

January 2017

# SELFREDGE FLYER

127th Wing - Your Hometown Air Force



# SELFRIDGE FLYER

The Selfridge Flyer is a monthly publication highlighting the citizen Airmen of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. It is produced, printed and distributed in partnership with Digital First Media.

## 127th Wing

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## ASK THE COMMANDER

# Hometown Air Force opportunities for Michigan's best

By Brig. Gen.  
John D. Slocum

127th Wing Commander

Even as the Citizen-Airmen of the 127th Wing prepare to take time out of their normal routine to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our historic home station of Selfridge Air National Guard Base, our mission to state and nation remains at the forefront of our thoughts. As I write these words, some 100 of our Selfridge



Slocum

Airmen are engaged in combat flight operations over Syria and Iraq. We also actively secure and serve our homeland as well as build enduring partnerships both here in the U.S. as well as around the world.

Part of the mission statement of the 127th Wing is to "provide trained, equipped, and motivated tanker, fighter, and support resources for the community, state, and nation." One of my primary emphasis for 2017 is recruiting our next generation of Airmen and retaining the hundreds of high-caliber Airmen who make up today's wing.

Our 127th Wing recruiters are constantly on the look-out for young men and women who feel the call to service in our Michigan National Guard. I say "our" Michigan National Guard, because more than any other branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Guard is a direct reflection of the community it serves. More than 70 percent of our employees are "citizen airmen" - who are part-time professionals who live and work in our local community; simultaneously serving both our community as well as our State and Country.

Through training they re-



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

A crew chief salutes as a KC-135 Stratotanker departs Selfridge Air National Guard Base for a deployment to Southwest Asia. Approximately 100 Airmen from Selfridge left on the deployment on the evening of Dec. 12. The Airmen will be deployed overseas through the holiday season and into early 2017.

ceive at Air Force bases and other military installations around the country, and many hours of on-the-job experience here at Selfridge, they learn the skills necessary to serve Michigan and our great nation any time and any place.

Many of our Michigan Airmen can rattle off the names of a dozen or more countries that they've been to as a result of their service.

One thing that's great about the National Guard is that our airmen are hired by and work for the Michigan National Guard. Keeping our hometown Air Force heroes in the local community provides outstanding stability and career opportunities.

The educational benefits of military service are well-known. These benefits accrue from both federal and state sources, allowing many of our Citizen-Airmen to earn bachelor's or even graduate degrees at greatly-reduced out of pocket expense to themselves or their families. The Michigan State tuition assistance program provides our outstanding opportunities for both personal as well as professional advancement.

Perhaps the greatest testament to the pride that our Michigan Airmen have in

their wing is the number of sons and daughters of our current Airmen who follow in the footsteps of their fathers or mothers, or older siblings, in service in the 127th Wing. We are a proud family and we're excited to reflect the excellence and diversity of Macomb County and Southeast Michigan. We're excited to bring in new members, challenge them to achieve, and to work as wingmen to sow seeds of excellence. Today's recruits are tomorrow's leaders.

Our biggest challenge, in this day when fewer than one tenth of one percent of Americans are current members of the Air National Guard, is getting the word out about the many opportunities that exist via service in the Guard.

To ensure that we continue to see our community's best learn about the opportunities that exist at Selfridge - in all branches of service - I'd like to ask you, our won-



derful Selfridge community, to help ensure that our local young men and women gain an awareness of the many benefits of military service.

Information is available at our web site, www.127wg.af.mil; at goang.com or by calling one of our local Selfridge recruiters at (586) 239-5511.

Great things are happening at Selfridge! As we get ready to celebrate 100 amazing years of rich heritage as one of the nation's foundational military institutions, I'm looking to posture Selfridge, Macomb County, and Michigan for our next 100 years. We have the opportunities. Are you up to being part of our awesome team? Contact us and let's find out together.

*Brig. Gen. Slocum is the commander of the 127th Wing and base commander at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. A command pilot, he has logged more than 4,000 hours of time flying military aircraft. Currently, he flies the A10 Thunderbolt II, an attack aircraft assigned to Selfridge.*

## GOT A QUESTION?

Do you have a question for Brig. Gen. Slocum? The "Ask the Commander" feature on the 127th Wing's public web site allows for emails to be sent directly to the commander's office at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. There is a link to the feature on the web site, www.127wg.af.mil; or emails may be sent directly at usaf.mi.127-wg.mbx.pa@mail.mil.

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

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Koss, Tech. Sgt. Chandra Corrado and Master Sgt. Kevin Shirkey talk with a student at South Lake High School in St. Clair Shores during a career day event. The three Airmen are all recruiters with the 127th Wing at Selfridge.

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To all the base personnel and the units stationed at Selfridge, we say **THANK YOU** for your service to our country and for maintaining such an upstanding base that will continue to offer value to Macomb County and the surrounding area for years to come.

Excitement is growing for the Selfridge open house/air show, and we look forward to celebrating with you in August.

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## SELFRIDGE FLYER

# Being the best Airmen

By Chief Master Sgt. Tim Horvath  
127th Wing

As I am sitting here writing this it is 10 degrees with a wind chill of at least -2 degrees outside and I am praying spring comes quickly!



Horvath

First, I should introduce myself. I am Chief Master Sgt. Tim Horvath. I am the 127th Air Refueling Group Superintendent.

I have been mulling over several topics to write about. I do not want to quote a bunch of book quotes but rather write from the heart. My thoughts keep going back to you, all the Airmen of the wing.

How we have maintained such a high successful ops tempo for all these years, consistently out performing every other unit around. But like anything, I know we can improve. I keep thinking what I can do to make this base and wing a better place. What can I do to contribute to building up fellow Airmen, regardless of rank or position?

I keep coming up with a vision of a mirror. Hmm, start with myself? But, it is not about me I say and then it hits me! It sure is.... It's about how I treat, interact, and talk to everyone.

The most important asset we have is our PEOPLE. The single most important person is that Airman to my left and my right. I cannot do anything without my warrior Guard family. I am only as great as those around me. It starts with that Airman who I first meet, or interact with on a daily basis or that

Airman I haven't even met yet, the one that is across the room just watching and seeing how we handle ourselves. Are we doing the best that we can to really get to know our Airman? Do we understand each other?

I get it "generation this and generation that!" But, I also get family, fellowship and team. So much is done through mass communication, text and email that we have lost touch with how to just talk with one another. One of my favorite parts of drill is the dining facility.

I cherish this time because I see and have a chance to talk, shake hands or hug a friend I haven't seen in a while. I also try

and talk with someone I have not met, even if it is just to say hi, how you?

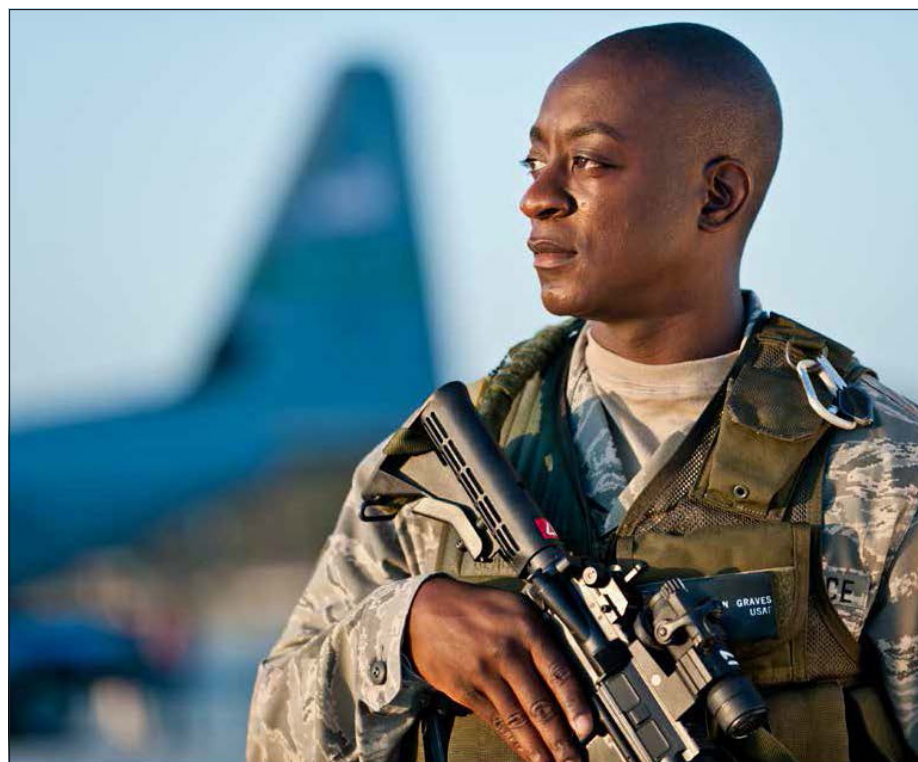
Just an example of how interacting with our fellow Airman can make a difference. A few weeks ago I walked into my civilian job and one of my co-workers looked off. All it took was a simple, "you ok?" He came to me a short time later and opened up about some issues he was having at home. He thanked me for taking the time to notice and acknowledging he was "off". I could not have done that through a simple text or Facebook because I know his response would have been "I am ok," even though he wasn't.

Our demands on our Airmen are high. Selfridge Airmen are able to take on any task and excel. We see this happening every day. We are citizen Airmen, warriors and family.

Let's slow down!

Take a look in the mirror, reflect, and see how we can improve on our fellow airmen's lives. We all want to be treated with respect, kindness, mentored and grow to be the best. Simply put, we all want to feel valued.

Thanks for being that 1 percent who have answered our nation's call to serve this great nation. Thanks for making our Guard Family the best of the best.



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## SELFRIDGE FLYER

## SCS vet honored as Navy 'distinguished alumni'

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton  
127th Wing

A St. Clair Shores veteran has been honored by a group of his former colleagues in the Navy.

H. Lynn Hazlett, whose service in the Navy included two tours of duty in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, has been named a distinguished alumni by the Navy Supply Corps Foundation. Only 51 former sailors have earned the award since its inception in 1989.

The Distinguished Alumni program identifies and recognizes retired and former Navy Supply Corps officers who have gone on to distinguish themselves by achieving significant success in the public or private sector according to a USNSCF news release.

Hazlett served in the Navy for two decades, including two combat in Vietnam, where he was a Naval Advisor and deputy to Rear Admiral Wally Dowd.

His Vietnam tours included deployment to Da Nang and, later, Saigon and the Delta area. He left Saigon shortly before it fell in 1975. Hazlett retired from the Navy in 1978 with the rank of commander.

Following his service, Hazlett had a successful career in business. He served in a variety of information and technology roles, including time as the chief information officer for Levi Strauss & Co.; president of the ICS Division of Carson Piere Scott; chief technology officer at the VF Corp.; and president and CEO of Quick

Response Services, Inc. in San Francisco. He has also earned his doctorate in economics and automated systems from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"I believe the designation is about recognizing that people can have a second career after 20 years in the service," Hazlett said.

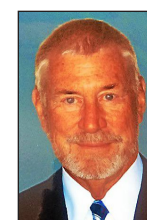
A member of the Selfridge Base Community Council for 5 years, Hazlett is also a history buff. His documentation of the Navy Supply Corps' role in Vietnam was called "an invaluable source of information" for the Vietnam chapter of the recently published book *Ready for Sea, The History of the U. S. Navy Supply Corps*.

**"I believe the designation is about recognizing that people can have a second career after 20 years in the service"**

H. Lynn Hazlett

In his free time, Hazlett said he is an active walker and enjoys walking the grounds at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate where he is a member and volunteer. He said his next goal is to walk the John Muir Way in Scotland later this year — a 134-mile trek.

The Selfridge Base Community Council is an organization of Macomb County business, governmental and civic leaders who work with military officials from Selfridge Air National Guard to promote common interests and to build on the 100-year history of positive relations between the base's personnel and the local community.



Hazlett



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## SELFRIDGE FLYER

# 10 most significant moments in the history of the Selfridge Air National Guard base

As voted on and ranked by an informal group of members of the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association and current and retired military personnel from Selfridge. Events without a direct relationship to the base proper, such as the first flight of the Wright Brothers, were not included.

## 1 Selfridge F-16S Launch On Sept. 11, 2001

In response to the terror attacks on America, Selfridge Airmen — not waiting for orders from higher headquarters — immediately began to stand-up the air sovereignty mission, including launching armed F-16s later that day. Selfridge aircraft were on continual air sovereignty patrols for several days before reverting to irregular patrols and responding to alert calls. The air sovereignty alert mission would continue at Selfridge until September 2008, when it was re-located to Toledo.

## 2 Selfridge Field Opens

In response to American entry into World War I, the Army opens a flight training base at Selfridge. The military takes possession of the former Joy Aviation Field on July 1, 1917. The first flight takes place July 8, 1917, and formal training begins a week later. By the end of World War I, some 750 pilots and 1,000 aerial gunners have been trained at Selfridge.

## 3 Training Of Tuskegee Airmen

The famed all-African American flying unit is

trained, in part, at Selfridge Field during World War II. Sadly, the experience was marred by a number of significant issues of racial discrimination, which ultimately led to the removal of the units from Selfridge.

## 4 The Guard Takes Over

As part of a base realignment plan developed in the late 1960s, Selfridge was converted from an active duty installation to a facility operated by the Michigan Air National Guard and in doing so becomes the most diverse Guard-operated base in the nation. Since the Guard assumed control in 1971, the base has been primarily and increasingly utilized by Guard and military reserve forces. Another base realignment decision in 2005 called for the elimination of on-base military housing at Selfridge. By 2007, no personnel were living on the base for the first time since 1917. The model of a single base being used by multiple military services eventually becomes a model for the Dept. of Defense

## 5 Home Of The Generals



Spaatz

the number of future generals who had a significant early assignment at Selfridge. Included in the tally

are Carl Spaatz, the first chief of staff of the USAF, who had his first command here; Curtis LeMay, father of the Strategic Air Command, who had his first flying assignment at Selfridge; and George S. Brown, the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to come from the Air Force.

## 6 WWII Expansion

With U.S. entry into World War II, the size and scope of the U.S. military quickly ballooned (from less than half a million people in uniform in 1940 to more than 12 million by war's end). With that came the need for more and larger bases. Selfridge Field was expanded at the beginning of World War II from the roughly 626-acre size it had been since World War I to more than 3,500 acres. The base has been roughly the same size and shape since World War II, though two former off-base military housing areas are no longer operated.

## 7 Cold War Warriors

During most of the Cold War, Selfridge pilots (active duty pilots from the early 1950s to 1969 and Michigan ANG pilots from 1972 to 1990) stood on 24-hour alert at Selfridge, ready to intercept any potential threat, likely to come from the former Soviet Union sending bomber aircraft "over the top" — over the North Pole and at America's industrial heartland. During the 1972-1990 period, Michigan ANG fighter aircraft intercepted Soviet bombers about 80 times. The alert



PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

A P-40 Warhawk aircraft from Selfridge flies over Detroit in 1940. Volunteer P-40 pilots from the base formed a unit within the Chinese military to engage in combat in World War II prior to the official entry of the U.S. into that war. The departure of the pilots from Selfridge to serve in the Asian theatre was a tightly guarded secret at the time.

mission was ended in 1990 with the break-up of the Soviet Union. The mission was stood up again following the terror attacks of 2001.

## 8 Creation Of Wurtsmith AFB & Alpena CRTC

During the years between World Wars I & II, the 1st Pursuit Group at Selfridge engaged in a number of "war games" and other training exercises, forward deploying to remote, newly-created air strips in northeastern Michigan. Eventually, these forward air fields became Wurtsmith Air Force Base (now closed) and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, extending the Selfridge impact along the Lake Huron shoreline.

## 9 Korean War Aces

Five of the first 13 fighter aces — scoring five or more aerial combat vic-

tories — in the Korean War had been assigned to Selfridge Air Force Base immediately before the war. Their success helped give the base the nickname "Home of the Mig Killers." Among the Selfridge-connected aces was Col. Francis "Gabby" Grabeski, the ace with the third-highest aerial victory total of any American pilot in any conflict and one of only seven Americans to score as an ace in more than one war. Grabeski had been the commander of the 56th Fighter Group at Selfridge when he was sent to Korea and became an early ace in that conflict.

## 10 (TIE) Save Our Selfridge

In the early 1920s, Selfridge was viewed as excess by the War Department and the decision was made to shut the base — which had originally been used as a

training site for World War I. By 1922, only 14 civilian employees were still working at the base and no aircraft were assigned. The Mount Clemens community, and leaders from across the Detroit area, rally to keep the base open. Eventually, the 1st Pursuit Group is assigned to the base. The Group sets a number of firsts and other records during the Inter-War Years, between World Wars I and II. The effort to save the base was the first of at least three major campaigns by the local community over the years to ensure the continuity of the air base. The positive relationship between the base and town leads to the creation of "The Mount Clemens Story" movie in the 1950s.

## 10 (TIE) Flying Tigers

Formulated before the official U.S. entry into World War II, the Flying Tigers was the name of the 1st American Volunteer Group, which technically operated as part of the Chinese Air Force in 1941-42. The Group, which was later formally moved back into U.S. military, amassed a remarkable combat record, giving a much-needed morale boost to the U.S. following the attack on Pearl Harbor and several Japanese victories in the early days of World War II. The original Flying Tigers were almost exclusively P-40 Warhawk pilots who had trained on the aircraft at Selfridge Field in 1939-40. Given war-time security concerns, the Selfridge-Flying Tigers connection was not widely known until well after World War II concluded in 1945.



**In response to American entry into World War I, the Army opens a flight training base at Selfridge ... By the end of World War I, some 750 pilots and 1,000 aerial gunners have been trained at Selfridge.**

**Left:** A soldier prepares to start the engine of a JN-4 Jenny aircraft at Selfridge Field in this photo likely from the second half of 1917. The first military flight at Selfridge was conducted with a Jenny on July 8, 1917.

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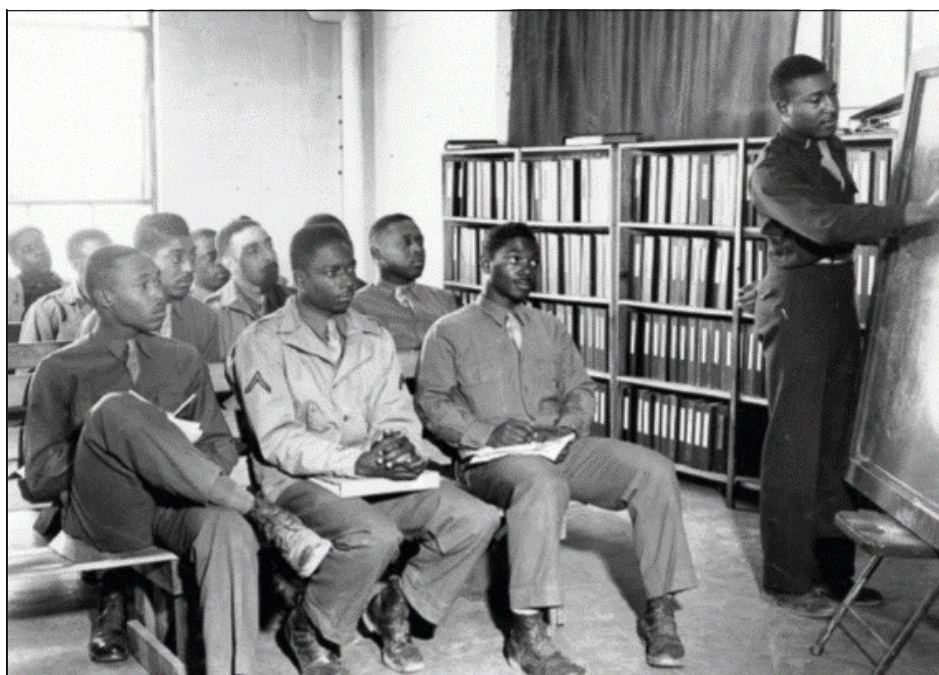
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A pair of F-16 Fighting Falcon from Selfridge Air National Guard Base carry a combat load over Detroit in the spring of 2002. The Selfridge-based fighter aircraft conducted air superiority patrols over portions of the Midwest for several years following the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

**Primarily between World Wars I & II, but also continuing in the post WWII-era, Selfridge became known as the Home of the Generals, due to the number of future generals who had a significant early assignment at Selfridge.**



**Bottom right:** Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski is seen prior to flying a mission in Europe during World War II. Gabreski was one of America's top "aces" in that war. After World War II, he was in command of the 56th Fighter Group at Selfridge and then led a group of Selfridge pilots who were sent to Korea for the war there. The high degree of success of Gabreski and his fellow pilots helped Selfridge pick-up the nickname "Home of the Mig Killers" during the 1950s. The "Migs" were the Soviet Union-supplied aircraft flown by the North Koreans in that war.

**Top left:** Air Force and Michigan Air National Guard officers exchange the "key" to Selfridge, as the installation is officially transferred from an Air Force base to an Air National Guard base in 1971.

**Bottom left:** A group of Airmen from what later became known as the Tuskegee Airmen sit through a training lecture at Selfridge Air Force Base during World War II. Selfridge is one of several bases where the racially-segregated units were trained during the war.



## PHOTOGRAPHY

# 127th Wing Command photos named tops of 2016

**Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton**  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen and aircraft, a veteran and children are featured in the 127th Wing's top photos of 2016.

The photos highlight a cross section of operations both at Selfridge and at operational and training sites around the world. The photos were selected by voting of the 127th Wing command staff.

Selected as the top photo of the year was an image that required the assistance of another military service and hundreds of Michigan Airmen. In May 2016, Senior Airman Ryan Zeski was aboard an HH-65

Dolphin helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Detroit when he took a photo of the assembled Airmen of the 127th Wing with the Selfridge Base Operations building and Lake St. Clair visible in the background.

Shot with a 70mm lens with a Nikon D3X camera, the image was captured with an ISO setting of 200, exposure time of 1/200 of a second and an f-stop of 13.

"I was conscious of wanting to not only showcase the wing, of course, but the presence of the lake I thought really said 'Selfridge' to me. So I wanted to include the lake in the picture," said Zeski, a photojournalist assigned to the 127th Wing. "I shot the image with multiple settings to be sure I was able to capture it. Obviously, this was a one-time opportunity."

The 127th Wing's video of the year was produced for the wing's annual military ball and included a heavy dosage of the wing's history and heritage as the Airmen of 127th Wing prepare to mark the 100th anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base in 2017.

"This video was one of

my first major projects on joining the wing in summer 2016," said Staff Sgt. Drew Schumann, who joined the 127th as the wing's visual information manager, transferring from the 106th Rescue Wing in New York. "It was the perfect project for me to learn about all of the things the wing has accomplished in the recent past and help forecast where we are going in 2017 and beyond."

Schumann served as the producer for the wing ball video, with contributions from Tech. Sgts. Rachel Barton and Dan Heaton and Airman 1st Class Brandon Gifford.

Other top photos from 2016 include A-10 Thunderbolt IIs dispensing flares in flight during a training operation, shot by Heaton, while aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker; an early morning sunrise at Selfridge, shot by Master Sgt. David Kujawa; and a portrait of perhaps the oldest veteran of the Michigan Air National Guard, Philip Kelly, 102 at the time of the photo, taken by Staff Sgt. Samara Taylor.

This year's 127th Wing photos of the year also include an image from an unusual source – a member of the Ohio Air National Guard. The image, of A-10s and a KC-135 flying over Selfridge Air National Guard Base was shot by Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker, a photojournalist with the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo. The image was taken from a 180th F-16 Fighting Falcon during a photo mission around the state of Michigan in May.

A number of the 127th Wing's photos, videos and other products created by the wing's public affairs staff will now be forwarded to the U.S. National Guard Bureau for consideration in the bureau's annual national competition program.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

Taken from aboard a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter, this photo of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard was judged to be the 127th Wing's photo of the year for 2016.



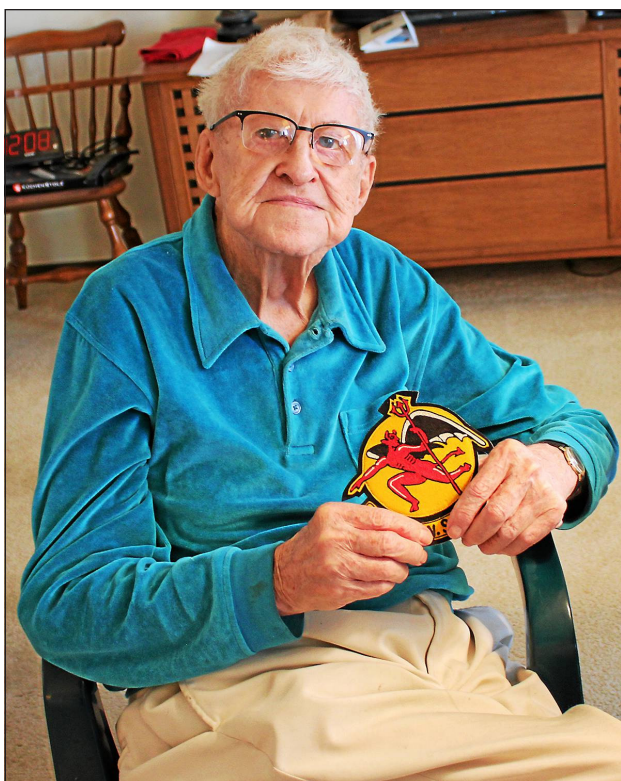
U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. DAVID KUJAWA

An A-10 Thunderbolt II and two KC-135 Stratotankers are seen near the Base Operations Building at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in the early morning hours of May 12, 2016. The two aircraft are flown by the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing, the host unit at Selfridge. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. David Kujawa)



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

Children from the Warren Woods school district view a model aircraft display in the museum at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., July 14, 2016. The museum is home to more than 30 aircraft once used by the United States Military.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SAMARA TAYLOR

Philas Kelly, who served in the Michigan National Guard from 1937 to 1940, holds his 107th Observation Squadron patch from his days in uniform. Kelly visited the 107th Fighter Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., on March 15, 2016, to learn about the current mission of his old unit.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN RYAN ZESKI

Team Selfridge's flight crew members from the 171st Air Refueling Squadron and the 107th Fighter Squadron participated in training operation Patriot Sands. Patriot Sands provides crew members with realistic training for undergoing emergency situations.



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

Two A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft of the 107th Fighter Squadron from Selfridge Michigan, roll away from a KC-135 Stratotanker of the 171st Air Refueling Squadron also from Selfridge Michigan, after an air refueling while flying over Latvia, during the NATO exercise Saber Strike on June 21, 2016.



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

Airmen from the 127th Air Refueling Group prepare to deploy from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., to the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility, on the evening of Dec. 12, 2016.



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

An A-10 Thunderbolt II dispenses flares during a training flight over northern Michigan. The aircraft are seen from a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft. The aircraft are all assigned to the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing and are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

## SELFRIDGE FLYER

# Flint native Marcelo flies high in Air Force

By Geoff Janes  
78th Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs

The first thing you notice about Airman 1st Class Corynn Marcelo when she talks about her recent deployment to Afghanistan is her professionalism and military bearing.

She carries herself like a seasoned veteran and speaks with a quiet authority usually reserved for older, more experienced troops. Yet there's something that just doesn't seem to fit.

It's only when the Flint native tells you about how she came to the decision to join the Air Force that it dawns on you.

She's only 21.

Just like countless other young Americans, she has family who served in the military, and she tried a bit of college before deciding what she really wanted was something different — something challenging. So she enlisted in the Air Force to create a new life for herself, and she found it here with the 78th Medical Group where she works in Bldg. 701 performing medical logistics.

It's a job she's proud of, and one she's quick to point out helps keep the Med Group running.

Marcelo had only been married a couple of months to her husband — a member of Team JSTARS here — when she first got her orders to deploy last year. His deployment followed a couple of months later, and he too has since returned to Robins.

"I was actually excited," she said enthusiastically. "Our job field, we don't get to deploy very much, and I wanted to deploy at least once in my career to get the experience."

It was a long haul from here to there. The journey took six days, with four stops flying on three different aircraft. It marked the beginning of a five-and-a-half month deployment which would change her outlook on life.

Marcelo said the trip in went smoothly, and she felt prepared because she knew an airman who was already there. She attended one of the trainings with me prior to deployment, Marcelo said of the airman already on station, and said she was able to tell her what to expect.

On the ground, the young airman was assigned to work in an aid station at an Army Special Operations unit at Camp Vance. That unit was the Special Operations Joint Task Force - Afghanistan/NATO Special

Operations Component Command - Afghanistan. It was a joint assignment and not only did she work with Americans, she also worked with an Australian and an Austrian senior medic.

She said it was very easy to work with them, but said the accents and the slang took a little getting used to.

Her day-to-day tasks began in the morning with seeing folks at sick call — a change for her because handling logistics, she didn't normally work with patients. Then it was business as usual doing whatever task was required for the rest of the 10-hour shifts she worked seven days a week. Something else that became business as usual was the sound of alarms and sirens going off with a resounding, "Incoming!"

Incoming! Incoming!" It was a recollection she shared rather matter of factly ... like telling you she grabbed breakfast on the way to work.



COURTESY PHOTO

Airman 1st Class Corynn Marcelo stands on Russian ruins with her team from the Camp Vance Aid Station during her deployment. From left to right: Petty Officer Simon Eden, Australian senior medic; Capt. Jason Mitchler, physical therapist; Maj. Jeffery Berwell, medical planner; Marcelo; Lt. Col. Gerald Surrent, command surgeon; and Georg Schalleger, Austrian special operations medic.

**"If you get the chance to do it, do it. It sucks when you're there, and it sucks to be away ... I feel like it's going to help you on the home station side."**

— Corynn Marcelo

"It was pretty regular for us to get IDF (indirect fire)," she said. "There were times when there were more at once. I think Sept. 11 we got one every couple of hours throughout the night. Other days we'd get like one or two. Sometimes they were on the other side of base, sometimes they were on the flight line. Twice they happened to land on our camp."

The regular attacks made Marcelo very appreciative of the alarms and of the U.S. firepower designed to remove the threat.

"It was scary ... loud ... It makes you realize that C-RAMs (Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar intercept based weapon) are a very good thing," she said with a knowing grin. "When they shoot them out of the sky

and the remnants come down, it's a lot better than the entire IDF landing."

Marcelo said that now that she has lived through it, she knows exactly what she would tell another airman if they got word they were being called up.

"When you're back at home, if there are different sections in the job you do, try to rotate to as many as you can," she said. "I was lucky that I was able to, because when I deployed I was the only logistics person, but I did every job. If I wasn't able to get the chance to work in all those sections (at Robins), I don't know if I would've been equipped to do it over there."

She said the experience broadened her perspective, and she feels like it was not



COURTESY PHOTO

Airman 1st Class Corynn Marcelo sits in one of the MRZR military vehicles used by the medical team she was assigned to while deployed to Afghanistan. Marcelo was deployed to Camp Vance for five-and-a-half months as a medical logistician from Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

without purpose.

"If you get the chance to do it, do it," she said. "It sucks when you're there, and it sucks to be away ... I feel like it's going to help you on the home station side. I feel like I made a difference because going out there and being able to support the mission first hand ... to be able to order all those supplies with missions going on ... (those supplies could have saved people's lives)."

When she got the news she was returning home, she said it was an amazing feeling. She also said that since she has returned, she's had folks ask her about joining the military.

"Every time I tell them it was the best decision of my life," she said. "Ya know, you get to meet new people and see new places — do things you couldn't really do if you just went to college and stayed at home."

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