

# SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 4, Issue 4

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

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

**Stephen Saph Sr. - [stephen@nickelsaph.com](mailto:stephen@nickelsaph.com)**

**Stephen Saph Jr. - [stephenjr@nickelsaph.com](mailto:stephenjr@nickelsaph.com)**

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## EDITORIAL

# Selfridge Base Community Council continues service as cornerstone of Michigan military community

By **Drema D. Isaac**

Selfridge Base Community Council, President

As President of the Selfridge Base Community Council, it is my pleasure to represent more than 250 business members devoted to supporting Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Since 1940 the Council has built and fostered cooperation between the civilian community and the military service community centered



**Drema D. Isaac**

at the base. Selfridge has changed considerably since our partnership began more than 70 years ago, but it remains an active and thriving military installation. Today, it continues to be a cornerstone of our Michigan community, hosting numerous aircraft, five of the six military branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and over 65 tenants of the defense industry.

The Council is grateful to our military mem-

bers and families for their daily sacrifices to support the community and protect our country. In appreciation for their service, the Base Community Council membership raises funds through dues and by hosting charitable and social functions. Each year, the Council donates thousands of dollars to our Selfridge military organizations. Their financial support helps to promote the prosperity and quality of life for both military defense and our local civilian communities.

One of the best ways

to see what is going on at the base is to attend the Selfridge Air National Guard Base Open House & Air Show. In 2017 more than 300,000 attendees enjoyed a thrilling, up close and personal experience with the nation's finest military aircraft and displays. Officials from the base have already begun planning for the next Air Show at Selfridge scheduled for July 9-10, 2022. As we have done in the past, Base Community Council members will assist in the planning, promotion, and execution to ensure

its success.

I want to thank our volunteer Council members who make all of this possible with their continued support of the men and women at the base. We are also grateful to our military personnel and families for their dedicated service to the state and nation. For our community, your continuing support is valued and appreciated.

We invite you to learn more about the Base Community Council's efforts to strengthen community partnerships or become a member.



Lt. Col. Sam Trapasso holds the guidon of the 127th Force Support Squadron after taking command of the squadron in a formal ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, June 6, 2021. Trapasso accepted the guidon from 127th Mission Support Group commander Lt. Col. Daniel Kramer. Major Camille Horne is the outgoing commander and is moving to a position at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAN HEATON

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### SELFRIDGE BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

#### Presidents

Drema Isaac (Current)  
Fred Sherrerd (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. Alice Clark

#### Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Gordon

### 127TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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C. Phillip Ulmer

#### Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Cammy Alberts

#### Base Visual Information Manager

Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann

#### Public Affairs Staff

Master Sgt. Dan Heaton  
Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick  
Tech. Sgt. Samara Taylor  
Mr. Terry Atwell  
Mr. Munnaf Joarder

### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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**On the cover:** Members of the 127th Wing Headquarters Element conduct training in chemical, biological, radiological, & nuclear (CBRN) safeguarding measures, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. This hands-on training allows members to maintain readiness by learning ways to safely operate in contaminated environments. The ability to conduct war-fighting operations in threatening conditions gives Airmen a competitive edge in the fight. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Schumann)

# SEEN AROUND



Tech. Sgt. Jessica Chatfield, a crew chief with the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, leads a training session for Airman 1st Class Gage Terrian and other crew chief trainees on changing the landing gear tires on a KC-135 Stratotanker at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, June 5, 2021, Air National Guard Airmen are in a constant cycle of upgrade and refresher training.

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

Airman 1st Class Kristen Julius, an aerospace medical technician with the 127th Medical Group here, obtains a routine blood sample from Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton, public affairs superintendent with the 127th Wing Headquarters here on June 23, 2021. Julius said she initially joined the Michigan Air National Guard to gain clinical experience after graduating from Oakland University. "I've since grown to love the work that I do, the people I serve with and the community that I serve," Julius said. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Julius was part of the 127th Wing's COVID-19 response team. "I never even dreamed that I would be working on something that important, I felt intimidated at first, as the most junior Airman on the team, but I was treated with respect and felt as if I was really a part of the team," Julius said. "This job challenges me to go above and beyond every day and I love that." To learn about becoming a member of Michigan's elite Hometown Air Force, call the 127th Wing Recruiting Office at 1-800-432-4296.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY ATWELL



# SELFRIDGE



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY ATWELL

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Drake is a Command and Control Operator for the 127th Wing Command Post at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Drake, who comes from Fort Gratiot, is a Drill Status Guardsmen who also serves his community as a Paramedic in Macomb County. As a member of the Michigan Air National Guard, Drake enjoys the educational benefits of up to \$6,000 per year while staying close to his family in Michigan.



Tech Sgt. Erica Garza, from the 127th Wing Headquarters Element, uses her M50 Protective Mask to drink from her canteen during training in chemical, biological, radiological, & nuclear (CBRN) safeguarding measures, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. This hands-on training allows members to maintain readiness by learning ways to safely operate in contaminated environments. The ability to conduct war-fighting operations in threatening conditions gives Airmen a competitive edge in the fight.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DREW SCHUMANN

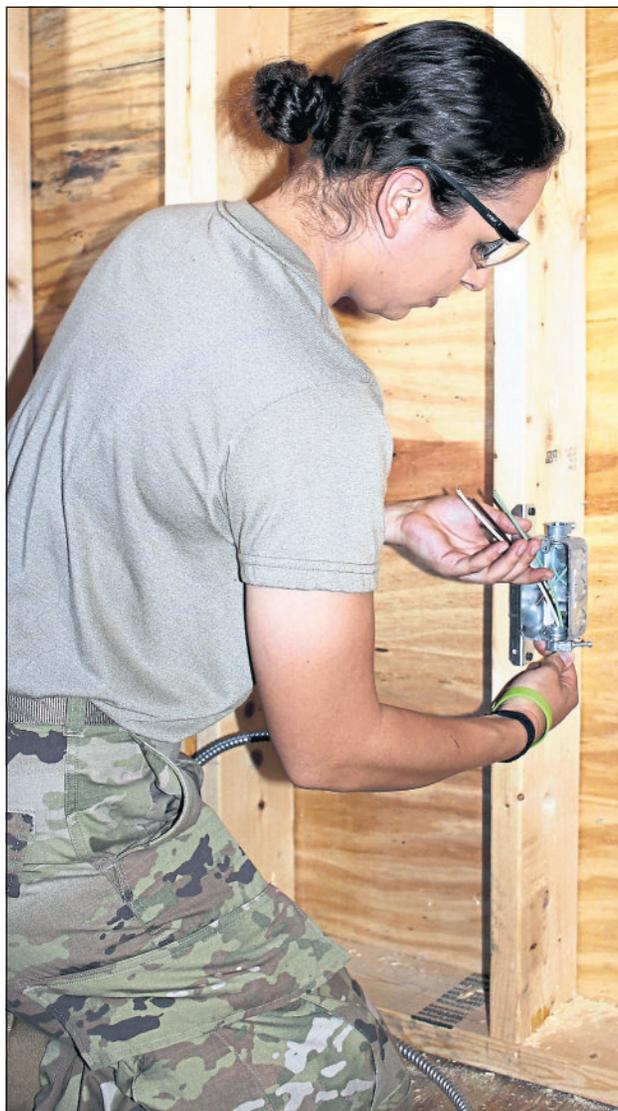


A Navy P-3 Orion departs from Selfridge Air National Guard Base with support personnel from Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla. The P-3 along with four P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft were at Selfridge to take shelter from Hurricane Elsa. The base's extensive ramp space make Selfridge a perfect location for hurricane evacuation support as well as a wide variety of transient aircraft.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY ATWELL

## TRAINING

# Selfridge Civil Engineer Airmen add training B-Hut



Senior Airman Mya Bellinger installs an electrical box in a temporary building at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The 127th Civil Engineer Squadron built the building to be able to conduct hands-on building trades training.

**By Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton**

*127th Wing Public Affairs*

Thanks to the vision of one local Airman, Selfridge Air National Guard Base is now home to one of the strangest B-Huts in the U.S. military.

The B-Hut, slang for a Barracks Hut, is a small building commonly seen on U.S. military installa-

tions in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The one at Selfridge is smaller than most and is made up of a variety of building materials and methods. It is being used as a training center for the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron's building trades personnel.

"It has been a vision of mine for several years," said Master Sgt. Dereck Leppek, a structures

craftsman with the 127th CES. "We built this using wooden and metal studs, prefabricated materials and rafters made from lumber — the idea was to incorporate different building methods so our Airmen would get exposed to multiple scenarios."

The building, a temporary structure outside of the CE facility at Selfridge, features vinyl siding and wooden exterior, a metal roof and shingles, wood panel and drywall and a wide variety of elec-

trical and plumbing fixtures. It also includes windows and doors of several shapes and sizes. That's a lot to squeeze into a 20 by 20-foot structure.

"Master Sgt. Leppek took this vision to our engineering assistants and they drew up the plans, the structures team built the frame and each of our different groups have had the chance to get training," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Talaga, superintendent of 127th CES. "One of the benefits of this is we have

no deadline to finish the building, so whenever we need to, we can slow down and walk our junior Airmen through each step."

Leppek said once all aspects of the building are complete, the CE troops can work on demolition or remodeling various aspects, to accommodate specific training.

The B-Hut project began before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, but the timing of the project worked out well. The pandemic cancelled a scheduled train-

ing deployment for the CE Airmen, but instead they were able to work on the B-Hut.

At the unit's June 2021 training weekend, for example, several electricians were adding light fixtures and running commercial-grade wiring in the building. At the next training weekend, the plumbers will be adding a shower.

"Nothing beats hands-on training and this gives us a great way to get that done, right here on home station," Leppek said.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. DAN HEATON

Master Sgt. Derek Leppek stands outside a small B-Hut, or barracks hut, style building at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, June 6, 2021. Leppek oversaw the creation of the temporary building, which will be used by the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron for hands-on construction trades training at the base.

## STEWARDSHIP

# What is a bird strike?



USDA Airport Wildlife Biologist Megan Baker and Capt. Jennifer Logsdon, flight safety officer for the 127th Wing, survey a current project at the Selfridge Military Air Museum.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW SCHUMANN

Megan Baker, USDA Airport Wildlife Biologist, stationed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, surveys a project at the Selfridge Military Air Museum. The project consists of placing netting and foam around open areas of static aircraft displays, in order to prevent birds from nesting.

**By Megan Baker**  
*USDA Airport Wildlife Biologist*

When an aircraft collides with an animal, most often a bird, it is known as a bird strike. Bird strikes have occurred from the time humans started to fly. The first bird strike ever recorded was from Orville Wright in 1905 when he struck a red-winged black bird over a field in Dayton, OH. As air travel has in-

creased through the years, so has bird strikes. Today, bird and other wildlife strikes account for nearly \$1.3 billion (USD) in terms of damage and other costs annually at civil airports across the world. The combined costs to military international aviation are unknown but in the U.S. it is approximately \$10 million (USD) per year. So what can be done to mitigate this problem?

Through the analysis of

bird strike remains, Airport Wildlife Biologists can manage airfields to help lower bird activity and decrease the overall likelihood of a severe bird strike. When a bird strike occurs, blood, tissue, and other remains of the bird, known as “snarge,” is left on the aircraft. The snarge is sent to the Smithsonian Institution Feather Identification Lab for analysis. DNA is pulled from the remains

to identify the species of the bird struck. This information can determine high risk species of the area, daily and seasonal activity trends, and best management practices on the airfield. Airport Wildlife Biologists are specialized in managing airfields for hazardous wildlife activity. Using a variety of tools and techniques, biologists mitigate risks by modifying the habitat — removing sources

of food, water, and shelter, exclusion — creating physical barriers such as fencing and netting, harassment — using scare techniques to frighten birds from the airfield, and removal — physically removing the bird by trapping and relocating. In the past three years, over 100 raptors (bird of prey) have been caught at Selfridge, including red-tailed hawks, snowy owls, and peregrine falcons, and relo-

cated to areas with less air traffic. Relocation ensures the safety of both our military aircraft and aircrew as well as our feathered friends!

**Fun Fact:** To test the strength of aircraft windshields and jet engines, engineers use chicken guns. A chicken gun is a compressed air cannon that shoots frozen chickens to simulate high-speed bird impacts.

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