

# A New Season for Niagara

Prior to meeting Merrell Lane, I had heard extraordinary things about him and how he had personally marshalled local community support to save our air base on two separate occasions. I admit I was expecting a giant of a man with a booming voice who could sell anything to anyone. So, when Merrell walked into my office to say hello for the first time in 2011. I was surprised how normal he looked. Merrell was a very unassuming and soft spoken man wearing his beloved flight jacket, given to him by the CSAF, just stopping by to chat. Merrell continued to "stop by & chat" about once or twice a month after that and I found myself looking more and more forward to his visits. Always very respectful (I never could get him to call me by my first name); Merrell would deflect my request and ask if there was anything he could do for me or the 107th.

In 2012, when it was announced the 107th would close, I witnessed a tenacious Merrell Lane and NIMAC go into action. Merrell, always the soft spoken gentleman along with his trusted sidekick, John Cooper, visited the Pentagon and every WNY politician non-stop. He continuously talked up the 107th and why we should be saved. He mobilized federal, state, & local politicians utilizing strong community support. His relentless efforts paid off when Secretary of Defense,

Leon Panetta visited Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and we were subsequently re-missioned to remotely piloted aircraft.

In the spring of 2014, Merrell Lane stopped by for one of his chats and noticed new furniture in my office. I casually mentioned I was in the process of filling the cabinets with local memorabilia. Merrell stopped by several times after that, always with a gift in hand to help me fill my cabinet. He was that kind of guy, selfless and always thinking of others.

The last time I saw Merrell Lane was at a NIMAC breakfast to discuss an upcoming trip to DC. He casually mentioned he was not going on the trip; instead he was going for medical treatment. I asked if everything was alright and, as usual, he deflected all questions about his health. That was his way. He never wanted anyone to fuss about him or to be in the spotlight. I believe the last words he said to me were, "The Lord will take me when it's my time." Well, the Lord decided it was time to take Merrell just a few short weeks after that. My guess is that there was an effort to close heaven and God needed Merrell's assistance to keep it open.

(Continued on page 3)



# (Continued from page 2)

I have always been a bottom-line type of individual and the "Bottom Line" on Merrell Lane is that he was truly an outstanding person who made an enormous difference in our community. The 107th is only here today because of the efforts led by Merrell Lane and NIMAC. We are forever in Merrell's debt and I sincerely thank God for putting him on this earth. Thank you Merrell, you are in all of our thoughts & prayers at the 107th. May you rest in peace.



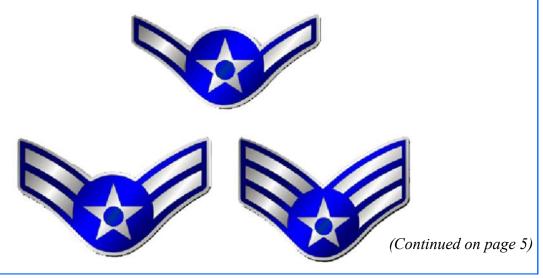


It's been said over and over again: NCO's are the backbone of the Air Force The Air Force Enlisted Force Structure is made up of different and separate ranks. Each rank gets increased levels of training, education, technical knowledge and leadership responsibilities. The guidance on how to be an Airman at every stage of your career comes directly from the "Little Brown Book," AFI36-2618. Are you familiar with the three Enlisted Force Structure tiers? Although most airmen are aware of their responsibilities, an overview of both general and specific responsibilities may be necessary, especially as the airman progresses in rank.

Here are the basic requirements at each tier of an enlisted Airman's career and some questions you should ask yourself.

This tier consists of Airman Basic. Airman First Class and Senior Airman. In this tier, Airman are adapting to the military way of life and focusing on learning their occupational requirements to stay proficient in their jobs. Airman must be prepared to assume increased responsibility and stay trained and qualified to contribute to their unit's mission readiness. Airman should also continue to broaden their technical skills and pursue professional development through on and offduty education. As an Airman, are you where you need to be on your career path? Are you ready for increased responsibility? Have you started to pursue professional development through on and off-duty education? These are some of the questions you need to ask yourself.

Junior Enlisted Airman Tier:



# (Continued from page 4)

# NCO Tier:

This tier consists of Staff Sergeant and Technical Sergeant. The primary focus of this tier is mission accomplishment. It is where the Staff Sergeants and Technical Sergeants transition from expert technicians to supervisory roles. They develop their military leadership skills and continue to pursue professional development both on and off-duty. As an NCO, you should know what your mission goals are. Are you inspiring a subordinate through mentoring? Do you lead by example? As an NCO, do you have your CCAF Degree or are you in the process of getting one?

sure that they are proficiently qualified. SNCO's participate in decision making processes on a variety of technical, operational and organizational issues. As a SNCO, do you know what your unit mission goals are? Are you mentoring young NCOs and airman? Do you lead by example? Do you have you CCAF Degree? All three tiers contain similar required qualities, so each person can be the best Airman they can be for today's military. Take a look at yourself and ask the tough question, am I following the Enlisted Force Structure? Am I leading by example? Am I pursing my professional development on and off-duty? What can I do to better myself and be a better mentor, leader, and supervisor?





This tier consists of Master Sergeant, Senior Master Sergeant and Chief Master Sergeant. The primary focus of this tier is mission accomplishment. As Senior NCO's, you serve as leaders, mentors and supervisors. SNCO's should continue developing their NCO's and airman. They should en-







# 107TH PUBLIC HEALTH

TSgt Kymberly McKenzie phone: 236-3238

# September

# National Childhood Obesity Month

One in 3 children in the United States is overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

The good news is that childhood obesity can be prevented. In honor of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, the 107th Public Health Office encourages your family to make healthy changes together.

Get active outside: Walk around the neighborhood, go on a bike ride, or play basketball at the park.

Limit screen time: Keep screen time (time spent on the computer, watching TV, or playing video games) to 2 hours or less a day.

Make healthy meals: Buy and serve more vegetables, fruits, and whole-grain foods.

Taking small steps as a family can help your child stay at a healthy weight.

Sponsor: American College of Sports Medicine

http://www.acsm.org

For more information:

National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

http://www.fitness.gov/

How Much Physical Activity Do Children Need? http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/

children.html

Healthier Kids, Brighter Futures

http://healthierkidsbrighterfutures.org/wordpress1/



# September

# Fruits & Veggies-More Matters Month

Most people know that eating fruits and vegetables is important for good health, but most of us still aren't getting enough. This September, the 107th is proud to participate in Fruits & Veggies – More Matters Month.

Eating a healthy diet with plenty of vegetables and fruits can help vou:

Lower your risk for heart disease and some types of cancer Maintain or reach a healthy weight

Keep your body strong and active

fruits & veggies **MOPE** matters. Here are some ideas to help you and your family fit more fruits and vegetables into your day:

Keep a bowl of fruit handy where the whole family can see it.

Cut up fruits and veggies ahead of time so they're ready for quick, healthy snacks.

Challenge your family to try a new veggie or fruit every week!

Remember, eating more fruits and veggies can be fun - and it's worth it!

Sponsor: Produce for Better Health Foundation

http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org

For more information:

Nutrition for Everyone: Fruits and Vegetables

http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/everyone/fruitsvegetables/

Daily Food Plans & Worksheets

http://www.choosemyplate.gov/supertracker-tools/daily-food-plans.html

Dietary Guidelines for Americans

http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2010.asp



# October

# **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Breast cancer is the second most common kind of cancer in women. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point.

O S CANCER AWARENESS

The good news is that many women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early.

If you are a woman age 40 to 49, talk with your doctor about when to start getting mammograms and how often to get them.

If you are a woman age 50 to 74, be sure to get a mammogram every 2 years. You may also choose to get them more often.

Talk to a doctor about your risk for breast cancer, especially if a close family member of yours had breast or ovarian cancer. Your doctor can help you decide when and how often to get mammograms.

Sponsor: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Collaborating Organizations http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org

For more information:

# Mammograms Fact Sheet

http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/ fact-sheet/mammograms.html

What You Need to Know About Breast Cancer

http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/breast

**Breast Cancer FAQs** 

http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/



# **National Health Observances**

Kymberly.McKenzie@ang.af.mil

The 107th PH Office is temporarily located in building 902 room 123.For general information on Public Health, click on the pictures to the left for great resources!

# November

# **American Diabetes Month**

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the United States. If it's not controlled, diabetes can cause blindness, nerve damage, kidney disease, and other health problems.

One in 12 Americans has diabetes — that's more than 25 million people. And another 79 million adults in the United States are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

The good news? People who are at high risk for type 2 diabetes can lower their risk by more than half if they can make healthy changes. These include:

- If you are overweight, have high blood pressure, or are age 45 or older, you are at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- Get more active.
- Eat healthy.



Sponsor: American Diabetes

Association http://

www.diabetes.org

For more information:

Diabetes Awareness

http://www.cdc.gov/features/

livingwithdiabetes/

Minority Women's Health: Diabetes

http://www.womenshealth.gov/minority-health/latinas/

diabetes.html

Diabetes

http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/ overview.aspx?topicid=8



he believes contributed to his ac- Force. There is a service obligation of ceptance into the prep school includes five years following being commishis academic scores, personal motiva- sioned. tion, leadership abilities and extensive volunteer experience. He is a volunteer Evans feels the AF Academy is a great fireman for the Holland Fire Company. opportunity for physical and mental He has been very active in the veteran challenges. He plans to major in mesupport organization, Team Red, White chanical engineering. He also looks to and Blue. He was also a coach of track try out for their track and field team. and field for Holland High School.

faction from giving to others. you're not making someone else's life before leaving to attend the prep better, then you are wasting your time," school. he said.

An appointment to the Air Force Academy Preparatory School is not easy to come by. There were over 9,000 applicants for the 2014-2015 school year. Airman Evans was one of only 240 to receive an offer to attend.

At the one-year prep school, students study mathematics, English, science and military history while participating in strenuous military training and athletic programs. Upon successful com-

Airman 1st Class Richard S. Evans be-pletion of the preparatory school, cagan the next step of his Air Force ca- dets will have an opportunity to be apreer when, in late July, he reported to pointed to the United States Air Force the Air Force Academy Preparatory Academy the following year, and ulti-School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. mately be able to earn a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a A1C Evan's long list of attributes that second lieutenant in the active duty Air

A1C Evans transferred into the 107th Airman 1st Class Evans derives satis- in February 2013 from the AF Reserve "If and was a Fire Protection Apprentice



As I was considering what to write for this article, a few things came to mind. With the conversion and the new mission, I decided to write about the importance of editing what is posted on social web sites. We, as members of the New York Air National Guard, have voluntarily signed up and made a conscious decision to be in the Armed Forces. With that being said, we have also agreed to hold ourselves to the higher standards that are expected of that membership. We have a responsibility to ourselves and to the mission of the 107<sup>th</sup>. It is imperative that we are not doing anything that could affect our security clearances, our image as members of the NYANG, or post any mission related information that could adversely affect our unit.

Social media sites are excellent ways to get information out to a lot of people, and to keep in touch with friends and family outside of the area or our deployed friends. It is a fun way to share pictures and what is going on in our lives, and in many cases what was made for dinner and to let the world know that you are tired, but with that freedom of expression comes a responsibility. IAW AFI10 -701 Operations Security (OPSEC) "1.4.17, All Air Force Personnel: OPSEC is everyone's responsibility. Ideally, the AF uses OPSEC measures to protect its critical information. Failure to properly implement OPSEC measures can result in serious injury or death to our personnel; damage to weapons systems, equipment and facilities; loss of sensitive technologies; and mission degradation or failure. OPSEC is a continuous process and an inherent part of military culture. Failure to implement directed OPSEC measures will be considered by commanders/directors for appropriate disciplinary action." If you have a question about posting or publishing work-related information, it is always a good idea to check with your supervisor, security manager or the OPSEC manager prior to posting it. The 107th Airlift Wing web site also has guidance on social media. Keep in mind once it is posted it can never fully be retracted.

It is also important to be conscientious about how others may perceive your posting. With just about everyone having a camera on their cell phone, ensure that you are behaving in a way that will not affect your security clearance, or posting information or pictures that could be perceived as an illegal act. We as members of the NYANG have every right to our opinions, but it is not acceptable to post derogatory materials or comments. Before information is posted, take a second look. Make sure that it cannot be perceived in such a manner that would reflect poorly on you as a member of the 107<sup>th</sup>. Safeguard your own privacy and whereabouts. Don't post that you are deploying or away at school, and ask your family members and friends not to post that you are away from home.















# **National Preparedness Month: What You Can Do**

# If an emergency occurred tomorrow, would you be ready?

September is National Preparedness Month. Sponsored by FEMA, National Preparedness Month aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

National Preparedness Month is a time to prepare yourself and those in your care for emergencies and disasters, both large scale and smaller local events. We know that emergencies can happen unexpectedly in communities just like yours, to people like you. We've seen tornado outbreaks, river floods and flash floods, historic earthquakes, tsunamis, and even water main breaks and power outages that impact communities for days at a time.

As commendable as they may be in their profession of assisting those in need, police, fire and rescue workers may not always be able to reach you quickly in an emergency or disaster. The most important step you can take in helping your local responders is being able to take care of yourself and those in your care for at least a short period of time following an incident. The more people who are prepared, the quicker the community will recover.

You are not helpless in the face of an emergency. With just a few simple steps, you can **Be a Force of Nature** by knowing your risk, taking action and being an example in your community.

**Know your risk** - Emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. It is important to understand potential risks where you live. What you can do: Bookmark weather.gov to stay informed on severe weather. Learn about Wireless Emergency Alerts, messages that will be sent to your phone during an emergency. Get practical tips on preparing for disaster at ready.gov.

**Take action** - Make sure that you and your family are prepared for an emergency. Ensure that you can go for at least three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or other local services. What you can do: Prepare a disaster supply kit with at least three days of food and water. Create a Family Emergency Plan, so that your family knows how to communicate during an emergency. Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio.

**Be an example** - Be a positive influence on your community by sharing your preparedness story. Let your friends and family know that you're prepared for an emergency - and that they should be prepared too. Research has shown that many people won't prepare until they see others doing so. What you can do: Share your preparedness story on Facebook so that friends and family will know what you'll do in case of disaster. Tell the world you're prepared on Twitter using hashtag #NATLPREP. Train with a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

You don't know when an emergency might occur. These simple steps will help you be prepared for the worst. FEMA's Ready.gov website provides detailed information on what may be most important to you and your family. You can find information tailored to specific needs such as people with disabilities, seniors, assisting children, business readiness, and even information for your pets. For more information, see Ready.gov

NOAA is working with FEMA and other agencies to help improve disaster readiness through campaigns such as National Preparedness Month. Through efforts such as the Weather-Ready Nation initiative, NOAA seeks to build community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events.

Information obtained from noaa.gov - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



# **Hispanic Heritage Month**

Master Sgt. Venita Jackson, MEO Office

National Hispanic Heritage Month 2014 begins on Monday, September 15 and ends on Wednesday, Oct 15. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan to cover a 30 day period. Five Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua declared Independence on September 15, 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence days later on 16, 18, and 21 respectively. Hispanic Heritage Month also celebrates the long and important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in North America. Starting with the discovery of America, by Christopher Columbus on October 12, 1492 which is also celebrated during that time frame.

Reference: <a href="http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/History.html">http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/History.html</a>

A Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Hispanic Heritage Month presentation can be viewed here: <a href="http://www.deomi.org/SpecialObservance/presentations.cfm?">http://www.deomi.org/SpecialObservance/presentations.cfm?</a>

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# Chaplain's Thoughts

The time in autumn is so beautiful. Symbolically as the leaves change colors and fall to the ground it has been for me, a season of "letting go" of the things in the past that hindered me, and to trust there will be another season of growth coming. My husband and I share a stained glass maple leaf that hangs on the window. It says "Let Go and Let God." It was a gift from our wise grandmother who lived this saying faithfully.

It's a privilege to be your chaplain and to serve you. Chaplains hold things communicated with them with confidentiality. We help people to "let go" in a healthy way. With the change of mission and close people passing with in the 107<sup>th</sup>, many of us are hurting. Yet, we are a resilient people! Keep listening to one another and have each other's back. Please know that your Religious Support Team, MSgt Heather Cummings, TSgt Gary Tim and I care. Pull us aside and talk about where you are and let us help you to "let go."

The poem below is entitled "Letting Go," and the author is unknown. This poem is dedicated to the Airmen of the 107<sup>th</sup> this season of autumn. May you find meaning and health in the words so beautiful written:

To "let go" does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it's the realization I can't control another. To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences. To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands. To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself. To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about. To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive. To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.



(Continued from page 12)

To "let go" is not to be in the middle arranging the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

To "let go" is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality.

To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.

To "let go" is not to nag, scold or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings, and correct them.

To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires

but to take each day as it comes, and cherish myself in it.

To "let go" is not to criticize and regulate anybody but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To "let go" is not to regret the past,

but to grow and live for the future.

To "let go" is to fear less,
and love more.

Letting Go With You, Chaplain, Lt Col Jackie Ann Rose Kraft

# CHAPLAIN SERVICES

# Wing Chaplain

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

# PROTESTANT SERVICE

Saturday-1600 Wing Conference Room-Building 901

## CATHOLIC MASS

St. Leo's R.C. Church 2748 Military Road Niagara Falls, NY Sat. Mass 1600 Sun. Mass 0900

For Service schedules of other religious communities contact the Chaplains' office at ext. 2395.



# Airmen of the United States Air Force:

Last year, in response to budget sequestration, we launched the Every Dollar Counts campaign. Since that launch, your innovative ideas and money saving efficiency changes saved our Air Force hundreds of millions of dollars during these challenging fiscal times.

From public-private partnerships at base level, to centralized engine repair Air Force wide, your ideas are saving precious resources all across the enterprise. To each Airman who took the time to send in an idea, influence change or create a new efficiency in your shop: thank you -- job well done! But we can't stop now...we must do more.

Now is the time to leverage the success of last year's campaign and continue to cultivate a culture of innovation, efficiency, and savings. This letter is our call to action to Make Every Dollar Count. Our goal is to take as many of our efficiencies and savings initiatives as possible and multiply them across the entire spectrum of operations. From large scale initiatives, such as implementing cutting-edge energy practices or acquisition process improvements, to base-level actions, such as video teleconferencing and contract review, everything counts.

Our current initiatives are just the beginning. We challenge each of you to develop initiatives in your own areas of expertise. If there was ever a time for out-of-the-box ideas, it's now. Each of us must be "all in, all the time" to make this work. There are two programs available to submit your great ideas to increase cost savings across our Air Force.

You may submit ideas online to our Airmen Powered by Innovation website at <a href="https://ipds.afpc.randolph.af.mil">https://ipds.afpc.randolph.af.mil</a> or by contacting your local Air Force Smart Operations for the Twenty-first Century Office. All ideas will be actively processed by the Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force for Business Transformation.

As you know, there are consequences of this fiscal climate we cannot change, but we must do our very best to improve the things we can and ensure we are good stewards of every taxpayer dollar. Let's all take ownership – each active duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian Airman – to improve what we can control and to Make Every Dollar Count.

"Make Every Dollar Count: All In, All The Time."

Deborah Lee James Secretary of the Air Force

Larry O. Spencer General, USAF Vice Chief of Staff







# Please keep the following in mind when posting to social meda sites like Facebook or Twitter.

## Once it's out there, it's there forever

 When you post something on social media, you can't "get it back." Even deleting the post doesn't mean it's truly gone, so consider carefully before you hit enter.

## No classified information

• Don't post classified or sensitive information (for example, troop movement, force size, weapons details, etc.). If in doubt, talk to your supervisor or security manager. "Think OPSEC!"

# Replace error with fact, not argument

• When you see misrepresentations made about the Air Force in social media, you may certainly use your social media property or someone else's to correct the error. Always do so with respect and with the facts. When you speak to someone who has an adversarial position, make sure what you say is factual and respectful. No arguments, just correct the record.

### Admit mistakes

• Be the first to respond to your own mistakes. If you make an error, be up front about your mistake and correct it quickly. If you choose to modify an earlier post, make it clear you have done so (e.g., use the strikethrough function).

# Use your best judgment

What you write may have serious consequences. If you're unsure about a post, discuss your proposed post with your supervisor. Ultimately, you bear sole responsibility for what you post.

## Avoid the offensive

 Don't post any defamatory, libelous, vulgar, obscene, abusive, profane, threatening, racially and ethnically hateful or otherwise offensive or illegal information or material.

# Don't violate copyright

• Don't post any information or other material protected by copyright without the permission of the copyright owner.

### Don't misuse trademarks

Don't use any words, logos or other marks that would infringe upon the trade mark, service mark, certification mark or other intellectual property rights of the owners of such marks without owner permission.

# Don't violate privacy

Don't post any information that would infringe upon the proprietary, privacy or personal rights of others.

### No endorsements

Don't use the Air Force name to endorse or promote products, political positions or religious ideologies.

# No impersonations

• Don't manipulate identifiers in your post in an attempt to disguise, impersonate or otherwise misrepresent your identity or affiliation.

# Stay in your lane

Discussing issues related to your career field or personal experiences are acceptable and encouraged, but you shouldn't discuss areas
of expertise where you have no firsthand, direct experience or knowledge.

# Be cautious with the information you share

Be careful about the personal details you share on the Internet. Maintain privacy settings on your social media accounts, change your
passwords regularly and don't give out personally identifiable information. Also, be mindful of who you allow to access your social
media accounts.

# Don't promote yourself for personal or financial gain

• Don't use your Air Force affiliation, official title or position to promote, endorse or benefit yourself or any profit-making group or agency. For details, refer to Code of Federal Regulations, Title 5, Volume 3, sec. 2635.702, Use of Public Office for Private Gain, in the Joint Ethics Regulation or Air Force Instruction 35-101, Public Affairs Responsibilities and Management.





Two F-101 "Voodoo" on the front cover of Inside Sunday part of the Courier Express Sunday News which stop publishing in 1982. Buffalo had two newspapers then. At that time, the 107th was part of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). Photo by Paul Pasquarell.



# MEN MINGARA

# We Want Your Feed-Back!!! Email US @ 107aw.TBird@ang.af.mil

107aw.TBirdpang.af.mil

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