

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 2, Issue 4

"127th Wing – Your

Hometown Air Force"

July 2019



EDITORIAL

Opportunities are aplenty at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base

By **Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen**
127th WG, SANGB commander

Hello everyone, I want to personally thank you for taking the time to read the Selfridge Flyer. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of providing an article for this publication and I hope to continue to provide you insight into your Hometown Air Force here in southeast Macomb County.

To start, Selfridge has been a cornerstone in the community since 1917. The 127th Wing is the lead organization hosting 47 other tenant organizations including the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, the Michigan Army National Guard and multiple De-



partment of Homeland Security functions to name a few.

The Wing is a great organization with great missions, but

it's the people who really make it great. There are nearly 1,800 men and women serving in the wing, most of whom live in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties. They are your neighbors and friends, and they're either civilian employees or they don the uniform and train to maintain their readiness for anything our community, state, or nation calls upon them to do.

In all, nearly 4,500 people call Selfridge their place of work and every day, the leadership team here strives to make Selfridge and the 127th Wing a workplace of choice. The professionalism and dedication of those who serve here provide the bedrock for our communities to thrive

and are integral to protecting and forging Michigan's future.

There are numerous opportunities at the base for those who wish to join our award-winning team in both military and civilian capacities. We offer rewarding careers with competitive salaries and training along with excellent benefits to include leadership development, college tuition, healthcare, retirement and more. To learn more you can visit our website at 127wg.ang.af.mil, or call (586) 239-2901 or 239-2486.

Again, I am honored and humbled to serve the men and women of the base, Michigan, and my nation as an Airman in your Hometown Air Force!

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE

A joint service honor guard salutes the United States, State of Michigan and respective service flags during a dedication ceremony here on May 18, 2019. The ceremony, held at the Enlisted Heritage House, dedicated 109 commemorative paver stones, "The Selfridge Steps," to the community and donors who provided them. The Enlisted Heritage House, former Base Commander housing that stood vacant since 2008, was revitalized and repurposed between 2016 and 2017 and now serves as a recreational and ceremonial facility for the base community.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CHELSEA E. FITZPATRICK



SEFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 2, Issue 4



SEFRIDGE BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Presidents

Mark Zuccaro (Current)
Drema Isaac (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.

Wing Commander

Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen

Vice Wing Commander

Col. Stan Krasovic

Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Danny McDow

127TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Chief of Public Affairs

C. Phillip Ulmer

Chief of Community Relations

Tracy Morris

Public Affairs Officers

Capt. Anthony Lesterson
Capt. Cammy Alberts

Public Affairs Staff

Master Sgt. David Kujawa
Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton
Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick
Tech Sgt. Rachel Barton
Staff Sgt. Samara Taylor
Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann
Senior Airman Ryan Zeski
Senior Airman Brandon Gifford
Mr. Terry Atwell
Mr. Munnaf Joarder

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Selfridge Flyer is a publication of the Selfridge Base Community Council and is not an official publication of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Selfridge Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or MediaNews Group.

Published by MediaNews Group, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force.

On the cover: A joint color guard consisting of Airmen and Soldiers from the Michigan National Guard participates in the 2019 Michigan National Guard Memorial and Pass in Review, Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center, Grayling, June 28. (Michigan National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Layton)

FROM THE BCC**New president for Selfridge Base Community Council**

By **Mark Zuccaro**
BCC President

Greetings! As I begin my two-year term as president of the Selfridge Base Community Council this month, I am looking forward to the new relationships this role will provide.

These connections are the avenue where the council will provide the financial and moral support to Selfridge military members and their families.

The more than 240 members of the council strive to support the brave men and women in our armed forces whom risk their lives so that all of us in the United States may live free.

The Selfridge Base Com-



Zuccaro

The Selfridge Base Community Council came into existence in the 1940s with meetings among the local community and Selfridge leadership.

munity Council came into existence in the 1940s with meetings among the local community and Selfridge leadership.

The meetings were designed to foster friendship and to familiarize the base personnel with the services the communities had to offer.

Through the years the council has been a contributor to numerous Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs, the Freedom Academy, the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall, the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association, the Young Heroes Award Program, STAR-

BASE, Save Our Selfridge, and the base open houses and airshows.

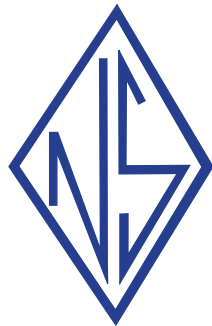
In order to foster these relations and continue our support, it is my pleasure to invite you to join me, the business community, and municipal leaders at our monthly meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 11:15 a.m.

If you are interested in more information about any of our events or becoming a BCC member you can check out our website at: selfridge-communitycouncil.com/ or please feel free to contact me at markzuccaro@gmail.com.

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE

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

Staff Sgt. Andrew Stokes, 127th Mission Support Group Production Recruiter, is promoted to Tech. Sgt. during a ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., June 9, 2019. His father Andrew Stokes Sr a retired senior master sergeant, 127th Civil Engineering Electrical System Specialist and sister Staff Sgt. Andrea Stokes, Personnelist, 127th Force Support Squadron had the honor to pin Stokes for the ceremony.



NICKEL & SAPH, INC.
INSURANCE AGENCY

Proud Member Of The SANG Base Community Council

44 Macomb Place • Mount Clemens, MI 48043 • 586-463-4573

Stephen Saph Sr. - stephen@nickelsaph.com • Stephen Saph Jr. - stephenjr@nickelsaph.com

Public Entities • Municipalities • Road Commissions • Commercial Business • Non-Profits • Special Districts

SERVICE

127th FSS feed the troops in Alaskan village

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

The 127th Wing Airmen continue traveling the globe this year, from Alaska to Southeast Asia and back home again on both deployments and training missions alike. Behind them they leave outstanding impressions and support from the positive reputation they've worked hard to build for decades.

In June, several members of the 127th Force Support Squadron contributed even more praises when they traveled more than 4,000 miles away to join nine other units of the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Marine Reserve to participate in an innovative readiness training (IRT) event.

A Department of Defense military training opportunity, IRT is exclusive to the United States and its territories, delivering joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness. Simultaneously, IRT provides key services with lasting benefits for American communities such as medical care, engineering, construc-



(U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DANIEL MARTINEZ, 147TH ATTACK WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

MERTARVIK, Alaska — Master Sgt. Dawn porter (center) helped bring together a small team of junior enlisted Airmen to support troops participating in the Newtok to Mertarvik Relocation IRT.

tion and more.

In a remote Alaskan village, the 127th Force Support Squadron participated in an IRT mission named, "Newtok to Mertarvik Relocation Project," where Airmen and Marine civil engineers worked on a critical move for residents of Newtok, Alaska. The relocation effort to assist residents

in relocating from their coastline-damaged village and into more stable land, gave the Selfridge troops an opportunity to execute one of the most critical support missions: feeding the troops.

When Master Sgt. Dawn Porter, a services craftsman of the 127th Force Support Squadron, was asked specifically to partici-

pate in the IRT, she successfully stood up what the troops endearingly referred to as, "7 Star Diner," in a short period of time.

"Master Sgt. Porter received a by-name request to lead a services team to support the expeditionary skills and sustainment training," said Maj. Camille Horne, commanding officer of the 127th Force Support Squadron. "Given [her] altruistic nature, she solicited 127th FSS members to help out with this high profile IRT."

Horne had no doubt that Porter would provide necessary leadership and outstanding service and the feedback from IRT leadership supported this. Once on-the-ground in Alaska, Porter was given responsibility to lead a team of junior enlisted Airmen, she brought the group together quickly.

"Master Sgt. Porter had a [group] with very little cooking experience and within the first week they became a team," Capt. Alyson White, Newtok to Mertarvik Relocation IRT officer in charge, said. "[They] were able to keep the troops happy throughout

their two weeks here."

Airman 1st Class Dominic Raona of the 127th Force Support Squadron also received excellent feedback. White thanked Horne for sending Raona.

"Raona was constantly looking for ways to help out and support fellow Airmen and always had a great attitude about him," White said. "I hope he shares his IRT experience with the Squadron and shows off the work that he helped complete."

The construction goal of the first rotation was to complete a landfill, dig a septic trench, and to wrap and frame two houses, in only two weeks. The entire team exceeded the goal by completing all expected tasks in addition to wrapping and framing a third house, pouring three foundations for additional housing and completing approximately 200 feet of road for the village.

The support provided by Porter's "7 Star Diner," probably played a key role in helping energize the troops to go above and beyond mission requirements, just like Porter and her team.

A LOOK BACK

Selfridge History Notes: July

- July 1, 1971 — Command passed from the active duty Air Force's, Air Defense Command to the Michigan Air National Guard, changing the name of the base to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The first ANG commander was Lt. Col. (later Brig. Gen.) Rudolph D. Bartholomew. This change was the first active, Air Force Base to come under ANG control.

- July 8, 1917 — The first military flight occurred at Selfridge Field when Capt. Byron Q. Jones, took to the air in a Curtiss JN-4 Jenny.

- July 20, 1948 — The first transatlantic flight by fighter aircraft took place when 16 F-80 Shooting Stars, led by Col. David C. Schilling, launched from Selfridge, bound for West Germany during the Berlin Airlift. This was the first such transatlantic flight in Air Force history.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE JOHNSON, AVIATION SECTION, US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS - FAMILY PHOTO, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Our Legacy: On July 8, 1917, 102 years ago yesterday, the first military flight took place here at then called Selfridge Field. Capt. Byron Q. Jones, the first base commander, made the flights in a Curtiss JN-4D Jenny only seven days after the field was activated as a military installation. On July 16, 1917, he stood up the first pilot training school here. The "Jenny", was a twin-seat, dual-control biplane. Its tractor propeller and maneuverability made it ideal for initial pilot training with a 90 hp Curtiss OX-5 V8 engine, giving a top speed of 75 mph and a service ceiling of 6,500 ft.

A LOOK BACK

Selfridge History Notes: August

- Aug. 12, 1908 — Lts. Frank P. Lahm, Benjamin D. Foulois, and Thomas E. Selfridge began the first, official American airship tests at Fort Myer, Virg.
- Aug. 27, 1917 — The 107th Fighter Squadron was first organized as the 107th Aero Squadron at Kelly Field, Texas in response to the U.S. entry into World War I earlier that year. The unit was demobilized and disbanded in March 1919, following the conclusion of the war.
- Aug. 31, 1931 — Michigan's first state-owned airport officially opened in Alpena County as Captain Phelps Collins Field. It's now known as the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



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

Capt. Nicholas Pelachyk, a dentist with the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, performs an examination on Staff Sgt. Courtney Mather at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, June 8, 2019. Air National Guard personnel routinely receive dental exams and other medical testing to ensure that the Citizen-Airmen are ready to deploy world-wide on short notice.



AIR FORCE FILE PHOTO

Aircraft mechanics from a "Tuskegee Airmen" unit perform engine maintenance on a P-40 Warhawk at what is now called Selfridge Air National Guard Base in this photo taken likely sometime between March and September 1943, during World War II. During the war, Selfridge served as one of several key training sites for the all-African American units.



Get 4%* Cash Back

with Boomerang Rewards Checking



FreeStar
Financial CREDIT UNION

Take Your Dreams Higher.

\$50**
BONUS
when you add
direct deposit!

586-698-0245 • [FreeStarFinancial.com/boomerang](https://www.FreeStarFinancial.com/boomerang)

*Member must have a personal share account to qualify for a checking account. \$100 minimum deposit required to open any checking account. To benefit from these checking offerings, members must qualify each month by doing the following: use debit card at least 15 times for purchases, receive an eStatement, and have one ACH transaction per month such as direct deposit or bill pay. (1) Boomerang Cash Back: 4% on purchases, capped at \$8/month and ATM fees refunded, up to \$20/month. (2) Boomerang Dividend: 4% APY interest on balances up to \$7,500 (balances over \$7,500 will be paid at 0.05% APY) and ATM fees refunded, up to \$20/month. 4% annual percentage yield (APY) as of 3/1/19. Rates and terms subject to change. **New checking account must have direct deposit for the full payroll amount and must be active within 60 days of account opening to qualify for \$50. Current FreeStar Financial members with existing or previous checking account are ineligible for promotion ©2019 FreeStar Financial Credit Union. Federally insured by NCUA.

ACCOLADES

Top guardsmen, late Soldiers and Airmen honored at Michigan National Guard Memorial Pass in Review

By 1st Lt. Andrew Layton
MI Joint Forces
Headquarters PAO

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general, Michigan National Guard, presided over the Michigan National Guard Memorial and Pass in Review ceremony at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center, Mich., June 28, 2019.

At the annual tribute to Michigan National Guard members deceased in the last calendar year, Whitmer and Rogers also presented medals and trophies to the Michigan National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen of the year for 2018-19. The event was attended by approximately 150 family members and guests, with more than 400 Soldiers and Airmen participating in the formal "Pass in Review" tradition.

It was the first time for Whitmer and Rogers to have officiated the event since the beginning of Whitmer's administration January 1.

In their remarks, Whitmer and Rogers emphasized the accomplishments of the Michigan National Guard over the past 12 months, including support for exercise Northern Strike, a signature annual readiness event hosted by the Michigan National Guard at Camp Grayling and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center each summer. Beginning in 2012, Northern Strike has grown to become the Department of Defense's largest joint, reserve component exercise.

Northern Strike 19 is scheduled to be held July 21 - Aug. 3.

"I look forward to see-



MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY 1ST LT. ANDREW LAYTON

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general, Michigan National Guard, review a formation of Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at the 2019 Michigan National Guard Memorial and Pass in Review, Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, June 28, 2019

ing the joint exercises at Northern Strike coming up soon," said Whitmer. "This training not only allows the Michigan National Guard to be leaders on the battlefield, but to know that we are leaders off the battlefield, as well."

Whitmer also underscored the importance of strengthening the Michigan National Guard's ties globally with the national armed forces of Latvia and Liberia under the U.S. National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP).

The names of 88 Michigan National Guard person-

nel deceased in the last calendar year - most of whom had retired from duty - were also read as a tribute to their lives and service.

"This is not only a memorial and recognition of all those who have come before us; it's also a celebration," Rogers said. "The memorial is for our lost brothers and sisters, but it's also a recognition for our retirees and the hundreds of thousands who have stood in your place on this parade field and trained in these woods and on these phenomenal ranges - you represent them here today."

During the formal awards portion of the ceremony, outstanding performers from both the Michigan Army and Air National Guard were recognized by Whitmer, Rogers, and other Michigan National Guard leaders.

Army award recipients were Capt. Jason Rogers, 272d Regional Support Group, Commissioned Officer of the Year; Sgt. 1st Class Jamison G. Yager, 177th Military Police Brigade, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Spc. Kenneth E. Klett, Jr., 182d Field Artillery, Soldier of



Airmen from the 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, and the 110th Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, participate in the 2019 Michigan National Guard Memorial and Pass in Review, Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, June 28, 2019

the Year; Spc. Brandon Coohon, 3-126th Infantry Regiment, Honor Guard of the Year; Staff Sgt. Thomas Clark, III, 1-125th Infantry Regiment, Medical Readiness Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; and Staff Sgt. Jessica Leahy, 1432d Engineer Company, Rasmus Hanson Award.

Air National Guard recipients were Master Sgt. Melanie Pomerville, 110th Wing, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. John Vanderkooy, 110th Wing, First Sgt. of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Smaltz, 127th Wing, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; and Staff Sgt. Jabett Glenn, 127th Wing, Airman of the Year.

For Whitmer, the day presented an opportunity to affirm her pledge of support as governor to Michigan National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families.

"I will ensure that the

sacrifices each of you make will be recognized during and after your service," she said. "Whether it's the resources you need while serving, or ensuring the benefits you've earned after your service, you will have what you need to be successful."

After the ceremony, Whitmer spent time interacting with Airmen and Soldiers, performing several re-enlistment ceremonies for personnel assigned to the Michigan National Guard's 119th Field Artillery Regiment. She even had the occasion to fire two ceremonial rounds from a field artillery piece.

"Your service makes our state, our country, and our world safer - and the people of Michigan are truly grateful for you," she told personnel. "I want each of you to know that I am proud of what you do and I will have your back every step of the way."



Run To Show Michigan's Wounded & Returning Warriors That You Have Their Backs.

Proceeds Benefit Warriors And Their Families In Their Time Of Need.

10K, 5K, 1M Run/Walk: Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019

Run In A Beautiful Memorial Park Setting With Inspiring Monuments And Over 500 Large American Flags Lining The Course!

Special 20% Discount

To Veterans And Active Service Personnel.

Registration:

www.ThePatriotsRace.com



White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery 621 W. Long Lake Rd. Troy MI 48098

Macomb County Schools Students and Staff

Anchor Bay Schools, Armada Area Schools, Center Line Public Schools, Chippewa Valley Schools, Clintondale Community Schools, Eastpointe Community Schools, Fitzgerald Public Schools, Fraser Public Schools, Lake Shore Public Schools, Lakeview Public Schools, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, Mt. Clemens Community Schools, New Haven Community Schools, Richmond Community Schools, Romeo Community Schools, Roseville Community Schools, South Lake Schools, Utica Community Schools, Van Dyke Public Schools, Warren Consolidated Schools, Warren Woods Public Schools



With Gratitude for our U.S. Servicemen and Women who Sacrifice for our Freedoms



For more information about Macomb County Schools, please visit www.misd.net