



June 2011

Off on a mission



On Memorial Day, 80 men and women of the 107 Airlift Wing deployed to Afghanistan for a three-month-long deployment. Friends and family of the Airmen were there for an emotional sendoff on their journey. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Catherine Perretta)

A note from the sandbox

On behalf of the 136 Airlift Squadron, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the men and women of this Wing who enabled us to successfully deploy over Memorial Day. They are too numerous to mention by name. There are many squadrons that played a key role for our departure. Aerial Port, Supply, Security Forces, Medics, Safety, Chaplains, and Emergency Management all worked extremely hard in preparing this squadron for our first AEF deployment since 2002. My hat's off to all and I salute you.

On a day filled with emotion, both historical and current, we are reminded of the sacrifices made by those who deployed before us and those deploying now. This will not be the last rotation for any of us. We must continue to support and train each other for the days ahead. That is what makes this Wing special. We are family here too. As we leave our families we are supported by another family, the 107th family. For that I am humbled to serve with such fine people.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many Airman in this Wing volunteering to deploy outside of their deployment windows. It takes a special type of person to leave family and friends behind to serve this nation. That volunteerism is the root of the National Guard. That is the legacy we uphold and symbolize.

I also would like to wish God's Speed to the Civil Engineers and Security Forces who will be deploying in the near future. Best of Luck to you all, be safe and I pray for a successful deployment.

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Michael W. Bank Jr

107 AW Air Operations Officer

Public Affairs Officer
 Capt. Elaine Nowak
 Public Affairs Specialist
 Staff Sgt. Peter Dean
 Staff Photographers
 Senior Master Sgt. Ray Lloyd
 Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett
 Tech. Sgt. Catherine Perretta

107th Airlift Wing
 Commander
 Col. Jim McCready
 Vice Commander
 Col John J. Higgins (select)
 Executive Officer
 Lt. Col. Deanna Miller

THUNDERBIRD

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Airmen of the half



Fi-

Airman: Airman 1st Class Matthew Dier, Financial Management

Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Douglas Stowe, Financial Management

NCO: Staff Sgt. Martin Hanley, Financial Management

(USAF Photo/Tech. Sgt. Catherine Perretta)

Congratulations are in order— The past month's enlisted promotions

Promoted to:

Senior Airman

Stacey Palleschi, MXS
Andrew Pajak, LRS
Luke Glader, AMXS

Staff Sergeant

Heather Farr, COMP
Jason Brueggeman, SFS
Michael Dennee, SFS
Chance Soda, CES



Technical Sergeant

Jennifer Blamowski, AW
Warren Jones, SFS
Patrick Covell, MXS
Mark Dascomb, MXS



Chaplain Services

Catholic Mass

Saturday 4 p.m., Base Chapel

Protestant

Worship

Saturday 4 p.m.,

Wing Conference Room, Building 901

The Rosary

Fridays prior to UTA at noon,

Wing Conference Room, Building 901

For service schedules of Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, and Orthodox communities, call extension 2395.

If you need to see a chaplain, please call Chaplain Services at extension 2395, or at the numbers listed below. Chaplains are always on call.

Catholic Chaplain

Lt. Col. James P. Jaeger

St. Mary's Church

32 E. Morris St.

Bath, NY 14810

Phone: (315) 597-4571

Protestant Chaplains

Maj. Jackie Ann Rose Kraft

Asbury United Methodist Church

3750 Millesport Highway

Getzville NY 14068

Office: (716) 688-8677

Home: (716) 625-6266

Capt. Keith A. Manry

Akron First United Methodist

7 Church St.

Akron, NY 14001

Office: (716) 542-2060

Strengthening marriages...

By Chaplain (Captain) Keith A. Manry

Sadly, more than 50 percent of marriages today end in divorce. Often times marriages fail because of a lack of skill at navigating the stressful situations couples encounter. This stress is heightened in a marriage where one or both members are members of the military. For that reason our Religious Support Team is proud to be trained in the Guard's Strong Bonds program. Strong Bonds exists to strengthen marriages by equipping them with the tools needed to successfully navigate relationships.

On May 6 and 7, 2011, 13 couples met at the Holiday Inn in Waterloo, NY to strengthen their marriages. Our Religious Support Team led them through exercises that focused on communication, identifying issues, problem solving and forgiveness, among others. Couples learned valuable skills including a speaker-listener technique that equipped them to better their relationships.

Here's what some of the couples had to say:

"Thank you for taking the time to do this retreat. Your time was greatly appreciated!"

"All speakers/instructors were excellent!"

"It was a valuable program and we are blessed to have been here."

Our prayer is that those who attended, especially those who are preparing for an upcoming deployment, left better able to face the stress that the military life introduces into marriages.

If you were unable to attend this past retreat another retreat is currently being planned. While the past retreat was heavily educational in nature the next retreat will be more inspirational. It will feature a program called "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage."

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The Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage seminar features four sessions. The sessions include:

“Tale of Two Brains” – a comical and informative session showing couples how many of their problems are related to how men and women think differently. It shows how most struggles in marriage are not the result of a HEART problem, but a HEAD problem.

“The #1 Key to Incredible Sex” – this session shows the importance of sex in marriage. While incredibly funny, it shows how the sexual messages of our culture are fundamentally flawed at best and destructive at worst. It then shows steps couples can take to achieve a great and healthy sex life, ending with the #1 Key to Incredible Sex.

“Why Does He/She Do That!?” - shows how to discover the true reason why our spouses do what they do. A great “stress reducer.”

“How to Stay Married and NOT Kill Anybody” - In this final session, we’re shown how to avoid building resentment in our marriages and the key to staying married for a lifetime.

This retreat will begin on a Friday evening and end on Sunday at lunch. All expenses will be paid including travel. Watch for upcoming details and how you can sign up.

Remember, the Religious Support Team is here to support not only you as a member but your family including your spouses. We’re able to provide marriage counseling and support even in times of deployment.



<http://www.facebook.com/107thNYANG>

<http://www.107aw.af.mil/>

STAY CONNECTED



More than a title

Congratulations to one of our new Chief Master Sergeants, Chief David Wall from Civil Engineering. I myself am also honored to wear the stripes of Chief Master Sergeant. Soon after promotion, CMSgt Wiencek asked if I would write an article for the Chief's Corner section of "The Thunderbird" pertaining to how it feels to be a new Chief. For those who know me well, of course I said yes because as always I have something to say. Okay, please do not turn the page but continue reading.

I asked myself, "I have only been a CMSgt for two weeks and have not even served during an UTA, how can I truly know what it feels like to be a Chief and how can I write an article that will inspire other airmen?" For weeks I have thought what words I could put in this month's Thunderbird to describe my feelings as a new Chief. I still have difficulty accepting the title Chief. I still need to become accustomed to that paramount level of respect given by all military members. I still cannot believe that I am in a select group of two percent of all Air National Guard's 110,000 members; however, while recently visiting Andrews AFB BX I never hesitated to park in one of the designated CMSgt parking spots. It has not been difficult being Chief, but after twenty years of being addressed Sergeant, it is truly something that takes time to accept.

I say being a new Chief comes down to one acceptable fact- Chief's are not new to the position but in many means are already serving that role. Of course when one earns the grade of E-9 they are addressed as Chief; however, high performing and engaged senior enlisted NCO's, in one way or another, are already a Chief. Chief's are not made but instead are mentored, led, and cared for by many airmen throughout their entire career path. The day you prepare for Chief is not E-8 but instead E-1. You accept and practice our core values daily. You complete your technical and PME requirements immediately and also with the greatest effort. Attending UTA's and meeting the minimum requirements are unacceptable because you must be involved in councils and organizations that have a positive effect on the unit's mission and the Air National Guard. You are not a supervisor but instead a leader to all airmen.

An engaged NCO mentor's, conducts feedback sessions, and cares for all airmen, on and off duty, both officer and enlisted and has many mentors themselves. They ensure that each Airman has individual value to the unit and laser focused goals for their career success and professional development. UTA's are not limited to 16 hours a month but instead the number of hours needed to assure maximum accession and retention rates within their section. Get awarded your CCAF degree and pursue your civilian education too. Chief's do not set the example but are the example. By following my recommendations you will someday know what it feels like to be a Chief and because of your personal and professional successes, many of you in the unit already may. You will receive not only given respect but have earned respect by everyone in the organi-

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Chief promotion ceremony

May 15, 2011

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Green becomes Chief Green as he is pinned by his wife, Sheree, and Col. Jim McCready. (USAF Photo/Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett)



Chief Master Sgt. David Wall gets his new stripe from wife, Roxanne, and son, Staff Sgt. Lukus Tymchuck. (USAF Photo/Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett)

Members of the Honor Guard perform a flag folding ceremony. (USAF Photo/Tech. Sgt. Catherine Perretta)



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zation. You will be approached by all ranks for advice or problem solving solutions, on and off base. To be questioned not because of the stripes on your sleeve but because of what you have accomplished in your career- those are the attributes of a Chief.

So the original question was “How does it feel to be a new Chief?” Excellent, honored, and grateful but if you live by the core values and balance the needs of the mission with the needs of the people, being a Chief should be something one always achieves. Some of you “get it” and already understand exactly what I mean and it is for Airmen like you that we Chiefs hold these stripes for and will someday transfer to your sleeves.

The rank of Chief Master Sergeant is a long hard journey, but it definitely is not a final destination.

Assumption of Authority Ceremony May 14, 2011



Chief Master Sgt. David Wohleben salutes Col. Jim McCready, as he takes over as the 107th's Command Chief. Outgoing Command Chief Richard King. (right) is now the New York State Command Chief for the Air Guard. (USAF Photo/Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett)



LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE®

"The key to a successful marriage is not finding the person. The key to a successful marriage is doing the right things. If you do the right things you'll succeed... if you don't, you'll fail.

It's just that simple."

- International Speaker

Mark Gungor



FREE Weekend Retreat for Military Member & Spouse!

Location: A hotel in either Rochester, NY or Erie, PA

(Location to be announced soon!)

Friday, July 29th—Sunday, July 31st, 2011

Registration is limited, so please sign up soon!

To register visit www.strongbonds.org, click on "find an event", search for "Laugh Your Way", and you'll find the event listed for the 107th, click on that link and you'll find another link to register. For more information contact Chaplain, Captain, Keith Manry at 716-425-5530 or by email at keith.manry@ang.af.mil.



Strong Bonds Retreat May 6 & 7, 2011

13 couples gathered at the Holiday Inn in Waterloo, NY for a marriage strengthening retreat, lead by the 107th chaplains.



Tech. Sgt. Heather Sweeney and Father Jim Jaeger were part of the Religious Support Team.

To conclude the retreat, a commitment ceremony was held for the couples.



Courtesy photos





Attention 107th and 914th Wing Members

To register contact:
SMSgt Jeffrey Wilczek
236-6302
or
jeffrey.wilczek@ang.af.mil



The Next Satellite NCOA Class Needs YOU!



Questions For Your SatNCOA
Facilitators?

SMSgt Paul McDougald:
paul.mcdougald@ang.af.mil
381-2038

MSgt Chanda White:
chanda.white@ang.af.mil
236-2427

TSgt Daniel Weiser:
daniel.weiser@ang.af.mil
236-2477

TSgt Joy Holland:
joy.holland@ang.af.mil
236-3253

Our next class dates are as follows:

16 July - Registration will be closed; Sites will be approved
(This is YOUR deadline to sign up)

Class dates for home station and residence portions are below:

Home station: 29 Aug 2011 - 23 Nov 2011

Two nights a week

Residence: 28 Nov 2011 - 13 Dec 2011

To be considered for attendance the following must be met:

1. Grade: TSgt
2. Passing Fitness Test (75 or above) good through 13 Dec 11
3. Valid Security Clearance

If you meet these requirements and are interested in registering
send an email to your Unit Training Manager,



Welcome to the family



Airman 1st Class Kevin Pawlukovich, SFS, is welcomed to the unit by Capt. Kevin Smith after enlisting into the 107th.



Airman Basic James Gerard, MX, is sworn in by Col. Jim McCready.



Promotions

James Walsh is pinned master sergeant by his sons Patrick, Joseph and Matthew (left to right).



Master sergeant stripes are firmly planted on David Nye by Lt. Col. Kenneth Anderson and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Johnston.



The newly promoted Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Rose is pinned by his wife and Lt. Col. Kenneth Anderson.



(USAF Photos/Tech. Sgt. Justin Huett)



Decorations

Master Sgt. Brian Duchscherer is presented the Meritorious Service Medal by Col. Robert Kilgore.



Tech. Sgt. George Fox, Jr. receives the Meritorious Service Medal.

Col. Robert Kilgore presents Master Sgt. John Venditti the Meritorious Service Medal.



(USAF Photos/Tech. Sgt. Catherine Peretta)



Tech. Sgt. Roman Jeter is presented with An Air Force Achievement Medal, Fifth Oak Leaf Cluster by Col. Robert Kilgore.



Senior master sergeant stripes are gently applied on the arms of Gregory London by Col Robert Kilgore and Chief Master Sgt. Philip Tavenier.

(USAF Photos/Tech. Sgt. Catherine Peretta)

