

SELFRIDGE FLYER

Volume 8, Issue 1

"127th Wing – Your Hometown Air Force"

January 2025

of the Year



DRIVING SUCCESS

Empowering people, building leaders: Human resource advisor

The 127th Wing's human resource advisor program prioritizes the growth, inclusion and well-being of our Airmen because we believe our people are our greatest asset and, without them, the mission and the team cease to exist.



SMSgt. Kayla Clouser

With a new year upon us, we are eager to embrace a wealth of opportunities to empower our Airmen and invest in their development as leaders both within the Wing and in our broader community.

The focus of my role is to support Wing leader-

ship by providing guidance and policies that reflect a holistic commitment to Airman development, diversity and inclusion. These efforts are not just goals, but integral to our identity at Selfridge.

We are committed to providing top-tier training and development opportunities that inspire personal and professional growth, enabling our members — both Airmen and civilians alike — to thrive in their roles.

One of our key priorities this year is expanding access to training programs that foster leadership and enhance interpersonal skills. Courses such as Emotional Intelligence, 4-Lenses, Neurons and Narratives, Allyship, Generational Differ-

ences and Our Community Listens help us leverage the unique strengths of our diverse workforce. These programs not only sharpen technical and leadership capabilities, but also show every member how valuable and vital their contributions are to our mission. Inclusion is more than a concept at the 127th Wing — it's a practice. We are proud to lead the way with initiatives like the implementation of lactation rooms for nursing mothers.

These spaces provide a clean, supportive environment that allows mothers to continue serving on duty while caring for their children.

We also focus on preparing our next generation of leaders through our stu-

dent flight program that equips new members with tools and training they need to excel at Air Force Basic Military Training.

For experienced Airmen, we developed a training for first-line supervisors to bridge the gap between formal professional military education programs and the on-the-job practical skills needed to lead effectively, from the lowest level.

These programs reflect our determination to set our Airmen up for success at every stage of their careers.

The 127th Wing is a hub of talent, innovation and teamwork where our Airmen come from all walks of life.

This means their unique perspectives and skills

make our team stronger. Together, we are building a culture of continuous learning and growth, empowering leaders who will not only excel in the Air National Guard, but also make a positive impact in their communities.

As we move forward into the promise of 2025, I encourage all members of the 127th Wing to take advantage of these opportunities to bring your passion, ideas and talents to the table.

We are not just building a team; we are building a family — a family dedicated to excellence in service and unwavering support for one another.

Let's make this year one of growth, inclusion, and success. Together, we can achieve great things.

SELFRIDGE FLYER

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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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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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On the cover: The 2024 recipients of the 127th Wing's outstanding airmen awards were named Dec. 7, 2024, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD
ILLUSTRATION BY MASTER SGT.
CHELSEA E. FITZPATRICK



GIVING BACK

Council donates more than \$50K, supports Selfridge

By Bruce J. Huffman
127th Wing Public Affairs

The Selfridge Base Community Council met for the last time in 2024 on Dec. 17 at MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township. Known as the “Holiday Luncheon,” the December BCC meeting is always well attended because it is the organization’s last opportunity to show support for the men and women at Selfridge before the new year.

The giving officially began when participants entered the building where BCC members and their guests left new, unwrapped toys under the Christmas tree in the lobby for the U.S. Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots program, coordinated by the 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, one of more than 40 mission partners who call Selfridge ANGB home.

According to U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Brandon M. Ward, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment commander, his unit led the region in toy collection in 2021 and the nation in 2022.

“Collections have been very good this year, so we’ll be able to provide a good Christmas for a lot of children,” Ward said.

Keeping with tradition, the guest speaker was U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard.

“It is always great to come in and share what we have going on with our almost 10,500 Army and Air National Guard members across the state,” Rogers said.

Rogers briefly outlined his top priorities for Selfridge ANGB, which include solving the encroachment issue at the south side of the runway, ensuring the construction of an aircraft “super” hangar and other infrastructure needed to support

the KC-46 Pegasus aircraft mission, and the continued pursuit of an advanced fighter mission for the 127th Wing.

Selfridge BCC President Jonathan Vandenbossche and Vice President John Stolz presented monetary donations to the following organizations: the 127th Wing Chiefs Council, Selfridge Fire Department, Wreaths Across America New Baltimore, 127th Family Readiness Group, Team Selfridge Family Relief Fund, Border Patrol Detroit Sector, Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund, Hooves Vet Retreat, Michigan Freedom Centers, Wreaths Across America Resurrection Cemetery, Great Lakes Air & Marine Wing MWR, Selfridge Military Air Museum, Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation Scholarship Program, 127th Wing Commanders Fund, Coast Guard Air Station Detroit Morale Fund, Detroit Arsenal MWR Fund, Marine Corps Event Fund, Navy Support Center Detroit Association, Wertz Warriors, Special Olympics, Enlisted Heritage House, Starbase One, Vets Returning Home and Holbrook Farms.

According to Stolz, the BCC donated more than \$50,000 to Selfridge and military-based support organizations in 2024.

“I always look forward to presenting the checks during the December meeting — an annual highlight of our organization,” Stolz said. “Giving funds directly to the military units and non-profit organizations extends the reach of the BCC and helps us better support our ‘Team Selfridge’ members.

The BCC meets once a month and is comprised of more than 250 local business and elected leaders with the sole mission of supporting Selfridge ANGB and



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

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general, Michigan National Guard, speaks to members of the Selfridge Base Community Council during its Dec. meeting, in Harrison Twp., Michigan, Dec. 17, 2024. The mission of the 250-member council is to bridge the relationship between members serving at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the surrounding communities.

its personnel.

“Monthly BCC meetings allow us to meet with Selfridge military personnel, network with like-minded business and community leaders, have a delicious lunch and hear from a wide range of guests who speak about various topics relevant to our mission, which is to support Selfridge,” Stolz said.

Some of the BCC monthly luncheon speakers in 2024 included representatives from Boeing, LIFT, the Selfridge Military Air Museum and U.S. Space Force, along with distinguished individuals such as Doug Slocum, a retired Air Force brigadier general and a former commander of the 127th Wing.

To learn more about the Selfridge BCC, visit selfridgecommunitycouncil.com.



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

Steve Mrozek, director of the Selfridge Military Air Museum, left, accepts a donation from Selfridge Base Community Council president, John Stolz, in Harrison Township, Michigan, Dec. 17, 2024. The mission of the 250-member Selfridge BCC is to bridge the relationship between servicemembers and the surrounding communities through a variety of support activities.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS

Wing awards outstanding Airmen, employees

By Master Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

127th Wing Public Affairs

Leadership and Airmen of the 127th Wing honored the unit's 2024 Outstanding Airmen of the Year on Dec. 8, 2024.

"This ceremony is our opportunity to highlight some of our team's outstanding achievements from the past year and discuss our way forward," said Brig. Gen. Matthew Brancato, commander of the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base. "Each of you has demonstrated commitment, resilience and adaptability and it's clear that your dedication keeps the 127th Wing running strong and ready to meet every challenge."

The individual winners representing the Wing's top-performing Airmen were based on superior leadership, job performance and overall achievement.

Winners were selected in the following categories:

1. Airman of the Year — Senior Airman Chloe Morgan, 127th Medical Group

2. Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year — Tech. Sgt. Myke Danger, 127th Mission Support Group

3. Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year — Master Sgt. Jeremy Mosley, 127th Maintenance Group

4. First Sergeant of the Year — Master Sgt. Chris Partaka, 127th Maintenance Group

5. Company Grade Officer of the Year — Capt. Patrick Retzer, 127th Air Refueling Group

6. Honor Guard Member of the Year — Tech. Sgt. Eric Kim, posthumously

7. Recruiter of the Year — Tech. Sgt. Justin Nabarrette

8. Civilian Employee of the Year — Phillip Olczak, 127th Mission Support Group

9. Civilian Manager of the Year — Cody McDonald, 127th Mission Support Group

10. State Employee of the Year — Kevan Visnick, 127th Mission Support Group

11. The Commander's Trophy was awarded to the 2024 Selfridge Air Show and Open House Director, Maj. Kraig Lohse.

"These Airmen have set themselves apart through their unwavering commitment, professionalism and excellence, embodying the best of what it means to serve in the United States Air Force," Brancato said.

The winners of the airman, non-commissioned officers and first sergeant categories will go on to compete against Michigan Air National Guard Airmen at the state-level awards, where winners will be selected and announced next summer. State-level winners will go on to compete in the nationwide Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JACOB HESSEN



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHELSEA E. FITZPATRICK

Above right: U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Hedrick, command chief master sergeant of the 127th Wing, Michigan National Guard, congratulates Phillip Olczak, firefighter at the 127th Wing, at the Outstanding Airman of the Year awards ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan Dec. 8, 2024. Hedrick congratulated Olczak for winning the civilian employee of the year award.

Below right: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Matthew Brancato, commander, 127th Wing, Michigan National Guard, left, presents Andrew Kim, center, with an award at the Outstanding Airman of the Year awards ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan Dec. 8, 2024. Kim accepted the posthumous award on behalf of his brother, Tech. Sgt. Eric Kim.

Outstanding Performers

2024 top performers

Senior Airman Chloe Morgan*Medical technician*

Performance Highlights:

- Processed 500+ medical clearances
- Facilitated deployment of 350 Airmen

Tech. Sgt. Myke Danger*Water & fuels systems maintenance technician*

Performance Highlights:

- Developed new training program
- Completion rates improved 10% in a month

Master Sgt. Jeremy Mosley*Electrical and environmental flight supervisor*

Performance Highlights:

- Led largest redeployment in squadron's history
- Strengthened international partnerships

Master Sgt. Chris Partaka*First Sergeant*

Performance Highlights:

- Organized 500+ hours of human performance and mental health outreach services during four-month deployment

Tech. Sgt. Justin Nabbarrette*Recruiter*

Performance Highlights:

- Won second year in a row
- Exceeding his annual recruiting quota by 86%
- Secured 45 new contracts
- Ranked in top 20 Air National Guard recruiters

Capt. Patrick Retzer*Pilot*

Performance Highlights:

- Coordinating 52+ refueling missions
- Trained 100+ aircrew members during two-week long exercise, Northern Strike 24-2

ACCEPTING ONE ANOTHER

Equal opportunity ensures dignity, respect for all Airmen

By Master Sgt. Chelsea E. FitzPatrick

127th Wing Public Affairs

The Department of Defense is committed to ensuring all service members are treated with dignity and respect, and that they are afforded equal opportunities and the right to a prejudice-free environment.

Ensuring we can recruit and retain diverse talent to support a lethal force and mission readiness.

At the 127th Wing, the equal opportunity office helps the unit meet those standards by providing timely, fair and impartial services to Airmen in ensuring equal opportunities for all.

“The 127th Wing equal opportunity office works to eradicate any unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment in the unit,” said Capt. Jessica Homann, 127th Wing equal opportunity program director. “Our strength lies in our ability to accept and respect one another, because we know it takes all of us to accomplish the mission.”

The EO program provides services such as complaint processing, outreach, EO-related training and education, assistance through alternative dispute resolution among other services.

Depending on the report and the complaint, EO can work with commanders, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response team, inspector generals, judge advocates, and other units to provide members with the right services and information they need.

“Equal opportunity concerns detract from morale, productivity, unit readiness and the mission and degrades our most impor-



tant asset — our people,” Homann said.

There are different resources and options provided to members who are seeking to file complaints and reports.

In-depth information about the policies and Military Equal Opportunity complaint processes and timelines are outlined in DAFI 36-2710, Equal Opportunity Program.

Members also have the option of going directly to the EO office without having to go through their supervisory or chain of command channels.

Sexual harassment victim advocacy services through the SAPR office do not replace the Military EO informal and formal complaint processes. Sexual harassment informal complaints filed with the EO office or reported directly to a military member’s chain of command will not automatically result in a commander-directed investigation.

The DoD continues to press the importance of com-

ing together as a force to cultivate and sustain inclusive environments, promoting equal opportunity throughout all organizational levels. Airmen and Guardians are expected to maintain personal and professional conduct of the highest standard to play an integral role in eradicating discrimination within the workplace.

“The responsibility to prevent discrimination and harassment of any kind belongs to everyone and bears no rank,” Homann said. “The Air National Guard has determined all equal opportunity matters must first be handled informally and as quickly as possible.”

For more information, contact the Equal Opportunities office at 586-239-4340 or the Air Force Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Hotline at 1-888-231-4058.

For more information on Air Force policies and resources for Equal Employment Opportunities/Military Employment Opportunities, visit www.af.mil/Equal-Opportunity.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. CHELSEA E. FITZPATRICK

U.S. Air Force Maj. Brady Shagena of the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Michigan Air National Guard, renders his first salute to his unit during an assumption of command ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Dec. 7, 2024. During the ceremony, the new commander is traditionally saluted by the Airmen of the unit after officially being installed as the new leader.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Bryan Amara, left, deputy commander of the 127th Air Refueling Group, Michigan Air National Guard, hands the guidon to Maj. Andrew Pomorski, right, commander of the 191st Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan Dec. 7, 2024. Pomorski took command of the 191st Maintenance Squadron, dedicated to maintaining a fleet of KC-135 Stratotankers.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JACOB HESSEN

AIRMAN ON THE STREET

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE MILITARY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WHAT IT IS LIKE TO SERVE IN THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD?



Airman Basic Tim Matteson,
127th Civil Engineer
Squadron

"You need to be on time and stay on time."



Airman Giselle Quintana,
127th Logistics Readiness
Squadron

"There are a lot of education benefits you can utilize. There's the GI Bill, Michigan Tuition Assistance and VA work-study — and I have used all of them."



Tech. Sgt. Jay Dreiling,
127th Civil Engineer
Squadron

"You have the opportunity to travel to different places, meet different people and explore different cultures."



Senior Airman Jayden
Giles, 127th Civil Engineer
Squadron

"Tremendous amount of sacrifice is repaid with equal amount of opportunity and new friends."



Staff Sgt. Caitlyn Baum,
127th Force Support
Squadron

"It's a great opportunity to travel the world and grow yourself as an individual."



Master Sgt. Elizabeth Wood,
127th Logistics Readiness
Squadron

"As members of the Air National Guard, we have access to Tricare health insurance, which is a low-cost option that a lot of people use for their families."



U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew Robins, commander, 127th Operations Group, Michigan National Guard, left, hands the 107th Fighter Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Andy Axe, commander 107th Fighter Squadron, Michigan National Guard, Jan. 11, 2025. The passing of the guidon is a symbolic gesture, officially delivering a squadron command to an officer when the group commander places it in their hands.

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

Macomb County Schools 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

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