

SELF RIDGE FLYER

Volume 2, Issue 2

"127th Wing — Your Hometown Air Force"

March 2019



EDITORIAL

Selfridge Flyer helps strengthen community partnerships, outreach

By Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum
127th Wing, Commander

Our youngest recruits can quickly name two of the Michigan Air National Guard's primary missions: to fight America's wars and to secure our homeland. In fact, for many of the young men and women who enlist in the National Guard, these missions are what drew them to the Guard in the first place.

They already know of the critical role the Guard plays internationally or here at home. From news coverage of a major combat deployment or a response to a devastating hurricane, our newest Citizen-Airmen generally come to us with some knowledge of these two important missions.

As they begin serving here at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, these junior Airmen quickly become aware of the National Guard's third mission: building enduring partnerships.

Our most critical and important partnership is with our local community. It is in the local community where our Citizen-Airmen work and attend college when they are not serving in their military status.

Not surprisingly, the bulk of the Air National Guard personnel at the base, along with the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and federal agents who make up Team Selfridge, live within a 50-mile radius of the base.

Most importantly, it is from that same local community where we recruit the bulk of those young patriots who become American Airmen.

It is imperative that we continue to strengthen the 100-year partnership that Selfridge has enjoyed with the Mount Clemens community and beyond.

This newspaper you are holding in your hand, the Selfridge Flyer, is just another building block of that partnership. The Flyer is,



Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum

in some ways, the print version of two neighbors leaning on the fence, sharing their news.

We are proud of the work our Team Selfridge personnel accomplish on a daily basis. We know you are, too. In many cases, it was your son or daughter, or the man or woman who lives down the street, or works with you at the shop, who accomplished our mission.

So, what's happening at Selfridge?

In upcoming editions of the Flyer we will share details with you about new tenant commands moving in to the base, including a training center for military logisticians and a vocational training facility for veterans with brain injuries.

Every edition will include a slice of life and photos of daily operations at the base. When

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security considerations allow, we will share the details that we can about military operations that the 127th Wing and other units at the base have been involved with. This month for example, you will see a few photos of the aircraft and personnel we hosted on a temporary basis after they were re-located due to Hurricane Michael in mid-October.

This new Selfridge Flyer will be delivered monthly to over 50,000 homes in the area by our partners at The Macomb Daily, and will be available at select locations on and around the base. I want to thank our partners in the business community, notably the Selfridge Base Community Council, which is helping to bring this product to you — no tax dollars are used in the printing or distribution of this paper.

If you ever have any questions, or perhaps a suggestion about something you would like to see in the Selfridge Flyer, please do not hesitate to contact us. The best method for doing so, is via email at 127thpa1@gmail.com.

I also encourage you to follow us on Facebook, for all the latest news and photos of what your 127th Wing and base personnel are doing.

For more than 100 years, Selfridge has enjoyed an enduring partnership with our community that has not only kept the base strong, but helped keep America strong.

Thank you for being our partners.

FROM THE BCC

A letter from the Selfridge Base Community Council president

By Steve Remias
Selfridge Base Community Council, President

As President of the Selfridge Base Community Council, and on behalf of its 260 members, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce the Selfridge Flyer presented by the Council.



Steve Remias

Briefly, the Council was formed in the 1940s to provide opportunities for local political leaders to meet with Selfridge leadership. The meetings were designed to discuss and solve existing or potential problems that might arise as well as build relationships so the base and its positive impact on the community could be protected and promoted.

The last several decades the Council has provided volunteers and financial support to assist in planning, promoting and executing Air Show Open Houses. We are excited to continue that relationship for the 2020 Air Show Open House June 6 and 7, 2020.

The Council continues to foster relationships, advocate for the base and its dedicated men and women who work at the base with any of its 45 plus tenants as well as the thousands of dedicated individuals who make up the County's Arsenal of Democracy including The Detroit Arsenal. We strongly feel the Selfridge Flyer will be another important tool in our mission.

I hope you enjoy reading the Flyer as it provides monthly updates and current happenings in and around Selfridge and all of our regional defense industry.

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 2, Issue 2



SELFRIDGE BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Presidents

Steve Remias (Current)
Mark Zuccaro (Future)

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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Vice Wing Commander

Col. Stan Krasovic

Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Danny McDow

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On the cover: Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum flies his final training flight in the A-10 Thunderbolt II, as a pilot in the Michigan Air National Guard. Slocum retires as 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base commanding officer after 35 years of military service, 27 of those in the Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Munnaf Joarder)

EDITORIAL

Vice Wing Commander Col. Krasovic: Teamwork, balance key to success

By Col. Stan Krasovic
127th Wing, Vice Commander

I started my Air Force career a little over 15 years ago with the 927th Air Refueling Wing with the Air Force Reserves at Selfridge.

Admittedly, I knew very little about the Guard and Reserves and the commitment this decision would demand. As I was meeting new people during one of my first drill weekends, this one senior master sergeant asked me if I was full-time or Traditional Reservist. I answered that I was just a Traditional. She quickly corrected me by telling me to "never say JUST a Traditional." After 4 years with the Reserves and 11 with the Guard, I still take that lesson to heart, as the



Col. Stan Krasovic, 127th Wing Vice Commander

Traditional Guardsman, citizen Airman is the core/backbone/key ingredient to our mission success.

In the last edition of the Selfridge Flyer, I was introduced as the new Wing Vice Commander, one of just a handful of traditional, part-time

You represent the Air National Guard and are responsible for your people 24/7, regardless of what duty status you are in.

commanders in the 127th Wing. You won't hear me say "JUST" a Traditional anymore and you won't hear me say "part-time" commander. You represent the Air National Guard and are responsible for your people 24/7, regardless of what duty status you are in. It takes quite the commitment, but I believe there are three factors that make a Traditional Guardsman

Commander successful: maintain balance, set the example, and build your team.

In some ways, I think not being present at the base every day is beneficial. The high ops tempo and daily grind can and does lead to burnout. I have seen that far too often. By having to balance family, a civilian career, and military responsibilities one needs to create a balance as to not get consumed and stressed with requirements and responsibilities. Balance also entails taking care of yourself, mentally, spiritually, and physically. You need to have an outlet to relieve stress and maintain balance. For me, I find that through exercise and endurance

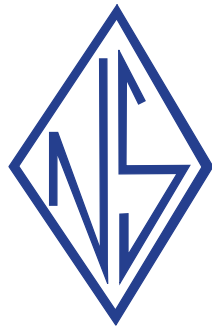
sports.

In high school, I had a lacrosse coach who would always do the workouts and runs with the team. His rationale was that he wasn't going to ask the team to do something he wasn't willing to do himself. Set the example by leading yourself. Ensure YOU are mission ready, that YOUR requirements and qualifications are current; that YOU "Stand Ready" to do our state's and nation's business.

A Traditional Commander will never be successful if they don't build a team. But that's just step one. You must then empower and trust them to carry out your vision and the daily operations of the unit. I have been incredibly fortunate to

work alongside some outstanding individuals who I am proud to call my teammates. With updates and communication, they never make me feel like I'm "part-time," no matter where in the world my airline job takes me.

Whether you are full-time or a Traditional, a Commander or not, these three factors will lead to a successful and fulfilling career, no matter what your duty assignment is. The folks we have here at Selfridge are truly some of the best and we are even better when we leverage each other and operate as one team. I am honored to continue my career with this new leadership challenge at the wing level and look forward to building and working with my new team.



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SUPPORT SERVICES

Hometown Heroes hotline supports families of deployed Airmen

By Theresa Morris
127th Wing Public Affairs

Imagine waking up to a bitterly cold house days after your spouse deploys halfway around the world and the governor declares a state of emergency due to record cold temperatures. The furnace quit working, you're alone, and the children are cold. What do you do?

Luckily, leadership of the 127th Wing is all too familiar with the overwhelming stress taken on by military spouses in the wake of a deployment; and they're standing by to help! To provide emergency support, the Wing has partnered with military, state, and local community organizations to establish a unique resource for spouses of deployed service members which is locally referred to as the Hometown Hero Hotline.

The Wing introduced the new service during a recent deployment of over 100 Selfridge Airmen. During the recent cold weather spell, the hotline was put to the test for the first time.

"Our furnace quit working and my wife called the Hometown Hero Hotline," said Staff Sgt. Geoff Martin, an Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician with the 127th Air Refueling Group who lives in Flint.

The hotline network was launched into action, this time reaching out to the Flint Chamber of Commerce for support. A local Flint business stepped up to help, expeditiously sending a service technician to tackle the problem. The service technician happened to also be an Army veteran. He repaired the furnace and heat was flowing again in the family's home. Problem fixed!

"I'm very grateful for all the support my family received while I am deployed overseas," Martin said, "We didn't know what we were going to do. The business



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. RACHEL BARTON

Family members await the arrival of Airmen returning home from a deployment at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, February 19, 2017.

owner, hearing I was deployed said, that was all the reason he needed to go above and beyond. That is truly amazing!"

Constantly looking for new and innovative ways to take care of families, operationalize expeditionary readiness, and enrich community partnerships, 127th Wing leadership developed what is believed to be the first National

Guard emergency hotline manned 24 hours a day to support families of deployed Airmen.

"The hotline is worth its weight in gold for our deployed Airmen who know their families are not alone," said Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, Selfridge Air National Guard Base and 127th Wing Commander.

One call to the "Hometown

Hero Hotline" reaches Selfridge Air National Guard Base commanders who have built an extensive network of community partners who stand ready to help the families of the deployed Airmen.

"I had no idea support like this existed," said Stephanie Bante, when her family vehicle quit working shortly after her husband deployed. "The immediate reac-

tion, ability to help, and the dedication to ensuring I was helped has left me humbled and grateful. I feel like I'm part of a family and not left on my own while my husband is gone."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Bante is deployed overseas with the 127th Wing Air Refueling Group and his wife, Stephanie, went out to her car and it wouldn't start due to electrical problems. She was unable to provide transportation for her and her three children. One call to the Hometown Hero Hotline and the network immediately responded, organizing services from a local auto repair company to get the car serviced and back in working order.

With support from the Selfridge Base Community Council, Macomb County Chamber of Commerce, Macomb County Executive office, and others throughout the community, service providers have signed up to be on standby to assist Guardsmen with any type of issues that may arise while they are away from home.

"This is another example of how well the base and community partnership works," said Steve Remias, president of the Selfridge Base Community Council. "Supporting the deployed members and families of our Hometown Air Force is just a small way that we can thank those who sacrifice so much for our nation."

"The men and women who serve at Selfridge have the absolute best partners in the country," Slocum said. "Our partnerships, relationships, teamwork, and family continue to prove that anything is possible. I stand in awe of our great team!"

Family members of currently deployed 127th Wing members can obtain more information about the Selfridge, 127th Wing Hometown Heroes Hotline by contacting the 127th Wing Public Affairs office at (586) 239-5576.

PHOTOS

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CHELSEA E. BARBER

Lt. Col. Sam Trapasso, commanding officer 127th Security Forces Squadron recognized Jerome Devlaminck, a shift lieutenant with Duhadway Kendall Security, on February 8 for providing superior security service. Devlaminck received a certificate of appreciation and a commander's coin during the informal ceremony.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CHELSEA E. BARBER

Servicemembers, from multiple units of the 127th Wing, take an evening English course on base on February 5, 2019. The students are taking the course with Northwood University, as either guest or matriculated status undergraduate students, working toward multiple goals. Many guest students take Northwood courses on base to work toward completing their Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Associate's Degree program requirements.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY ATWELL

Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Stallworth, commanding officer of the Navy Operational Support Center Detroit addresses the Selfridge Base Community Council at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., February 19. Stallworth briefed the members of the BCC about NOSC Detroit's mission as one of 123 Naval Operational Support Centers fleet wide.

COMMUNITY

AIRMEN ON THE STREET

The month of May is stress management awareness month. We went out and asked members of the 127th Wing: **How do you deal with stress and maintain resilience?**



"By working out and staying active."

— Airman 1st Class Kenneth Fujimoto



"By playing video games and indulging in junk food."

— Airman 1st Class Josh Preston



"I like playing and being involved in team sports."

— Anna Hiatt (Student Flight)



"I enjoy doing training runs and hikes to help me reduce stress."

— Chief Master Sgt. Kerry Melnyzenko

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MAINTENANCE & SAFETY

Maintainers work around high winds challenge

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Heaton

127th Wing Public Affairs

An outsider might assume that high wind gusts at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on a very blustery March morning may have curtailed flying due to safety concerns on take-off or landing. Really, it was the mechanics checking the oil on the A-10 Thunderbolt IIs at the base who were having the problems.

“The oil needs to be checked within 30 minutes after landing on the engines on the A-10,” said Master Sgt. Adam Dittenber, a production superintendent overseeing the crew chiefs of the 127th Maintenance Group, who work on the A-10s at Selfridge.

The maintainers, working with the pilots and other Airmen of the 107th Fighter Squadron, had set a lofty goal for the March drill weekend of the 127th Wing. Typically, the pilots and aircraft fly two “go’s” per weekend, a morning and an afternoon sortie of aircraft. During the March weekend, not only did the team determine to fly a third sortie on both Saturday and Sunday, but they determined to increase the number aircraft in each “go,” an effort to maximize training opportunities ahead of a scheduled overseas deployment of A-10 aircraft and Airmen from the wing.

Each of the scheduled sorties took place on Saturday, with aircraft flying north to a training range near Grayling, Mich., and then returning to base. On Sunday, the maintainers arrived at work to find wind gusts regularly exceeding 30 miles per hour, which meant that safety concerns prevented the maintenance Airman from working on



Airmen from around the 127th Maintenance and 127th Operations groups work together to prep A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft for flight operations at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. 127th Maintenance Group Airmen work daily to ensure the A-10s flown by the 107th Fighter Squadron are mission ready at a moment’s notice.

In the end, only two sets of sorties ended up flying on the Sunday of the monthly drill weekend, due to concerns about the winds.

the top of the aircraft.

Oil samples and checks are made from the top of an A-10s engines, meaning the Airmen need to be on top of the aircraft to perform the necessary tests — a thing that safety concerns prohibit when gusts exceed

30 miles per hour.

“Our maintenance operations center and our expeditor, who is the front-line supervisor out there up and down the line, watching what’s going on, were keeping a close eye on the weather,” said Master Sgt. Robert Mitchell, another “pro-super” for the A-10s. “We had several starts and stops, because the first mission is always to work safe.”

If A-10 engine oil samples can’t be taken within 30 minutes after engine shut-down after a landing, it means that maintainers will need to fire up the engines again on another day and let them run for a while, to be able to check the oil while its



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

Maintenance personnel here perform a check on an A-10 to prepare the aircraft for flight operations.

hot on another day. And that costs both time and money.

“We’re mindful of our resources and want to be able to maximize what we can accomplish,” said Master Sgt. Brian Carney.

In the end, only two sets of sorties ended up flying on the Sunday of the monthly drill weekend, due to concerns about the winds.

“It’s unfortunate, but that’s part of being flexible and doing what the mission requires. We’ll find another day to add in additional hours to get everyone the flight time they need, but to be able to do it in a way that is safe for all involved,” Dittenber said.



Staff Sgt. Thomas Bourke, a crew chief with the 127th Maintenance Group, refuels an A-10 Thunderbolt II.

TEAMWORK

Lunch is ready

Selfridge Services Team overcomes damaged kitchen

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Heaton

127th Wing Public Affairs

It may have looked like hamburgers and hot dogs on the menu, but what was really served up in the kitchen at Selfridge Air National Guard this weekend was a healthy scoop of teamwork.

A series of challenges that stemmed from several frozen pipes in the kitchen of the Dining Facility (DFAC) at Selfridge meant that the Services Flight of the 127th Force Support Squadron were unable to use many of the stoves, ovens and freezers they normally have at their disposal to prepare lunch for the hundreds of 127th Wing Airmen who eat at the facility during their monthly military weekend drill.

“Services epitomizes teamwork, so it was not a surprise at all that they were able to come together and still be able to provide a hot lunch to the wing,” said Major Camille Horne, commander of the 127th FSS.

After temperatures in the Detroit region plunged to as low as 15 degrees below zero, several pipes froze in the DFAC kitchen. As the temperatures warmed, several pipes burst, causing a flood in the kitchen. The flood caused a large freezer, holding most of the food that was planned to be served to the troops over the drill weekend. Following health department guidelines, that food had to be disposed of.

The kitchen flood happened on Thursday, giving the Services team only one full work day to come up



Staff Sgt. Emuobosan Ojaruega, 127th Force Support Squadron, mixes a stir-fry in the kitchen here.

with a plan for Saturday.

“Our number one priority is to serve a quality, hot meal to the wing. Not doing that was not an option,” said Master Sgt. Wytina Cathey, noncommissioned officer in charge of food services for the squadron.

Cathey and others assessed the situation and determined that the gridle at the DFAC was still serviceable. A team put together a menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages and other items that could be prepared with the limited equipment available. Food was purchased on Friday

and a work schedule was put together to ensure that everything would be ready by 11 a.m. Saturday when the first troops started showing up for lunch.

“This is what we do,” said Master Sgt. Dawn Porter. “In a deployed environment, we often have to make plans to overcome whatever challenges you run into. Normally, that doesn’t happen when you are here at home station, but we took the same approach.”

While the leadership was putting together the plan, it fell to some of the junior personnel to step up to the



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

Airman 1st Class Jordan Person, 127th Force Support Squadron, works the grill at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, February 3. The Services team had to make a quick change of plans after a burst water pipe damaged much of the Dining Facility kitchen at Selfridge. The team was still able to serve a hot lunch on time, despite the burst pipe.

grill or chopping board to make the plan work.

That’s how Airman 1st Class Dontrell Lattimore found himself chopping and slicing dozens of onions, to serve as a condiment to all those burgers and dogs.

“You just jump in and ask ‘What do you need me to do?’” he said. “Everyone works together until the job is done.”

For the lunch meal on Sunday, the Services team tried to add in a little variety. Chicken breasts were cooked on the grill and a vegetable stir-fry was whipped up in an industrial size broiler.

“We have a really strong

team in the kitchen,” Horne said. “When you have people who know what they are doing, I just stood back and watched.”

Porter said the Services team served more than 300 lunches on both Saturday and Sunday. The DFAC food service only operates on drill weekends, meaning planning is always critical to having a successful weekend.

“We have a good team in place. Everyone knows his or her part, but everyone is also willing to jump in and do whatever needs to be done. That’s what made this weekend successful,” Porter said.



Airman 1st Class Dontrell Lattimore, 127th Force Support Squadron, slices onions in advance of lunch service here.

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