



# WASSUP??

January 2016



**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your Family!**

## **VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS**

At our December 4, 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the following awards were presented:

Volunteer of the Quarter, Oct-Dec 2015: **Bill Conaway**  
Volunteer of the Year for 2015: **Steve Sibal**  
2015 Special Achievement Award: **Lori Nye**

Team Chiefs are reminded that nominations for the Volunteer of the Quarter awards should be submitted to Lou Nigro no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, June, September, and December. If no one is nominated, a Volunteer of the Quarter award will not be made.

## **NEW VOLUNTEERS**

We continue to be blessed with new people volunteering their time to help us here at the Museum. Since the last issue of the WASSUP, we've added the following:

**WALTER SCHIRMACHER** – Host Team  
**HAROLD TIBURZI** – Restoration Team



## BASE ACCESS CARDS

For those who do not use a Government ID card to access the Base for Museum activities, existing Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) base access cards for Museum personnel should show a 31 December 15 expiration date.

A revised list of Museum personnel without a Government ID card (and, if applicable, their spouse or, for those that don't drive yet, the person bringing them to/from the Museum) was sent to Security Police in early November 2015 to renew the DBIDS cards. The AF-mandated background check on the individuals listed will be done either in advance or at the Visitor's Center when the DBIDS card is renewed. Once you have your new DBIDS card, when you come thru the Gate, just show them that card, they'll scan the bar code on the back, and you'll be on your way.

**REMEMBER that: (1) only the persons on the validated list will be issued a DBIDS card and allowed access to the Base, (2) DBIDS cards will not allow the card holder to escort anyone without a Government ID or DBIDS card on to the Base, and (3) if your spouse may need unescorted access to the Base to drop you off or pick you up, he/she will need to get their own DBIDS card.**

The DBIDS cards were requested for the period 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016 and renewal beyond that date for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 will be requested in early May 2016.



DBIDS cards are issued at the Vehicle Registration desk in the Visitor's Center north of the Main Gate adjacent to our Main Gate at the intersection of M-59 and Jefferson Avenue. Their hours are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Monday and from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm on Tuesday thru Saturday. They are closed on Sundays and Federal holidays and they close for one hour on Saturday for lunch. I would recommend that you call before you try to get your pass, regardless of the day you plan to arrive, as they frequently close for an assortment of reasons and their lunch hour on Saturday varies depending on the workload. Their phone number is 586-239-6849.

**DBIDS cards have been requested solely for participation in Museum activities, the performance of Museum business at other on-Base locations, and transportation to/from on-Base eating establishments. Use of the pass for other reasons is not authorized.**

# Hundreds return home from deployments



by Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton  
127th Public Affairs

10/23/2015 - **SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich.** -- Approximately 500 Airmen from Selfridge Air National Guard Base are now home following perhaps the busiest summer in the modern history of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Airmen of the 127th Wing have been filtering home over the past several weeks, with the largest contingency returning to Michigan over the October 22-24 weekend, with ten jets and pilots returning on October 22, and the majority of the Airmen coming home on October 24. Most of the Airmen and aircraft spent 6 months in Southwest Asia, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and other missions.

"Our Airmen - and their families - have been fully engaged. It is with great gratitude and respect for a job well done that we welcome them home," said Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, commander of the 127th Wing at Selfridge.

The largest group of Airmen, about 350, were from the units that fly and operate the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft at Selfridge, notably the 107th Fighter Squadron, 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 127th Maintenance Squadron. Most of these Airmen were deployed for six months, the longest mass deployment of Selfridge Airmen since the Korean War. A-10 pilots and support crews sported more than 1,600 sorties, logging more than 11,000 combined hours of combat flight time. The A-10 is principally an air-to-ground attack aircraft; it is popularly known as the Warthog.

Smaller contingents of Airmen from the KC-135 Stratotanker units at Selfridge deployed for two- and three-month periods, flying some 300-plus missions, logging almost 2,200 combat flight hours. They completed their deployments earlier this month. Units involved in the KC-135 deployment included the 171st Air Refueling Squadron, the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 191st Maintenance Squadron. The KC-135 is principally an air-to-air refueling aircraft, though can also be configured to carry injured personnel or troops and cargo.

According to local 127th Wing records, having 500 Airmen deployed from the 1,700-member Wing at a single time has not happened since the Korean War ended in 1953.

Slocum noted that while many of the Selfridge Airmen were deployed, missions also continued at the base. As an example, the local aerial port unit supported 89 different missions in fiscal year 2015, which ended Sept. 30, moving a total of 2,230 passengers and 625 tons of cargo via aircraft.

While significant numbers of Airmen were still deployed, the 127th Wing also underwent a pre-scheduled operational readiness inspection, receiving an overall grade of "Excellent."

"Many of our Airmen are now enjoying a hard-earned period of rest and recovery," Slocum said. "I cannot emphasize enough how proud I am of each one of them."

## GOLF SHIRTS

One of the ways we say “thank you” to our volunteers **who do more than just say they want to volunteer and then either don't show up or come in one time and then leave** is to provide them with a golf shirt in a size of their choice with the Museum logo and their name embroidered on it. The initial golf shirt is free. If additional or replacement shirts are needed, we'll order and mail them to you with an invoice for just our cost for the shirt(s) requested.

It's hard to keep track of who wanted a shirt (some don't) and who received one already so until I hear to the contrary, **I'm going to assume that all of our current volunteers have already received their shirt. If my assumption is incorrect, and it probably is, please call me and we'll get it on order.**

## HERITAGE SERIES: WWI Ace Was Early Leader at Selfridge Field



by TSgt. Dan Heaton  
127th Wing Public Affairs

He was the pilot who lost his moustache and had to bail out over Lake St. Clair.

One of the last World War I aces, and among the first future generals, to be assigned at Selfridge Field, Major Gen. Frank O'Driscoll Hunter was an early master of not only flying pursuit aircraft, but in developing fighter aircraft tactics and strategy. Lessons learned by Hunter as a pilot in The Great War, as World War I was first known, and later honed at Selfridge Field, were employed on a grand scale in the European Theater of World War II.

Hunter first attracted notice when he was a member of the 103rd Aero Squadron in France during World War I. On his first combat flight, he shot down two German aircraft and was himself wounded, though he was able to land safely. By the end of the war, he was officially credited with eight aerial victories. By the time of his retirement at the end of World War II, he was one of the last American World War I aces still in uniform.

During World War II, Hunter was assigned command of the VIII Fighter Command, the fighter aircraft arm of the Eighth Air Force. Assigned P-38 Lightning and P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft, the VIII's primary assignment during Hunter's command was protection of the bombers assigned to the 8th. VIII Fighter Command was originally stood up at Selfridge Field on Jan. 19, 1942, and re-located to England shortly thereafter, where Hunter took command.

Hunter briefly left the service after World War I, but returned to active duty in 1920. In 1922, he was assigned to the First Pursuit Group as commander of the 94th Pursuit Squadron and was with the Group when it was relocated from Texas to Selfridge Field. He would remain with the Group through 1927 and accomplished several notable accomplishments during his five years at Selfridge.

Hunter helped launch the creation of the future Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Mich., a former Strategic Air Command Base closed in the early 1990s. In 1923, Hunter was part of the advance party that arranged a deployment to an air field created by the First Pursuit Group on the shores of Lake Van Etten near Oscoda. There, the Group participated and "won" an extensive series of air war games, which split the north, half of the state against the south in a series of maneuvers. The 1923 deployment to Oscoda was the first step in long-term relationship between Selfridge and Oscoda, which culminated in the creation of Camp Skeel, which later became known as Wurtsmith AFB.

Hunter broke his back as a result of a crash landing in upstate New York while on flight from Mitchel Field in New York City to Selfridge. Despite the injury, he was able to return to full duty after a several month stay in the hospital.

Hunter organized and led a flight of pursuit (later known as fighter) aircraft from Selfridge to the West Coast in 1925.

Hunter joined what was referred to as the "Caterpillar Club" after he survived an in-flight emergency in which his P-1 aircraft caught fire while flying over Lake St. Clair on March 5, 1926. Hunter initially tried to regain control of the aircraft and, as he was doing so, the flames in the cockpit grew so intense that his moustache was burned off. He parachuted out of the plane from an altitude of about 500 feet and landed safely on the frozen lake. The Caterpillar Club was the unofficial title given to those who had been forced to parachute from a disabled aircraft and survived. Hunter would also survive, via a parachute jump, a 1933 in-flight emergency. His back was broken a second time in the 1933 jump, but again he was able to return to duty.

Hunter made a series of after-dark take-offs and landings in April 1927 at Selfridge Field, the first pilot to test and utilize the first runway lighting system at the base.

Hunter's final posting was as commander of the First Air Force in the second half of World War II, where he was charged with the training of replacement pilots and crews for the combat theaters, as well as defense of the eastern seaboard. Also during the war, he traveled across the country with fellow World War I ace Eddie Rickenbacker, selling war bonds at numerous rallies and civic events.

Hunter was medically retired from the Army Air Force in 1946. He lived in Savannah, Ga., in his retirement years and died there in 1982, age 87. Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah was named in his honor.

One of the oldest military air fields in continuous service, the military first took possession of Selfridge Air National Guard Base on July 1, 1917. The first flight took place on July 8 and formal flight operations began on July 16, 1917. Today the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard is the host unit at the base, which also houses units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection.



## AN EDITORIAL

I need a place to vent. Please don't take these ramblings personally...

- I'll say it again and keep saying it until everyone gets the word! **ONLY THE CURATOR (DICK SOULES) OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (THAT'S ME) CAN ACCEPT A DONATION TO THE MUSEUM!** Do not bring anything from your home or from others that is to be donated to the Museum unless you first come thru me or Dick! We keep getting stuff that I have to back door thru the review, acceptance and inventory process and it's getting a little old trying to figure out what happened and when after the fact.
- **For those of you who have our Museum Master Card number memorized or on a piece of paper, it has changed!** See me or call me and I'll share it with you.
- Although membership in our parent organization, the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association (MAGHA), is certainly not a requirement to be an Air Museum volunteer, the membership donations we receive are a significant part of our yearly income and provide us with the financial wherewithal to reimburse you for purchases you make on our behalf and to fund needed improvements to our operation. We presently have over 110 volunteers on our rolls and over 50% have chosen **not** to become members of MAGHA. Please consider joining our Historical Association...a membership application is on the last page of this newsletter.
- If I sometimes seem a little frazzled or annoyed, please forgive me as I sometimes feel like I'm getting ready to fall into my full plate. I can't begin to count the number of times that a conversation begins with "Wouldn't it be great if we..." and "we" usually translates to **me!**

## 2016 GOALS

It never ends...

- Purge our storage areas of assets that are excess to our current and future needs, a long-term and ongoing effort.
- Training more of our "full-time" volunteers on aircraft corrosion control.
- Cataloguing, digitizing, and filing historic photos.
- Restore the FG-1D "Corsair" using industry-standard components. The "plan" is to restore portions of it in Bldg 1007 for final assembly in Bldg 1045. We're hoping to have the Corsair fully restored and back in the Air Park by the summer of 2017 in time for the Selfridge Centennial Open House.
- Establish an "Amazon Smiles" program similar to the Kroger Rewards program.



**Personnel assigned:** 5,315 total  
 419 active duty military  
 3,359 Guard/Reserve military  
 1,537 Civilians

**Recent Major Deployments:**  
 Iraqi Freedom: 2003, 2004, 2007  
 Enduring Freedom: 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012  
 Odyssey Dawn (Libya): 2011

**Real Properties:**  
 1.2 million yards of taxiway  
 23.5 miles paved roads  
 383 buildings



**A-10 Thunderbolt II**  
2009 - Present

**KC-135 Stratotanker**  
1992 - Present

## 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base



### Selfridge facts:

1. July 1, 1917: Army establishes Selfridge Field.
2. July 8, 1917: Capt Byron Q. Jones, first flight from Selfridge Field.
3. World War I: More than 750 pilots & 1,000 aerial gunners, trained for World War I.
4. World War II: Base expands from 640 acres to over 3,600. Training base for Tuskegee Airmen.
5. 1947: Name of base changed from Selfridge Field to Selfridge Air Force Base.

**Capt. Byron Q. Jones**



**Lt. Col. R D Bartholomew**



**Tuskegee Airmen**

6. Korean War: Michigan Air National Guard mobilized to Luke AFB to train new pilots.
7. Cold War: Command center for air-to-ground missile defense system to protect the "Arsenal of Democracy." Approximately 20,000 people work on the base.
8. July 1, 1971: The base is transferred to the control of the Air National Guard and is renamed Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Lt. Col. Rudolph D. Bartholomew is the first ANG commander of the base.





Help the Selfridge Military Air Museum!

The Selfridge Military Air Museum is enrolled in the Kroger's Community Rewards Program. This program will link purchases made with your Kroger's Plus Card to the Selfridge Military Air Museum so that a portion of the sale is donated back to the Selfridge Military Air Museum.

**Step by step instructions if you were registered online for the program last year:**

1. Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)
2. Login to your account using your email and password for the Kroger website.
3. Click the "Enroll Now" button.
4. In the "Find Your Organization" box enter the number 92995 and click "Search".
5. Click on circle/dot next to "Selfridge Military Air Museum".
6. Click the "Enroll" button.

**Please note — Renewal is not automatic. You must renew your enrollment every year after April 1st.**

**Step by step instructions if you have *never* registered online**

1. Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)
2. Create an account by entering your email, a password and your zip code.
3. Select your preferred store location.
4. Click on the "Create Account" button.
5. Enter your Krogers card number and your last name.
6. Click the "Save" button.
7. At the bottom of the next screen, click on the "Enroll button"
8. Enter in your contact information.
9. Click on the "Save" button.
10. In the "Find Your Organization" box enter the number 92995 and click "Search".
11. Click on circle/dot next to "Selfridge Military Air Museum".
12. Click on the "Enroll" button. You are now registered to support the Selfridge Military Air Museum.



## Units

The 127th Wing is home to two flying missions of the Michigan Air National Guard, serving Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command. The 127th Wing is also the home unit of the 107th Weather Flight, Air Force Special Operations Command. In addition, the 127th Wing serves as host unit at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, a military air field dating back to 1917. Currently, Selfridge ANG Base is home to more than 20 tenant units from all branches of the military, the Coast Guard and Border Patrol.

### 127th Wing

## 127th Wing

- 107th Weather Flight
- 127th Air Refueling Group
  - 171st Air Refueling Squadron**
  - 191st Operation Support Flight
  - 191st Maintenance Squadron
  - 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
  - 191st Maintenance Operations Flight
- 127th Operations Group
  - 107th Fighter Squadron**
  - 127th Operation Support Flight
- 127th Mission Support Group
  - 127th Civil Engineer Squadron
  - 127th Security Forces Squadron
  - 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron
  - 127th Services Flight
  - 127th Mission Support Flight
  - 171st Aerial Port Flight
- 127th Maintenance Group
  - 127th Maintenance Squadron
  - 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
  - 127th Maintenance Operations Flight
- 127th Medical Group
  - 127th Medical Operations Flight
  - 127th Medical Support Flight

### Tenants

- Coast Guard Air Station Detroit**
- Navy Operations Support Center
- Marine Wing Support Squadron 471-Det B**
- Border Patrol
- J-RISE, EUCOM
- Joint Combat Support Systems(JCSS)**
- 2nd Battalion, 337th Regiment
- Army Aviation Support Facility #2
- 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment**
- US Customs and Border Protection Northern Air and Marine Wing
- US Army Garrison - Detroit**



# 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENT RECAP

It was a productive 2015...here's a few of the things accomplished:

- Completion of the T-6 “Texan”
- Starting of the FG-1D “Corsair” restoration
- Contractual maintenance of our RV storage area
- Funding for building improvements including
  1. Repainting of the exteriors of Bldgs 1007, 1008, 1010, and 1011(Spring 2016)
  2. New doors for Bldg 1008 (**COMPLETE**)
  3. Weather sealing the roll-up doors on Bldg 1045 (**COMPLETE**)
  4. Gutters & downspouts for Bldgs 1007, 1008, and 1011. (Winter 2015/16)
  5. Installation of radiant heating in Bldg 1045 (**COMPLETE**)
- To increase our internal dialogue, the Team Chief “staff meeting” schedule has been changed from every three months to every two months. Team chiefs are provided minutes of these meetings so if you want to see what we're talking about at those meetings, including the current Museum organizational chart (wiring diagram) you can see your Team Chief or me.
- Our excess tires, used gasoline, and environmentally unsafe aircraft soap have been properly disposed of. We're still trying to figure out how to divest ourselves of two asbestos-lined safes!
- More mannequins were procured for our Uniform Team.
- The drainage problem in the ditch east of the Air Park fence has been corrected
- Security cameras have been installed in the Museum and there's more to come.
- Our Grounds Team finally got its new lawnmower.
- Our Bobcat has new tires.
- To provide us with overall guidance on where we want to be in the short & long term, work on a Historical Association and Air Museum “Master Plan” will begin later this month. This plan will be developed by Lou Nigro, Roger Krings, Board member Col Steve Krajnik, and a professional Master Planner from Col Krajnik's staff before it's presented to our Board of Directors for review, approval, and implementation.

# MAGHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I believe that my support for the goals of the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association and the Selfridge Military Air Museum will attest to my commitment to the Michigan Air National Guard, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, and the thousands of dedicated men and women who have served our great nation and the State of Michigan. I wish to demonstrate this commitment by becoming a member of MAGHA as follows:

- NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
- RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
- PATRON MEMBERSHIP (\$1,000.00)
- SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP (\$500.00)
- LIFE MEMBERSHIP (\$250.00)
- REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (\$25.00)
- DONATION ONLY

RANK & NAME \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT OF AFFILIATION (ONLY ONE PLEASE) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER OF THE MI ANG (YEARS ONLY) FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER (check one)

- BY EMAIL     BY US MAIL     OFF THE WEB SITE ([www.selfridgeairmuseum.org](http://www.selfridgeairmuseum.org))

Complete your payment information below and mail to 27333 C St, Bldg 1011, Selfridge ANG Base MI 48045.

Your support of MAGHA is gratefully appreciated and **REMEMBER** your membership donation is **100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

MICHIGAN SOLICITATION LICENSE NUMBER: MICS 26603

O Check # \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed. Checks should be made payable to "MAGHA".

- Please charge my:  VISA CARD  
 MASTER CARD  
 AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD  
 DISCOVER CARD

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_