

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 4, Issue 6

"127th Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

December 2021



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EDITORIAL

The importance of followership in leadership



Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Brewer

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127th Wing First Sergeant

When examining a successful team it is almost a guarantee that you will find that the members of the team all understand the importance of being a good follower. The greatest leaders in the world will attest to the fact that without good followers they could not be successful leaders.

Leaders build leaders. Through their actions and behavior, they cultivate a new generation of greatness and they create followership. Followers do the work of a leader

so that the goals of the team can be achieved.

When it comes to followership as it relates to leadership, the traditional view of leadership assumes that leaders are responsible to motivate and push their subordinates to the level where they excel because without that, the subordinates would not do so on their own.

This idea could not be farther from the truth in most cases. Generally speaking, subordinates will not need to be motivated to succeed but they will need to be directed as to what the goal or mission is. Once a specific goal or mission has been es-

tablished, the subordinates can begin to accomplish their individual tasks.

So how do you become a good follower? Ask yourself one question... Am I someone that I would follow? If you cannot answer that with a solid yes, then it is time to do some self-reflection and make some changes.

If you want to be the leader that you need or needed in your life, then become the follower that you would want on your team. It all starts with you and recognizing that you may have to make some changes. Being a good follower today will make you a better leader tomorrow.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TRISTAN D. VIGLIANCO

Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general and director of Michigan's Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs, addresses the crowd during a leadership conference at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 6, 2021. The participants discussed a variety of issues and developed strategy for the organization going forward.

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SELFRIDGE BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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The Selfridge Base Community Council's mission is to continue improving outstanding relationships between both the civilian and military-service communities centered at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

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On the cover: 1st Lt. Shane Bilek, a pilot assigned to the 107th Fighter Squadron helps Korbyn Chinevere, 6, clear pilots for approach at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Korbyn, who was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma (bone cancer) December 24, 2020, wanted to experience what it would be like to meet people in the military. With the help of Make-A-Wish Michigan, Korbyn visited Selfridge and was made an honorary pilot for the day, toured the KC-135 Stratotanker and A-10 Thunderbolt II jets, and was able to ride in a WWII Sherman tank. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Terry L. Atwell)

COMMUNITY

PILOT FOR A DAY

By Tech. Sgt. Samara Taylor
127th Wing Public Affairs

Meet Korbyn Chinevere, the 127th Wing's newest pilot. He is a kindergartener who became a pilot for the day here at Selfridge. While here, he had the opportunity to visit the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the KC-135 Stratotanker and ride in a WWII Sherman tank.

Korbyn was diagnosed with bone cancer last year, and he is nearing the end of his treatment journey. He wished for the experience of riding in a tank and meeting military personnel. With the collaboration of Make-A-Wish Michigan and Michigan Air National Guard, his wish was made possible.

Brig. Gen. Rolf Mammen, 127th Wing Commander, became aware of Korbyn's wish and wanted to support him.

"This day was all about Korbyn," said Mammen. "We wanted to make it a special day for him, and our extended Selfridge community came forward and did just that."

To be a pilot, one must dress appropriately for the job. To begin his day, Korbyn was presented with a flight suit by the Michigan Air Force Association. Without his wing patches, a pilot is considered out of uniform. Korbyn was presented patches from both the 171st Air Refueling Squadron and the 107th Fighter Squadron.

He began his pilot training with the 171st Air Refueling Squadron and toured the KC-135 Stratotanker.

1st Lt. Shane Bilek, an A-10 pilot with the 107th Fighter Squadron, was one of Korbyn's flight instructors for the day. Bilek trained him on how to communicate with pilots using the radio. Korbyn watched the A-10s from the ground as his fellow 107th Fighter Squadron pilots flew over the runway. Korbyn cleared his co-pilots for their approach and landing at Selfridge.

After a brief lunch, Korbyn's adventure continued with a visit



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY ATWELL

Korbyn Chinevere, 6, sits in the cockpit of a U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Korbyn, who was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma (bone cancer) December 24, 2020 visited Selfridge with the help of Make-A-Wish Michigan. While learning what it's like to serve in the Michigan National Guard, Korbyn was made an honorary pilot for the day, toured the KC-135 Stratotanker and A-10 Thunderbolt II jets, and was able to ride in a WWII Sherman tank.

to the Selfridge Military Air Museum to ride in a Sherman Tank. Before climbing into the tank, his grandma, Theresa Williams, asked Korbyn whether he was ready to go for a ride. "Oh yeah!" he replied with enthusiasm.

The event ended at STARBASE, where he and his family were presented with souvenirs and keepsakes to commemorate the occasion. Korbyn's mother, Toni McCowen, expressed how strong he has been. He is nearing the end of his chemotherapy treatments.

"He just finished his cancer treatment last week," his mother

explained. "Today is a great moment to see him smile and to take a break from all that he has gone through."

Make-A-Wish Michigan has granted the wishes of more than 364 children to date. Thanks to the support of Selfridge and other community partners, including the Base Community Council and the Air Force Society, this event was a success for everyone involved and Korbyn's smile proved it.

"We want to provide hope to children who are suffering serious diseases at a time when they

are most in need of it." said Sherri Collins, Make-A-Wish Michigan, vice president of Marketing and Brand Advancement. "Today was a shining example of the community of love and support that surrounds our wish kids."

Right: Korbyn Chinevere, 6, was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma (bone cancer) December 24, 2020. Through Make-A-Wish Michigan, Korbyn visited Selfridge Air National Guard Base to experience what it would be like to meet people in the military.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MUNNAF JOARDER



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY L. ATWELL

Korbyn Chinevere, a kindergartner, poses with his mother, Toni McCowen, and members of the 171st Air Refueling Squadron after receiving his personalized military helmet bag and a tour of the KC-135 Stratotanker. Korbyn, diagnosed with bone cancer last year, wanted to experience what it would be like to meet people in the military. Through Make-A-Wish, Michigan Korbyn visited Selfridge Air National Guard Base. He was made an honorary pilot for the day, toured the KC-135 Stratotanker and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircrafts and rode in a WWII Sherman tank.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY L. ATWELL



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MUNAF JOARDER

ABOVE: Steven Mrozek, Selfridge Military Air Museum Executive Director, presents Korbyn with a World War II Sherman Tank toy model as Brig. Gen. Rolf Mammen looks on, at Selfridge. Korbyn and his family were presented with souvenirs and keepsakes to commemorate the occasion.

LEFT: An excited Korbyn gives a thumbs up from inside a World War II Sherman Tank at Selfridge, courtesy of the Selfridge Military Air Museum. SMAM volunteers made it possible for Korbyn and his mom to ride around Selfridge in the tank.

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. SAMARA TAYLOR

Members of the 127th Wing attended an annual Suicide Prevention seminar on October 2, 2021 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Marsha Candela LMSW, the 127th Wing Director of Psychological Health, led a discussion of suicide prevention. She discussed coping strategies to combat tough situations with the Airmen. “No one deserves to be here more than you; stay connected and reach out,” Candela said. “If you know someone who is going through a difficult situation, show them that you care.” If you need assistance with suicide prevention call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273- TALK (8255).



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MUNNAF H. JOARDER

Members from the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron de-icing crew blast ice from the surface of KC-135 during the first deep freeze of 2021 last week here at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. 127th Wing maintainers work in inclement weather providing a vital link in keeping Selfridge aircraft mission-ready.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. SAMARA TAYLOR

Senior Airman Jasmine Lee, services specialist, 127th Force Support Squadron, prepares Thanksgiving style menu for members of the 127th Wing at the dining facility at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 6, 2021. These experts provide exceptional service in a variety of tasks to support their fellow Airmen.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY L. ATWELL

(Left to right) Mike Viternia, President of the Selfridge Museum Board of Directors, Roger Krings, Selfridge Museum Director of Operations, Brig. Gen. Rolf Mammen, 127th Wing Commander, Mark Hackel, Macomb County Executive, and Steve Mrozek, Executive Director of the Selfridge Museum break ground in a ceremony today marking the addition of a new Aviation Education Center at the Selfridge Military Air Museum. The aviation education center will make extensive use of historical artifacts and will incorporate hands-on, interactive learning. This is one of only a few education centers like this in the state and the only one in Macomb County.

READINESS

127th Medical Group trains in Italy



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DREW SCHUMANN

NAS SIGONELLA, Italy- Airman First Class Stephen Conklin, Aerospace Medical Technician for the 127th Wing Medical Group, remove stitches from a child at the temporary housing facility on NAS Sigonella, Italy, during Operation Allies Refuge.

By Staff Sgt. Drew Schumann
127th Wing Public Affairs

Air Force medics and administrators from the 127th Medical Group, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, and the 110th Medical Group, at Battle Creek, Mich., recently took part in Medical Facilities Annual Training at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy.

“Training at an active duty hospital sharpens skills that medics are not normally exposed to; such as pediatric care, geriatric care, and treating members of the local population,” said Captain Tandi Bailey, medical administrator for the 110th Medical Group. “This training is important because it not only gets our clinical and medical teams the exposure of an active duty hospital operations tempo, but also maintains our clinical currency, through medical training and readiness.”

Clinical experience of this nature can only be achieved through off-site training. Michigan Air National Guard facilities have ambulatory medical facilities, which provide medical and dental examinations,

vaccine distribution, flight physicals, and other non-urgent care services for its members. Like many active-duty military facilities, NAS Sigonella hosts a hospital with advanced services providing care for active service members, and their families.

For many of the Airmen who attended the MFAT, the hospital exposure they received was a first for their career, and could only be obtained while working alongside medical colleagues from the Navy and Marine Corp, as well as NATO allies from Italy.

“It has been great reviewing skills that I haven’t done in a while, such as administering IVs (Intravenous administration,) and mechanical ventilation,” said Senior Airman Kimberly Lai, Aerospace Medical Technician with the 127th Medical Group. “I am hoping to bring back what I learn, and provide it at Selfridge, to continue being an asset to the Medical Group.”

The training mission was 14 days in total, and allowed for eight days of in-hospital training. This not only served as the two-week annual ser-

vice requirement for guardsmen, but also provided ample time to accomplish training tasks that are necessary for readiness.

“Completion of our medic’s training requirements is our goal,” said Major Kathleen Wilbourn, Registered Nurse and Team Chief, at the 127th Medical Group. “Aerospace Medical Technicians need forty hours of training in a hospital with emergency room, and intensive care unit capabilities, in order to be fully qualified in their training requirements.”

Combining the roles of Licensed Practical Nurse, Emergency Medical Technician and specialty technician (such as optometry, or dental,) Aerospace Medical Service technicians for the U.S. Air Force are specially trained, and highly adaptable, to meet the critical needs of military medical service and readiness. Whether their career leads them to work in a hospital, aboard a ship, on an aeromedical evacuation aircraft or at a deployed location, training such as MFAT allows for Air Force medics to be indispensable in providing high levels of medical care.

COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENLISTED HERITAGE HOUSE

Over 200 trick or treaters participated in the second annual Enlisted Heritage House Trunk or Treat event, held Oct. 23 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Military community, families come together for Enlisted Heritage House Trunk or Treat

By Rose Spaulding
EHH Correspondent

The Enlisted Heritage House 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat was held on Oct. 23, 2021, in the old housing area located on Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The event was open to the military community and DoD civilians.

Over 200 trick or treaters participated and gathered treats from 35 festively decorated trunks. Each trick or treator was given tickets at check-in to vote on their favorite display with prizes being awarded to best military and best civilian trunk.

The EHH Military Halloween Trunk First Place Trophy, \$200 gift card, and one-year bragging rights went to the military trunk. The EHH Military Halloween Trunk First Place Trophy, \$200 gift card, and one-year bragging rights went to the military trunk. The EHH Military Halloween Trunk First Place Trophy, \$200 gift card, and one-year bragging rights went to the military trunk.

“This event is a great op-

portunity for military and civilian families to come together and have a great time,” said Lt. Commander Adam Morehouse.

The First Place Civilian EHH Halloween Trunk Award went to Greg Polcyn. Polcyn entertained trick or treaters with his juggling skills and took home a \$100 gift card. Greg works for PdM SKOT at TACOM. “Performing for the kids surrounded by the old Selfridge neighborhood was the best experience,” said Polcyn.

The Macomb County Young Marines volunteered to help with the event and assisted with traffic and distributed cider and donuts at the Enlisted Heritage House.

“The event was a huge success,” said EHH Event Trustee Maria Shishbish. “It was wonderful to see so many families, military units, and organizations from the military community come together and have a great time.”



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