

# SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 6, Issue 1

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

July/Aug. 2023



## REORGANIZATION

# 127th Wing transitions to 'Air Staff' structure

The change will better allow assets to prepare for combat

**By Tech Sgt. Andrew Schumann and Tech Sgt. Chelsea FitzPatrick**

*127th Wing Public Affairs*

Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, commander of the 127th Wing, announced plans to transition the Wing Headquarters element to the combatant command organizational structure known as Air Staff here, Dec. 4, 2022. He explained the transition will better allow assets to prepare for combat command and control capabilities in a deployed environment, pull together forces and to present combat power for lethality against our peer competitors.

"We are reorganizing as a wing to be able to better present forces against an adversary moving out into the future," Mammen said.

Modeled after the Joint Chiefs of Staff directorates, the "A" Staff function brings existing command and control functions already within the wing together to better assist the wing leadership with decision-making.

"There they can work together to prepare the wing commander, as well as all our units, for crisis before crisis happens and combat before we go to combat," said Col. Matthew Robins, 127th Operations Group commander.

The "A" Staff consists of six sections called, directorates, that collaborate closely to achieve faster results in combat scenarios. The directorates are broken down by personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, strategic plans, and communications functions, respectively. In addition, there are special staff comprised of headquarters element positions, including

safety, public affairs, chaplain corps and administrative support functions.

The Wing will get its first chance to demonstrate the "A" Staff construct this summer, when more than 200 members from the 127th Wing will deploy to Europe in support of the German Air Force-led exercise, "Air Defender 23."

"All our efforts exercising agile combat employment scenarios to this point have been recognized by senior leaders in the Air National Guard and we were selected by the Director of the Air National Guard, General Loh, to be the lead wing for Air Defender 23," Mammen said.

Air Defender 2023 will consist of a two-week exercise based in the European theater. The German air force will exercise its role as a strategic hub, sending out multiple missions every day with a multinational task force. Participants will forward deploy during snap exercises to various locations in eastern and southern Europe and the 127th Wing will be leading the way.

While the transition takes place and Airmen prepare for Air Defender 23, the missions of the 127th Wing will still go on. As in the past two years, multi-capable Airmen from the Wing will continue exercising agile combat employment in Michigan, Wyoming and other areas domestically and abroad. Mammen says the continued ability of Airmen to adapt to the changing needs of the Air Force are critical to accomplishing the mission.

"The Chief of Staff of the Air Force said, 'accelerate change or lose,' and this is one of the things that we are doing as the 127th Wing to accelerate change, so we don't lose," Mammen said.



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

An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 107th Fighter Squadron, 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard (ANG), lands and takes off from a highway during Agile Combat Employment (ACE) training during Northern Agility-122 in Alger County, located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, June 29, 2022. The Northern Agility exercise series exemplifies the MI ANG's progressive vision for fighter forward arming and refueling training that will land aircraft in an austere landing zone, continuing to champion ACE and adaptive basing concepts for the U.S. Air Force. ACE not only requires novel equipment, but also innovative Airmen that can support the Multi-Capable Airmen (MCA) concept.



A U.S. Air Force Airman from the 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base (SANGB), Mich., performs Agile Combat Employment (ACE) training while reloading the A-10 Thunderbolt II GAU-8 gun with hundreds of rounds during an Integrated Combat Turn (ICT) executed under Northern Agility 22-2/Northern Strike 22, at Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport, Mich., Aug. 10, 2022. Northern Agility 22-2 and Northern Strike 22 executing currently demonstrate how the Air Force's new Agile Combat Employment concept can be integrated into the joint fight. Northern Strike provides the perfect backdrop for the Michigan Air National Guard to establish Michigan as a center of excellence for ACE.

## AWARDS

# 127th Wing honors outstanding airmen

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

Command staff and approximately 1,400 members of the 127th Wing convened here to announce this year's Outstanding Airmen of the Year winners on Dec. 4, 2022.

"Today we are here to recognize the excellent performance of some of our top Airmen and teams," said Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, commander of the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base. "These Airmen represent the overall performance excellence the 127th Wing continues to deliver."

The seven individual winners representing the Wing's top performing Airmen were selected from a pool of approximately 24 individ-

uals in seven categories. Final award recipient decisions were based on superior leadership, job performance and overall achievement.

Winners were selected in the following seven categories:

1. Airman of the Year — Staff Sgt. Matthew Jarecki, 127th Mission Support Group
2. Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year — Staff Sgt. Brian Mitchell, 127th Mission Support Group
3. Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year — Master Sgt. Holly LeCluyse, 127th Air Refueling Group
4. First Sergeant of the Year — Master Sgt. Amanda Held, 127th Medical Group
5. Company Grade Officer of the Year — Capt. Charles DiCiuccio, 127th Maintenance

Group

6. Honor Guard Member of the Year — Tech. Sgt. Raymond Stier, 127th Force Support Squadron

7. Recruiter of the Year — Staff Sgt. Jenna Gleason, 127th Mission Support Group

The Commander's Trophy was awarded to the 127th Maintenance Group's Agile Combat Employment Team, represented by Senior Master Sgt. Adam Dittenber.

The winners of the Airmen of the Year categories will go on to compete against Michigan Air National Guard Airmen at the state level awards, where winners will be selected and announced in August. State-level winners will go on to compete in the nationwide Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. CHELSEA E. FITZPATRICK

Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, 127th Wing Commander presents the Wing's "2022 Outstanding Airmen of the Year," winners (from left): Staff Sgt. Brian Mitchell, non-commissioned officer of the year; Staff Sgt. Jenna Gleason, recruiter of the year; Sr. Master Sgt. Adam Dittenber, representing the 127th Maintenance Group's agile combat employment team, winners of the commander trophy; Capt. Charles DiCiuccio, company grade officer of the year; Staff Sgt. Marina Langenderfer on behalf of first sergeant of the year winner; Staff Sgt. Matthew Jarecki, airman of the year; Master Sgt. Holly LeCluyse, senior non-commissioned officer of the year; Tech. Sgt. Ray Stier, honor guard member of the year; Chief Master Sgt. Rick Gordon, 127th Wing command chief. Winners of the 127th Wing's competition will go on to compete against Michigan Air National Guard airmen at the state level awards, where winners will be elected and announced in August.

## SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 6, Issue 1



### 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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#### On the cover: Master Sgt.

Paxton Chatfield, crew chief with the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, inspects the wheel well of a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Jan. 10, 2023. Crew chiefs manage pre-flight activities to ensure missions are launched safely. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo By Munnaf H. Joarder)

## RECRUITMENT

# ANG: The best kept secret in the military

By Tech. Sgt. Chelsea E. Fitzpatrick

127th Wing Public Affairs

There's a new flight chief leading the 127th Wing recruiting team and he wants to tell everyone about the 'best kept secret in the military.'

"I feel like a lot of people know about the Air Force, but when you say, 'Air National Guard,' they're caught by surprise," said Tech. Sgt. Brandon Hamm, recruiting flight chief, 127th Wing, based here.

Comprised of Hamm and his five recruiters, each assigned to a geographic area in the southeast sector of Michigan, the 127th Wing recruiting team develops an annual plan to strategically recruit new members into the unit.

"Our goal is to fill every open position to allow the Wing to meet its mission," Hamm said.

Right now the Wing is looking to fill open positions in aircraft maintenance fields, particularly munitions and armament.

"There's a lot of systems involved in our aircraft, so we have crew chiefs who know a little about everything,"

Hamm explained. "We also have many different fields that specialize in different systems on the aircraft."

Flying two airframes, the 127th Wing is unique among Air National Guard units. Not only does it fly the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft, a close-air support workhorse made to protect troops on the ground in combat situations, but it also flies the KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling jet, supporting combat air power around the globe. Comprised of five groups and a headquarters element, the Wing employs more than 1,400 drilling status Guardsmen in addition to several hundred full time Airmen, technicians, civilian employees and contractors.

New maintenance Airmen are so sought after, the Air National Guard is offering an enlistment bonus of up to \$20,000 depending on the career field an enlistee qualifies for. These career fields include avionics, aerospace ground equipment, mobility communications, navigation and mission systems, aircrew egress, hydraulic systems, electrical and environmental systems, munitions systems, armament, aircraft structural and more.

## SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



Staff Sgt. Brian Mitchell, defender with the 127th Security Forces Squadron, watches over several parked KC-135 Stratotanker and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan on Dec. 22, 2022. This weekend, Mitchell and other personnel of the 127th SFS will continue to guard the Selfridge Airfield during harsh weather conditions as a significant winter storm commences upon the metropolitan Detroit region. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by David Kujawa)



Michigan Air National Guard



## BENEFITS OF SERVING

- Learn valuable, high-tech skills that can help launch or enhance your civilian career
- Serve close to home
- Base Exchange (BX) and Commissary Shopping Privileges
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- Limited Legal Assistance
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- Military Burial Assistance & Death Gratuity
- 12 + careers in aircraft maintenance offering up to \$20K enlistment bonuses

<https://www.127wg.ang.af.mil/Contact-Us/Join-the-ANG/>

Visit our website to know more informations

## RECRUITER PROFILES

# Meet the 127th Wing recruiters

“The ANG is the component that fits my family the best. I still get to serve in the U.S. Air Force without the worry of a permanent change of station and we get to spend the summers and holidays close to home!”



## Tech. Sgt. Jesse Becker

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“I joined the MIANG because I have always wanted to serve but also didn’t want to leave Michigan. In the ANG you get to choose the career you qualify for, get paid to become certified/qualified in that career field while still being able to pursue your own civilian career.”

“I joined the Air National Guard because I wanted to serve my country and carry on the family tradition. I also wanted to get my Bachelor’s degree but did not want to use student loans, I now have my Bachelor’s degree and the ANG paid 100%.”



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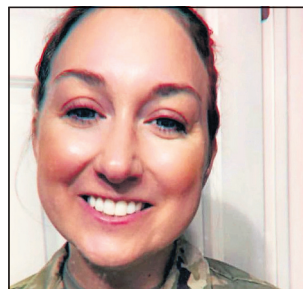
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“You could argue ANG careers are more ‘civilian-ized,’ meaning our jobs come with training that translates to the civilian world and looks great on a resume. We offer just as many careers as the other military branches and, we don’t all fly in planes!”

“When I was active duty, it was a bit scary not knowing what was next for me and my family. With the ANG, you have the flexibility to move around with your career, but you also have that coupled with the stability of knowing where you will be. You are not stuck in one spot if you do not want to stay in Michigan, but you get to plan that out for yourself rather than just being told to go somewhere.”



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## HISTORY

# Remembering the homes of the generals

By Penelope Carroll  
127th Wing Public Affairs

People at Selfridge Air National Guard Base are often astounded by the beautiful architecture of the empty family housing units across from the Selfridge Golf Course. The stately homes have been vacant for years and are the last units standing at the base. There are no plans to rehabilitate or re-utilize them, however, people cannot help but envision them in all their glory of years ago, filled with families who once lived at the 105-year-old base.

In 1931, work ended on the first and largest segment of the 400 Area Housing, commonly referred to as Officer Housing, which amounted to 36 units of three and four bedroom dwellings. Each of the three-bedroom houses, initially intended for company grade officers, had approximately 2,700 square feet and cost about \$13,000 to build. This was nearly \$1,000 less than the cost of the four-bedroom, field grade officers' quarters.

The houses erected in the first and second phases of the 400 Area's construction are similarly styled, center entrance Georgian revival buildings distinguished mainly by their pedimented ionic entrances. The houses built in the third phase are distinctly different. Ten company grade officer quarters, distinguished by prominent dormers on their second floors, were built as "Cape Cods." These also had detached garages and were completed in 1934.

The rest of the houses are in the Greek revival style. These are particularly marked by circular attic windows and inlaid arches over off-center front entrances. Six company grade officer quarters of this design were finished in 1935. These houses had 2,300 square feet and an attached garage.

In 2005, Base Realignment and Closure brought the closure of the U.S. Army Garrison-Detroit at Selfridge. When the Garrison moved to the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, the Michigan Air National Guard gained control over the property and houses at Selfridge. Since the Michigan Air National Guard does not have a funding mechanism nor a mission authority to operate housing, the homes were all vacated at the end of fiscal year 2008.

None of the houses at Selfridge were ever built specifically for generals, but two of the homes (409 and 424) were later designated as general officer quarters.

Building 409 overlooks Lake St. Clair. Completed in January 1935, it cost \$14,600 and has 3,187 square feet. This house appears to be the only unit in the 400 area ever used for a purpose other than family housing. During World War II the attached garage was converted to a fifth bed-



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MUNNAF JOARDER

Renovated in 2015, the Enlisted Heritage House is the sole house currently in use at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Members use the house for meetings, promotion boards, training and various social activities.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO

The last of the housing units standing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. In the absence of a mission authority to operate housing after base realignment and closure in 2005, the homes have stood vacant since the Fall of 2008.

room with bath, and the home was then used to house nurses.

Sometime after, the unit reverted back to officer quarters. In 1977 Major General Decker and his family moved into the house. Since then, only generals' families lived there.

In 2015, the house was renovated and it is now called the Enlisted Heritage House. The EHH was established to preserve the enlisted heritage at Selfridge. The house is the only 400 area home currently in use. Team Selfridge members use the house for meetings, promotion boards, training and various social activities.

After standing empty for many years, and with numerous expensive renovation unknowns — namely asbestos and lead — these nostalgic homes have been deemed uninhabitable. They are slated for demolition in the future. Nevertheless, people cannot help but imagine these homes in all their former splendor.

## SEEN AROUND SELFRIDGE



Airman 1st Class Timothy Holmes, an aircraft mechanic from the 127th Maintenance Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, removes an environmental control unit on an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a Phase 2 inspection on Dec. 21, 2022. Airmen of the 127th Maintenance Squadron phase crew are tasked to perform detailed inspections to make sure this complex jet remains air-ready. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by David Kujawa)

## AIR SHOW



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MSGT. DAVID KUJAWA

A KC-135 Stratotanker, from the 127th Wing Air Refueling Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base Michigan, escorts five of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds F-16s from the 57th Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, to perform at the Selfridge Centennial Open House and Air Show on Aug. 17, 2017. The Thunderbirds are the U.S. Air Force's elite demonstration flying squadron, and will perform at the Air Show scheduled for June 8-9, 2024.

# Thunderbirds to headline 2024 Selfridge Open House

**By Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton**  
*127th Wing Public Affairs*

The next Selfridge Air National Guard Base Open House and Air Show is scheduled for June 8-9, 2024. The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, will headline the aerial performance lineup at the event.

While the demonstration of military air power provides most of the, "wow" factor at the event, the open house portion of the event serves as a highlight for many of the military units assigned here.

"The support of our community is one of the core strengths of Team Selfridge," said Brig. Gen. Rolf E. Mammen, commander of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the 127th Wing. "The open house is an opportunity for us to say, 'thank you,' to our community and let them learn a little bit more about the missions and the career opportunities that exist on base."

There is a long history of open houses and flying demonstrations at Selfridge, with the first public air show taking place more than 100 years ago. The most recent air show, in July 2022, drew more than 100,000

visitors to the base.

In 2024, admission and parking will be free.

In addition to the Thunderbirds, which fly Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, locally based aircraft will be on display, including the Air Force's A-10 Thunderbolt II and the KC-135 Stratotanker aircrafts, along with Army and Coast Guard helicopters, the CH-47 Chinook and MH-65 Dolphin, respectively. Visiting aircraft are also anticipated. Local recruiters from various military branches will also have information available on the many career options available at Selfridge.

## EDUCATION

## Scholarships available to Selfridge community

Several academic scholarship programs are now open for local military personnel and their dependent children or grandchildren.

The 127th Wing Chief's Council is sponsoring two \$500 scholarships for dependent children and grandchildren of enlisted members of the 127th Wing.

To be eligible, students must be attending a college, university or technical or trade school, or be a high school senior. Application may be made by submitting an essay of 500-600 words based on the following prompt: "Every generation has differing opinions of what it means to be an American. Service to our Nation is seen by many as a civic duty that everyone, if able, should accomplish at some point in their life. Explain what service to the nation is and why it is or is not important to you."

Application must be made by March 5, 2023, and winners will be announced in early April. To submit an essay or for more information, email both [maurice.graves@us.af.mil](mailto:maurice.graves@us.af.mil) and [jody.nitz@us.af.mil](mailto:jody.nitz@us.af.mil).

"Our military families make many sacrifices to support our Airmen. This scholarship program is one way that we say thank you and acknowledge the role that our families play in our members' service," said Chief Master Sgt. Maurice Graves of the 127th Air Refueling Group and one of the coordinators of the Chief's Council scholarship program."

The Selfridge Base Community Council offers one \$1,000 scholarship to the dependent child of any military personnel assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or current college students with a grade point average of at least 3.0. Applicants must also demonstrate strong community involvement.

Deadline for submission for the 2023 BCC scholarship has not yet been set. To apply or for more information, visit [sterling-heights.net/748/Scholarships](http://sterling-heights.net/748/Scholarships).

The Defense Commissary Agency, which operates the commissary at Selfridge, awards 500 scholarships, each worth \$2,000, to dependent children of military members. At least one scholarship will be awarded to a family in the Selfridge community, with the possibility of additional full or partial awards to be made in the local area.

The Commissary scholarship, which also requires a 500-word essay, has a deadline of Feb. 15, 2023. Application, information and the essay prompt are available at [militaryscholar.org](http://militaryscholar.org).

# Macomb County Schools Students and Staff

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