



News Release

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NEWS: Soldiers on track for future service

By Senior Airman Ryan Kuntze

18th Air Refueling Wing

Five soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 157th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, headquartered in Milwaukee, extended their enlistments during a public ceremony Saturday, June 20 at the Milwaukee Mile.

Col. Mark Michie, commander of the 157th Brigade, presided over the re-enlistment ceremony for Spc. Joshua Zimmerman, Sgt. Ryan Zinkle, Sgt. Kenneth Hudson, Sgt. James Tobin and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Keeler. The 132nd Army Marching Band set the mood for the ceremony with service-specific songs and other marching music.

"These soldiers came from the community," Michie said. "I think it's good to show the community we care. They deserve that much."

The event began with the 132nd Army Rock Band playing music by Avril Lavigne, Green Day, Audioslave and Jimi Hendrix. As the stadium slowly filled with race fans, the 132nd Army Marching Band marched forward, a veritable sea of camouflaged brass moving toward a stage set at the finish line.

With the band facing the crowd, Michie and the soldiers assembled on the stage. The ceremony was broadcast over loudspeakers as the soldiers, right hands raised, repeated the oath of enlistment.

The ceremony ended to the sound of applause, the band marched off the track, and the soldiers assembled with other senior Army members for the National Anthem. The last notes of the National Anthem blended with the distant thump of rotors as four Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters flew over the gathered soldiers, who held their salute as the crowd stood in silence.

The soldiers went their separate ways moments later, and the NASCAR National-series race had its official start.

"These soldiers are the next best generation," Michie said. "It's important that we recognize their re-enlistment."

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Story with photos can be found online at: <http://dma.wi.gov/dma/news/2009news/09057.asp>

Captions:

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Col. Mark Michie, commander of the 157th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, administers the oath of enlistment to five brigade soldiers at the Milwaukee Mile NASCAR race in West Allis, Saturday, June 20. The soldiers re-enlisted before the race started, and were later present for the singing of the National Anthem and a fly-over of four UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. Wisconsin National Guard photo by Senior Airman Ryan Kuntze

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