



SPRING 2015

TRAINING

CONSTRUCTION

RESOURCES

PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT

GOALS

Happy New Year and Hello Spring! It has been a long winter and I'm certainly glad it's finally over! 2015 has been busy and things are moving along rapidly with our conversion. Already it seems that reaching Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in FY '17 is in sight. Unit members are heading out the door to training locations every day, and many have returned after obtaining their AFSC reclassification, skill level and mission qualification training. You probably have noticed that squadrons and flights are occupying temporary offices while their buildings are undergoing construction and revamping. This will continue to be a common theme across the 107th for a few more years to come.

As we move forward toward a successful mission conversion, I would like to stress to you my vision, goals and priorities for the 107th and encourage you to know and understand your role in contributing to our success. We will not achieve IOC without teamwork from every member of the wing.

My top four priorities include training; our building projects, particularly that of Bldg. 912; proper and complete use of resources; and professional development.

Currently, training should be high on everyone's list. FSS is tirelessly working to ensure personnel are getting into necessary technical training classes to obtain their AFSC and become fully qualified to support the MQ-9 mission. It is of utmost importance that personnel focus and absorb the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve mission success. For many, this is a second, third or fourth career field and trust me, I know change is not easy; however, I believe the widespread range of AFSC's we carry within the wing promote well-roundedness amongst our Airmen that will aid us when rising to future challenges. I encourage you to thoroughly take advantage of the training opportunities you are given.

Second, preparations are in the works and we are nearly ready to break ground for the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) in building 912. The SCIF is essentially the heartbeat of the operation and will house the ground control station for the RPA mission; you may hear it referred to as "The Box." This is where the Reaper is piloted by an officer, while the enlisted sensor operator controls the intelligence collection equipment. The revamping of building 912 will also include a Reaper Operations Center in which a mission commander and intelligence coordinators oversee and advise the pilot and sensor operator. Weather and cyber communications experts will also be on hand to ensure

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mission continuity and support. This is an around-the-clock mission that will require vital teamwork across the 107th; therefore, it is essential that all personnel become experts in their positions and uphold their responsibility in supporting the warfighters.

Third, I urge everyone to take a look at the status of resources within your group, squadron, and/or flight, specifically days, dollars, and equipment. It is crucial that we get the most out of the resources we are given; this can be done through training days, building reconstruction, and office equipment re-purposing. It is not often we sit on a surplus of money; therefore, take advantage!

Finally, I cannot foot stomp enough the importance of professional development. Professional development does not have duty, rank or age restrictions and should never have an end point. Just like AFSC training, I insist that everyone benefit from the opportunities that are out there and lean on your mentors for guidance. Whether it is PME/skill level training, certifications, degrees, or additional duty training, advancing your skills and knowledge through professional development will never act against you. Keep in mind that professional development is heavily highlighted in Enlisted and Officer Performance Reports and could hold a profound weight in promotion boards. As individuals, you will aid in achieving the goals of the 107th and the State simply by continuing to have a hunger for education and continuing your professional development.

This all brings me back to team. We must continue to operate as a team as we stand-up MQ-9 Operations. We are learning the expectations of this undertaking together, and I have no doubt that, collectively, we will overcome any and all of the challenges associated with a mission change. As your Commander, I will continue to foster a safe and family-like culture and strongly encourage each and every one of you to care and look out for one another. I believe our future is bright and the well-being of our personnel is and will remain my top priority.

Colonel Robert Kilgore





These MQ-9 Reaper models are to-scale representations of the RPA. The two 45" models are on display in the lobby of Building 901.

Photo Illustration by SMSgt Ray Lloyd

DRUG DEMAND

Your First Sergeant approaches you with paper in hand. You may groan because you have just left the restroom, and you have a fairly good idea what's in his/her hand. You guessed right! You have been randomly selected to submit a sample for the "drug program."

The goal of the Demand Reduction Drug Program is to keep its Citizen-Airman drug free, to include future integration of new prevention programs from the Counterdrug Experts. This is the National Guard's biggest tool and here at the 107th Airlift Wing, it is a deterrence program, not a detection program. The Medical Group Commander, Colonel Emily Desrosier, emphasized the importance of a solid program. "With a fully trained Program Manager and a team of trained 107th members to assist, I'm confident the program is efficient and our testing statistics tell us processing is accomplished without error," she said.

To assist the Military Equal Opportunity office in their delivery of this additional duty, and to support MSgt Jackson's new title as the Wing Drug Demand Reduction Program Manager (DDRPM), the 107th AW Squadron Commanders personally selected NCOs to receive training from the State as Drug Testing Program Administrative Managers (DTPAMs). This happened in August 2014. This is an 18 month rotational detail, with none of the ten DTPAM's performing their duties greater than two separate drill weekends. As one of the Wing Commanders high profile programs, this sense of awareness and responsibility among all the Squadrons is important to the new 107th Airlift Wing Commander, Colonel Robert Kilgore. "I consider the drug program an invaluable resource for good order and discipline," he said.

The Air National Guard will continue to meet the 100% end strength requirement IAW AFI, 90-507, Military Drug Demand Reduction Program. This means that every service-member will test at least once per year. To reduce drug positives, the Guard will implement more frequent and random testing; the testing could be at different times, and different days during the drill. Again, this is all in the spirit of deterrence, not detection. Unlike some other state Guard units, New York does not have the controversial issues of marijuana use to contend with. Marijuana use, along with several other illegal drugs, are considered illegal substances for ANG members. If you do NOT have a valid prescription for a drug, it can also be illegal. An example would be Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Amphetamines, Codeine and more. Service members identified for illegally using any of these drugs are subject to adverse actions.

Drug abuse continues to threaten and destroy both our civilian and military communities. As a member of the 107th Airlift Wing, the desire to be the best and lead by example is quite simply not possible with the use and or abuse of drugs.

-Venita





Chief Master Sergeant Camille Langenfeld
February 2015

Chief Master Sergeant Promotion Ceremonies
Congratulations to our newest chiefs!



Chief Master Sergeant Terri Santoro
March 2015



As a new member of the team, I would like to thank everyone with the 107th AW for making me feel welcome. I am incredibly honored and proud to be brought aboard as the Wing Director of Psychological Health. I've sensed a strong feeling of community and togetherness here. Much has been done to create a culture of resilience and strength. I am looking forward to continuing the work.



As an Army veteran who has experienced the stress of deployment, it has become my life's mission to help service members and veterans in need. Members of our armed forces experience levels of stress and stressors unimaginable to the general population. For the last several years, I have worked in residential and outpatient settings serving all types of clients including veterans, service members as well as children and families. My work and education has led me to specialize in trauma work as well as depression and anxiety.

My role here with the 107th is to support you and your families. No problem is too big or too small. If you are experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, sleep issues, anxiety, substance abuse, PTSD symptoms etc., please come visit me. I'll be available to help with treatment or to just lend an ear, whatever is needed. I'm reachable at office number 716-236-2401, cell number 716-238-1790 or email Jason.Masker@ang.af.mil. Services are free and confidential.

So stop by! I'm looking forward to meeting and working with each and every member of the Wing.

*Jason Masker M.S., MHC
Wing Director of Psychological Health*



Days of Remembrance

April 12-19, 2015

Learning from the
HOLOCAUST:
Choosing to Act



Designed by Steve Heston for the Holocaust Remembrance Project

Chaplain's Thoughts

Increased Power and Strength

“He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases their strength.” - Isaiah 40:29

Every Spring it seems like there is an unsurmountable list of things that need to be done. The snow (hopefully) has melted and Mother Nature is waking up from a long Winter's hibernation. There are branches that need to be picked up off the yard and then leaves to be raked so the lawn can be mowed. Then the gardens and flower pots need to be prepared. The grill, the lawn furniture, the hummingbird feeder needs to be washed and brought out. It seems one job leads to another. The car needs vacuuming, washed and oil changed; the bike tires blown up and bike chain oiled; the salt on the garage floor needs to be washed away; the windows washed; cold weather clothes need to be brought to the dry cleaners or put away and warm weather clothes come to the front of the closet. For others still it's a time of year where people change residences. With that comes boxes to pack and unpack. The bills and the taxes had better been prepared and mailed away. For those in school – tests need to be studied for and papers need to be written and those of us who are the teachers...tests and papers need to be scored and read. It's a very busy time of the year, and it can become overwhelming.

Now think: Security Forces. On top of this unsurmountable list, they are getting ready to deploy early this summer for six months. They have been preparing the last couple of years in particular, and now the multiple details have to get in order. They will be leaving behind family, friends and pets. For some they will be leaving a semester of school and for others their work places as well. While deployed, bills will still need to be paid; yards mowed; family, pets, homes cared for. What sacrifices our Security Forces are making for our Country! For those of you who have deployed, you understand. It takes a toll on one's life and on one's family. Yet, they proudly stand up to do so! They have a resiliency that increases their strength even among challenging, unsurmountable tasks.

Being in the military is not for those faint at heart. It takes a special type of person who believes in themselves, who believes in what they are doing and in those who train them. It takes a special type of person who has a belief in a Higher Power who will give them the Spiritual Resiliency that is needed. It takes a

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special type of person who looks forward knowing that those back home, “got their back.” Even with our new mission, those of you who have gone away time and time again for training in the MQ-9s and now work your positions every day...you know. You understand. You keep the beat going and our country safe and secure. Your sacrifices are not forgotten as well. You carry heavy burdens in your hearts every day. We have a great commander in Col. Kilgore who understands the new mission personally.

If you know someone in Security Forces that is deploying and you are not, ask them if there is something you could do for them while they are deployed. Offer to mow their grass, or check on their family, or take care of a pet if your home circumstances will allow. For those of you who have deployed, encourage those in Security Forces. Talk highly about programs like Yellow Ribbon, our Family Support, our Commanders and First Shirts, and the Chaplains with their Religious Support Teams. Let Security Forces know you will keep them in your thoughts and prayers as well.

Yes, sometimes lists or things look unsurmountable. This is the type of thing we in the military are prepared to accomplish, and we are never alone in doing so. Take one thing, one day, one mission at a time. Bring it on! It just makes us more experienced and resilient people.

So proud to serve with you all!
Chaplain Jackie Kraft

Wing Chaplain

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

**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.





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