



Spring 2017





107th Attack Wing



107th Attack Wing
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THE THUNDERBIRD

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On the cover:

U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell



New Technology coming to the 107ATKW

By SMSgt Billy Hirschfield

For those of you that do not know me, I am SMSgt Billy Hirschfield, Superintendent of the 107ATKW Communications Plans and Resources Flight. We are currently going through many technological changes here in our Wing that I would like to discuss. One of the major forthcoming changes requires upgrading all of our computers (desktop and laptop) to Windows 10, to comply with Air Force Directives, by January 2018. The NSA has determined that Windows 10 provides a more secure posture than Windows 7 and this is the primary reason we are marching forward. As you can imagine, this is a tremendous undertaking by the Base Comm Flight and we are working our hardest with limited manpower to meet this deadline. A majority of your office computers will be simply swapped out with a new Windows 10 machine. In some cases, your computers will be upgraded through patching, but this is an avenue that is currently unavailable to our Comm Focal Point. As the SAF/CIOA6, Lt Gen Bender, recited in his memo dated 10May2016, we will use this opportunity to transform how we provide IT services and focus on mobile solutions. What this means to you is that we will be providing many more laptops than desktops in the future, especially for our full time personnel. It will make the force more mobile and prevent us from having to constantly "sign out" laptops for TDY. Simply take your computer and go, you can pick up right where you left off when you return. My experience thus far with Windows 10 has been a positive one and I can tell you from my limited experience using it that I have had no issues accessing anything and now have a faster machine that I can take with me anywhere if need be. The only issues I have come across so far have been using the new edge browser and Windows 10 will not force you to use it. I would recommend using Windows 10 at home to become more familiar with it and AF E-learning has many resources to include over 300 courses on Windows 10 which can be found here – <https://usafprod.skillport.com/>

Another IT enhancement that is on our horizon are VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phones. In the very near future your telephone will be connected to our network and directly attached to your computer. Our hosts in the 914ARW have already switched over a majority of these devices successfully to this new system. We will be converting all of our current telephones over to Cisco 6921, 7945 and 7965 VOIP models soon. We have already gathered requirements and there is no shortage of resources, simply put, everyone will have a new phone. Some advantages of these phones are that they have call display, answering machine, speakerphone and even have a phone directory built right in to them! No more having to look for a base phone directory, if you know the name of the person you are trying to call you are all set. We have recently taken a step backwards by converting our digital phones to analog, but this is merely a TEMPORARY solution. It requires a great deal of assistance and coordination from several organizations to get our network configured for this effort and we are well on our way. Any phone issues and frustrations that you are currently having will be gone before long. Please be patient with our folks, and bear in mind that we are not experts on this new technology, we are learning it right beside you. We will eventually all make the transition to this new technology and be more prepared to meet the everyday challenges of the future Air Force together.





107th Enters into New Era with Redesignation



NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y., (March 21, 2017) – The 107th Attack Wing, New York Air National Guard, here announced its redesignation as it officially became an attack wing during a ceremony here, March 21, 2017.

Having been an airlift wing since July of 2008, the change in name is the latest step in the transition from flying the C-130 Hercules, to the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft. The new designation is another milestone of the conversion since the last C-130H was flown by the 107th in September 2014.

“From our beginnings in 1946 as a fighter group, we have changed missions and names many times over the past 70 years,” said Col. Robert G. Kilgore, commander of the 107th ATKW. “All of these names have been significant in representing the contributions we make to our nation’s defense.”

Despite the name just now being changed, many Airmen of the 107th have been actively engaged in the MQ-9 since ending the airlift mission almost three years ago.

There are pilots here who have been flying the MQ-9 for almost three years, said Kilgore. We have embraced the newest cutting-edge technology and we are proud to add this new chapter to the legacy of the 107th, said Kilgore.

With the change in designation being official March 15, another event also took place that day. The 107th Maintenance Group, along with its squadrons, was officially deactivated as of the same day.

“As a former maintenance group commander it is sad to see that element go away,” said Kilgore. “I hope someday we can get aircraft stationed here again and dust those flags off.”

The hope is that the 107th ATKW can someday gain a launch and recovery element where Airmen can train on launching and landing the MQ-9. Until then, the 107th ATKW will continue to fly the aircraft without a wheel ever taking off or touching down at Niagara.

With the loss of a maintenance group, two new squadrons were gained which gives the capabilities of the 107th ATKW an even wider scope. The 274th Air Support Operations Squadron and the 222nd Command and Control Squadron were both gained by the wing last year.

The 274th ASOS provides Airmen with such specialties as joint terminal attack controllers who can direct close air support for U.S. forces and our allies. Meanwhile, the 222nd CACS provides support for space operations under the National Reconnaissance Office.

The MQ-9 mission is the latest in a long history of the wing always being at the forefront of answering our nation’s call. From flying over the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, to Vietnam and the War on Terror, the 107th ATKW has left a proud legacy.

“Our legacy has already been established over the years having gone from fighters to interceptors to air refueling and airlift,” said Kilgore. “We are a group of proud Americans continuing that legacy.”

With the wing being on its 15th redesignation and flying it’s 14th primary mission aircraft, there has never been any hesitation to take on any task.

It hasn’t mattered what the aircraft is said Kilgore. We have always been there to face these challenges and meet the needs of our country, said Kilgore.

Having support from the Niagara Falls community has been vital to keeping the 107th ATKW thriving over the years, especially during tough times. Though it can be safely said that the fears of the past can in fact, stay in the past.

(continued on page 5)



(continued from page 4)

“The community is us, and we are the community,” said Kilgore. “With the investment being made in the 107th alone, not even counting the 914th and their new mission, we are here to stay.”

The local community has a lot to be proud of in the diverse group of Airmen that make up the 107th ATKW.

“It takes a special kind of person to stand up and say they are willing to fight,” said Kilgore.

The Airmen of the wing have come a long way in the past decade where the 107th ATKW faced many obstacles to its existence. Five years ago the wing had its official manning reduced to zero personnel, which meant it would have shut down unless it was assigned a new mission.

“This event today, in my mind, is all about perseverance and resilience,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy LaBarge, chief of staff of the New York Air National Guard. “Now five years later, here we are redesignating this wing as an attack wing, and again, it is a testament of the perseverance of everyone in this particular wing.”

Though to anyone who may not be familiar with what the 107th ATKW is, it is easily summed up by a commander whose proudest moment was the opportunity to be trusted with taking command and leading the hundreds of Airmen of the 107th and seeing it through this conversion.

“We are the sword that leads the fight against those that would do us harm,” said Kilgore.

Story by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell





LOOKING BACK...



**Ground Breaking
1954**



**Bldg 901
1956**



**F-100 Pilots
1960**



**Memorial Day
1951**



**Crew Chiefs
1982**



**Maintenance Operation
1982**



The 107th Attack Wing now has two new squadrons to support our mission. Please welcome the 222nd Command and Control and 274th Air Support Operations Squadron.



The 222nd Command and Control Squadron is an Air National Guard command and control squadron located at Rome, New York and Chantilly, Virginia.

Mission: 222nd CACS provides the National Reconnaissance Office's (NRO) National Reconnaissance Operations Center (NROC) with augmentees to assist NRO and U.S. Air Force Space Command during times of need. 222nd CACS provides support with ongoing space operations crucial to our national security. The NRO is a joint organization engaged in the research and development, acquisition, launch and operation of overhead reconnaissance systems necessary to meet the needs of the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense.



The U.S. Air Force 274th Air Support Operations Squadron (274 ASOS) is a combat support unit located at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, Syracuse, New York. The 274th ASOS provides tactical command control of air power assets to the joint forces air Component Commander and Joint Forces Land Component Commander for combat operations.

Mission: The 274th ASOS trains, equips, and deploys mission qualified Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) members consisting of Air Liaison Officers and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) in support of the 42nd Infantry Division, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Unit members are tasked with providing advice, guidance, and planning considerations to United States Army round commanders on the proper integration of USAF airpower and close air support onto the ground scheme of maneuver. As JTACs, 274th members are further qualified to provide terminal guidance and attack execution in a combat environment.

In a domestic operations role, the 274th is responsible for establishing communications during state emergency response and contingency operations as ordered by the Governor of New York.



<https://www.facebook.com/NationalReconnaissanceOffice/>

<https://www.facebook.com/274ASOS/>





Dress Right Dress!...Right?

Everyone thought it a bit funny each time I retold the story. It had been snowing quite a bit one morning when I was on my way into work. Wind picked up quite a few times and I could feel it pounding alongside my tiny Hyundai Accent. She wasn't made for this kind of weather I thought until I found a substantially larger silver SUV, a Jeep Cherokee I believe, buried into a mound of snow on the side of the road.

The car's engine billowed wafts of white exhaust from the tailpipe so I knew I would have to stop right away. I may not have been the first to pass it by because of the sporadic traffic coming through, but it was obvious after a few moments I would be the first at the scene. I came up to the car carefully and noticed a lady walking calmly away with little more than just a few scratches she received, grabbing a bald piece of brush sticking out from the ground through the snow.

She seemed quite surprised to see me because I was dressed in my military attire and blurted out softly, "Yay, the Army has come to the rescue!" I simply smiled as I greeted her, then the medic part of me ensured she was not injured. I also let her know I was not in the Army but in the Air National Guard out of Niagara Falls. It seemed to not catch on with her at that point since she was more concerned about having her car in a ditch. We walked carefully back out into the side of the road where she gained a bit more confidence to speak more intently about her current situation. "I can't believe how my car just seemed to run right off the road! It sucks thinking I should have gotten those stupid tires changed months ago! Uhhh! My husband is going to be furious."

The interesting part, aside the fact that I stayed with her until police showed up, was that the whole time I was there outside in the cold, I had my hands in my jacket pockets. One wouldn't think twice either way but I did. To me it seems an eternity because I had become aware from the moment I left my car that I was unfortunately wearing dark blue gloves! Oh, the misery I sustained knowing I had committed an appalling act that no civilian would even notice as out of place, except for my peers that were not present at the scene with us. I was completely aware at all times that I should have been prepared with my black gloves in the car and should not have my hands in my pockets either! It was if some OCD had taken over me, that I must keep my hands hidden so as not to give any indication of my culpability to the rules of uniform etiquette.

Some would think this is a ridiculous moral engagement that I placed upon myself that held no merit of failure, but I knew and that is the only person that needed to know. Although it may have been an emergency of sorts to be out there I still had the power to keep true to my professional image. I guess somehow along the way I was engrained with a true spirit of BLUE. An indelible presumption we make about whether we either give in to laissez faire or we stand fast to excellence in all that we do. In my mind I was not a total failure that day but showed the important image of concern to a fellow civilian in need. She may not have noticed my shortcoming with respect to my professional image but I knew that it didn't matter if it were a tiny thing. What mattered most was that I try a bit harder next time to be ready. Even if it were something as minuscule as the wearing of the correct gloves in uniform.

Some did find my story funny because they felt I may have gone overboard on my thought process. I believe this silly digression from the everyday grind in our military experience shows us a bit more about who we are and why we do what we do. Sure it wasn't the end of the world to wear the wrong gloves at the scene of an accident but don't some of us dabble with breaking military customs at times? Some of us willfully go on about our day without the slightest sense of dishonor when it comes to standing tall and showing the world how proud we are of what we do, what we are,...why we are.

I really believe it is times, such as where I found myself, that we tend to forget that as a true spirit of what our uniform represents. It is what we should be aware of when we present ourselves to those around us, to the world. It is our nature to try and do the least work for the most advantage but sometimes we need to stop and think about the nuances that reflect our military heritage to all of those that seldom capture a moment in our presence. Those are some of the times that most of the world will keep hold of when they imagine the men and women of America's military. Make it a good one, make it count!



NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y., (April 27, 2017) – More than six Airmen from the 107th Attack Wing here volunteered to help Habitat for Humanity renovate a house throughout April, 2017.

With volunteerism in the wing being encouraged, members of the wing were informed about the opportunity to work on the project. The Airmen took the opportunity to give back to the community that has supported them for so long.

“I did some research about the project and it intrigued me,” said Staff Sgt. Stephanie Bowman, a personnel specialist assigned to the 107th ATKW. “I wanted to be involved in something that was going to help people out.”

While some Habitat for Humanity projects build entirely new homes, this project focused on using an existing house. Such houses are then gutted, and remodeled according to the needs of the future owners.

“We did demolition, and pretty much tried to take the interior walls down as much as possible,” said Bowman. “We picked up all the trash in the yard and inside the house as well.”

had volunteered to do this type of work.

For some of the Airmen, this was the first time they

“It was a humbling feeling, much greater than I thought I was going to feel,” said Senior Airman Kathryn Marotta, a command post controller assigned to the 107th ATKW. “You walked out with the feeling of what you just did for someone and it definitely made me want to go back and volunteer more.”

Working on this project brought members of the 107th together for the common goal of doing something good for people in need. Volunteering their time became an important and worthwhile experience for the Airmen.

There are a lot of people that are not as fortunate as some of us are, said Marotta. Taking our skills and what we are each capable of and giving to those in need is truly a good thing to do, said Marotta.

Taking these houses and making them habitable again is more than just providing a family with a place to live. It is also about giving them a chance at a more positive future.

It’s about being able to help rebuild these homes in order for a family to not only move in but also have a happy life, said Bowman. A little bit goes a long way when we come together and are able to change someone’s life, said Bowman.

Working on this project did not necessarily seem like work to the Airmen. Afterwards, many of them left with plans to return.

“It was a lot of fun, everyone was upbeat and positive,” said Marotta. “A lot of people look at it as a chore and it’s really not. It’s a lot of fun and I definitely encourage everyone to do any kind of volunteering any chance they get.”

Story by Staff Sgt. Ryan Campbell



“Behold I make all things new.” Revelation 21:5b

Newness is coming to the Chaplain Corps! Over the next few months you will begin seeing new faces within the 107 ATKW Chaplain Corps to better serve you. Presently, TSgt Lydia Hernandez is at Chaplain Assistant Training and will be back by June's RSD "spun up" as your new Chaplain Assistant and ready to serve. TSgt Hernandez's AFSC was previously held at Security Forces. If you see her at the June drill, ask her about her training. The new changes happening to the Chaplain Corps is perfect timing with the 107th ATKW conversion as we stand up the line here at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station this September. Remember your Chaplain Corps is here for you and here to keep the Wing resilient!

One of the ways we aid in resiliency is that we offer Strong Bonds Events for couples, families and non-married Individuals. These events are to assist members in building and maintaining a strong family structure. One of the main focuses we talk about in one Strong Bond program for married couples called, "Laugh Your Way to A Better Marriage," is the opportunity to push the "reset button." That button is a tool that can refresh and make new our relationships and strength our resiliency. The Air National Guard Strong Bonds is a key resiliency and relational program designed to increase Airmen Warrior readiness by assisting commanders in building and strengthening the structure of ANG families. When the individual member and their families are strengthened, the mission together is strengthened as well.

Our next Strong Bonds Event for non-married individuals called "Got Your Back" is scheduled for 28-30 July, more information following. Please save the date. The "Got Your Back" Strong Bonds Event is about building the resiliency of the individual. Watch your e-mail for registration information.

The pictures in this article are of previous Strong Bonds events. They all were very meaningful and fun!

Staying New and Resilient With You,
Chaplain Jackie Ann Rose Kraft



Coming Soon

Strong Bonds Event for non-married individuals “Got Your Back”

28-30 July

More details coming via e-mail soon!

Chaplain Services

Wing Chaplain

LtCol Jackie Ann Rose Kraft

Office: (716) 236-3428

Cell: (716) 512-4390

Chaplain Crisis Phone: (716) 228-7719

** 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



Wing Director of Psychological Health



Exercise, it improves a number of health problems, including mood and anxiety.

When you're experiencing high levels of anxiety or depression, exercise often seems like the last thing you want to do. It can be hard but once you get motivated, exercise can make a big difference.

Exercise helps prevent and improve a number of health problems, including high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis. Research on anxiety, depression and exercise shows that the psychological and physical benefits of exercise can also help reduce anxiety and improve mood.



Studies show that regular exercise not only helps stabilize and or elevate mood, it also helps prevents anxiety and depression from coming back.

How does exercise help depression and anxiety?

According to the Mayo Clinic regular exercise probably helps ease depression and anxiety in a number of ways, which may include:

Releasing feel-good brain chemicals that may ease depression (neurotransmitters, endorphins and endocannabinoids)

Reducing immune system chemicals that can worsen depression

Increasing body temperature, which may have calming effects

Gain confidence. Meeting exercise goals or challenges, even small ones, can boost your self-confidence. Getting in shape can also make you feel better about your appearance.

Take your mind off worries. Exercise is a distraction that can get you away from the cycle of negative thoughts that feed anxiety and depression.

Get more social interaction. Exercise and physical activity may give you the chance to meet or socialize with others. Just exchanging a friendly smile or greeting as you walk around your neighborhood can help your mood.

Cope in a healthy way. Doing something positive to manage anxiety or depression is a healthy coping strategy. Trying to feel better by drinking alcohol, dwelling on how badly you feel, or hoping anxiety or depression will go away on its own can lead to worsening symptoms.

So there you have it. In addition to helping you pass your PT test, regular exercise can also help alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety.



Best Regards,
Jason Masker, LMHC
Bldg. B202 Room 100
716-236-2401

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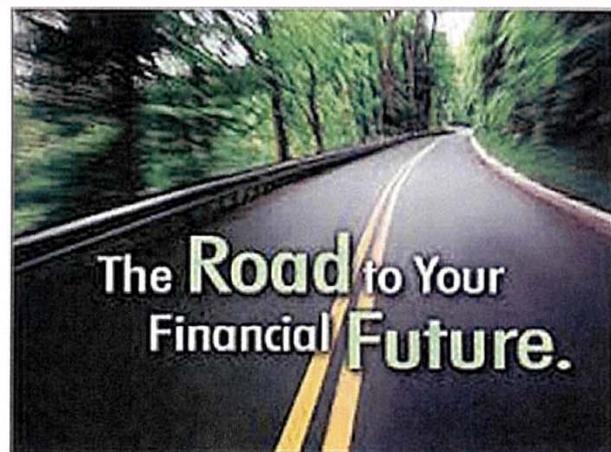
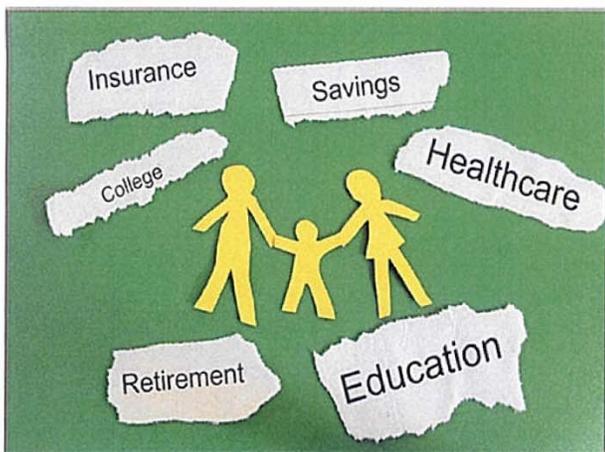


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Repair and Disposal of Worn Flags

WASHING

If your American flag is beginning to look dirty or dingy, washing it may save it from an early retirement. The Flag Code does not prohibit washing flags. In fact washing your flag on a regular basis can prolong its life. Most outdoor flags can be hand-washed with a mild laundry detergent. If you're not sure if your flag can be washed, or of the proper washing procedure, take it to the dry cleaners. Many offer free flag-cleaning services, especially in the month of July.

Despite the common myth, flags that touch the ground do not need to be destroyed. If your flag does touch the ground, and it gets dirty, simply wash it. Allowing a flag to touch the ground is disrespectful to the flag, but of course accidents do happen. Just try to prevent it from happening again.

REPAIRING

As long as the flag is serviceable, it is acceptable to repair minor damages. While it is permitted to do repairs yourself, taking your flag to a seamstress man be a safer option. It's important that the repairs are not noticeable, and that the dimensions of the flag aren't altered. Flags with large tears or excessive fraying should be retired.

To avoid damage to your flag, bring it inside in bad weather, and make sure your flagpole or staff is in good condition. Rust can corrode your flag. If you are putting a flag into storage, make sure it is dry and the bag or container locks out moisture. Mold and mildew can grow on damp fabric.

DISPOSAL

According to the Flag Code, any American flag that is worn, damaged or tattered beyond repair should be retired in a respectful and dignified manner. The preferred method is burning. This may shock some, since it is a well known fact that burning the flag is illegal. This however, is an exception to the rule. You can burn the flag yourself, making sure it is done in a discreet and professional manner, or many organizations like the American Legion, the Boy Scouts Council and the Girl Scouts Council will perform a flag retirement ceremony and burn your flag for you. In this case, burning signifies purification and rebirth.

Although burning is the preferred method, it is also acceptable to seal your old flag in a box or bag and bury it. The most important factor is showing respect to the flag during its disposal.

CONTACT

To properly dispose of your worn or tattered flag by burning, please contact the local branch of the following organizations.

The American Legion

Boy Scouts

Girl Scouts

**or MSgt Chris Zastrow
Ext: 2523
Bldg 901, Room 128**



Promotion Requirements

Amn-E-2	A1C - E3	SrA - E4	SSgt - E5	TSgt - E6	MSgt - E7	SMSgt - E8	CMSgt - E9
				Sole occupant of at least a TSgt UMD position	Sole occupant of at least a MSgt UMD position	Sole occupant of at least a SMSgt UMD position	Sole occupant of at least a CMSgt UMD position
6 months TIG	6 months TIG	1 year TIG	1 year TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG	2 years TIG
6 months TIS	1 year TIS	2 years TIS	4 years TIS	6 years TIS	9 years TIS	11 years TIS	14 years TIS
3 level PAFSC	3 level PAFSC	3 level PAFSC	5 level PAFSC	7 level PAFSC	7 level PAFSC	7 level PAFSC	9 level PAFSC
PME - BMT (Note 1)	PME - BMT (Note 2)	PME - N/A	PME - ALS	PME - N/A	PME - NCOA	PME - SNCOA & CCAF (Note 3)	PME - CCAF (Note 3)



Note 1: Promotion to Amn (E2) will be automatic, 6 months from the date member departs for basic military training (BMT) / tech school, unless the unit commander requests the promotion be delayed. (The Military Personnel Flight (MPF) will publish orders/update the Personnel Data System for promotion to E2).

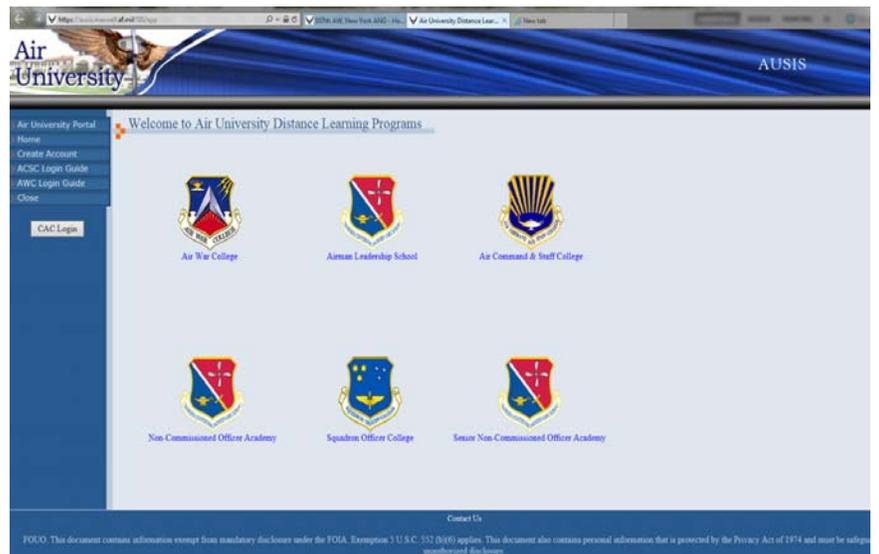
Note 2: Time in grade (TIG) requirement is computed from the date of entry on the initial active duty training (date member departs for BMT tech school)

Note 3: 107th Sup - SEJPME required for promotion to SMSgt and CMSgt

Career Advancement-

Here is where you go for your PME
<https://ausis.maxwell.af.mil/SIS/app>

Continue your professional development though on and off-duty education. Join professional organizations (for example, base advisory and enlisted councils) and participate in organization and community events through volunteerism.



Social Media Tips

**Please keep the following in mind
when posting to social media 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.

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