

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 5, Issue 5

"127th Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

Sept./Oct. 2022



CAPABILITY

The National Guard: Truly at the heart of it all

By Army Master Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

As the Air Force's 75th birthday nears, the service is transforming — bringing change that requires Airmen to get comfortable being uncomfortable, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. told National Guard leaders Aug. 27 in Columbus at the 144th NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition.

"I reflect on the fact that our service was created on a foundation of innovation and forward thinking, and how we must harness that mindset and exploit change to transform from the force we have today to the one needed to meet our pacing challenge," Brown said. "We've done this before, and I'm confident we can do it again."

The greatest security threat America faces, Brown said, is military modernization and the dangers posed by China and Russia. He said the National Guard will be part of the solution.

"The Guard plays a key role in addressing these complex challenges, and air power is vital and in high demand," Brown said. "I know it. Our Air Guard knows it. And combatant commanders have proven this with their continued ask for more air power."

Airmen can't assume the service's current capabilities and posture will be relevant forever, Brown said.

"This transformation requires us to look at our posture," he said. "To look globally at how our Air Force should be postured over the next 10-20 years based on threat-driven requirements ... requires change and difficult choices."

Throughout his career, the Air Force's most senior officer has seen the National Guard's contributions, and he cited numerous examples, from his time commanding a fighter squadron that included Guardsmen to the present.

Brown was U.S. Central Command's air component commander during the Defeat ISIS campaign.



127th Maintenance Group Airmen conduct follow-on operational checks on the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Sept. 13, 2022. The 127th Maintenance Group ensures mission-capable aircraft are always ready for pilots of the 107th Fighter Squadron, also based at Selfridge. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Terry Atwell)

"The Guard was continuously deployed and fully integrated into the campaign, seamlessly working side-by-side with the active duty," he said. "Matter of fact, you couldn't tell where one component ended and the next began."

Among other examples of Air National Guard contributions to the Total Force, Brown praised the Missouri National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing, who fly the B-2 Spirit out of Whiteman Air Force Base.

"They recently returned from a deployment to Australia, where they partnered and trained with the Royal Australian Air Force, providing full-spectrum expeditionary B-2 global strike combat capabilities, sending the message to both our adversaries and our allies and partners that ... our Air Force can provide air power, anytime, anywhere."

New York National Guard crews with the 109th Airlift Wing flew Brown to Antarctica on a ski-

equipped LC-130 Skibird.

"We will be challenged in the most austere conditions, to include both the Southern and Northern Arctic regions," he said. "Our day-to-day operations demonstrate we are always working, always building, always preparing, and always deterring. Thanks to the New York Guard for the unique capability you provide."

The CSAF also noted the California National Guard, which has conducted more than 1,000

exchanges with Ukrainian armed forces over almost 30 years through the Department of Defense National Guard State Partnership Program, or SPP.

"Some people may be caught off guard by Ukraine's skill in battle," Brown said, "but I can assure you the California National Guard wasn't, because they've been training together for the past few decades."

To read more, go to af.mil/About-Us/AF-75th-Anniversary.

TRAINING

Michigan National Guard, partners, allies achieve milestone during exercise

By Capt. Andrew Layton
Michigan National Guard

ALPENA, MICHIGAN » Less than six weeks after conducting the first highway-based A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft integrated combat turns in U.S. history, Airmen from the Michigan National Guard's 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, achieved another milestone for the Air Force's agile combat employment doctrine in August 2022, alongside joint and ally

partners from the Army and Marine components, Royal Canadian Air Force during the National Guard Bureau-sponsored exercise, "Northern Strike 22."

For five consecutive days, 127th Wing members launched and maintained A-10s from multiple locations, including Traverse City, Grayling, Oscoda, Alpena, and Battle Creek. This training event, "Northern Agility 22-2," and nested under the broader exercise plan for NS22, demonstrated mil-

itary members' ability to execute combat missions quickly and in unpredictable ways. The significance of these ACE events was highlighted Aug. 11, 2022, when Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall took time to see the integrated combat turns practiced at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, firsthand.

"Observing NS22 and the teammates of the Michigan National Guard and joint force was impressive," said Kendall. "Their efforts in a wide-

reaching exercise assures me that our one team continues to seek out demanding and relevant training opportunities."

In addition to 127th Wing members, A-10s were fueled and serviced by personnel assigned to other Michigan, Florida and Oklahoma National Guard and U.S. Marine Corp reserve units. U.S. Army M977 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks supported fueling operations, while A-10 maintainers were transported to

each location aboard U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters and RCAF C-130 Hercules aircraft.

"NA22-2 incorporated seamlessly with NS22 shows how ACE can be integrated into the joint fight," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, commander of the Michigan Air National Guard. "NS22 provides the perfect backdrop for Michigan to continue moving key Air Force doctrines forward as a center of excellence for ACE."



Tech. Sgt. Chad Terry, left, and Staff Sgt. Erin Johnston offload 30mm ammunition rounds from the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Aug. 26, 2022. Aircraft armament personnel are responsible for maintaining, testing and troubleshooting all aspects of aircraft weapons systems, loading and unloading munitions. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Terry Atwell)

SELFRIDGE FLYER

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SELFRIDGE BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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The Selfridge Base Community Council's mission is to continue improving outstanding relationships between both the civilian and military-service communities centered at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

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On the cover: A Michigan Air National Guard KC-135T Stratotanker from the 171st Air Refueling Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, refuels a U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II from the 58th Fighter Squadron, 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., on Aug. 18, 2022. The jet was participating in exercise Northern Lightning at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wis., to enhance the Agile Combat Employment concept and to help build combat-credible Airmen. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo By Munnaf H. Joarder)

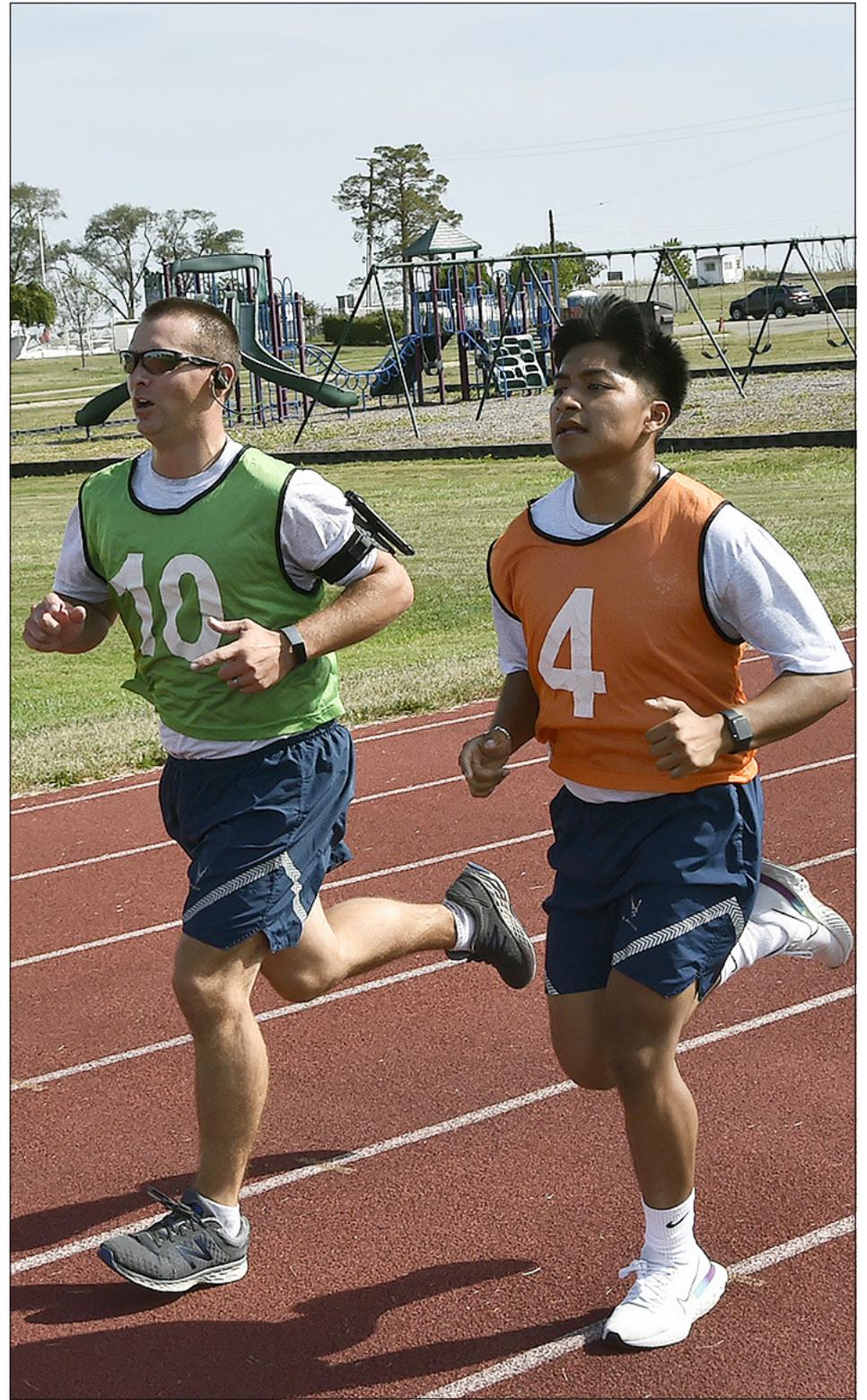
SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



Members of the 127th Wing march on Sept. 11, 2022 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, in honor of the nearly 3,000 casualties of the 9/11 attacks. The approximately four-mile event took place on the 21st anniversary of the largest terrorism attack on American soil. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick)



Airman 1st Class Tyler McGahey, an aircraft metals technology apprentice, 127th Maintenance Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, grinds down a weld used to join two metal piece together, Aug. 15, 2022. McGahey says one of the best parts of her job is seeing the results of her work. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Samara Taylor)



Maj. Stephen Klenke, left, and Staff Sgt. Juan River conduct an Air Force fitness assessment at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Sept. 10, 2022. Air Force members are assessed on their physical fitness at least one time per year. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dan Heaton)

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Alec Felker, 127th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, leads a class on use of the M-4 carbine rifle at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Sept. 10, 2022. Weapons familiarization and safety reviews are provided to Airmen as part of regular, routine training schedules. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dan Heaton)

TOP LEFT: Aircrew members of the 127th Air Refueling Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, participate in water survival training at a local water park on August 13, 2022. Part of a routine skill certification, the survival, evasion, resistance and escape training gave KC-135 Stratotanker aircrew and A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots practice on how to survive if their planes crash over a large body of water. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick)

BOTTOM LEFT: 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons load crew member Airman First Class Alana Bihlmeyer downloads 30mm ammo off the A-10C Thunderbolt II at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on Aug. 26, 2022. Aircraft armament personnel are responsible for maintaining, testing and troubleshooting all aspects of the A-10s weapons system and its associated support equipment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Terry L. Atwell)

READINESS

Medics take new tactical combat casualty care course

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann

127th Wing Public Affairs

Aerospace medical technicians from the 127th Medical Group, based here, took part in an innovative form of combat life-saving training during August drill when they practiced the battlefield care program replacing self-aid buddy care on August 15-16, 2022.

“The Air Force adopted this training to begin to give definitive care to patients early on following a trauma” said Maj. Patrick Frank, 127th Medical Group medical administrative officer. “They found, through historical evidence, that the earlier patients receive trauma care, the higher their survivability rate will be.”

Developed by the Joint Trauma System, a DOD organization dedicated to the reduction of morbidity and mortality, and to improved survivability for all trauma patients in wartime and peacetime, the tactical combat casualty care training offers a new approach to trauma-patient care in contested combat environments by teaching members ways to reduce casualties in the field by improving the life-saving skills of both medical and non-medical military personnel.

The training included classroom instruction, and a field training exercise to practice the skills of applying immediate care on the battlefield. Modules for the 127th Medical Group brought experiences during recent conflicts to life in ways proven more effective in increasing chances of trauma survivability.

“The training scenario was that a bomb had gone off in a building, and it was determined to be a dirty bomb,” Frank said, referring to a conventional explosive containing radiological material. “The medical teams responded, suited up in gear, entered the building, assessed their patients, and were able to get them out and to a casualty collection point.”

In a bid to train servicemem-



Senior Airman Kayla Campbell, left, and Airman 1st Class Cassidy Mack, both aerospace medical technicians, 127th Medical Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, practice a litter carry during tactical combat casualty care training, Aug. 16, 2022. TCCC courses teach improved lifesaving skills to military members dealing with traumatic injuries in the battlefield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann)

bers from career fields outside the medical realm, TCCC is offered in three different courses, each designed to teach field lifesaving techniques. The training at Selfridge was designed specifically for aerospace medical technicians, pararescue and other uniformed medical providers who may be deploying in support of combat operations.

“We thought that this would be a great opportunity for to be in their MOPP gear, go to the front line to get the patients out, and do the life-saving skills that they need to do in order to make sure that the patient is safe,” said 1st Lt. Heather Salgat, 127th Medical Group clinical nurse.

Other TCCC course offerings include “combat lifesaver,” de-

signed for non-medical military members deployed to a combat situation, and the, “all service member” course for any member of the uniformed service.

With the successful completion of the TCCC, participating members of the 127th Medical Group are ready to perform the necessary trauma care techniques during the most critical

time following an injury that can contribute to saving more lives.

“We have a lot of new individuals who just joined our unit, and them being involved in this training is exciting, and better prepares them for the war-fight,” Salgat said. “I am so proud of my team, everybody jumped in to it and did exactly what they needed to do.”

PERSONNEL

Avionics technicians train to help pilots fight

By Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton

127th Wing Public Affairs

Keeping the highly sophisticated communications and electronics systems on the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft operational is crucial for pilots' mission success. The specialized training to repair and maintain these systems lies squarely on the shoulders of avionics professionals.

"A lot of people on the outside, they think what we do is crazy cool," said Tech. Sgt. Travis Bowman, an avionics maintenance specialist with the 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here. "And, actually, it is."

On Sept. 10, 2022, Bowman dedicated part of his monthly drill weekend duty, to orient Airman 1st Class Ryann Stillin, on the A-10 avionics systems. Stillin recently completed a year of duty in the avionics shop of the 127th Maintenance Squadron, the unit that works on aircraft components in the shop, away from the flight line. Last month, she transferred to the flight line avionics shop, where she and her colleagues work on components directly on the aircraft.

The Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Maintenance and 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons comprise the 127th Maintenance Group, sharing the collective mission of ensuring the readiness and lethality of the A-10 fleet here at Selfridge.

To bring Stillin up to speed, Bowman talked her through calibrating the A-10's Litening targeting pod while she sat in the A-10's cockpit. The Litening pod is an advanced precision targeting pod that enables pilots to identify and lock in on targets during combat, and requires calibration



Airman 1st Class Ryann Stillin receives an orientation on avionics systems in an A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft from Tech. Sgt. Travis Bowman at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Sept. 10, 2022. Both Airmen are assigned to the 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight line avionics shop. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dan Heaton)

before every flight.

"There's always new things to learn and that keeps me motivated," Stillin said after climbing out of the cockpit.

Stillin said she appreciates all that she has learned in her nearly two years in the Michigan Air National Guard.

Bowman noted that even ex-

perienced Airmen are continuously learning.

"There's so much to know, you are constantly learning and re-learning the systems," he said. "The best Airmen are the ones who want to learn and continuously ask questions to upgrade their knowledge."

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Upcoming in-person or virtual public hearings

The Department of the Air Force has issued a draft, environmental impact statement today for the beddown of a foreign military sales pilot training center at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Ark., ("Preferred Alternative") or Selfridge ANGB, ("Alternative 2").

The Air Force's proposed action would establish a permanent FMS pilot training center able to accommodate up to 36 aircraft (24 F-35 Lightnings, 12 F-16 Fighting Falcons) utilizing existing facilities to the maximum extent practicable to meet FMS requirements. Implementation at both locations would include:

- Beddown of F-35 and F-16 aircraft
- Use of respective airfields and airspace
- Military construction projects
- Facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects
- Personnel increases

The beddown would not require changes to airspace configuration to support either location. The environmental impact statement analyzes the impacts associated with implementation of both locations along with a, "no action alternative."

The draft environmental impact statement is available for download at fmsptceis.com with electronic copies of the document also available at local libraries, locations that can be found on the website.

As part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with the environmental impact statement, the Air Force will be holding two in-person and one virtual public hearing to receive public comments on the environmental impacts of the proposed action.

Verbal comments will be accepted at all hearings; your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making informed decisions

Air Force-hosted public hearings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 6 – 8 p.m. EDT. This hearing will be in-person at a community facility near Selfridge Air National Guard Base
- Wednesday, October 5, from 6 – 8 p.m. EDT. This will be a virtual hearing

Registration is required for all in-person meetings to comply with the Secretary of the Air Force COVID-19 mitigation guidance and recommended for the virtual hearing. Interested parties can register to attend a public hearing and sign up to provide an oral comment by visiting fmsptceis.com. Meeting locations, links and instructions will be distributed after registering and prior to all public hearings. If unable to register online for a hearing, call your local base Public Affairs office to register:

- Ebbing ANGB Public Affairs: (479) 573-5323
- Selfridge ANGB Public Affairs: (586) 239-4735

The project website can also be used to submit comments. Inquiries and comments-by-mail regarding the proposal should be directed to:

U.S. Post Office Deliveries:

FMS PTC EIS Project Manager
AFCEC/CZN
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

FedEx & UPS Deliveries:

FMS PTC EIS Project Manager
AFCEC/CZN
3515 S General McMullen, Suite 155

San Antonio, TX 78226-2018

Comments will be accepted at any time during the draft environmental impact statement 45-public comment period. To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final environmental impact statement, deadline to submit comments by either method is October 17, 2022.

Macomb County Schools Students and Staff

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With Gratitude for our U.S. Servicemen and Women who Sacrifice for our Freedoms



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