

# SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 3, Issue 1

"127<sup>th</sup> Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

January 2020



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

# OUTSTANDING AIRMEN

## ACCOLADES

# Wing honors top performers for 2019

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea FitzPatrick  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Command staff and approximately 1,500 members of the 127th Wing convened to announce this year's Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners on Dec. 8, 2019.

The six winners, representing the Wing's top individual members and groups, were selected from a pool of approximately 25 individual nominees and four

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

"We are really here to recognize our finest Airmen in this Wing for everything they do." Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, commander of the 127th Wing, said. "They are the best representation this year of how the 127th Wing is a center for performance excellence."

Winners were selected in the following five categories:

1. Airmen of the Year- Airman 1st Class Jenna Gleason, 127th Medical Group

2. Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year - Staff Sgt. Nathan Boyd-Cleaver, 127th Maintenance Group

3. Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year - Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Crocker, 127th Mission Support Group

4. First Sergeant of the Year - Master Sgt. Akenty Frazer, 127th Operations Group

5. Company Grade Officer of

the Year - Capt. Bryan Generaux, 127th Air Refueling Group

The final category of Commander's Trophy, was awarded to the 127th Air Refueling Group Plans Team, represented by Maj. Chad Metiva.

The winners of the "Airmen of the Year," categories will go on to compete against Michigan Air National Guard Airmen at the state level awards, announced in August, will go on to compete in the nationwide Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition.

## SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

Lt. Col. Matthew Robins accepts the position of 127th Operations Group commander from the 127th Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Jan. 11, 2020. The 127th Operations Group is comprised of the 107th Fighter Squadron and the 127th Operations Support Squadron which operate and provide support of the A-10 Thunderbolt II.

## A LOOK BACK

## Selfridge History Notes: Jan.-Feb.

▪ Jan. 28, 1942 — The 374th Fighter Squadron is constituted for World War II service. After the war, the unit would be re-designated as the 171st Fighter Squadron and assigned to the Michigan Air National Guard. During WWII, the unit operated P-47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft assigned to the 8th Air Force operating from England. Over the years, the 171st has held a number of unit designations as it has flown various types of fighter, airlift and air refueling aircraft. Today, it operates as the 171st Air Refueling Squadron, operating the KC-135 Stratotanker at Selfridge. Also on Jan. 28, 1942, the 375th Fighter Squadron, another P-47 unit, was constituted. After the war, the 375th would become the Battle Creek-based 172nd Fighter Squadron, now the 172nd Air Support Squadron.

▪ Feb. 1, 1951 — The 107th, 171st and 172nd squadrons of the Michigan Air National Guard are ordered to federal service for the duration of the Korean War. The 107th and 171st are assigned to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona as training squadrons. The 172nd is assigned to active duty at Selfridge for homeland defense purposes. The units are re-

leased from active duty in November 1952.

▪ Feb. 2, 1918 — The 107th Aero Squadron, forerunner of today's 107th Fighter Squadron, Michigan Air National Guard, arrives at the American Expeditionary Forces Replacement Concentration Center, St. Maxient Barracks, France, for service in World War I. At St. Maxient, the 107th would be redesignated as the 801st Aero Squadron, and later as the 801st Aero Squadron (Repair), and used as a pool of general labor around the camp for about a month.

▪ Feb. 13, 2018 — The National Guards of Michigan and the Virgin Islands announce a new strategic partnership. The two Guards will be partnered together under a program managed by the National Guard Bureau. Previously, the Virgin Islands, which has a relatively small National Guard footprint, had a similar arrangement with the National Guard of Puerto Rico. After both the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico were devastated by two hurricanes in less than 10 days' time in September 2017, the new partnership between Michigan and the Virgin Islands began to form.

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**On the cover:** Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, 127th Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Daniel McDow, 127th Wing Command Chief (pictured left and right respectively) flank the winners of the 127th Wing's Outstanding Airmen of the Year and Commander's Trophy for 2019. Beside them are Airman 1st Class Jenna Gleason (from left), Airman of the year; Staff Sgt. Nathan Boyd-Cleaver, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Crocker, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Akenty Frazer, First Sergeant of the Year; Capt. Adam Thieroff on behalf of Capt. Bryan Generaux, Company Grade Officer of the Year; Maj. Chad Metiva, representing the 127th Air Refueling Group Plans team, winners of the Commander's Trophy.



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SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE

# WEAPONS CREW COMPETITION



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAN HEATON

Staff Sgt. Steven Roeper and Airman 1st Class Joseph Maiuri compete in the 127th Maintenance Group's annual weapons load competition at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Dec. 7, 2019. Every year, the top weapons load crew from each quarter compete for the annual Weapons Load Crew of the Year title at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.



**Clockwise, from top:** Staff Sgt. Derrick Mason, Senior Maurice Starks and Senior Airman Kyle Bansberg work together as a team during the annual Weapons Load competition at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Dec. 7, 2019. Airman 1st Class Joseph Maiuri and Staff Sgt. Steven Roeper work together. Tech. Sgt. Jay Weir in action. Every year, the top weapons load crew from each quarter compete for the annual Weapons Load Crew of the Year title at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.



## COMMANDER PRIORITIES



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, 127th Wing commander, addresses Wing members during the annual, "All Call," here on Dec. 8, 2019. During the address, Mammen reflected on the past seven months of his tenure in command and announced his set of priorities for 2020 as readiness, people and organizational culture. "This past year, I've watched this Wing do absolutely amazing things and I appreciate everything you do and ... your sacrifices for our community and our nation," Mammen said.

## Mammen announces 2020 priorities for 127th Wing

**By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea FitzPatrick**

*127th Wing Public Affairs*

Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen orders his troops their marching orders this weekend when he officially released his 2020 commander priorities during the annual Wing address on Dec. 8, 2019.

The Wing commander of both the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base said that all members will focus on readiness, people and organizational culture in the com-

ing year. While the first two are sustaining goals that will always be a focus, Mammen said that the known power of the Air Force is a deterrent to our adversaries.

"Our readiness, is war fighting excellence and our capacity," Mammen said in reference to the first priority. "Our deterrence is equal to our capacity times our will, as seen in the eyes and hearts of our adversaries."

Continuing the operational tempo of recent years, more than 500 Airmen of the 127th Wing deployed around the world

in 2019. The most recent group deployed in October, sending 21 members of the 127th Mission Support Group overseas.

According to Mammen, the priority focus on readiness can't be achieved without a well-defined organizational culture.

"Without properly mentored, trained and equipped people, we can't achieve warfighting excellence," Mammen said. "We can't do any of this without a culture that values excellence, integrity and service."

Mammen has spent time steeping himself in the results

of a recent climate survey conducted Wing-wide to meet an Air Force equal opportunity requirement for the new commander. The survey questions help leadership paint a picture of the emotional and social well-being of Airmen, asking questions about how members view their futures, overall outlook on their lives and the sense of community and connectedness they have in work and at home.

"Our culture must value the inclusion of every Airman," Mammen said. "Ultimately, cul-

ture is about being that workplace of choice."

Before handing over the floor to begin the annual Wing awards ceremony, Mammen expressed gratitude to his troops, acknowledging the tough environment they navigate on a daily basis.

"I'm always amazed at the operations tempo that you sustain and you maintain and this year it has been absolutely crushing," Mammen said. "I appreciate everything you do and I appreciate your sacrifices for our community and our nation."



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