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*Update*  
**COMBAT DINING IN.**  
COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS COUNCIL

**WHO:** All members of the 110th Airlift Wing.

**WHEN:** April 2013 (UTA)

**WHERE:** On Base

*Tickets on sale Now, See a Chief!*

## ASK THE COMMANDER **ELECTRONIC SUGGESTION BOX**

One person cannot do it alone, so I have established an Electronic Suggestion Box to get ideas directly from you that will help our wing grow. *How do I use the Electronic Suggestion Box?* Simply go to the Wings Share-Point site: <https://eis.ang.af.mil/org/110AW>. On the 110 AW page go to "Ask the Commander" under the Discussions section. Click [Add a discussion](#). Add a subject. Add your suggestion in the Body. *Is this Anonymous?* Yes, no name is tied to the suggestions unless you put your name in the body. The only people that can see the suggestions are the person submitting the suggestion and the Wing Commander. *(For an electronic copy pdf to walk you through go online under UTA updates.)*

## COMMANDER

110TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER  
By Colonel Ronald W. Wilson

Members of the 110th Airlift Wing, welcome to the final drill of 2012.

I had the opportunity to travel to Latvia a couple of weeks ago to meet with our State Partnership Program (SPP) affiliates and explore new opportunities that will reinforce our collaboration; ultimately enhancing both the 110th Airlift Wing and Latvian nation. If you do not know about the SPP, it is a security cooperation program managed by the National Guard that links the US States with partner countries, which for Michigan is Latvia. The SPP is not only critical in its role of strengthening and stabilizing international relations, but it's also one of those budgetary items that tends to be very safe from proposed cuts. In other words, like the C-27J, AOG, and Cyber Defense, the SPP is another pillar that will bolster the long-term sustainability of the base. And for that, I saw this trip as a great success.

But it was during my flight home, as I drowsily passed the long hours surveying the earth's spattered mosaic of heavily populated cities contrasted by large swathes of farmland, small towns, and untouched preserves of trees, that I had an experience which for me seemed to resonate more of what has become a common thread in the feedback I have received since assuming command of the 110th. I'm talking about that 40,000 foot view that is often referred to when describing the way leaders must approach the day to day operations of an organization. But for me, as I looked down from the airplane, it was more than the idea of having to

measure "big problems" against small, or considering the interconnectedness of individuals to the organization. For me, that 40,000 foot view became a great metaphor for contrast I've seen between perception and reality.

When I proposed the idea of "Ask the Commander" as a means to giving every airman on base an opportunity to directly and anonymously provide me with feedback, opinions, or criticisms, I honestly did not expect it to take off as fervently as it did. But what I have found in reading the many responses I have received thus far is that what is perceived as a problematic issue or concern is often very far from the reality of what goes into the decision making process. I realize that this is a very common organizational dilemma, particularly when the average person is so busily engaged in their day-to-day work that they simply do not have the time or energy to step back appreciate a wider view. But I feel that one mark of a good leader is in his or her ability to at least minimize the fog between perception and reality.

An example of perception being much different than reality, one that has been brought to my attention by more than a few people, is the remodel of building 6905. Some have cited concerns that doing this right now is misuse of taxpayer monies; that it is being done to satisfy the vanity of Wing staff instead of being more appropriately spread around base. This is what I would call the 40 foot view—still too close to the ground to see the forest, farms and cities through the trees. But when you step back and look at all the interworking parts—what it takes to thrive in times of uncertainty when money goes away, missions are up for grabs and the pressure to garner support from congressmen, senators and Generals is at an all-time high—you have a better understanding of the importance of making the one place where all distinguished visitors, community backers, and decision makers come to learn about the value of the 110th as professional looking as possible. It has nothing to do with the person sitting behind

a new desk, but about the position of the desk in the greater scheme. The same goes for complaints about people being allowed to wear a flight suit when they are in a job that no longer requires them to fly a plane, or the holiday party taking place during the day instead of the evening. The consequence of short-sightedness is that you miss out on the larger world that exists beyond the weeds. You get distracted from the real mission, which is to be the best at what we do in service to this great country; a matter that becomes even more poignant as we fight to defend our position during the winding down of a combined 20 years of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and of course the funding that goes with it. What I ask is that you consider that 40,000 foot view when you see something that bothers you. Use this perspective to offer proactive solutions instead of criticisms; because constructive ideas go much further in affecting change than negative complaints.

In closing, I would suggest that each of us take advantage of this lull in action to spend time with friends and families during this holiday season. They are the foundation for what we do. They provide stability and security when we are away from home and support when we return. Relish the moment. Enjoy the holidays, be safe, and have a great drill.

## MARRIAGE | 217TH AIR OPERATIONS GROUP By Chaplain Maj. Kurt Taylor

If you're not married, Happy Holidays, and read no further. For those who are, what you read here could change your marriage for the better. First, a story. When I was overseas in Kyrgyzstan a few years ago, deployed as the only Protestant chaplain on a base of over 1000, I had certain expectations of what I'd encounter. On the one hand, I was right about the number of counseling opportunities. I figured there'd be a lot, and there were. I think I estimated that in my 5 months it averaged out to about two per day; heavier around Christmas, lighter when we were ready to go home. What I was wrong about was the nature of the discussions. I expected that most of the conversations would have to do with work issues, war issues, mission and job issues. There was all of that. But by far the matter that I dealt with the most was marriage. Some marriages ended while the spouse was in Kyrgyzstan. Some marriages irreversibly changed for the worse. On most occasions, conversations were about how the marriage was strained, strained during deployment, but not because of deployment. No, the deployment itself simply highlighted or magnified strains that already existed. And while I have no statistics on the matter, from my own personal observation, one of the greatest obstacles to efficiency was when people were stressed about their marriage.

Now, you'll note that this article began with the encouragement for single folks not to read further. Because the bad news above might just confirm for someone, otherwise not real keen on the idea of marriage, that it's not worth the trouble. But many of us know better. Many of us know how priceless a gift marriage is, or at least can be. And for both of these reasons, both the potential for difficulties and the potential for greatness, the ANG adopted a program called Strong Bonds. Strong Bonds is

essentially an opportunity for married couples in the military to make their marriages stronger. The format is a retreat weekend where couples gather, usually at a hotel or resort, and experience ideas, techniques, expert advice and, most importantly, together-time with their spouse. It's informative, fun, funny, and not stressful. What makes it too good to pass up is that you don't have to pay for it. This gesture on the part of the ANG is extremely telling. That both the Army and the ANG are willing to pony up money in the midst of budget cuts and a shrinking military in order to facilitate the strengthening of marriages is an endorsement of the view I stated above. You can have a highly trained cop, pilot, mechanic, commander or whatever, but he or she is not going to be nearly as effective at the job if dealing with problems in his or her most important relationship. Conversely, when that area of life is strong, then the potential for job effectiveness is higher.

Your chaplains are trained in Strong Bonds. We'll be having another marriage weekend 25-27 January 2013 in Grand Rapids and you and your spouse are invited. The point is to make marriages stronger for newlyweds to the grizzled veterans, for those who have had turmoil to those who have had, well, less turmoil. Contact our chaplain's office (580-3371) or find me at the AOG and we'll give you all the details. Make it a free Christmas present to your spouse! Your marriage may not "need" this weekend. But your marriage is worth this weekend.



## FEATURE NOVEMBER 2012

*Guardman of the Month*

**Lt. Col. Dan Whipple**

For more Honorable Nominees for *Guardman of the Month* go online [www.110aw.ang.af.mil](http://www.110aw.ang.af.mil)

## WING HOLIDAY PARTY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012

Continue the Celebration at the All Ranks Open Mess (AROM). Redeem your drink ticket here and receive a coupon for \$1.00 off your first drink down at the AROM. Your AROM coupon also enters you into a drawing for a \$30.00 gift certificate. (Must be present to win gift certificate. Drawing to be held at 1930 (7:30pm) No purchase necessary. Coupon good for one night only, Saturday, December 1, 2012. Coupon good for all Beverages products sold at the AROM club house.

**JOB OPENING: INSPECTOR GENERAL** The 110th Airlift is seeking a motivated, detail-oriented officer in the grade of Lt Col or Major (promotable) to become the next Wing Inspector General. The selectee is required to obtain the Special Duty Identifier 87G0 and attend a one-week training class within 90 days of becoming assigned to this non-rated, drill status position. Feel free to contact Maj Radmacher (x3447) on UTA weekend for further information.

## CHAPLAINS OFFICE *Get into the Holiday Spirit!*

This drill, the Chaplains and staff would like to help you get into the holiday spirit. In place of regular chapel services, we are planning a time of song, fellowship, and food. This multicultural event will feature favorite Christmas carols supported by short bible readings in French, Spanish and English. Please meet us for this special time on Sunday morning from 0730-0800. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Food Bank of South Central Michigan FORT FOOD CHALLENGE 2012

110th Airlift Wing Takes on fight against hunger. How can you participate? Bring in can goods and donate to the Fort Food Challenge 2012. Each group is collecting donations from November 5-December 5, 2012. Group POC's are as follows, Staff Sgt Koch, Master Sgt. Lucas, Master Sgt. Cassada, Capt. Guy, Staff Sgt. Fires, Staff Sgt. Mosser, Chief Master Sgt. Demaree, Senior Master Sgt. Kirk, Senior Amn. Houseman

## BLANKET & COAT DRIVE

Warm our community with one coat and blanket at a time. Do you have extra clothes, coats or blankets in your closet that you aren't using? Please donate to our winter bundle the community coat, clothing and blanket drive. November 5 – december 15, look for the large bins located throughout the 110 airwing labeled as "winter community drive" All donated items will be given to the haven of rest facilities (men, women and family facilities)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

*"Excellence Through Change"*, Saturday, January 19, 2013, 0800-1630

Cost: \$10.00 (Pays for Lunch & Refreshments) Registration Deadline: January 10, 2013

"Bonus Offer!"- The 110th Chief's Council has provided an additional incentive for early registration. The first 30 Airmen (E-1 through E-4) who submit their registration will have their conference fee PAID by the Chief's Council!

## ACTIVE SHOOTER YOUTUBE VIDEO

CLICK ON ABOVE LINK TO GO TO VIDEO

## COLLEGE DAY AT THE 110TH!

Saturday, January 12, 2013, Building 6922, 1000-1400, for members & dependents

This drill, College Representatives will be here for you and your family. College Representatives include, Baker College, Miller College, Davenport University, Kellogg Community College, Cornerstone University, Spring Arbor University, University of Phoenix, Western Michigan University, Siena Heights University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, VA Resource Representatives.

## RETIREMENTS

Maj. Jason Radmacher, Sunday, December 2, 2012, Bldg 6930, 1500-1600

Lt. Col. Robert DeCoster (Last UTA)

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Hunt, Sunday, December 2, 2012, Bldg 6914, 1400

## ONLINE LINKS

PROMOTIONS

RETENTION OFFICE UPDATES *FAQ's Post 9-11, Chap 33 Pamphlet, UCA Notes*

DINING FACILITY MENU

UTA TRAINING SCHEDULE

FAMILY PROGRAMS *YMCA Offer to Veterans, Female Veteran Stand Down Event Pistons Tickets and more...*

## HOW SECURE IS YOUR PHONE | 110TH COMMUNICATIONS FLT.

It is estimated that over 60% of Americans today carry their phones with them at all times. These little gadgets have more computing power than computers did 10 years ago and fit in the palm of your hand. Additionally, with the invention of 3G and 4G LTE technologies, we are virtually connected at all times and routinely use our smart devices to access e-mail, play games, text, talk, and even bank on line. Yet, we never seem to hear about the latest Smartphone virus in the news. So, your phone must be secured... Right?

Last month, I had the privilege of attending GRRCON which was basically a hacker's convention. I was surprised and a little taken back by the number of presentations that focused on Smartphone technologies including both the iPhone and Android. Infecting your phone is surprisingly simple. Just like computers, Smartphones are most often compromised because of downloading software aka apps. Malicious code can be embedded in the original App or in an update.

Downloading from a trusted source such as Google Market Place does afford you a small measure of security; however, these securities are easily defeated by the clever hackers out there. Computer World published an article titled "Security research labels over 290,000 Google Play Android apps as 'high-risk'" written by Ellen Messmer. In this article, Ellen states that:

"Twenty-five percent of more than 400,000 Android apps studied in the GooglePlay store pose security risks to mobile-device users, according to new research from security vendor Bit9. The vendor classifies these Android apps as questionable or suspicious because they could gain access to personal data to collect GPS information, phone calls, or phone numbers and much more after the user gave the app "permission." Bit9 says while this does not mean that the apps are malware per se, they could wreak havoc if compromised because the user has given so much permission. Google Play is believed to contain about 600,000 apps, and Bit9 CTO Harry Sverdlow says his company is compiling a "reputation" database of Android apps, and also will move on to other app stores such as those run by Apple and Amazon in order to create mobile security solutions that can shield users based on risk-scoring of apps." (November 1, 2012) View the entire article here.

Below are just a few ways a hacker can exploit your Smartphone once they have their code installed:

- Sleeper-Cell Apps are like Trojan Horses for cell phones and remain dormant in the code until activated by the hacker. This activation can be done on an individual, group, or global basis.

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- Malicious code can do anything from turning your phone into a useless pile of wires, glass, and plastic to overdriving the CPU causing the battery to overheat and causing a fire.

- They can track what applications you use (i.e. Facebook or USAA) and write a script that will emulate your session, while in reality transmitting your login information to the attacker. – Can you say Identity Theft?

- Root-Kits – can turn your phone into the ultimate spy-phone. Attackers can take over the phone at any time and have full access to all functions on the device to include the ability to:

- Make a call
- Take a Picture
- Make a Video
- Turn on the Speaker Phone
- Access all data on phone
- Contacts
- Pictures
- Videos
- Browser History

While admittedly some of these claims seem a little farfetched, the fact remains that we currently do not have the equivalent of MacAfee for Smartphones. It is basically the Wild West out there. So far we have been LUCKY and it is only a matter of time. Hackers are currently retooling their skill sets to exploit this new frontier. Here are a few common sense steps you can take to mitigate your vulnerabilities:

- Exercise caution when downloading Apps.
- Only download from trusted sites
- Understand that you are assuming a certain level of risk with every download
- Consider installing antivirus as it becomes available
- Lastly, I highly recommend Identity Theft Insurance!

## WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING | 110TH OPERATIONS GROUP

By Capt. Lucas Freudenburg

Recently members from the 110th Operations Group and 119th Operations Group, Fargo, North Dakota participated in Water Survival training (SS05) hosted by both groups' Aircrew Flight Equipment sections. The training was conducted by Aircrew Flight Equipment personal, with additional support from the U.S. Navy. Training consisted of pre-ditching procedures, post-egress and water survival procedures, survival living considerations in an open sea environment, evasion considerations, and signaling / recovery considerations, with rescue from the U.S. Navy's helicopter rescue Squadron. This joint training was a stepping stone for the units as they prepare for the conversion to the C-27J mission.



## APPRECIATING THE GUARD | 110TH AIRLIFT WING IG

By Maj. Jason Radmacher

When I arrived on this base in 1989, I had just finished a 4-year active duty tour at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. And though I had started as an Aircraft Maintenance Unit analyst for the Korean War-era T-33's, Elmendorf was actually a cutting-edge base. We were flying F-15A/B Eagles that intercepted Soviet sorties caught testing our warning nets and measuring our response times from one of our three forward-operating bases. And it was Alaska – the Last Frontier!

During my first "drill" here as an E-3 "buck sergeant", I thought I had joined the Air Force of some 3rd-world country. The 110th was flying T-37s – except it had an "OA" in front of it. The A-10 transition had yet to begin. The dining facility was upstairs in the "new" hangar, building 6900, and seated about 100 people if you stacked everyone up. The Security Forces folks were in a hallway that led to the "old" hangar. The BX covered half of the downstairs barracks of an old World War II era tinderbox. The Ops building didn't exist, and the 110th wasn't even a wing: It was the 110th Tactical Air Support Group!

As much as this didn't look like the Air Force I knew, I quickly found out that people were willing to work hard -- and do it as more of a team than my active duty counterparts. My first supervisor, MSgt Jim Ondersma, made sure that I was taken care of from soup-to-nuts in the Air Support Operations Center. Sure as shooting, our section and the rest of the ASOC worked hard and played hard.

Over the years, I got to see this dynamic work time and time again at Battle Creek. It was fascinating. People here didn't rotate out every few years, so folks became familiar with each other. And given how quickly word spread and relationships occasionally got sticky, I'd have reckoned "too familiar". Kind of like...family.

And this "family", like most, always seemed to pull together when the going got tough. Whether it was the loss of a member, an aircraft or just a bruise on our collective ego, the resiliency of this Wing always surprised me. We could fight each other like cats and dogs, but when it was show time, we pulled together and almost always pulled through. Built on years of Air Force experience, that familiarity became strength whenever it was needed most.

Through the involvement of a lot of key people, the base continually improved as the old atmosphere of a Cold War reserve unit gave as we transformed to meet new challenges throughout the world. We sharpened the spear and became "Expeditionary". The 110th met and beat those challenges as a honed, proven combat force. Now, small though we are, I'd put our modern base up against any in the Air Force!

We're not perfect. But this Wing has an amazing balance of professional sharpness, experience, and long-lasting relationships. If you're one of the new active duty troops here that is suffering from a bit of culture shock, I'd ask that you just give it some time. After a few years, I trust you'll come to appreciate our little never-say-die, us-against-the-world base here in Battle Creek serving "Community, State, and Nation".