

March 2017

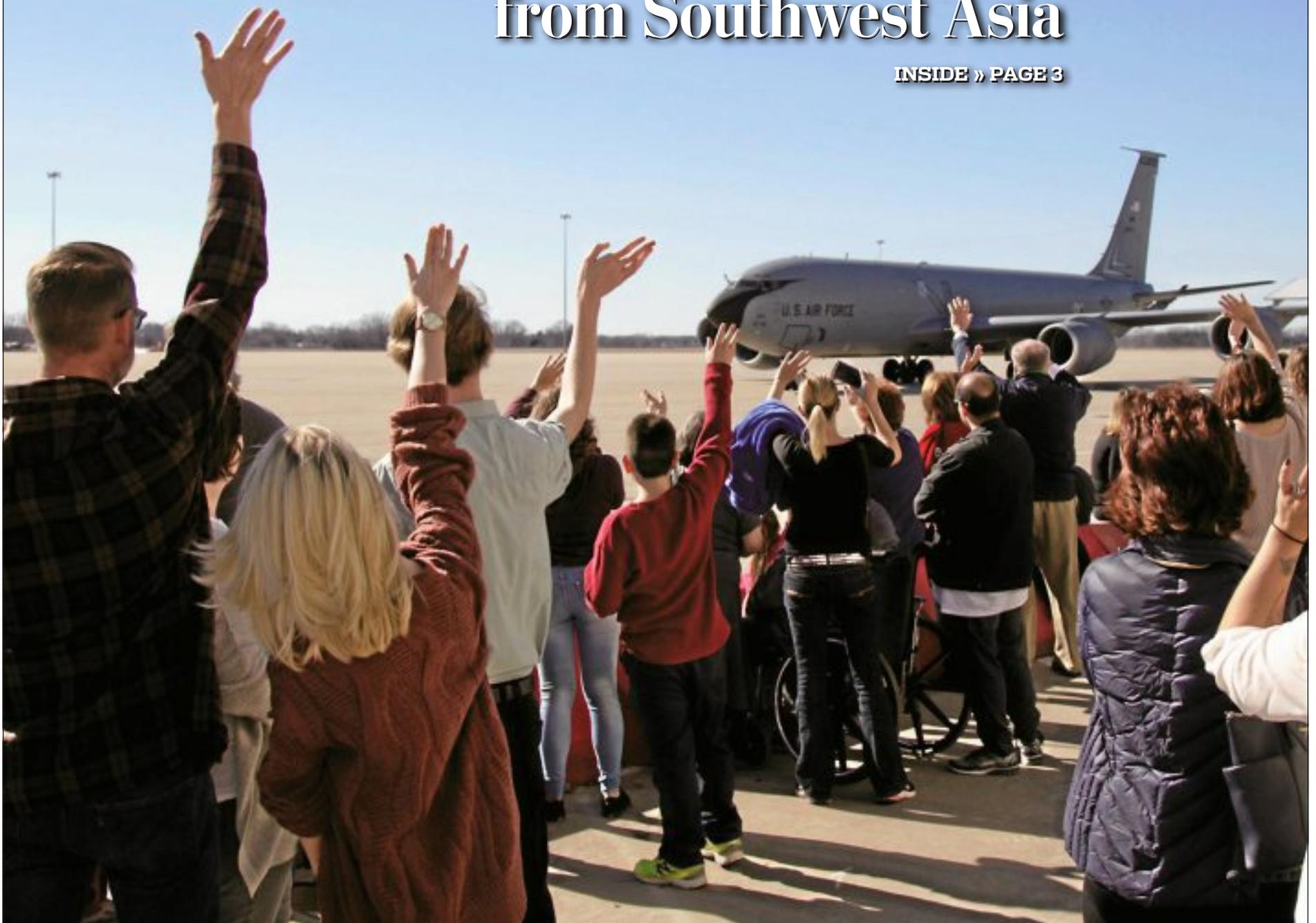
# SELFRIDGE FLYER

127th Wing - Your Hometown Air Force



## Selfridge Airmen return from Southwest Asia

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## SELFRIDGE FLYER

# Selfridge a perfect fit for F-35A mission

By Senator Gary Peters

As a former Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, I spent many of my weekends drilling at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, where I was honored to serve with some of the most committed and patriotic men and women I've ever met.

Selfridge has long played a role in our national defense, and the base's tradition of service, duty and patriotism traces back decades. The 107th Observation Squadron flew combat support operations in England during World War II, helping to defend the Allied Forces from tyranny. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 127th Attack Wing was the first unit to fly the F-16 in Iraq.

The men and women serving at Selfridge represent the best of America. That's why it is no sur-



Peters

prise that the base is one of only five finalists - and I believe the perfect location - to host one of the Air National Guard's next F-35A missions.

The Air National Guard units at Selfridge already have extensive experience with a fighter mission, as the current home to 21 A-10 Thunderbolts supported by KC-135 Stratotankers and the former host of F-16 and C-130 cargo planes. In 2015, the 127th Wing activated for a six-month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the mission to eliminate ISIS. During its deployment, the 127th Wing supported more than 1,600 sorties and logged more than 11,000 hours of combat flight time. The

Wing's superior performance in Operation Inherent Resolve earned the Carl A. Spaatz Award, presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard, as well as the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award.

I serve on both the Senate Armed Services Committee and Homeland Security Committees, and I can attest to the importance of the concept of "jointness" that characterizes Selfridge. The base is home to over 40 tenants from every military service branch and numerous government agencies working to support America's national defense and homeland security. Selfridge is the only U.S. installation that is home to the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection, with a diverse mix of active duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilian and contractor

personnel.

Additionally, Selfridge is able to leverage other important defense assets in Southeast Michigan. With the nearby Detroit Arsenal in Warren, which houses the United States Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Macomb County is a nexus of research and development of life-saving technologies that is helping to keep our servicemembers prepared for the next generation of warfare.

For example, TARDEC has been conducting tests of water purification and reuse technologies at Selfridge that will increase water sustainability, provide water support for humanitarian assistance missions, and give servicemembers access to safe water even in the most re-

mote locations.

The work being done at Selfridge is not only beneficial to America's Fighting Forces, but it is a critical part of the fabric of Macomb County and Michigan's economy. The base, which is home to nearly 1,700 full-time military and civilian personnel and 2,600 Guardsmen and Reservists, generates nearly \$1 billion in economic impact. Hosting an F-35A fighter mission will solidify Selfridge's role as key defense asset and economic engine in Southeast Michigan for a generation. As the base marks a century of operations this year, the men and women of Selfridge continue to stand ready to defend our nation at a moment's notice - just as they have throughout history. I will continue working to build support for Selfridge, protect Michigan's military assets and grow our economy.

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## TOUR OF DUTY

# Selfridge Airmen return from Southwest Asia

By Capt. Tony J. Lesterson  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Nearly 100 Citizen-Airmen of the Michigan Air National Guard returned recently after serving a tour of duty in Southwest Asia.

Members of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, returned home earlier this month after replacements arrived in the U.S. Central Command region in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and other operations.

"It's a great day in Michigan and it's a great day to be a Commander," said Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, 127th Wing Commander. "Welcome home Warfighters."

The returning Airmen are members of the wing's 127th Air Refueling Group, which includes the 171st Air Refueling Squadron and 191st Maintenance Squadron. The Group operates the KC-135 Stratotanker, which is used

primarily for air-to-air refueling missions, but assist in transporting personnel and cargo when needed.

"Deploying Airmen from the Air Refueling Group represented the Michigan Air National Guard very well in CETNCOM and contributed significantly to our Nation's fight against ISIS," said Col. Stanley J. Krasovic, commander of the 127th Air Refueling Group.

The 97 operations and maintenance personnel with three aircraft carried out 242 sorties with approximately 1,970 hours in flight during the deployment. Aircrew members and maintenance personnel worked tirelessly around the clock to make sure the aircraft were operational and able to stay in the war fight.

"Our Airmen do fantastic work, keeping our airplanes flying, and doing great things for our country every single day," said Slocum.

**"It's a great day in Michigan and it's a great day to be a Commander. Welcome home Warfighters."**

*Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum,  
127th Wing Commander*

"Seeing the reunions of families, watching a new parent seeing their newborn for the first time, and seeing Airmen coming back to their kids and spouses, it's absolutely wonderful."

The 127th Air Refueling Group Airmen have been part of a high deployment tempo since 2016. Airmen from the 127th Wing as a whole have taken part in various deployments in the European, Pacific and Central Command areas of operations in the past year.



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TSGT RACHEL BARTON

A Michigan Air National Guard Airman from the 127th Air Refueling Group greets his son on the Airfield at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. upon returning from a deployment on February 19th, 2017. Approximately 85 airmen and 3 aircraft from the 127th ARG returned from a 60 day deployment to Central Command.

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## 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

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, MI 48045

Phone: (586) 239-5576

Website:

www.127wg.ang.af.mil

127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard

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Vice Commander: Col. David Brooks

Command Chief Master Sergeant: CMSgt. Tony Whitehead

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Publishing Partner

Digital First Media / Michigan Group

19176 Hall Road, Clinton Township, Mich. 48038

President

Jeannie Parent

mipublisher@digitalfirstmedia.com

Vice President / Sales

Teresa Goodrich

tgoodrich@digitalfirstmedia.com

Design, Editing and Production

Tracy Beedy, Matt Myftiu

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### FLASHBACK

# Fifth baby in five years...

By Russ Dyer  
Contributing Writer

The faded newspaper clipping pictures a woman smiling lovingly at her newborn child and the accompanying story headline is Fifth Baby in Five Years at Selfridge Hospital.

If the reader is confused at this point, a bit of Selfridge Air National Guard Base history is in order. The newspaper is dated March 27, 1964 and Selfridge at that time was an active Air Force Base. The baby's proud parents were TSgt Robert Perkins and his wife Carmela. Perkins was then a personnel advisor assigned to the 8571st Air Force Reserve Group and as the article points out, this was the fifth child born to the Perkins family in the Selfridge Hospital.

Soon after the birth, the Perkins family moved into

quarters on the base and remained there until Perkins, then a Master Sergeant, retired from the Air Force in 1967 after twenty-three years of active duty. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Edward, born in November 1959 and the oldest of the children, remembers vividly the hours he spent in front of his living room window, kneeling in a chair with his arms and chin resting on the back of the chair, watching Air Force aircraft practicing touch-and-go landings.

"The base was a special place for me," he said while seated in his Clinton Township living room. "I had something that other kids did not." And because his home was within walking distance of Lake St. Claire, he also recalled catching

FLASHBACK » PAGE 5



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**AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

Born to TSgt and Mrs. Perkins

## Fifth Baby in Five Years at Selfridge Hospital



Mrs. Robert Perkins and new daughter . . .  
five for five.

Mrs. Robert Perkins has a unique distinction among patients at the 1st USAF Hospital, Selfridge AFB. Her four daughters and one son were born at the base hospital within five years.

Her most recent child, a girl, was delivered by Dr. (Capt.) Donald Ruesink.

Mrs. Perkins' husband, a technical sergeant, serves as personnel advisor to the 8571st Air Force Reserve Group. A native of Michigan, he is a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Edward J., their first child, was born in November 1959, followed by Mary Ellen in February, 1961, Concetta in February, 1962, and Barbara Ann in January 1963.

Mrs. Perkins stated, "I have received the very best of care and treatment, and I have really enjoyed my stays here at the hospital. I sincerely appreciate everything all the doctors and nurses have done."

The Perkins and their five children live at 97 Partridge Court, Mt. Clemens.

COVER PHOTO BY U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD TECH. SGT. RACHEL BARTON  
Family members await the arrival of Airmen returning home from a deployment at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. on February 19th, 2017.

The newspaper article is dated March 27, 1964 and Selfridge at that time was an active Air Force Base. The baby's proud parents were TSgt Robert Perkins and his wife Carmela. This was the fifth child born to the Perkins family in the Selfridge Hospital.

## Flashback

FROM PAGE 4

his first fish there when he was five years old. "My grandfather had to help me reel it in," he added.

Mary, now living near Marine City and the next oldest of the children, was born in February 1959. She too recalls watching airplanes while sitting outside on the grass in front of their quarters. Playgrounds and Saturday matinee movies at the base theater are also among Mary's fond memories. Her parents were active in the Catholic Parish at the base chapel, her father an usher and her mother a choir member. "I often sat next to my mother in the chapel balcony during Sunday Mass while she sang," Mary recalled.

Connie, born in February, 1962, was the next addition to the Perkins grow-

ing family and could not be reached for comment.

Barbara entered the world in January 1963 and recalls Selfridge as a tight-knit community where playing in a nearby park with neighbors and her sisters and brother was a near-daily occurrence.

Patricia, the number five child shown in the hospital in her mother's arms, was three years old when her father retired from the Air Force.

By the way, if the reader sees what appears to be a numerical discrepancy in the accompanying family portrait, Robert, in his father's arms, was the number six child to join the Perkins family thirteen months following the original Flyer article and photograph.

Robert, who for the record was also born at the Selfridge hospital, now owns and lives in the Clinton Township home his father bought following his

**"The base was a special place for me. I had something that other kids did not."**

*Edward Dyer*

Air Force retirement. Like his siblings, Rob, as he prefers to be known, also remembers watching aircraft operations at Selfridge during his early years as well as occasionally assisting his father as an usher during Catholic Mass at the Selfridge chapel.

Russ Dyer has lived in Clinton Township since 1974 when he retired from the Marine Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel. Originally from upstate New York, his last duty assignment was commanding officer of the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment at Selfridge.



*Russ Dyer has lived in Clinton Township since 1974 when he retired from the Marine Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel. Originally from upstate New York, his last duty assignment was commanding officer of the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment at Selfridge.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PERKINS FAMILY

First Row L to R: Edward, Mary, Connie, Barbara; Second Row: Robert with father (Robert), Patricia with mother (Carmela)

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## COMPETITION

# Base partners with Macomb Community College

## Airmen, students submit designs for the official centennial nose art contest

By Phillip Ulmer  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Selfridge Air National Guard Base is one of the oldest and most complex military air bases in the nation. To celebrate the first centennial of Selfridge heritage the base partnered with Macomb Community College to host a nose art competition.

The painting of art work on military aircraft dates back to World War I, when paintings were usually extravagant company or unit insignia. As the United States entered World War II, nose art took off. The art was typically painted on the nose of the plane, and the term “nose art” was coined.

Nose art was a morale booster for the aircrews and those who worked on the flightline. The art

on their aircraft unified the crew and made it unique from all others.

The base received 20 submissions from students of the Macomb Community College Media and Communications Arts Department and members of the base. Those who participated in the contest were charged with creating art that would be distinctive, symbolic and represent the base.

**The winning nose art will serve as the official centennial logo, as the base gears up for the air show and open house.**

test were charged with creating art that would be distinctive, symbolic and represent the base.

The winning nose art will be painted on two aircraft from the base and will serve as the official centennial logo as the base gears up for the air show and open house scheduled for August 19 and 20.

The top three submissions will be officially recognized during a ceremony on the base where the winner will be unveiled on the aircraft March 28.



Autumn D'Addario



Evan Kempinski



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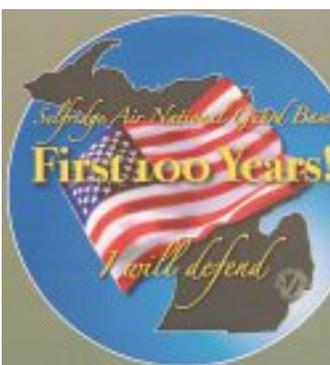
Elizabeth Cobb



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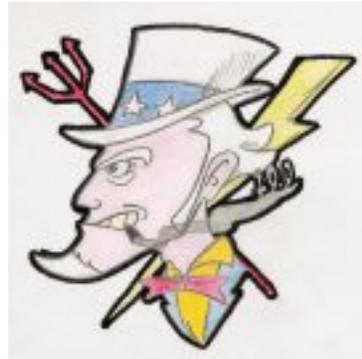
Heather Rueppel



Margaret Wellman



Jade Stirling



Scott P. Whiteside

## CELEBRATION

# Selfridge offers ways to get involved in centennial birthday

**By Dr. Keith Defever**

*President,  
Selfridge Base Community Council*

One of the region's largest events of 2017 is going to be Selfridge Air National Guard Base's Open House & Air Show, Aug. 19-20. Even more exciting about this bi-annual event is, this year, Selfridge is celebrating its 100th birthday. Attendance is expected to approach 300,000 spectators, especially in light of the fact the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are slated to perform.

As you can imagine, putting on such an event requires many contributors to make it a success. Selfridge has a variety of



ways you, or your business, can get involved in the Centennial Open House & Air Show from renting a chalet to providing content for our event brochure.

In addition, there are also other events set up throughout the year to celebrate the

base's centennial celebration. Titled "Inspiring the Next Generation - STEM," these events to be hosted in Wayne, Macomb and St Clair counties and fit well with our charter of community focus on education. The Inspiring the Next Generation - STEM events include: April 28-Women in Aviation in St. Clair; May 19-Michigan Defense Opportunities event in Macomb; and, May 26-Tuskegee Airmen Heritage event in Wayne County and are expected to engage approximately 900 local high school students.

For more information on how to get engaged in this important event, visit [TeamSelfridge.com](http://TeamSelfridge.com).

## COLUMN

# Ride the resiliency slopes

**By Capt. Cary Tolman**

*Air Force District of Washington  
Judge Advocate*

Life is like a ski slope. Life has smooth parts, bumps, turns, and sometimes even icy patches. Every person on that hill needs to find a way down, no matter what his or her experience level is in negotiating the terrain. Some people are better equipped to tackle the large bumps while others are content to try to avoid them. Some people are not at all equipped to handle the terrain and prefer to take their skis off and slide down the hill. No matter the ability level, every person on that mountain needs to get down the hill.

Like the ski hill, we all have obstacles in our daily lives. It's part of life. Like the ski slope, those obstacles can range from a difficult boss, an accident on the beltway that makes us late for work, or an argument with our spouse. These are the ordinary day-to-day stressors that

we all deal with as part of our everyday lives. At times, those day-to-day stressors give way to more significant, sometimes traumatic events that can have devastating and long-lasting effects on us, such as the death of a loved one, a serious illness or the stresses associated with combat.

The mechanism we use to deal with the more distressing events that life throws at us is called resilience. Resilience is the ability to work within the face of adversity and come out stronger on the other side. It is the ability to bounce back from difficult or traumatic experiences. Resiliency is a skill set developed during the course of life that includes thoughts, behaviors and attitudes employed when dealing with stressful situations.

Not everyone reacts to trauma in the same way. According to the American Psychological Association, the most important factor in resilience is having caring and supportive relationships both inside and outside the fam-

ily. Additional factors associated with resilience include the capacity to make realistic plans and carry them out; having a positive view of yourself and confidence in your strengths and abilities; possessing communication and problem-solving skills; and the capacity to manage strong feelings and impulses.

In its pamphlet, "The Road to Resilience" the APA recommends ways that we can build resilience. Here are a few of those skills and how we can relate them to our everyday lives.

1. Accept that change is a part of living. There are events and circumstances in life that are beyond our control, no matter how hard we try to make it otherwise. By accepting that changes in our lives must occur as a result of an event or circumstance outside of our control, it frees us to concentrate on those objectives and goals that are within our control. Additionally, it encourages us to set new goals for ourselves to keep in line with the change.

2. Keep things in perspective. It is important to try to keep stressful or traumatic events from being blown out of pro-

portion, even when we feel that the pain or stress is never going to end. By employing a long-term view to situations and putting them into the context of a bigger picture, it can provide a greater perspective on the situation. As the old sayings go, "time heals all wounds" and "this too shall pass."

3. Maintain a hopeful outlook. By being optimistic about your future, you become empowered to believe that the best is yet to come. One way to achieve this is to try and visualize what you want your future to look like and then set reasonable, attainable goals toward that future. Even when it's hard to visualize an end to the pain of the event, maintaining a positive, healthy outlook is a small step toward helping to ease the burden.

4. Take care of yourself. Participate in activities that you enjoy doing, whether it's going to the gym, taking a walk in the woods or getting a massage. Taking care of yourself physically and emotionally is another way to help keep your mind and body healthy so that you are prepared to cope when adversity strikes. Exercising is a great

way to ease stress, as is taking a walk through nature or doing something nice to treat yourself. Good physical health lends itself to good mental and overall health.

5. Resilience also requires flexibility and balance in life as you deal with the emotional rollercoaster that comes along with stressful and traumatic events. There are many resources available to help us fill our boxes with tools to ease the pain of traumatic situations. These resources include the chaplain, support groups, books, on-line resources and mental health providers. There are even resiliency applications for smart phones available both for purchase and for free. Each of these resources offers varying degrees of support along with varying degrees of professional expertise and help in building our resiliency tools.

Whether you face the slopes of life head on or you slide down the hill, the point is to reach the bottom of the hill. With the right resources and approach, even the sliders can someday become the triple black diamond skiers, bumps and all.

## SELFRIDGE

# Changing of the guard

By Chief Master Sgt.  
Aaron G. Doty

127th Maintenance Operations Flight  
Superintendent

I thought I would take a moment to address the changes I have witnessed during my career in the Michigan Air National Guard. When I enlisted in May of 1976 I took my enlistment physical at the base hospital that has been closed and unused for many years now.

After arriving at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for basic training I was privileged to stay in the open bay wooden walled and hardwood floored dorms. I must say it was quite the experience. We still had an Air Force specialty for Laundry back then and chow hall duty still meant you might end up peeling potatoes. After graduating basic I went to technical school at Sheppard AFB, Texas. Most of what we learned there was how the technical order system worked. Our final exam was removing a single com-

**I believe the Michigan Air National Guard is evolving all the time into a stronger and better organization committed to its Airmen, their families, the state of Michigan and the United States.**



Doty

ponent from a T-38 school aircraft and reinstalling it by following the technical order.

When I returned to Selfridge and the 191st Maintenance Squadron I was initially assigned to the phase dock to learn the F-106 aircraft. After spending a few months truly learning how the aircraft functioned and how all the systems worked I was sent to the flight line to learn how to preflight, launch, service, and recover aircraft.

Through the years I've been through many aircraft conversions and changes here. From the F-106 to the T-33, the F-4, the F-16, and then the base realignment where we transitioned to the C-130. Then there were more changes as we picked up the KC-135s and A-10s.

Some changes I have noted during my career are we went from eating food in the chow hall to enjoying full meals with a salad bar in our present Dining Facility. Going to the antiquated base hospital to being treated in our present 127th Medical Group building. We now have things such as family readiness, suicide prevention, Green Dot, electronic pay going direct deposit to your bank instead of a computer punch card check mailed to your house.

I believe the Michigan Air National Guard is evolving all the time into a stronger and better organization committed to its Airmen, their families, the state of Michigan and the United States. Go Air Guard!

## COMMUNITY

# Taking the plunge for Special Olympics

By Tech Sgt. Eric McCulley  
Security Forces Plans and Program  
Manager

Members of the 127th Wing Security Forces Squadron took the polar plunge in February and raised more than \$1,000 to support the community and Special Olympics.

Law Enforcement and the Special Olympics have been intertwined dating back to 1981 when a Wichita, Kansas police chief wanted his officers to become active in the community. This single moment in time caught fire and started the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Every year in every state these Guardians of the Flame run with the torch throughout the state to signal the opening of the Special Olympic Games.

Since that early beginning we've been looking for new and creative ways to bring attention and raise funds to support these athletes and the community. In the late 1990's law enforcement organizations incorporated Polar Plunges as a way to do this. It was unknown at the time that this event would be the single most effective fundraiser for the campaign.

In comes the 127 Security Forces Squadron lineup to take the plunge. Our 2017 Polar Plunge team included our squadron commander, Lt. Col. Richard T. Walmsley, Senior Master Sgt. Daniel N. McDow, Tech. Sgt. Zachary S. Enke, Staff Sgt. Paul A. Chavez, myself, and eleven-year-old Isabella McCulley (she was recognized as youngest plunger at this event). I would be



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROBERT J. SUTTON

(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Zachary S. Enke, Tech. Sgt. Eric McCulley, Staff Sgt. Paul A. Chavez, Isabella McCulley, Senior Master Sgt. Daniel N. McDow and Lt. Col. Richard T. Walmsley representing the 127th Security Forces Squadron from Selfridge Air National Guard Base pose before their Polar Bear Plunge at Belleville Lake in February to raise money for Michigan Special Olympics.



The 2017 Polar Plunge team jump into Belleville Lake in February to raise money for Michigan Special Olympics.

remiss if I didn't mention Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sutton for taking photo's for this event.

As we prepared for the frigid dip into the icy waters of Belleville Lake, Mother Nature smiled upon us. The outside temperature was hitting the mid-50s and climbing; and the lake's water temperature soared to a balmy 36 degrees that day.

Looking off the pier into ten feet of water I committed myself and took the plunge. There was a second of panic and then I touched the

bottom of the lake returned to the surface. It was cold, but it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be.

In all we had a great and as a team we raised nearly \$1,200, placing us in the top eight of all teams plunging. More than over \$41,000 was raised at the Belleville site and to date polar plungers across 25 different sites in Michigan have raised \$138,857. We'd like to personally thank everyone for donating and supporting us and we hope to see more plungers next year!

## APPOINTMENTS

# Base receives new Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention manager

By Orvie Baker, Jr  
SAPR Manager

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and it is recognized across the country by both military and civilian communities; a perfect time to reflect on ways to practice prevention in day-to-day activities.

My job here is to provide education, training and assistance. We are committed to eliminating sexual assault and fostering a culture of dignity and respect for every Service member.

Protecting our people protects our mission. Each Service member -- regardless of grade -- can encourage behaviors that foster a climate

of dignity and respect, and in doing so, help ensure our readiness to complete the Department's mission.

The desired end state is an atmosphere where cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, professional values, and team commitment are reinforced to create an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.

For me, it means looking out for one another regardless of where we are; whether at work or at play, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Each one of us can make this possible by being effective bystanders.

See something that doesn't seem right? Step up; step in, because looking out for an individual

is also looking out for mission readiness. One Team, One Fight! Together, we can defeat Sexual Assault.

For more information you can reach me at (586) 239-5583.



Baker

## CELEBRATIONS

# 107th marks early birthday

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

[Part of a series of articles highlighting the history and heritage of the units operating at Selfridge Air National Guard Base during the base's centennial year.]

The older of Selfridge's two Air Force flying units joins its home base in marking 100 years of service in 2017, though the 107th Fighter Squadron's earliest history is a bit complicated.

The 107th, which today flies the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, can count two dates – one in 1917 and another in 1926 – as its birthday.

The original 107th Aero Squadron was born of the rush to get American war-fighters to Europe as World War I raged on. Using that date of birth, the 107th will enter its second century of operation this year. It is really the 1926 date, however, that rings most true for tabulating the age of Michigan's oldest military flying unit.

The 107th Aero Squadron operated only from 1917 to 1919, basically for the period of American involvement in World War I and a short while during the demobilization period after the war ended. In 1919, the unit was completely disbanded and entered into the history books – an organization needed only for the Great War and no more. In 1925, however, a group of World War I veterans and other aviation enthusiasts started meeting in Detroit, intent on starting a flying unit in conjunction with the 32nd Division of the Michigan National Guard. Those first meetings drew



PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**Above:** Air Service soldiers work on a Nieuport Scout biplane at the 3rd Air Instructional Center, Issoudun Aerodrome in France in 1918, during World War I. Soldiers from the 107th Aero Squadron, forerunner of the 107th Fighter Squadron that now operates at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, would have performed similar work during the war.

**Below:** Current logo of the 107th Fighter Squadron

about 90 enlisted personnel and 20 or so officers.

On May 7, 1926, the 107th Observation Squadron was one of 29 National Guard flying units across the country granted federal recognition during that spring and early summer. All of those early National Guard flying units were designated as squadrons utilizing numbers beginning with 100. The Michigan unit was designated the 107th as the units were numbered in a mostly east-to-west pattern, with the 101st squadron near Boston, the 102nd in New York City, etc. Today, almost all Air Force



flying squadrons with numbers in the 100s or 200s belong to Air National Guard units. (Michigan's other two ANG flying squadrons follow that pattern: the 171st squadron at Selfridge and the 172nd squadron in Battle Creek.)

In 1936, the Army's Office of Heraldry sought to clean-up some of its record-keeping and decided to officially consolidate the records and history of some of the World War I "aero squadrons" with the now-operating National Guard units of the same numerical designation. So, the Michigan Guard's 107th Observation Squadron of-

ficially back-dated, in a sense at least, its date of birth.

The original 107th Aero Squadron was organized on Aug. 27, 1917, at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas. It spent the bulk of its operational existence in France as part of the American Expeditionary Forces, under the command of Gen. James J. Pershing and his air boss, Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell.

The unit spent the bulk of the war at what was at the time the largest, busiest and most complex air field the world had yet seen -- the 3rd Air Instructional Center, Issoudun Aerodrome, in central France.

The U.S. declared war on Germany and the Central Powers on April 6, 1917. The first U.S. troops



Two Army Air Corps soldiers pose with an aircraft bearing the Red Devils logo of the 107th Fighter Squadron. The squadron did not start using the Red Devils name and logo until the mid to late 1920s.



Members of an Army National Guard band, apparently assigned to the 107th Observation Squadron, shortly after the Michigan National Guard unit was formed in 1926. Note the Red Devil logo on the aircraft – this logo, a devil with what appears to be a spear, was used briefly before the now familiar devil with a pitchfork logo was adopted in the middle 1920s.

**On May 7, 1926, the 107th Observation Squadron was one of 29 National Guard flying units across the country granted federal recognition during that spring and early summer.**

began arriving in France in late May 1917, but it would be October 1917 before the AEF was in place and fully prepared to en-

gage in its first major operations at the front lines of the war.

The 107th Aero Squadron and fully prepared to en-

**BIRTHDAY » PAGE 10**

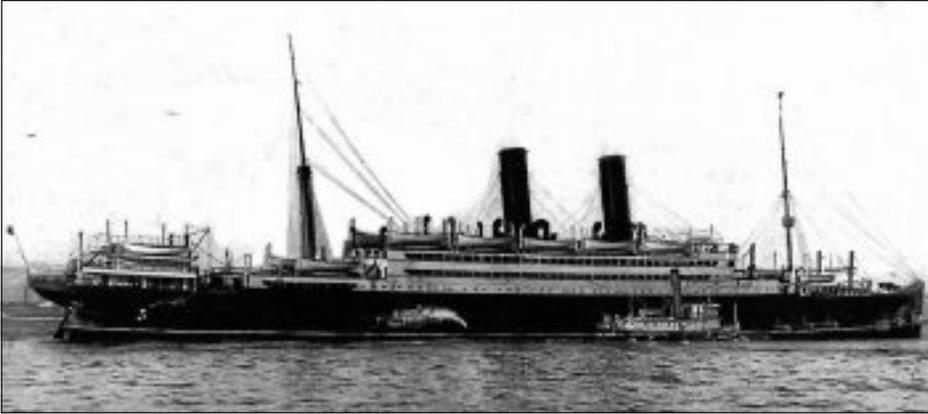


PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The S.S. Tuscania, a cruise ship that was converted to a war-time transport ship during World War I. Shortly after shipping the 107th Aero Squadron to Europe in December 1917, the ship was sunk by a German torpedo on another trip to Europe while carrying a group of National Guard infantry soldiers from Michigan and Wisconsin. More than 200 soldiers and sailors died in the February 1918 sinking.

## Birthday

FROM PAGE 9

ron first stood up at Kelly Field, formed of approximately 150 recruits primarily from Vancouver Barracks in Washington state and Fort Thomas, Kentucky. (The 107th Aero Squadron organized at Kelly was completely separate from the 107th Aero Squadron (Service) that would later be created, in March 1918, at Rich Field in Waco, Texas.)

After two months of basic indoctrination in Texas, the 107th was sent to the Aviation Concentration Center, Garden City, Long Island, New York, on Oct. 26, 1917. After additional training at the AIC, the squadron moved by train to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, where, on Dec. 7, 1917, it boarded the SS Tuscania, a cruise ship pressed into duty as a troop transport vessel, for passage to England. The squadron arrived in Liverpool, England, on Christmas morning, Dec. 25, 1917. (The Tuscania would be sunk by a German U-boat on Feb. 5, 1918, resulting in a loss of more than 200 soldiers and crew. Among the units that were on board at

the time were elements of the 32nd Infantry Division, made up of soldiers from Michigan and Wisconsin National Guards.)

After further travel, the 107th arrived at the AEF Replacement Concentration Center, St. Maixent Barracks, France, on Jan. 2, 1918.

At St. Maixent, the 107th was redesignated as the 801st Aero Squadron (Repair), and used as a pool of general labor around the camp for about two months. Finally, the squadron was deployed to the Issoudun Aerodrome on February 21, where it remained through the end of the war.

At Issoudun, American pilots were given their final combat flight training prior to being sent to front-line squadrons. The American pilots were given their initial flight training at air fields in the U.S., including the newly-created Selfridge Field in Michigan.

During the war, Issoudun was the largest "aerodrome," or airport, in the world, with a total of 15 adjacent air fields (only 10 of which were completed and in use by the war's end). While at Issoudun, the 801st was assigned to the facility's Field 1, work-

ing in the aircraft assembly and test departments. In June, the squadron sent a detachment of about 100 men – more than half of its strength – to Issoudun's strength – to Issoudun's Field 2 and was tasked with the general operation of the field.

The squadron remained at Issoudun, conducting air field operations and assembling, servicing and repairing aircraft through the armistice to end the war on Nov. 11, 1918. The unit remained at Issoudun until January 1919, winding down operations at the field. After a brief stay in the French port city of St. Nazaire, awaiting transport across the Atlantic, the squadron was returned to the U.S. in March and arrived at Hazelhurst Field (later named Mitchel Air Force Base) in Long Island, New York, where on March 18, 1919, the unit was officially demobilized and most its personnel returned to civilian life.

The well-known "Red Devils" name for the 107th was not created until the second iteration of the 107th, after 1926, but the name has stuck ever since.

The 107th Fighter Squadron is part of the rich military heritage that exists at Selfridge today.

## HISTORY

# Before They Were Red Devils...

The following is a roster of officers who were assigned to the 801st Aero Squadron, formerly the 107th Aero Squadron, as of Nov. 24, 1918, while the squadron was assigned to the 3rd Air Instructional Center in France during World War I. Only scant biographical information is available on the various men.

- Lt. Edward Fenway, commander and adjutant at 3rd AIC, Field 2

- Lt. Jacob S. Yerger, adjutant

- Lt. George W. Forrester, officer in charge, 3rd AIC, Field 1

- Lt. Henry L. Badham (later a brigadier general in the Alabama Air National Guard. He first began flying with the French Flying Corps before U.S. entry into the war. He was assigned to the repair squadron after being injured in a training flight. His daughter, Mary Badham, played the role of "Scout" in the film



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Lt. Henry L. Badham, later a brigadier general in the Alabama Air National Guard, first began flying with the French Flying Corps before U.S. entry into the war.

adaptation of the famous book "To Kill a Mockingbird.")

- Lt. Gerald C. Bishop
- Lt. William E. Cameron

- Lt. Harry O. Fishel
- Lt. Irvin J. Higgins
- Lt. Frederick W. Hor-

ton

- Lt. Charles R. Mackan
- Lt. Walter W. Randolph

- Lt. George E. Smith
- Lt. Gerritt V. Weston
- Lt. James R. Worthington

- Lt. Charles P. Maloney

- Lt. Russell C. Gates (injured in combat, he was personally decorated by Gen. Pershing for bravery under enemy fire)

- Lt. Russell Gomes
- Lt. Howard B. Hankey

- Lt. John Q. KilerLt. Rodman B. Montgomery

- Lt. John H. Thompson
- Lt. Franklin H. Devitt (in the 1930s, was a leader in what is now the U.S. Tennis Association, the governing body for professional amateur tennis in the U.S. Devitt was an early advocate for women's tennis.)

- Lt. John B. Swen
- Lt. John P. Morris
- Lt. Lyle C. Smith
- Lt. Orah G. Douglas, supply officer

## RECOGNITION

# Customs and border protection agent Voss earns Medal of Honor

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Medal of Honor for Heroism Award recipient Christopher M. Voss has taken over as the Patrol Agent in Charge of the Detroit Sector U.S. Border Patrol's Special Operations Detachment on Selfridge ANGB. Voss is responsible for oversight of the Border Patrol Tactical Unit, the Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue Unit. PAIC Voss received his Medal of Honor for Her-

oism Award after leading the Border Patrol Tactical Unit in the apprehension of two convicted murders, Richard Matt and David Sweat, who escaped from the Clinton County Correctional Facility in New York State. The Medal of Honor for Heroism Award is U.S. Customs and Border Protection's highest award for valor.

Christopher M. Voss, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agent



## OVERVIEW

# Air Station Detroit saving lives, supporting the community

By Lt. Robby Chavez  
Air Station Detroit Public Affairs

The month of February was slightly slower than normal for Search and Rescue Cases. Coast Guard Air Station Detroit conducted searches for one uncorrelated mayday, one red flare sighting, four separate possible persons in the water, four people stranded on an ice floe, one ice hut adrift, one possible aircraft crash, and one boat taking on water. Our aircrews flew a total of 35 hours in response to ten cases in the month of February. Additionally, Air Station Detroit had five pilots deployed in support of the

Washington, D.C National Capital Region, and two pilots deployed to Humboldt, California for training.

The Air Station has a twenty-four hour a day focus on assisting and saving people in the Great Lakes, but Coasties also push to have a positive impact on the surrounding community by volunteering. For the third year in a row, pilots and crews have volunteered for the Winter Special Olympics in Traverse City, MI.

Every winter over 900 of Michigan's athletes compete in events like alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, snowshoeing, and speed skating. It takes about 500 volunteers



to make events such as this a success.

"It was such an honor to assist and work with such amazing and talented athletes" said Damage Controlman Second Class Richard Sheill. "Seeing their skill-levels increase from year to year is such an inspiring ex-

perience."

Coast Guard Air Station Detroit will continue their yearly trip to participate in this rewarding event. It is our goal to make our community stronger not only through our search and rescue efforts, but through our volunteer efforts as well.

From left to right: LCDR Brendan Evans, LTJG Rachel Rychtaneck, LT Aaron Jones.

PHOTO BY LT. ROBBY CHAVEZ

## TRAINING



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. RACHEL BARTON

## Airmen train in the use of non-lethal force

Tech Sgt. Steven Marcotte (back) tazes Airman 1st Class William Allen (center) while Airmen 1st Class Chris James and Benjamin Hohman safely ease Allen to the ground during recent use of non-lethal force training exercise at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The 127th Security Forces Squadron Airmen volunteer for this opportunity and conduct this type of annual training to ensure they understand how to use the weapon and its effects on suspects.

## Base Credit Union Board Chairman Reflects on Military Roots

FreeStar Financial Credit Union was originally established in 1957 to serve military personnel and supplemental staff at Selfridge Air Force Base. Raymond White Jr., current Board Chairman of FreeStar Financial Credit Union, became a member of the credit union in 1985 while working at Selfridge Air National

Guard base as a reservist. Mr. White spent over 34 years with the United States Air Force Reserve and later retired as Air Force Chief Master Sergeant.

Mr. White had previous work experience in the banking industry and understood the benefits and advantages of credit unions. In 1993, he petitioned for membership on the credit union's Supervisory Committee and was elected Chairperson. In 1999, Mr. White transitioned to the credit union's Board of Directors. He was elected Board Chairman in 2013 and continues to serve in that capacity today.

"Unlike banks, our board and supervisory committee members are unpaid volunteers," said White. "We have a great team that is passionate about the credit union and extremely proud of our military roots," he added. Mr. White led the expansion of the credit union's field of membership in 2015 to include anyone who lives, works, worships or is educated in the 10 counties of Southeast

Michigan, and all military throughout the state. "It is an honor to serve a company dedicated to providing the best financial services and solutions to our military and community," White stated.

Mr. White was also influential in guiding FreeStar Financial's advancements in technology, which allow the credit union to provide secure electronic access for

military members regardless of where they are stationed or deployed. FreeStar Financial serves military members in 49 states and around the world.

While celebrating FreeStar Financial's 60th anniversary this year, the credit union is grateful to Raymond White Jr., for his service to the credit union and to our country.



Raymond White, Jr., Board Chairman  
FreeStar Financial Credit Union



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