

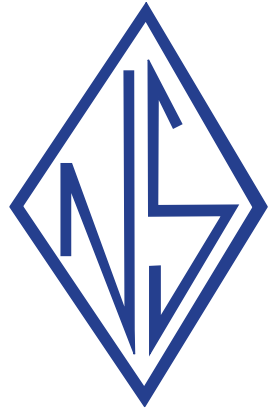
# SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 4, Issue 2

"127<sup>th</sup> Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

April/May 2021





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## EDITORIAL

# April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Jewell E Loving

127th Wing Sexual Assault Response Program Manager

An American is sexually assaulted every 73 seconds. Every 9 minutes, one of those victims is a child. The Department of Defense estimates about 20,500 service members experienced sexual assault in 2018, despite only 6,053 reported cases in the same year, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

The DoD has designated April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. This year's theme, the same as the past two years, is "Protecting our people protects our mission." This theme cannot be emphasized enough. The major goal of this designation is to raise awareness regarding sexual violence, along with educating the population on prevention.

As we all are aware, April 2020 was significantly different than April had been in prior years, this year is no exception. Due to the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, additional precautions and restrictions have been put in place, which affect ser-



Jewell E Loving

vice members and many civilian dependents.

This may lead to many feeling isolated and unaware of the resources available for reporting sexual assault or abuse. As we continue working to slow the spread of COVID-19, we must not forget to

also ensure effective reporting of sexual assault and abuse. One step we can all take is to ensure victims of sexual assault and abuse are aware of the resources available to assist them, particularly effective and available reporting options.

Even during this time of social distancing and minimal manning, resources are still available for military members and qualifying dependents to report a sexual assault.

Increasing effective prevention methods is another responsibility we share, and can come in many forms. While prevention education is often aimed at the actions of the potential victim, everyone has a part to play in prevention. Though sexual assault is rarely a public crime, bystanders can take small steps to prevent sexual assault from occurring. These steps could be as simple as ensuring someone gets safely home and away from potential perpetrators, or that someone is not left alone while awaiting their designated driver. It can also come in the form of being brave enough to report a crime knowing you may have also been

## LOCAL RESOURCES

- Office: (586) 239-6189,
- DSN: 273-6189, GOV Cell: (586) 854-0617

- Email: jewell.loving@us.af.mil

## NATIONWIDE:

- The National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656-HOPE (4613)

- DoD Safe Helpline: 1-877-995-5247

- Email: safehelpline.org

- Online Chat: safehelpline.org

- Texting: (\*55-247)

engaging in minor misconduct, such as drinking while under 21 years of age.

If you or someone you know would like more information on the resources available to you, please contact any of the following resources for more information. Even with COVID-19 response measures in place, there is help available. Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission.

We'll solve this problem together.

## SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



Capt. William Waling, a member of the 127th Medical Group, administers a COVID-19 vaccination to a fellow servicemember at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan on February 6, 2021. Servicemembers from the Navy, Air National Guard and Army National Guard received vaccines during February drill weekend. The COVID-19 vaccine teaches human immune systems to fight the virus and protects from contracting the illness. For more information, visit: [ngpa.us/VaccineMyths](https://ngpa.us/VaccineMyths)

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

## SELRIDGE FLYER

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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:

Airman 1st Class Devin Kavanaugh directs a cargo load in to position prior to loading a KC-135 Stratotanker at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., March 7, 2021. While the KC-135's primary mission is to serve as an air-to-air refueler, the aircraft can also carry a variety of cargo, adding flexibility to Air Force operations. (U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAN HEATON)

## SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MUNNAF JOARDER

After completion of 40 hours volunteer victim advocate training at 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen presents a certificate to Master Sgt. Campbell for completing Department of the Air Force Resilience training.



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

Staff Sgt. Derek Ruggirello and Senior Airman James Watson are materials management specialists with the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron conduct a parts inspection at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, March 6, 2021. The 127th LRS assures Airman have the necessary equipment they need to stay mission-ready.



**Left:** Senior Master Sgt. Greg Reiss, right, observes as Airman 1st Class Phillip Pod, left, and Tech. Sgt. Justin Fletcher test a piece of equipment at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., March 7, 2021. Reiss recently re-enlisted in the Michigan Air National Guard. He began his career as a heating, ventilation and cooling specialist, an occupation now held by both Pod and Fletcher.



**Bottom Left:** Donna Mills and Heather Stalnaker, both recent enlistees into the Michigan Air National Guard, receive a briefing inside a KC-135 Stratotanker from Master Sgt. Max Langford at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., March 7, 2021. Both women aspire to serve as aircraft refueling boom operators on KC-135s at Selfridge. Langford is a current boom operator at the base.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DANIEL HEATON



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CHELSEA FITZPATRICK

Senior Airman Dalton Sweet, petroleum laboratory specialist with the 127th Fuels Management Flight here, pours petroleum ether over a jet fuel sample during a routine laboratory test here March 7, 2021. The test helps Sweet ensure the Base's jet fuel supply is free of contaminants, static and corrosion.

## TRAINING

# Michigan provides 'big boom' for soldiers at Winter Strike 21

By Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Loud noises are a major part of what keeps two Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers coming back to northern Michigan.

"The big boom - it gets your heart pumping," said Specialist Sharrod Harper, a member of C Battery, 1st/120th Field Artillery, a unit based in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Citizen-Soldiers spent the final 10 days of January participating in Northern Strike 21-1, also known as Winter Strike, at Camp Grayling Maneuver Center.

The Wisconsin troops were among Army National Guard, Air National Guard and Marine Corps Reserve units from a half-dozen states to participate in Winter Strike. The exercise, which capitalizes on the Michigan National Guard's premier facilities at Camp Grayling and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, serves as a venue for U.S. and coalition forces to receive advanced training in all weather conditions. Together, the Michigan training facilities' combined ranges and air spaces comprise the National All-Domain Warfighting Center, which was established in 2020 to further capitalize on Michigan's diverse training facilities and opportunities.

Sgt. Gabriel Morris of Pewaukee, Wisc., has participated in several training evolutions at Camp Grayling in both the summer months, for the larger Northern Strike exercise, as well as 2020's inaugural Winter Strike.

"One thing about Winter Strike - there's no sunburn," Morris said.

A bricklayer in his civilian capacity, Morris said Winter Strike gives his team an opportunity to train in a different environment.

"I think having to train under different sets of conditions makes us a better team," he said of his fellow soldiers in the battery.

For Winter Strike 2021, Harper was assigned as his firing team's ammo chief. It was his job to track what type of ammunition



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

Brig. Gen. Joane Mathews, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, observes as C Battery, 1st/120th Field Artillery, fire a M-777 Howitzer during Winter Strike 21 at Camp Grayling Maneuver Center, Mich., Jan. 25, 2021. Winter Strike 21 is a cold weather readiness event held as part of the Northern Strike exercise series that offers the Michigan National Guard's unparalleled facilities as a venue for U.S. and coalition forces to receive advanced All-Domain joint fires training in all weather conditions.

was called for to be fired from one of the battery's M-777 Howitzers and then to complete the paperwork to ensure all of his team's ammunition is accounted for after their time in the field.

"I initially joined for the education benefits and to follow in family tradition," Harper said. "I have had family that's served in several branches of the military. But if you are going to be in field artillery, I think you have to love it when the weapon fires. That's the big rush."

Like Morris, Harper, who lives in Madison, Wisc., is a traditional member of the Wisconsin National Guard, serving generally one weekend per month and a few weeks of training every year. In his civilian job, he works in security at a Madison hospital.

"We've got a great group of Soldiers in this company and training like this is what keeps them sharp and ready for the mission," said Staff Sgt. Michael LaDue, who served as the lead of one of the gun teams for C Company.

In addition to the Wisconsin field artillery, Winter Strike 21, training focused on synchronizing joint fires with Marine and Army rotary-wing assets, B-52 bombers from the Air Force active-duty 5th Bomb Wing in Minot, North Dakota, and the West Virginia National Guard. Air National Guard (ANG) JTACs from New Jersey's 227th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) and New York's 274th ASOS, ANG A-10Cs from Selfridge, Michigan, and Marine

Corps 2nd ANGLICO (Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company) from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, also participated.

The National All-Domain Warfighting Center is home to nearly 148,000 acres of ground maneuver area and the largest overland military operating airspace east of the Mississippi River. Michigan's unique geography, airspace, ranges, and growing connection to the defense industry make it an ideal environment for All-Domain training and operations.

## AWARDS &amp; ACCOLADES

# Selfridge Aircrew save life, nominated for Mackay Trophy

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea FitzPatrick  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Three Selfridge Airmen have been nominated for the 2020 Air Force's Clarence Mackay Trophy after successfully completing a lifesaving aeromedical evacuation mission between Jan. 25 and Feb. 2, 2020. Capt. Alexander Begue, Capt. Jennifer Logsdon, both KC-135 Stratotanker pilots, and Staff Sgt. Jordan Kaminiski, a boom operator, all of the 171st Air Refueling Squadron, will be considered for the award, along with aircrew members of the Alaska Air National Guard and active duty medical evacuation team members who also supported the mission.

"It's an honor to have been nominated for the award," said Begue. "When you look at previous Mackay Trophy recipients, there are a bunch of [aircrew members] who are heroes and more deserving than us."

While deployed as members of the 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam last winter, the aircrew volunteered with little notice to fly to Kadena Air Base, Japan, to intercept an active duty medevac team that was treating a U.S. Navy rescue diver with a traumatic brain injury. The patient was in dire need of a neurosurgeon's expertise, which was not available on the Japanese island.

While the KC-135's primary mission is to provide aerial refueling capability for the Air Force, it is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

From Kadena, the aircrew and medevac team flew directly to Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., in just under 15 hours. During the mission, the crew crossed the international dateline and flew through ten time zones aboard a Selfridge aircraft, during a nearly 24-hour long duty day.

For Logsdon, medevac was one of the mission-sets that helped her decide to become a KC-135 pilot.

"Of course, our primary mission is refueling, but that also gives us the unique capability to carry enough gas to fly for 14 plus hours, which is what this patient needed," she said.

When they volunteered, the aircrew had no idea what they were in for.

"As a new aircraft commander, I wanted the experience of doing something different and challenging," Begue said.

Different and challenging is what they got.

While in-flight, the aircrew had to overcome the loss of the primary communication and navigation systems, after a system malfunction approximately seven hours into the flight. Typically, the aircrew

would send a datalink message or make a satellite phone call during the flight so the medevac team could be in constant contact with their higher headquarters regarding the patient's status and to get approval to administer certain procedures and medications.

"The patient was having seizures during the flight, so when the medevac team needed to get in contact with their command, having degraded [communications] was not ideal," Begue said.

In addition to the communications issues, the aircraft lost autopilot capabilities in-flight, requiring the pilots to constantly have their hands on the controls.

"During long missions especially, the autopilot is a great tool to relieve pilots of the physical burden of flying the airplane, freeing up brain bytes to do other tasks, like navigation and communication," Logsdon said.

Upon descent into Washington D.C., the pilot had to "hand fly" the aircraft into the complex airspace surrounding the capital city, safely landing the aircraft without incident. The patient was then quickly transported into the care of medical staff capable of treating his injuries.

"It was encouraging to see the military go to such great lengths to get a servicemember the care he needed. It helps reinforce that a human life is invaluable," said Begue.

Established in 1912 by Clarence Mackay, then head of the Postal and Telegraph Commercial Cable Companies, the trophy is awarded for the most meritorious flight of the year performed by an Air Force military member or aircrew. The recipients are selected by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the award is sponsored by the National Aeronautical Association. Winners' names are inscribed on the silver cup, which is housed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

The award is selected for the gallantry, intrepidity, unusual initiative, resourcefulness and achievement of outstanding results with unusual presence of mind under combat or noncombat conditions. Nominees of the 2020 Mackay Trophy will learn who was selected for the award in the all.

Coincidentally, while Begue, Logsdon and Kaminiski waited in Washington for their aircraft to be repaired, they went on an outing to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, happening to see the Mackay Trophy on display and not knowing they would soon be nominated for it themselves.

"I am humbled [to be nominated for this award]," Logsdon said. "Honestly, this is the job I signed up to do and knowing that I was able to help someone is reward enough in itself To be recognized beyond that is pretty cool."

## SERVICE

## No fuel, no force

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea FitzPatrick  
127th Wing Public Affairs

One of the factors undoubtedly controlling the ability of the Air Force to succeed is simple: jet fuel.

Members of the 127th Fuels Management Flight based here routinely work around the clock to ensure the Base base is prepared to service all fuel needs. The flight is responsible for storing, distributing and receiving clean, dry and serviceable fuel. With it, the unit keeps the heart of the base beating.

"Our career field is important to the Air National Guard mis-

sion because, without fuel, nothing would happen on base," said Senior Airman Nick Bousquette, fuels distribution operator with the 127th Fuels Management Flight. But getting fuel to the aircraft is only a portion of the Fuels mission.

Comprised of five sections, troops assigned to the flight are responsible for fuel distribution, storage, quality, transportation and Airmen readiness and dispatch. It's not limited to jet fuel either.

"We manage fuel for aircraft, vehicles and other systems on-base that require support, such as generators," Bousquette said.

The vast majority of the unit's

mission however, is jet fuel and they manage a relatively new hydrant system, officially opened for operation here in 2019. The facility houses two underground storage tanks, capable of storing approximately 350,000 gallons of fuel each. Three pumps distribute fuel locally at a rate of 600 gallons per minute.

"The hydrant system at Selfridge is nice because it's newer and because of the technology installed," Bousquette said.

Bousquette, who has served in the Michigan Air National Guard since 2019 and served a four-year active-duty tour prior to that, has worked in fuels his entire career. While it wasn't his first choice during his enlistment process, he says he enjoys his job.

"The best thing about serving in the Michigan Air National

Guard is being able to have an impact on my community and getting the chance to serve in my hometown," Bousquette said.

For new recruits coming into the fuels management specialty, Bousquette recommends they learn as much as they can about it as quickly as they can so they can determine what their favorite section will be.

"The best part of my job is getting to be in close proximity to aircraft," Bousquette said. "I like to feel like I'm making a difference."

**Right:** Senior Airman Nick Bousquette, fuels distribution operator with the 127th Fuels Management Flight here, fills a fuel truck with jet fuel at the Base Hydrant System facility here March 6, 2021.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. CHELSEA FITZPATRICK

## RETENTION

# Service, benefits and aircraft keep Airmen in Michigan Guard

By Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Aircraft enthusiasts, those seeking a little help for college and, of course, people who can't quite fully explain that deep-rooted desire to service their country. All these and more are reasons for men and women to not only enlist in the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing, but also to re-enlist.

Senior Master Sgt. Greg Reiss, who has about 32 years of total military service, re-enlisted on Saturday, March 6.

"The benefits are part of it, of course, but I guess I'd have to say, I just like serving my country and being around people who feel the same way," Reiss said.

That idea of service – along with pay, retirement and education benefits – motivate many 127th Wing Airmen to "Stay Guard," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Koss, retention manager for the wing, which is based at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"At different points in people's career, different aspects are more important," he said. "For most, the idea of service is at the core."

Recognizing the 127th Wing's Airmen as its most valuable resource, the wing's commander, Brig. Gen. Rolf Mammen, has made personnel retention his top priority in 2021.

"We have some phenomenal people in the wing and I'd like to see them continue to serve," the general said in a recent roll call formation.

Mammen said in fiscal year 2021, about 200 recruitments or retentions need to take place to keep the 127th Wing at 100 percent manning levels. About 140 are needed through the end of September 2021 to make that goal.

Even though Reiss is the operations chief for the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron, he said a big part of his job is talking with junior Airmen about their careers.

"I want to make sure that they are able to make informed decisions and consider the options of staying in the Guard."



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

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Cyr works on the disassembled boom apparatus on a KC-135 Stratotanker at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, March 7, 2021. Cyr is a hydraulics specialist with the 191st Maintenance Squadron.

Koss said some critically understaffed career fields in the Michigan Air National Guard can offer a retention bonus of up to \$30,000.

Reiss said he also benefited as a young Airman from learning a skill in the military that long since helped him land a civilian employment career.

About three years ago, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Cyr joined the KC-135 Stratotanker maintenance team after serving a stint in the active-duty Air Force.

"This is a very family-oriented organization," said Cyr, a hydraulics specialist who works on KC-135 aircraft in the 191st Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge.

"The people who are above me

care about us, both our military career and what's happening outside of work. It's an overall good place to work," Cyr said.

On a recent sunny but cool Saturday, while Cyr was performing some routine maintenance on the refueling boom on a KC-135, two other Airmen, also from the 191st, were putting tools away and warming up after a quick outdoor job.

To hear Senior Airman Michael Gardner and Staff Sgt. Adam Zmudczynski talk, the only question left unanswered is which one loves working on aircraft more.

"I have a genuine passion for aircraft," Zmudczynski said, while watching Gardner log in their completed work report in

the computer system. Both men are sheet metal works on KC-135s.

"We've got the best job in maintenance," said Zmudczynski, who often goes by "Mud." "We're out there doing something different every day," he said.

His thoughts were echoed by Gardner.

"I always wanted to work on airplanes. Being a part of the Air Guard is a way to be able to do that," Gardner said.

Recently, the 127th Wing's Retention Office re-located from the Visitor's Center at Selfridge to Building 304. Koss said the move makes it easier for Guardsmen to visit the Retention Office. The wing's Recruiting Office continues to operate at the Visitor's Center, which is more readily ac-

cessible for those who are not currently in the military.

Both offices often answer questions for potential recruits and current Airmen about the current educational benefits available to Wing members. Up to \$14,400 per year is available as tuition reimbursement for those working on an associate's or bachelor's degree, while master's degrees and a number of vocational training programs are eligible for up to \$6,000 in reimbursement per year.

The 127th Wing Recruiting Office, for those interested in joining the wing, can be reached at (586) 239-2487. The 127th Wing Retention Office, for those seeking to re-enlist in the wing, can be reached at (586) 239-4031.

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