

Prevailing Wind

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2010 "Airman of the Year"



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

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski, 127th Wing commander, announced the recipients of the 2010 Outstanding Airmen of the Year at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Dec. 5., Left to right: Senior Master Sgt. Ben Noble, 127th Maintenance Group, First Sergeant of the Year; Lt. Col. Constantine Leon, 127th Air Comptroller Flight, Commander's Trophy; Capt. Bryan Amara, 127th Wing Headquarters, Company Grade Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Cory McClusky, 127th Medical Group, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Technical Sgt. Matthew Alexander, 127th Mission Support Group, Non-commissioned Officer of the Year; Senior Airman Keith Perkins, 127th Mission Support Group, Airman of the Year. Shortly after the Airman of the Year recipients were presented, Brig. Gen. Peplinski announced the new 127th Vice Wing commander and the new 127th Command Chief. See page 4 for the story.



Commander's Column



By Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski
127th Wing Commander

Welcome to 2011 and some new realities. Before I talk about where we're going, let me say a few words about where we've been.

Our BRAC conversions are tracking well, but not without some difficult challenges. In particular, the past two years have been quite stressful on our wing. The dual conversions occurring simultaneously with preparations to assume the nuclear support mission and take our first Nuclear ORI, caused us to ask portions of the wing to accept a lower priority for resources and support. This wing performed admirably in the recent Strategic Command/Air Mobility Command Operational Readiness Inspections. It was truly a team effort. The IG noted the "exceptional commitment and dedication" of the wing in the first pages of the NORI/ORI reports.

Where are we going? With the AMC inspections complete,

the Wing's focus now transitions back down the ramp to the ACC conversions with the A-10 mission. While the supporting groups continue at a high tempo to support the A-10 conversion, AEF and other deployments continue across the Wing. The challenges ahead will be budget and resource management with austerity government policies looming on the horizon. We need to smartly execute our current man-day and MILPERS dollars and be mindful of things as simple as energy use.

These kinds of considerations in your everyday mission execution make our Wing successful no matter how many major commands we answer to or how many inspections we are staring down the barrel at. I have confidence in the 127th Wing Airmen to get the job done effectively and efficiently.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. That was the marching order from the commander's call! The New Year is upon us and with it, a renewed energy and attitude to tackle the challenges ahead. Best wishes to you all this year...We Stand Ready.



...From the Chief's Desk



By Chief Master Sgt. Richard C. Burl
171st ARS Boom Operator Supervisor

I would like to pass along my congratulations and thanks to the 127th Air Refueling Group for the great performance displayed during the NORI and ORI inspections. The 127th ARG could not have completed this demanding task without the outstanding support of the rest of the Selfridge family. Every Airman was focused on one universal goal. But what was the goal? To find the answer to that question you need to look no further than the 127WG Mission Statement.

The 127WG Mission Statement

"TO PROVIDE TRAINED, EQUIPPED AND MOTIVATED AIR REFUELING, FIGHTER AND SUPPORT RESOURCES SERVING THE COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATION."

The four major focus areas:

- * Readiness – Ensuring we can meet mission requirements
- * People – Our most valuable asset in accomplishing our various missions
- * Community – Our clients/customers, those whom we serve Installation /
- * Installation and Infrastructure – The Buildings, technologies and vehicles we leverage to do our jobs

A mission statement helps us focus our attention and resources towards a common goal and provides us with a sense of direction. By examining the 127WG Mission Statement's four

major areas of focus we can see how our individual efforts contribute to the greater good and shared common goal.

Readiness provides the foundation of our capabilities. Trying to manage a military career, civilian career and a family is very challenging. With all the demands placed on our members we need to capitalize on our limited opportunities to train, mentor, and educate our fellow airman. Taking advantage of all the opportunities available will ensure a well trained fighting force developed in minimum time. Airmen have a mutual responsibility to fellow airman to share experiences through mentorship. Do your part and help develop an Airman and invest in America.

People are the backbone of the operation. Maintaining a positive workplace culture is often times the key to ensuring continued mission success. Many times the hardest workers go unnoticed. Please take the time to recognize the contributions of each member. A simple "Thank you" will go a long way. You would be surprised what a motivated airman can do.

Community is often thought of as a local concern but every time a plane takes off it is defending democracy. Take time to share your story within the community. Remember each and every one of us represents all of us. Ensure you wear your uniform with pride and distinction. America is our customer and she is proud of what you do.

Continued on page 6.



The Official
Newspaper
of the 127th
Wing

A proud military organization characterized by excellence and integrity in the fulfillment of our duties to our nation, community and to one another.

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Vice Commander

Col. David Augustine

Command Chief Master Sergeant

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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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Tuesday, January 25

Directors: Air Guard, Army Guard are cost-effective forces

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

We are trained to the same standards of the active duty Air Force, we are available and on call 365 days a year, and it doesn't cost the taxpayer a thing until the governor picks up the phone, said Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, director of the Air National Guard.

"I think that's a great value."

Wyatt said 70 percent of the Air Guard is made up of drill-status Guardsmen, "not employed by the federal government, which means that the Air Guard is a cost-effective force, and a value to America as we go through these tough economic times."

Like Wyatt, Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, also said the Army Guard is a cost-effective value for the United States, "but the national leadership has got to figure out how much belongs in the Army Guard and how much in the active component."

Speaking with a panel of industry leaders at the Reserve Officer Association here on Dec. 8, both directors agreed that personnel are the key to the value of both components.

"With about 106,700 Airmen in the Air Guard, we form about 20 percent of the total uniformed personnel of the U.S. Air Force," Wyatt said. "And what this all means is that any cuts in the Air Guard force structure would severely limit the capabilities of the Air Force."

"If we didn't have the people - and the right people - that we do today in the Army National Guard, then the rest of what we do today would not matter," Carpenter said.

"End-strength, and the recruiting and retention of our Soldiers have been to key where we're at now and will be for where we're going."

It's not just our personnel that make us cost effective, it's also our partnerships that we have with civilian airports, Wyatt said.

"We have about 75 percent of our wings co-located with municipal or city airports, which allows us access to about \$12 billion in

infrastructure for about \$4 million a year," he said.

"For as little as the Air Guard is represented in the Air Force budget, we provide about 35 percent of the Air Force's combat capabilities. So as far as cost effectiveness goes, the Air Guard is a great investment."

As the Air Guard moves forward, it will be able to meet the challenges of the future, but recapitalizing the fleet will continue to allow the Air Guard to be a capable force, Wyatt said.

"The older these aircraft get, the more costly they will become to maintain. Another thing to consider is that with the change in the threats we face today, even maintaining these aircraft will not keep them as combat-ready," he said.

"It should come as no surprise that the Air Guard faces the same challenges as the active duty Air Force when it comes to modernizing our fleet, as [most] of our stuff is old and out of date."

Carpenter agrees that business and civilian partnerships have also helped the Army Guard achieve the successes that it has today.

"In the last five years, our equipment-on-hand percentages have risen from about 34 percent to about 89 percent," Carpenter said. "That is a tremendous [achievement] not only for us, but also for our business partners."

"However, as we continue to meet mission requirements at home and abroad, we need to ensure that we are putting our resources in the right places and to be provided services at the right cost and value that makes sense for us."

"If we can achieve this, then we can continue to be a cost effective National Guard."

Two Leaders Chosen

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

Two familiar faces were named to new leadership roles in the 127th Wing during the annual Wing Commander's Call during the December Unit Training Assembly at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski, wing commander, announced Col. Michael Thomas will serve as the wing's vice commander and Chief Master Sgt. Bob Dobson will serve as the wing's new command chief.

Thomas, who has served in both the enlisted and officer corps in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard at Selfridge, has been serving as the



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



*** Chief Master Sgt. Bob Dobson ***
New 127th Wing Command Chief

*** Colonel Michael Thomas *** **New 127th Wing Vice Commander**

commander of the 127th Air Refueling Group, which recently was lauded for successfully completing its first nuclear operational readiness inspection. Thomas replaces Col. David Augustine in the position. Augustine, who had served as the vice wing commander for three years, was recently named the commander of the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Ind. December was the final drill weekend with the 127th for Augustine. During the commander's call, he was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for his serving at Selfridge.

Dobson will fill the vacancy as command chief left by the pending retirement of Command Chief Master Sgt. Keith Edwards, who recently announced his plans to retire in early 2011. Edwards will continue to drill with the 127th during a transition period. After serving four years on active duty and nine years in the New York Air National Guard, Dobson transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard at Selfridge in 1996. Since 2006, he has served in leadership roles at state headquarters and with the 110th Airlift Wing in Battle Creek.

Team Efforts Keeps Stratotankers Flying

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton

127th Public Affairs

Bucket? Check. Socket wrench? Check. Protective gear, a tech order and a flashlight? Check, check and check.

Armed with a variety of tools, instructions and special equipment, the Airmen of the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron perform a wide variety of inspections, tests and preventative maintenance activities to ensure that the 127th Air Refueling Group's fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers are ready to fly. Maintainers have a number of inspections and checks they perform on the KC-135s to ensure that the massive refuelers are ready to go, said Staff Sgt. Timothy Near, a crew chief.

Working both in hangars and on the flightline at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., where the units and their aircraft are based, 191st AMXS personnel have a lengthy laundry list of inspections and maintenance checks they perform on the Stratotankers at regular intervals, with a number of checks happening after every 60 hours of flying time and additional checks coming at the 120 hour mark. Other tasks are performed on different intervals as well.

At the 60-hour mark, for example, engine mechanics check what's known as the "bag plugs" on the engine to look for any potential problems. At the 120-hour mark, the engine's fuel filter is removed, to look for any contamination in the fuel system.

"Doing this kind of work just comes natural to me," said Technical Sgt. Nick Massa. Between active duty and service in the Air National Guard. Massa has about 15 years of service as a military jet engine mechanic. In his civilian job, he works as a

mechanic at Detroit Metropolitan Airport for a major package delivery service.

"I work on some of the exact same engines in my civilian job as I do at Selfridge," Massa said. "I've thought about doing other things in the Guard, but I just love working with the aircraft."

During a routine HPO - hourly post-flight inspection - at



Photo by TSgt. Dan Heaton, 127h Wing Public Affairs

Technical Sgt. Richard Fisher reviews an Air Force technical order prior to performing routine maintenance on the engine of a KC-135 Stratotanker at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., Dec. 4, 2010. Maintenance personnel at Selfridge perform a series of regular inspections and preventative maintenance actions to ensure the KC-135s are mission ready.

Selfridge during his unit's December drill weekend, Massa was being assisted by Senior Airman Jeff Hash. Hash has served in the ANG for four years and works on turbines at a power plant as a civilian. Guard units often benefit from having members who bring high levels of outside expertise to their military assignment.

During the December weekend, Near, who works full-time at Selfridge as an aircraft mechanic, said a number of the traditional Guardsman in the 191st were getting training on working on the aircraft.

"We want to make sure they get a chance to stay current, working alongside the full-time people," he said.

While Massa, Hash and other Airmen were working on engine maintenance - ignoring a brisk cold weather bite in Michigan air - Technical Sgt. Tom Brott and Staff Sgt. Gabe Lopez, both members of the electrical shop, were working on changing the oil in the KC-135's Air Cycle Machine, or ACM. Eventually, Airmen from the hydraulics shop and other departments will spend time working on the aircraft to ensure that it is ready to continue flying.

"It is a total team effort to keep our jets flying," Near said.

President Signs 'Don't Ask' Repeal Act Into Law

By Karen Parrish
Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

President Barack Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law here Dec. 22.

"We are not a nation that says, 'Don't ask, don't tell,'" the president said at the signing ceremony. "We are a nation that says, 'Out of many, we are one.'

"We are a nation that welcomes the service of every patriot," he added. "We are a nation that believes all men and women are created equal. Those are the ideals that generations have fought for. Those are the ideals that we uphold today, and now it is my honor to sign this bill into law."

The act repeals Section 654, Title 10, of the United States Code, which barred people who are openly gay, lesbian or bisexual from serving in the U.S. military. Today's signing, as the president pointed out, begins a process that will culminate in full repeal over the coming months.

The old policy remains in effect until Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, and the president certify the military's readiness to implement the repeal, the commander in chief said. "It's especially important for service members to remember that," he added.

The president said he has spoken to all of the service chiefs, and all are committed to implementing the change swiftly.

"We are not going to be dragging our feet to get this done," Obama said. "As commander in chief, I am certain that we can effect this transition in a way that only strengthens our military readiness. People will look back on this moment and wonder [why it was] ever a source of controversy in the first place."

Mullen and Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn attended the signing. Several former service members discharged under the old policy also were present. Obama commended their efforts and others' in bringing about the change.

"I also want to commend our military leadership," he said. "Ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell was a topic in my first meeting with Secretary Gates, Adm. Mullen and the Joint Chiefs. We talked about how to end this policy; we talked about how success in both passing and implementing this change depended on working closely with the Pentagon. And that's what we did."

Obama praised his defense and national security leaders for their oversight of the change. "The courage and the vision of Secretary Gates, of Adm. Mike Mullen, who spoke from the heart and said what he believed was right, of Gen. James Cartwright, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Deputy Secretary William Lynn ...," he said, "also the authors of the Pentagon's review, Jeh Johnson [defense general counsel] and Gen. Carter Ham [commander, U.S. Army Europe], who did outstanding and meticulous work – and all those who laid the groundwork for this transition."

The president said he has "every confidence" of the professionalism and patriotism of U.S. military members as repeal moves forward.

"With any change, there's some apprehension," Obama said. "Just as [service members] have adapted and grown stronger with each of the other changes, I know they will do so again. I know that Secretary Gates, Adm. Mullen, as well as the vast majority of service members themselves share this view ... based on their own experiences, including the experience of serving with dedicated, duty-bound service members who are also gay."

Obama said he wanted to speak directly to gay men and women serving in the military.

"For a long time, your service has demanded a particular kind of sacrifice," he said. "You've been asked to carry added burden of secrecy and isolation, and all the while you've put your lives on the line for the freedoms and privileges of citizenship that are not fully granted to you."

"You're not the first to have carried this burden," he continued. "For while today marks the end of a particular struggle that has lasted almost two decades, this is a moment more than two centuries in the making. There will never be a full accounting of the heroism demonstrated by gay Americans in service to this country. Their service has been obscured in history; it's been lost to prejudices that have waned in our own lifetimes."

Gay service members who will gain the right to serve openly when repeal is fully implemented, Obama said, will stand for all those who came before them who did not enjoy that right.

"You will serve as role models to all who come after," he said. "I know you will fulfill this responsibility with integrity and honor, just as you have every other mission with which you've been charged."

Chief Cont.

Installation/Infrastructure provides us with the tools to complete our mission. Today's military is unique in the fact that we have an aging force in terms of equipment. At Selfridge alone we are flying fifty plus year old aircraft, yet they perform to and excel past the standards they did when they were new. How is this possible? This is done through professionalism and pride in our work. Flying is more than gas and go. It takes teamwork using shared equipment and parts with a mindset on safety to complete the mission. The professionalism and care we apply to our trade will allow us to recapitalize on the capabilities of our equipment for years to come.

A mission statement provides the focus for the way forward as it takes a shared effort to complete the mission and Team Sel-

fridge leads the way by applying all the basic ingredients of, Integrity, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do, Commitment, when applying our craft. Continue to take pride in your work and accomplishments as we all work towards a common goal and remember the individual efforts of our airmen have a global impact. By taking care of our fellow airmen and equipment we can continue to excel and deliver freedom and hope all over the world.

Promotions

Senior Airman

Jason Davenport, 127 OG
Jeremy Mosley, 127 MXS

Staff Sergeant

Raymond Cole, 127 MXS
Joshua Elsholz, 191 MXS
Stephanie Kimball, 127 MXS
Jeffrey Kohler, 127 AMXS
Janet Kowalski, 127 MXS
Elliott Lovelace, 127 AMXS
Matthew Meese, 127 MXS

Technical Sergeant

Alicia Burdick, 127 MXS
Andrew Maurer, 127 AMXS

Master Sergeant

Jeffrey Baker, 191 MXS
Russell Burton, 127 FSS
Melissa Mercer, 191 MXS

Senior Master Sergeant

Heath Laprad, 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.

Vehicle Donation

Looking to get rid of a vehicle?

Why not donate it to a military family that needs a vehicle. If you are in the position to donate a reliable mode of transportation and feel generous feel free to pass it on. The family support center will help you to find someone who may need a vehicle.

Don't Forget OPSEC



Remember OPSEC when posting to Social Media Sites

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

2011 UTA Schedule

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Jan 8/9 | Feb 12/13 |
| Mar 12/13 | Apr 9/10 |
| May 21/22 | Jun 4/5 |
| July 16/17 | Aug 13/14 |
| Sep 10/11 | Oct 22/23 |
| Nov 5/6 | Dec 3/4 |

What is a Watt?

Ed Saleem, CEM, CPQ

Resource Efficiency Manager

We in the energy world often throw around a lot of terms that don't always make sense to others. For instance, the term "Watt" is often used. The term was coined to honor James Watt, a contributor to the development of the steam engine. A Watt is the way we measure an amount of energy being used. It really is defined as amps multiplied by voltage. A kilowatt is 1000 watts.

We see it on the light bulbs, in our utility bill as "kilowatts", on energy appliances, heaters and so forth. Sometimes we see it described as good, like a space heater manufacturer will boast 1200 watts, or a microwave oven will be rated as 700 watts.

Sometimes we describe watts as not being such a good thing, such as what you may hear about the new energy efficient lighting being lower wattage than the old round incandescent bulbs we are all used to.

Watts only describe how much energy is being used, not how efficiently it is being used. For instance, we always think of a 60 watt light bulb as putting out a certain amount of light. Actually only a small portion of the watts is used create light, most the rest is turned into heat. You can easily tell this by putting your hand near the bulb. The newer compact fluorescent light bulbs are more efficient using only about 13 watts of energy to turn out the same amount of light. You can tell this because they are much cooler. In the future we'll see even more efficient lights, like LED's which can produce the same amount of light but use even less wattage.

As we know all motors, computers, appliances, radios, heaters, air conditioners use energy (watts). Some are much more efficient than others, that is, use fewer watts than others. They may cost a bit more to be energy efficient, but they use far fewer watts, which is where the real cost lies. You can often tell that some things are hotter than others when they are running. That often means that they are wasting energy (watts). Why does this matter?

Well, let's do this: Let's replace the word "Watt" with something more meaningful - Dollars! Here on base we pay about 7.2 cents for every thousand watts (kilowatts, or kW) we use.

That doesn't seem like much, but it comes to about 63 cents for every watt we use in a year.

That means that a simple 100 watt light bulb, if left on all year, would cost us 64 dollars. How many light bulbs do you have in your house? In your work area? We have thousands of lights on base, many of which are a thousand watts each. How many lights around you are left on when they are not being used? A computer work station, at about 170 watts, would cost about 100 dollars a year for energy. Do you leave your computers on at home every night?

Here on base we must keep the computers (CPU) on, but we can turn off the monitors, the wall chargers, and almost everything else. Even in "sleep" mode the computers are still using about 40 watts of energy. So do TV's, stereos, even wall chargers



- We call these things energy vampires because we don't see how many dollars they are sucking out every night. You can often tell the energy vampires because they are warm, have a light or a clock or may glow in the dark.

I have everything around me plugged into a power strip that I can turn off every night when I leave. I do this at home, too. As an experiment, just look around you to and count all the watts, or dollars, being used as you read this. We obviously need watts to do our work, but as you can see we can save an incredible amount of money by using only the watts, or dollars we need, when we need them.

For More information on how to save energy, or if you have ideas on how to save energy here on Base or at home you may e mail me at ed.saleem.ctr@shaw.af.mil

