

June 2009

The Official Newspaper of the 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Michigan

Volume 14 Issue 6

101 Critical Days of Summer



photo by SrA Jeremy Brownfield, 127th Public Affairs

The 127th Wing began this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety program to reinforce the importance of safety in the summer time when Airmen and their families are most active. The wing kicked off the summer safety program by taking a full safety stand down on May 27 that included no flying, safety briefings and displays, and the Save a Life Tour which brought in simulators and shocking reminders of the dangers of drunk driving. See story on page 6.



Commander's Column



by Michael Conley, Secretary of the Air Force
and General Norton A. Swartz, CSAF

if all Airmen wear their seatbelts regardless of their seating position in an automobile.

All Airmen - officer, enlisted and civilian - are our number one priority. Each of you is a member of our Air Force family. Just like in your family, throughout the coming months it will be important for us to watch out for each other as we enjoy summer activities.

To help this effort, on 22 May we begin our annual "Critical Days of Summer" campaign. This year's campaign lasts 109 days and ends on 7 September. Reaching our goal of zero accidents and fatalities requires every Airman to be a wingman, mentor and safety leader. Whether it is personal leadership in risk management or calling "knock it off" as appropriate, you must be proactive in your approach to saving lives this summer. There are four campaign focus areas this summer.

Traffic Safety. Motorcycle and automobile mishaps are the greatest single killer of our Airmen and as of this date, we have already lost as many Airmen this year as we did all of last year. We must reverse this negative trend immediately. Airmen everywhere must carefully manage trip risks and reduce their speed. We also have an unusually high number of passengers killed in automobile collisions. This alarming trend is reversible

Alcohol Awareness and Fatigue. Slightly more than one-third of our automobile fatalities include alcohol as a factor. Personal accountability and wingman intervention are our best tools to reduce drinking and driving. Likewise, fatigue is another contributing factor to fatalities that needs our focus.

Drowning Prevention. Several Airmen drown every year, typically in lakes and local "swimming holes." Do not mix alcohol and swimming, and watch overextending yourself. The number one mishap prevention tool for drowning is a personal flotation device.

During the last 11 summer campaigns, we lost an average of 24 Airmen and even though last year we experienced one of our safest summers ever, we still lost 17 Airmen. The Air Force Safety Center will provide high quality mishap prevention information for this year's campaign, but information alone does not prevent mishaps. It takes each of us to save lives, and we have a responsibility to teach, mentor, and provide the right message for the Critical Days of Summer Campaign. Let's make this year's summer our safest one yet.



...From the Chief's Desk



by Chief Master Sgt. Keith Pionk
191st Maintenance Squadron Chief

three pillars of professionalism that provide the foundation for military leadership at every level."

I have been proudly serving the 127th Wing for 32 years. A great deal has changed over that time, and much is changing right now within our units as well as within the Air Guard and the Air Force. Along with change we need something to build on, a solid foundation, so we can be successful in our goals and our mission. I've come to think of my Air Force foundation as "ideals."

There are a few basic ideals the Air Force started in Basic Military Training. They are, first, the "Air Force Core Values" and next, "The Wing Man concept." These idealistic concepts continue to be reinforced throughout our Military career.

If you really think about it, when did you first hear these two terms or concepts? I think the answer would be, within the first few HOURS of basic training. As part of our military vocabulary we all know these and what they stand for.

The first ideal, and what all of our military careers should be based on, are the Air Force Core Values. They are "Integrity First," "Service Before Self" and "Excellence in All We Do."

Sheila W. Widnall, the 18th Secretary of the Air Force wrote, "Core values make the military what it is; without them, we cannot succeed. They are values that instill confidence, earn lasting respect, and create willing followers. In essence, they are the

The thing that made me reread this quote a couple of times and I feel hit right to the heart of the matter was, "they are the three pillars of professionalism that provide the foundation for military leadership at every level." As professionals and we all are in our own career fields, integrity, service and excellence are what sets each of us apart.

The next ideal I would like to talk about is "The Wingman." This is another term introduced to us within the first few HOURS of basic training, which has been around dating back to World War II and before. Although this term finds its roots in the cockpit of fighter planes going into a dog fight, its relevance today is the same.

We all need to look out for our wingman today, whether doing our job or helping to motivate our wingman to finish their PME. Air Force Ace in World War II and Korea, Lt. Col. Francis

"Gabby" Gabreski said, "The wingman is absolutely indispensable. I look after my wingman. The wingman looks after me. We work together. We fight together. The wingman knows what their responsibilities are, and knows what mine are. Wars are not won by individuals. They're won by teams."

Chief's continued, pg.6



**The Official
Newspaper
of the 127th Wing**

A proud military organization characterized by excellence and integrity in the fulfillment of our duties to our nation, community and to one another.

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Deadline for July edition:

Friday, June 26

101 Critical Days of Summer: Motorcycle Safety

from compiled staff reports
354th Fighter Wing Safety Office
EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska

Riding home on that new bike. Family, friends, and even neighbors offer their opinion, "Motorcycles. Seem like fun... ..but they're so dangerous!" And you know they are right.

Can you ride a motorcycle with no risk and free from danger, damage or injury? The obvious answer is no. There are many things we do that have risk. We fly planes. We scuba dive. We ride bicycles. We jog. We drive cars. Some activities have more risk than others. The element of risk and our perception of it are constantly changing. We can't eliminate risk, but we can lower it.

Here are some tips:

-Mental preparation

It has been said that motorcycling is perhaps 90 percent mental. Mental preparation for the ride is critical for the motorcyclist. This begins with being alert and free from stress and other emotional distractions. Equally important is the rider's attention. Lack of attention to the riding task is a pre-dominant cause of many vehicle crashes.

-Physical preparation

Given the rider vulnerability and the ever- changing environment, selecting, purchasing, and wearing appropriate protective gear is critical. Research says that protective gear can sometimes reduce injury in the event of an accident. Thus, motorcyclists must also prepare by dressing for the fall. The minimum-protective gear includes a helmet, eye protection, gloves, over-the-ankle boots, long-sleeve upper garment and long pants constructed of a material that protects from the environment and the potential fall. By deciding not to wear any one part of protective gear, vulnerability and risk increase. Are we willing to accept this increased level of risk?

-Motorcycle preparation

The motorcycle operator is responsible for pre-ride inspections. The most important items to check are the lights for visibility, suspension for worn parts and leaking fluids, and tires for under inflation, dry rot and tread depth--common causes of tire failure.

-Know the limits of the rider

One of the most important parts of

understanding risk management is knowing the limits of the rider. Though some natural coordination is required, most of a rider's skill comes through knowledge and experience. Knowledge through training can make the experience we gain through riding less painful and expensive.

-Know the law and limits of the environment

The environment provides limits. Things like weather, temperature and light can affect the level of risk.

-Know the limits of the motorcycle

Through design and purpose, motorcycles have different handling characteristics, size, and control operation. Cornering clearance is not the same -- a sport bike has different handling characteristics than a cruiser. In addition to being careful when riding a new or unfamiliar motorcycle, it is probably best not to loan your motorcycle to a friend.

-Riding strategies

Riding a motorcycle is mostly mental. Strategies define the way our minds deal with the hazards in the riding environment. One of the most important strategies is to see and be seen. Strategies can help you anticipate and avoid problems before they occur. Riding strategies are the most effective way of recognizing and lowering risk.

Motorcycling is an activity with a high level of risk. Once recognized, the first step in lowering risk is to prepare our minds, our body, and our motorcycle. The second step in risk management is knowing limits of the rider, motorcycle, environment, and law. We come to understand the changing nature of these limits, and their impact on the risk we accept.

Finally, our attitude provides the basis for using this knowledge effectively. We understand the risk, know the limits, and ride within these limits, using our mental strategies. Sometimes this means deciding not to ride.

Rider responsibility:

Research tells us that more than half of all motorcycle accidents involve riders with less than five months experience. More than 90% of the riders involved in accidents are self-taught.

Continued, pg. 5 _____

127th CES Aids Humanitarian Effort

By SrA. Anna-Marie Wyant

127th Public Affairs

Leaving Michigan for Hawaii, travelers commonly have visions of sand, surfboards, and sunsets. When the 127th Civil Engineering Squadron departed Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., for the island of Oahu on April 20, 2009 for their two-week annual tour, they spent much time sanding, installing drywall boards, and waking up before sunrise. Their time was well spent.

On that trip, the 127th CES became part of something beyond their regular civil engineering jobs; their skills benefited Opportunities for the Retarded, Inc. (ORI) Anuenue Hale, a non-profit organization that provides relief and promotes the welfare of the elderly, the disabled, and the economically disadvantaged. While ORI Anuenue Hale supports a number of humanitarian programs in central Oahu, the 127th CES worked on the Aloha Gardens Project's handicapped accessible campground at the Helemano Plantation, which will provide revenue for the organization.

ORI's president and executive officer, Susanna Cheung, who moved to Hawaii from Hong Kong in 1961, treated the civil engineers to a multi-course meal, which was served with Chinese delicacies including chicken feet and jellyfish.

"I call it initiation," laughed Cheung as she showed pictures of 127th CES personnel hesitantly bringing pieces of chicken feet to their mouths. Although less than eager to consume the chicken feet, the engineers eagerly worked on cabins and other facilities on the campground for the duration of their tour. Cheung said she was impressed with the unit's commitment to supporting campground construction.

"The troops seemed diligent and focused on their tasks," Cheung said. She said she greatly appreciated their support because her organization could not afford the labor on its own, and the community needs the services that the Aloha Gardens Project will provide. 127th CES Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Ward was also pleased with the work accomplished.

"The dedication to mission accomplishment and the self sacrificing attitude of squadron members was outstanding," Ward said. While his unit would usually take off Saturday and Sunday between two regular work weeks, Ward's instead troops worked an additional half day for further progress on the project, which Ward said was well worth the time to help Cheung's humanitarian efforts. "The plantation is a wonderful concept, and Mrs. Cheung is an incredible lady in what she has done for the less fortunate people in Hawaii."

The 127th CES was the fifteenth Air National Guard unit to aid construction for the Aloha Gardens Project, which also embodies a an elderly wellness center and vocational training for the employees, many of whom are mentally handicapped, who work in food service, landscaping, housekeeping, and other services. Various units from the Air Force Reserves, Army Reserves and Army National Guard have also contributed to the project since 2006. In addition, active duty Army personnel stationed at Schofield Barracks-just a few miles away from the plantation-and

their dependents have volunteered for various projects since the early 1980s.

Cheung founded ORI in 1980 focusing mainly on adults with developmental disabilities. ORI became ORI Anuenue Hale in 1993 and broadened its services to include others in need in the community. A petite woman, Cheung clearly has a big heart. When she decided to move to Hawaii to attend college, Cheung said she was mainly looking forward to the blue skies and warm weather. When she arrived, however, she found her true calling. She said when she first met mentally handicapped people in Hawaii, she wanted to open her heart to them.

"I fell in love with them," Cheung said. She said that at that time, there were no organizations to help the mentally handicapped become more independent. Cheung took it upon herself to change this, and more than three decades later, she has touched many lives and become incredibly successful in helping her community.

Development for the Aloha Gardens Project began in 1996, and with the help of the 127th CES and other units military-wide, the project is getting closer to completion and benefiting more people in need every year. The campground's anticipated completion is 2010, and Cheung is hopeful that she meets this goal. Ward, who was happy with the hands-on training his troops received and the positive impact they made, said he was grateful to have had the opportunity to help the Cheung and ORI Anuenue Hale.

"I would definitely recommend this training site to other civil engineering units," Ward said. "I could not have been more proud to have used our talents for her and the plantation's gain."



photo by SrA Anna-Marie Wyant, 127th Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Daniel Gerlach fills in gaps between drywall boards with drywall mud to ensure a smooth, paintable surface on the ceiling and walls of the future staff housing at the Helemano Plantation's camp ground in central Oahu, Hawaii. Gerlach, a structural journeyman in the 127th Civil Engineering Squadron from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., spent two weeks working on the campground, which will bring revenue for the plantation's services that benefit the elderly, mentally disabled, and economically disadvantaged.

Doolittle Raider Visits Selfridge

by TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

Long before there was a U.S. Air Force, there were questions. Could American airpower be a dominant force? Could it really be a factor? Could U.S. air power make a difference?

In the days after the December 1941 Japanese attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, President Franklin Roosevelt "pleaded with his top generals and admirals to find some way -- any way - to show Japan that America could retaliate," recalled Col. Carroll V. Glines, a retired Air Force pilot and one of the most nation's prolific writers of Air Force history.

"The answer was the Doolittle Raid," Glines said.

Glines and Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole (ret.) spoke on the history of the famous Doolittle Raid at Selfridge Air National Guard Base during a standing room-only presentation to the Selfridge Base Community Council, May 19. The retired pilots bring a special insight to the April 1942 raid against Tokyo. Cole was the co-pilot of the lead B-25 Mitchell bomber that took off from the Navy's USS Hornet aircraft carrier, sitting next to Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle himself. Sixteen B-25s took off on an unprecedented mission - bombers, launched from carriers at maximum range to make strike a first blow back at the enemy.

"Doolittle came to our B-25 Group and asked for volunteers. The entire group volunteered," Cole recalled. It wouldn't be until a couple of months later that the Airmen, then part of the U.S. Army Air Corps, knew what it was that they had volunteered for.

Two days before the mission, in the cramped crew quarters of the Hornet, out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the crews finally learned the mission: a long range bombing of Tokyo and other Japanese cities, followed by a risky plan to attempt to land in China after the raid and a hope for eventual pick-up and return to the U.S.

When the announcement was finally made about the details of the mission, "there was a lot of jubilation initially. After a while, it got quiet as people contemplated the consequences of the mission," Cole recalled, sitting before the Selfridge audience, some 67 years after the fact.

"But no one jumped ship. No one backed out. We knew we

had a job to do and we did it," Cole said.

It's that same kind of attitude and mission focus that keeps Glines writing about the Air Force. He's authored 37 books on various aspects of Air Force history and countless articles in every manner of magazines and official publications.

While the Doolittle Raid rightly occupies an important page the history of World War II, the contribution of the Raid to the eventual role of what became the U.S. Air Force may be even larger.

Through a combination of ingenuity and insightful leadership, incomparable airmanship, rock solid team work and healthy dose of the American never-say-never attitude, the Doolittle Raiders answered the question once and for all: Could U.S. air power make a difference?

Several generations of military air superiority later, the answer clearly is YES.



photo by John Swanson, 127th Public Affairs

Captain William E. Rundell, 107th Fighter Squadron pilot, took advantage of the opportunity to meet Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole (ret.), infamous Doolittle Raider who was General Doolittle's co-pilot during the daring raid against Tokyo, Japan. Major Brian Davis, 127th Chief of Plans and A-10 pilot, stands in the background with Philip Handleman of the Base Community Council during the event at Selfridge where Cole shared his experiences about the historic raid.



Motorcycle Safety cont.

- Many motorcycle crashes are single-vehicle accidents. Crashes with other vehicles also occur because either or both drivers make errors in judgment.
- What are the "perfect" times to ride?
- When might motorcycling not be my best choice of transportation--especially if there is an alternate mode of transportation?

There are many reasons for wanting to ride a motorcycle - and there are motorcycles and riding styles for almost everyone. But the prime consideration in deciding to ride is a decision to accept the risk inherent to motorcycling. This risk can be lowered. But motorcycling is still a high-risk activity. It is a personal decision to ride, but the better you understand the risk and how it can be lowered, the better your chance of making a responsible decision.

101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Begin

By Senior Airman Anna-Marie Wyant
127th Public Affairs

Loud alarms signaled an incoming tornado at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., on May 27, 2009. Personnel rushed to the closest designated shelter locations in a calm and orderly fashion. There were no injuries, fatalities, or damaged buildings; luckily, this was only a drill.

This natural disaster response exercise kicked off Safety Day, the first day of the 101 Critical Days of Summer, a campaign created to save Airmen by increasing awareness of dangers especially prevalent during summer months.

Chief of Safety Major Sean Campbell briefed Selfridge personnel on hazardous summer activities such as boating, motorcycle riding, and driving. Campbell stressed the importance of paying attention to the road while driving, and taking simple steps toward greater safety, such as using hands free devices for phone conversations and wearing seat belts. He also explained the importance of having a designated driver and not operating any motor vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

To give visual effects of drunk driving and driving without fastened seatbelts, Campbell showed pictures and videos of mutilated cars and victims, all preventable crashes that resulted in injuries or deaths. Campbell became emotional when showing pictures of his sister-in-law, who was killed when a drunk driver collided into her car with a semi truck.

In addition to Campbell's heartfelt story and pictures, a representative from the Save a Life Tour from Grand Rapids, Mich., gave accounts of acquaintances and friends who had been injured or killed in drunk driving related incidents. He reiterated many of Campbell's points and went on to explain how one person's death affects many people. The Save a Life Tour travels among college campuses, high schools, military bases, and other locations nationwide to promote alcohol awareness.

After the briefing, Selfridge personnel had the opportunity to "drive" in a drunk driving simulator, which shows drivers how



photo by SrA Jeremy Brownfield, 127th Public Affairs

A car wreck display sits off Jefferson Avenue at Selfridge to show what can happen if choosing to drink and drive or allowing distractions while driving. Due to warm weather Michigan residents become much more active and the 127th Wing takes enhanced measures to remind Airmen and Team Selfridge members what tragedies can come when using poor judgement.

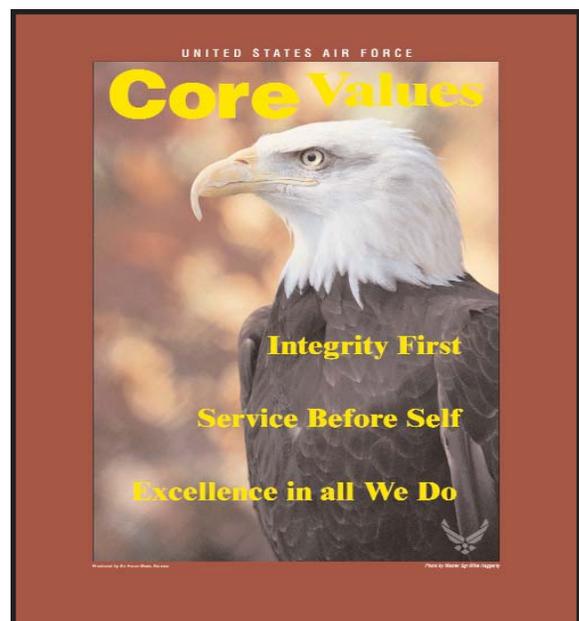
intoxication affects their driving abilities. The driver has a steering wheel, pedals, windshield wiper controls, and other basic vehicle amenities facing three screens that simulate the left, right, and center of a road. Drivers must maintain control of their vehicles with slowed response to simulate intoxication, and they must maintain situational awareness. They must watch for other vehicles potentially running stop signs, busses stopping on short notice, and other dangerous traffic scenarios.

Also available after the briefing were Yamaha representatives who answered questions about motorcycle safety. Although the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign, which began in 1970, is considered a successful program, even one death due to drunk driving, not wearing a seatbelt, or any other preventable motor vehicle accident is too much.

Chief's continued

We as United States military members are on the biggest team in the world and from a large picture no one branch of the military can win War by itself with out the team work of the other branches. From a smaller perspective, it is the same with your unit, your shop, and with your Airmen. As Gabby said, "We work together. We fight together. Wars are not won by individuals. They're won by teams."

Set your goals high and be willing to expect the extra effort to meet the milestones you establish to meet your goal. Increase your knowledge about your chosen career and seek related areas. Select a role model and seek advice when needed. Be involved with your unit and community activities. Periodically assess your progress and your capabilities. Be willing to adjust and make needed changes to ensure attainment of your goals, be enthusiastic and energetic. Be responsive and sensitive to others. Enjoy your work as well as your personal time or family life.



Promotions

Senior Airman

William R. Bayones, 127 AMX
Derek M. Leppek, 127 CES
Kevin T. Wade, 127 AMX

Staff Sergeant

Kenneth Ganzie, 127 MDG
Justin D. Kindt, 191 MXS
Curtis S. Runey, 127 MDG

Technical Sergeant

Christopher Anderson, 127 SFS
Joseph M. Crocker, 127 CES
Deborah A. Fedon, 127 CES
Dana M. Lewis, 127 FSS

Master Sergeant

Heather L. Manor

Retirements

Colonel John H. Theisen
Chief MSgt. Eddie Little
Master Sgt. Julie M. Curtis
Master Sgt. Krisitne Dziedzic
Master Sgt. Marcie Marcola

Newcomers

Airman 1st Class Ryan Barber
Airman Stephanie Buerman
Staff Sgt. Jill Buford
Staff Sgt. Stephen M. Earl
Airman 1st Class Kyle Emelander
Airman 1st Class Jennifer Gemsel
Master Sgt. Gregory Hill
Master Sgt. David Livingston
Staff Sgt. Juan Lopez
Senior Airman Adam Smith
Staff Sgt. Robert K. Swenson



Briefly...

Selfridge Air Show

The Selfridge Air Show will be held on August 22 and 23 with the USAF Thunderbirds headlining the show. For more information, log on to www.selfridgeairshow.org and follow along on Facebook and Myspace!

Base Visual Information/Multimedia Moved to Bldg 303

The base visual information/multimedia office has moved to co-locate with its public affairs partners. The Public Affairs/ Multi media team is now fully functional. The new location is the second floor of building 303, west wing, room 256. Phone numbers to both public affairs and multimedia will remain the same.

127th Wing Website

For the most current information regarding the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base, log on to www.127wg.ang.af.mil. Posted there is news, photos, videos, career and employment opportunities, resource information

and more. The Family Support Center has a link off the front page that lists their upcoming programs, to include discounts and free stuff. You can also follow the base as it prepares for the Airshow and Hangar Dance on our facebook and Myspace pages, and watch @127Wing on Twitter for emergency information.

Selfridge Job Fair

The 127th Wing will be hosting a job fair on Saturday June 6 at the base Chapel from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. All Selfridge military members and their families are welcome. If your are down on your luck and having a problem finding a job stop by and check out the job oppotunirtys that are being offered.

Free BBQ

Come one come all! The Selfridge Base Chapel will be hosting a free BBQ on Saturday, June 6, just outside of the Chapel building from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. All military members are welcome to attend. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and-soda.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Forces

An opportunity approaches to show appreciation for all employers which have shown support while military members fullfill obligations. On Friday, Aug. 21, there will be an employee appreciation day to provide all employers of military members the opportunity to see the Air Show practice before the official opening day to the public. Please those military memebtrs who plan on inviting employers out register with your ESGR Rep, Mal Forys at: Forysf@att.net



Joint Military Community Services Ministry

In honor of the dedicated members of the Armed Forces, we invite all Service Men and Women to have lunch on us.



When: June 6th, 2009

Where: Selfridge Base Chapel, Bldg. 168

Time: 1100 - 1500



Please join us for a Hot Dog or Hamburger, salad, chips, and a cool drink. FREE



For more information please call:

Chapel Office: 586-239-4020 or

Rev. Larry Blevins 248-961-4664



Other partnering organizations: 127th Air Wing, American Red Cross, Retired Affairs, and Family Services.

JMCS Ministries is a private religious institution with no Armed Forces affiliation.