

SEELFRIDGE FLYER



RETIREMENT



MASTER SGT. DAVID KUJAWA — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Col. David A. Brooks (right), former 127th Wing vice commander, receives the Air Force's Meritorious Service Medal during his retirement ceremony on January 5, 2019. Col. Stanley Krasovic, the Wing's new vice commander, presented the award to Brooks for more than 28 years of distinguished service.

Former Wing Vice Commander reflects on decades of service

I am humbled by the opportunity to share some thoughts with you as I hang up my flight suit for the last time. Most of all, I wish all of the wing's Airmen, their families, our community partners, and everyone reading this, a superb and rewarding New Year.

I arrived at Selfridge Field back in December of 1999, and having served nearly 19 years in the 127th Wing, I have retired effective January 2, after 28+ years of service. It is impossible to adequately express my gratitude to everyone who has either supported or served

with me here at Selfridge. These have truly been the best of times. Our community and its citizens are second-to-none. It is impossible for our Airmen to walk off the base and avoid being thanked, appreciated, and supported. That makes all of the difference... all of the time! We appreciate being appreciated. I can confirm that Selfridge Airmen bring their maximum effort and exceptional skills to bare every day in service of our community, state, and nation.

My family has served this nation in a way that cannot

be easily described. Indeed, military families sacrifice much, and do so often, to ensure their loved ones can serve without hesitation.

This kind of sacrifice happens all around us. Every member of the Guard or Reserve has loved ones, friends, and supporters who enable their service. As a measure of goodwill, please seek out and thank these families and friends for their fortitude and resolute support of our service members.

Finally, it has been my distinct honor and solemn vow

to defend our Constitution for nearly three decades. I've had the great fortune to gaze upon breathtaking sunsets from high above the clouds. I have certainly seen the face of God, on many occasions. So this scribe is to be my final official act as an Air Force Officer, thank you for sharing some time with me. I am a husband, a father, a warrior, an American Airman, and a pilot. I feel gratified and ready for life's next challenge. God Bless the United States of America.

— Col. David Brooks

SELFRIDGE FLYER



127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard

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Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum

Vice Commander
Col. Stan Krasovic

Command Chief Master Sergeant
CMSgt. Danny McDow

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On the cover: Master Sgt. Matt Huff, a boom operator with the 171st Air Refueling Squadron, Michigan Air National Guard, performs a preflight check in the boom pod of a KC-135 Stratotanker prior to an early evening take-off at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, Nov. 9, 2018. The Michigan aircraft and a group of Michigan Citizen-Airmen, were enroute home from a deployment in Guam. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Ryan Zeski)

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Slocum forecasts year ahead for 127th Wing

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Heaton

The 127th Wing is focusing on four areas of emphasis for 2019.

They are:

- Expeditionary Readiness & Lethality
- Focus on the Drill-Status Guardsman
- Joint Service Operations
- Unconstrained Innovation

The areas of emphasis were outlined by Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, the 127th Wing commander, during the annual 127th Wing Awards Ceremony in December. By tradition, the wing commander forecasts the year ahead in the annual awards ceremony, typically held the final drill weekend of the calen-

“We don’t know what challenges tomorrow will bring, but by willing to try new ideas today, we can be ready for what lies ahead.”

— Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum

dar year.

“We exist to be warriors,” the general said, highlighting the first emphasis. “If called, we are ready to go tonight, to protect and defend our nation.”

Slocum spoke at length on the skills and talents that part-time members of the Air National Guard

bring to the 127th Wing.

“All that they learn in their civilian careers, we benefit from all that knowledge,” he said. “At the same time, they continue to serve in the Air National Guard, meeting the same standards as our active-duty counterparts.”

Slocum noted that the Air National Guard as a whole provides approximately one third of the capabilities of the Air Force, at about 6 percent of the total Air Force cost.

“We bring incredible value to the nation,” he said.

Slocum said increasingly, 127th Wing personnel find themselves working in a joint environment, working closely with Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast

Guard personnel and civilians from various government agencies.

“We need to be flexible to fight as one unified team, while still bringing the individual skills and capabilities that are unique to our wing,” he said.

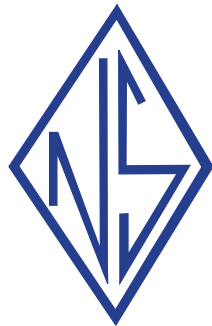
Slocum’s fourth area of emphasis is the concept of unconstrained innovation. The general stated he encourages Airmen from across the wing to share their ideas of new ways to improve on existing practices around the wing.

“This is about being ready today for the challenges of tomorrow,” he said. “We don’t know what challenges tomorrow will bring, but by willing to try new ideas today, we can be ready for what lies ahead.”



Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, the 127th Wing commander, discussed the year ahead during the annual 127th Wing Awards Ceremony in December.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO



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EDUCATION

Education part of the mission for Michigan Citizen-Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Heaton

Anywhere between a third and a half of the Citizen-Airmen of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base are utilizing military-provided benefits in any given semester to further their higher education goals.

"It is a tremendous benefit that we encourage our Airmen to take advantage of," said Master Sgt. Chandra Corrado, the recruiting and retention manager for the 127th Wing, which is a component of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Michigan Citizen-Airmen are eligible to take advantage of the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, or MINGSTAP, which provides up to \$6,000 per year for Citizen-Airmen to pay for college or vocational training tuition costs. In addition, many Citizen-Airmen are eligible for GI Bill benefits from prior periods of active duty service. Many Michigan colleges and universities also offer reduced



TECH. SGT. DAN HEATON — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Senior Airman Ryan Zeski utilizes time during a long flight as a passenger on a Michigan Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker to work on some homework for a course he is taking at Oakland University, Nov. 8, 2018. Zeski is one of more than 250 Michigan Citizen-Airmen who are utilizing state or federal tuition assistance to further his education through his military service.

rate tuition to current military personnel, helping to stretch those benefit dollars.

Corrado said about 75 to 80 percent of potential can-

didates who are considering enlisting in the Michigan Air National Guard actively inquire about the availability of the educational benefits.

For many Michigan Citizen-Airmen, serving their state and nation while also attending college often means juggling responsibilities and engaging in care-

ful time management practices. For two Airmen, that meant taking advantage of downtime during a recent deployment to get some studying in.

Senior Airmen Andre McClain and Ryan Zeski both traveled to the Pacific Ocean region in November onboard a 127th Wing KC-135 Stratotanker to pick up and transport home a group of Michigan Airmen who had been deployed to Guam. For both Airmen, that meant spending some time in the back of the aircraft doing homework while flying over the Pacific Ocean.

McClain, who is a boom operator with the 171st Air Refueling Squadron, is taking classes from Northwood University. He expects to complete his requirements for an associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force when the current semester ends. Next, he hopes to transfer to Lawrence Technological University to work toward a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering.

"The degree will give me more career opportunities," McClain said. "I don't want to limit my options."

McClain is using MINGSTAP as he juggles class time with serving as an air crew member at Selfridge.

Zeski, a military photojournalist, has used both MINGSTAP and the GI Bill as a student first at Macomb Community College and now at Oakland University where he is studying computer science.

"Without the military education benefits, I wouldn't be able to afford to attend school full-time. I even took some extra summer classes so I could graduate on time," Zeski said.

Zeski said his professors at Oakland were very accommodating when he told them he would miss a week of classes to support a military mission.

"I talked to them in advance and they were willing to let me turn some work in on line, so that I could stay current in the class and still get my mission done in the Guard," he said.

DEPLOYMENT

MING TAG addresses 127th Wing

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea Barber

On only his third day of duty as Michigan's adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Paul Rogers visited the Selfridge Air National Guard Base Jan. 3, and along with Maj. Gen. Leonard Isabelle, assistant adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, 127th Wing commander, briefly addressed a group of Airmen set to deploy overseas.

"I have a great admiration for you because you volunteer to do this," Rogers said. "How many have

"I look forward to hearing about your successes and welcoming you when you come home."

— Brig. Gen. Paul Rogers

never deployed before?"

Only a few hands in the audience rose in response to the question, representing a very small percentage.

Rogers was appointed by incoming Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, whose first two acts after being inaugurated Tuesday were to conduct the change of command between outgo-

ing Lt. Gen. Gregory Vadenais and Rogers. The second was to call a currently deployed unit of the Michigan National Guard.

"I'm truly proud to be your adjutant general," Rogers told the group. "I look forward to hearing about your successes and welcoming you when you come home."



Brig. Gen. Paul Rogers addresses 127th Wing Airmen readying for deployment.

TECH. SGT. CHELSEA BARBER — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

VETERAN CARE

127th Wing welcomes Eisenhower to SANGB

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea Barber

Members of the 127th Wing hosted approximately 140 distinguished guests and civic leaders during a key-passing ceremony for Selfridge Air National Guard Base's newest tenant organization on November 14, 2018. The "Eisenhower Veteran Care Transition Center" will provide a residential rehabilitation and reintegration program, ultimately capable of servicing 42 veteran patients suffering from service-related conditions, specifically post-traumatic stress disorder, mild-to-moderate traumatic brain injury or chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

"This is a great way that Selfridge can continue to contribute to southeastern Michigan and our local community as well as our nation," said Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base Commander.

The first phase of the project will take two unoccupied base facilities and renovate them to suit 14 patients and 15 employees. The facilities were formerly utilized as transient housing and the Hoyt S. Vandenberg Service Club will provide housing, rehabilitative care, employment readiness and family support services to treat all types of veterans to establish the capacity to live independently and participate fully in their communities.

"When you have a traumatic brain injury with frontal lobe damage, many times if you get caught up in pain management, you self-medicate and your behaviors start to change," said John Cornack, chief executive officer of the Eisenhower Center. "It's hard to control your thoughts and



TERRY ATWELL — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Members of the 127th Wing hosted approximately 140 distinguished guests and civic leaders during a key-passing ceremony for Selfridge Air National Guard Base's newest tenant organization on November 14, 2018.

keep [your behavior] consistent...we want [veterans] to be as clear-headed as they can."

The second phase will renovate unoccupied single-family housing remaining to accommodate up to 42 patients in addition to 42 dependents. The benefit of creating a campus-

like environment not only makes it possible to keep veteran families intact through the duration of the program, but it allows the veterans to find comfort in the familiar setting of a military environment. Selfridge is well-suited for this endeavor due to its inventory of 65 unused single-family homes, built in the 1920s and left vacant after the base realignment and

consolidation act of 2005.

"We want them in a comfortable area, in a house, so the family can live together, go through the recovery together," Cornack said.

The Eisenhower center, out of Ann Arbor, also has facilities in both Manchester and Kewana, Michigan as well as in Jacksonville, Fla. Tom Jones, Army veteran, president of Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors, and a successfully rehabilitated patient of Eisenhower's "After the Impact" program in Manchester, provided his testimony during the ceremony.

"They've given me my mission back," Jones said. "This is a group that cares and they'll see it through to the end."



MUNNAF JOARDER — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

A key-passing ceremony for the Eisenhower Veteran Care Transition Center, Selfridge Air National Guard Base's newest tenant organization, was held on November 14, 2018.





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NEW LEADERSHIP

Krasovic, McDow named to leadership posts at Selfridge

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Heaton

The 127th Wing has a new vice wing commander and a new command chief master sergeant.

Col. Stanley Krasovic Jr. was named the Wing's vice commander by Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, the wing commander, and will assume the position in January 2019. Chief Master Sgt. Danny McDow was named the Wing's command chief and assumed the position in December 2018.

Krasovic previously served as the commander of the 127th Air Refueling Group and will replace Col. David Brooks, who is retiring after a 28-year long Air Force career.

McDow serves in a full-time capacity as the superintendent of the 127th Security Forces Squadron and will continue in that role in addition to serving as the Wing's command chief. McDow replaces former wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Tony Whitehead, who recently left the wing to become the territory command chief for the Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

Krasovic began his military career in the U.S. Navy, flying the E-6 Mercury, an airborne command and control aircraft. After nine years in the Navy, he transferred to the U.S. Air Force Reserve, serving in the 927th Air Refueling Wing and flying KC-135 Stratotankers at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. When the 127th Wing's 171st squadron transitioned from flying C-130 Hercules to KC-135s in 2007, Krasovic transferred into the Michigan Air National Guard and the 127th Wing. He has served as commander of both the 171st Air Refueling Squadron and the 127th Air Refueling Group. Krasovic has



SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Sanchez, a crew chief with the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Air Refueling Wing prepares to service a KC-135 Stratotanker from the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, Nov. 5, 2018. The Michigan aircraft was passing through Hawaii on a mission to pick up cargo and personnel in Guam.

been a trailblazer in recent times in the MIANG, serving in each of his command positions as a traditional, part-time Citizen-Airman. He will continue to serve in a part-time capacity as the vice wing commander.

"It takes a good team to make it work as a traditional member in the commander's role, and I definitely had a very strong team at both the group and the squadron. I fully expect that to continue to be the case at the wing level," Krasovic said.

The new vice wing commander is now one of six traditional Guardsmen who are serving as commanders across the 127th Wing.

"And that's intentional,"

Krasovic previously served as the commander of the 127th Air Refueling Group and will replace Col. David Brooks, who is retiring after a 28-year long Air Force career. McDow serves in a full-time capacity as the superintendent of the 127th Security Forces Squadron and will continue in that role in addition to serving as the Wing's command chief.

Slocum said. "We are putting a renewed focus on our drill-status Guardsmen and all of the skills and talents they bring to the table."

Krasovic said working with the Airmen of the 171st and 191st squadrons during the transition from C-130s to KC-135s has been the highlight of his career to this point.

"The dedication that they took in carrying out that task was amazing. That dedication and professionalism has carried through to this day," Krasovic said. "I am very proud to have been a part of that group."

Brooks also has a long history with the KC-135 and C-130 at Selfridge,

having served as a pilot on both aircrafts. He also preceded Krasovic as the 127th Air Refueling Group commander.

Brooks was a member of the 127th Wing for 19 years, after previously serving as a C-130 pilot on active duty in the Air Force.

Brooks said among his career highlights was serv-

ing as the director of operations for the 171st squadron during the run-up to the final deployment of that squadron while it was still flying C-130s.

"It was full-out, pedal-to-the-metal training to get ready for the mission in Afghanistan," he said. "And then we got on station and we were able to perform at that high level because of all that training we had done."

Brooks later served in a leadership role during the transition from C-130s to KC-135.

"It was a challenge, of course, but to be a part of transferring to an entirely new mission set and then to become a benchmark unit for that mission - it was just awesome to be a part of it," he said.

McDow began his military service in the U.S. Marine Corps as an armorer. In 1999, he affiliated with the U.S. Air Force Reserve and became a defender with a Security Forces squadron. McDow transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard to join the 127th Security Forces Squadron at Selfridge in 2015.

The 127th Wing is the largest component of the Michigan Air National Guard and is based at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in southeast Michigan. The wing's two flying squadrons, the 107th Fighter Squadron and the 171st Air Refueling Squadron fly the A-10 Thunderbolt II and the KC-135, respectively. The wing is the host unit at Selfridge, providing support services to 44 tenant commands comprised of more than 4,400 active, Guard, Reserve and civilian personnel at the base. Approximately 1,700 Citizen-Airmen serve in the 127th Wing.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

127th Wing awards 2018 top performers

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea Barber

Command staff and approximately 1,500 members of the 127th Wing convened to announce this year's Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners on December 1, 2018.

The six winners, representing the Wing's top individual members and groups, were selected from a pool of 21 nominees and four teams in five categories.

Final award recipient decisions were based on superior leadership, job performance and overall achievement.

"We're here to recognize some of the fantastic performers, and this is... a representation of all the fantastic work that goes on within the Wing," Brig.

The winners of the first four categories are now eligible to compete in the state level awards, announced in August.

Gen. John D. Slocum, commander of the 127th Wing, said during his opening address. "These are just some of the superlative performers."

Winners were selected in the following five categories:

- Outstanding Airman of the Year — Staff Sgt. Jabet Glenn, 127th Mission

Support Group

- Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year — Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Smaltz, 127th Security Forces Squadron

- Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year — Master Sgt. Lana Allred, 127th Comptroller Flight

- First Sergeant of the Year — Sr. Master Sgt. Bryon Harvey, 127th Wing Headquarters,

- Company Grade Officer of the Year — Capt. Jason McNally, 127th Wing Headquarters

- Commander's Trophy — 127th Wing Headquarters Public Affairs Team

The winners of the first four categories are now eligible to compete in the state level awards, announced in August.



MASTER SGT. DAVID KUJAWA — U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum (pictured far left), commander of the 127th Wing, and Chief Danny McDow (pictured far right), command chief master sergeant of the 127th Wing, awarded winners of the Wing's 2018 annual awards program at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, on December 1, 2018. Categories were: Outstanding Airman of the Year, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, First Sergeant of the Year, Company Grade Officer of the Year and the Commander's Trophy. Winners are (from left to right): Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Smaltz, Capt. Jason McNally, Staff Sgt. Jabet Glenn, Master Sgt. David Kujawa, Staff Sgt. Samara Taylor, Senior Airman Brandon Gifford, Tech Sgt. Dan Heaton, Senior Airman Ryan Zeski, Phillip Ulmer, 1st Lt. Cammy Alberts, Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. Barber, Tech. Sgt. Rachel Barton, Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann, Master Sgt. Lana Allred, Sr. Master Sgt. Bryon Harvey and Chief Danny McDow.

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