

GROWING STRONGER

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Amber Powell, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Department of Defense is celebrating Women's History Month throughout the month of March. Ever since women were permitted to join the National Guard, around 1950, they have had a consistent presence. According to Air National Guard statistics, right now women make up approximately 18.5 percent of the ANG force.

The chance to serve their country and give back to their community are reasons Master Sgts. Dreama Heath and Patricia Hughes joined the New Jersey Air National Guard.

"Being part of the military has made me a stronger person and has provided opportunities I wouldn't get anywhere else," said Heath, with the 177th Fighter Wing's Comptroller Flight.

Heath, who received an award for Leadership last month, says serving in the Air Force is rewarding, but it's not about rank or awards. "It's the pride that you are a part of something bigger and you contribute toward a better future for all of us."

Heath and Hughes have served in the New Jersey Air National Guard for a combined total of 56 years. Through that time many events have taken place in the world that have led women to take an active role in the leadership of our country.

"Women have always played a vital role in the history of the military, whether as a member or as a spouse. Being a woman in the military has been a pleasure and I take great honor in my position," said Hughes, with the 177th's Medical Group.

"I see more and more young, talented, and motivated women joining and wanting to get involved," said Hughes.
"They bring a refreshing, diverse aspect to the workforce."

Even though the military offers wonderful training, there are opportunities to learn more than what's written down in a book.

"You learn new skills, but you also learn how strong you are and that you can do anything you put your mind to," said Heath. "We need to continue to demonstrate that we are an integral part of society and the military, and that we can be successful in both."

"We sometimes forget how fortunate



Master Sgt. Dreama Heath, right, receives a Meritorious Service Medal and the 2014 177th Fighter Wing Leadership Award from Col. Kerry M. Gentry, 177th Fighter Wing commander, during a ceremony Feb. 8, 2015.

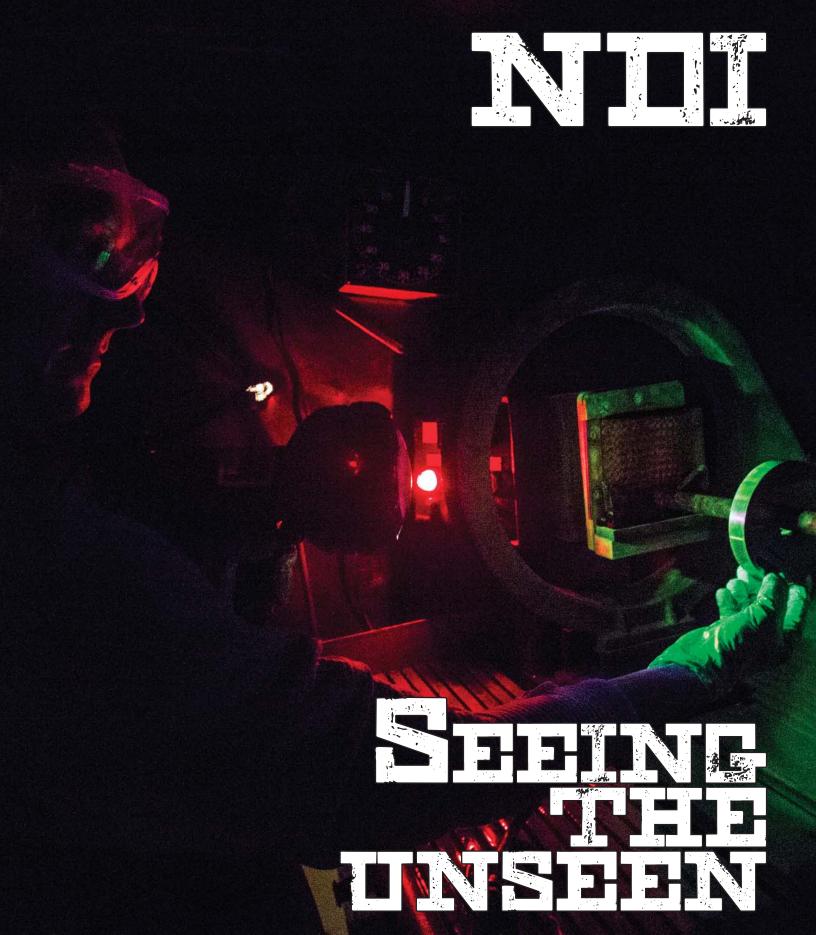
I SEE MORE and more young,
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Master Sgt. Patricia Hughes 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group we as women are in this great country to have the freedoms to choose what we want to do with our future," said Hughes. "We can be caregivers, mothers, leaders, office workers, even a public health technician serving this great nation. The opportunities are all there, we just have to reach out and believe that it can be obtained."

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us be grateful for the women who have come before us to lead the way, and may we encourage each other to continue on strong as we move forward.

Cover photo

Pilots and aircrew from the 108th Wing climb onto a 20-man life raft in the water survival training course on March 8, 2015, at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The 108th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment instructors teach the Airmen how to use the safety equipment on their aircraft. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Airman 1st Class Julia Pyun/Released)



Story and photos by Master Sot. Mark C. Olsen, 108th Wing Public Affairs



They're known as the NDI shop and its Airmen have a simple mission: make the invisible, visible.

The job of making sure the 108th Wing's KC-135R Stratotankers are structurally and mechanically sound falls on the four Airmen of the Non-Destructive Inspection shop. They take safety seriously.

The Air Force NDI Program was established in 1958. And just like its name implies, it all about inspecting and checking aircraft parts and surfaces – the aircraft's skin – in a way that does not damage the part. Common inspections are the aircraft's high load and vibration areas, the aircraft skin and landing gear.

During the latest inspection, two if its

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Senior Airman Lucas Derflinger, non-destructive inspection journeyman, 108th Wing, performs a process control using a ketos ring and a central bar conductor on the magnetic particle inspection unit prior to inspecting aircraft parts at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., March 7, 2015. The process control involves magnetizing the part, which is then bathed in a suspended particle bath. The bath seeps into the defects and when it is exposed to ultraviolet light – black light, causes the defects to become florescent and visible.

members – NDI craftsman Staff Sgt. Dean C. Schwaner and journeyman Senior Airman Lucas Derflinger – were busy preparing their equipment to find out if there was anything wrong with some parts that could potentially threaten lives and the Wing's mission.

"NDI shop members attend a 10-week course in Pensacola, Fla.," said Master Sgt. Raymond J. Joubert, NDI non-commissioned officer in charge. "They must then complete 16 months of on-the-job training before they can work on any part of the aircraft without supervision."

NDI also works on the flight line performing scheduled and unscheduled aircraft maintenance. Scheduled maintenance is based on trends of past airframe hours that result in structural defects. The unscheduled maintenance occurs when a crew chief or a maintenance technician suspects there is a possible defect during a routine inspection.

At the Wing, NDI Airmen use a variety of methods for testing: Eddy current, ultrasonic testing, fluorescent dye penetration, magnetic particle and optical inspection. In addition, they also inspect engine oil lubricant for abnormal-wear metals.

They are also trained to conduct x-ray inspections, but that is done working with the 87th using their equipment.

"Some of the setup procedures can take hours or even a day," said Schwaner. "In some cases, the actual inspection may take only 30 minutes."

The shop, which is located in the corner of the maintenance hangar, has two rooms where the testing is done. In one room, Schwaner gets ready to perform an eddy current inspection on a set of tire rims for the Stratotankers nose landing gear. Next door, Derflinger is checking the magnetic particle inspection unit to make sure it is properly calibrated before inspecting aircraft parts.

"With the magnetic particle inspection unit, the part gets magnetized, creating north and south poles," said Derflinger.

Once the part is magnetized, it is then bathed in a suspended particle bath. This oil based bath contains fine iron particles which coat the part. The liquid seeps into the defects and when it is exposed to ultraviolet light – black light, causes the defects to become florescent and visible.

"This enables the technician to determine depth and length of the de-

Some of the setup procedures can take hours or even a day. In some cases, the actual inspection may take only 30 minutes.

STAFF SGT. DEAN C. SCHWANER

fect," said Derflinger.

The lights are turned off, plunging the room into near darkness. The only light comes from some red-lit switches on the inspection unit. Derflinger bathes a ketos ring – a round flat doughnut-shaped piece of metal used to calibrate the machine – with the suspended particle bath. He then turns on a hand-held black light unit and the ring glows in a sickly pale green color. Derflinger increases the magnetic level and the calibrated defects on the ring appear brighter. The unit is now ready to test parts.

One of the items that gets a lot attention are bolts.

"We do 6,200 bolts using the bath," said Derflinger.

In the other room, Schwaner checks the eddy current tester by placing the probe on a test piece, which is shaped exactly like the Stratotanker's nose landing gear tire rims. The probe sends out a current, which flows through the object creating a magnetic field. The test piece has built in flaws which appear as jagged lines on the readout screen of the test unit. A straight line means there are no flaws.

The tester checks out and Schwaner begins testing the three rims. Each rim is made out of solid aluminum and weigh close to a hundred pounds. The rims come in two pieces, so there are actually six pieces to test.

Schwaner lifts one of the rims and places it on a revolving table that looks like an oversized lazy susan. Placing the probe along the curved edge of the rim, Schwaner revolves the rim while watching the tester for any disturbing readouts. None appear and he proceeds to repeat the process with the next five pieces.

While the process is tedious, it is paramount to the safety of the air crew and to the success of the mission.

"It has to be right on the money," said Schwaner.

Madduh visits UT2DC



First Sgt. Darrin Turner, right, explains the movement system on the virtual interactive combat environment to Maj. Gen. Jonathan A. Maddux, center, Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, and Brig. Gen Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, at the Joint Training and

Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., March 12, 2015. Maddux visited the Center to see how the various training simulators are being integrated into Reserve training. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Please read this very important message from the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission so that you can assist your members in obtaining and using this well-deserved designation.

Veteran's Honorary Designation

New Jersey thanks our military veterans who proudly served to protect our freedom. To honor you, a special designation has been created for display on your driver's license or non-driver ID card.

On March 1, 2015, in an effort to provide this recognition to you as quickly as possible, the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) will begin issuing custom-designed stickers to those veterans who wish to display them on their driver's licenses or non-driver ID cards. The MVC will notify those of you who requested these stickers at a later date when a permanently imprinted veteran's designation is available.

Beginning March 1, you may request your honorary veteran's recognition sticker in person or by mail.







New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340 Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military



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Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials

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E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen @dmava.nj.gov by close of business Wednesday



NJ YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy's mission is to provide a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youth who have ceased to attend high school.

For more information contact:

NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy 5910 West 16th Street Fort Dix, NJ 08640 (609) 562-0577

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The

Department of Veterans Affairs TOWN HALL MEETING with Veterans.

Family Members, and Survivors

Hosted by Michael Blazis Director, Newark Regional Office

WHO: Veterans, their families and Survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of Veterans

WHAT: Town Hall Meeting & Claims Clinic

WHERE: Lawrenceville Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

WHEN: Saturday, March 14, 2015/11AM – 1PM

Claims Clinic 10AM - 3PM

WHY: To share information, hear feedback, and answer questions on VA benefits, including compensation, pension, insurance, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and education benefit programs

For more information contact Jennifer Myers at 973-297-3384 or Jennifer.myers6@ya.gov



ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK Walking and bicycling

Did You Know...

Enforcing self-limitations to where you walk, ride a bicycle and drive a car will allow you to get more exercise and familiarize yourself with the town you live in. For example, if you need to go somewhere less than half a mile away, walk there. If it's no more than two miles away, ride a bicycle.

Over time, you can increase the distance of both. That way, you can save gas and improve your health!

If you would like more information about NJD-MAVA's energy and water conservation efforts, contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov.

NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

A DMAVA VSO will be present at each event to assist any veteran

March 14

VA Town Hall Meeting: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Claims Clinic: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lawrenceville National Guard Armory 151 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

March 16

Newark Veterans Job Fair Rutgers University, Newark – Paul Robeson Campus Center, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 350 Martin Luther King Blvd., Newark, NJ 07104

US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN TRICARE

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

DMAVA IASD Section

101 Eggerts Crossing Road Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 Mar. 18: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. POC: Josephine Grey (347) 501-2308

Monmouth County Library

Eastern Branch 1001 Route 35 Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 Mar. 19: 11am-2pm POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

McGuire Library

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave McGuire AFB, NJ 08641 Mar. 16: 4-7pm

POC: Pam Kwiat, (646) 341-2545

Newark Armory

120 Roseville Avenue Newark, NJ 07107 Mar. 18 & 25: 12 – 5 p.m. POC: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126