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Hot! Armed Forces Day Luncheon, Friday, May 16, 2013, 1130-1330 at the Navy Operation Support Center.

COMMANDER

110TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER
By Colonel Ronald W. Wilson

Members of the 110th Airlift Wing, welcome to the April UTA.

As I look out the window, I think it is safe to say that winter has bid its final farewell and summer is right around the corner; something that I know we have all been anxiously awaiting. As in years past, with spring comes the kick-off of our annual Wingman Day. And in the spirit of change that has been a resounding theme for the wing, this year we have combined Wingman Day with the annual Safety Stand-Down requirement, allowing us to kill two birds with one stone. No robins, or course.

We have put a lot of energy into making this event informative and fun. Wingman/Safety Day is not about checking a box, sitting through PowerPoint briefings, or engaging in team-building activities for the sake of meeting some superficial expectation that doing so will somehow improve morale. Instead, this is our opportunity to have a conversation about some very real threats that we face as a fighting force. I'm talking about the threats that come from a culture that inhibits individual growth, allows for bullying, harassment or sexually inappropriate behaviors, or does not recognize the importance of attending to mental, physical, spiritual or social fitness. Last month's shooting at Fort Hood was a grave reminder of how something as simple as a denied leave request can escalate to a circumstance that left three soldiers dead and more

than dozen injured. When you peel back the layers of media hype and speculation about the shooter intentions, what you are left with is a tragedy that was both needless and avoidable. But what about those less publicized issues, like the number of reported and unreported sexual assaults between military personnel; a staggering number that is absolutely unacceptable. Or those airmen who are being bullied or picked on by their peers and feel like they are powerless to address the problem. And with all the resources available, a single suicide by a member of the Air National Guard is not only completely preventable, but is a testament to failures within the system. Yet these things continue to happen. This is why we need to take advantage of the time we have together on Wingman/Safety Day to address the disconnectedness that sets in when we get so wrapped up in our own lives that we fail to recognize the struggles of our greatest assets—each other. There should not be anything out there that prevents an airman from seeking out help when life gets rough and things feel overwhelming. Wingman/Safety Day is our chance to do something about it. This is our opportunity to get to know each other a little better, not just the folks in your shop or work area, but from around the base. It is a time to engage in conversation with someone you may see in the DFAC or BX, but never had an opportunity to talk to. Or if you are experiencing a hardship, this might be a time for you to ask wingman for help. The intention of this day is to build individual and group connections that will enhance the resiliency of the entire wing, carrying us forward years into the future.

As you may know we are going to start the day by asking everyone to complete a climate survey being distributed by the EO office. Although this survey is disseminated Air

Force-wide, we have been able to customize several of the questions you will get in a way that we will be able to use the data to better understand and improve local services. This survey is anonymous, so I ask you to be honest in your responses. We cannot make improvements without your feedback. The survey will be followed by Commander's Call in the DFAC and then a short training in your individual units. After the training portion of the day, everyone will head over to the big hangar for base-wide dodge ball tournament. For those who do not want to participate in dodge ball, there will be a euchre tournament in the DFAC, deep-tissues massages by Everest Institute, and opportunities to socialize and cheer on your teams.

The Club has once again donated funds to provide food for everyone, which will be available all afternoon. We tried this last year and hit few snags, mainly in regard to miscommunication about the times that food will be available. To simplify the process while avoiding a mad rush in the short time we have during noontime activities, the Club will begin serving food at 1300—right about the time unit training will be wrapping up—and continue until the food runs out. Hopefully, this will happen right around the time that the Club opens up for evening activities.

I encourage each of you to make the most of Wingman/Safety Day. Use it as an opportunity to learn instead of an excuse to complain. Engage in discussions and participate in the activities during what is sure to be a very fun event. And be sure to thank all of the folks who have dedicated their time and energy to making this a great day.

Be safe and have a great drill.



Did you know... Your Point Credit Summary should be reviewed yearly? To help with that, March 2014 we started a procedure to send an email reminder notice 90 days before the close out of your retention/retirement year. When you receive yours, take the opportunity within those 90 days to request any point corrections needed or complete any participation required for a good year. View your participation points in virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF). Request any corrections using vPC-GR.

To view your points:

1. Using your CAC, log on to myPers, mypers.af.mil
2. From the myPers homepage, go to the "I Would Like To..." section and select "Access AFPC Secure Apps (vMPF, PRDA) – CAC Only"
3. Select Ok at the bottom of the DOD Notice and Consent Banner
4. Under "Available Applications" click "vMPF"
5. In vMPF, on the left side of the page under Navigation, select "Self Service Actions"
6. Select ("Personal Data")
7. FOR POINT SUMMARY – Select "ANG/ USAFR Point Credit Summary Inquire (PCARS)"
8. FOR RIPS - Select "View All"

To correct your points:

1. Log on to myPers
2. From the myPers homepage, go to the "I Would Like to..." section and select "View More" to locate the "Complete a Career Management Action" link
3. Select "Change/Correct My Retirement Points" from the list of transactional options
4. Fill out the request form, attach appropriate documentation, and choose "continue." At the next screen, choose "Finish Submitting Question"

The myPers website is your Total Force source for personnel information and services. Check it out!

PERSONAL FINANCIAL COUNSELING ON BASE

PERSONAL FINANCIAL COUNSELOR
Craig Hughes

Need help with your finances? The Personal Financial Counseling program is here to help service members and their spouses by answering financial questions, resolving financial problems, and developing plans to help you reach your financial goals. The services are free and offered with total privacy and confidentiality.

The service covers a wide range of financial topics including:

- Budgeting & spending plans
- Savings & emergency fund accounts
- Debt & credit card management
- Credit management & credit score repair
- Retirement planning
- Mortgages, home purchases, and foreclosure prevention
- Investing for financial goals

It is an honor to serve the ANG as the Personal Financial Counselor until June 24, 2014. I am here on temporary assignment to help service members and their spouses plan for a successful financial future. I have an office on base at Wing HQ, Bldg. 6905. There are three other financial counselors assigned in Michigan to Lansing, Midland, and Mt. Clemens/Taylor. Please call me if you need contact information for these other locations.

My background includes 36 years of experience in the financial service business, most recently with the Marine Corps in San Diego for the past 8 years as the Director of Financial Counseling & Education. I am an Accredited Financial Counselor and owned an insurance agency for 28 years. I am also a former high school teacher, Army medical corpsman, Vietnam vet, and hold a Bachelors & MBA degree in Business Management.

So please, go ahead and make my day! Give me a call at 619-980-9862 to schedule an appointment. Remember..... "If you have the will, I have the way." Thank you for your Service!

BULLETIN

STRONG BONDS FOR SINGLES

The chapel staff is considering doing a Strong Bonds Event for singles. If you would be interested in attending, please email Senior Master Sgt. Jeanne LaHaie or Staff Sgt. Slocum or call us in the chapel office at 3371. Your response doesn't commit you to anything, but it will help us in our planning process.

DFAC MENU

Saturday

Meatloaf	Chicken Cordon Bleu
Rice Pilaf	Mashed Potatoes
Beef Gravy	Broccoli
Corn	Chili

Sunday (Breakfast 0800-0930)

Biscuits & Gravy	Scramble Eggs
French Toast	Pancakes
Bacon	Sausage Patty
Hashbrowns	Corned Beef Hash

UTA CHILDCARE

Attention 110 AW military members:

Need childcare during UTA? 6 Slots available for childcare on Saturday & Sunday of UTA 0600-1800.

Requirements: Must be attending UTA; Officer or Enlisted children can participate.

Children's age must be between 6 weeks-12 years. Child must be immunized according to American Academy of Pediatrics.

Currently, completely free. Call MSgt Tammy Zerafa with questions. 269-969-3565

PROMOTIONS

Tech. Sgt. Jared Willman (CES)

Staff Sgt. Chad Harwood (OG)

Staff Sgt. Peter Newton (CES)

Senior Airman Nathaniel Gillette (CES)

Senior Airman Malachi King (FSS)

Senior Airman Jarrid A. Lake (CES)

Airman First Class Javonte Lofton (LRS)

RETIREMENTS

Col. Anne Dutcher (AOG)

Lt. Col. Frederick Winn (MDG)

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Downing (JFRC)

Master Sgt. Wells Walker (AW)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The 110th AW's Public Affairs Office does more than just produce the compulsively readable Jetstream Journal. We also have a full-service military portrait studio, capable of producing official photographs. Up for a promotion or applying for a new military position? Contact Public Affairs and schedule your portrait session today! 110aw.pa@ang.af.mil

MONEY FOR SCHOOL OPENS JULY 1, 2014

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is pleased to offer \$1000 scholarships each year to United States Service members (active duty/veterans) and spouses of Service members who are working towards the completion of higher education degrees.

The scholarship eligibility requirements and application process are available July 1 – October 1. <http://www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships>

For questions, please review the Frequently Asked Questions or send an email to scholarship@ccmeonline.org

FAQ

1. Who is eligible for the CCME Scholarships?

You must be a United States Service member (active duty/veteran) or spouse of a Service member and is working towards the completion of a higher education degree while attending a CCME membership institution.

2. How do I know if my institution is a member of CCME? If your institution is a member of CCME, they will be listed on the CCME website. Only students attending CCME membership institutions are eligible for the scholarships. NOTE: Continue to check the site as institutions are added weekly.

3. How does my institution become a member of CCME? If your institution would like to become a member of CCME, they can learn about the membership benefits on the CCME Membership website. They can join by filling out the CCME Membership Application.

4. Is there a GPA or credit hour requirement? Yes. You must have a minimum of 12 or more hours (units) and a cumulative 2.5 GPA if you are seeking an associate or bachelor degree; you must have 6 or more hours (units) and a cumulative 3.0 GPA if you are seeking a graduate degree.

5. I just transferred to a CCME member institution but the GPA and credit hours are from my old school, am I eligible? You are eligible only if your previous school is a CCME member institution. The minimum GPA and credit hours must be from the CCME member institution.

continued on next page

THE FUTURE GENERATIONS

110TH AIRLIFT WING FIRST SERGEANT Master Sgt. Ken Glidden

I've been an active member of the local Kellogg Field CAP unit since the 1995 piloting aircraft in support of Search and Rescue and Emergency Services operations. This past month, I attended the CAP Michigan Wing annual conference and banquet. During the day and between some of the breakout sessions, I was able to witness some of the aerospace education that the CAP cadets are experiencing these days. One that drew my attention was a video game team building exercise where multiple cadets had a responsibility in controlling a ship on the screen as it carried out its mission. If one cadet did not carry out their assignment correctly, the mission would fail. As I watched these cadets working together I thought to myself, these are potentially our future RPA pilots and Sensors operators. It appeared to be a great and fun exercise tool for team building.

Later that evening I stayed and attended the annual formal dress dinner and awards banquet. In attendance and seated at the head table were the CAP Michigan Wing Commander, members of his staff and the guest speakers. This year's guests were Michigan's Lieutenant Governor, Brian Calley and Major General John Borling, USAF (Ret).

Lt Governor Calley gave the first speech. But the highlight of the night was listening to Maj Gen (Ret) John Borling. Not only did I get to hear him speak, I had the honor of getting to meet him. Why was this such an honor for me? It wasn't only because Gen Borling had piloted many types of aircraft during his career which included the SR-71 Blackbird. It was because General Borling, after having been shot down during the Vietnam War, survived 6 years and 8 months in solitary confinement as a POW at the Hanoi Hilton. SIX YEARS in a concrete room not much bigger than an average restroom stall! If that doesn't earn respect, I don't know what does! During his years as a prisoner, he survived by thinking up poems and memorizing them as he was not allowed to write. Many years after his release and retirement from the Air Force, he finally put those poems in a published book titled "Taps on the Walls". Although his book is mostly made of all his poems, he does explain "Taps on the Walls" as the forbidden code system he and his fellow POWs would use to communicate with each other.

In closing, I thought I would mention what I thought was

the greatest point of the night. Gen Borling commented on how our WWII veterans are referred to as "The Greatest Generation". With no disrespect intended, he disagreed with that reference. He challenged us to think about the negative message that must send to today's cadets and our youth? The message according to General Borling should be "Our Greatest Generation has yet to come"!

LEADERSHIP MINDSET

110TH OPERATIONS GROUP SUPERINTENDENT Chief Master. Sgt. Jeff Trabold

I recently had the privilege to attend the Chief Executive Course at Joint Base Andrews. The following was taken from the course curriculum entitled "Leadership Mindset".

1. Leaders shape the future. Leaders bring change and leaders challenge the status quo. If there is no need for change, there is no need for leadership.
2. Leadership is a choice. Leadership does not just happen. Leadership is a choice we make to live our vision and purpose daily.
3. Leaders are made and not born. Leaders know who they are, understand their unique purpose, strengths and skills. They use who they are to bring their vision into the present.
4. Leaders live their vision. They become the change that they want to see in the world. They set the example and show the way.
5. Leaders incite conversation. Leadership is about making a difference and driving change which stimulates conversation and debate. The ideas that get talked about are the ones worth talking about.
6. Leaders understand that character matters. Character establishes the foundation for trust. Without trust you cannot lead.
7. Leaders invest in themselves. Leaders take care of their spiritual, emotional, mental and physical needs.
8. Leaders are results focused. Leaders initiate and make things happen.
9. Leaders inspire. Leaders cannot achieve their visions alone. They inspire others to come alongside and participate in the journey.
10. Leaders leave a legacy. Success is what we do for ourselves whilst legacy is what we do for other. A leader's legacy is what they do for other and how they have invested in and developed others.

FAQ's continued

6. I don't know my academic advisor or a faculty member that well; may I choose a different person to complete my recommendation form?
No, one recommendation must be from a faculty member or academic advisor.
7. Do you have to use the CCME recommendation form or can I just obtain a letter of recommendation?
The CCME recommendation form must be used or the application will be considered incomplete and ineligible for review.
8. How long is the essay?
The essay for the CCME Joe King, Spouse, and Veteran scholarship will be judged on written content and writing skills, and should be at least 400-750 words in length.
9. Are the scholarships renewable or do I have to apply each year?
The CCME Scholarships are not renewable and you are only eligible to win one time in each category.
10. Where can I find the application and recommendation form?
The CCME application and recommendation form can be found on the CCME Scholarship website. They will be available on the site July 1.
11. Will you acknowledge the receipt of my application?
Once you hit the submit button, you will receive an automatic reply.
12. How am I notified if I win?
The student will receive an email from the CCME Scholarship Chairperson in December.
13. If I do not win, am I notified?
Due to the volume of applications received, we only notify the winners. If you are not notified in December, please check the CCME Scholarship website in January where all winners will be listed.
14. If I am awarded the scholarship, is the money sent to my school?
No, the scholarship check is sent to the student in time for the Spring Semester (January).
15. What is the application period for the scholarships?
The CCME scholarship period is from July 1 – October 1.



ROLE MODEL WITHIN OUR RANKS

110TH AIRLIFT WING MEDICAL GROUP

In a demonstration of "Excellence in all we do". Tech. Sgt. Hardin showed devotion far beyond meeting minimal standards. All of us know that we are expected to keep personal discipline and maintain physical fitness as a basic part of our commitment to serve. In the physical fitness aspect of our adherence to standards, Tech. Sgt. Hardin exceeded the standard by a very large margin. Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hardin completed an Ironman triathlon in Taupo, New Zealand on March 1, 2014. This consisted of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike and 26.2 mile run. Completion of a Marathon requires an extensive period of preparation. Tech. Sgt. Hardin, thank you for being a role model both in physical fitness and in enduring persistence.

DESKINS: MILITARY LEADERSHIP COMMITTED TO FIXING SEXUAL HARASSMENT, ASSAULT

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
Staff Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez



Bare walls dominate the office décor, evidence that the newest tenant has recently moved in.

“I’m still getting used to it,” says Air Force Brig. Gen. Dawn Deskins about her promotion to brigadier general last month.

For Deskins — the sixth woman promoted to general in the New York National Guard — spearheading the Air National Guard’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program for the 100,000 Air National Guard members is the latest opportunity in a 30-year career.

“It’s an exciting time to be in this program. It’s a terrible thing that’s happening within our ranks, and we’ve got to get our arms around it, because if we don’t, someone else will. I know our leadership all the way up is committed to fixing this.”

With her experience as a commander, Deskins was attracted to the opportunity to work as the special assistant to Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke, the director of the Air National Guard, and influence the program at a higher level.

“As a commander, there was nothing more important to me than taking care of the people under my command. I held that responsibility very closely and very dear to my heart that I was supposed to create an environment where people could come safely to work and felt that they would not be in any kind of hostile work environment.”

Deskins’ military experience has been extremely positive and harassment free. “I want every Airman to have that experience,” she says. “I bring a perspective of what I know things should look like.”

Her goals: improve training for commanders at all levels, improve the process of reporting across the Guard and improve success with local law enforcement.

“Our availability to train people is a little bit different,” Deskins says referring to the drill status of Guard members. “Ultimately we need to educate all of our Air National Guard leaders so that they can better implement these programs by understanding the nature of this crime, the people who commit it and the impact on the survivors so that we can support them.”

Deskins plans to look at the similarities of reporting across the Army, Air Force and the Guard to integrate reporting and improve the process.

“Ultimately, I would hope that as we go through our climate assessments, that we’ll see trust in the system,” Deskins says on how she would measure the success in the program. “That we will find that eventually reports will go down because we’ve had an effect at the culture level.”

Leading the Air National Guard’s sexual assault prevention program at a time where sexual assault in the military has garnered national attention, Deskins is carving a moment in the program’s history.

But it is not the first time Deskins is part of history: She helped coordinate the military response following the Sept. 11 attacks and the official 9/11 Commission report credits Deskins and the personnel she led that day with responding well to a confusing set of circumstances.

Her transition from active duty to the Air National Guard came in the mid-90s, at a time when air defense sector missions were being transitioned under the Guard’s jurisdiction. An assignment opportunity in air defense became available in New York. Taking her family into consideration, the reductions taking place at that time, and being able to use a honed skill set, the opportunity to join the Guard was a good fit.

Deskins doesn’t limit her opportunities.

“Gen. Clarke asked me if I was willing to look at an opportunity outside of New York. My response was ‘yes, as long as I can make a difference.’”

And by taking charge of the Air National Guard’s SAPR program she can make a difference.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD IN THE UNIT CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

110TH AIRLIFT WING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
DIRECTOR & RESILIENCE TRAINER
Capt. Abraham Poston

Recent changes across the Air Force have broadened the scope of the Unit Climate Assessment program; known as the Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey (DEOCS). As a result, every member will now have the opportunity to provide anonymous and honest ratings and comments about their environment. Leadership has a genuine concern for you, and it is important for them to know your honest perceptions and opinions. But without accurate data and honest feedback, leaders are not in a position to recognize, address, and resolve problems. Everyone’s honest opinion counts; and having more people complete the DEOCS provides leadership with a more accurate picture of our organization’s climate. We will incorporate a chance for you to complete the anonymous online survey as a part of Wingman Day during April drill; however, the survey will be open for you to complete until 19 May. It is important to remember that the DEOCS is anonymous and there is only one password that everyone in your unit will use to access the DEOCS. Also, the DEOCS can be completed from any computer with internet access -- you do not need a CAC or government computer so you can complete it from any internet connected location. Remember, everyone’s honest opinion counts and this is your chance to be heard.

WINGMAN / SAFETY DOWN DAY

Schedule of Events

1000	EO Survey (at work stations)
1100	Officer & 1/3 Enlisted Call (DFAC)
1130	Enlisted Call (DFAC)
1230	Wingman/Safety Day Training in Squadrons
1300-1600	Lunch Available at Club all afternoon
1400-1600	Dodgeball/Euchre/Massage
1600	Final Comments Col. Wilson in Hangar

NOTE: UOD IS AF PT GEAR POST TRAINING IN SQUADRONS

- Dodgeball Tournament! Double-Elimination Brackets, teams divided by units.
- Euchre Tournament in DFAC, open to anyone who wants to play, starts at 1400
- Hotdogs and Burgers at the Club 1300-1600, free and open all afternoon, stop by at your convenience.
- Free massages by Everest in hangar (open to everyone) 1330-1600

NOT ONE MORE

110TH AIRLIFT WING FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON
Master. Sgt. Jutta Parks

Earlier this year my husband's daughter Lydia at the age of 13, for no apparent reason that we could tell, decided to take her own life. We had just seen her several days before at the family Christmas get-together. She had looked very pretty, wearing a dash of eye shadow for the first time, hair up in a ponytail. She mingled with her cousins, ate just very little, and seemed maybe a little quieter than normal. It is now several months later. Sure we think about it and we are still grieving. Some days more feverishly, others not so much.

Yesterday my husband received an e-mail and it reads as follows.

This is a very difficult note to compose, but I think an important message I'd like to share with you. I'll try and make it as brief as possible without losing meaning.

Last fall, one of the women that works for me began sharing some of the parenting concerns she and her husband were having with their oldest teenage daughter who is 15. I've known the girl since she was born as a confident, bright, hard working girl and the issues surprised me. As the winter wore on her failing confidence continued and she began distancing herself from friends and family culminating with her withdrawal from extracurricular sports participation a few weeks ago.

When my friend shared with me early this week that she was withdrawing from the family as well I felt compelled to introduce her to Lydia. I showed Jill your Facebook posts and the struggles with her actions with no warning. I told her that I would support whatever action and time she needed to help the girl and encouraged her to try even though it was uncomfortable and difficult. On Wednesday, my friend and her husband spent the day with her and she shared that she felt invisible and that there was little meaning in her life, she was depressed, shunned at school and trusts none of the counselors there to help her. In short, she was on a very dark path and giving very few cues. The family went that day for counseling and the girl has embraced getting some help.

Through your selfless sharing of the events, I felt empowered and, in fact compelled to share with my friends your story. I think that Lydia reached out and touched them and made an extraordinary impact on

their lives that probably would not have otherwise occurred. Your daughter continues to make a positive and special impact on others...

Here are a few things this airman has learned. Signs of suicide are not always evident. No signs of being bullied, saying the words, having relationship issues and on and on. Sometimes the behavior changes are very subtle. Sometimes we attribute the signs to something else. If you recognize signs of changed behavior, talk to them. The person may not express their thoughts of suicide. They may hide their thoughts until it is too late for you to intervene. Suicide is real, it happens, it happened to my family. I want to share this with you because our decision to publicize Lydia's fatal decision may have saved another family from having to experience what we have to live with.

MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERS WITH MERIT NETWORK TO OPEN UNIQUE CYBER TRAINING FACILITY

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder oversees Airmen from the 110th Airlift Wing, Michigan Air National Guard after a cyber defense ribbon cutting ceremony at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, in Battle Creek, Mich., Tuesday, Mar. 25, 2014. The cyber range allows the 110th Airlift Wing to train and partner with entities including the state of Michigan, Merit Network, federal and local governments, colleges and universities, and the private sector.

(Photos by Sgt. First Class James Downen)

[Link](#)

[Governor Snyder Cuts Ribbon on Newest Installation of the Michigan Cyber Range](#)



Michigan National disaster response team prepares for “first muster”

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD
Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

(Photos by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin)

When natural and man-made disasters overwhelm first responder capabilities, the Michigan National Guard's Disaster Assistance Response Team can help. Organized by Lt. Col. Edward Schmidt of the 110th Airlift Wing located at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base and supported by members of the 110th Airlift Wing Office of Emergency Management (and others), the DART mission is to help save lives, safeguard public health and security, and mitigate property and environmental damage to Michigan's citizens and resources.

Guidance from Michigan National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais charged the DART with creating a blended pool of skills, uniforms and backgrounds who can quickly and efficiently deliver services throughout the state. “Make the team joint. Don't promise what you can't deliver, and spread the team across the state,” were his specific instructions.

The DART began training in March with almost 100 volunteers from the 110th Airlift Wing and Joint Forces Headquarters in Lansing. Representatives from Consumers Power, the BCANGB chaplain's office, Psychological Health Associates, and other professionals, provided physical and psychological training in a variety of disaster scenario situations.

DART volunteers learned the proper procedure for securing downed power lines, handling hazardous materials, basic first aid and emotional support techniques in a classroom setting then went outside to practice safe chain-saw operations and debris-clearing processes under the supervision of BCANGB civil engineers. The group also observed an operational Joint Incident Site Communications Capability system which provides mobile communications capabilities (phone, Internet, satellite) when traditional network services are inoperable.

Army Brig. Gen. Phillip Owens, spoke with the training team about their importance during disaster recovery and emergency response in Michigan.

“In a disaster, you guys will be where the rubber meets the road,” said Owens who serves as the assistant adjutant general for Michigan National Guard Joint Operations.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cana Garrison, an air transportation journeyman with the 217th Air Operations Group, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., practices proper chain saw skills instructed by 217th Air Component Operations Squadron superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Jim Trainor at the base March 14, 2014. Garrison was among 100 volunteers from the 110th Airlift Wing who trained to become members of the Disaster Assistance Response Team. The DART will support civil authorities to safeguard public health and safety, mitigate property and environmental damage, and save lives during manmade or natural disasters.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Justin Kearns, a heavy equipment operator with the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., instructs Airmen from the 110th Communications Flight and the 217th Air Operations Group on the proper use of a chain saw at the base on March 14, 2014. Almost 100 guardsmen were trained to become members of the Disaster Assistance Response Team to support civil authorities during manmade or natural disasters.

With the initial training completed, the team is preparing for two upcoming exercises where their status will be assessed by the base commander, Col. Ronald Wilson. Wilson will then determine if the team is ready to support the state in the event of a disaster. One requirement for all team members is an individual task. All DART members must pass a number of Federal Emergency Management Agency online training



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Benjamin Kuchmuk, a 110th Communication Flight infrastructure technician familiarizes himself with the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability system at the 110th Airlift Wing, during Disaster Assistance Response Team training at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., on March 14, 2014. Kuchmuk was among almost 100 other Airmen who volunteered to be a member of the DART. The JISCC can provide phone capability, internet access, and satellite communications, among many other things, in the absence of network service and will serve as an important asset to the team during manmade or natural disasters.

U.S. Air Force Airmen at the 110th Airlift Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., familiarize themselves with Kubota Skid Steers during Disaster Assistance Response Team training at the base March 14, 2014. The Skid Steers could be used if the DART is called in support of civil authorities to safeguard public health and safety, mitigate property and environmental damage, and save lives.

modules before they can be on the team and officially activated. In the event of an emergency, DART activation will be triggered by an order from the governor of Michigan to the MING adjutant general. The team will work in close collaboration with MING headquarters components to answer the call of duty when disaster strikes.