

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 3, Issue 3

"127th Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

May 2020



MICHIGAN STRONG



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INSURANCE AGENCY

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EDITORIAL

Why Air National Guard?

As recruiters, we are asked all of the time, "Why should I choose the ANG?" or "What is the best thing about the ANG?" The answers are not always so simple. More often than not, there are multiple things that each one of us consider to be the "best part of the ANG," and why we chose the ANG.



Tech. Sgt. Ray Stier

Each one of us has decided to join the ANG for our own individual reasons. In addition to the many great benefits already mentioned in this editorial, there are just as many not mentioned.

When most people think of the Air National Guard, the misconception is that everyone is a pilot. The truth is that, although we do have pilots, they make up only a small percentage of what the ANG is all about. The ANG also offers cutting edge careers and

opportunities related to engineering (aerospace, electrical, mechanical and civil), skilled trades, first responders, communications/IT, medical, logistics, support, administration and many more. Each one plays a significant role in the ANG's overall success. Some 'hot jobs' that we have to offer are: Aerospace Ground Equipment, Aircraft Hydraulic Systems, Aircraft Fuel Systems, Munitions, Systems, Tactical Aircraft Maintenance, RF Transmission Systems and Services.

There are many great incentives and benefits to becoming a member of the ANG, offering an incentive program for several of their critical career fields. Many of those careers directly relate to civilian careers. Individuals that qualify for, and enlist into, one of those critical career fields may not only receive a cash bonus of up to \$20,000, but will also receive an automatic promotion to the rank of Airman First Class, (E-3). In addition to being eligible for the standard Montgomery GI

Bill benefits, they will also receive the Montgomery GI Bill Kicker. The MGB Kicker is an added incentive that provides an additional \$350 a month to help pay for college!

Looking for money for school? The ANG may have you covered. The Air Guard offers two ways to help with college tuition. The first way is through the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP). Members may receive up to \$14,400 in tuition assistance by enrolling into a Michigan-based college. Secondly, Full time students receive a monthly stipend of \$392 dollars per month through the G.I Bill. In addition, several Michigan colleges also provide discounts on tuition costs. Since the Air Guards service commitment is one week-end a month and two weeks out of the year, members are able to take advantage of these benefits and become a full-time college student.

With these benefits, the ANG

can help you accomplish your educational goals cheaper and faster than anywhere else. Whether you are looking for an extra monthly income, a secondary retirement, free travel opportunities or professional/personnel growth...the ANG has you covered! The toughest step in the qualification process is to contact a recruiter. The adventure starts with just a simple and honest conversation.

Basic enlistment qualifications are: you must be between 17-39 years old (some prior service applicants can be over the age of 40 if they meet additional criteria), pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (AS-VAB) and physical exams. If you are interested in finding out what the Air Guard has to offer, or know someone that may be, give us a call! For more information, or to contact a recruiter, call (800) 432-4296. You can also download the 127th Wing App on your mobile device or visit us on Facebook!

Tech. Sgt. Keith McDonald, a mission generation vehicular equipment maintenance craftsman from 127th Vehicle Management Flight, repairs a differential on a panel truck at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

McDonald is one of several craftsmen who keep a fleet of vehicles mission ready to support the State and Nation.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD
PHOTO BY MUNNAF JOARDER



SELFRIDGE FLYER

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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: Three A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots, 107th Fighter Squadron, and three pilots, 171st Air Refueling Squadron, both of Selfridge Air National Guard Base, fly over the state as a salute to medical professionals and frontline workers helping fight the COVID-19 pandemic, May 13, 2020. The flyover, dubbed, "Michigan Strong," sent seven A-10's and three KC-135's to flyover the state in a two-day period. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Munnaf Joarder)

SERVICE

127 WG protects, serves local communities

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

127th Wing Public Affairs

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Michigan in March, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer activated the Michigan National Guard, many 127th Wing Airmen considered how they could best serve their communities and they weren't alone. Since then, nearly 70 Citizen-Airmen from Selfridge Air National Guard Base have responded to support fellow Michiganders.

"We have almost a thousand Soldiers and Airmen from the Michigan National Guard who are engaged in the COVID response as we speak," said Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, 127th Wing and Selfridge Base commander. "They're out working in the food banks, at the TCF Center hospital, up in the Upper Peninsula doing testing, they're working across the state doing some really great work for our communities."

Leadership of the 127th Wing responded to the crisis by standing up the Emergency Wing Operations Center, a ready group of assigned members who activate in support of times of crises. Col. David Spehar was reassigned from his primary duties as the 127th Maintenance Group commander to serve as the Emergency Operations Center director for the duration of the COVID-19 response mission.

"We've raised our hands to help and we are involved in every mission across the State," Spehar said.

Last month, 10 members of the 127th Wing assisted FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers establish a Field Hospital at the TCF Center in Detroit by assembling furniture. Senior Master Sgt. Robin Cleaver, with the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron here, said the mission was one way the Airmen could help the community directly.

"With a state activation, we're actually working side-by-side with our first responder partners and working to take care of the



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY PHILLIP ULMER

Airmen from the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base pack food boxes at Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry in Royal Oak, in support of the Michigan National Guard's efforts to support local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. On an average day the Airmen are able to prepare and pack more than 3,500 boxes of food. The food pantry delivers more than 138,000 pounds of food per day to Michiganders throughout the metro Detroit area. Michigan Guardsmen have also been supporting local community food banks in Comstock Park, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, and Flint.

American people," Cleaver said. Michigan Guardsmen have also served by working at food banks in Comstock Park, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, Royal Oak and Flint. The Forgotten Harvest Food Bank in Royal Oak was the fifth food distribution site to be supported by the Michigan National Guard, when on April 6, 2020, 127th Wing Airmen responded to the facility to begin packing and preparing food boxes. By mid-April, an average day of work at the site produced more than 3,500 boxes of food.

Responding to a short-notice request, Airmen from the Wing helped stand up a drive-through COVID-19 testing site in Dearborn at the Henry Ford Centennial Library.

In only three days, members of the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron

brought in generators and Airmen to provide both round-the-clock electrical infrastructure and manning to assist the patient check-in process.

"We're here to help and we're working alongside our community partners, to assist them with the response," Spehar said. "We live in these communities, this is where we grew up and we're able to serve now assisting the communities."

In addition to the three missions already mentioned, there are smaller groups of Airmen augmenting teams at the Michigan National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters in Lansing. Members who work in a civilian capacity as medical professionals, continuing to report to work in different hospitals around the state.

Up north in Kincheloe, 127th Wing Airmen augmented Joint

Task Force Tiger earlier this month, when they provided COVID-19 testing at the Chippewa Correctional Facility. Serving alongside Army counterparts, the team answered a call from the Michigan State Police and Department of Corrections to assist in testing more than 2,300 prisoners. Doing so helped to ensure the safety of both prisoners and employees. According to Connie Horton, warden of the Chippewa Correctional Facility, working in her first mission with the National Guard helped ease the burden of testing a large population.

"This is a huge undertaking and with the assistance of the National Guard, we were able to accomplish this in just one day," Horton said. "We worked very well together."

The common thread of all Wing

members serving in COVID-19 relief missions is they're proud to serve the communities they live in.

"It's more prideful for me to be serving my community and it means more to me to be able to serve and give back to the community that supports us," said Staff Sgt. Charles Carlson, a heavy equipment operator, 127th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Carlson and the rest of the team want to continue being able to serve on missions supporting COVID-19 relief, but they can't if they contract the virus. Their best advice is for people to follow the Governor's stay home orders.

"If you don't have a reason to be out of the house, stay home and we'll keep doing what we do here," Carlson said. "Stay home, stay safe."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

127th Wing cancels 2020 Open House, Air Show

By Phillip Ulmer
Chief of Public Affairs

With uncertainty of the spreading coronavirus, the 2020 Selfridge International Open House and Air Show has been canceled.

"This was truly a disheartening decision to make," said Brig. Gen. Rolf Mammen, 127th Wing Commander. "However, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of our personnel and Michi-

gan communities made this a prudent choice."

The air show, which featured the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, was scheduled for June 6-7, 2020.

As the Michigan National Guard mobilizes to fight the spread of the coronavirus throughout the state, the 127th Wing and Selfridge continue to focus on supporting our communities while Standing Ready to provide global vigilance, reach, and power.

"I recognize the many hours of work that everyone has already dedicated to planning this air show," said Mammen, "from the Macomb Chamber and Foundation to the Selfridge Base Community Council and the numerous volunteers, I can't thank you enough for your continued support and dedication to your Hometown Air Force."

Understanding that this is a disappointment to the thousands of visitors,

sponsors, and supporters who regularly attend Selfridge airshows, officials at the base are already looking ahead to conduct additional community relations events leading up to the next airshow scheduled for July 2022.

For more information and updates on Selfridge and the next open house and air show, like and follow the 127th Wing on Facebook at facebook.com/127thWing.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAVID KUJAWA

U.S. Air Force Thunderbird pilot performs for a crowd of spectators at the Selfridge 2017 Open House and Air Show, August 17, 2017.

EDITORIAL

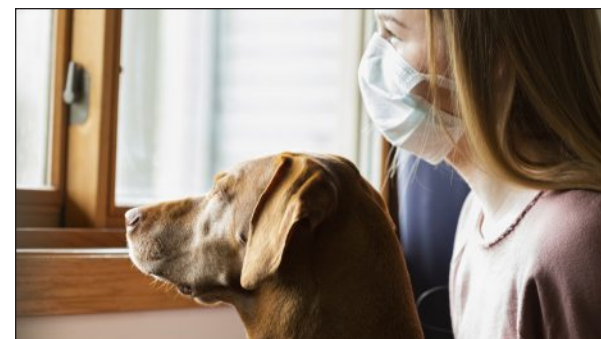


PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Paying attention to your own mental health is key during the uncertain times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental Health Awareness during COVID pandemic

By Marsha Candela
Director of Psychological Health

This year, it's been such a difficult time bringing mental health awareness to the forefront as we live in our "new normal." While many of us mourn for the lives we left behind just a few short months ago, praying for a vaccine to restore us to some sense of normalcy, many others are actually quite happy with the changes the COVID-19 pandemic brings. Still, others are in situations proving to be quite difficult. Those parents who are homeschooling children or providing full time childcare while attempting to work full time from home are finding their circumstances to be very stressful. Some of us have aging relatives with compromised immunity, and on top of all of this, unemployment has returned in full force to Michigan. There are so many sources of stress in our lives as we all follow the guidelines to safely get through this pandemic.

The COVID-19 pan-

demic has taught me a lot of lessons, some I really never wanted to learn. I know now that I don't have to get my nails done to be happy and my feet work just fine without a pedicure. Sunday can still be, "fun day," without the sports and dining out. Birthday candles don't need to be blown out (unless you don't want to share your cake) and walking the dog is actually no longer a chore but a highlight of the day. I know that I need to go to work to feel connected and that I find dirty laundry intolerable. I've learned that my cooking will never improve and I have the keen ability to watch terrible TV for hours. The list goes on.

Summer is around the corner which is usually a great tonic for us Michiganders. We do have warm weather to look forward to. What have you learned? How are you coping? If you need to talk, give me a call. I am here to help. I look forward to helping.

Happy Mental Health Awareness. Peace.

MICHIGAN STRONG



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY DREW SCHUMANN

A KC-135 Stratotanker, from the 127th Air Refueling Group, and Three A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, from the 107th Fighter Squadron, fly a Michigan Strong formation above Detroit, Michigan on Wednesday, May 13th. The Michigan Air National Guard aircraft from Selfridge Air National Guard Base conducted a series of multi-city flyovers across the state to show appreciation to the thousands of Michigan heroes who are at the front line battling COVID-19 and providing the vital support that Michiganders need.

Flyovers salute front-line heroes

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann
127th Wing Public Affairs

Citizen-Airmen of the Michigan National Guard's 127th Wing had an opportunity last week, when they provided statewide morale flyovers saluting healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential personnel who continue to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dubbed, "Michigan Strong," the program allowed pilots and crewmembers the chance to honor those frontline workers by flying KC-135 Stratotanker and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft as part of routine train-

ing missions on May 12 and May 13, 2020.

"This salute by the men and women of the Michigan National Guard was an incredibly moving gesture to recognize the hard-working frontline heroes of our state who have sacrificed to keep Michiganders safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "It is a great symbol of resolve and solidarity in Michigan's fight against COVID-19."

On May 12 residents in Marquette had a chance to see two KC-135 Stratotankers fly over on a route that included the Upper Peninsula, State capitol, city of Flint, and all the

towns in between. Meanwhile, on the other side of the state, four A-10 Thunderbolt II's flew a separate route over the western side of the state, including Traverse City and Grand Rapids among others.

Melissa Olson Cunningham, an Ann Arbor resident, thanked the 127th Wing on social media, sharing the sentiment of hundreds of other citizens who observed the flyovers.

"I work at Michigan Medicine and was on a business call [during the flyover] so I turned the camera so my coworkers could see," Cunningham said. "It felt like a really

cool celebration."

On May 13, the two units conducted a flyover where three A-10 Thunderbolt IIs flew behind a KC-135 Stratotanker, holding formation over the Detroit region and trying to include every major medical facility between Novi and Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"What's important is, this is about the men and women who are out there on the front lines keeping Michigan healthy and safe," Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, 127th Wing Commander said. "This is our opportunity to thank them."

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

127th Comptroller Flight named best in ANG

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

127th Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Michigan National Guard's 127th Wing earned more accolades last month, when the winners of the Air National Guard Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Management awards program were announced April 24, 2020. Members of the 127th Comptroller Flight earned the title of best unit comptroller's office in the ANG, as well as FM Civilian of the Year for the second year in a row.

"[The team] comes into the office every day, ready to be challenged and they step up to those challenges each and every time," 127th CF commander, Lt. Col. Bernice Hopp said. "Through every customer service inquiry they remain professional, compliant and committed to get the answers customers are looking for."

Comprised of 12 military members and 15 civilian employees staffing five sections—accounting, budget, pay entitlements, quality assurance and travel—the team also won a group-level award last year when the accounting and budget teams collectively earned the FM Analysis Office of the Year award.

"This is great news for our 127th Wing CF," Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, commander of the 127th Wing, said. "I am very proud of the team, led by Lt. Col. Hopp."

Open to all 54 ANG state and territory units, 67 nominations were reviewed by the ANG FM Awards program board who then submitted 11 nominations forward for consideration in the Air Force-level competition.

"The nominations we received embody the incredible teams and Airmen we have in the ANG-FM community," Col. Constantine A. Leon, deputy director of the Air Force financial management and comptroller organization said.

During FY 2019, members of the 127th CF provided direct support of both Air Force Air Combatant and Air Mobility Commands, more than 1,700 Wing members and 44 tenant organizations on



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAVID KUJAWA

Members from the 127th Comptroller Flight and 127th Force Support Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, pose for a group picture after completing the 127th Wing's operational readiness assessment at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center on Aug. 3, 2018. More than 500 Citizen-Airmen of the 127th Wing mobilized in a simulated deployment that created opportunities to practice their job proficiency while being assessed for wartime tasks.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base. They successfully executed 99.9% of a \$93M operations and maintenance fund, \$954K in contingency funds and injected \$10M into Wing infrastructure. The team boasts overall fitness with 92% of military members scoring 85 points and higher on the Air Force Physical Fitness test. These highlights earned the 27-member team the Major General Alfred K.

Flowers Comptroller Organization of the Year award.

Patrick Morris, financial management technician in the pay entitlements section, earned the award for FM Civilian of the Year for government employee grade GS-8 and below. Highlights of Morris' performance during FY 2019 include, handling more than 51,000 pay transactions achieving a 97.9% accuracy rate, over the

Air Force standard of 95%. He processed 75 incentive payments valuing approximately \$1.1M, preserving fully-qualified 127th Wing assets and maximizing ANG manning retention. Morris also volunteered 113 hours working the customer service desk during drill weekends, among other accomplishments.

Hopp has served as 127th CF commander for the last four and

a half years, and before that, served as the Budget Officer for nine years. Aside from being committed to excellence in all they do, she says her team is successful because they take care of one another.

"I've never worked with such a professional and personable group of people," Hopp said. "They are amazing people and they treat each other like family."

Macomb County Schools Students and Staff

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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