

Thank you Mr. Chairman [Mike Rogers or a designee],

As I did last year, I am here again today to advocate for a future fighter mission for Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Selfridge, home to the 127th Wing, houses A-10s and KC-135 tankers, with both missions being divested in 2027 and 2029, respectively. Selfridge—the jewel of Southeast Michigan—is located next to Lake St. Clair and houses our friends in the Coast Guard, Army, Border Patrol, Marines, and Navy. Its most critical assets are the men and women serving at the 127th fighter wing, including **six** weapon school graduates—the Top Gun equivalent for the Air Force. Something that is hard to come by. Yet, despite the Michigan delegations' best efforts, securing a future fighter mission for Selfridge has eluded us.

As this committee formulates the FY25 NDAA, I believe it is critical that Congress enact a fighter recapitalization policy that will maintain 25 for 25 fighter wings across the Air National Guard, to include Selfridge. Congress has a vital role to ensure that our Total Force maintains its critical strategic assets to remain competitive with China and future pacing threats. Through the work of our Governor, Senators, House members, and our community we are confident that we can welcome an F-15EX or F-35A fighter squadron to Southeast Michigan.

Along with fighters, Selfridge is also a prime location to host future armed reconnaissance platforms. Following the Army's cancellation of the FARA program—I hope that the Army considers stationing manned attack aircraft in the Army National Guard. My hope is that this NDAA can help the Army consider the future of attack aircraft in the Army National Guard's modernization strategy to help provide critical depth to the Joint Force.

Lastly, as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, I want to advocate for supporting the critical mission that AFRICOM is doing in the continent by requesting funding for:

- Somalia Persistent Presence,
- High Risk ISR,
- Enterprise C2 Resiliency, and

- Commercial Satellite Communications.

Along with these priorities, I hope the committee considers supporting AFRICOM's objectives with the Combined Joint Inter-Agency Coordination Group - West Africa (CJIACG-WA).

I would appreciate your feedback and I hope your team can connect with mine on these critical matters to Michigan and to our Nation. [yield]