Wing Tips

108th Wing - New Jersey Air National Guard

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Commander's Column

Military commitment is year round effort

By Maj. Brian Griefer, 108th Security Forces Squadron commander

As members of the New Jersey Air National Guard we fulfill a unique role in our nation's military. For some of us, this is our full-time job, for others we are "traditional" or part-time members of the military. Whichever the case is, we all have state and federal responsibilities to meet when called upon to do so.

These responsibilities continue to increase over time as we all learn to do more with less, and work more efficiently and operate as responsible stewards of the equipment provided to us by the tax payers of America.

Currently, national and world events remind us of the need to be prepared. We must all be prepared according to Air Force standards.

As our enemies continue to develop their tactics we must stay ahead of those working against us. This means attending Professional Military Education courses not just to become eligible for promotion, but rather to improve our level of effectiveness.

We must all also stay current with all training requirements the Air Force mandates. This can be very challenging at times, but this is only one component of our readiness.

Personal readiness is another important factor in our ability to deploy on short notice. This includes having an up to date family care plan if one is required.

Each one of us should update our personal paperwork and power of attorney forms regularly, not at the last minute prior to a deployment. Everyone should also have a plan for their personal lives, even if they do not have a family. Issues that arise include your personal finances, vehicles, pets, and so on. All of this should be pre-planned.

Another important factor in personal readiness is physical fitness. Being physically fit makes any deployment or stressful situation easier to deal with, and minimizes the chance of injury. Becoming and staying physically fit takes commitment and cannot be done just on drill week-ends.

Personal readiness also means never forgetting the oath we have all taken to serve our nation and being constantly mentally and physically prepared to do so.

The guard affords all of us many benefits to include travel, tuition assistance, a salary, and a pension should we stay for a 20 year career. I challenge all of you to ask yourselves if you are ready and willing to fulfill your commitment to the wing, state and nation when you are called upon to do so. If the answer is a resounding yes, you should be proud of yourself and your service. If you are not sure or the answer is no, you should re-focus your efforts and speak to someone in your chain of command so they can help get you back on track.

On the Cover

It's an honor..... Retired Senior Master Sgt. Donald Newland, an honor guard member for the 108th Wing honor guards, begins the folding of Old Glory in a flag-folding ceremony May 15 at the 108th Wing. Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Erbe, 108th Public Affairs.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff.....108th Wing Commander
Capt. April Kelly.....Public Affairs Officer
Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison.....Public Affairs Office NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez.....Public Affairs specialist
Senior Master Sgt. Ray Knox, Staff Sgt. Eric Erbe and Senior Airman Adrian Rowan....Photographic Support

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Odds & Ends...

Military appreciation day

Military service members of the N.J. National Guard and their family members are cordially invited to attend Military Appreciation Day at the Casino Piers in Seaside Heights, N.J., Saturday, June 19.

Service members will be required to show a uniformed services military ID to obtain ride bracelets for you and your dependants.

Check in through the side entrance of the Breakwater Beach Waterpark on 62 Grant Avenue, which is located off the Boulevard. Check in is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. only.

The Waterpark opens at 10 a.m., and the rides open at noon.

Bracelets are good for use at the Waterpark and all Pier rides, such as the carousels, safari train, and kiddy boats. Excluded are the go-carts and the Skyscraper ride.

The Casino Piers at Seaside Heights is located at 62 Grant Ave, Seaside Heights, N.J.

Rain date will be on Sunday, June 20.

Father's Day brunch at Picatinny

Are you looking for a special way to celebrate Father's Day?

Come to the Cannon Gate catering at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., June 20 at noon for the Father's Day Brunch.

Cost is $20 per person, brunch for children 12 and under is half price.

Call 973-724-2582 for reservations.

On the Calendar

June

June 10-13	UTA
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	Father's Day
June 21	Summer begins

July

July 4	Independence Day

August

Aug. 14-15	UTA

September

Sept. 6	Labor Day
Sept. 11	Patriot Day
Sept. 11-12	UTA
Sept. 13-17	ORI
Sept. 17-18	Yom Kippur

MXG officer vacancy announcement

The 108th Wing's Maintenance Group has a vacancy for a commissioning opportunity to be an Aircraft Maintenance Officer, AFSC 21A3.

This announcement is open to current N.J. Air National guardsmen, and individuals that are eligible to become members of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Members desiring consideration for this position should prepare a military resume, letter of intent, copy of current fitness test, copy of college transcripts, and copy of AF Officer Qualifying Test scores. Applicants must possess qualifications or be willing to become qualified as outlined in AFMAN 36-2105 and ANGI 36-2005.

Application packages should be sent to Senior Master Sgt. Tania Prairie, 108 FSS/CC, 33-24 Charles Blvd., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, 08641, and must be received no later than close of business August 15, 2010.

Questions regarding this position may be directed to Senior Master Sgt. Tania Prairie at 609-754-6080.

CRG officer vacancy announcement

The 108th Contingency Response Group at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., has a traditional Guard military position vacancy in the career field of 14N3 Intelligence Officer.

Complete position description and qualifications may be found at the 108th Wing's internal Y drive within the following path - Y:\Training\OFFICER TRAINING.

Any Major or below who currently holds the above-listed AFSC or can attain the AFSC desiring consideration should prepare an application package consisting of a letter of intent, detailed resume of military and civilian experience, letter of recommendation from individual's unit commander, current fitness assessment, and a current Report of Individual Personnel obtainable from vMPF.

This is a commissioning opportunity. Any N.J. Air National Guard enlisted member desiring consideration should submit an application package consisting of a letter of intent, detailed military resume and civilian experience, a recommendation from individual's unit Commander, current fitness assessment, AF Form 24, college transcripts, a current Report of Individual Personnel obtainable from vMPF, and AFOQT scores. Specific commissioning requirements are contained in ANGI 36-2005. If not commissioned, the selected candidate must attend a commissioning program.

Submit applications to Lt. Col. Francine Main, 3305 Fiebelkorn Road, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ 08641-5406 no later than 3 p.m., Saturday, August 14, 2010.

Once all packages have been qualified, interviews will be scheduled.

Questions regarding this position may be directed to Lt. Col. Francine Main at DSN 650-0332, Comm. 609-754-0332.

Enjoying your boat during summer months the safe way!

From the 108th Safety Office

As the summer months approach, many people enjoy recreational boating at lakes or the ocean. Here are some federal requirements and safety tips to make your boating more enjoyable and safe.

Safety, Survival Tips, and Operator's Responsibilities

Your water fun depends on you, your equipment and other people who, like yourself, enjoy spending leisure time on, in or near the water. Let's take a look at your responsibilities:

- Make sure the boat is in top operating condition and that there are no tripping hazards. The boat should be free of fire hazards and have clean bilges.
- Safety equipment, required by law, is on board, maintained in good condition, and you know how to properly use these devices.
- File a float plan with a relative or friend.
- Have a complete knowledge of the operation and handling characteristics of your boat.
- Know your position and know where you are going.
- Maintain a safe speed at all times to avoid collision.
- Keep an eye out for changing weather conditions, and act accordingly.
- Know and practice the Rules of the Road (Navigation Rules).
- Know and obey Federal and state regulations and waterway markers.
- Maintain a clear, unobstructed view forward at all times. "Scan" the water back and forth; avoid "tunnel" vision. Most boating collisions are caused by inattention.

Know the navigation rules, observe the courtesies of safe boating and **KNOW . . .**

- **B**oat
- **E**quipment
- **S**afety devices and wear PFDs
- **A**lcohol and other distress stressors
- **F**irst aid and emergency procedures
- **E**nvironment, area and weather

. . . . . BEFORE YOU GO!

Boating Safety is no accident. To build sound knowledge, proficiency and confidence, the keys to safe boating, take a boating safety course.

For more information on boating safety and boating courses, contact your State Boating Agency, Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Power Squadron, and Coast Guard District or call the Boating Safety Infoline (1-800-368-5647).

Take time to reflect on safety, as safe boating begins here with you!

A vessel underway, when hailed by a Coast Guard vessel is required to heave to, or maneuver in such a manner that permits a boarding officer to come aboard.

Other federal, state and local law enforcement officials may board and examine your vessel, whether it is numbered, unnumbered or documented.

Coast Guard law enforcement personnel may also be found aboard other vessels.

The Coast Guard may impose a civil penalty up to $1,000 for failure to: comply with equipment requirements; report a boating accident; or comply with other federal regulations.

Failure to comply with the Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980 can result in a civil penalty up to $5,000.

Improper use of a radio-telephone is a criminal offense. The use of obscene, indecent or profane language during radio communications is punishable by a $10,000 fine, imprisonment for two years or both.

Other penalties exist for misuse of a radio, such as improper use of Channel 16 VHF-FM. Channel 16 is a calling and distress channel. It is not to be used for conversation or radio checks. Such traffic should be conducted on an authorized working channel.

Safety Tips

Feature Story

NYPD Blue to the ABU: Deployed New Jersey Guard senior airman speaks of service, sacrifice

By Master Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol,380th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- He grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and still calls it home. With more than 2.5 million people as New York City's most populous borough, Senior Airman Abdulbasset "Abdul" Montaser says it's a place like no other.

The New York City area has also long been known as a "melting pot" for Immigration for hundreds of years and Airman Montaser's family is no different. His parents immigrated to the United States from Yemen more than 30 years ago, settled in a Brooklyn Brownstone home, and raised Airman Montaser and the rest of the family with a "love" for their new nation like no other. It also explains his family's dedication in serving.

"Both of my parents are grateful and proud to be citizens of the United States," said Airman Montaser, a services journeyman deployed to the 380th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron at a non-disclosed base in Southwest Asia. He is deployed from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Force Support Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. "They are just as supportive of the troops as any other Americans and maybe more than others and they passed that on to us."

In addition to what he learned from his parents, understanding what it means to "serve" has always been crystal clear to him, Airman Montaser said. Before joining the Air Force and the Air National Guard, he served for seven years in the Marine Corps -- completing a one-year tour in Iraq in that time. For the last four years, he's also been a police officer with the New York Police Department, or NYPD.

"Being from a family of Marines, I had to follow the footsteps of my elders," Airman Montaser said. "My brother, uncles, cousins all served and are still serving to this day. I'm probably the only one in another branch now.

"Something I learned from being in two totally different branches of the military is that we all have one mission and that's to keep the people back home safe," Airman Montaser said. "So I'm extremely proud to serve in the armed forces at home or abroad. As far as being a police officer, I think I have the same responsibilities and duties at home. As a police officer, I'm held to a higher standard. I must do my best to keep every citizen safe. This is something I will always be proud and have the honor of doing."

Senior Airman Abdul Montaser is a services journeyman with the 380th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron at a non-disclosed base in Southwest Asia. Here he is pictured next to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 9-11 memorial. He is deployed from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Force Support Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., and his hometown is Brooklyn, N.Y. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol/Released)

In his deployed job as a services journeyman, Airman Montaser works in Roy's Flight Kitchen -- a dining facility located in the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's operations area near the flight line.

"I deal with all the flight meals," he said. "I coordinate all the flight meals for the crews who leave for combat missions every day. I make sure all the proper documentation gets turned in and all the flight meals are ready in a timely manner. When I'm not busy with the flight meals I help out with other things that need to get done in the facility."

When he was in the Marine Corps, Airman Montaser worked as a transportation troop who wore the Marine combat uniform. "I worked in the motor pool," he said. Now, serving in the Air National Guard and in force support operations while deployed sporting the Airman Battle Uniform, or ABU, he said it provides a different perspective.

"I enjoy being in services," Airman Montaser said. "I learn a lot every day by just being out here on deployment. As I always say, we all have one mission. All the jobs revolve around each other. Regardless if its services getting food for aircrews or aircrews supporting Marines and Soldiers on the ground in Afghanistan, we all have a critical job and mission that has to be accomplished day-in and day-out."

At his deployed location, not far from where Airman Montaser rests every day after completing a 12-hour shift,

See **Montaser** on page 7

All in a days work!

Story by Master Sgt. Louis Conzo, 447th Civil Engineer Squadron

BAGHDAD – Here's a story about how some Airmen from New Jersey beat equipment woes, horrific weather and a seemingly impossible deadline to complete a mission in a war zone half a world away.

It all started on Friday, May 7 when word came down that the New Jersey Air National Guard's 447th Civil Engineer Squadron needed to move an aging trailer through the maze-like terrain on the grounds of Baghdad International Airport. They had 48 hours.

The team leapt into action. The structures shop worked into the night to prep the trailer for the move. The Engineering Assistants planned and marked roads as well as access and security points for the new location.

At 'o'darkthirty' the next morning, the rest of the task force hit the trail, grading a road and moving a crane to hoist the trailer onto a flat bed truck. The morning turned to afternoon and the temperature climbed into the low 100's. Crews went to work with graders, a bulldozer and front loaders to smooth the route and a crane was moved in place to lift the trailer. Then the first snag hit. The trailer turned out to be far heavier than advertised and could not be safely moved. It would have taken several days to acquire a larger crane. But the team didn't have days.

In the can-do spirit of their New Jersey roots, Capt. Eric Balint and Chief Master Sgt. Tim Grover, the operation chiefs, started working up an alternate plan. With the help of Master Sgt. Pat Basnett, the team decided to try to convince an Army unit to give up a different trailer. While some members of the team went to secure the new trailer, the rest of the crew began prepping the site for new trailer.

That night, fueled by the great heat of the day, torrential rains struck. It had been the worst rain of the year to that point and it was bad enough to undue all the painstaking prep work the new site.

One part of the team went back to work, redoing the prep work. The rest of the team set about moving the new trailer. Master Sgt. John Krzewski oversaw that part of the operation, ensuring both speed – and safety.

The trailer was moved without a hitch. But the team still had much to do and the clock was ticking.

Electricians went to work not just connecting, but upgrading the equipment in the trailer. HVAC put new units in place and wired them up. Structures performed a quick rehabilitation of the interior. First Sgt. "Broadway" Joe McKenna was moving vertical curtain walls from a storage area across the base to the work zone, where they would be finally positioned by forklifts.

See **Engineers** on page 8

Record snowfall, no problem

The 108th Wing snow removal team worked through a winter of record 58-inches of snowfall, to clear snow and ice from 1,500,000 square feet of airfield surfaces and 1,235,000 square feet of roads and parking lots.

Due to manning losses from deployments, members needed to work up to 16 hour shifts to accomplish these tasks.

During this time of record snowfalls, the team met all its responsibilities clearing snow as well as covering emergency service calls without any reportable mishaps.

After each snow event base safety inspectors and airfield managers inspected and quickly approved apron for operation and alert mission readiness.

The snow removal team's efforts enabled 108th Wing personnel to arrive on base safely so they may accomplish their mission objectives.

The snow removal team's efforts also resulted in minimum impact to flying operations.

The snow removal team consisted of the following individuals: Lt. Col. Andrew Abraham, Master Sgt. Howard Achilles, John Adams, Charles Beam, Ray Benassutti, Master Sgt. Joel Blake, Tech. Sgt. Mark Christian, Tony Davis, Kurt Falzini, Senior Airman Amanda Gonzalez, Fred Gonzalez, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Goulden, Senior Master Sgt. Harry Johnson, Capt. John Koza, Rocco Lanzetti, Anthony Leuci, Master Sgt. Ernie Loveday, Staff Sgt. Kerry Martin, Master Sgt. Daniel McHugh, Tech. Sgt. Ed McGee, Otto Peterson, Tech. Sgt. Tom Pettit, Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Redrup, Charles Skeenes, Tech. Sgt. Timothy Thornton, Master Sgt. Steve Whelpley

Senior airman speaks of service, sacrifice

Montaser from page 5

there's a 9-11 memorial next to a fire station in honor of the victims of the attacks on New York City's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001. Airman Montaser said the first time he saw it, he was reminded of the many reasons he serves today.

"My first physical training session here was the first time I saw the 9-11 memorial," Airman Montaser said. "The run ended at the fire house by the memorial. When I was coming around that corner on my last lap, I for some reason had to walk up to the buildings that are a part of the memorial and touch them. Now, every time I pass the memorial, I take a quick second to think back to the days when real twin towers were still up."

Going back to Sept. 11, 2001, Airman Montaser recalls his mother waking him up to tell him what was going on in the news that morning.

"At that time, it was just after the first plane hit," Airman Montaser said. "I thought it was just a horrible accident. Moments later, when the second plane hit, I didn't know what to think. It was like something from a fictional movie. I couldn't believe it. I went up to the roof of my father's three-story Brownstone and could see it all."

The senior airman said shock was all that set in. His hometown was under attack and he said he felt like everyone else who was "watching this in horror not knowing what's going to happen next."

"People were crying. People were yelling. People were asking each other questions like, 'Is this really happening?' When the towers collapsed it was over and everyone was in a daze. It was quiet. I couldn't believe my eyes. That memorial here reenergizes me to do my best here. Just looking at it brings back the good memories from before the tragedy and suffering and reminds me to do what I can to never see that again," he said.

Partly because of his personal desire to continue to serve in some capacity continuously and because of the events of Sept. 11, Airman Montaser said he wanted to be an NYPD officer.

"Like all who we lost on Sept. 11, the New York police officers and firefighters were among the most brave of all people who responded; and now I am among them," Airman Montaser said. "I now work in a city-wide crime unit. The unit is predominantly a plain clothes unit. Overall, we do a lot of pro active operation which means we go out and make sure that the area we are assigned to at the time is safe and free of any crimes or illegal activities. We also follow and keep up to date with robbery and grand larceny patterns. If there is a pattern that is going on, we will normally get assigned that area."

Airman Montaser is also bilingual -- he's fluent in both English and Arabic languages. He learned Arabic growing up from his parents. He said, "We just spoke it a lot around the house." But being an American where English dominates, he also learned that as well. He said his Arabic skills have helped learn more about the local culture on his current and past deployments.

"When a local national first takes a look at me, they never think I can speak Arabic," Airman Montaser said. "They would assume I only speak English so they would talk in English. When I start to speak Arabic, I can see it in their faces they are wondering if what I just said was Arabic. I always tell them, 'Don't think too hard -- yes I speak Arabic.' From there, it's like a celebration for them."

"As far as learning about them, I know and understand the culture and traditions pretty well," he said. "Growing up, my parents taught me the basics. Whether it was speaking the language; customs and courtesies; or learning the culture and traditions. I'm glad they did because it has helped in the long run."

When he closes out his current deployment to Southwest Asia, goes back to New York City and Brooklyn and hangs up his ABUs to put back on his NYPD blue, Airman Montaser said he will continue to remember the reason Americans have served, continue to serve, and sacrifice to protect their freedoms.

"The memorial here is a good example," Airman Montaser said. "When you come out here, all the way across the globe and see it there, it is touching. It shows the patriotism and dedication that we have as Americans. It represents the resolve and sacrifice of our people in this wing who fly the planes on combat missions and all the support personnel who make it happen. It's one team and a team I am proud to be a part of."

JB MDL thrift shops; answer for crowded closets, tax writeoff

Wouldn't it be great to clean out your closets – and get a tax break at the same time? There is.

Consider making a donation to the McGuire Thrift Shop at 3446 Broidy Road on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Donations of gently-used goods, such as clothes, tools, bicycles, furniture, and sporting goods are welcome. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and the same hours on the first Saturday of the month. All proceeds are reinvested back into the military community. Volunteers are welcome. The thrift shop also accepts consignments from 10 a.m. till noon. Call 609-754-2368 for more information. And while you're on the Joint Base, check out the Dix Thrift Shop. The shop has an ever-growing array of clothes, golf equipment, household items, gardening tools as well as clothes. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the first and third Saturday of each month; and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month.

For more information, call Sylvia at 609-723-2683.

Engineers busy in Baghdad

Engineers from page 6

Several forklifts were borrowed from the Logistics squadron and crewed by trained but non-Heavy Equipment members of CE.

This ballet went on for 14 hours, into darkness. The troops used every available form of illumination, including vehicle headlight. By the time Security Forces had placed the concertina wire, 57 members of Civil Engineering had sacrificed their down-day, 1.5 linear miles of road were constructed, 300 concrete barriers were moved and placed, a security gate was fabricated and installed, furniture from the original office was moved into the new one, phones and computer systems were set up and the trailer was operational, waiting for its occupants the following morning.

All of this occurred without a single mishap or injury, under the eye of Lt. Col. Paul Novello, Commander of the 447 Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and garnering the praise of the Base commander, Col. Bruce Taylor.

Master Sgt. Pat Basnett directs the fine positioning of barrier walls at Gryphon Air facility in Baghdad on May 7, 2010. Thanks in part to Basnett's oversight throughout the project, there were no injuries or mishaps reported despite the darkness, close quarters of the job site and feverish pace. Photos by Master Sgt. Louis Conzo.

Staff Sgt. Anne McKenzie, an electrician with the 447th Civil Engineer Squadron, installs an overhead light fixture in the new Gryphon Air facility at Baghdad on May 7, 2010. Photo by Master Sgt. Louis Conzzo.

Senior Aiman Andrew Izzo, a civil engineer with the 447th Civil Engineer Squadron, operates a 10K forklift on evening hours May 7, 2010 at Gryphon Air facility in Baghdad. Working late, Izzo moved blast barriers past sunset to ensure the new Gryphon Air facility would be completed on time and without any interruption to service. Photo by Master Sgt. Louis Conzo.