



August 2009 The Official Newspaper of the 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Michigan Volume 14 Issue 8

Selfridge Conducts Readiness Exercise



photo by MSgt Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs

The 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, conducts an emergency readiness exercise at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base on July 15 to test the level of preparedness in response to a biohazard crisis. Emergency response personnel practiced spraying water onto chemically exposed firefighters in a deployable decontamination area. See story on page 4.



Commander's Column



By Lieutenant Colonel Mac Crawford
127th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander

This old base has seen a lot during its lifetime, but like the famous Timex slogan, Selfridge ANGB "takes a licking and keeps on ticking!". Since its establishment as Selfridge Field in 1917, our base has been the home to numerous missions, weapons systems, and people. Selfridge has served as the launching pad for countless weapons systems supporting peacetime and wartime missions at home and abroad .

It has dutifully hosted and protected its personnel, along the way becoming affectionately known as the "Home of the Generals." It has played a key role in the defeat of Nazi Germany, Imperialist Japan and Communist Russia, and remains a committed force in the War on Terrorism . As the years (and missions, weapons systems, and people ...) have passed, two constants have endured: Our base and its importance to our National Defense. Through it all, Selfridge ANGB has survived the wars (and the peace...) and remained Ready, Relevant, and Reliable.

The rich history of Selfridge ANGB has not been achieved without having weathered some "storms" along the way. In 2005 we endured change created by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission decision. For many of us, BRAC 2005 directly impacted our professional livelihood, where we lived, how we cared for our children while at work, how and where we maintained our physical fitness, and where we worshipped. Surely, as the BRAC decision was announced, there was reason to celebrate (for NOT having been scheduled for CLOSURE as

was the case with the US Army Garrison-Michigan...)...but, also, reason to lament at how are lives had just changed forever. There are lyrics from an old song with which I greatly identify which state, "changes aren't permanent, but CHANGE is".

As one who had always enjoyed and appreciated the rich benefits of our "Selfridge Community", it was especially hard for me to witness the impending loss of the "community" piece of our military base environment. However, in keeping with the traditions of our predecessors who successfully transitioned similar change dictated by national and world situations, we collectively set about our task of converting weapons systems and redeveloping our base.

Though we were prepared to move forward quickly and confidently, we did so with a certain underlying feeling that-just maybe-Selfridge's "best" days were behind, not ahead.

Ironically, from where I sit today, I believe when our difficult transition is complete, Selfridge ANGB will be BIGGER and BETTER than before! How could this be possible? Let me explain. (1) Despite the age of the KC-135s and A-10s we now fly, we will have transitioned to newer aircraft.

Moreover, these aircraft are firmly positioned "in the fight" of our national strategy, which gives our unit and our base increased significance. As a Wing, we are actively working to capitalize on this significance by aggressively pursuing "Active

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...From the Chief's Desk

By Chief Master Sgt. Michael Elwart
191st Maintenance Operations Flight Supervisor



Throughout my Air Force career, I had to experience many changes in the work force. Those changes varied from personnel, new computer programs, moving to different buildings, and dealing with new, updated aircraft. With all of these changes, I had to prepare for new challenges.

One of the best ways to cope with these challenges is to have a positive attitude. This attitude has to be with you everyday from the time you awake until the time you lay your head down for the night. There will be days when things just don't go right for you and you start thinking, "Why does this happen to me?" I believe everything happens for a reason in life and at the time when obstacles arise you may not have an answer right away. You may not know the reason for years to come.

One of my challenges is dealing with difficult personnel: both professional and personal. If you have a problem that is presented to you or if you have an unruly person at your desk, stay calm. There is no need to throw up a roadblock and start arguing back. Listen to what they have to say. Be considerate and put yourself in their shoes. They may have a legitimate complaint that you may or may not be able to help with. There exists varying degrees

of personalities.

You may have no trouble at all dealing with a person whom no one can stand. It may be more difficult dealing with people who whine and are negative all the time, or you may find dealing with aggressive people to be the most challenging. Passive people may frustrate you, or you may have a low tolerance for braggarts and blow heads. Likewise, you probably frustrate several people yourself, because everyone is somebody's difficult person at least some of the time. To be effective with people you cannot tolerate, it is essential to gain control over your attitude towards the problem people in your life and accept them as they are.

Nevertheless, how do you find the courage to stand your ground? The answer is found in the mechanism that produced your attitude towards the problem person in the first place. Consider for a moment how quickly and automatically you react when a difficult person you cannot tolerate begins again. Some of you may consider what I am about to write will make you weak, but I have found a little sugar goes a long way.

Be nice from the beginning and treat others the way you would want to be treated. If enough of us do this, I do believe we can change others' attitudes.



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

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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: prevailingwind@ang.af.mil
Deadline for September edition:
Monday, August 24

Families, volunteers essential to nation's defense, says Reserve Affairs chief

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

Family support is vital to the more than 700,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve who have been called to duty since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs said here July 27.

"The only way that we can sustain that kind of effort is by having strong families and strong relations with our nation's employers ... both of those groups have served magnificently so far," Dennis M. McCarthy told 1,200 attendees of the 2009 National Guard Family Program Volunteer Workshop here.

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of any successful family readiness program," he said. "We simply could not have successful programs without the work that our volunteers do."

A presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate on June 25, Mr. McCarthy is responsible for the overall supervision of the affairs of the 1.2 million-strong reserve component for the Department of Defense.

A former active-duty Marine and Vietnam veteran, he retired as a lieutenant general commanding the Marine Corps Reserve. One of his sons serves in the National Guard, another in the Marine Corps Reserve.

"These men and women have served in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom," Mr. McCarthy said of guardmembers and reservists deployed since 9/11. "They've served at bases and stations here in our country (and) on the northern and southern borders. They've served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. They've been enablers at Djibouti and the Horn of Africa, served aboard ships at sea, and as peacekeepers in Bosnia, in Kosovo and in the Sinai."

Some 948 Guardmembers and Reservists have died during that service, including 708 killed in action, Mr. McCarthy said.

"It's clear ... that our country is going to continue to be under attack," he said, "and it's going to need the Total Force effort that we

have seen over the last eight years to continue to defend our country."

Total Force refers to the combination of the active and reserve components, and "that level and that intensity of service is unquestionably going to continue," he said.

"In doing that, we're all going to stay on this rotational cycle that we have come to accept almost as 'the new normal' over the past eight years," Mr. McCarthy said. "Units are going to get ready, they're going to deploy, they're going to come home, they're going to rest and retrain and refit and get ready again and go again, and those who choose to make a career of the military service and the reserve components are going to be making these cyclic deployments."

For that reason, family programs must be tailored to meet the unique needs of the reserve components, which are different from the active-duty components, Mr. McCarthy said.

Reservists, for example, are dispersed throughout every community in America rather than concentrated on posts and bases. "We need to shape our programs to meet our situation," he said.



Selfridge shows preparedness for emergency

By Senior Airman Anna Wyant
127th Public Affairs

A group of airmen were told that a plane had caught fire on the flight line, killing or injuring at least 100 civilians and some military members. Instead of heroically running out the door to save the victims and extinguish the fire, the airmen remained calmly seated in the dining facility.

It was not that they were too afraid to battle the flames and risk their lives to save the innocent; the announcement was merely part of a tabletop exercise during which Selfridge ANGB personnel were given a hypothetical emergency situation and asked to discuss ways to handle the disaster. This drill was one of many in preparation for the August air show and overall base disaster preparedness.

Members of the 127th Wing spent hours discussing the problem and possible solutions from several different viewpoints including medical personnel, firefighters, bio environmental engineers, public affairs personnel, security forces, air show coordinators, and other essential personnel. Each section discussed their responsibilities and courses of action for each facet of the situation from notifying local media to caring for the wounded.

Following the tabletop discussion was a live exercise for which participants were given a scenario that they acted out as though it were a real emergency situation. An exercise call was made to the 127th Security Forces Squadron reporting that people were vomiting and staggering outside building 835, and it seemed suspicious. To assess the situation, security forces sent troops, who then called the Selfridge Fire Department. Once the firefighters arrived and determined that the people in the parking lot were likely contaminated by an unidentified chemical, they contacted emergency management and bio environmental engineering personnel.

Drills such as this ensure that both civilian and military responders are ready for various possible mishaps and disasters. 127th Wing Plans Officer and Exercise Evaluation Team Chief Capt. Jeremy Stoner oversaw the simulated disaster and made sure participants were following proper procedures.

"Doing these drills regularly will get us closer to performing these tasks flawlessly in the future," Stoner said.

In addition, this exercise allowed various units to work together, which the Wing Emergency Manager Scott Anderson said benefits everyone.

"Working with different agencies helps us develop better communication in case we have to do this for real," Anderson said. He added that similar exercises are done a few times a year, which helps validate training for emergency responders who might otherwise never be put in such a disaster situation and therefore would not know how to act accordingly.

After the victims were saved from the contaminated building, firefighters had to rinse themselves and the victims in a decontamination area, which firefighters set up in the parking lot outside the contaminated area.



photo by John S. Swanson, 127th Public Affairs

Dustin Brewster (left) of the Selfridge Fire Department checks fellow firefighter Manny Alam's uniform for exposed skin or air leaks to ensure he is secure to enter a chemically contaminated area. This exercise was simulated to prepare firefighters and other emergency response personnel in the event of a chemical spill. Even before entering an exercise, firefighters are expected to perform these uniform sufficiency checks to ensure they are ready for real-life emergency situations.

Of those involved in the exercise, some are Guardsmen, some are civilians, and some are both. Technical Sgt. Lyle Black has been with the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron as a firefighter for eight years, and he has also been working as a civilian fire

fighter at Selfridge for the past two years. Militarily, Black is the Assistant Chief Firefighter in his unit, which entails much administrative work; but while working as a civilian--as he was for the exercise--he has a chance to get away from the desk and head toward the action.

"I get to use my managerial skills in the Guard and my firefighting skills as a civilian," Black said. "I like to work hands-on and know what my troops are doing." He said that he enjoys doing exercises with other organizations on base because it better prepares him and others involved for a real situation.

Each organization did their part to ensure that the exercise went smoothly. Nobody, however, could get Mother Nature to cooperate, and the drill was cut short due to forecasted lightning storms. Luckily, the last step of the drill was to turn the situation over to the FBI or Air Force Office of Special Investigation.

Despite the exercise's early conclusion, Stoner said it was effective in determining the Selfridge's strengths and weaknesses in responding to a realistic chemical incident, and the teams dealt with the situation especially well.

"The results highlighted several areas where gaps in communication or uncertainty about specific actions could hinder a safe and efficient response, and those areas were quickly corrected and recorded for future improvement," Stoner said. "I think we made significant progress in being prepared for future emergencies."

127th Wing Airman Wins Levitow Award At Active Duty, Airman Leadership School

By Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Lynch

107th Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendent

Senior Airman Alison Archangeli, 127th Operations Group Weather Journeyman graduated with top honors from the Dover AFB Airman Leadership School as the first Airman in the Group to achieve this honor.

Coincidentally during the graduation ceremony the guest speaker talked about the Total Force and contributions of the Guard and Reserve forces. Airman Archangeli was the only Air National Guardsman attending ALS and the lone Air Guard troop of the class was presented the John L. Levitow Award.

The John L. Levitow Award is the highest honor awarded in enlisted Professional Military Education (PME) and is presented to the student who is the most outstanding in evaluations, leadership and teamwork.

The Dover AFB Command Chief mentioned it was the first time in memory that an Air Guard Airman has won the award at their school.

Commenting on her experience, Airman Archangeli stated, "Once I crawled out of my shell and got comfortable with everyone, I couldn't help but to stay after and spend extra time with my classmates studying and editing papers."



Senior Airman Alison Archangeli (center) poses with Senior Airman Kyle Marshall (left) a friend and SMSgt. Natalie Bigham (right) the 127th OSF Intelligence Superintendent. Airman Archangeli accepts her award during the Airman Leadership School graduation ceremony as the only Air National Guardsman in attendance at Dover Air Force base on June 18, 2009.

Commanders cont.

Association" components for both of these weapons systems. Concurrently, we are similarly pursuing an increase in our AFSOC Combat Weather weapons system component.

These "associations" will likely come with significant second- and third-order benefits that will not only strengthen our military standing, but support our goal of reestablishing our Selfridge "Community". (2) BRAC 2005 closed an approximately 350-person Army Garrison, and consolidated all 2500+ base acres under Air Force/Michigan Air National Guard control. At the same time, BRAC 2005 and subsequent US Army unit posting actions have grown the Detroit Arsenal mission in Warren, MI beyond its current (and maybe future) land/facility capacity.

As a result, over the last several months, our Wing has successfully beddown nearly 1000 US Army acquisition programs personnel in just about every remaining Selfridge facility vacated as a result of BRAC 2005. Again, there is a significant likelihood of second- and third-order benefits in support of our Selfridge "Community" goals to be derived from the beddown of these active duty components. (3) Our aggressive pursuit of an Air Force Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) contract has created an awareness and new-found consciousness in Washington, DC of the importance of our installation and the critical significance of its joint Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) operations.

Where we once failed in convincing our ANG Headquarters to support a basewide, "fenceline-to-fenceline" Selfridge Base Master Plan that included our tenant DoD and DHS partners, we now have a pledge of support and associated funding for early FY10. We have recently solidified the funding to demolish and

remove the vacant 900- and 700-Area units located along Jefferson Avenue that have so mangled the appearance of our installation for the last few years. Their impending removal will, we believe, usher in a new era of base development .

Additionally, we have recently solidified critical Congressional Add support and funding that will result in a new \$6.2 Million A-10 Squadron Operations facility. As we have progressed with furthering our installation initiatives within DoD, DHS has targeted Selfridge for several new mission beddowns and existing mission expansions. Since the BRAC 2005 decision, we have beddown a US Customs and Border Protection Great Lakes Air & Marine mission that operates several rotary and fixed-wing aircraft from our West side.

Impending DHS-planned expansions of the Great Lakes Air & Marine and Border Patrol missions, as well as a recently announced decision to establish a new DHS Intelligence Center at Selfridge will greatly expand the Homeland Security population of our base. Likewise, a recent US Department of State initiative to establish a 50,000sf VISA "face recognition" operation at Selfridge will expand our national importance. Suffice it to say, business is "booming" at Selfridge ANGB!

Despite the BRAC 2005 decision and a now suffering Southeastern Michigan economy, Selfridge ANGB continues to shine bright, proving once again her durability and timelessness. I implore each of you to remember the critical importance our Base has played in the history of our country, and approach with excitement the significant role it will continue to play as we meet the future challenges of defending our great State and Nation. Together with our joint service partners, Selfridge Air National Guard Base stands Ready, Relevant and Reliable!

Selfridge Air Museum volunteers build WWI aircraft replica

By SrA Anna Wyant
127th Public Affairs

In 1919, Selfridge Field, Mich., became home to the 17th Pursuit Squadron SPAD XIII fighter airplanes. Nine decades later, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., is home to a brand new SPAD XIII. This plane, however, is not part of a fighter squadron, but rather the latest addition to the Selfridge Military Air Museum.

This plane has never been airborne; it is a precise replica, minus the engine, of the fighters based at Selfridge shortly after WWI. The plane is to scale, expertly crafted, and painted to exactly resemble the originals. This model of the French-created aircraft (SPAD stands for Societe Pour L'Aviation et ses Derives), was put together at Selfridge by the "SPAD Build Team," which originally consisted of six Selfridge Military Air Museum volunteers.

Roger Krings, Museum Assistant Director and SPAD Project Founder and Coordinator, who has volunteered at the museum for 15 years, came up with the idea to build the plane.

"I always wanted to build a full-size replica of an early fighter airplane," Krings said. On March 26, 2006, he began to make his dreams a reality, "one piece at a time."

Construction proved to be expensive, time consuming and challenging, but with the team's skills, persistence and determination, the SPAD began to take shape. Krings said the craftsmanship of his team is remarkable.

"Each piece made by hand with basic tools is at a level of detail that may be duplicated but never surpassed," Krings said.

The materials for the aircraft and the hangar that houses it were funded entirely by museum donations specifically for the



photo by Roger Krings, Selfridge Museum

The SPAD Build Team nears completion of the SPAD XIII replica at the Selfridge Military Air Museum at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. Volunteers installing the wing are George Joseph, Dick Rots, Ray Taylor, Vince Giacobbe and Roger Krings. The aircraft was completed on April 4, 2009 after more than three years of construction.

project, and the team's work hours were all volunteered. Three years and eight days later, the replica was completed by the SPAD Build Team, which expanded to 17 members, all retirees, putting in over 23,000 total hours to include workshops, plane and hangar construction, and other pertinent work. Krings said he is proud of the finished product.

"The detail achieved is second to none," Krings said. "This group of artisans ranges from 61 to 92 years of age who still do things the old fashioned way: quality workmanship with quality materials and pride in their efforts. It doesn't get much better than that."

Chaplain Services

Worshipping Services Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. - Catholic
- 10:45 a.m. - Protestant
- 1:30 p.m. - Spanish Gospel

Mondays

- 6:30 p.m. - Bible Student at Chapel

Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Protestant

Personalized Services

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

Chaplains

- Lt. Col. Theodore Whitely
- Lt. Col. Alfred Nicholson
- Maj. Douglas DeWitt
- Maj. Steven Woodford

Chaplain Aids

- MSgt John Contrucci
- TSgt Kevin King
- TSgt Patrick Shaltry
- Angela Mitchel

Organizations at Chapel

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

Contact MSgt. John Contrucci

Promotions

Senior Airman

Burke M. Hyde IV, 127 LRS
Garrett M. Fisher, 127 SFS
Roderick L. McLean, 127 SFS
Nicholas N. Putinsky, 127 AMX

Staff Sergeant

Stanton L. Amos, 127 LRS
Adam J. Azzopardi, 127 OSF
James N. Judd, 127 MXS
Holly M. Lecluyse, 107 FS
Robert A. Velasco Jr, 127 SFS

Technical Sergeant

Robin W. Cleaver, 127 OSF
Derek M. Elsey, 127 SFS
Alan D. Little, 127 CES
Roder J. Ryder, 127 SFS

Master Sergeant

Nick Bahleda, 127 SFS

Retirements

Joel C. Edmondson



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 NLT 1200, 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.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

An opportunity approaches to show appreciation for all employers which have shown support while military members fulfill obligations. On Friday, Aug. 21, there will be an employee appreciation day to provide all employers of military members the opportunity to see the Air Show practice before the official opening day to the public. To invite employers out register with your ESGR Rep, Mal Forsys at: Foryssf@att.net

The Airshow Launch Party

The Airshow will once start with an open house of festivities. There will be a live concert featuring the Romantics with Mitch Ryder following at Hangar 36 starting at 7:30 p.m., Friday 21. Tickets: \$10 for the concert and fireworks. Parking is Free!

127th Pass and ID Mandated Closure Dates

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Friday | Aug 7 |
| Friday | Aug 21 |
| Friday | Sep 5 - 7 |

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 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 their 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.



2009
Selfridge Airshow
AUG 22-23

featuring the

USAF Thunderbirds

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

Gates Open at 8 a.m.

Admission Free

Parking Free

SelfridgeAirShow.org



Hangar Party and Open Air Concert - Friday, Aug. 21

Military Acts - Civilian Performers - Warbirds

USAF Thunderbirds - AF Academy Wings of Blue - F-18 Super Hornet Demo Team
Gene Soucy, Wing Walker - F-104 Starfighters - De Havilland and Skywriter
Coast Guard Dolphin Helicopter - Blackhawk Helicopter - and Many More!

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