

WING Tips

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Air Force core values: Live them

By Col. Robert Brazel, 108th Contingency Response Group Commander

U.S. Air Force Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Chief of Staff, said, "Our core values: Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do, set the common standard for conduct across the Air Force. These values inspire the trust which provides the unbreakable bond that unifies the force. We must practice them ourselves and expect no less from those with whom we serve."

As we once again begin the long tumultuous process of preparing for our rounds of inspections in the coming years, we should remember our core values. As Ryan adeptly points out, these values will inspire trust and will be the bond that unifies our Wing. I challenge every one of you to take a long hard look in the mirror prior to this Unit Training Assembly and every UTA thereafter, to ask yourselves if you are living up to these core values? Are you putting the betterment of your Group, the Wing ahead of personal gain? Are you going beyond what is required, or merely putting in face time? At the end of the day can you honestly say to yourself that you have given it your all? Have you tried to make a difference or have you distracted from the cause? What motivates you, the challenge of becoming the best Airman in your section or individual laudatory?

These are the questions that I ponder and ask myself everyday. I hope in turn that each and every one of you does the same. We will not succeed if we do not adhere to these core values. Trust must be implicit; it is not a characteristic that we can barter with. If I promise you I will do something, you can trust I will fulfill that promise. Consequently, I expect the same from you. There are too many items on our agenda for us to be sucked into the muck and mire of deceit, deception, duplicity and dreariness.

Given our operations tempo and decreasing budget, we face uncertain times. We must succeed as a Wing every step of the way. The biggest and most common standard for measuring and comparing Wings is inspection results. Therefore, to ensure our lively hood, we must embrace the inspections and look at them as an opportunity to showcase all the talent and skills we have within our Wing.

Our most precious commodity is time and we have a limited amount of it, thus don't waste it. We are rapidly approaching the two year mark from our inspection cycle and we have much too accomplish in a short amount of time. Accordingly, we cannot afford to be derailed by personal motivations and agendas.

Therefore, let's get straight to the point. In general, here are my



expectations from everyone as a military member and as a person: Have integrity! If you say you are going to do something, then do it. If you are on orders or doing a RUTA - do something that betters yourself or your Group, better yet, do both. Don't abuse the government credit card or our generosity. Complaining is normal and acceptable, subversion and back stabbing is not. Learn your job, your JQS's, your counterparts' job and where you fit into the cog. Everyone is important, and we will only be as strong as our weakest link. Become a benchmark so you are known for your "Excellence". Be self motivated and come to the base every time with the mindset of "what can I do to make the Group better? What can I do to get us closer to where we need to be as a section/flight/squadron?" Think in the terms of us and we; not I and me. Become part of the "team". Treat everyone with dignity and respect, and expect the same in return.

The challenges are many and the resources are few. As a unified team we will succeed but as a fragmented dysfunctional conglomerate we do not stand a chance. I implore every one to stand in front of the mirror this Saturday morning and tell yourselves, "I do believe in the core values, I will adhere to them and I will make a difference." As a commander, my job is to train and equip you! Please don't distract me from that mission and help me to help you.

In closing, as usual, I certainly appreciate everything that you do for our state and nation. I applaud each and every one of you, especially the traditional Airmen. Your sacrifice, dedication and commitment do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.



September is 'National Preparedness Month'



Last month marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Irene touching down in New Jersey. We'll do everything we can to protect those we care about. From using day light savings time as a reminder to change our smoke alarm batteries, to something as simple as using seatbelts while operating or riding in a vehicle. These are all protective steps taken for our safety, but it doesn't have to end there.

History shows that emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. This month marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month. Each September, a nationwide effort is made to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, work areas and schools. Whether at

home or work, if disaster strikes, will you, your family or co-workers know what to do, where supplies are kept, and how to protect themselves?

Take this month to reflect on the potential hazards for your area. Hazards can range from natural disasters, to local factories, highways, aircraft, or criminal activities. It is vital that all individuals know what to do in the event of an emergency involving any of these areas. Some questions to ask yourself when revising your family and work emergency plans are: Do children know what to do in the event that they are separated from parents during an emergency event? Is there a meeting point, primary/alternate that everyone knows how to get to? What if your family could not contact you? Is there a family communication plan and does everyone know how to use it? Are emergency numbers posted, and do all personnel know where? When was the last time emergency supplies inventoried?

Everyone should make a plan, build a kit, and have a Family Communication Plan to counter any emergency that could come their way. The true key to implementing a successful plan is to practice, practice and more practice! The absolute worst time to think of preparing for a disaster is during the event! Plan now, become a partner in preparedness.

For additional information about National Preparedness Month, visit www.ready.gov.

Chief Fortner assumes 108th Wing's Command Chief post

By Senior Airman Adrian Rowan, 108th Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Daryl Fortner has recently assumed responsibility as command chief master sergeant of the 108th Wing at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, N.J. He replaces Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton, who assumed responsibility of New Jersey State Command Chief this past June.

Fortner has been in the military for more than 29 years; starting his career in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1984 as a helicopter crew chief. Later, he worked with weapons on the F-4 Phantom IIs, then was a crew chief on the Boeing KC 135 Stratotankers, and finally the maintenance superintendent of the Contingency Response

Group before becoming the Command Chief.

In the civilian world, Fortner works for the Federal Aviation Administration as an aviation safety inspector. Fortner, originally hailing from Bloomfield, N.J., is married to Lindalee, from Bricktown, N.J., and has two stepchildren, Kevin and Lauren. In his spare time, he likes to run and is interested in fitness, and to travel, especially to Cancun and South Carolina.

As the new Command Chief, Fortner says he would like to utilize his military experience, specifically with the 108th Wing, to provide guidance to senior leadership.

He also wants to be able to use his diverse background to advise all sections in the Wing on ways to improve, said Fortner.



CRG tackles ‘Eagle Flag’ once again

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez,
108th Wing Public Affairs

When August rolls around in the training calendar for the New Jersey Air National Guard, Airmen from the 108th Contingency Response Group know exactly what to expect. They know they need to put on their game-face and tackle the exercise they have been participating at for the past three years: Eagle Flag.

They’ve done this before, so they knew this year’s exercise would be held at the Lakehurst side of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and would run from Aug. 16 – 20. It is five days of 24-hours operations

As one of only two CRG groups in the Air National Guard – the other is in Kentucky – the 108th CRG is a rapid-deployment unit designed at the initiative of Air Force leadership to be a first-in force that will secure an airfield, establish and maintain field operations. They are tailored for a specific mission and incorporate more than 20 military specialties, which comprises of approximately a 120-person unit ready for deployment around the globe with no more than 12 hours notice.

Consequently, attending Eagle Flag is quite important for a CRG, as the purpose of Eagle Flag is to train the Airmen of CRGs to become fully operational capable in order to deploy into a foreign country or anywhere within the continental United States and join other personnel and elements to comprise a United States Air Force expeditionary group. Once at the location, the expeditionary group will be tasked with a mission to open an air base and conduct air operations. After the expeditionary base is open and functional; the groups’ mission can be in of support humanitarian, disaster relief, or combat operations.

At this year’s exercise, the Airmen from the 108th CRG and approximately 25 Soldiers from the 689th Rapid Port Opening Element, Fort Eustis, Va., were tasked with operating a joint task force port opening (JTF-PO) that would support humanitarian relief efforts at a poor fictional country named “Nessor”.

This task was accomplished by having the Air Force assets provide air mobility expertise such as setting up the base and receiving air cargo, while the Army’s assets transport the much needed cargo to a pre-determined



Airmen from the 108th Contingency Response Group (CRG) participated on Eagle Flag 12-4 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., from Aug. 13-17. (U.S. Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/108th Wing Public Affairs)

forward node for further distribution. Operating as a joint force, both the Airmen and the Soldiers are evaluated on how well they work together during the operations.

And worked well together they did.

“From my group, I really saw the synergy and the effort to come together with the RPOE,” said Col. Robert Brazel, commander of the 108th CRG, as well as the commander of the JTF-PO during the ex-

ercise. “We’ve been with the RPOE for the third time out; my hat is off to you.”

“I would take this group and this RPOE and deploy anywhere in the world, and I know you would do the mission with 100 percent success,” said Brazel as the exercise culminated and the Airmen prepared to return to home base and begin the training process all over again for next year’s Eagle Flag.

NJ Air National Guard commander says farewell to her troops

By Maj. Gen. Maria A. Falca-Dodson, commander New Jersey Air National Guard

As we proceed with this orderly transition to new leadership at the New Jersey Air National Guard, I want to take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to all the members of the NJANG at state headquarters and at the 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing.

Life is constantly changing but as long as we look forward, most of the changes in our lives are positive and the challenges only speed bumps, which we can learn from.

You, the men and women of the New Jersey Air National Guard are part of the finest - bar none - fighting force in history. Time and again our U.S. military has proven that fact. You are part of an elite group in our American society and you are and always will be unstoppable. I repeat, unstoppable! Your leadership is well prepared for their responsibilities. They are combat tested and command focused on you, their Airmen. I leave with full trust and confidence in their abilities.

You have successfully deployed more than 7,760 times since 2001 and some before. You have passed what seems like hundreds of inspections with flying colors, have supported the State's domestic missions and come to the aid of your communities in floods, snowstorms and acts of terrorism. You have converted aircraft, accessed new missions and increased your strength to



more than 100 percent for the last three years, quite an accomplishment for a Northeast state and one of only three in the nation. And in your primary missions - since 2001- you have flown more than 30,600 hours and 8,000 sorties to support Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

Your persistence and warrior spirit will convey a compelling case for future missions in the New Jersey Air National Guard. You, the Airmen of the 108th and 177th, have been the most important part of my entire professional career, both civilian and military. It has been inspiring

and humbling to have been allowed to serve with all of you. Most of all, it has been an honor and a privilege.

Thank you for your patriotism, your service and your willingness to prevail in spite of the politics and the ever present danger from our nation's adversaries. You certainly don't do it for the glory, the honor or the money. You do it because of dedication to our nation and our democratic ideals, and for that I render a final salute. I would end with God bless the United States of America, but God has already blessed the United States with all of you.

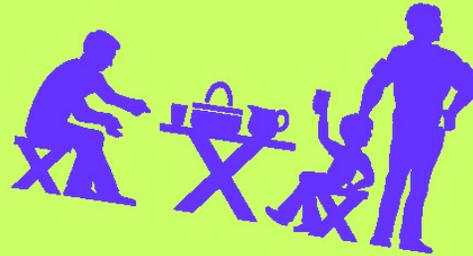


Airmen from the 108th Wing reenlisted Aug. 11, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. From left to right: Master Sgt. Henry Roman, Staff Sgt. Carlos Strasser, Tech. Sgt. Christian Sapp, Staff Sgt. Knalidi Hinkson, Col. Kevin Keehn, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Sedlacek, and Staff Sgt. Justin Rogers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Adrian R. Rowan)



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The Elks
are having a Fun
Day for all Military
Families. Come
out and have great
food, and a lot of
FUN.

Highlights

- Food, Food, & Food
- Face Painting
- Games
- Bounce House
- Prizes and Giveaways

When: Sunday, 23 September 2012 Time: 1300-1800

Where: Elks Lodge
105 Lakewood Rd.
New Egypt, NJ 08533

RSVP: By 15 September 2012
609-947-4559



National Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month

September is National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month.

It is an important time to remind our Airmen and their loved ones about the resources available to resolve many of the issues that are prevalent for those who attempt suicide; issues which include depression, relationship problems, financial and legal problems.

Accordingly, the 108th Psychological Health Program has launched a SharePoint page, which can be found under the Wing Programs tab on the 108th WG Homepage. Information on this page includes educational articles related to psychological health and links to civilian and military counseling services throughout the state. Furthermore, suicide hotline numbers are available along with local crisis centers for each New Jersey county, Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New York.

A critical tool in preventing suicide is knowledge of where to turn if you or someone you care about is experiencing a crisis. Public health service Capt. Joan Hunter, National Guard Bureau's director of Psychological Health, stated in an article for National Guard News, "People who are contemplating suicide don't necessarily want to end their biological life. Whatever is happening in their life, they don't see any options. You move them out of that crisis point...you've succeeded in saving a life."

For more information please contact the 108th's director of Psychological Health, Jill Barrett at 609-754-2159 or jill.barrett@ang.af.mil.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 800-273-TALK (800-273-8255).

Intel Officer Vacancy Announcement

Officer Vacancy Announcement: the 204th Intelligence Squadron, New Jersey Air National Guard, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, has a traditional guard military vacancy for an intelligence officer.

Any military service member wishing consideration and are in the rank of major or below and who holds the AFSC 14N3 or can attain the AFSC should prepare a detailed resume of military and civilian experience, along with a letter of recommendation from the individuals unit commander, Records Review RIP (obtainable from your FSS) or a VMPF personal data print out and a passing AF PT test.

NOTE: This position is a commissioning opportunity. Any NJANG enlisted member desiring consideration should submit a detailed resume of military and civilian experiences, AF Form 24, collage transcripts, Records Review RIP (obtainable from your FSS) or a VMPF personal data print out, AFOQT scores and passing AF PT test. A recommendation from your unit/squadron Commander is also required. Specific commissioning requirements are contained in AFI 36-2005. If not already commissioned, the selected candidate must attend a six-week officer commissioning program at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Applications w/supporting documentation must be submitted to: 108 OG/CC, 3390 Wonacott Avenue, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ 08641-5406 by close of business Nov. 30, 2012.

West Nile virus prevention tips

From the 108th Medical Group Public Health

West Nile Virus (WNV) is on the rise; with the highest number of cases reported since it was first tracked in 1999. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 43 states have reported the infection in humans, birds, and mosquitoes. There have been 693 cases Nationwide reported to the CDC, including 26 deaths.

Most of the cases are occurring among six states including Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and California. A total of four cases have been reported for New Jersey and Pennsylvania. While this number is comparatively low to other areas it is still important to protect yourself and your families.

WNV is carried by mosquitoes and transmitted to birds and humans through bites from infected mosquitoes. This epidemic is seasonal and the risk usually lasts through the end of fall. The best way to prevent a WNV infection is to avoid mosquito bites.

Avoiding WNV:

If you are spending time outdoors; use a DEET based repellent on your skin but do not use DEET on babies. Avoid going outdoors from dusk till dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you do, wear long sleeves and pants, if possible and use repellent. Check your screens and windows for holes or cracks where mosquitoes could get in. Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by emptying water from flower pots, buckets, cans, old tires, or any other possible water collection site around your house. It is also important to frequently change the water from small pools, pet dishes, and bird baths.

Symptoms of WNV range from mild to severe; with 80 percent of people who are infected not showing any symptoms. Others may develop symptoms within 3-14 days after an infected bite.

Mild symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Severe symptoms include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis.

There is no specific treatment regimen for WNV. If you believe you are experiencing mild symptoms of the infection; they generally clear up without medical treatment in a few weeks. However, it is your choice whether or not to seek medical attention. If you develop severe symptoms you should seek medical attention immediately to avoid complications.

For more information on West Nile Virus please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv_factsheet.htm.



RETIREMENT LUNCHEON



SMSgt Kathy Freed



**Recruiting & Retention
Superintendent**

Garden State Diner

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Wrightstown NJ 08562**

18 November 2012 (1130 Hrs)

\$20 per person, cash only

Meal choices:

Roast Chicken — Baked Stuffed Shells —

Fried Flounder Filet — Baked Virginia Ham —

Roast Top Sirloin of Beef Au Jus

RSVP & payment due by 13 November 2012 to:

SMSgt Paul Thompson - 609 562 0915 (paul.thompson.3@ang.af.mil)

MSgt Barbara Kotch - 609 562 0870 (barbara.l.kotch@us.army.mil)

FAMILY DAY 2012

Photos by Airman 1st Class Kellyann Novak



Recognizing your Airman is easy as 1-2-06

A great way to recognize Airmen, non-commissioned officers and senior NCOs in your unit or section is to submit them for a quarterly/yearly award. Every quarter the SNCO Council collects award packages.

When submitting individuals for quarterly awards, please submit only one individual for each category and complete only the front side portion of the AF IMT 1206. Once completed, please email to 108wg.snccouncil@ang.af.mil. Do not submit an AF IMT 1206 to any other email address as this will preclude your individual from being considered for an award. All AF IMT 1206's must be submitted no later than close of business the Tuesday prior

to each scheduled UTA weekend. The manner in which individuals will be selected for quarterly awards will be through a paper board rather than a formal board. However, the manner in which individuals are selected for the yearly award will continue to be in front of a formal board. Those individuals will be notified to appear before a formal board to compete for the Airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the year.

If you have any questions regarding the process to submit AF IMT 1206 contact Senior Master Sgts. Grieg Moore and Michael Edmiston, both are the POCs. There are some incredibly sharp individuals in every organization . . . recognize yours!!

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Editorial Staff

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