Prevailing Wind

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2010: Year In Review

Photos by: MSgt. Terry Atwell, MSgt. Clarence Pence, TSgt. David Kujawa, TSgt. Dan Heaton, and Mr. John Swanson, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Commander's Column

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

Men and Women of the 127th Wing,

As I write my last Prevailing Wind article, it is a bittersweet time as I look back at all of the great memories over the last 3 years that I have been stationed at Selfridge ANGB. For those that haven't heard, I was recently selected as the 122nd Fighter Wing Commander in Fort Wayne Indiana. This is an amazing opportunity for me but also a sad time since I'll be uprooting my family from a base and community I've come to love. I will miss each and every one of you but at the same time, I'm looking forward to the upward mobility this position offers me. You are consummate professionals that live excellence, integrity and service deep within you and I feel it was an honor to work alongside of you as your Vice Commander.

No matter if you are a traditional member, full-time Technician/AGR or Title 5 employee, you are a Team of professionals that have come together to take on two highly complex conversions with not a skip in your step. And oh by the way, during these complex conversions you've taken on over eight high visibility inspections where you've achieved excellence! This is no small feat – I hope you reflect back on the past few years and pat yourself on the back for a job exceedingly well done. You deserve it!

As we now shift gears toward the rest of the Holiday Season, I wish you a blessed time with your family and friends. And please take time with them! There are a few things you can never gain back in life, one being time. If you have wanted to call a long lost brother, engage with an old friend or just speak to a parent that seems to have become distant, please consider this holiday season as the time to reconnect.

As we enjoy our great 127th Wing Team this holiday season, let's not forget those that are impacted by economic or personal challenges. Christmas is a great time to reflect on the greatness of our society as a whole while caring for those in need. As always, I offer my personal support of anyone that needs a caring hand over the holidays – don't hesitate to call the Command Post at x6528 to reach me 24/7. As always stay safe, don't drink and drive and take care of one another as you attend the many social gatherings.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

...From the Chief's Desk

By Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Swanson
127th Logistics Readiness Squadron Superintendent

It seems that the new Air Force motto has taken a couple of old mottos and merged them. Well, maybe there's a reason for that. Let's take a look at it.

AIM HIGH – What does that mean to you? To me, it means to shoot for something you think is out of your reach. In other words, a lofty goal.

FLY, FIGHT, WIN – This seems self-explanatory. It's what we as Airmen do, what we strive for. We FLY by doing our jobs, no matter what that job is. Whether we actually fly the planes, fix them, fuel them, feed the crews, keep the communication systems working, guard them , or we do any of the countless "little" things, we are accomplishing something important required to maintain an Air Force such as ours. We FIGHT by doing these jobs to the best of our abilities. As we are working at our jobs, we also FIGHT with ourselves to ensure we do our jobs well enough to gain respect. And after we FLY by doing our jobs, and FIGHT by doing them to the best of our abilities, we WIN by earning respect and building pride in what we have accomplished, especially as a team.

> ..."we win by earning respect and pride in what we have accomplished"...
>
> - Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Swanson

Recently, I had the privilege of viewing the accomplishments of someone I think reflects this new Air Force motto. I attended a celebration in my hometown of Port Huron, at which the 2010 Veteran of the Year for Saint Clair County was honored. The man being honored was my father, and as I read his list of accomplishments, I was moved by all the seemingly "little" things he does. He is the Sergeant at Arms for the local American Legion post. He delivers flags to funeral homes when a post member passes away. He is a member and past president of one of the local Lions Clubs. He has been an on-call transporter for eye-tissue needing to be taken to Ann Arbor, working as a volunteer for the Michigan Eye Bank, who could be called any time of the day or night. He works extensively with local eye professionals to ensure that children of needy families are able to get eyeglasses. He has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for over 50 years. And the list goes on and on.

To say I am proud of my dad would be an understatement. He has demonstrated throughout his life what the Air Force is saying in their new motto. He has taken on many "little" tasks (FLY), he has done them to the best of his ability (FIGHT), and he has earned respect over the course of his life (WIN). By doing this, he has achieved a lofty goal (AIM HIGH), changing the lives of other people regularly. Thanks, Dad.

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:
127.WG.Prevailingwind@ang.af.mil

Deadline for January edition:
Tuesday, December 17

Air Guard Enlisted Force Contributes to Overseas, Domestic Missions

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

The training and experience level of the Air National Guard's enlisted force has expanded over the past decade, and as a result it has made considerable contributions to both the overseas and domestic missions, the Air Guard's top enlisted leader said today.

"In the E-1 to E-4 category, first-term Airmen, their main priority is to maintain the highest level of personal readiness to meet mission requirements," Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy told attendees at the 2010 Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference. "Your E-5s and E-6s epitomize that, and if you're a senior NCO, you're the poster child for it. You lead by example."

Much of that training and experience, especially for junior Airmen, has come from changes made to the formal military education system, said Muncy. It starts with Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, which is an eight-week course that is now is much more tactically and operationally focused.

"If you've got an (operational readiness inspection) or an (operational readiness exercise) coming up right now and you need perimeter security or someone in your tactical operations center, you grab the youngest Airmen that just got back from Basic Military Training," said Muncy. "They know it. They've drilled it. They've run it, and they've got it."

In addition to learning tactical operation techniques, basic training is where Airmen are introduced to the "Wingman" concept, which is designed to foster support and build resiliency among Airmen.

Muncy cautioned leaders not to let those skills fade once Airmen come back from training.

"They are fit to fight," he said. "Don't let them lose that when they come home."

Part of sustaining that sense of purpose can be accomplished simply by understanding and following the "Enlisted Force Structure Handbook," known affectionately as the "Little Brown Book."

"(It's) the foundation to your enlisted force," said Muncy. "It is foundational not just to those of you with stripes, but to the officers appointed over (you). Know this book. It's pretty thin, pretty easy to read. It will fit in an ABU pocket. It will fit in a flight suit pocket and it will fit in a blues pocket. Highlight it. Color in it. Learn your Airmen and work with them (using this book)."

Muncy said follow-on training and education is equally as important for Airmen.

"We have got to prepare the right team and give them the right tools to keep doing the mission," he said. "We've discussed the requirements that the United States Air Force has had forever of at least an associate's degree for E-8s and E-9s. We've pushed it off a long time and it's time to talk about it."

The key to ensuring that Airmen are prepared for the fitness test comes down to sound leadership, especially at the non-commissioned officer level.

"Leadership will drive and help this fitness machine work," said Muncy. "Not a change to the (fitness) program, but leadership and talking with your Airmen."

Muncy said the promotion system, as well as requirements for enlisted performance evaluations, is currently being reviewed to better streamline the requirements, process and the system.

As that system is reviewed, leaders should continue to focus on mentoring junior Airmen and building resiliency among them, especially non-aircrew personnel.

Muncy said the vast majority of deployers are not air crew, but engineering and combat support Airmen.

"They are also the primary Airmen that your adjutants general call on during emergencies," he said. "These are absolutely amazing individuals."

127th Comptroller Flight Stands Up

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

The Michigan Air National Guard formally stood up its newest component on 6 Nov, with the activation of the 127th Comptroller Flight at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

> **"the success of the wing's comptroller flight is a reflection of the loyalty, dedication and skill of the flight's staff."**
>
> - Lt. Col. Constantine Leon

The flight, which previously had been functioning as a component of the 127th Wing's headquarters unit, is charged with "Financing the Fight" for the wing.

During a formal ceremony, Lt. Col. Constantine Leon assumed command of the flight, lifting high the flight's new flag. Leon has served as the wing's comptroller for the past 11 years and will continue in that capacity as the commander of the new comptroller flight, which, with 16 military members and 14 civilian employees, is the largest such organization in the Air National Guard. When Leon first became comptroller for the Wing, the local budget was approximately $60 million. The comptroller flight will oversee a budget worth approximately $115 million.

Leon began his military career as an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army, before joining the Michigan Air National Guard as an enlisted member in what is now the comptroller flight. For the past 10 years, he has been a member of the ANG Comptroller Advisory Board and served as the chairman of that board for five years. He has also been an instructor for the ANG Comptroller Course.

"Lt. Col. Leon is generally recognized across the Air National Guard as the best in the business," said Brig. Gen. Michael Peplinski, 127th Wing commander.

Leon said the success of the wing's comptroller flight is a reflection of the loyalty, dedication, and skill of the flight's staff.

"It is a wonderful feeling to belong to an organization that values those characteristics," he said.

Leon challenged the flight to "create new standards, higher accomplishments" which will benefit the entire wing.

"No matter where the 127th Wing deploys, the 127th Comptroller Flight will be financing the fight," he said.

Photo by TSgt.. David Kujawa, 127th Public Affairs

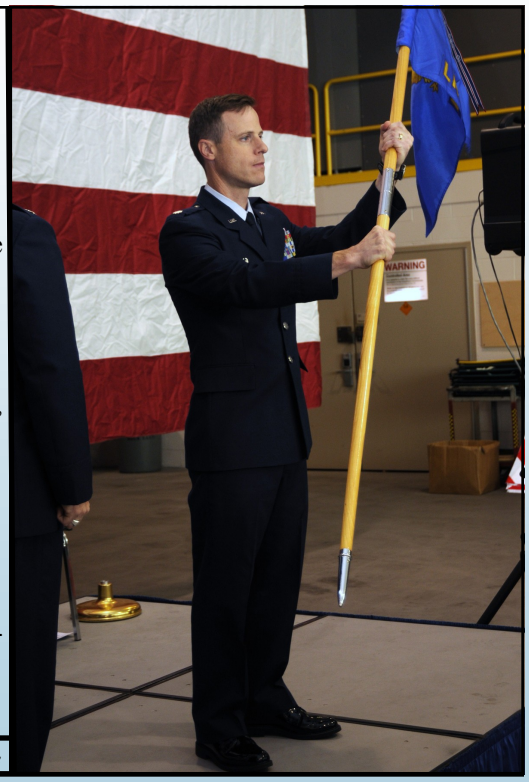
Lt. Col. Constantine Leon assumes command of the newly-created 127th Comptroller Flight during a Nov. 6, 2010, ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. The new unit is responsible for "Financing the Fight" and is the largest such unit in the Air National Guard with 30 personnel assigned.

127th LRS Assumption of Command

Lt. Col. Brian Botkin presents the squadron flag to the Airmen of the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron upon assuming command of the squadron during a ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., Nov. 7, 2010. Botkin joins the 127th, a part of the Michigan Air National Guard, after six years of service at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Mich.

"Selfridge Field has shown the way," Botkin said, calling the base by one of its earliest names as he recounted some of the proud history of both the base and the LRS unit. "This base has historically set a very high standard for training our Airmen. I promise to be loyal to that proud Selfridge heritage."

Photos by TSgt.. David Kujawa, 127th Public Affairs



Selfridge Airmen Learn Self-Aid Basics

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

"You may be the difference between if a person survives or not," Technical Sgt. Mike Kerr told about a dozen Airmen during a hands-on training session at the 127th Medical Group facility during the November Unit Training Assembly at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"There may be a time or a situation where there is no medic and what you do determines if your Wingman lives or dies," he said.

Self-Aid and Buddy Care is a required, two-part training program for all Air Force Airmen, from basic enlistees to wing commanders and beyond.

"It is just the basics, but it is the basics that can make all the difference," said Maj. Steve Corl, a nurse in the medical group. "We are teaching people the basics to allow them to be responsible for their buddy."

During the course, Airmen take either an on-line course or attend a live lecture at the medical group. Taken as a lecture, the course lasts about an hour and reviews the care skills taught in Basic Military Training and listed in the Airman's Manual. The lecture is then followed up with a hands-on course that lasts about an hour and provides information on controlling bleeding, carrying a person on a stretcher, immobilizing injured limbs and similar skills.

The Self-Aid Buddy Care training is required for all Airmen at least once every two years and no more than six months prior to any deployment. A longer course is also taught to those deploying to certain locations.

"The skills you learn in the class apply not only in a military setting, but can come in handy in any emergency situation," Corl said.

Photo by TSgt. Dan Heaton, 127th Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Greg Atkins, Staff Sgt. Sharen Coleman, Technical Sgt. Mike Kerr and Master Sgt. David Fickies work to place a mannequin on a stretcher during Self-Aid Buddy Care training at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 6, 2010. Kerr was instructing the other Airman in the proper way to move an injured person to a stretcher for transportation.

Facebook offers virtual face time with Air Guard director

By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt joined the small but growing ranks of Defense Department leaders on Facebook today.

The director of the Air National Guard took a virtual seat alongside other senior defense leaders, such as Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Army Gen. Ray Odierno, commanding general of Joint Forces Command, with a Facebook page that went live today.

"With a half-billion active users worldwide, Facebook is an important forum to tell the Air National Guard story and connect with our customers," Wyatt said.

On Facebook, Wyatt can be found listed as Air National Guard Director. Those who fan the page will receive news about Air National Guard activities in the 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia.

A visit to the director's page finds still images, video and links to reports from individual Air National Guard states. The page follows Defense Department guidelines.

The department has embraced social media, and listings for hundreds of Defense Department-related sites on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube can be found at http://www.defense.gov/RegisteredSites/SocialMediaSites.aspx.

Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, the command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, are among National Guard leaders found on Twitter (check out @ChiefNGB and @ChiefMuncy.

"For more than 63 years, the Air National Guard has operated in all the realms of physical space - on the ground, in the air and in outer space," Wyatt said. "We also operate in all the dimensions of cyberspace.

"Our contributions to cyber security are among our most important missions there, but we also need to participate as members of the online community just as the National Guard does in 3,700 communities around the nation."

The Carpooling Program And You

By Tech. Sgt. Deb Fedon
127th Civil Engineer Squadron

Have you ever wanted to save money on your way to work? Do you live 30 or more miles away from Selfridge? If so, have you ever considered commuting to work? Consider it now. There are several benefits of riding in a vanpool and one great thing is that we ride in the vanpool when our schedule allows. It is always ok to drive a personal vehicle to work.

Relax on your way to work in a comfortable vanpool as you ride to work in a vehicle that is designated for a group of members to share to save on gas, and prevent additional wear and tear of personal vehicles.

Many vanpool members take turns driving so you will more likely be in "relax mode" on the ride to work; unless you really love driving, then you can offer to drive every day. In my vanpool we had someone who really enjoyed driving and that was great for everyone else in the van who wanted to catch a nap or listen to MP3's.

All vanpool riders save the environment and save money every time they ride! Riding together saves money because the mileage is not on your car. It can also reduce car insurance costs. Your monthly payment may drop when you tell them "I commute to work."

Have I convinced you to consider joining a vanpool yet? Another benefit is that all fuel, cleaning and maintenance costs can be paid for by a contracting organization. There are currently 17 vanpools at Selfridge, to include TACOM, contractors and state employees, which is around 110 employees that commute to work. One vehicle driven has over 50,000 miles on it and has been a vanpool vehicle since October 2008.

The current environmental analysis of vanpooling from one of the companies that runs a program at Selfridge states that, "Each vanpool removes as many as 14 vehicles off of the road each day, even a modest program significantly reduces fuel consumption, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions." A person in a seven person vanpool can save up to $2,455 per year in fuel costs alone. How cool is that?

That figure does not include the reduced cost of your vehicle insurance and the reduced costs of maintenance and repair to your private vehicle. Yes, all of this is free! The vanpool has over 50,000 miles on it and my car does not.

One last thing, I have nothing but happiness every time I ride in the vanpool, save $10 a day for fuel, and have not put on a weekly average of 400 miles on my car.

For more information on the vanpool program at Selfridge, please call 1-800-Van-Ride, (826-7433)

Promotions

Senior Airman
Matthew Mina Hanna, 127 OG
Douglas Hermansen, 127 LRS
Josef A. Mack, 127 AMX
Benjamin Passavant, 127 WG
Matthew T. Sellers, 127 FSS

Staff Sergeant
Todd L. Claerhout, 127 SFS
Jennifer L. Ison, 127 FSS
Anthony D. Reynolds, 191 MXS
Justin L. Sawgle, 127 LRS

Technical Sergeant
Stephen J. Bitterle Jr., 127 SFS
Milton J. Rogers, 127 FSS

Master Sergeant
Timothy A Beaver, 127 MXS,

Senior Master Sergeant
Robert L. Zbytowski, 127 MDG

Chief Master Sgt.
Matthew W. Magiera, 127 CES

Newcomers

Meghan Dombrowski
Tevin Duhart
Alecia Harris
Madill Lennon
Daniel McKnight
Ian McLaughlin
Jeremy Nichols
Pat Hallett
Shane Shaltry
Brittany Simon
Jeremy Wierzbowski
Stephanie Wolak

Briefly ...

Want to Do More?

On www.Serve.gov, you can find opportunities to support and engage servicemembers and their families. From organizing a care package event to
volunteering at a camp for military children, there are a number of key ways to get involved. Everyday our brave men and women in uniform make a selfless commitment to our nation. Now, it's our turn to take some time to serve those that have served us. Get started on www.serve.govmilitaryfamilies.asp

Employment Partnership Program

Get hired through the employer partnership program. The employer partnership office caters to all branches of the armed forces. You are invited to search through the employment search engine at: www.jobcentral.org/vetcentral/army-reserve-employer-program

So take a look and look for numerous great opportunities that may be out there for you.

Exceptional Family Member

If you have family members within your unit that would qualify as "Exceptional" as explained in more detail in the attachment link below, please contact Deborah Schroeder at 586-239-5583 or email Deborah.schroeder@ang.af.mil. Your information will help us get more help in the area for the member.
Exceptional family member link: https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/DocView/asp?DocID=967616

Exceptional Family Member Description

1. Potentially life-threatening conditions
2. Current and chronic mental health condition for six months or longer
3. A diagnosis of attention deficit disorder
4. Required adaptive equipment such as wheelchair, hearing aids, and apnea home monitor

Customer Service Hours
127th Wing Public Affairs

Customer Service *Mon - Fri & UTAs*
0900-1100, 1300-1600
❖❖❖❖
Passport Hours *Tues - Thurs & UTAs*
(No Appointment Neccessary, Call x5415 Before Coming Over)
0900-1100, 1300-1500
❖❖❖❖
Studio Hours *Tues-Thurs & UTAs*
(By Appointment Only, Call x5415)
0900-1100, 1300-1500
❖❖❖❖
Unit Training Assemblies
All UTA Projects and Appointments must be scheduled by the Wednesday prior to UTA

Public Affairs Personnel are commonly called out of the office; always call ahead to ensure someone will be available to assist you

Information about our Program

There are many community groups and individuals who wish to help our military families during the holiday season.

As part of our Christmas Adopt a Family, we will try to match your family with a sponsor who will do their best to shop for you. At the very least we will try to get some donated gift cards.

If you are requesting to be sponsored, you are agreeing that you need a little extra help for this year or you are a family currently going through deployment. You are also agreeing that you are NOT receiving help from another source.

These donations are not meant for all military families, they are set aside for those that could use the extra help.

Fax your form to 586-239-5786 or scan and email to Deborah.schroeder@ang.af.mil

Selfridge Family Programs

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Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045
O: 586-239-5583
C: 586-925-2919
Email: Deborah.schroeder@ang.af.mil

Adopt—A—Family Christmas

Information & Registration Form