

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 5, Issue 6

"127th Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

Nov./Dec. 2022



YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 another exceptional year



Airmen from the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, pose together at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, Mar. 7, 2022. The Guard Airmen are working alongside active duty and Reservists to make up the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Dhafra. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Ross)

By Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen
127th Wing Commander

As 2022 comes to an end, we cannot help but look back to see how much the 127th

Wing has accomplished in the last year — some even during high threat levels of COVID-19 forcing us to adapt and innovate to continue our momentum of success. The following is just a snapshot of activities that our nearly 1,900 military and civilian personnel accomplished in fiscal year 2022:

▪ Mobilized nearly 300 troops in support of six named operations around the world, in support of U.S. Central Command's Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Spartan Shield, among other missions

▪ Deployed our troops to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., in support of Operation Allies Welcome, the federal government's program designed to support Afghan refugees with U.S. resettlement

▪ Broke ground during Exercise Northern Agility 22-1 when we successfully executed a notional military response to an attack using real weaponry, tactics and technologies developed to support long range combat missions by landing, refueling, loading weapons and quickly relaunching A-10s and other Air Force aircraft on a highway in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

▪ Less than six weeks after NA 22-1, our Airmen achieved yet another milestone for the Air Force's agile combat employment doctrine when — for five consecutive days —

successfully conducted A-10 operations from five separate locations across the state during Exercise Northern Agility 22-2

▪ Hosted Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall III during the kick-off of our 2022 Open House and Air Show

▪ Hosted more than 100,000 visitors at the 2022 Selfridge Open House and Air Show

▪ Hosted approximately 1,000 middle and high school students from 20 southeastern Michigan schools over three separate events to showcase science, technology, engineering, aviation and mathematics career fields.

▪ Explored the capabilities of the A-10 Thunderbolt II to be the next aircraft equipped with the miniature air launched decoy, also known as the ADM-160. The MALD is a small, unmanned air-launched flight aircraft designed to duplicate combat flight profiles on enemy radar

▪ Fielded public comments during two public hearings in Macomb County as part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with our selection as the alternate location for a foreign military sales' pilot training center mission. The hearings were held to obtain public comments on the Air Force's release of their draft environmental impact study as it would relate to the implementation of this mission at Selfridge.

With the continued, outstanding community support of our neighbors and citizens across the state, we will continue to stand ready to support our state and nation. It is our goal that the 127th Wing is the best led, most efficient, effective and adaptable organization in the United States Air Force.



Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen

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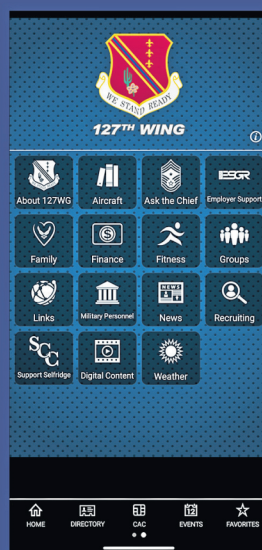
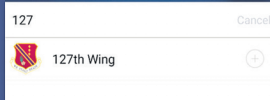
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READINESS

127th Air Refueling Group stands down for resilience

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann
127th Wing Public Affairs

All members of the 127th Air Refueling Group promoted resiliency, safety and unit cohesion when they participated in a stand-down day, here on Oct. 15, 2022. They took a break from fast-paced, routine flight operations to talk to one another, and discuss new resources and opportunities for enhancing the experience for all members.

“Look at what you have accomplished in support of the national defense strategy and the combatant commanders” said Chief Master Sgt. Rick Gordon, 127th Wing command chief master sergeant to the enlisted group. “You have accomplished a lot over the past year, and my question for you is, why do you do it?”

Gordon’s question was in reference to the past year of high-tempo operations, including both deployments and exercises on top of routine refueling and maintenance missions.

Eric Giguere, a maintenance resource management guest speaker, delivered the keynote address for the day by recalling a story of survival and the importance of safety protocols.

“My message to all of you is really pretty simple: Safety is your responsibility,” Giguere said.

Giguere’s presentation, “The Buried Truth,” told the story of how a trench cave-in, following a routine lapse in safety precautions, nearly



Eric Giguere, a maintenance resource management and motivational speaker, delivers a keynote address to members of the 127th Air Refueling Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Oct. 15, 2022. The safety briefing was held during a “stand-down” day for the Group, where they were able to put mission operations on hold, giving Airmen the chance to reconnect and revisit mission priorities. (U. S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Schumann)

cost him his life and forever changed his family.

“I’m the guy that was never too concerned with safety, that believed an accident could never happen to me, and was always willing to jump in and get the job done no matter

what,” Giguere said. “Because of that, I am very lucky to be alive today.”

Col. Leah Voelker, commander of the 127th Air Refueling Group, said it’s important to calculate risk as a routine part of the workload.

“It is very important that we are good at our jobs and understand why we do what we do, so that when we need to deviate from a plan we are being smart about it,” Voelker said. “This is why safety is something that we need to continuously consider.”

PERSONNEL



Airman 1st Class Hailey Brewer receives training on creating a Common Access Card in the customer service area of the 127th Force Support Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 5, 2022. Senior Airman Heather Burks provided the training. Tech. Sgt. Make Danger, a member of the 127th Civil Engineer Squadron, received the new card. Airmen of the 127th FSS provide a range of personnel services to the 1,700 Citizen-Airmen of the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard 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. David Spehar

Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Gordon

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Penny Carroll

Public Affairs Officer

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Airman 1st Class Elise Wahlstrom
Mr. Bruce Huffman
Mr. Terry Atwell
Mr. Munnaf Joarder

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On the cover: A row of A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, also known as the “Warthog,” assigned to the 127th Wing, flown by the 107th Fighter Squadron sit ready for operation in the wake of morning day break at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 2, 2022. With a total of 578,000 square feet of ramp space and an Air Force operated air traffic control tower, Selfridge is home to a ready, reliable and relevant airfield. (Air National Guard photo by Terry L. Atwell)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Selfridge firefighters focus on the community



Staff Sgt. Kory Schaefer, firefighter assigned to the Selfridge Fire Department, climbs a ladder to practice entering a burning structure at the Macomb Township Fire Station #3, Macomb, Mich., Oct. 15, 2022. Schaefer and fellow firefighters practiced entering burning buildings, extinguishing fires and climbing through confined spaces during the routine training exercise. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick)



Members of the Selfridge Fire Department, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, practice structural firefighting at Macomb Township Fire Station #3, Oct. 15, 2022. The structural fire training tower in Macomb, Mich., gave the members a chance to refresh their skills in burning rooms registering at temperatures greater than 581 degrees Fahrenheit. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick)

By Bruce Huffman
127th Wing Public Affairs

During “Fire Prevention Month” in October, members of the Selfridge Fire Department set up fire prevention displays in front of the base commissary to pass along fire safety and prevention tips that protect property and homes and help keep “Team Selfridge” members and their families safe.

Every year, fire departments in the United States and Canada observe FPM, the National Fire Protection Association’s campaign, developed in commemoration of the great Chicago fire of Oct. 1871, that killed hundreds. The goal is to raise public awareness about fire safety and prevention so nothing like that ever happens again.

At Selfridge, firefighters demonstrated proper techniques for

extinguishing kitchen fires, and emphasized the importance of having working smoke alarms and establishing escape routes for the family ahead of time.

The NFPA’s 2022 campaign slogan was, “Fire Won’t Wait, Plan Your Escape.” According to national statistics:

- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires with no working smoke alarms
- Less than 50% of homeowners have an escape plan
- Carbon monoxide is the No. 1 cause of accidental poisoning in the U.S.

- Only 47% of people report having CO alarms in their home
- Unattended cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires, followed closely by careless smoking in bed

“We encourage everyone to take fire safety and prevention seriously, so your family is pre-

pared,” said Robert Howard, assistant fire chief, 127th Civil Engineer Squadron’s Selfridge Fire Department. “Having functioning smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors installed throughout your home is the first line of defense for fire and CO poisoning prevention.”

Smoke and CO detection alarms should be placed on all levels of the home, including the basement, and especially inside and outside each bedroom. Fire extinguishers should also be placed on every level of the home, particularly in the garage and kitchen areas.

Interaction with the public is year-round for SANGB firefight-

ers, who regularly respond to emergencies both in and outside the base.

“We’ve developed close relationships with the other fire departments near Selfridge,” said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin C. A. Brown. “After all, these are the communities where so many of our Airmen and their families reside.”

So far this year, the Selfridge Fire Department has responded to more than 55 emergency calls outside the base, ranging from fires to medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, and incidents involving hazardous materials.

According to Brown, a few no-

table community events they’ve participated in this year include the Selfridge Open House and Air Show, the Chesterfield Township “Big Rig” event, and the Lenox Township “Tons O’ Trucks” event where Selfridge fire trucks — including an enormous “crash truck” used for fighting aircraft fires — were on display.

“Our firefighters enjoy participating in community-focused events, especially when children are involved,” said Brown.

For years, the Selfridge Fire Department has also helped numerous children suffering hair loss from chemotherapy, by raising money for the “Wigs for Kids” program.



Eric Swieca, a lieutenant with the Selfridge Fire Department, presents a certificate for bravery and a stuffed animal to Elowyn Pollard and her parents, April Malak, and Jason Pollard, during a parade organized in the child's honor in Mount Clemens, Sept. 17, 2022. The three-year-old was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Bruce Huffman)

In September, the Selfridge Fire Department joined a group of Macomb County first responders to provide a special parade for three-year-old Elowyn Pollard, diagnosed with a rare type of brain cancer.

Pollard watched from a red wagon with her family as a parade of first responders passed by her home with lights and sirens blazing. Not quite sure what to make of the spectacle, she held her five-year-old sister Rowan's hand as she cautiously watched the vehicles roll by. Suddenly an all-too-familiar face appeared by the roadside; it was Princess Elsa bearing gifts for Elowyn. Who knew princesses rode around in fire trucks?

To everyone's surprise, the child leapt from the wagon and

ran toward the princess waving her hands in the air. A feeling of joy swept through the crowd as they watched the child laugh and dance in the street with Princess Elsa.

"It's been quite a while since we've seen her this happy," said Justin Pollard, Elowyn's father.

The Pollard sisters climbed in and out of the emergency vehicles, flashing the lights and sounding the sirens for the crowd. She wasn't scared anymore. At some point she realized that this was all for her, and at that moment in time, everything was alright.

"Our community has supported Selfridge for so many years, the least we can do is support them in return," said Brown.



The Selfridge Fire Department showcased a Rosenbauer P-23 Panther vehicle during the "Tons O' Trucks" event in Lenox Township, Sept. 17, 2022. The aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle is an ultra-high-pressure fire truck that can pump water at a rate of up to 10,000 liters per minute, critical in extinguishing high-temperature fires created in the wake of an aircraft crash event. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Bruce Huffman)



Three-year-old Elowyn Pollard talks to an actress dressed as Disney Princess Elsa during a parade organized for the child in Mount Clemens, Sept. 17, 2022. Members of the Selfridge Fire Department participated in the event to honor the young child suffering from a rare form of brain cancer. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Bruce Huffman)



In recognition of fire prevention month, Robert Howard, assistant fire chief, 127th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Department, and Sparky the Fire Dog, demonstrate how to put out a grease fire in front of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base commissary, Oct. 11, 2022. SANGB Firefighters educated the community both inside and outside SANGB, to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Terry Atwell)

EDITORIAL

Thank you, Selfridge Base Community Council

By Penny Carroll
127th Wing Public Affairs

The past year has been filled with coming out of COVID lockdowns, mission events, deployments, senior leader visits, an airshow, and more for the 127th Wing and other units at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The fact of the matter is none of this could be accomplished without the support from our community, especially the Selfridge Base Community Council.

The Base Community Council came into existence in the 1940s with meetings among the supervisors of Harrison, Clinton, and Chesterfield townships, the mayor and city manager of Mount Clemens, and Selfridge personnel. The meetings were designed to solve potential problems that might arise between the military and civilian communities, to foster friendship, and to familiarize the base personnel with the services the communities had to offer.

Made up of approximately 250 local business and community leaders from Macomb County, the BCC now meets monthly and its various com-

mittees work to continue and improve the outstanding relationship between the civilian community and the military service community centered at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The BCC promotes the general welfare, prosperity and quality of life between the military and civilian populations, assists with public relations, and sponsors such charitable and social functions for our joint military community.

In 1977, the Base Community Council became involved with the Selfridge Air National Guard Base Open House & Air Show and has assisted at every base air show since. The Open House and Air Show this year on July 9-10 marked 105 years of services for the base and we are already looking forward to working with the BCC for the next show scheduled for June 2024.

I want to personally thank the BCC for their non-stop support of Selfridge's military units and personnel. They have been an outstanding financial contributor to our Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs, the Michigan National Guard Freedom Academy, the Michigan Air Guard Historical Asso-



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TERRY L. ATWELL

Col. Matthew Robins, 127th Operations Group commander discusses the Selfridge A-10 Thunderbolt II mission with members of the Selfridge Base Community Council, Harrison Township, Michigan, March 15, 2022.. The Council promotes the general welfare, prosperity and quality of life between the military and civilian populations, and sponsors events and social functions for the joint military community.

ciation and Base Museum and STARBASE, among others. We look forward to working hand-

in-hand with you in 2023.

If you or your organization is interested in joining the Sel-

fridge Base Community Council, please contact us at 586-239-5576.

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



Airmen from the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., tow a KC-135 Stratotanker early morning to the west side of the base using an MB-2 tow tractor Nov. 2, 2022. The tow tractor is a work-horse used to transport heavy aircraft across the flightline without powering on the aircraft, conserving energy resources. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Terry L. Atwell)

SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



Top left: Airman First Class Taylor Singleton, a command support staff member, 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, helps carry a large American flag onto the Detroit Lions' football field during a servicemember recognition game, Detroit, Nov. 6, 2022. Members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard volunteered to present the colors during the NFL team's, "Salute to Service," game in advance of Veterans Day. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Schumann)

Top right: Maj. Brett Devries, a pilot with the 107th Fighter Squadron, is ceremoniously sprayed with water after deplaning from the last A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft flight of his career, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 5, 2022. Affectionately known as a "fini' flight" the last flight of a pilots' career is honored when a pilot leaves their unit, stops flying a type of aircraft or retires completely. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Drew Schumann)

Left: More than 15 P-8 Poseidon and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and their aircrews from U.S. Navy Patrol Squadron 10, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., and South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing, Eastover, S.C., respectively, found shelter from Hurricane Ian at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Sept. 28, 2022. Selfridge is able to support multiple hurricane evacuation missions annually, due to the expansive ramp space accommodations and mild Michigan autumn weather patterns. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Munnaf H. Joarder)

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



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