



107th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, Niagara Falls, NY

November 2011



Programs change, but safety still starts and ends with you

The year 2012 will be a year of significant change to the USAF Mishap Prevention, Compliance Assessment, and Safety Management Programs, with a revamping of the unit level safety and inspection programs. The AF safety world got a shot in the arm in 2009 when a USAF Audit Agency investigation of 13 major installations found the AF fell “far short” in managing its ground safety programs with inadequate training and guidance coupled with lax supervision being sited. As a result of this investigation the USAF Safety Center rewrote AFI 90-803 Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program and AFI 91-202 The USAF Mishap Prevention Program. As a fix, these AFI’s direct a Three Tiered approach to assessing program effectiveness, which focus on unit level participation in the inspection process.

At the unit level, commanders, supervisors, and unit safety reps (USRs) are responsible for conducting monthly spot inspections and quarterly Tier 1 process reviews. Spot inspections are an effective way to find and eliminate transitory hazards and ensure compliance with safety requirements, and are the responsibility of supervisors and USRs. Tier 1 assessments are routine facility and workplace process reviews intended to ensure compliance and conformance to instructions, policies, and requirements. Tier 2 assessments are annual reviews conducted by the Safety Office, with Tier 3 being a formal Wing-level external assessment conducted by MAJCOM equivalent. In the end, this three year revolving process is aimed at assessing programmatic effectiveness and compliance.

So why do I bore you with all of this? After all, Safety is a commander’s program and the responsibility of supervision at all levels to develop and implement safety and mishap prevention programs, right? (BTW, if you fall into this category and the above is news to you, call me, we have to talk.) I tell you this so you know the processes in place and what your staff is doing to provide you a safe work environment. However, the bottom line is that effective risk management and hazard mitigation responsibility lies with you. You are the first line of defense in recognizing and reporting a hazard and ensuring safe work place habits are enforced. The Air Force is very quick to place blame on supervision when a mishap occurs, and usually some is justified. However all the revamping of programs, assessing of processes, identification of trends, and measurement of risk matters not without your efforts. In this year of programmatic change the basic tenet of risk management remains constant in that it starts and ends with the individual. While your staff is working to implement these changes in 2012, make risk mitigation and safe

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THUNDERBIRD

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Don't leave home without your Airman's Manual

By Lt. Col. Barry Coble

Commander, 335th Training Squadron



KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFPN) —

Many of you have been issued or are about to be issued AFM 10-100, The Airman's Manual. It's that colorful, spiral-bound manual that gives the basics on how to survive and thrive in an expeditionary environment.

Its size is such that it fits nicely into the leg pocket of your battle dress uniform. The Air Force plans to issue one to every active-duty, Guard and Reserve member.

Don't throw it away!

For years, our sister services have had similar manuals to help their people when they deploy to the field. The Air Force, on the other hand, rarely deployed people to locations where they had to worry about putting up their own tents or cleaning weapons. We either learned as we went along, went to a location where it didn't matter or someone else took care of those

chores for us.

Those days are gone. As we enter the expeditionary aerospace force era, the Air Force is increasingly being deployed to locations where there may be only a runway and a source of water. Everything else must be carried in, and we'll be expected to begin accomplishing the mission in a very short period of time.

EAF means taking just enough along to meet deployment goals. We can't meet those goals by hauling lots of extra people or amenities. Those first few planes bringing in supplies may not be carrying portable toilets.

Yes, the Airman's Manual does describe how to dig a latrine. It also tells you how to identify unexploded ordnance and mark it correctly. In other words, AFM 10-100 is not only meant to make your life a little more comfortable, it may help save your life. It will become an essential item in your deployment bag should your opportunity come to deploy.

As Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said recently in a message about the manual, "It is truly a survival manual for everyone on the Air Force team. Read it. Learn it. Use it."

Further, the chief of staff has asked the Air Force inspector general to make this a special interest item on future inspections to "encourage the exchange of ideas on using this manual to reinforce expeditionary skills."

So keep your Airman's Manual in a prominent position at your desk. Carry it in your BDU pants pocket. Get so used to the feel of it that you feel naked without it. Do these things and you're ready to better meet the challenges of our 21st century EAF. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)



Are the good ole' days gone?

“In the good old days...” That is one of my least liked phrases which seems to be heard more and more around the wing lately. Having worked through some of the “good old days” here, I can only guess that this is because every month we get tasked with more and more requirements that we must squeeze into an already packed UTA. Well, if you believe all the fun stories from the good old days, it’s hard to imagine any work ever got done at all. Let me assure you, there was a lot of work that happened too, we just made it fun.

Through the years I’ve been here, I found that making work enjoyable is based on two things: a common goal and attitude. For us, the common goal is the easy part, since the military is quite clear in spelling out missions and requirements. From the overall wing mission of keeping the planes flying to the specific mission of a small office or shop or even completing a training class, you will always be able to find at least one other soul that is working with you toward the same goal. That common goal is the first key. We all have required training or tasks that we don’t like to do, but the simple fact in knowing everyone else has to do the same thing to reach the same end result makes it a little more comforting. Long deployments, working outside in bad weather, endless CBTs and training classes – you are not alone. I know donning that chem gear can be tedious, but when we are all doing it together it is certainly a lot easier to joke with Staff Sgt. Jones as he hops frantically around the room trying to jam his foot into the JSList pants without undoing the Velcro first. Hey, it’s fun AND a learning experience....

Attitude is the more challenging part of making work enjoyable, because that is solely controlled by you. You have to make a conscious choice when you come to work of how you are going to approach the job at hand; either complain about it or accept it and make the best of it. How many times have you been to a class where one person will not stop grumbling about having to do the training? Now, have you ever been to the same class where everyone was smiling and laughing? Which class seemed longer? We are all guilty of complaining at times, but do you want to be THAT person – the one that makes the job unbearable for everyone around you? We all need to project a positive attitude, especially anyone in a leadership role. This can be really difficult to do at times; I know. I have certainly struggled with it. But, much like any other learned habit, it becomes easier with practice, until it is eventually effortless.

We, the 107th Airlift Wing, certainly have many challenges ahead of us. From budget cuts to the upcoming ORI, we will have many opportunities in the near and distant future to test my theory and make work fun. One thing is certain, when the opportunity comes for us to do our jobs and/or use that skill we’ve trained in, we consistently prove how all that hard work and tedious practice makes us excel. Fun or not, that is more satisfying than anything else. I really hope when today’s young airmen look back on these days as their “good old days,” that they have some great stories to tell too.



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

Christmas 2011

By Father (Lt. Col.) Jim Jaeger

For the last four years, my personal celebration of Christmas has been minimal. Since the loss of my mother, I didn't really want to do much decorating around the home I own. It took too much energy to work in my two parishes that I didn't want to put out energy to decorate, as well. But thank heaven others encouraged me to decorate a little bit. The lights and music as well as the giving of gifts always uplifts a weary, tired spirit. Being home alone made me wonder why bother at all to do anything. By the time I celebrated four or five Christmas Masses, all I wanted to do was to go home to rest and sleep.

This year I have a renewed spark to celebrate. This year will be different. It is because one of my nieces and my grandnephew is home living with me. They are staying at my house because her husband, Matt, is in the Army, deployed in Iraq. This is the third or fourth tour for him. She didn't want to remain at Fort Hood because all their former friends have left the base to other assignments.

She felt alone. To have a two-year-old, and be alone, is a bit stressful. So, she called Uncle Jim. She asked if she could come home to Canandaigua to live with me until Matt returns from Iraq. I immediately said of course. It is the least I can do to help a struggling military family. It is nice having my twenty-six year old niece and a two year old in the house. The quiet retreat that I had is now alive with the sounds of family life and activity. The joy of my grandnephew running into my arms when his mother is disciplining him and him sharing his fish crackers with me makes each and every day a joy.



Living alone so long makes one try to overcome certain bachelor tendencies such as letting go of my schedule. My niece has a different way to do things that this 54-year-old doesn't always understand. But I am trying to be as accommodating and flexible as I can be. I normally like to sleep late, for example, and am not used to a two-year-old running into my bedroom and getting into bed with me and waking me up. I must admit that I truly love my grandnephew and my niece. Sometimes I only talk about the little one and forget to tell my niece that I love her. However, I have learned, even in my late stage in life, that it is just as important to tell my niece she is just as special to me as my two-year-old grandnephew. I love cooking for them and I love taking them out to show my affection as well. As long as they are with me they deserve to have the best Christmas possible. I am so glad they aren't alone on a base. I am so glad they are with me. I want to love and spoil them as much as I can. Therefore this year I am going to decorate for them. I am going to go out of my way with gift giving. I am going to put on a dinner feast for them to enjoy and remember in Christmas futures. I want them to know how much their uncle loves them.

Life is about sharing faith, hope, and love. I feel that I can do that in a special way this special Christmas. My niece and grandnephew have lost their husband and father to active overseas duty. They have lost the home they have had for four years. They have lost community and belonging. This uncle looks forward to sharing my little ranch home "inn" with them. They have brought out life in me in so many ways. I am better off because of them. I want them to know how much they mean to me. Thank heaven we have each other. That is what Christmas means to me this year.

I hope you all get to share your lives with those you love this Christmas. I hope no one is alone. I hope you find others to celebrate with. Others need you and you need others. In the Christian faith, God became flesh that first Christmas morn and found us. Maybe to find the Lord again we need to reach out and find one another. When we find one another we find God in the love and care that exists there.



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Historic UTA at Niagara

by Staff Sgt. Andrew Caya
914th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

10/18/2011 - **NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y.** -- "We called it a historic weekend, because it's never been done before," said Col. Kurt Hammer, lead operational readiness inspection planner for Team Niagara .

Niagara Airmen from the 914th and 107th Airlift Wings participating in the upcoming ORI partook in a joint Unit Training Assembly October 15 and 16 at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

In years passed, the Air Force Reserve 914th Airlift Wing and the New York Air National Guard 107th Airlift Wing have been separate entities. However since the association of both units, the wings have been in lockstep with one another into uncharted territories.

"We are the only Reserve and Guard association on the same installation in the world," said Hammer. "We are very unique."

Just because Niagara Airmen are in a different situation than many units in the Air Force, doesn't mean that they will be given a free pass at the ORI. Hard work and training are part of Niagara's association regimen.

According to the lead planner, it is estimated that 70 percent of a unit has never been to an ORI before.

"We had to cross that line some point in time and get these new people who have never been to an operational training inspection into an ORI mode", said Hammer. "This was the weekend we did it. I think it went outstanding."

Master Sgt. Douglas Stowe, of the 107th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office stated that his joint section took the initiative to train together before this weekend.

"Once we knew we were doing a Team Niagara ORI together we went to Ft. Drum as a combined 914th and 107th shop to do a Financial Management Operational Readiness Exercise," said Stowe. "We've worked together before, so this UTA is integrating us again, and it's working well."

Team Niagara Financial Management was not the only section that was on top of their readiness and ORI preparations.

I can't tell you how many compliments I received from the Exercise Evaluation Team about how seamless our association was, said Hammer. "They could not tell the difference between a 914th or 107th Airman- that was our goal. I think we are beyond the 914th and 107th; We are Team Niagara."

Although the first ever joint UTA is over, Colonel Hammer and the rest of the Team Niagara ORI staff are working together to hone the units wartime training.

"Given the results of this weekend, we are going to develop a training plan that gives leaders a direct guide on how we are going to get from where we are now, to the ORI trained and able," said Hammer.





Military Ball 2011



Military Ball
Grand Island, NY
October 22, 2011







The 2011 Niagara Frontier Combined Federal Campaign has kicked off again. The 107th AW has stepped up generously helping those less fortunate in years past. We have raised over \$100,000 in the last 5 years with employee contributions and fundraisers. This year's helmet drive is being planned for the November UTA. The fundraising option of being able to pick the charity you believe in and want to support is priceless. You can contribute with a one time donation or have it come out of your pay. Guardsman who want to make a onetime donation can contact their section representative for the form. Thank you for your past and future support of this program.



SALUTE REPORT

SIZE



The number of persons and vehicles seen or the size of an object

ACTIVITY



Description of enemy activities (observing, assaulting, fleeing)

LOCATION



Where the enemy was sighted (grid coordinate or reference point)

UNIT



Distinctive signs, symbols or identification on people, vehicles, aircraft or weapons (numbers, patches or clothing type)

TIME



Time the activity is observed

EQUIPMENT



Equipment and vehicles associated with the activity

Use the **SALUTE** report as a quick and effective way to communicate ground enemy attack information up the chain of command.

Example of a **SALUTE** Report: "Six enemy soldiers running away from the command post, heading towards the flightline. Uniforms solid green fatigues. Time is 0230 hours. Equipment AK-47 rifles, backpacks and carrying gasmasks."

Enlistments



AB Nicholas Cahill
3P0X1 - Security Forces



A1C Eric Norman
3E7X1-Fire Protection

Changes to the old bird. Don't worry– it's not the Thanksgiving turkey.

Capt. Elaine Nowak

107th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer

It's a sign of the times, perhaps. The world wants their information and they want it now. As you know we publish all of our news stories, written and video, directly to our public website: <http://www.107aw.ang.af.mil/> and Facebook (107th Airlift Wing NYANG). These are venues to tell our story to the world and to get news out fast.

Beginning in 2012, The ThunderBird is changing to a quarterly edition. It will be published in March , June, September, and December. This will take some advanced planning to get articles, columns, and wing events published in the quarterly newsletter.

We value your opinions. Please feel free to drop us a line at our e-mail address: 107AW.TBIRD@ang.af.mil (107AW/PA TBIRD in the Outlook address book).

If you have a story of interest you'd like to share, please call us and let us know. We want to be able to share the Airman's story and the great things the 107th Airlift Wing is accomplishing. Please help us in telling YOUR story.



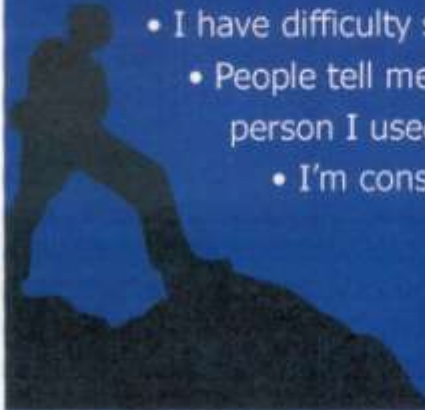
Does this sound like you?

- No one knows how I feel
 - I can't stop thinking about my problems
 - My spouse says I am drinking too much
 - I have difficulty sleeping
 - People tell me I'm not the same person I used to be
 - I'm constantly arguing at home





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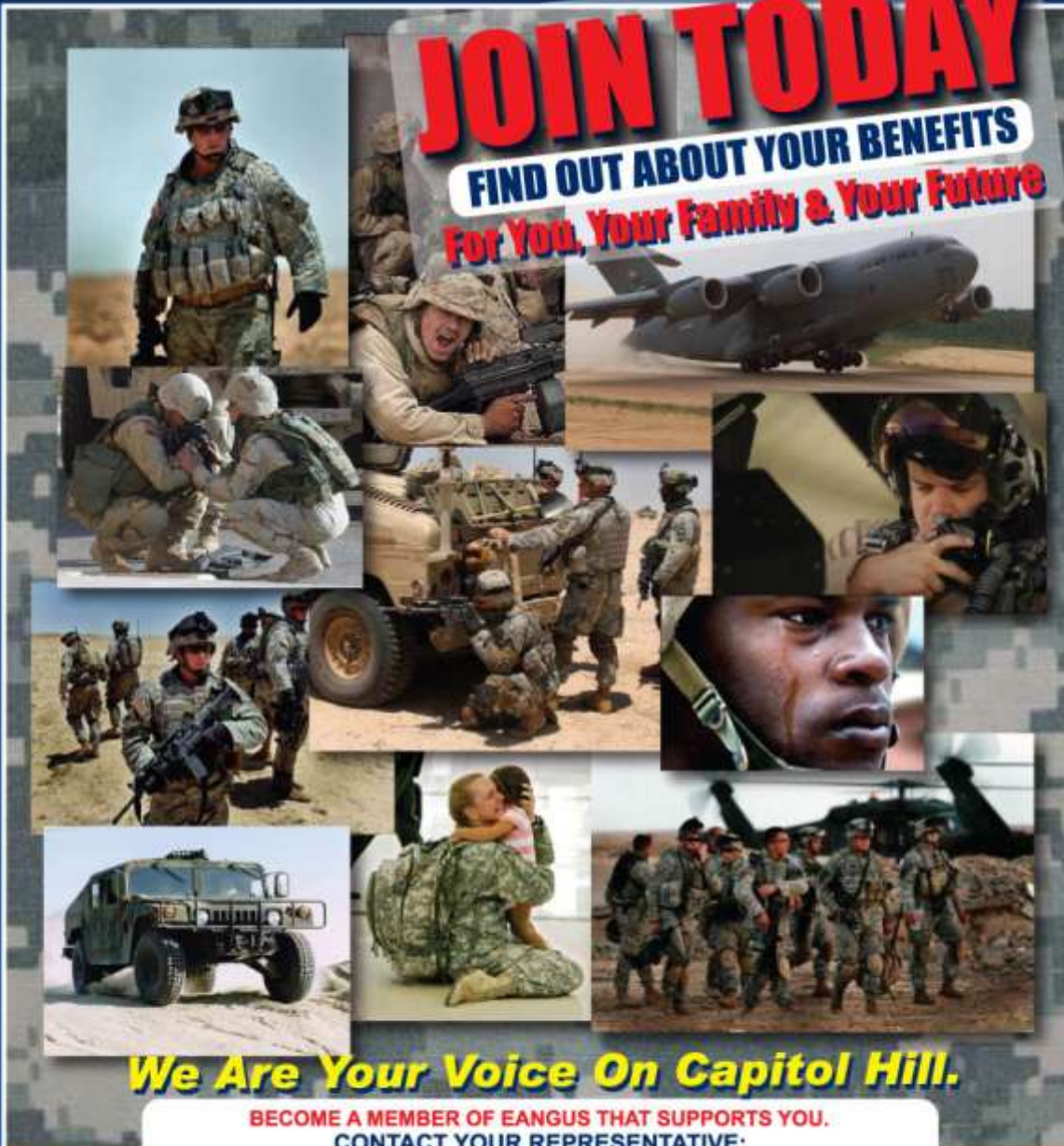
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