

Prevailing Wind

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127th Wing 2009 Airmen of the Year



Photos by SSgt. Jeremy Brownfield, 127th Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski, 127th Wing commander, announced the recipients of the 2009 Outstanding Airmen of the Year at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Dec. 6. Top, left to right: 1st Sgt. Ethan S. Boyd, 127th Headquarters, 1st Sgt. of the Year; Maj. James M. Rossi, 127th Air Refueling Group (left with Brig. Gen. Peplinski), Commanders Trophy; Technical Sgt. Akenty A. Frazer, 127th Maintenance Group, Honor Guardsman of the Year; bottom left to right: Airman 1st Class Katrina A. Smith, 127th Maintenance Group Airman of the Year; Staff Sgt. Maygan L. Rhodes, 127th Mission Support Group, NCO of the Year; Master Sgt. Johnny C. White, 127th Mission Support Group, SNCO of the Year; and, Capt. Brian Wyrzykowski, 127th Air Refueling Group, Company Grade Officer of the Year.



Commander's Column



By Col. David L. Augustine
127th Wing Vice Commander

Happy 2010 fellow 127th Wing Members! I know I say this every year but where did 2009 go? As with last January, I feel it's appropriate to give each of you a Wing wide perspective as we progress into 2010. Calendar year 2010 will be a banner year of conversion and inspection as we settle into our new A-10 mission, progress into the nuclear requirements of our KC-135 mission all while melding into new deployment packages in our Air Force Special Operations mission. Before I jump into 2010, let me first acknowledge some great successes this past year:

2009 Inspections/Deployments

AFSOC Compliance Inspection – Complies Rating
First KC-135 AEF with a variety of AEF deployments large and small
Successful JSIVA across all Joint Tenant Agencies
Another successful TQT Rodeo with our first Wing Wide ATSO competition
An Excellent on our AMC UCI Outstanding on our AMC LCAP inspection

So what's in store for 2010? Here goes:

Inspections

In 2010, the Wing will participate in two major inspections that

require a true, cohesive Wing effort to be successful:
October 2010 AMC Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection (NORI)
October 2010 AMC Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI)

Exercises

Major Brian Davis, 127th Wing Plans Officer has taken a progressive effort in taking our exercises joint across all Team Selfridge participants. We have a full plate of exercises next year to include:

- Spring – Natural Disaster Joint Exercise
- April – A-10 Generation/Regeneration
- Multiple NOREs/OREs to facilitate ARG success in the NORI/ORI
- June – Vigilant Guard Multi-State Joint Exercise
- Fall – Anti-Terrorism Joint Exercise
- October – Limited TQT Rodeo Events

Conversion

Ensuring a safe conversion while retaining our most valuable asset, our people, is our number one goal for 2010. As we start to get comfortable in our new A-10 mission, the ARG will be converting into Block 40 KC-135Ts. Staying focused is critical to safe and effective mission conversions!

Commander's Continued, page 5



...From the Chief's Desk



By Chief Master Sgt. Juan Ubinas
191st Maintenance Flight Chief

By the time you read this the holiday season will be behind us and I hope you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. This past year was very busy for all of us in the Air Refueling Group and the Wing.

November was the culmination of months of hard work on the part of many members of the 127th Wing. Yes, I said the Wing. At this point you might be saying to yourself that you do not remember seeing someone from Services, Civil Engineers, Security Forces, etc., helping us in the ARG prepare for the UCI or LCAP. Well I would tell you that you are wrong; the entire 127th Wing helped the ARG. It was a team effort. I see things in simple terms so let me explain.

There was a time when I was convinced that the most important aspect of the Air Force was the aircraft, those that flew them and those that fixed them. I also felt that baseball, the world's greatest sport (at least in New York), was all about the guys on the field. After all they were the ones we would see on camera either during the game or afterwards when the sportscaster questioned the players about a great hit or a spectacular catch that

would be seen on the 11 o'clock news and in ball fields all over the country as kids tried to recreate Mickey Mantle's home run or throw a fast ball just like Tom Seaver.

No one ever gave credit to all those behind the scenes who made for some exciting ballgames. Although, I was familiar with all of the star ball players of the day. It was not until years later that I heard about the other team members.

During the 1984 baseball season I heard Sparky Anderson talking about the Detroit Tigers and he was answering questions about his great pitchers and how his guys were fielding the ball, his great hitters etc. It was about this point that Sparky sort of lost it and he made it very clear that it was not just the players mentioned previously that would win the American League Pendant and take on the National League in the World Series, but it was the TEAM that would make that all possible.

I thought Anderson had taken a line drive to the head and he was completely off his rocker. I listened to rest of the interview and eventually it became clear. Yes he had some great players on the team, but he also had great pitching and batting coaches along with the rest of the team members that took care of the equipment and the team members in the front office as well as others.

Chief's Continued, page 5



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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Vice Commander

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For story or photograph submissions, ideas or comments for the paper, e-mail the Prevailing Wind staff at:
127.WG.Prevailingwind@ang.af.mil

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Monday, January 25

Air Guard recognition program continues in 2010

By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

An Air National Guard award campaign that has honored thousands of Citizen-Airmen, families and civilians this year will continue into 2010, officials said here today.

The Air Guard's Hometown Heroes Salute campaign recognizes Airmen who have deployed since 9/11 as well their families and personal "centers of influence," who supported them.

"It's to celebrate every single Airman that you have, and their family and the community that is taking care of you," Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air National Guard, recently told the National Guard's top leaders.

The success of the program was measured through the dozens of events that took place around the nation this year. During the recognition ceremonies, Airmen are awarded a cherry-wood encased letter of appreciation signed by the Air Guard's director and command chief, which is enclosed with a commemorative coin.

In addition, spouses or significant others receive an engraved pen and pencil set and medallion. Each child receives engraved dog tags.

"They have gone off very well," said Linda Brooks, the campaign's program man-

ager at the Guard Bureau. "The average unit has about 500 people to recognize."

Thousands of Airmen will eventually be honored though the campaign for their deployments in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

About 10 percent of the 135 eligible Air Guard units held ceremonies this year, said Brooks.

"Everyone has done it with the pomp and circumstance that not only honors Airmen, but honors their families and the community," said Brooks. "They are proud of them for doing what they do."

Although the program was introduced last January, the first batch of awards only began arriving in the field in May.

The first ceremony was held by Louisiana Air Guard, and many units are still awaiting their awards or are awaiting the best time to hold their ceremonies, said Brooks.

A Web site, launched in April, connects units to award ordering, eligibility criteria and other valuable information and is accessed through the Air Force Portal.

"Bottom line, this is the right thing to do," said Muncy. "So take care of your Airmen, the greatest Airmen in the United States Air Force."

New 127th Wing Commander's Coin



Time to think about winter safety

By TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

'Tis the season for the slip-and-fall accident. Ground safety specialists from the 127th Wing say that slipping on parking lot ice is a far too common occurrence and one that can be easily avoided.

"Slow down and watch your step," said Technical Sgt. Gerald Petty, a safety specialist for the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. "Usually people see the ice on the sidewalk or salt or another de-icer is spread there, but there's often black ice in the parking lots that are not so obvious."

The Air Force and other federal agencies stress holiday safety not only as a means to prevent embarrassing spins and spills in the parking lot, but also to ensure mission readiness. "Our Airmen have long been recognized as our most valuable asset," commented Col. David L. Augustine, vice wing commander of the 127th Wing. "Keeping our people safe and taking care of our Wingmen is our number one priority."

The winter months bring a variety of seasonal concerns for Airmen - and their families, said Senior Master Sgt. Walt Escoe, ground safety superintendent for the 127th Wing.

"This time of year, people like to have a fire in the fireplace," he said. "But, if you haven't used that fireplace in a year, you need to check and make sure your dampers work properly. And you should always have a fire extinguisher in the house, whether you have a fireplace or not."

Escoe said the onset of the colder weather season is also the right time to make sure that your home has functioning carbon monoxide detectors. "The windows are closed and the house is sealed up. Now is the time to make sure you family is safe," he said.

During the winter months, motorists need to take extra precautions to make sure their vehicles are ready for severe weather. The U.S. Air Force Safety Center offers the following tips on ensuring your vehicle is ready for the holiday season. Listed below are minimum vehicle winterization requirements:

- Antifreeze added to cooling system
 - * De-icer added to windshield washer system
 - * Battery free of corrosion and completely charged
 - * Tires checked for proper inflation and tread depth (spare tire included)
 - * Check for proper operation of heaters/defrosters/heating system
 - * Ensure proper engine and transmission fluid levels
 - * Check tank/block heaters
 - * Inspect for exhaust leaks and proper engine operation
 - * Check for air leaks in cabs
 - * Verify the weather stripping around doors on all vehicles is in tact
 - * Check for proper electrical and lighting system operation
 - * Ensure window ice scraper availability

- Winter safety essentials you should always have in your vehicle in case of an emergency:
 - * Cell phone with charger
 - * Blankets/sleeping bags
 - * High-calorie, non perishable food/water/medication
 - * Flashlight with extra batteries
 - * First aid kit
 - * Extra clothing
 - * Carbon monoxide detector
 - * One candle with can
 - * Metal can to melt snow for drinking
 - * Waterproof matches
 - * Sack of sand or cat litter
 - * Shovel
 - * Windshield scraper and brush
 - * Tow rope
 - * Booster cables

2010 Satellite NCO Academy Course

By SMSgt. Joe Stevens
127th Human Resource Advisor

Starting Tuesday, Mar. 23, the 127th Wing will be hosting a Satellite NCO Academy class. The Satellite NCO Academy is an in-resident Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) course that allows eligible Technical and Staff Sergeants to complete the majority of the Non-commissioned Officers Academy at Selfridge without attending the six week NCO Academy at one of the several academy sites.

The Satellite NCO Academy is divided into two phases. The first phase, or Selfridge phase, meets on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is during this phase that the students in the classroom at Selfridge will be linked via satellite to the PME instructors at McGhee-Tyson AFB, Tennessee as well

as several other ANG sites who are also participating in the course. As mentioned earlier, the class is scheduled to start Mar. 23 and will last until Jun. 10.

At the end of the Selfridge phase, the students will travel to McGhee-Tyson to the Air National Guard's Training and Education Center to complete the two-week in-resident phase of the course.

At the end of the in-resident phase the students will graduate from the NCO Academy, which will take place on Jun. 29. The travel dates to and back from McGhee-Tyson are Jun. 13 and 30, respectively.

Satellite continued, page 5 _____

Commander's Column, cont.

Major Deployments

There are many small and large scale deployments for 2010. We will see a continued pace of 6 month mobilizations in those areas not associated with air package deployments which will include our AFSOC Weather Flight and multiple MSG areas. Other deployments include:

Jan to Feb 2010 – A-10 winter basing to Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ

April 2010 – CES deployment to Ghana, Africa

May 2010 – MDG OSAT deployment to Hawaii

Oct 2010 – A-10 Green Flag to Barksdale AFB, LA

Special Events

This April will prove to be another opportunity for all of our 127th Wing members to partake in an evening of fun and festivities at our annual Wing Ball (only \$15 per ticket). Other events include:

February 2010 – Michigan Joint SrNCO Conference

April 2010 – State Family Support Group Conference

May 2010 – National Guard Association of Michigan (NGAM) Conference

June 2010 – Contemporary Base Legal Issues Course (taught on base)

July 2010 – TACOM Robot 5K Trot

August 2010 – National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Conference

September 2010 – Team Selfridge Family Day

October 2010 - Hawgsmoke Air to Ground Bombing and Gunnery Competition

As you can see, the plate is full once again. Amazing how that happens! As stated last year, it is each of our responsibilities to be prepared, be focused and above all, be safe! The calendar doesn't slow down in 2011 and beyond so another key quality is keeping sharp while we pace ourselves in executing the Wing's new missions. Never forget that the primary job of the United States Air Force is to **Fly, Fight and Win**. With that end in mind, let's continue to meld together as a cohesive, fighting force that carries forward the profession of arms as only the finest Wing in the Air National Guard can, that being the 127th Wing!

My best to each of you in 2010!

Chief's Column, cont.

Sparky carried on about all of these great people who made up the Detroit Tigers even praising the ground-keepers at Tiger Stadium. Ground keepers! He also praised the fans not just for coming to the games, but because they supported the team and believed that the team would win the World Series.

It was about that time that I understood what he was talking about. Just because I did not see or hear these people on the field or see them on the news did not mean they were not vital to the team. His opinion was that all of these folks were there for one reason and one reason only. To win the World Series! All of them were hired to achieve that goal and it could only be accomplished if they worked as a team.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a dedicated New York Yankees fan. I should have written them a letter and told them to stay home that year because it was apparent the Tigers were unstoppable and they won the World Series that year.

This is also true in the 127th Wing. Yes, we are here to get the airplanes in the air but no one is any less important in achieving that goal. Aircraft fly because we have fuel, parts, money, food, buildings, security, our personal records and information is kept accurate and secure. Airplanes fly because we are properly trained and cared for medically and spiritually. I could go on, but by now you get the picture.

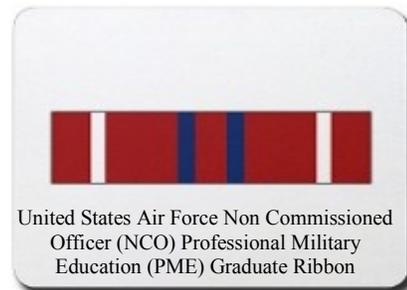
All of us belong to the 127th Team and that Wing scored an Excellent on the UCI and an Outstanding on the LCAP. This past year we won the American League Pendant race! In 2010 our NORI/ORI will be our World Series and just like the Tigers Team of 1984 the 127th Wing will win the World Series. The 127th ARG will not pass the NORI/ORI by itself. We need the entire team. Thanks for all of your hard work. Welcome to Major League Baseball. Dear New York Yankees...

Satellite Column, cont.

While enrolled in the Satellite NCO Academy the students will be expected to report promptly each night of class in the prescribed uniform of the day, which can be either ABU's, Service Dress, or PT uniform. In addition to the academic program of the NCO Academy, students will be expected to participate in PT, as well as drill and ceremony exercises. Some of the other additional benefits of the class include:

- * Professionally develop yourself for leadership opportunities
- * Fulfill a requirement for future promotion opportunities
- * Receive one paid PT day for each night of class
- * Complete 10 hours of CCAF credit

The Satellite NCO Academy is an excellent opportunity for a NCO to fulfill their EPME requirement without the sacrifice of being away from their family and job for longer than two weeks. There is limited number of seats available for this class, so if you are interested in this class, please contact your First Sergeant or training manager. The deadline for applications is Feb. 16.



Lt. Col. Mac Crawford takes command of the 127th Mission Support Group

By TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Mac A. Crawford, a member of the 127th Wing since 1997, is now in command of the 127th Mission Support Group.

Following the time-honored tradition of the change of command ceremony, Crawford accepted the Group's flag during the December Unit Training Assembly after it was relinquished by Lt. Col. Rodney Williams, who had commanded the MSG for almost four years. Williams recently was named director of the Human Resource Office of the Michigan National Guard and works in that capacity at state headquarters in Lansing.

Crawford had been serving the last two years as Williams' deputy commander at the MSG. After leaving the active duty Air Force in 1997, Crawford began serving at Selfridge, working in a variety of capacities within the 127th Civil Engineering Squadron, including serving as the squadron commander for four years.

According to Col. David Augustine, vice wing commander of the 127th Wing, Crawford has played a key leadership role at Selfridge in the years following the 2005 Base Re-alignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process, which instituted a number of changes around the base.

Speaking to Crawford, Augustine said, "You have a vision about how you see the future. It is now your time to create that vision."

Crawford, who called the MSG the backbone of not only the Wing but the entire Selfridge community, challenged the MSG "to serve each day with greater intensity and passion."

He pledged to do the same.

The MSG is comprised of just over 500 Airmen and includes the Civil Engineering, Security Forces, Logistics Readiness, Communications and Force Support squadrons.



Photo by Master Sgt. Clancey Pence, 127th Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Mac A. Crawford (right,) salutes the 127th Wing Vice Commander, Col. David L. Augustine (left) before accepting the 127th Mission Support Group flag in acceptance of his new appointment as the 127th Mission Support Group Commander during a change of command ceremony on Saturday, December 5 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan. The Mission Support Group consists of just over 500 Airmen including the Civil Engineering, Security Forces, Logistics Readiness, Communications and Force Support Squadrons.

Promotions

Senior Airman

Merushjola Mousseau, 127 WG
Katrina A. Smith, 127 MXS

Staff Sergeant

Mark A. Fenn, 127 LRS
Virgil D. Harris Jr, 127 CES
Daniel A. Nielsen, 127 LRS
Christopher Tarquinio, 127 CES

Master Sergeant

Brandon T. Bachelor, 191 MOF

Retirements

T Sgt. Kevin Ashbeck, 127 WG
MSgt. Serina Barnett, 127 FSS
SMSgt. Pauline M. Baudoux, 127 CS
SMSgt. Iva Carrington, 127 CS
MSgt. Lynn Conlen, 127 CS
SSgt. Rocky L. Huddleston, 127 LRS
MSgt. John Maas, 127 WG
TSgt. David Manni, 127 MOF
MSgt. Katherine Miller, 127 LRS
TSgt. Bruce Newman, 127 LRS
SMSgt. James Oneill, 191 AMX
TSgt. Jaroslaw Siemieniak, 127 LRS

TSgt. Jerome E. Trombley, 127 LRS
MSgt. Armond White Jr., 191 MXS



Briefly ...

Scholarships for Military Children Program

The Scholarships for Military Children program awards a minimum of one \$1,500 scholarship to dependent unmarried children under age 23 of active duty personnel, reserve/guard and retired military members, or survivors of service members who died while on active duty or of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military.

Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate degree program at an accredited college or university in the fall term of 2010. A minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 basis is also required.

I have attached the scholarship application as well as frequently asked questions on the program. Applications, previous scholarship recipients and further information may be found on www.militaryscholar.org.

Wertz Warriors

Please come out and help the Wertz Warriors support the Michigan Special Olympics. There will be spaghetti lunch and chicken dinner Jan. 22 at Zuccaro's Banquet and Catering Hall, 46601 N. Gratiot, Chesterfield, Mich.

The event takes place 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with a live auction taking place at 7 p.m. The price is \$14 per person

with free refreshments, cash bar and door prizes.

For tickets contact 127th Wing Public Affairs office at 586-239-5576.

Get your 127th Wing Ball Tickets

The Selfridge Air National Guard Base, 127th Wing Ball is just around the corner. Tickets are priced at \$15 per person on Saturday, Apr. 10 located at The Mirage, 18 Mile Rd. in Clinton Township, MI.

The ticket price includes: dinner, dessert, premium open bar, valet parking, coat check and a shuttle service to partnering hotels. See your 1st Sgt. or designated POCs for ticket purchase.

Family Saves Lives

Family involvement and support is essential for Airmen everywhere. An Air Force family video showing family volunteer members has been released crediting the importance of family involvement.

The video shows family members influence in each Airmen's behavior and judgment. In many cases members of the armed forces are reliant on the strength of families to stop reckless behavior.

The video can be viewed at this web site www.afsc.af.mil.

The 45th Annual Tucson ANG Invitational Golf Tournament

The entry fee for this year's April tournament is \$175, which includes green fees for Aug. 25, 26, golf cart, range balls, a goody bag, prizes and hospitality room.

The golf courses scheduled for this year will be at the Tucson National Golf Resort and are the Catalina (PGA Course) and Sonoran (Desert Course).

This year's host Hotel will be at the **Omni Tucson National Resort**, 2727 West Club Drive, Tucson Arizona 85742. Reservations can be made at **1-800-843-6664** or www.angwesterninvitational.com.

Inform the hotel that you are with the **Western States Invitational Tournament** to get the \$89 room rate.



Civilian Employment Information (CEI)

127th Public Affairs

Attention all Wing members! All 127th Wing members are required to provide their civilian employment information to the Department of Defense through a mandatory program.

The Civilian Employment Information (CEI) program allows defense officials to know the manpower and resources that can be called up for active duty without risking the civilian forces responsible for protecting the United States.

127th members must address several categories concerning their civilian employment such as employment status, employer name and address, job title and description and various other data. Technicians whom are reservists are also responsible to register as civilian employees.

The DOD also uses full time employer information to enhance employer support for the Guard and reserve while building positive relations through an open stream of communication. The information is at times also used to determine which unit members should be mobilized.

Self employed personnel are considered full-time if they are on a 30 hour or more a week work schedule. Wing members who fail or refuse to provide this information, or who knowingly provide false employment-related information, may be subject to administrative action or punishment.

Employment data can be entered on the Defense Manpower Data Center site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/esgr/privacyAction.do>.



Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

127th Wing Public Affairs

If you believe an employer has gone above and beyond providing support, please consider submitting them for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This is the U.S. Government's way of recognizing employers in an exceptional manner for continued support and patriotism towards members of the Guard and Reserves. Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 18 and must be submitted by the Guard or Reserve member whom is employed by the agency.

Just under half of the armed forces in the United States are comprised of Reserve or Guard forces, often referred to as the Citizen Soldiers. The awards are presented once a year by the Secretary of Defense and it is the highest employee appreciation and recognition award given to employers. The award was put into effect in 1996 by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

If any Guardsmen or Reservist works for an employer that meets a criteria that goes above and beyond the normal call of support and patriotism please submit them at: www.freedomaward.mil/nominate.aspx.





Every Airman Counts