

# Prevailing Wind

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## Base conducts tornado, accountability drill



*Photo by SSgt. Rachel Barton, 127th Public Affairs*

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. — Base personnel conducted a disaster response drill on June 1 in which a tornado hit the base gymnasium.

The exercise involved base fire department and security forces personnel, along with a cadre of representatives from MedStar, the base's safety office, bioenvironmental, emergency management and civil engineers, as well as twelve volunteers from the local Civil Air Patrol unit dressed as casualties. Those victims, moulaged with mock injuries, added the realistic edge to the exercise at Selfridge, ensuring first responders can triage patients while assessing damage to facilities and ensuring missions can continue at the base. Commanders also had to account for their personnel during the scenario.

"In a base this size, with this many tenants, we must

practice our accountability procedures in order to perform seamlessly in the event of an actual disaster," said Exercise Evaluation Team director, Maj. Brian Davis.

While the 127th Wing is host unit at the 3,000 acre base, there are more than 40 tenant units from various DoD and DHS agencies - many of which are Guard or Reserve units - which can complicate reporting procedures, through various chains of command as well as to the base first responders.

"We're working toward streamlining our base disaster response and recovery procedures, ensuring we understand everyone's capabilities and mission priorities," Davis explained. "By thinking about the worst-case scenarios, we're able to practice like we would actually respond and better prepare for the future."



# Commander's Column



## Critical Days of Summer, 2010

As we approach the summer months, it is important to reiterate the importance of safety and risk management as we increase participation in outdoor sports and recreation, whether at home or deployed. Every year, we lose Airmen in summer-related mishaps, many of which are preventable. This summer, our goal is ZERO preventable mishaps. Help us accomplish this objective by exercising good personal judgment and by being a good Wingman, both on and off-duty.

Last summer we lost 21 Airmen. Eighteen of those died in private motor vehicle crashes, and 71% of summer related fatalities involved reckless behavior. This summer, please enjoy the warm weather with family, friends and fellow Airmen. As you do, consider the following issues and put them into practice.

- **Reject Reckless Behavior.** Drinking and driving, speeding, inappropriate alcohol use and extreme maneuvers are "sure-fire" ways to get hurt. Four of the six auto fatalities this fiscal year have been alcohol related. Set a high standard for yourself and your Wingman, and remember that our actions have consequence.
- **Use the Right Equipment.** Protective equipment and clothing can minimize injury and increase your chances of surviving a mishap. Three out of the six auto fatalities this fiscal year were attributable to a decision not to wear a seatbelt. Always use your seatbelt, helmet, life jacket, and other appropriate safety equipment, and expect your Wingman to do the same-it may save a life!
- **Engage in Risk Management.** Carefully take

*Continued on page 3*



## ...From the Chief's Desk



By Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Moss  
*127th Maintenance Operations Flight*

From the time Airmen enter Basic Military Training, their system of team building begins. We are assigned to our flight, divided into squads and leaders immediately appointed. From then on most of what we do is centered around performing as a team. Remember the first time you tried to march as a group? What a mess! And what about how good you felt when your flight was finally marching together and moving forward as a team.

Teamwork is a lot like our core value "service before self" which creates the strong backbone of a great organization like the Air Force. Without it, a group cannot be successful in the accomplishment of the goal. There can be a group of superstars, but if they do not work well together, chances are they are not going to be successful. The team working together as a cohesive unit towards achieving the established goal is the key to continued success.

Although the military does a great job of reinforcing the teamwork lessons learned over the course of

one's life, there will always be some individuals who continue to miss the message. "ME" thinkers, no matter how good they are as individuals, will ultimately hurt the team's performance and will not make good leaders. To be a productive team player they must be willing to commit to a cause greater than themselves. I urge you to take the following quiz and answer honestly.

- Do you know how to follow as well as lead?
- Can you follow a plan you don't necessarily agree with or do you argue about it until the bitter end?
- Are you picked first or last for team projects?
- Are you a team player?
- Are you committed to the success of the individual next to you?

The answers to these questions should tell you a lot about what type of team player you are. Are you satisfied? Do you want to be better? Work on your teamwork skills and you will find that success is a whole lot closer.

*Continued on page 3*



**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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**Commander's Column**  
*continued from page 2*

stock of your experience level, condition of equipment, weather, and other key factors necessary to identify and mitigate risk.

- **Act, Care, Escort (ACE).** Recognize and respond to distress in your own life and the life of your Wingman. This year, there have already been more suicides than private motor vehicle fatalities; we must be vigilant for our own well-being and that of our Wingman.

Thank you for your contribution to freedom across the globe. You are the vital ingredient of our combat capability. Have a great summer, but be safe and remain alert for your Wingman!

**Michael B. Donley**

*Secretary of the Air Force*

**Norton A. Schwartz**

*General, USAF  
Chief of Staff*

**James A. Roy**

*Chief Master Sgt.  
of the Air Force*



**Continued from page 2,  
Chief's Desk**

So often in my military career I have had the pleasure of witnessing individuals coming together for the success of the mission. At the end of the day, whether we're preparing for or participating in a major inspection or performing our everyday operations, we succeed or fail together.

Remember, the fans who root for us, honor and respect us, are the citizens of United States of America. Their freedom, our future freedom depends upon us being that winning team.

# Commentary: Steps to Live By

By Lt. Col. Kristine Holmes  
*127th Wing Inspector General*

I recently read "Thoughts from the Steps" by now retired Lieutenant General Ronald F. Sams. He summarized his 36 year career into six lessons learned:

- Keep your wits and don't over react when things go wrong.
- Never ask someone to sacrifice their integrity.
- Always complain to someone who can actually help you.
- You succeed when others succeed. Let them do their jobs.
- Enjoy your work and never forget how smart people are.
- Leave it better than you found it.

All six lessons are valuable to everyday living. I can't think of any examples where losing your patience and overreacting has made a situation better.

I was at the airport recently trying to catch a flight back to Detroit. I had a ticket but no seat assignment because the airline had overbooked the flight. It appeared there were another 100 passengers who were wanting on the same flight.

It would have been very easy for me to panic and overreact but I told myself to be patient and let the airline work it out. It wasn't like I could offer any assistance. I was surprised, that considering the chaos around me, most people remained calm and let the folks do their job. Thanks to some volunteers, everyone that needed to get on the flight, did.

Once I was on board the aircraft, I remember the pilot saying "please do not take out your frustration on the flight attendants." I thought it was interesting he made the statement, but it falls in line with General Sams' lesson number 3. Basically, the flight attendants wouldn't have been able to help any of the passengers for any inconvenience they might have experi-

enced prior to getting on the plane.

I have to tell you, I was happy to escape from the chaos of the airport and arrive here and be part of Team Selfridge. With all the challenges we've been facing, I'm very proud of how well the members of this Wing operate on a day to day basis. Very rarely have I seen members lose their cool. We understand that by working together, we can continue to be successful during an inspection or a deployment. I believe "Integrity First" has served this Wing well. We aren't looking to take any shortcuts to get to the finish line because we know what is at stake.

I encourage all of you to take a look around and absorb how much you've accomplished. Pat yourself on the back and don't forget to acknowledge the "smart" volunteer force that contributes to the success of our mission. All in all, I have to say we are leaving the Wing better than we found it. Keep up the great work.

## 127th Wing Airmen receive 2010 CCAF degree

By TSgt. Dan Heaton  
*127th Public Affairs*

For almost 40 years, the Community College of the Air Force has been at the forefront of the Air Force's transformation into a high-tech fighting force.

In a short ceremony May 16 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, 24 Air Force noncommissioned officers received their CCAF diplomas, joining more than 335,000 others who have earned the credential.

Col. Leonard Isabelle, 127th Operations Group commander, said by participating in the CCAF program, the graduates have not only gained additional skills to help them perform their job better, "but you have also learned how to think creatively to figure out new and better ways to get things done."

Staff Sgt. George Farrell, a member of the 127th Lo-

gistics Readiness Squadron, was among the graduates, earning an associate of applied science degree in logistics.

"I've been able to apply my CCAF credits toward a civilian degree, letting me work on two degrees at once," he said. "In today's world, you have to be able to show you have an education."

According to Technical Sgt. Vincent Peterson, who works in the Selfridge Base Education Office and oversees the CCAF program at the base, the degree benefits Airmen in both their professional career in the Air Force and in their life outside the Air Force.

"A CCAF degree can help a person toward promotion in the Air Force," Peterson said. "It can also help a person advance their civilian career."

The CCAF, which is unique among the military services, is open to all Air Force enlisted personnel. Airmen

*Continued on page 5*

## CCAF awarded, continued from page 4

are awarded college credit through basic military training, technical training schools and professional military education courses. More than half of the 64 credits needed for the degree can be earned through military training. Students can then take classes at an accredited college or university on their own or take College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests to earn the needed credits in oral and written communication, math, social science and humanities. For most Airmen, earning credit in a speech class to fulfill the oral communication requirement for the degree is often a stumbling block.

"Many civilian colleges don't require a speech class for a degree, but the Air Force places a value on being able to communicate well," Peterson said.

Airmen who have worked in multiple Air Force Specialties often are able to earn multiple CCAF degrees.

Activated in 1972, the CCAF is the largest community college in the world. Isabelle said that more than 70 percent of chief master sergeants have earned a CCAF degree and more than 50 percent of master sergeants have earned the degree.

2010 CCAF recipients were: CMSgt. Raymond Carroll, SSgt. Nathaniel Christy, MSgt. Lynn Conlen, SSgt. David Hinkle, SSgt. Joseph Hopkins, MSgt. Jeffery Kaleta, MSgt. Jean Keely, SMSgt. Douglas Keller, SSgt. Ryan Lauhoff, TSgt. Lisha Lewis, SMSgt. Denine McFadden, MSgt. David McGowan, TSgt. Sean Muhlenkamp, TSgt. Khoi Nguyen, CMSgt. Keith Pionk, SSgt. Patrick Shaltry, TSgt. Michael Stahl, MSgt. Lawanda Stevenson, MSgt. Thomas Streasick, SSgt. John Tennant, SSgt. Dane Tompkins, SSgt. Chett Tyson, and SSgt. Brian Ward.

## Airman's quick thinking warrants safety award

By Lt. Col. Rolf Mammen

*127<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron commander*

Senior Airman David Kirkbride, a 127<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron munitions systems specialist, was recently presented the ACC Weapons Safety Award. His actions and cool demeanor during a safety incident on a during the 127<sup>th</sup> Wing's A-10 winter basing temporary duty to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, prevented possible personal injury or loss of life and damage to Air Force Property.

On February 2, while teamed with and working inside the 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron's Munitions Storage Area, SrA. Kirkbride and two other crew members were tasked to remove and process LUU-19 Illumination Flares from a SUU-25 Flare Dispenser. The LUU-19 flare is fairly large and cumbersome to work with; approximately 36 inches long, 5 inches in diameter and weighing over 35 pounds. Once deployed by an aircraft, they are designed to illuminate the battlefield for the warfighter engaged in ground combat.

While removing a LUU-19 flare, one of the crew members pulled on the flare accidentally initiating the timer and release mechanism. The timer deploys a parachute after a predetermined amount of time and drop distance which, in turn, activates an igniter setting off the flare. Hearing the timer start the crew member panicked. He finished pulling the flare out of the SUU-25 dispenser and rolled it out of the processing facility and started to run.

Airman Kirkbride ran over to the LUU-19 flare and held the timing mechanism down tightly per the technical

order guidance until the cycle was finished, thus preventing the ejection of the timer release mechanism and the initiator from firing. Another crew member taped the mechanism securely to the flare housing and it was marked it for disposal.

Kirkbride's quick action and recall of the Technical Data Warnings and Cautions he received during his safety briefing ultimately kept Air Force personnel and assets out of harm's way. He was officially presented the award by Brig. Gen. Michael Peplinski, 127<sup>th</sup> Wing commander, on May 26 during commander's call.



**SrA. David Kirkbride was awarded the ACC Weapons Safety Award for his quick thinking and response during a safety incident while deployed to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. in Feb. 2010.**

# *Not Just Loose Lips*

"Loose Lips Sink Ships" is the old cliché often associated with an OPSEC mindset. Assuming, however, that everything will be fine as long as one doesn't "blab" around neighbors or family members is a path froth with danger. It is crucial to realize that OPSEC breaches can come in more forms than loose lips; there are many ways, often seemingly harmless, that personnel may unintentionally leak or signal what is going on behind closed gates, doors, and minds.

For example, do you realize that what you dispose of, both at home and in the office, can communicate information about what you do, and what you have? An old lawnmower left at the curb for the trash collector reveals to an observer that a new one may have just been purchased. The empty 60 inch HD television box left at the curb tells an observer, and potential thieves, that a new expensive toy is somewhere in the house. Remember that staff package you had to bring, or email, home for a late-night or weekend push? Did you leave official files on the hard drive of the old computer that you donated to the local church or school? Did you toss that old personnel roster with names, phone numbers, and spouse's names in the trash can, or did you make sure it was shredded? At the office, what did you do with the invoice for the

medication your unit received through commercial supply channels to immunize the members of the F-16 units heading off on a deployment or exercise? These are simple examples of what our trash may signal about what is going on around us.

In this electronic information age, many of us participate in the new wave of social networking. Have you recently updated your profile on your favorite social web site (Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter)? It is critical to remember that these sites are frequently mined, both here in the US and abroad, for your personal data. Did you indicate that you would be away from the site for a few weeks or months? Some interested party can use that information, coupled with profile information to glean data on your missions and operations. While this information may seem innocuous, each little bit builds a profile. It lasts forever, even after you delete it.

It may be common sense to not give away sensitive information, but to actually practice OPSEC requires that you identify the exact information that benefits an adversary. Remember it is observable activities and openly available information that, although unclassified, could lead an adversary to derive critically important classified information.

## **OPSEC Measures to live by:**

- **Adopt a 100% shred policy. Don't toss those official rosters in the trash dumpster, shred them.**
- **Put out your trash the morning of pickup instead of the previous night to decrease opportunities for observation of what you are tossing away.**
- **If you must work on official documents at home, ensure you secure the information that is critical to the AF and your specific mission area.**
- **Careless keystrokes can kill. Details about your mission do not belong on social networking sites.**

## Promotions

Not available at time of publishing

## Retirements

SMSgt. Anthony Consiglio, 127 LRS  
 TSgt. James D. Stephens, 127 LRS  
 MSgt. Donald Cummings, 127 CES  
 TSgt. Robert L. Bishop, 127 LRS  
 TSgt. James E. Donato, Jr., 127 CES  
 TSgt. Nicholas F. Elgert, 127 CES

## Newcomers

Jules Desames  
 Jeff Alsbury  
 Jaime Fultz  
 Brendon Sutton  
 Arvin Luis  
 Roberto Trevino  
 Adam Ring  
 Keith Ketelhut  
 Jacqueline Ward

# Briefly ...

### Texting While Driving When on Official Business Now Prohibited

Executive Order #13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," was signed October 1, 2009, to help reduce the dangers of text messaging while driving. The Executive Order states: "Federal employees shall not engage in text messaging: a) when driving a GOV, or when driving a POV while on official Government business, or b) when using electronic equipment supplied by the Government while driving."

This ban covers reading from or entering data into any handheld or other electronic device, for the purpose of Short Message Service texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or engaging in any other form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication.

Visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-24203.pdf> to review a complete version of Executive Order #13513.

### DAV Rep at SANGB

A representative from the Disabled American Veterans will be at the Chapel (community center area) every Thursday from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

The DAV employs a corps of approximately 260 highly trained National Service Officers and 25 Transition Service Officers

who directly and tirelessly represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the VA. Veterans do not have to be DAV members to take advantage of this outstanding assistance, which is provided free of charge.

### Upcoming Honor Guard Class

Interested in joining a distinguished group of Air Force members? Consider joining the Selfridge Base Honor Guard team.

Interested airmen can be placed on active duty orders through Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for an upcoming 5-day Honor Guard course.

The next course being held at Selfridge ANGB is July 26-30. Upon completion of the course, airmen will be provided with a full honor guard uniform, to include alterations. Airmen are also paid for each funeral detail performed after their training.

To sign up for the class or for more information about the Selfridge Base Honor Guard, contact TSgt. Amanda Noble at ext. 5453, or stop by the Dining Facility, room 101.

### Northwood University

June classes will be kicking off the second week of the month at the Northwood University center at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The eight-week classes begin the week of June 7 and include courses in International Manage-

ment, Environmental Science, Contemporary World Issues, Applied Psychology, and Macroeconomics.

For more information on the classes offered at Selfridge, contact the program office at 586-463-2496.

### Scholarship Available

VFW Post 5855 is offering a scholarship that can be used by any Michigan Veteran at any Michigan School (4yr, 2yr or trade). Your assistance in notifying eligible veterans of this opportunity will be greatly appreciated.

The scholarships will be awarded twice a year for the amount of \$500 each. The deadlines are: Fall - July 15, Spring - Oct 15. These scholarships will be a one-time per person and the monies will be sent to school's Financial Aid Dept. Scholarships will be awarded in September and January. <http://www.vfw5855.org/forms/application-B.pdf>

### Family, Morale, Welfare, Recreation Office at TACOM

The US Army Garrison-Detroit runs an FMWR Office at TACOM that supports all military in the area, including the Airmen at Selfridge ANGB. Log on to their Website at <http://www.detroitarsenalfmwr.com/> often to check out current class offerings, special deals, tickets sales, and more. For more information call 586-573-6909.



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