



DAN HEATON/U.S. AIR FORCE
 U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, joins with Col. Michael Thomas, commander of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, to cut the ribbon to open a new security forces building on the base. The building was first constructed in 1933 for use as a post exchange on the base. It underwent major renovation and now includes an armory, a holding cell and other security-related features.

127th Security Forces Eye New Home at SANG

The Selfridge Air National Guard Base (SANG) is getting safer by the day, it seems.

That's because the 127th Security Forces Squadron has a new home at Selfridge in Harrison Twp.

The squadron, which provides security and law enforcement services to the large military base, has moved into a newly-renovated building on the base and marked the event with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Building 160 will now serve as part of the foundation for the 127th Security Forces" said Capt. Christopher Platz, SFS commander.

Col. Michael Thomas, 127th Wing commander, said Selfridge continues to play a unique role in the nation's security community, as it is home to all uniformed services and several Dept. of Homeland Security agencies.

"Without our Security Forces Airmen at the guard, we would be unable to fulfill our varied missions," Thomas said.

Among the dignitaries at the ribbon cutting ceremony was U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, who serves as chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.

Levin said that the military personnel who serve at Selfridge perform two important tasks for the nation.

"You do more than defend and protect our country," the senator said. "You unite our country at a time when we are divided. You give the American people something in common that we can all rally behind."

The SFS' new home, Building 160, was originally built in 1933 as the first permanent post exchange on the base. Selfridge opened as a military airfield back in 1917.

The historic nature of the building was preserved in the renovation, which included maintaining the aesthetic quality of the exterior façade of the original building and replicating the original windows using updated materials to meet today's environmental codes.

A 2,800-square-foot addition that was built on to the 11,400-square-foot main structure was built with a more modern appearance, to distinguish between the original historic building and the modern addition.

The total cost of the SFS project was approximately \$4.2 million.

In addition to offices, a roll call room and other general-use spaces, the facility contains rooms that can be used for police interviews, temporary detention cells and weapons storage.

The SFS moved to the new facility from Building 305, which will be used for office space in the future.

The SFS building is one of several such major construction projects that have taken place around the base.

Other ongoing work includes:

- Major renovation of the 107th Fighter Squadron operations building. That \$7 million project has an estimated completion date of April 2012.
- Construction of several buildings related to the maintenance and administration of aircraft munitions.

The \$13 million project, which is being built with a geothermal heating and cooling system, opens in October.

New GM Design Center Chief Discusses China's Role

SHANGHAI - As automotive manufacturing has increased in China over the past decade, both engineering and car design is logically following on its heels.

General Motors' Advanced Studio, a future hub for automotive design in Asia, will move into its new design studio in July 2012.

The new design center, to be located at GM's GMIO and GM China headquarters in Shanghai, is seeking to hire automobile designers and other professional artists, such as clay sculptors, to create cars for China and other key global markets.

Wulin Gaowa, Design director of GM China Advanced Studio, joined General Motors in September and is the first female designer appointed to oversee a GM design studio. She was named one of the 10 Best Young Designers of China 2010 by the China Industrial Design Association.

Gaowa began her automotive design career with DaimlerChrysler in 2000. She held important design positions at the Mercedes-Benz Technology Center in Sindelfingen, Germany, and Italdesign Giugiaro in Moncari, Italy.

In addition, Gaowa worked at BenQ-Siemens Mobile's Mobile Phone Technical Development Center in Beijing and was a lecturer in transportation design at the Design College of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in China's capital.

She most recently was Advanced Design Director, Team Exterior Design and Interior, at the Beijing Automotive Technology Center.

She earlier received the award for Best Design for Future Economical Vehicles for China from Mercedes-Benz Design in Germany.

Gaowa recently explained the significance of hiring Chinese designers and tailoring features for China, the world's biggest auto market.

Q: Why did GM choose to locate its newest advanced design studio in China?

A: China is the biggest auto market in the world and also the biggest overseas market for General Motors. As local

demand keeps increasing, there's need for more variety in our product designs. After the design center is launched, our Chinese designers and engineers will be developing tailored vehicles here, following GM's strategy of working in China, with China, and for China.

Q: How is it going with the hiring process? What kind of talents are you seeking to hire for the Advanced Design Studio?

A: We have found some qualified candidates here in China. We're looking for people that have a passion and superior talent in the area of car design, and are willing to challenge the status quo. Hiring locally is important for us as the designers' Chinese cultural background will help us better understand how to design mobile products that meet the needs of our customers in China. Overseas experience will be a plus and good support to achieve global standard.

I've been visiting design universities and colleges all over China and the U.S. since I arrived in September, looking for designers who will fit into our organization. I've been to Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Detroit and Los Angeles so far.

Q: What influence will the new design center in China bring to GM's future products for both China and other parts of the world?

A: The China market is playing a dominant role both in Asia and globally. As demand in China accounts for a bigger portion of GM's global sales, our success in China is critical. We need to closely monitor and predict Chinese customers' mobility behaviors, needs and preferences to ensure we are bringing the right products to the market.

China's vast geography means that many different mobility solutions are necessary, and it seems logical to think that inventions here could have appeal in other markets with similar customer needs and behaviors.

Q: Do you think cars designed in China will be accepted by overseas consumers?

A: Certainly, as long as the brand identity and brand promise is articulated correctly.

For instance, designers here in China were responsible for the award-winning Buick LaCrosse interior design, which also retails in the U.S. as the same model. The local designers can understand the brand and its "visual DNA," and therefore can continue to offer solutions that meet the brand promise to complement the international Buick showroom.

Q: How soon will the first car designed in the new studio in Shanghai come out?

A: While we can't provide details on future products, I can say that this studio will be focused on advanced design development and helping forecast the mobile needs and solutions of the consumer.

General Motors is keen to make mature products to fulfill its long-term commitment



Wulin Gaowa, Design Director of GM China Advanced Studio. Gaowa was appointed the first Design Director of the GM China Advanced Studio effective Sept. 5. Gaowa began her auto design career with Daimler-Chrysler back in 2000.

to customers globally.

The advanced design center in China is following the principle and seeking to create a value in being to market promising vehicles. We need the right product, not any product.

Supplier Experts Speak at ACG

FARMINGTON HILLS - The Association for Corporate Growth Detroit chapter, a 300-member nonprofit business organization of merger and acquisition professionals, and the Turnaround Management Association chapter, will together host a meeting entitled "Automotive Outlook" at 7 a.m. on Tues., Jan. 10 at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Farmington Hills (located east of Orchard Lake and north of I-696).

The meeting will feature David Andrea, vice president of Industrial Analysis and Economics of the Original Equipment Supplier Assn. (OESA), and Jim Gilette, director, Financial Services, at IHS Automotive consultants.

For more information, visit the ACG Web site.

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China's Tariffs On U.S.-Made Cars Adds to Recent Clashes

GENEVA (AP) - China's new import duties on U.S.-made vehicles are legal under international rules, and if the U.S. thinks otherwise it should sue, Beijing's top trade official said last week.

Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming described the duties on imported automobiles with engine displacements of over 2.5 liters as "normal trade remedies."

Under World Trade Organization rules, countries are allowed to impose punitive tariffs to offset damage from both dumping and subsidies, but aren't allowed to use import taxes to unfairly protect domestic industries from foreign competitors.

U.S. officials described this as rare friction on the U.S.-China automotive front.

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