



MANGBANG

Michigan Air National Guard Bulletin And News Gazette

Jan 2010

RETIRED CIVIL SERVICE ID CARDS

Great news regarding Civil Service retirees gaining access to Selfridge.

Lt Col Crawford from Selfridge has spoken to many people over the course of the last couple of weeks regarding the issue of our/TACOM LCMC's retired federal civilians requesting access to the base to volunteer at the Air Museum and/or partake of all available MWR activities. We are a "GO" with issuing the new DoD Civilian Retiree Card to these folks. Selfridge Security Forces has been directed to recognize the previous editions of the Civilian Retiree Card (several of which listed "TACOM" on them), and to re-direct the folks

presenting these versions to our Visitors Center, so that we may issue them their new DoD Civilian Retiree Card. This new card will be their key to continuing to access Selfridge.

Lt Col Crawford also spoke with the Garrison Manager, Ms Brenda McCullough, about her staff issuing these new DoD Civilian Retiree Cards to their retired/retiring DoD Civilians (those located at TACOM LCMC and here at Selfridge) going forward so as not to over-burden our FSS folks/systems and she is in agreement with this request.

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TAPS

CMSgt Warren D. "Whitey" Allen (48-91)	28 Nov 2009
Capt Thomas A. Sainz (85-95)	13 Nov 2009
SSgt Redena R. Young (??-09)	11 Oct 2009

Military Beneficiaries, Vets Shielded From Health Reform

The national health reform bill passed by the House last month and the Senate version to be debated in early December pose no threat to current health care benefits provided to military families, retirees or veterans, say advocates for these beneficiaries as well as congressional committee staffs.

The House-passed Affordable Health Care for America Act (HR 3962) states in Section 311 that "nothing" in the bill "shall be construed as affecting" authorities used by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to provide TRICARE programs or VA health care benefits.

Veteran's service organizations have studied the legislative language of both the House and Senates bills. Their own reviews, and assurances they've received from relevant committees, give them confidence that the bills won't impact benefits or fees charged by TRICARE or VA, nor will these beneficiaries be exposed to any new tax liabilities.

"We have not talked to anybody – Republican, Democrat, anyone in the administration or serving in Congress -- who is trying to do anything to affect military people" as part of national health reform legislation, said Steve Strobridge, MOAA's director of government relations. "They all are trying to hold military beneficiaries harmless."

Steve Robertson, legislative director for the American Legion, said he has assurances from the armed services committees, veterans' affairs committees and congressional leaders including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that health reform will not impact TRICARE programs or VA health care. "My comfort level is pretty high," Robertson said.

Confusing the issue for many beneficiaries has been an e-mail being passed among military retirees that warns falsely that the Congressional Budget Office has drafted legislation to attach

new fees to TRICARE for Life, the prized insurance supplement relied on by Medicare-eligible retirees.

The e-mail is filled with misinformation. CBO has no authority to draft legislation. CBO did release a report last December presenting options for holding down federal health care costs; a few of those options would raise fees on military retirees and veterans. But neither the administration nor any members of Congress have embraced any of these ideas.

Other military retirees and disabled veterans are worried by news reports that national health care reform will impose an excise tax on "Cadillac" health insurance programs. Will that include TRICARE or VA health care? It will not, say service groups and informed congressional staffs.

It's been noted that the Senate bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590), doesn't contain the same specific language of the House bill does to shield TRICARE programs and VA health benefits. However, the Senate bill's provision to allow an excise tax on "applicable employer-sponsored coverage" lists, among government plans, only the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan for possible inclusion. TRICARE and VA health care benefits are not named. Finance committee staffers have explained that this was intentional to shield these programs.

Senators have been urged to add three clarifying provisions to their bill. One would duplicate language of the House bill that nothing in the legislation alters health care program authorities for DoD and VA. Other language is sought to explicitly exclude TRICARE, TRICARE for Life and VA health care programs from any health reform bill excise tax on certain employer-provided plans. Finally, service organizations want language in the Senate bill calling for a study of national health reform's impact on veterans to include a study of the impact on TRICARE and TRICARE for Life.

READER INFORMATION SURVEY

One of the well-received features of the MANGBANG is information on our individual members that is shared with the at-large membership.

Please help us continue this feature by completing the survey below and mailing it to MAGHA, c/o 127 WG/MU, 44649 Doolittle, Bldg 1050, Selfridge ANG Base MI 48045. You can also e-mail the information to air.museum@miself.ang.af.mil.

FULL NAME AND RANK _____

DATE I JOINED THE GUARD _____

DATE I LEFT THE GUARD _____

LAST UNIT WHEN I LEFT THE GUARD _____

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE YOU LEFT THE GUARD?

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY READING IN THE MANGBANG AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED IN FUTURE ISSUES?



MEMORIAL WALL SELFRIDGE MILITARY AIR MUSEUM

The Michigan Air Guard Historical Association (MAGHA) has completed construction of a Memorial Area in the center of the Air Park at the Selfridge Military Air Museum. **The memorial is a place to honor all members of the military who gave their lives in the line of duty and in the service of this great nation, to recognize all those who have in the past or who are currently serving their country, and to acknowledge the contributions made by families and companies to the preservation of freedom.** Pictures of the Memorial Area and the Memorial Wall are above. The centerpiece is an elevated F-86 Sabre aircraft, an aircraft flown, maintained, and supported by three Michigan Air Guard units in the mid-1950s. Flanking the F-86 is the Memorial Wall topped by engraved Memorial Bricks such as those shown below.



We invite you to become part of this memorial and to recognize a unit, an individual, or a family by purchasing an engraved brick that will become a permanent part of the Memorial Wall. Cash donations for the Memorial project are also welcome. All memorial brick purchases and donations for this effort are tax-deductible per Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. **Engraved memorial bricks cost \$100.00 per brick for non-members (cost includes a one-year membership in MAGHA), \$75.00 per brick for members, and \$50.00 per brick when multiple brick orders are made. For example, a one-brick order from a MAGHA member would cost \$75.00, a two-brick order would cost \$125.00, and a three-brick order \$175.00.** Information about MAGHA can be obtained by calling 586-307-6768, by visiting our web site at www.selfridgeairmuseum.org, or by writing to us at the address below.

If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project, please complete the order form below and mail it, along with a check payable to "MAGHA" to MAGHA, 27333 C Street, Bldg 1011, Selfridge ANG Base MI 48045. An asterisk (*) will be added after the honoree's name to recognize veterans.

MEMORIAL BRICK ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Time Phone Number: _____

Please install an engraved memorial brick in the Memorial Wall at the Selfridge Military Air Museum in honor of the following.

- This individual is a veteran. Please add an asterisk (*) after their name.
- This individual is not a veteran.
- Please send me information on joining the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association.

Three lines are possible with a maximum of 12 characters per line and a maximum of 36 characters per brick. Periods, commas, asterisks, and spaces between words counts as characters. You will be sent a receipt with a proposed layout.

LETTERS HOME



Some notes from a few of our MAGHA members:

From **SMSgt Robert Derado** (47-97): “Since I retired I’ve been playing a little golf, doing a little fishing, and writing the book *Before & Beyond, WW II P-Shooters in North Africa*. I enjoy reading about upcoming events, reunions, news about former Michigan Guardsmen and “From the Top” by BG Rudy Rudolph. *Thanks for sending us a copy of your book. I especially liked the 1939 entry about having a choice of being assigned to Wright Patterson, Barksdale, or Selfridge and choosing Selfridge because “every farm kid from Indiana would love a free trip to Michigan because that’s where you go to camp and fish and there are a lot of beautiful girls in Michigan.”* Copies of Bob’s book can be purchased thru Trafford Publishing by calling 1-888-234-4444 or by sending an email to orders@trafford.com.

From **MSgt Richard Donakowski** (83-04): “I’m still delivering the mail as a letter carrier for the USPS. I enjoy everything in the MANGBANG but please list all future military trips on the KC-135s including the destination and the report time at Base Ops so we can plan for a “hop”. *Thanks for writing Rich. At one time I tried listing all the Space A opportunities in the MANGBANG but then, for security reasons, Base officials couldn’t share the information with me any longer. My only suggestion is to call them at periodic intervals (586-239-2606 [“Space A Hot Line] or 586-239-2902/4896 [office]) to see what’s in the future.*

From Capt **Ron Kimler** (49-58): I recently contacted **Merwyn “Shabby” Read** (Maj, 51-63) to see if he is still taking nourishment. He lives in the Ann Arbor area, enjoys reading the MANGBANG, and would enjoy receiving any phone calls from those in the MI ANG during the 40’s, 50’s, and ‘60s. His address is 11835 Shenandoah Drive, South Lyon MI 48178, and his phone number is 248-437-3548. Since I’m only 85 now, I find it hard to believe the number of compatriots that have departed. The enlisted men of the ‘40s and ‘50s were phenomenal as keeping the early F-84s was an immense undertaking that they did with little assistance from the Air Force or many supply organizations. I remember **Ted Vedrody** (SMSgt, 41-75, deceased) and **Austin Fix** (CMSgt, 48-65, deceased) in particular. Of course there were many others. While I spent a year or so at Base Ops, it was **Clarence Kirschweg** (CMSgt, 46-81, deceased) who handled everything. **Whitey Allen** (CMSgt, 48-91) did most of the work at the 171st and still corresponds with me. Those few that are left owe a large thank you to **John Turkovich** (Lt Col, 48-74, deceased), **John Johnston** (Maj Gen, 43-83, deceased), **Bob Stone** (Col, 40-78, deceased), and **Henry Eckhart** (Col, 32-73, deceased) for keeping things going when there were little funds for the troops, no advancements, and no perks for anyone.” *Thanks for the trip down memory lane Ron. You’re right...it’s always been the talented, professional, and dedicated enlisted force that kept us going. That was true back during your days and is still true today. And hopefully Shabby will be able to answer the “trick question” under the photo on page 13 of this issue of the MANGBANG.*

Continued on Page 7

From **CMSgt Joe Layton** (??-09) Many of you may not know me so let me introduce myself. My name is Joe Layton and I recently retired from the 110th Fighter Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard. Being recently retired, I wanted to maintain contact with the base and would like to know when there are events to attend or volunteer opportunities that I may want to participate with. From my previous position at the base, I know there has not been any "Master List" of former members. I know this is also a concern with many of you and has been a problem for as long as I can remember. How do you realistically keep former members informed? Many of you have been keeping your own list and that is commendable but I am sure you will agree that it's almost impossible to accurately maintain them.

I recently learned of a new web site administered by the National Guard Family Programs and I think it has potential to fill this void. It is at www.jointservicesupport.org and the goal of this site is to keep members, families and volunteers informed. This website has a log-in function that enables you to enter your contact information. Once entered, your information is stored and secured. Your information will be accessible at the local level by the Family Programs Office, located on the base.

Ms. Robin Berry is the Family Program Coordinator at Battle Creek and she has been doing a fantastic job keeping families informed and involved. She and her volunteer staff at the base provide e-mail notifications on events, volunteer opportunities, newsletters, etc to everyone that is currently registered at the above web site. I created a log-in a few weeks ago and it was easy to use and it is now my responsibility to keep the base informed on how to contact me. I encourage all of you to create a log-in and keep your information current so you can stay involved if you choose. I am very encouraged by this web site and the potential it has.

Thanks Chief. Our Historical Association maintains a "master list" of former members of the Michigan ANG. There are presently over 17,000 names on it. The data has been collected from a variety of sources and we make no guarantee of its accuracy. We also maintain an email address book (I refer to it as our "alert list") of members of our Michigan Air Guard Historical Association (MAGHA) that we use to keep members advised of information. For those members who do not have email capability, we publish a quarterly newsletter that has much of the same information. The email "alert list" is a membership benefit associated with becoming a member of MAGHA so requests from non-members to be added to it can regrettably not be honored. All that being said, the NGB Family Program's web site is another way to stay connected.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart launched a new website at www.VetsJobs.net to assist Veterans in obtaining Federal employment. The VetsJobs website offers a video, "How to Get a Federal Job," that walks Veterans through the process of applying for federal employment. The site also includes links to USAJOBS, the official website for federal jobs, the Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management.

For more information, visit the www.VetsJobs.net website.



The Mount Clemens Public Library and the Selfridge Military Air Museum have collaborated on a book entitled *Images of Aviation, Selfridge Field*, published by Arcadia Publishing and available now thru the Selfridge Military Air Museum.

Through nearly 200 captioned photos, the book covers the story of Selfridge ANG Base from its tenuous start in the mud flats along Lake St Clair to its present-day form as an exemplary joint military community hosting units from all of the US armed services.

Photographs, many never before published, from the Research Library at the Selfridge Military Air Museum along with images from the *Macomb Daily* newspaper archives at the Mount Clemens Public Library and other sources, chronicle the role of the installation as both a community and military asset.

The book retails for \$19.99 plus tax (\$1.20) through the Selfridge Military Air Museum, the Mount Clemens Public Library, local bookstores, and local/national retail outlets and organizations. Taxable shipping and handling charges (\$3.00 + \$0.18 tax = \$3.18) will apply if you request the book be mailed to you by the Selfridge Military Air Museum.

Copies can be picked up at the Selfridge Military Air Museum or mailed to you.

If you wish the book be mailed to you, please fill out the information below and mail this letter, along with a check for \$24.37 made out to MAGHA, to the Selfridge Military Air Museum, 27333 C Street, Bldg 1011, Selfridge ANG Base MI 48045.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

OF COPIES REQUESTED: _____

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.

3. Keep learning. ! Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever, even ham radio. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the devil's family name is Alzheimer.

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

And if you don't send this to at least 8 people - who cares? But do share this with someone. We all need to live life to its fullest each day!! Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting '..holy sh*twhat a ride!'

How to Handle a Big Mouth

An award should go to the Westjet gate attendant in Kelowna B.C. some 12 months ago for being smart and funny, while making her point, when confronted with a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo.

A crowded flight was canceled after Westjet's 767s had been withdrawn from service. A single attendant was re-booking a long line of inconvenienced travelers.

Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and I was in FIRST CLASS".

The attendant replied, "I'm sorry, sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these people first, and I'm sure we'll be able to

work something out." The passenger was unimpressed.

He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?"

Without hesitating, the attendant smiled and grabbed her public address microphone: "May I have your attention please; may I have your attention please", she began, her voice heard clearly throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at Gate 14 WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to Gate 14."

With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the attendant, gritted his teeth and said, "F...You!" Without flinching, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry, sir, but you'll have to get in line for that too."

REUNIONS

METRO REUNION

This is a change to the information provided on page 11 of the October 2009 MANGBANG

The next Metro Reunion is scheduled for Friday, 17 September 2010, at the Old Country Buffet, 6539 N Wayne Road, Westland MI 48185.

The point of contact is Newt Smith, 313-414-2144. Sorry, no email address available.

"OLD FARTS" REUNION

The next "Old Farts" Reunion is scheduled for Friday, 8 January 2010, at Old Country Buffet, 35543 South Gratiot just north of 15 Mile Road beginning at 1215.

The point of contact is Sher Koglin, 586-463-8802, email sherkoglin@wowway.com.

Information on Women Serving in Vietnam

Dr. Heather Stur, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Southern Mississippi <http://www.usm.edu/history/stur.php>, is writing a book that looks at women's experiences in the Vietnam War, and she'd like to interview women who served in Vietnam during the war, as well as women who enlisted in the military in the years immediately following the end of the draft. She is in particular need of the voices of African American women veterans who served in Vietnam, but in need of women of all races and backgrounds. Women veterans who are willing to be interviewed, contact Dr. Stur at: heather.stur@usm.edu <<mailto:heather.stur@usm.edu>>

NOTE: the interview questions have been reviewed by VVA's Institutional Review Board research officer and do not include any questions about personal health care information.

George Carlin's Views on Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' 'I'm four and a half!' You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. 'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16!

And then the greatest day of your life! You become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony. YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're Just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone...

But! Wait!!! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and MAKE IT TO 60.

You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!

You get into your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; 'I Was JUST 92.'

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!' May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!

HONOR ROLL

Due to the large number of Honor Roll members, only those who have either become Life Members or who have achieved a higher membership status since the last issue are listed below. A complete list of all Honor Roll members is published annually in the July issue.

New Sustaining Members

Maj Gen Paul A. Pochmara

New Life Members

Mr. Vince Giacobbe (Museum Volunteer)
Mr. William J. Keller (Michigan Transit Museum)
MSgt Tony Milano (71-95)
Mr. Darrell Rohrbeck (Museum Volunteer)
A2C Ed Young (Museum Volunteer)

The Perks of Reaching 60 and Heading Towards 70 and Older

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run----anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask, "Did I wake you? "
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4pm.
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.

YE OLDE PHOTO GALLERY

One of the great things about helping at the Selfridge Military Air Museum is seeing old photos of when we were in our wild misguided youth. We're going to try to capture some of these photos in every issue of the MANGBANG. And if we happen to embarrass someone in the process, oh well!



This photo, taken in 1956, is of Maj Merwin "Shabby" Read (1951-1963) shaking the hand of the pilot taking the last of the MI ANG's F-86Es to the boneyard. What we don't know is the name of that young pilot in the cockpit! I think it looks like KC-135 pilot Capt Brian Wyrzykowski but Brian wasn't even born until 1973 so it can't possibly be him! Does anybody recognize the young pilot?



Air Guard readies for C-27J fleet

ARLINGTON, Va. (11/02/09) – For the first time ever, the Air National Guard will be the sole operator of a new aircraft straight off the assembly line.

The C-27J Spartan, the latest propeller-driven airlifter, is an "extremely rugged" aircraft, designed for austere environments, said Air Force officials. It is about half the size of a C-130 with 3.5 cargo pallet positions. "It is the first time in U.S. Air Force history where the service acquired a new airframe solely owned, operated and maintained by the Air National Guard," said Lt. Col. Chris Beckman, the ANG's Aviation Planning and Execution chief.

In April, through Resource Management Decision 802, Defense Secretary Robert Gates moved the C-27J program and its related direct support mission from the Army to the Air Force. Gen. George Casey, the chief of staff of the Army, supported Gates' decision saying "we need the capability to re-supply our forces. We do not have to fly the planes to get that." He added that flying fixed-wing aircraft is not the Army's core competency.

Since that time, the Air Force, Air Mobility Command and the Air National Guard have taken a serious approach to building the program, officials said. "Making a switch like this is no small affair, especially at this phase in the acquisition process," said Lt. Col. Gene Capone, AMC's C-27J test manager at the Joint Program Office. He added that the Army lost its fiscal year 2010 monies for the C-27J due to RMD 802, so the Air Force will fund the Army's completion of the Multi-Service Operational Test and Evaluation (MOT&E).

"ANG pilots and loadmasters from the 179th Airlift Wing (in Mansfield, Ohio) and the 175th Wing (in Baltimore) will be the first operational C-27J crews to be trained and deployed and are critical participants in the upcoming MOT&E," Beckman said. "The MOT&E, which is scheduled for April 2010, will determine if the C-27J program is ready for deployment and domestic operations." Two Army National Guard units, Company H, 171st Aviation Regiment from Georgia and 1st Battalion, 245th Airfield Operations Battalion from Oklahoma, will also participate in the MOT&E.

The Air Force will field 24 C-27J's at ANG units in the following locations: Baltimore, Mansfield, Fargo, N.D., Bradley Air Field, Conn., **Battle Creek, Mich.**, and Meridian, Miss.

"The ANG has played a critical role in the development of the C-27J roadmap to include basing, personnel, aircraft delivery, Air Force instruction and technical order development and review, service transfer and planning for operational execution," Beckman said.

Some of you may be included in some of these awards. Please ensure the unit you retired from has your current contact information if you deployed since 9-11.

AIR GUARD WEB SITE HONORS HOMETOWN HEROES

A new Air National Guard recognition program that will honor thousands of citizen-airmen for their service launched a Web site April 1. Getting on-line information about the Hometown Heroes Salute campaign to its units was the Air Guard's next step in recognizing 80,000 airmen who have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001.

The Web site---www.airguard.ang.af.mil/hometownheroessalute---provides ordering information, criteria and other Hometown Heroes Salute campaign content and contacts. It also provides background and briefings on the campaign, which has been described as the largest recognition endeavor in Air Guard history.

In cooperation with the states, it will recognize airmen who deployed for more than 30 consecutive days for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, as well as other contingency operations.

The Web site helps the states initiate the awards process, said Linda Brooks, the campaign's program manager.

The campaign will first recognize every eligible airman who has deployed since 9/11. They will receive a cherry wood encased letter of appreciation signed by Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the former Air Guard director who is now chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, the Air Guard's command chief.

A three-tier recognition system will start in 2010 that will award other items for further deployments and longer deployments. The first awards ceremony should be held next month.

"There are probably about 60 units that we are processing now," Brooks said. "The Web site is their tool to request these awards from a nationwide campaign that recognizes our airmen for their service and what they continue to do for their nation, states and communities."

The Michigan Air Guard Bulletin and News Gazette (MANGBANG) is a quarterly newsletter distributed in January, April, July, and October by the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association (MAGHA), 27333 C Street, Building 1050, Selfridge ANG Base MI 48045 exclusively for the members of the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association. Zero percent of MAGHA dues is designated for publication of the newsletter. Standard postage using MAGHA's non-profit mailing permit is paid at the Mount Clemens MI Post Office. Time-sensitive input for publication must be received at the address above at least 45 days before the publication date for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

Enhanced Use Lease Terminated

By Capt. Penny Carroll
127th Public Affairs

The old Army housing apartments and duplexes are coming down steadily here and the enhanced use lease project is now officially terminated. What does the future Selfridge ANGB look like?

Following the Base Realignment and Closure commission of 2005, the Air Force identified property and assets available for development which were not considered excess because of base security, standoff distances and encroachment concerns at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Enhanced-use leasing was the best opportunity to develop this land and property for use with the most flexibility for control by the Air Force, at that time. The EUL proposals called for development of senior housing and medical facilities, as well as other administrative-type private development that would bring in private industry that would be compatible with Selfridge missions and security constraints.

However, the National Guard Bureau and the Air Force recently determined the retention of the underutilized space is now more essential to maintain for the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) missions at Selfridge ANGB.

Lt. Col. Mac Crawford, Selfridge Land-use and Facilities Director and Acting 127th Mission Support Group Commander explains, "It became apparent through the more than 2 years of EUL planning that there is significant DoD and DHS interest in growing existing--or bedding down new--federal missions at Selfridge. With this new information, it became obvious to our government development team that we needed to develop this underutilized property for critical military and homeland security usages."

The next step in the future growth of the base includes the base host unit, the 127th Wing, taking a step back in the development planning process beginning with the creation of a comprehensive--fenceline-to-fenceline--base master plan, which will take into account these outside military and homeland security interests as well as their own.

Base Commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Peplinski, described the EUL termination action to local community leaders in a letter dated October 15, "Selfridge Air National Guard Base houses a large amount of missions, people, assets, and property – all of which must be protected. Two

Starting in early Oct. 2009, old housing units at Selfridge Air National Guard Base will begin to be taken down. The demolition project has been planned for years, first with the US Army Garrison; but the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure commission moved the Garrison out of SANGB and the project moved to the responsibility of the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard.

photo by John S. Swanson, 127th Public Affairs

and a half years ago, EUL was the best option with the greatest flexibility for the use and growth of missions at our base while focusing on reutilization of property vacated by the Army Garrison per BRAC 2005.

"Now, we are moving forward on a statement of work for a robust installation master plan for Selfridge, taking into account current missions here and the growth of our current DoD and DHS tenants and others who have expressed an interest in coming to Selfridge."

One example of this interest is the moving of U.S. Army Soldiers, Civilians and Contractors of the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command and TARDEC to vacant space at Selfridge. Hundreds of Army associates have moved into various areas of the base with organizations such as Joint Combat Support Systems and the Joint Robotics Project Office.

These moves have been necessary to accommodate the expanding missions at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Michigan, and the U.S. Army Garrison at Detroit Arsenal has reviewed additional facilities at Selfridge that could be used to support even more growth of those agencies.

The Army leadership has been integrally involved with the 127th Wing to ensure their requests are considered in the new base master plan, supporting the overall infrastructure framework and complimenting the various missions at Selfridge.

The end-result allows the 127th Wing to focus on pushing forward with the possibilities of long and short term shared use with other federal agencies, creating a campus providing for a stronger joint installation with increased security and encroachment protection for Selfridge ANGB.

According to Lt. Col. Crawford, "We have a tremendous opportunity going forward to capitalize on the strengths of our installation, and to create a future Selfridge composed of a synergistic team of DoD and DHS components uniquely positioned to successfully wage the war on terrorism both at home and abroad. If we are successful in this effort--and I believe we will be--we will have created what could well be considered the standard-bearer of the 21st Century military installation."

