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## 2009 Selfridge Airshow



photo by John Swanson, 127th Public Affairs



photo by SrA Jeremy Brownfield, 127th Public Affairs



photo by MSgt Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs

The 2009 Selfridge Air Show and Open House took place at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., Aug. 22 - 23 showing over 100 aircraft on display or performing in the event. The air show provides the opportunity to invite the public on the base to demonstrate the capabilities that exist in today's Air Force and the other military branches. Even with sporadic rain fall during the weekend large crowds surround the runway and displays to see demonstrations of airpower and other attractions like NASA, Army robotics and virtual reality, as well as many others. Technology was the theme of the Air Show with the USAF Thunderbirds headlining the event.



# Commander's Column



By Lt. Col. Philip R. Sheridan

*127th Air Refueling Group Director of Maintenance*

The 127th Wing will have the daunting task of being a participant in the highest priority mission of the United States Air Force.

This mission will give us the ability to be a dynamic contributor to the most powerful military deterrent to any country that displays hostility towards the United States, which is how important this mission tasking is for the 127th Wing. As the 127th Air Refueling Group leads the way to take on this mission, all of us in the 127th Wing are depending on each other to be successful.

- \* The 127th Mission Support Group has many requirements in making this mission successful.

- \* The Security Police must protect the KC-135s, while providing base security requirements.

- \* Services must provide food and supplies to the maintenance and operations personnel to allow a seamless work schedule.

- \* Aircraft Fuels must be ready at a moment's notice to fuel or defuel the aircraft.

- \* The Civil Engineers must make sure all the facilities work correctly with power at all times.

- \* The Communications Squadron must clear a path and provide easy communication avenues for all units.

- \* Military Personnel Flight must ensure everyone is paid correctly and currency is available.

- \* The command post must gain and maintain situational awareness so that accurate information is flowing to the 127th Wing commander.

- \* The 127th Medical Group will provide a vast array of medical requirements that are needed by all personnel.

If the 127th Operations Group and the 127th Maintenance Group are needed and available to supplement this mission, they will be used for any supporting roles that are deemed necessary.

As I have stated at the beginning of this article, the 127th Air Refueling Group leads the way with this mission. The aircrew must be razor sharp in execution, there is no room for error. The maintenance personnel must be legally, morally and ethically by the book in aircraft production. If this sounds like a dramatic mission, it is. Expect everything about this mission to be difficult and the inspections will be demanding.

This mission demands accountability, compliance, precision and reliability of all personnel. Make no doubt about this mission, if you are reading this article this mission applies to you and I know you can do this. You are a 127th Michigan Air National Guardsman ready to defend our country.



## ...From the Chief's Desk



By Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Lynch

*107th Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendent*

There have been numerous changes the past few years, or continuous improvement as it's also known. It's hard to keep up with everything that's happening and who could have predicted we would be flying the A-10 and KC-135, Amazing.

In my career here at Selfridge, I started in the F-100 era, every time we changed aircraft we would get a more modern jet; this time it seems like a step in a very different direction. These aircraft on the ramp today are very old. They have more time in service than the majority of people in our wing; in fact they have more time in service than most of our younger airmen have time on earth.

Our "new" old aircraft are very precious because in reality, they are pretty much irreplaceable; we can't afford any losses. If we are lucky, we'll have these old jets for a long time, because the next generation aircraft may be a long way out. Keeping these jets flying through the next decade will be a very challenging task because one thing I can say from experience, when things get older, they don't work like they used to.

To help face this challenge, everyone should look to the Air Force Core Values for guidance; Integrity, Service, Excellence. Integrity first: not cutting corners, or leaving it "close enough for government work". Ensuring the job that needs to be done, is accomplished the way it should be, every time. Service before self: simply interpreted as "doing what's right", with our professional duties taking precedence over personal desires. No one wants to be cut short, and neither does our mission nor these jets. Excellence in all we do: this drives us to keep learning our trade and developing our skills. Continuous improvement, in the Wing and ourselves.

If it seems like you keep hearing the same message; it's because this message is universal to our Air Force and essential for our success. If you ever have a question about your next step, float it by the Core Values first, they serve as a beacon to the path of professional conduct.



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

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characterized by excellence and  
integrity in the fulfillment of our duties  
to our nation, community and to one  
another.*

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# Guardmembers must submit civilian employment information

**By Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke**  
*National Guard Bureau*

Army and Air National Guard members are encouraged to provide their civilian employment information to the Department of Defense through a mandatory program that has been around since the early 1990s.

The Civilian Employment Information (CEI) program makes it possible for defense officials to know who can be called up for active duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country, Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, the director of the Air National Guard, wrote in a memorandum to the states.

Reporting by the 450,000-member National Guard has been very good in the past with more than 90 percent providing information in the last five years, said James Lamback, the chief of Employer Support for the National Guard Bureau. But information is required to be updated every year, and reporting for this year is less than 20 percent for both services.

The goal for the Army Guard is to reach 75 percent by Sept. 30, the end of this fiscal year, according to a memorandum from Army Col. Marianne Watson, the head of the Army Guard's personnel office.

Guardmembers must fill in 10 specific data fields concerning their civilian employer, including employment status, employer's name and mailing address, their job title and their total number of years in their current civilian occupation.

Technicians must also register as government employees.

As part of this program, the DoD must: give consideration to civilian workers, including emergency responders such as police officers, firefighters and medical personnel; ensure more members with critical civilian jobs and skills are not retained in the Guard longer than necessary to respond to emergencies; and inform civilian employers of their rights and responsibilities under the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

The information could also be used to determine which units or unit members should be mobilized, defense officials said. Information about full-time employers would also make it possible for DoD officials to enhance employer support for the Guard and Reserve.

Employees are considered full time for CEI purposes if their employer considers them to be employed full time. Self-employed personnel are considered full time if they work for themselves for an average of at least 30 hours per week.

Guardmembers who fail or refuse to provide this information, or who knowingly provide false employment-related information, may be subject to administrative action or punishment, officials said.

Employment data can be entered on the Defense Manpower Data Center Web site.



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## 62 Airmen Sworn-in at Selfridge

By Technical Sgt. Dan Heaton

127th Public Affairs

America's newest Airmen were sworn into the U.S. Air Force Saturday, swearing to defend the nation against all enemies and to uphold the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution.

Sixty-two young men and women from the Detroit area took the enlistment oath at Selfridge Air National Guard Base Saturday, Aug. 22, as part of the base's air show and open house. The enlistment oath was administered by Lt. Col. Greg Thomas, commander and team leader of the Thunderbirds, the Air Force's famed aerial demonstration team.

"I wanted to serve my country and what could be better than this?" said Dan Mejia, 23, of Milford, Mich.

Mejia was scheduled to leave home for Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 8. The other enlistees have BMT start dates ranging between late August and early February, said Master Sgt. Wendy Born, recruiting flight chief for six recruiting offices in Detroit and the Motor City's northern suburbs.

"What a fantastic opportunity for our new Airmen and their families," said Born, who is primarily based at a recruiting office in Utica, Mich. "I am extremely pleased to welcome them into our Air Force."

Mejia said he is slated to be an explosive ordinance disposal technician in the Air Force.

"I am ready to go," Mejia said. "I'm anxious to get started." Chief Master Sgt. Dave Kendall, superintendent of the Michigan district for the Air Force recruiting service, praised the work being done by Born and the other recruiters in Michigan. Born's region is at about 115 percent of its recruiting quota for the year.

The 62 new recruits represent Airmen who will work in a wide range of career fields for the Air Force, Born said, including



photo by SrA Jeremy Brownfield, 127th Public Affairs

six individuals who are slated to attend specialized training to become pararescue personnel or other Special Forces operators. Robert Brown, 19, said he attended a year of college, but said he felt like service in the Air Force would be the right fit for him.

He is signed up to be a linguistics specialist, working with a still-to-be-determined foreign language in the intelligence field.

"I want to serve in the Air Force and hopefully that can lead to future service with the CIA, FBI or some other agency," Brown said.

The 2009 Selfridge Air Show & Open House, Aug. 22-23, attracted more than 175,000 people on to the base and thousands of others off the base who watched the Thunderbirds and other military aircraft, warbirds and civilian performers in the sky over the base. On Saturday, the crowd at show center welcomed the new Airmen with applause at the conclusion of their enlistment oath.

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## Security Forces Airmen deploy

By 127th Public Affairs

Almost 50 Michigan Air Guardsmen from the 127th Wing left earlier this month for a six month deployment to Iraq.

The security forces Airmen will perform air base ground defense duties while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their duties will include perimeter security, flightline security and quick reactionary force measures.

"Our Airmen are trained and ready for this deployment. Many of us have deployed together in the past and we're a good team prepared for this mission," said Capt. Christopher Platz, 127th Security Forces commander.

The deployment has been anticipated for months as part of the unit's Air Combat Command Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) cycle in which scheduled units are required to support both forward presence missions and short-notice taskings. Air National Guard units know more than a year in advance when they are committed to an AEF tasking, allowing members and their employers to structure work schedules to enable participation. The unit last deployed a similar-sized group in 2007.



photo by MSgt Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs

**The KC-135 Stratotanker stands ready as almost fifty, 127th Security Forces Airmen load onto the aircraft with their gear to head out on a six month deployment supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Security Forces Airmen are deploying as part of their predestined rotation to provide ground security ensuring the assigned Area of Responsibility (AOR) is secure and safe.**

# Michigan Air National Guardsman becomes U.S. citizen

By 2nd Lt. Anthony J. Lesterson  
127th Public Affairs

A member of the Michigan Air National Guard stationed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, raised her right hand while reciting the Oath of Allegiance to become a naturalized American Citizen on Aug 28.

Airman 1st Class Merushjola Mousseau, accounting technician with the 127th Wing Finance Flight, became a U.S. citizen on August 28 at Cobo Hall in downtown Detroit. Although Mousseau was standing alongside 950 others she stood out in the crowd as the only person in a U.S. Air Force uniform.

"It's a great responsibility and I know you all can meet the challenge and do well," said the Honorable Julian Abele Cook Jr, Eastern Michigan U.S. District Judge, naturalizing official.

Becoming a member of the U.S. military shortens the road to citizenship a great deal. A journey that may take five years or more to obtain can be shortened to just several months. When a foreign-born citizen enters the armed service naturalization paperwork is started almost immediately and made a priority. Congress modified immigration laws in 2004 reorganizing the process for foreign-born military members to become naturalized U.S. citizens much quicker. However, the U.S. armed forces oath cannot be taken until that individual becomes a naturalized citizen.

Unless a military member is a U.S. citizen he or she cannot re-enlist after one six year term, obtain a secret clearance, receive promotions beyond E-6, attend certain schools or vote in government elections. Other benefits which follow citizenship are the ability to get a U.S. passport, apply for certain state and federal jobs and apply for federal and state benefits.

The ceremony was an emotional experience for Airman Mousseau as she exchanged one citizenship for another to allow her to meet her long-time dream of becoming an American.

"I am so happy to become a citizen and so honored at the same time," said Airman Mousseau. "I am hoping and looking forward to a long career in the military. I would like to commis-



**Airman First Class Merushjola Mousseau of the 127th Wing Finance Flight became a naturalized American citizen Aug. 21, 2009. Mousseau has been a member of the Finance Flight since Nov. 7, 2007 and is one of many in the Air National Guard to become a naturalized citizen while already serving as an Airman.**

sion in the near future. Now that I am a citizen it's a possibility. This will open so many doors for me." Mousseau followed up by saying, "It's a privilege to be a part of this great country."

Airman Mousseau came to the U. S. from Albania as a foreign exchange student in high school in Aug. 2000, graduating with honors in 2001 from Grosse Pointe South High School. She decided to stay in the U.S. and started advancing her education and pursuing a permanent residency. In 2007, after attending a 127th Wing Ball and then the Selfridge Air Show, Mousseau began pursuing an enlistment in the Michigan Air National Guard. She enlisted on Nov. 7, 2007.

Airman Mousseau was accompanied during this special occasion by several members of her family and friends.

## Chaplain Services

### Worship Services

Sunday	Mondays
9:00 a.m. - Catholic	6:30 p.m. - Bible Student at Chapel
10: 45 a.m. Protestant	Thursday
1:30 p.m. - Spanish	7:00 p.m. Protestant

### Personalized Services

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| * Dinners and Luncheons | * Visitations          |
| * Weddings              | * Invocations          |
| * Memorial Services     | * Block training       |
| * Counseling            | * Deployment Briefings |

### Chaplains

Lt. Col. Theodore Whitely  
Lt. Col. Alfred Nicholson  
Maj. Douglas DeWitt

### Chaplain Aids

MSgt John Contrucci  
TSgt Kevin King  
TSgt Patrick Shaltry

### Organizations at Chapel

- |                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| * Family Support     | * ESGR(Employer Support of the Guard) |
| * Retirement Affairs | * Military Family Life Consultant     |
| * Red Cross          |                                       |

Contact MSgt. John Contrucci

# New Squadron Commanders

127th Public Affairs

On August 16, three 127th Wing officers took on new commands during three assumption of command ceremonies at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

Lt. Col. Bruce I. MacRitchie, Maj. Vernetta P. Hughes, and Maj. Robert A. Seeley, was appointed to new command positions in the 127th Wing. Each commander was stationed at Selfridge prior to assumption of commands.



photo by MSgt Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs

**Lt. Col. Bruce I. MacRitchie takes the 127th Communications Squadron flag from Lt. Col. Rodney Williams during the August 16 assumption of command ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. Williams is the 127th Mission Support Group commander. MacRitchie had recently been serving as the commander of the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron.**



photo by MSgt Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs

**Maj. Vernetta P. Hughes holds the 127th Mission Support Flight flag after assuming the duty as 127th Force Support Squadron commander on August 16 during an assumption of command ceremony.**



photo by TSgt David Kujawa, 127th Public Affairs

**Maj. Robert A. Seeley (right) extends a salute to Lt. Col. Gregory S. Holzhei (left) shortly before receiving the 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flag during an assumption of command ceremony August 16 at Selfridge Air National Gaurd Base, Mich. Holzhei is the 127th Maintenance Group commander.**



## Promotions

### Senior Airman

Matthew A. Brewer, 127 SFS  
Ryan C. Jock, 127 SFS  
Peter A. Taylor, 127 SFS

### Staff Sergeant

Mark A. Pittel Jr., 127 WG

### Technical Sergeant

Michael W. Jemison, 127 LRS  
Kevin J. Shirley, 127 FSS  
Mark D. Sibula, 127 MXS

### Master Sergeant

Martin R. Genter, 127 SFS

## Retirements

Staff Sgt. Roy Brown  
Tech. Sgt. David T. Hunter  
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Majchrzak  
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Montroy

## Newcomers

Airman Basic Brett Baver  
Airman Basic Doug Baver  
Airman Basic Robert Barrett  
Airman Basic Jeremy Dey  
Senior Airman Ryan Doherty  
Airman Basic Johnny Fiore  
Senior Airman Shawn Grey  
Senior Airman William Herod  
Airman Basic Kieth Hardy

Airman Basic Shane Ison  
Staff Sgt. Aaron Johnson  
Airman Basic Clara King  
Airman Basic Lee Lazarecky  
Airman Basic Paul Leverage  
Airman Basic Brent Long  
Airman First Class Robert Lynch  
Airman First Class Richard Malik  
Senior Airman Andrew McClure  
Airman Basic Norman Newton  
Airman Basic Stephanie Phillips  
Senior Airman Leon Smith  
Staff Sgt. Will Thompson  
Staff Sgt. Paul VanOoy  
Airman Basic Angelo Vettraino  
Airman Basic Jeremy Wierzbowski  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Yeager

# Briefly ...

## **Maintenance Officer Position, AFSC 21AX**

The 191st MXS will be convening a board to select candidates for a Maintenance Officer position. All Wing Enlisted members who are able to meet the criteria are encouraged to apply. All details are listed below.

Package requirements for board consideration are as follows:

-RIP - Military resume (in Air Force Handbook 33-337 Tongue & Quill format), complete with education status

-Personal letter (in Air Force Handbook 33-337 Tongue & Quill format) with intentions, applicable civilian experience, and other pertinent items the member feels appropriate: -Letter of recommendation - AFOQT score sheet \*or\* date scheduled (test must be complete at time of board) -Statement of understanding of requirements: -Fitness 75 or higher -6 weeks of AMS (Maxwell AFB, AL) -4 mos. of AMOC (Sheppard AFB, TX) -Completion of all schools NLT 1 year from board date

All packages are due to Command Chief Edwards, by noon Saturday of the Sep UTA. The board will be held on the Oct UTA, with the exact time and day TBD. Pending the number of applicants, a review board may be held prior to any applicant interviews in October (at board discretion).

Applicants will be notified of an appointment time with the interview

board. All interviews will be conducted in service dress. This board is open to all Enlisted members of the Wing.

## **Post 9-11 GI Bill**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting and processing applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

You should complete and submit the application form available online and will receive a letter explaining VA's decision regarding your eligibility for the program.

Apply at: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call 1-888-GI BILL-1 to have a form mailed to you. Visit : <http://www.gibill.va.gov> to determine eligibility, see what benefits you may be entitled to and check out other educational program opportunities are offered.

## **Wounded Warrior Program**

Wounded warrior program assists Airmen, families Air Force officials have developed a new program to assist Airmen in need because wounded warriors and families remain a top priority.

The recovery care coordinator is designed to be an "ultimate resource" for seriously wounded, ill, or injured service members.

RCCs work closely with family liaison officers, patient liaison officers, medical case managers, and a host of support agencies to ensure the right level of support and entitlements are delivered to recovering Airmen and eligible family members.

RCCs are currently assigned to the National Capital Region and San Antonio. The program is slated to expand to 15 additional RCC positions. For further assistance or information regarding the RCC program, active-duty, Reserve or Guard members should call the 24-hour assistance line 877-USAF-HELP.

## **Retiree Appreciation Day**

Retiree appreciation and information day has been set for Sept. 26. Find out what benefits you have as a retiree and where to go to find out answers to the many questions you may have.

Lunch is provided and pre-registration is required. With further questions contact the Selfridge Family Support Center at 586-239-5583.

# The 2009 Selfridge Airshow!



photo by SrA Jeremy Brownfield, 127th Public Affairs



photo by MSgt Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs



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