

# SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 7, Issue 4

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

July 2024



# LEVEL UP

## FROM THE COMMAND CHIEF

## Words of wisdom

By Chief Master Sgt.  
Richard Gordon  
127th Wing

It's been an honor and privilege beyond measure to serve as command chief for the 127th Wing and Team Selfridge. Over my career, I've witnessed these Airmen exhibit professionalism, dedication and a commitment to service in the face of an ever-demanding operational tempo.

They consistently exemplify the core Air Force values while being committed to their team and families, feats that are both admirable and inspirational.

As I transition to my next chapter, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some advice for

those of you considering a career in the Air National Guard.

I wish I would have had a better understanding of the "why" behind what we do. Early on in my career, I simply did my job to the best of my ability. I was narrowly focused on the tactical aspect of the career.

It wasn't until much later that I began to see the larger picture and gained a clear understanding that no job in the Air National Guard is exclusive, and that every job, while done in unison, directly supports our national security imperatives.

Today's Airmen are better educated and more informed than ever before

and I think we are doing a much better job today of communicating doctrine and showcasing the "why."

My advice to any new Airman wishing to make the best of this fantastic opportunity is fourfold.

First, trust in your leadership — military leaders are charged with making decisions that are in the interest of the organization and the Airmen that fuel the organization, and the Air National Guard does a great job of putting the right leaders in place.

Second — do your very best in everything that you are tasked to do; when we strive for excellence in all we do, we can never go wrong.

Third — take full advantage of every opportunity for personal growth and development that is offered, and there is plenty of opportunity; beginning

with Basic Military Training and Technical Training School, to skill level upgrade, professional military leadership training, and free college tuition, the learning continuum spans an entire career. The sky is the limit for any Airman.

Lastly — understand that once you join us, you become part of the family; and as family we treat one another with dignity and respect. We are all on the same team. We operate as one — bound by a higher calling, united in the Profession of Arms.

I believe that any member who sticks to these four principles is destined for success!

To potential recruits, or those thinking about joining the Air National Guard: What are you waiting for? Your future starts today!



Chief Master Sgt. Richard Gordon



## ★ HEROES' REWARDS PROGRAM

Showing appreciation for our military community with:

- ★ Enhanced Interest Rates
- ★ Exclusive Loan Discounts



YOUR SERVICE

EARNs MORE

MILITARY RATE DISCOUNT TERMS: Eligibility for a 1% rate discount on certain loan products, excluding Mortgages, Holiday Loans, Visa Cards, Business Loans, Courtesy Pay loans, and the Military Line of Credit. This offer is available to Active Duty, Veterans, and Retirees. Terms and conditions apply, visit our website for more details.





# Want to work at Selfridge?

COME JOIN THE 127th WING TEAM



Bonus

Bonuses up to \$50,000  
for Aircraft related fields



College

\$18,900/yr for college



Trade School

\$6,000/yr towards trade school



Work Local

Serve close to home



Maintainers Wanted

#MakeMetalFly

Have questions? We have ALL the answers!

Reach out to our 127th Wing Recruiters:

www.127wg.ang.af.mil/Join-the-127th-Wing/  
(586) 239-5511



## SERVE IN ONE OF OUR **HOT** JOBS!

### REFUELING MAINTENANCE



It's the job of the Refueling Aircraft Maintenance specialists to inspect, troubleshoot and repair aircraft structures, engines & hydraulic systems.

SOME OF WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Launch & recover aircraft
- Diagnose & solve maintenance issues

### SECURITY FORCES



Security Forces specialists go through extensive law enforcement and combat training to protect bases both stateside and overseas.

SOME OF WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Secure base weapons, property and personnel
- Apprehend and detain suspects, secure crime scenes and testify in judicial proceedings

### FIRE PROTECTION



Fire Protection specialists deal with everything from brush fires to burning rocket fuel and hazardous material fires.

SOME OF WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Protect people and the environment from fires and disasters
- Conduct fire prevention awareness and training

### AEROSPACE PROPULSION



Aerospace Propulsion specialists test, maintain and repair all parts of the engine, playing a critical part in keeping our planes and our Airmen safe in the air.

SOME OF WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Maintain aircraft engines
- Remove defective components and install serviceable machinery

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOT JOBS AT [WWW.127WG.ANG.AF.MIL/JOIN-THE-127TH-WING/](http://WWW.127WG.ANG.AF.MIL/JOIN-THE-127TH-WING/)

## SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 7, Issue 4



### SELFRIDGE BASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

#### President

Jonathan Vandenbossche

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. Matthew Brancato

#### Deputy Wing Commander

Col. David Spehar

#### Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Hedrick

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##### Base Visual Information Manager

Mr. Andrew Schumann

##### Chief of Community Engagement

Mr. Bruce Huffman

##### Command Information NCOIC

Master Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

##### Public Affairs Staff

2nd Lt. Elise Wahlstrom

Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Heaton

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Schumann

Senior Airman Nathan Wingate

Airman 1st Class Jacob Hessen

### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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**On the cover:** U.S. Air National Guard illustration by Master Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## NEWEST SELFRIDGE AIRMEN SHARE EXPERIENCES

**Amn. Alice Hamilton, emergency management specialist**

*“Since I was a kid, I have always known I wanted to lead a life different than my peers. I value time spent working on my feet and with my hands, beyond just sitting at a desk. I found the opportunity to pursue that type of career at Selfridge and in the Air National Guard.”*

**Why did you enlist in the 127th Wing?**

- Freedom to pursue a civilian life
- Education benefits
- Serve my community and nation
- Advance my education through training

**What should you know before you go?**

- As much as you can about the Air Force (ranks, insignias, chain of command, marching, fitness, etc.)
- Reporting statements
- Drill and ceremony skills continue after BMT, into tech school

**BMT Hacks?**

- Don't take anything personally
- Embrace discomfort, it's how we learn and grow
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes and own them
- Don't tell any MTI it's anyone's birthday, you'll regret it

**What's your best advice to newcomers to succeed in training?**

- Study hard and get the most out of it as you can
- Find a support system of friends and lean off each other to get through the difficult days
- Use your free time to go out, see people and do fun things; those will be the memories you remember down the line
- Invest in good bedding; a good night's sleep makes a world of difference

For more information on the emergency management field, head over to [airforce.com/careers/law-and-order/emergency-management](https://airforce.com/careers/law-and-order/emergency-management).



Amn. Alice Hamilton, emergency management specialist

**Amn. Hailey Chisum, cyber defense operations specialist**

*“The National Guard affords me the chance to acquire valuable experience applicable to higher-paying positions in the civilian workforce, in addition to fostering educational growth through technical schooling.”*

**Why did you enlist?**

- Serve in the military, close to home
  - Travel
  - Education benefits
- What should you know before you go?
- Marching techniques
  - Efficient eating habits
  - Drill and ceremony skills continue after BMT, into tech school

**BMT Hacks?**

- Keep a piece of paper with addresses of family and friends in your wallet

**What's your best advice to newcomers to succeed in training?**

- Establishing connections with your peers is very important but ...
- Don't fraternize!

For more information on the cyber defense operations field, head over to [airforce.com/careers/intelligence/cyber-security](https://airforce.com/careers/intelligence/cyber-security).



Amn. Hailey Chisum, cyber defense operations specialist

**Amn. 1st Class Alexander Kitto, aerospace medical technician**

*“I joined the Air Force because it's a great way to network, travel, grow as a person, and a step to becoming financially free.”*

**Why did you enlist in the 127th Wing?**

- Serve my country
- Travel
- Networking
- Financial benefits

**What should you know before you go?**

- You will translate what you're about to learn into education credit and civilian career skills, so get the most out of it

**What's your best advice to newcomers to succeed in training?**

- Study hard, the training you'll receive will help you in the civilian world

For more information on the aerospace medical field, head over to [airforce.com/careers/healthcare/aerospace-medical-service](https://airforce.com/careers/healthcare/aerospace-medical-service).



Amn. 1st Class Alexander Kitto, aerospace medical technician

## Senior Airman Adam Kopczyk, administration specialist

*"I knew going through high school that I wanted to do my time in the military and continue a family tradition. My father, uncle and grandma are just a few of the many family members I have that have served our country, and it was important to me that I do the same."*

### Why did you enlist?

- Continue family legacy
- Stay close to home

### What should you know before you go?

- Be prepared to be uncomfortable
- Pack as light as possible

### BMT Hacks?

- Pay attention to the details, keep your ears open



Senior Airman Adam Kopczyk, administration specialist

What's your best advice to newcomers to succeed in training?

▪ Details are key when getting direction from your instructors

▪ If you want to exceed your peers and get awards, be prepared to make mistakes; your instructors will

recognize how you overcome mistakes and show improvement above all else

For more information on the administration field, head over to [airforce.com/careers/logistics-and-administration/administration](https://www.airforce.com/careers/logistics-and-administration/administration).

## Airman 1st Class Jacob Hessen, public affairs specialist

"I joined the ANG because I felt the call to serve, but I didn't want to leave my home and civilian career. I looked at options and saw that I could have the best of both worlds — civilian and military — by serving at the 127th Wing."

### Why did you enlist in the 127th Wing?

- Graduate degree education benefits
- Serve in the military, close to home
- Learn new and exciting skills

### What should you know before you go?

- It isn't as bad as you think it will be
- Make sure you are in good physical shape

### BMT Hacks?

▪ Remember that the Air Force wants you to succeed and graduate BMT

What's your best advice to newcomers to succeed in training?

- Give it your all because you are in training to learn your job
- Make the most of your experience, make friends, go places and try new things

For more information on the public affairs field, head over to [airforce.com/careers/logistics-and-administration/public-affairs](https://www.airforce.com/careers/logistics-and-administration/public-affairs).



Airman 1st Class Jacob Hessen, public affairs specialist

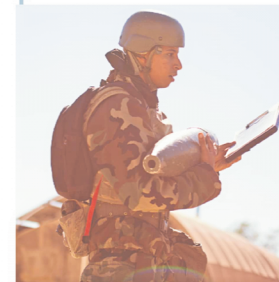
# BMT Overview

## WEEK 3



As you continue to build up your physical strength, you'll also begin to develop your character and leadership skills.

## WEEK 6



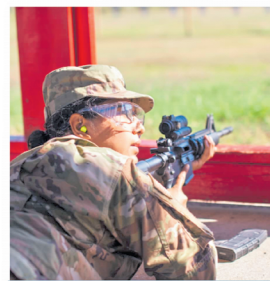
During the most intense week of BMT, you'll be stationed in a simulated deployment environment where you will hone your skills through field training.

## WEEK 0



The second you step off the bus, your journey begins. You'll be assigned to a squadron with a Military Training Instructor who will guide you during your 7.5 week transformation.

## WEEK 5



In the week before Pacer Forge, you'll prepare for the possibility of combat.

## WEEK 7



During the final week, you'll celebrate your accomplishments while your friends and family will watch you become an Airman in the United States Air Force.

Learn more about BMT, including how to pack and prepare at <https://www.airforce.com/training/military-training/bmt/overview>

## AN INSIDE LOOK

# Local teacher experiments in gravity, both on and off the planet

By Master Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

127th Wing Public Affairs

Colleen Cain, a Troy Schools' teacher, entered an exclusive club in the Michigan skies June 7, 2024, when she withstood nine "g's" during a backseat flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

Cain was selected to participate in the Thunderbirds' "Hometown Heroes" program after being nominated as a selfless and inspirational community member.

The Thunderbirds flight took place the day before the 2024 Selfridge Open House and Air Show, and she received the full "flight crew" treatment. She was briefed, familiarized with flight equipment and emergency procedures, measured and fitted in a flight suit and after all that, she was taken to the skies.

Cain was nominated for the honorary flight after finishing third place in the 2023 National Air &

Space Forces Association's STEM Teacher of the Year. A seventh grade teacher from Larson Middle School, she's taught and inspired students for more than 18 years by way of her guiding values: collaboration, connection and community.

During the flight, the Thunderbird pilot slowly introduced her to the different g-force levels, until she successfully achieved nine "g's," allowing her to fly in formation during a practice flight.

Cain's other achievements include being accepted as one of 10 participants in the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium and ZERO-Gravity corporation partnership's "embedded teacher" program in 2023. In her class, she engages her students in tackling the global plastic waste issue. She's also led them to participate in the "Tomatosphere" program where they grew tomatoes from the International Space Station, investigating the impact of microgravity on plant growth.

Colleen Cain, a Troy school teacher, familiarizes herself with flight equipment prior to a flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, June 7, 2024. Cain was selected to participate in a backseat flight with the Thunderbirds, as part of their "Hometown Hero" program, recognizing her as a selfless and inspirational local community member after she was named the Air Force Association Michigan teacher of the year for 2023.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO  
BY STAFF SGT. DAKOTA  
CARTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE HUFFMAN

Rochester Community Schools counselors pose for a group photo while touring an A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan. The counselors had the opportunity to see military service in person during a tour organized by 127th Wing public affairs and recruiting staff.

## Selfridge launches 'One-Stop' Educator Tours

By Bruce J. Huffman

127th Wing Public Affairs

In April, the 127th Wing launched its first "One-Stop" Educator Tour, providing about 20 counselors from Rochester Community Schools an inside look at what it's like to serve in today's military.

The participants toured maintenance areas, saw military aircraft and equipment, and spoke directly with the men and women in uniform who do the hard work at the base. The group also was briefed on the latest career opportunities and benefits available to those who serve.

With recruitment goals coming up short across the board, the military is seeking innovative ways to attract new volunteers.

"The concept of educator tours is nothing new," said Air Force Master Sgt. Branden Hamm, recruiting office supervisor for the Michigan

Air National Guard at Selfridge. "The active-duty military has been hosting educator tours at their bases for years, but the National Guard component has never done anything like this before."

According to Hamm, one thing that makes the "One-Stop" Educator Tours at Selfridge so unique is that Selfridge is a joint service base, and they're able to feature opportunities with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard at a single location.

In the secondary counselor feedback, almost every participant found meeting with all the military branches extremely beneficial.

They also requested side-by-side information on each be made available for future reference.

Christopher Green, a counselor from Rochester High School said: "I loved hearing the stories of different people and why they joined. It

Painted a bigger picture than what you see when the recruiters come. I also enjoyed being on base to see things."

"We didn't realize the impact of the tour until we read the respondents' comments afterward," said Penelope Carroll, chief of public affairs for the 127th Wing. "The feedback was so positive, we knew we had to do more of these."

The staff is currently exploring ways to enhance the experience. We hope to offer the next tour after school starts, then hold them quarterly. The goal is to provide educators with a seamless, well-organized experience that will inform, inspire and maybe even dispel some rumors and myths about military service.

For more information about how you can participate in a "One-Stop" Educator Tour at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, email us at 127.wg.127.wg.pa.org@us.af.mil or call us at 586-239-4735.



COLLAGE COURTESY OF SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE

# Macomb County School Students and Staff With Gratitude for our U.S. Servicemen and Women who Sacrifice for our Freedoms



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, Mount 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

For more information about Macomb County Schools, please visit  
[www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)