead to personal injury or loss of life. We must all remember that our regulations and tech orders are the result of careful deliberation and in some cases from lessons learned. But our regulations and tech orders are living documents and if an individual feels there is a better way to do things, do not take short cuts or circumvent the system. But rather submit the desired change through the proper channels and let everyone benefit from your suggestion.

Integrity and responsibility are also essential in our staff's work. Honest and balanced staff work is essential for proper decision making. Do not be afraid to tell your supervisor the bad news. It is much easier to fix a problem at the very beginning than to keep saying everything is alright. Eventually the problem will become overwhelming and then it may take a tremendous amount of effort to fix the problem. Supervisors, be honest in your yearly performance appraisals. By inflating an individual's rating you not only hurt him but everyone in the wing. Let an individual



know where he needs help and then offer him the help that they need. This in turn will not only help the individual, but it will help the entire wing.

Also, take a look at yourself. Do you give an honest day's work for a day's pay? This, too, is ultimately a test of integrity. No matter how great or small your particular job is; it is your responsibility to perform that job to the best of your ability.

Our people are our most important resource. We must treat each other with the respect and dignity that we all deserve. We must also remember to give our very best when performing our job. To do anything less would be cheating yourselves and the other members of the wing. No one in this Wing is insignificant. From the Wing Commander to the newest Airman, each has a job to do that is important to the overall success of the Wing. We all depend upon each other and must take care of each other.

Finally, our affiliation with the New Jersey Air National Guard imposes upon each one of us an individual burden of responsibility and dependability. We are bound by regulations and public trust to perform our duties and responsibilities at a moments notice and without fail. To maintain the trust of those that rely upon us, our integrity and responsibility must be unwavering.

108th Wing tasked to support Operation Odyssey Dawn

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th MPAD



The pattern over the past decade has been clear: when there's an order for American military presence anywhere in the world, the New Jersey National Guard soon gets the call.

So within a day of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates approving the use of force in Libya, the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing launched an aircraft in support of the international response to the growing crisis.

The aircraft and "associated personnel" deployed from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst at about 10:30 p.m. on March 19 in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn, said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General.

From a base in Europe, the plane and crew from New Jersey will support coalition aircraft conducting sequenced bombing strikes to protect Libyan civilians, enforce a no-fly zone and prevent the government of Col. Muammar Al-Qadhafi from removing rebel fighters from their stronghold in Benghazi.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the New Jersey National Guard has deployed Soldiers and Airmen in support of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Horn of Africa, Cuba, Europe and the Sinai Peninsula.

Add Libya to the list.



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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., McGuire AFB, N.J. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs, unless otherwise indicated.

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A Message From the Safety Office

A dog is men's best friend, seriously!

Any Dog May Bite! Why, you may ask? Because a dog's teeth are his only arms. Where, you wonder? Most bites occur at or near the dog owner's property.

Now, here are some of the reasons dogs bite:

- Your seemingly innocent actions.
- Many bites occur when a dog is playing with a person.
- A dog that is sick or injured may bite anyone who comes near.
- When you're teasing, harassing, or confusing a dog, it may bite.
- A dog that is cornered or frightened may bite.
- A confined dog in a fenced yard or chained up very close to his home may bite to protect its home territory
- A mother dog with puppies may bite.
- A dog that is chasing something or someone may bite at it or them (bikes, joggers, cycles, etc.)
- A dog that is fighting with another dog may bite anyone who interferes in any way, including the owner.

In a recent study, more than 79 percent of those people who were bitten knew the dog that bit them.

Along with that, more than half the people bitten are under the age of 15, with most being between the ages of four and nine.

In most states, the owner or keeper of the dog shall be liable for any damages or injuries caused by the dog.

In a court of law, the owner or keeper would have to prove the victim was trespassing, teasing, tormenting, or abusing the dog on the owner's property, for the owner or keeper to not be held responsible. The mailman, water, gas and electrical meter man have a right to be on your property as part of their job.

"Beware of dog signs" may indicate to a court of law that the owner was aware of the vicious disposition of the dog, and as such, may demonstrate the owner's negligence at his failure to properly confine the dog.

Here are some prevention tips for dog owners:

Never let your dog or puppy bite or



mouth the skin of a person, even if playing.

- If your dog is ill or injured, follow the handling advice of your veterinarian.
- Do not allow your dog to growl or snap at anyone. If you fail to properly correct the dog it may become vicious.
- If your dog has not been raised around children or other people; do not permit them to chase, corner or pick up the dog, especially if the dog is more than 4-months-old.
- Never ask anyone to keep or care for a dog that they are afraid of.
- Never allow your dog to run with or chase people.
- Do not pat or praise your dog when it shows fear or viciousness. Your patting may make the dog think that it's pleasing you.
- Above all, never leave your dog out,

unconfined, without proper supervision.

And here are some tips on how to prevent a dog bite:

- Do not run away from an advancing dog. Instead, back away one step at a time.
- Do not touch a sleeping or eating dog.
- Never tease a dog or reach into a vehicle or fenced yard to pat a dog.
- Try to stay calm, as your fear can lead to the dog's confusion or cause him to bite.
- Notice how your staring affects the attacking dog. If staring keeps him back, you might also try saying, "GO HOME", in a sharp commanding tone, or "SIT"

A dog is a wonderful pet and if you keep these tips in mind, you can enjoy their company much more.

Personality Feature

Military life: it's a family affair

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA

A family that works together stays together. Or in the case of the Williamson family, they serve together at the New Jersey Air National Guard.

Master Sgt. Andre Williamson, a chaplain assistant with the 108th Wing, was currently deployed at the Combat Readiness Training Center at Volk Field, Wis., preparing for the Wing's operational readiness exercise there. And there with him was his daughter, Airman 1st Class Tiara Williamson, and his niece, Airman Paula Daniels. Another niece, Airman Mecca Jennings, stayed behind at home station during the exercise from March 21 – 25.

The Williamson siblings come from a long and rich military tradition that was started by Master Sgt. Williamson. He enlisted into the Army 24 years ago, and today he still serves with the 108th Wing based out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

"I grew up a military brat," said Tiara Williamson, a public health technician at the 108th Medical Group. "I always thought my Dad was cool and I looked up to him."

So making the choice to also join the Air National Guard was not difficult for Tiara Williamson. Aside from the educational and other benefits she would receive from the military, she also wanted to make her father proud, Tiara Williamson said.

And what better way than to serve at the same unit that Andre Williamson is currently serving.

Consequently, three years ago, Tiara Williamson, 22, made the choice to enlist and had her father right next to her as she made her military career decision.

"I walked her through the process and made sure she asked all the right questions," said Andre Williamson, a ticketing agent with Continental Airlines at Newark Liberty.

Although her father was with her throughout the process and also giving her pointers on basic training and technical school; her mother was somewhat apprehensive about her joining the military, said Tiara Williamson.

"My wife was against Tiara joining the



Airman 1st Class Tiara Williamson, a public health technician with 108th Wing, followed her father's footsteps into the military. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA)



Master Sgt. Andre Williamson, a 108th Wing chaplain assistant, is currently serving in the same unit as his daughter. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA)

service but was still supportive knowing that I would be right there with my daughter," said Andre Williamson.

"She made us proud when she made the decision to join this great unit," continued Andre Williamson.

And now he gets a chance to observe the values he and his wife, Desiree, instilled on their daughter, and how she applies them into the military, said Andrew Williamson.

Tiara Williamson currently resides with her family at West Orange, N.J., and she is currently a student at Essex County Community College in Newark studying Biology and pre-med. She plans on transferring to Rutgers University after she completes her associate's degree.

In addition, she plans to make the military a life-long career and hopes to become an officer, said Tiara Williamson.

As if having his daughter serve in the same unit with him wasn't enough, right behind Tiara Williamson's enlistment into the 108th Wing was her first-cousins, Daniels and Jennings.

Daniels is the daughter of Desiree Williamson's brother, while Jennings is the daughter of Desiree Williamson's sister.

"It's a family affair," said Tiara Williamson.

Although her interest for the military was started by recruiters, having family and familiar faces at the unit is a plus, said Daniels.

Furthermore, her parents were also supportive of her decision to join the 108th Wing, but having her Uncle there was more comforting to them, said Daniels.

She thought it would feel weird to be around her family at the unit, said Tiara Williamson, but now she is happy and looks forward to spending more time with her family while training for the upcoming operational readiness inspection.

"It's great having my dad give me encouragement and pointers during a training class," said Tiara Williamson. "But I also give him heads-up when he is coming due for medical reasons."

The same can be said for Daniels, since she now has a dual role with her uncle; an Airman and a niece.

"I address him as Master Sgt. Williamson," said Daniels. "But once in a while, out of habit I'll call him uncle Andre."

Although they are all in different sections within the 108th Wing and don't see each other much during the day on drill weekend, they continue the family bond that has brought them together.

They eat together, catch a movie or go bowling after duty hours, said Daniels, a services personnel with the 108th Force Support Squadron.

"I have the camaraderie of the military, but I also have the family bond," said Tiara Williamson.

Month of the Military Child



Celebrate military children: the strength of our future

The contributions of military children are being celebrated across the globe at military installations in April, which is designated as the Month of the Military Child.

This year's Month of the Military Child is being celebrated with a theme of "Celebrate Military Children: The Strength of Our Future".

Consequently, this year the New Jersey National Guard Family Programs Office will be thanking and honoring New Jersey's military children by providing each child that signs up with parental consent, their own Appreciation Package, which will include a certificate and an ID Kit.

Parents wishing to have their child receive his/her own package in the mail will need to provide the following information to Amanda Balas, NJ National Guard State Youth coordinator, via email to amanda.balas@us.army.mil;

1. Parent/Guardian Name:
2. Military Member's Unit:
3. Family Email Address:
4. Child(ren) Name(s):
5. Sex:
6. Youth Birthdate:
7. Youth Home Address:

More than 1.7 million children under

the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the armed forces. And it is estimated that more than 900,000 children have had one or both parents deployed multiple times.

Accordingly, garrison-level Child, Youth and School Services programs will hold special events to honor service members' children. These events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support promised them through the Army Family Covenant, according to Installation Management Command officials.

Installations of all services are honoring military children by providing a month packed with special activities - arts and crafts shows, picnics, fishing derbies, carnivals, parades, block parties and other special activities - to acknowledge the unique contributions they make.

The month long celebration, first held in 1986, reinforces to military children that they are, indeed, a key part of the armed forces community.

For example, last year, First Lady Michelle Obama noted: "As a grateful nation, it is our sacred responsibility to stand by our military children, just as they and their

families stand by us."

President Barack Obama, earlier this year spotlighted the importance of military family support overall, recalling a trip to Afghanistan in December 2010 where he spoke to troops, asking what he could do to better support them.

"Without missing a beat," he said, "they looked me in the eye and they gave me their answer. It wasn't about more equipment. It wasn't about more resources on the battlefield. In fact, it wasn't about them."

"They said ... 'Sir, take care of our families. If we know our families are all right back home, then we can do our jobs.'"

In late January, Obama unveiled a government plan to strengthen military family support, including the education and development of military children and expanding child care options for military parents.

Service members and their families, the president said, have done everything the nation has asked of them in this decade of war. Such commitment by the youngest members of the military community will be highlighted throughout Month of the Military Child, and their accomplishments will be on display for all to appreciate.

Odds & Ends

Free Strong Bonds retreat

Come enjoy a free National Guard couples' enrichment retreat at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick, N.J., the weekend of April 15 – 17.

Service members can attend this retreat in a split unit training assembly (SUTA) status.

Couples will receive Strong Bonds (PREP) training from ANG chaplains. Strong Bonds/Marriage Enrichment is a practical application opportunity to learn what works in a marriage and what makes a marriage work.

This is not counseling nor group therapy session, but a weekend to "reconnect" with your significant other by receiving tools and information for better communication and relationship building.

In addition, hotel accommodations and meals are paid for by the Family Program during the retreat.

For more information or to sign up for this retreat, please contact Marie Durling, family program specialist, at 609-530-6884 or via e-mail at marie.durling@us.army.mil.

The retreat is limited to the first 25 couples.

The Heldrich Hotel is located at 10 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J.

Golf outing at JB MDL

Join the T3BL Soldiers' Association at their Annual Golf Tournament on May 20 at the Fountain Green Golf Course in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The tournament will start at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start, Captain and Crew – best ball format. The entrance fee of \$100 per person will cover greens fee, cart, refreshments and door prizes.

In addition, a buffet lunch will be held at 2 p.m. in building 3601.

Prizes will be awarded to the first through fourth place teams for low gross score; also for closest to pin on hole 3, longest drive, both men and women on hole 6, and the straightest drive on hole 11.

Send a list of your foursome and a check to T3BL Soldiers Association, ATTN: MSG Mark Rizzo, Bldg 3601 Technology Drive, JB MDL, NJ 08640. All payments should be received not later than May 13.

For questions or more information, contact Master Sgt. Rizzo at 609- 562-0513.

Senator, veterans' office to host Veterans Information Day

The office of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez and the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs is hosting an event on May 18 at Camden County Boathouse from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., to assist past and present veterans.

The event, Veterans Information Day, will have representatives from Philadelphia VA Medical Center; the Philadelphia VA Regional Office; Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs; New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Camden County College and more.

The intent of this event is to assist veterans with enrolling in any state run veteran programs that are available to them and to find out about any state benefits to which they are entitled.

The Camden County Boathouse is located at 7050 North Park Drive, Pennsauken, N.J.

For more information/questions about this event or to RSVP, please email Richard Locklear at Richard.Locklear@menendez.senate.gov or contact him at 856-757-5353.

Annual 5K race to benefit Soldier's family

Looking to improve your running stamina and also helping a family in need?

Well, the 7th Annual 2011 SGT Nutter Run will be held on Sunday May 15 at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, N.J., at 10:30 a.m.

Sgt. Sam Nutter (1/28/66-1/2/2005) was a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard and had also served in the U.S Navy. Each year the NJ ARNG Officer Candidate School holds a benefit 5K run in his memory and 100 percent of the proceeds raised are donated to a New Jersey National Guard family in need.

This year's proceeds will go to the family of Sgt. Michael Suplee, a current NJ ARNG member whose wife was diagnosed with Lupus.

Registration is currently open at the organization's Web site: <http://www.nutterrun.org/registration.html> or you can register on the day of the event beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The SGT Sam Nutter Organization is a registered non-profit organization which exists solely to benefit the lives of National Guard families in need.

NJJWV to host annual legislative breakfast

The Department of New Jersey Jewish War Veterans will hold their 30th annual Legislative Breakfast on May 1, 2011 at 9 a.m. at Tinton Falls, N.J.

The event will honor Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and the volunteer service coordinators at the three state nursing homes and the two VA hospitals in New Jersey. Furthermore, a breakfast event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Tinton Falls, which is just off Garden State Parkway exit 105.

The cost for this event is \$22 per person.

Anyone interested in attending the event, please contact past department commander Robert Jacobs at 732-323-8680 or via E-mail at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com to make reservations.

Diamond's Corner

Do you know what the role of the 1st Sgt is?

By Master Sgt. Michael Edmiston, 108th Maintenance Group

The first sergeant is a special duty assignment job, with term limits.

We are principal advisors to the commander on all issues related to the enlisted force; and we exercise general supervision over assigned enlisted personnel.

We provide the squadron commander a mission-ready enlisted force to execute the unit mission.

We remain vigilant for, and move to resolve, issues that, left unchecked, would adversely impact the readiness of enlisted members.

We prepare enlisted personnel of the organization to deploy in support of mission requirements and exercise the necessary leadership to provide and sustain a mission-ready workforce for the commander.

We advise the commander on a wide range of topics including the health, esprit de corps, discipline, mentoring, well being, career progression, professional development, and recognition of all assigned enlisted members, as well as, assist the commander in preparation and execution of unit training and information programs (e.g. commander's call).

We work with fellow senior noncommissioned officers and supervisory personnel to ensure discipline is equitably maintained esprit de corps, discipline, mentoring, and welfare of the enlisted force are met.

We ensure supervisors set an appropriate example for the subordinates and provide leadership and guidance to supervisors and members, enabling them to resolve problems or complaints at the lowest level possible.

We coordinate the resolution of complex problems with the supervisor, member, commander, and maintain liaison with base agencies to ensure availability of services for unit members.

We ensure training is provided on matters of leadership, customs and courtesies, dress and personal appearance, self-discipline, adherence to standards, drill and ceremony and safety.



We support and promote professional military education activities.

We supervise administrative actions directed by the commander and coordinate with supervisors of enlisted personnel to schedule unit functions, duties, and other absences from duty.

We ensure timely processing of awards, decorations, favorable communications, promotions, demotions, and disciplinary actions.

We work closely with the chief master sergeants to ensure enlisted members are prepared to execute the mission.

In other words, people are our business.



Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, second from left, Commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard, poses with U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, second from right, and his children Alicia and Robert Menendez Jr., after being presented the Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award 2011 at the Performing Arts Center, Middlesex County College, Edison, on March 28. The award, which is named after the Senator's late mother, honors all New Jersey women, essential to the growth and progress of the great state. Menendez has created the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, an annual event during Women's History Month, so the six outstanding New Jerseyans are recognized for their contributions. Courtesy photo.

Volk Field ORE Photo Gallery



The bird that took us there



Conducting pre-flight check



Packed and ready to go!



"This is not the Caribbean!"



Look! It's an EET...



We trained hard!



Even did a FOD walk



And trained some more



And now we are ready to go home!