

Prevailing Wind

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Exercise!

The 127th Wing held a Phase II Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) at Selfridge ANGB on April 21 and 22. The exercise was designed to test the Wing's Air Mobility Command component's wartime ability to survive and operate.

Simulated wartime activity took place along the eastern portion of the flight line, and included blank M-16 gun fire, explosions and smoke bombs of various colors. Moulaged "victims" were also used in this training which is preparing the unit for an upcoming inspection this fall.



191st Aircraft Maintenance Technician, SSgt. Joshua Kindt, takes cover in a simulated bunker during a during the 127th Air Refueling Group Operational Readiness Exercise. Sgt. Kindt stood guard over the assets and controlled entry to the flightline at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., during the exercise held April 21-22. (USAF photo by John S. Swanson)



Commander's Column



By Lt. Col. Mac Crawford
127th Mission Support Group Commander

I arrived at Selfridge ANGB in May 1997. I remember that time vividly, as it seems like only yesterday. However, a funny thing happened in the blink of an eye: 13 years passed and I'm no longer a newcomer to Selfridge, or the Air National Guard! Looking back on that foregone time, I am amazed at how much our Wing, UTAs, and individual mobility requirements have changed.

When I first joined the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), requirements to be certified as "deployable" were relatively simple. Meeting these requirements took relatively little time during our UTAs each year, leaving us ample amounts of time to accomplish the real meat of what we as Air Guardsmen are expected to do. We had two Readiness UTAs and a Readiness Week each year to hone our overall wartime readiness skills. Individual units had several Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP) UTAs throughout the year to accomplish critical AFSC training needed in specific crafts. We even had time to plug in individual unit picnics, golf tournaments, or other

similar Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) events.

Though we may not have known it at the time, life was a lot simpler and easier. Deployments? The only deployments we worried about back then were the Deployments for Training (DFTs) we took each year to wonderful and exciting places. There were no associated outprocessing or inprocessing requirements, Personal Readiness Folder (PRF) reviews, immunizations requirements, etc., for these deployments – we simply made sure we had all our folks and our tools, and off we went. This is hardly the case today.

Over the past several years, we have had a continuous flow of personnel deployed abroad at any one time supporting military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other far away places. With each of these deployments comes a myriad of pre- and post-deployment requirements. The burden of these requirements has been borne by our Unit Deployment Managers (UDMs), Installation Deployment Officer and LGRDX staff, Logistics Readiness Squadron,

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...From the Chief's Desk



By Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Murray
127th ARG Quality Assurance Superintendent

It seems today that we spend our careers preparing for inspections, whether that is a Unit Compliance inspection (UCI), Logistics Compliance Assessment Program (LCAP), Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection (NORI)...well, you get the picture. It must seem for some of us that all we do is go from this inspection to that inspection. As bad as it seems, it is even worse for others - for instance, the airmen of the Mission Support Group - they play a key role in everyone's inspection!

If there was a way to never prepare for an inspection again, would you jump on board? Most of you would probably say "yes"! Well, here's the secret of how to never to prepare for an inspection again...get ready for it...it's "practice". Remember the phrase, "practice makes perfect?" Well, practicing daily for any inspection removes the need to spin up and go through the unnecessary pre-inspection preparation woes. Now, don't confuse preparation with practice. Preparation is defined as *putting something in proper condition or readiness*; practice is defined

as a habitual or customary performance, something you do *all the time* to hone your skills and improve the way you complete each task. If you're practicing instead of preparing, you're in a constant state of readiness!

All inspections are within our collective ability to control, it is simply a matter of changing our current habits; instead of waiting until just before the inspectors arrive to put our house in order, we instead get in the habit and practice of reading, self-inspecting, identifying what is wrong and being willing to correct it on the spot - not just for the inspection, but for our day-to-day operations. When we practice daily for inspections, we can be ready anytime for an inspector but more importantly, we can be assured we are performing the mission according to well established standards.

This may sound simple, but I think we can all agree it takes a lot of work - a willingness to look in the mirror and admit we can improve, and still harder yet turn to your co-worker, perhaps a close friend, and be willing to tell her or him that they can improve also. The key to reaching this point is simple – we must practice SELF-INSPECTIONS.

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**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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For story or photograph submissions, ideas or comments for the paper, e-mail the Prevailing Wind staff at:
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Commanders Column, cont.

Force Support Squadron, Medical Group, and Family Readiness Group. These folks and their tireless efforts ensure our deploying personnel are equipped and ready to meet their assigned mission tasks, and that they are properly received and lauded upon their return. Additionally, the burden of these deployments has fallen on the deploying members themselves. My sincere gratitude goes out to each of you for your selflessness, flexibility, and commitment to your unit, our wing, and the United States Air Force. Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to pass along my appreciation to those who stayed behind to keep our wing running and improving. Your commitment to this endeavor is no less important to our ANG mission than those who deploy. In the face of all of these deployments, our wing has continued to strengthen and excel.

Undoubtedly, more and faster changes are on their way. We are currently readying our Air Refueling Group and Wing Mobility machine for a very

difficult and taxing Air Mobility Command (AMC) Nuclear and conventional Operational Readiness Inspections in October, 2010. All the while, we must continue to manage our deployments, and adapt our wing to ensure our future success. Our next round of deployments is just around the corner, and with them a whole host of old and new requirements.

Dedicated and patriotic 127th Wing airmen will deploy abroad again to support critical national objectives, selflessly setting aside family, work, and their own personal and professional desires. Without missing a beat, those of us left behind will continue pushing towards readying our wing for critical higher headquarters inspections, and improving our individual and unit preparedness, training, operations, and effectiveness. I challenge each of you to continue to be flexible and adaptable in our ever-changing Air National Guard environment. I can assure you our Air National Guard will continue to evolve, and, TOGETHER, we will adapt to meet tomorrow's challenges

Chief's Desk, cont.

This is a continuous process that for most of us will have a beginning, but should never have an ending. We practice self-inspections as part of our day-to-day jobs by using the tools at our disposal, being honest with ourselves by marking where we are non-compliant, and developing a plan to correct our deficiencies. When we practice self-inspections, we spread the "pain" over the life cycle, correcting not only what needs to be fixed for the short term but also eliminating problems that may arise during the next inspection. By changing our thought process and changing our actions from preparation to practice, we change the culture we live in!

I know most of you are thinking that this sounds good in theory, but is it achievable and within our control? Can

this really be accomplished in the real world where everything changes constantly? I believe the answer to these questions is "yes!" True, we face many things that are often out of our control - the threat changes, the requirements change, the mission changes, our supervisors change, instructions change, new technology is invented; however, once we put self inspections into practice, we have now put in place a mechanism to manage change. And by managing change, we have transformed our way of thinking and approaching the way we do business - I like to call this the "culture of compliance." In my travels from unit to unit observing numerous inspections, self-inspection is the one common theme that makes all the difference no matter where you work or whom you support.

Multi-State Effort Supports West African Partner

By TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

Air National Guardsmen from three states are working together to support a new partnership with the west African nation of Ghana.

A detachment of Airmen from the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Civil Engineer Squadron arrived in Ghana on April 8, 2010, to work on a construction project at Ghana's Acota air base, on the outskirts of the nation's capital city of Accra. The Michigan Air Guardsmen are working alongside a contingent of Guardsmen from the North Dakota Air National Guard. Several North Dakota Guardsmen are at the worksite managing the overall project. After the Michigan CES team works at the site for about two weeks, a similar team from North Dakota will pick up where Michigan left off.

"Working with our Ghana partners is a way to build up goodwill and camaraderie between the two nations," explained Maj.

John Gibbs, the base civil engineer with North Dakota's 119th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron.

The Michigan Guardsmen were transported to Ghana by a KC-135 Stratotanker operated by the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard, which is based in Topeka, Kansas. The Kansas Coyotes, as the Kansas wing is known, flew with additional crew to accommodate the long flight from Selfridge to the Lajes Field in the Azores Islands in the mid-Atlantic Ocean and then on to Ghana.

For most of the Guardsmen involved, arriving in Ghana marked a first visit to the African continent.

"It was a new experience for us," said Senior Master Sgt. Doug Copeland, one of three Kansas Guardsmen who served as crew chiefs for the flight to Ghana. "No one on our crew had ever landed in Africa before."

The mission to Ghana is a part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program in which state National Guard's partner with emerging nations to help support

stable governments and build relations between the two nations. Ghana recently became a partner with North Dakota. Michigan is establishing a partnership with Liberia, a neighboring nation to Ghana. The Michigan Guard has also enjoyed a long partnership with Latvia, a relationship which continues.



*Photos by MSgt. Terry Atwell,
127th Public Affairs*





Michigan Airmen Assist Orphanages During African Deployment

By TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

Deployed to Ghana for a training mission, Airmen from the 127th Civil Engineering Squadron paid a visit and dropped off donations at an orphanage and a center that assists the children of women who have been rescued or have escaped from human traffickers.

"How can you not help but feel that you must do something for these children," said Major Tom Sierakowski, the officer in charge of the deployment.

The 127th CES is a part of the Michigan Air National Guard, based at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The Citizen-Airmen of the Air National Guard generally work one weekend per month at the base and spend about two weeks on active duty. In addition, Guardsmen are always on-call in their role as America's modern-day Minutemen.

Anticipating the trip to Ghana, Sierakowski worked with the Flint, Mich., chapter of the Safari Club International, to bring two large bags of supplies to the organizations in Ghana. Once the 127th CES arrived in Ghana, the Airmen worked in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy to determine some of the needs of the orphanage and took up a collection to purchase items locally to support the organization.

Master Sgt. Lisha Lewis visited both of the facilities to learn their specific needs and to arrange the visit by the Michigan Air-

men. "Their list of needs ranged from flip-flops for the children to wear all the way up to a new vehicle," Lewis said.

Technical Sgt. Emory Sims, one of the Airmen who made the visit to help drop-off the donation, said visiting the orphanage was a reminder of the many things that Americans take for granted.

"It was just amazing to see 250 children all living in that one orphanage," said Sims. "The children were eager just to get to speak with an American."

The trip to Ghana was the first time many of the 127th Airman had ever visited Africa. During the 15-day journey, the Airmen enjoyed one day off in Africa and many took advantage of the day to visit Cape Coast Castle and the infamous "Door of No Return" where thousands of African slaves were loaded on to ships for the so-called "Middle Passage" journey to be used as slaves in the Americas. The castle recently added a new feature - a small commemorative plaque that recalls the 2009 visit to the castle by President Barack Obama and his family.

It is likely that more Michigan Guardsmen will be visiting Africa in the future. The Michigan National Guard recently began a partnership with Liberia, which borders Ghana, under the Partnership for Peace program, in which U.S. state National Guards partner with the military of emerging nations. Michigan has long enjoyed a partnership with Latvia, which will also continue. Ghana recently became a partner with North Dakota, which helped organize and worked with Michigan on the trip to Ghana.

New squadron commander for 191st MOF

1st Lt. Matthew T. Chapman (photo, right) is the new commander of the 191st Maintenance Operations Flight, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. He formally accepted the position at an assumption of command ceremony April 10. Chapman, an 18-year veteran, was selected for the position after playing an essential role in the success with the recent Logistics Compliance Assessment Program Inspection (LCAP) and Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI).

"He is the right guy at the right time. He really stepped up and did a lot of great things to help us with the LCAP and ORI," said Col. Michael T. Thomas, 127th Air Refueling Group commander.

Chapman received his commission just over three years ago after achieving his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan, Flint. He is confident as a junior officer taking on a command position. "This is a monumental tasking, but I feel confident. I am surrounded by great leaders to help me grow to be a better officer and commander," said Chapman. (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt. Clarence Pence)



Program salutes 127th Wing heroes

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

Forty seven Airmen and their families were recognized for their service and support during deployments following Sept. 11, 2001, here on April 11 as part of a recently initiated nationwide Air National Guard program: Hometown Hero Salutes.

Approximately 1,200 Airmen from the 127th Wing have deployed since 9-11 in support of operations at home and abroad, such as to Hurricane Katrina, in Afghanistan and Iraq, and are now entitled to be recognized along with family members and select others. These Airmen receive a letter of appreciation signed by General Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the ANG Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, encased in a decorative frame along with a commemorative coin. Spouses receive an engraved pen set and children receive a set of Hometown Hero dog tags. A special medalion of appreciation is available for presentation to employers or other people who are considered a center of influence of the deploying Airman.

"We gave out almost 50 awards today and still have around

1,150 more to give out. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we will get it done because our Airmen and their families deserve it," said Deborah Schroeder, 127th Family Readiness Center Director.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski, 127th Wing commander, took a short break from presenting the awards to receive recognition as well. "I am thankful for each and every one of these Airmen, their families and those who give us support," said Peplinski.

The ceremony marked a moment of recognition, but was also a festive event to celebrate the accomplishments of numerous Airmen, family members and other supporters. All 127th Wing members are encouraged to attend the events to support their peers and fellow patriots while being properly recognized for service to their country. Many wing members will deploy, often returning in small numbers, therefore missing out on a large community homecoming.

To learn more about the program or request recognition for those whom have shown support contact the 127th Family Readiness Office at 586-239-5583 or visit the Hometown Hero Salute web page at <https://airguard.ang.af.mil/>

Promotions

Staff Sergeant

Robert Q. Jackson, 127th FSS

Technical Sergeant

Mark Beck, 127th MXS
 Alonzo Cadena, 127th MXS
 Joshua Medley, 127th MXS
 Andrew Pomorski, 127th MXS
 Maygan Rhodes, 127th MSG

Master Sergeant

Lisha Lewis, 127th CES

Senior Master Sergeant
 James S. Roeper, 191st AMX

Newcomers

No newcomers were inprocessed for the month of April due to unit training schedule

Retirements

Not available

Think OPSEC



Remember OPSEC when posting to Social Media Sites

Briefly ...

Loadmaster Jobs Available

The 172 Airlift Squadron in Battle Creek, Mich., is beginning the process of hiring loadmasters for their future mission in the C-27J. Currently, they have openings for both full-time and traditional guard status positions. They will be hiring qualified loadmasters and those who want to cross-train into the career field.

In order to cross-train Airmen will need to be able to pass a flight physical, attend Enlisted Aircrew Fundamentals, Basic Loadmaster Course, and both Land and Water Survival Training courses. Airmen would then be required to attend the C-27J Loadmaster Course along with the pilots.

If you've ever dreamed of flying as part of a crew, now is the time to polish up your resume. Send resumes and cover letters to:

Keir.Knapp@ang.af.mil or mail to:
 Lt. Col. Keir Knapp, 150 Lightning Ave, Battle Creek ANGB, MI, 49037.

The 172nd AS will be holding hiring boards over the next few months to hire an initial cadre that can set up their loadmaster program as well as those who will need school dates in order to cross-train. If you have any questions, please contact Lt. Col. Knapp at 269-969-3283 or DSN 580-3283.



The A-10 Thunderbolt II is now a resident of the Selfridge Military Air Museum at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan arriving on April 15 - 17. The replica aircraft was delivered from Battle Creek, Michigan by a private contracting company who shipped the fuselage (body), wings, and then tail in three separate deliveries. The A-10 will be ready for display in approximately one week along with 30 other aircraft presently on display. The A-10 is a durable combat aircraft with the mission of protecting troops through close-ground support. The dual engine aircraft plays a crucial role in combating enemy tanks and other offenses. For more information about the Selfridge Military Air Museum call 586-239-6768 or visit www.selfridgeairmuseum.org. (U.S. Air Force photo by Mr. John Swanson)



HOME FRONT HEROES

'10 Summer Youth Programs

MSU Day Camp

Date: June 29

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Grades: 1st – 8th

(Maximum 30 youth participants)

Contacts:

Web: www.operationmilitarykids.org

B'Onko Sadler
Michigan State University
160 Agriculture Hall
Phone: (517)432-7618

Registration Form:

<http://web2.msue.msu.edu/OMKcamp/>

Location:

4-H Children's Garden
East Lansing, MI

Cost: \$10

*Includes lunch, snacks, resource people, T-shirt



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Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child, Youth and School Services, National 4-H Headquarters/USDA, and Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development. Operation: Military Kids-Michigan is supported by the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project under Kansas State University special project number 2007-48661-03868.

