



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet Selfridge Air National Guard Base

Home to units from every component of the U.S. Armed Forces, Selfridge Air National Guard Base is one of the oldest and most complex military air fields in the nation. With National Guard and/or Reserve personnel from every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, Selfridge provides a broad range of services and capabilities to the state and to the nation. Known as the Home of Generals, the base was the duty station at one time to more than 150 officers who eventually became general officers in the U.S. Air Force. The 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard is the host unit at the base. The base is located on the shores of Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township, Mich., about 20 miles from downtown Detroit.

More than 40 tenants, including components of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Customs & Border Protection, are located at Selfridge ANG Base. In total, nearly than 3,000 full-time civilian and military personnel work at the base, in addition to approximately 3,000 members of the Air and Army National Guard and the Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces. Primary aircraft assigned to the base are A-10 Thunderbolt II and KC-135 Stratotanker (Michigan Air National Guard); CH-47 Chinook helicopter (Michigan Army National Guard); HH-65 Dolphin helicopter (U.S. Coast Guard); and a variety of light helicopters and fixed wing aircraft (Customs & Border Protection).



### Assigned Units

127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard  
Coast Guard Air Station Detroit  
Navy Operations Support Center-Detroit  
Marine Wing Support Group-47  
Marine Wing Support Squadron 471-Det B  
Border Patrol  
Joint-Reserve Intelligence Support Element, European Command  
Joint Combat Support Systems  
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 26  
2nd Battalion, 337th Regiment  
Army Aviation Support Facility #2  
1st Battallion, 24th Marine Regiment  
Customs and Border Protection Northern Air and Marine Wing  
Starbase

### History

The origins of the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base date back to the days of Wilbur & Orville Wright. The base's namesake, Army Lt. Thomas Selfridge, was killed while flying on a demonstration flight with Orville Wright in 1908 - the first military casualty of flight. In 1917, a local auto pioneer, Henry B. Joy, leased his rural airfield near Detroit to the military to train pilots and related personnel. The military has operated the field ever since. During World War II, maintenance personnel of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an all-African American unit, trained at the base and helped lead the way toward the ending of racial segregation in the military. During the Cold War era, Nike missiles were stationed at the base to guard the industrial might of the Detroit region. Following the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the 127th Wing began flying combat air patrol missions over the Great Lakes region within hours of the attack. It maintained that 24-hour mission until 2008, when the Wing transitioned to its current flying missions with the KC-135 and A-10.

Over the years, dozens of different types of aircraft have been assigned to the base. Examples of many of these aircraft, as well as related memorabilia are on display at the Selfridge Military Air Museum, which is located on the base and is open to the public. The base is also home to the first Starbase center, a program created at Selfridge and later replicated around the Dept. of Defense, which encourages school age children to study math, science and technology by introducing them to elements of the U.S. space program.

