

Section 106 Success Story

Basing KC-46A Pegasus Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base

HARRISON TOWNSHIP | MACOMB COUNTY

Efforts to bring a new flight squadron to the historic Selfridge Air National Guard Base (Selfridge) resulted in multiple active undertakings. In order to accommodate the new squadron, the runway needed to be extended, as well as construction of new hangars, a training center, and associated facilities. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has a long consultation relationship with Selfridge and has worked collaboratively on planning efforts for the base for decades. For these undertakings, the USAF and Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) consulted early with the SHPO. For the runway extension, reports of an unverified burial in the vicinity of the proposed runway resulted in SHPO staff recommending a Human Remains Detection Dog survey. Through this survey and consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, the USAF and DMVA were able to avoid impacting burials on the runway expansion.

The historic 1930s hangars at Selfridge are too small to accommodate the new squadron. Additionally, Selfridge was overbuilt for its current mission, with a large neighborhood of houses that had deteriorated beyond repair; the Department of Defense requires Selfridge to reduce their real property burden before completing new construction. These two factors will result in substantial losses of historic resources within the Cantonment Area Historic District, and the entire loss of the 400 Series Housing Historic District. SHPO Staff and the agencies involved with the undertaking are currently working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to mitigate the adverse effects of these losses. As drafted, the MOA will include an archaeological investigation of the housing district, archival recordation of the buildings for deposit in the Library of Congress, and an online story map. The story map component is exciting as it makes the story of Selfridge accessible to all Michiganders and interested parties. A military base does not have easy public access, and this effort will open a door for more people to learn about the importance of the base in our state's history.

LOCATION

Harrison Township, Macomb County

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10

FEDERAL AGENCY

United States Air Force

PROJECT DATE

Ongoing

MICHIGAN SHPO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE