

Citizen-Airmen Look to Congress for Status Quo

SELFTRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich. – What does teaching special education in middle school and fixing ejection chairs loaded with explosives have in common? Maybe more than you would think, says a man who does both.

"The military teaches patience and attention to detail," said Staff Sgt. Jared Kowalski, an egress technician with the 127th Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

In his classroom, it is patience that makes Kowalski such a strong educator, said Sharon Remillard, a paraprofessional who works alongside Kowalski.

"He has the time and the patience to not only work with the kids in his class, but to be supportive to all our kids," Remillard said.

Kowalski's full-time job is teaching math to cognitively impaired students in a special education program at Clawson Middle School in Clawson, Mich.

One weekend a month, he puts on a uniform and serves as a member of the Michigan Air National Guard at Selfridge.

For many Citizen-Airmen in the Air National Guard, the job they do in uniform is similar to their pursuits in the civilian world. There are, for example, plenty of local police officers who also serve in the 127th Security Forces Squadron, and nurses and



U.S. AIR FORCE / DAN HEATON

Staff Sgt. Jared Kowalski, left, and Staff Sgt. Nathan Henkel perform routine, scheduled maintenance on the ACES-II ejection seat system in their role as egress technicians for the 127th Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The seat is used on the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft.

other medical technicians who serve as part of the 127th Medical Group.

"Being in the Air Force helped me get my start," said Senior Master Sgt. Tim Horvath, a member of the Michigan Air National Guard and a police officer for the suburban Detroit community of Westland.

"I think it helps a lot of young people get their start, no matter what career they choose."

Horvath began his military career as a medic about 25 years ago. He used that experience to help land a job as a city paramedic, a job he worked in for about a dozen years, before deciding to move into police work back

in 1999.

He remained in the medical field for another decade in the Air National Guard, before taking on a leadership role as the first sergeant for the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron at Selfridge.

"The leadership skills I learned in the military have a direct relationship to what I do in law enforcement," Horvath said.

Of late, Horvath, Kowalski and others at Selfridge are eagerly awaiting for news from Washington, D.C., about the potential future of their military careers.

According to an Air Force proposal, the A-10 squadron at Selfridge is to be eliminated, with no replacement aircraft. Such a move is expected to eliminate about 400 part-time and 200 full-time positions at Selfridge. Congress is considering that proposal, along with various counter proposals being put forward by Selfridge supporters.

The next step in that process is a review of the military fiscal year 2013 budget proposal by the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, which is chaired by U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

"I want to continue to serve," said Horvath. "But more important than just what I want for myself, I want the opportunities to continue to exist for our younger Airmen who have served just a few years and are just beginning their military career."

"Keeping those opportunities open for young people in this region, I think that benefits the whole community. So many people learn and grow from their experiences in the National Guard, I would just hate to see fewer of those op-

portunities in the future."

No exact statistics are kept, at least locally, but Guard leaders at Selfridge say it is fairly common for younger members of the Air National Guard to use their military skills – coupled with college benefits – as a springboard for their civilian careers.

"The converse to that is also true," said Col. Philip Sheridan, vice commander of the 127th Wing at Selfridge.

"So many times in the Guard, we benefit from the skills people bring from their civilian job with them either to drill weekend or to a deployment."

The issue is being fought locally and in D.C., they said.

New Lorenzo Cultural Center Exhibit Puts Spotlight on Early State History

by Jennifer Knightstep
Special Writer

History buffs, rejoice.

From now until May 5, the Lorenzo Cultural Center at Macomb Community College's center campus in Clinton Twp. is featuring an exhibit that highlights Michigan's storied past.

The exhibit, called "Becoming Michigan: from Revolution to Statehood," includes more than a dozen displays designed to educate and entertain Michiganders of all ages.

While some displays are of the "under glass" variety, several are hands-on and interactive, including short films and documentaries playing on kiosks, performances by storytellers and dance troupes, and educational presentations that students in Macomb's Multicultural International Initiatives can attend for credit towards their cultural competency certificates.

Off the main exhibit hall, two additional rooms house artifacts related to specific pieces of Michigan's history – the pivotal War of 1812 and the Native American "Trail of Tears."

In both rooms, television monitors play documentaries alongside the artifacts, lending the topics depth and emotion. The artifacts are fascinating, and include Native American quilts, bits of currency, armor and weaponry, and everyday objects, such as eyeglasses, clothing, and cooking utensils.

There is very little in Michigan's earliest history that is not featured in "Becoming Michigan." The timeline for

Whirlpool Sells New Appliances in China

BENTON HARBOR, Mich. (AP) – Appliance maker Whirlpool Corp. is only the latest manufacturer to venture into the Chinese market.

That's because Whirlpool and Suning Appliance Co., an appliance retailer in China, are teaming up to sell home appliances there.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

The companies said last week that the partnership will give Whirlpool preferential access to Suning's distribution network of 1,700 retail outlets in China. Suning will get exclusive access to the Whirlpool brand at National Electronic Super Stores in China and receive preferential access to Whirlpool product innova-

tions.

"Suning's distribution network, as well as its excellent reputation as a leading electrical appliance retailer in China, makes it the ideal choice of partnership, which is a key enabler to our China growth strategy to become the leading international appliance brand and grow our domestic sales to \$1 billion over the next several years," Michael Todman, president of Whirlpool International, said in a statement.

Last month Whirlpool, whose brands include Maytag, KitchenAid and its namesake, reported that its fourth-quarter net income rose 20 percent as it increased prices for products in North America.



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

Part of the new "Becoming Michigan: From Revolution to Statehood" historical exhibit at the Lorenzo Cultural Center includes this display featuring a "typical" Michigan household in the early 1800s. Displayed items include clothing and household tools.



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

Sophie Lesniak, 8, of New Baltimore, finds a display at the Lorenzo Cultural Center of early currency interesting. "It's really cool," says Sophie. "I wonder if people could still spend it today."

the exhibit begins with the cultural influences (such as the booming fur trade) and historic events (like the Surrender of Detroit) and ends with the Territory of Michigan joining the Union and achieving statehood in January 1837.

The Lorenzo exhibit is child-friendly, and includes a table of artifacts with a sign asking

them to "pick up and touch" the items, and a word-search puzzle and coloring sheet children can take home with them.

"Becoming Michigan" runs through May 5, and is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. More information about specific lectures, presentations, and displays can be found at Lorenzo's Web site online.

"Becoming Michigan" is just another in a long line of Lorenzo Cultural exhibits that have studied Michigan and Detroit's roles in the Civil War, World War II, the 1950s, the Space Race and more.

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