



WOLVERINE GUARD

Issue 1 • 2024

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Photo by MSgt Scott Thompson



★ TAG TALK ★

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS

WELCOME BACK, SOLDIERS, AIRMEN, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS, TO THE WOLVERINE GUARD.

In our first issue of the 2024 Wolverine Guard, we focus on not only highlighting the amazing accomplishments of our organization over the past few months but also on 'looking forward' to the exceptional events we have planned in 2024. The stories in this issue truly represent the multi-faceted abilities of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the people who are critical to making each mission a success.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is a unique organization with a complex mission. In October, we welcomed Brian Love as the new Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. As a Marine Corps veteran, Director Love understands the importance of support that his agency offers to our members and their families. Director Love has fully embraced what the DMVA represents, and I look forward to the great things his organization will do this year. In November, during the third annual Michigan and Veterans Military Gala, we recognized Michigan veterans and celebrated those who have made a difference within their organization and throughout local communities. From volunteers to recruiters, each awardee selflessly acted to improve the lives of others. Each of these individuals are a testament to what makes this organization great.

Serving in the military or fulfilling the support system role for a servicemember or veteran is no easy feat, which is why in 2023 we put significant effort into standing up and resourcing the J9 Resilience Directorate. The J9 has a critical mission, building and implementing programs that support the readiness and resiliency of our members and their families.

Part of taking care of our people means doing all we can to ensure they are trained and prepared. For the first time in history, The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) will hold back-to-back leadership conferences in Detroit. The National Guard conferences are set to occur simultaneously with the Michigan National Guard Leadership and Joint Enlisted Leadership Conferences. The alignment of the four conferences, officially named 'Motor City 2024', affords those seeking an extraordinary professional development experience maximal opportunity to participate.

The intent of the Wolverine Guard is to share the stories of our members, provoke thought, create conversation, and narrow the gap between generations. Michigan has a rich history and a bright future; I look forward to reading the stories that will be written in 2024.

God bless you, God bless your families, and God bless Michigan.

MG Paul D. Rogers

MING Adjutant General
Director DMVA

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

ATAG-Army Command Team

In this edition, we highlight the new Assistant Adjutant General for the Michigan Army National Guard (ATAG-Army) Command Team, Brig. Gen. R.V. Wagh, and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Hopkins. Stepping into the role in late 2023, the two have hit the ground running.

The newest Michigan one-star general and his CSM have already begun circulating to units, meeting with Soldiers and leaders face-to-face, making their priorities clear - getting back to the basics by reducing the obstacles that are in the way of allowing units to effectively organize, man, equip, and train their formations.

"I truly believe it is our fundamental responsibility to provide the Army with fully manned and trained units to fight and win our nation's wars," said Brig. Gen. R.V. Wagh. "The goals of great organizations are deeply ingrained in their culture and everything they do."

The priorities of the new ATAG team parallel the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), Gen. Randy George's, four focus areas: Warfighting, Delivering Ready Combat Formations, Strengthening the Profession of Arms, and Continuous Transformation. Vital to meeting the CSA's focus areas, Wagh declared his number one priority - manning the formation.

In his initial guidance to the force, Wagh challenged commanders to strive towards increasing overall readiness by ensuring they fully understand the structure of their organizations. Critical to increasing personnel readiness is ensuring leaders develop and execute good training.



Courtesy Photo



Photo by MSG Helen Miller

"Responsible for the physical and mental well-being of Soldiers is not just a bullet on an evaluation, it means something," said Hopkins. "We need to put in the work to ensure the needs of our Soldiers and their families are met."

Wagh is strongly urging leaders to get back to the basics by refreshing proficiency in individual skills; he cautioned leaders to not lose sight of the current and future warfight.

"Warfighting must permeate all that we do," said Wagh. "A unit that achieves proficiency in their Army-directed training tasks is absolutely capable of accomplishing any mission."

Don't be surprised if you see the new ATAG-Army team traversing your armory or training area soon. Take advantage of these visits to showcase the great things your organization is accomplishing and ask questions.



GOVERNOR'S 20 TESTS

MICHIGAN GUARDSMEN

Guardsmen across the state put their marksmanship skills to the test in the 2023 Michigan Adjutant General's Match, September 18-22, 2023, at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center. Colloquially called the "Governor's Twenty," or the "Governor's Cup," the annual event consists of nine individual rifle and pistol challenges designed to promote marksmanship and provide service members from the National Guard community an opportunity to test shooting skills and weapon systems in a battle focused environment.

Competitors that scored in the top 20% are awarded a tab embroidered with the phrase "Governor's Twenty," which they are authorized to wear for the remainder of their military career.

"The main goal of the competition is to help Soldiers master their marksmanship skills, and also learn something from more experienced competitors and staff," said assistant match director U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Schrot.

"The intent is that these marksmanship skills go back to the Soldier's home unit where they can continue teaching marksmanship, thus allowing the entire force to become proficient in small arms marksmanship skills."

Originating in 1968, The National Guard Bureau established state competitions such as Michigan's Governor's Twenty with the goal to train Soldiers for regional and national competitions against other states' top marksmen.

As years progressed, new challenges have been added to the match, to reflect the lessons learned in conflicts overseas, like including stress-induced shooting events.

Events like these reflect the total Army marksmanship training strategy - a concept designed to incorporate skills required for success in combat. In other words, Soldiers and Airmen should understand common firing principles and become skilled marksmen.

SSG Daniel Garas, JFHQ/PAO

"Since the 1980s, the Army has revolved their training strategy for individual Soldiers around shoot, move, and communicate," said Capt. Marshall Halas, with Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment and Governor's Twenty match director.



Photo by SPC Veronica Cornejo

"Forcing a Soldier to advance marksmanship skills beyond the concept of a flat/static range into a stress shoot ensures the Soldier understands the added difficulty of engaging enemy threats accurately and concisely while physically exhausted," said Halas.

Prime examples of this are events like the Hoplite Run. The competitor's targets only remained exposed for five minutes. In that time, competitors had to fire ten rounds to score, but only after they completed an 800-meter run in full kit along a designated course. Many finish the run covered in sweat, drained of energy, and heavy breathing. Many take a few moments to calm their breathing before firing.

Others will run out of time, and their target will disappear before they can get off all their rounds.

The lessons learned from recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have impacted not just the types of shooting events - but their names. Formally, the rifle and pistol courses are named the Sgt. Duane Dreasky Rifle Match and Sgt Craig Frank Pistol Match. Both are named after fallen Michigan Guardsmen during the Global War on Terror.

"The physical challenges add a degree of difficulty that many Soldiers do not experience during their Annual Weapons Qualification," said assistant match director U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Schrot.

"Incorporating stress fire events allow Soldiers to understand the additional skills necessary to place accurate fire on target while mentally and physically exhausted," said Schrot.

In another event known as "the feats of strength," shooters fired at targets between physical activities like sprinting, weighted sled drags, carrying a set of kettlebells, and flipping a railroad tie over a guard rail. 2023 had more competitors than in the last five years, allowing staff to award 24 tabs. Bronze marksmanship badges were also awarded to the top 10% of finishers in rifle and pistol competitions.



Photo by SPC Veronica Cornejo

Schrot hoped to see the number of participants in the competition continue to grow.

Schrot added that the match was also a great way to introduce younger generations to competitive marksmanship. National-level events like the annual Winston P. Wilson Rifle and Pistol Championship in Arkansas, usually host 300-500 competitors from across the country and have requirements where half of participating 4-person teams must be composed of shooters who have never participated before.

Members of the current Marksmanship Team not only staffed this year's competition, but many also competed in the match. Although this led to an exhausting week for staff, the competitive environment helped prepare the team for national-level matches.

This year's competition was also notable since two members of Michigan's Marksmanship Team were awarded Distinguished Shooter Badges through the Excellence in Competition Program, obtaining them for both Rifle and Pistol and becoming double distinguished. The Distinguished Rifleman and Distinguished Pistol badges are worn on the Army Service uniform in place of one or two of the three allowed qualification badges and can only be awarded after earning enough points by participating in a national-level match. ●

Just over 500 competitors have been recognized as double distinguished since the Excellence in Competition program began in 1884. The two members from the Michigan National Guard recognized as double distinguished are:

Staff Sergeant Kendall Miller-Mather and Sergeant 1st Class Jacob Schrot

Congratulations to the entire 2023 Governor's Twenty marksmen. These are the top 20 percent:

SFC Jacob Schrot
SSG Kendall Miller-Mather
SSG Matthew Kreiner
SGT Branden Brown
SGT Juan Manuel Cox-Gomez
CPT Marshall Halas
MSgt Andrew Hart
SPC Joshua Saha

MSgt Christopher Reed
SGT Cody Rambo
SSgt Zachary Norris
SGT Joshua Wiegand
MSG Kenneth Boyd
SGT Dustin Houghton
TSgt Michael O'neil
SGT Austin Falkenstine

SGT Thomas Sheill
SSG Carson Cooper
SFC Steven Ophoff
MSgt Aaron Palmerton
SFC Kevin Harty
SSgt Bob Devisser
SSgt Connor Ringling
MSG Johnathan Adrian

For information on competing in the Michigan Governor's 20 marksmanship competition, contact CPT Marshall Halas at marshall.j.halas.mil@army.mil



Photo by SPC Veronica Cornejo

Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program

1. What is the MINGSTAP Program?

◇ Provides financial assistance for voluntary off-duty education programs to support Michigan National Guard (MING) Service Members (SM) and Family Members (FM) in their professional and personal self-development goals

2. How Do Service Members Qualify?

- ◇ Is a current active drilling member of MING (Inactive National Guard not eligible).
- ◇ Is not under UCMJ (Uniformed Code of Military Justice) disciplinary action and no flags.
- ◇ Have a passing Fitness Test within the last 12 Mo (6mo. for AGR) or have a physical profile exemption.
- ◇ Eligible immediately upon enlistment (Basic Training not required).
- ◇ Eligible schools must have a physical location in MI and be eligible to receive Federal Tuition Assistance.

3. What Benefits Do Service Members Receive?

- ◇ Yearly Caps: \$600 per semester Hours (SH)/\$600 Grad and Cert/\$14,400 Undergrad courses.
- ◇ Lifetime Cap: \$ 86,400 undergrad/ \$25,000 grad and certificate.
- ◇ Must obtain a 2.0 undergrad/3.0 grad on a 4.0 scale or must have a passing grade.
- ◇ All payments are reimbursed directly to the SM after the course has been completed.
- ◇ Eligible degrees: First associates, bachelors, masters, training certificate.
- ◇ Can combine with Federal Tuition Assistance (not to exceed 100% tuition and fee charges), GI Bill & FAFSA.

4. Duplication of Benefits: ARNG ONLY (ANG and FM exempt)

- ◇ Must use Federal Tuition Assistance first with the following exceptions:
 - ACFT/HT/WT information is not correct due to lag time between IPPS-A and AEID.
 - SM used the max 16 credits or \$4,000 of FTA for the fiscal year.
 - ROTC SMP Scholarship cadets (tuition or room & board).

5. Can MINGSTAP Be Used by Family Members?

- ◇ SMs and FMs can use MINGSTAP alone or combined, not to exceed the SM's credit, annual, and lifetime caps (no limit on the number of dependents & no additional service obligation added to current existing contract).
- ◇ FMs registered in DEERS will qualify: Spouse, Dependent Child/Stepchild (Must have completed High School/ equivalent or reached 18th birthday. Ends at age 26).

6. How Do Service Members and Family Members Apply?

- ◇ Create a user account: Go to <https://www.dmva.stat.mi.us/mingstap>
- ◇ Applications for the fiscal year must be submitted NLT 14 days after the Fall course start date
- ◇ Grade, billing & FTA AUTH docs must be submitted NLT 60 days from the course end date

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- ◇ Contact: mingstap@michigan.gov
- ◇ Join us on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/MIARNGEducationIncentives>

Updated: 7 February 2024

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TRAINING KEEPS DETROIT SAFE

MSG Helen Miller, JFHQ/PAO

Highly specialized teams from the Michigan Army National Guard trained with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies during a countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) cross-agency response exercise in Detroit.

More than 30 members of the Michigan Army National Guard 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST WMD), joined by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, utilized the unique facilities of Detroit's Huntington Place and Ford Field, the home stadium of the Detroit Lions NFL team, to conduct annual joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High- Explosives detection and mitigation training.

In 2024, Detroit will be the host city for multiple large-scale events, including the 2024 NFL Draft in the spring and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) annual conference in the summer. Working together as a united team, the 51st CST WMD team and law enforcement train regularly to maintain peace and security at highly attended, high-profile events such as these.

"That is exactly why we are here," said Lt. Col. Sara So, Commander of the 51st CST. "We want every Detroit resident and visitor to Detroit to feel safe at all events."

The purpose of the training is to enhance the inter-agency effectiveness between the Michigan National Guard and their emergency response partners. Those partners include the FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction team, FBI special agent explosive technicians, Michigan State Police, and Detroit Police explosives team.

The National Guard civil support team provides an initial assessment of incidents, to advise and assist state emergency management teams, the state's Michigan National Guard leadership, and other key officials including representatives of federal agencies. To keep their skills sharp, the 51st CST regularly exercises with various law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

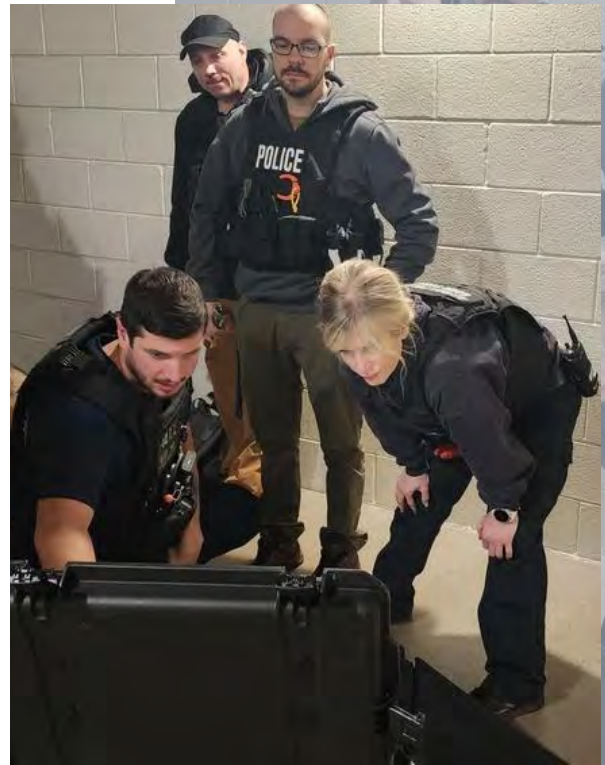


Photo by MSG Helen Miller

"Relationships are critical for us," said So. "Exercises like this gives us an opportunity to establish and maintain face-to-face relationships in case something ever does happen, and we need to respond quickly. We need to be able to work together effectively in a short amount of time with the partner agencies."

The 51st CST is responsible for responding when there is a terroristic threat of using a weapon of mass destruction, the release of nuclear, biological, or other toxic poisonous chemical materials, or when a natural or man-made disaster occurs.

"The CST conducts at least eight training events of this type a year, many with their interagency partners, and different first responders across the state," said So.

"This training is vitally important to not just the Michigan National Guard, but also to our partner agencies. It's imperative that we work together frequently to stay proficient as experts and to understand how we can work as one in an emergent situation. We don't want an emergency situation to be the first time that we're working together." ●

127TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON STANDS UP

SMSgt Dan Heaton, 127th WG/PA

The 127th Communications Squadron officially stood up as a squadron, transitioning from the 127th Communications Flight during a ceremony at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Dec. 2, 2023.

The transition from flight status to squadron status, “recognizes the broader scope of the unit’s responsibilities in an era where cyber threats and information warfare have become integral to national security,” said Col. Samuel Trapasso, commander of the 127th Mission Support Group, of which the 127th Communications Squadron is a component.

Both the 127th Mission Support Group and the 127th Communications Squadron are part of the Michigan Air National Guard’s 127th Wing, based at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

As part of the ceremony, Airmen of the squadron unfurled a new squadron guidon and unveiled a new squadron patch, which among other symbology includes an image of an aircraft flying over a bridge, representing the squadron’s role in maintaining a communications “bridge” to Air Force aircraft and other assets.

“The Airmen of the squadron are some of the most intelligent, dynamic and hard-working professionals that I have ever met,” said Major Jeremy Bishop, the unit’s commander.

“They exemplify core values, with a special emphasis on ‘service before self.’ I am truly humbled and grateful to celebrate this much-deserved accomplishment alongside of them.”



Photo by MSgt Dan Heaton



The Communications Squadron, often referred to simply as “Comms” by fellow Airmen, maintains computer networks, radio, and phone systems, ensuring not only that the systems are in operational condition, but are protected from cyber-attacks from potential adversaries.

The Communications Squadron is one of a total of five groups, 13 squadrons, and four flights that comprise the 127th Wing at Selfridge. About 45 Airmen are assigned to the 127th Communications Squadron, a unit that was an early advocate of the change from a flight to a squadron. Across the Air National Guard, more than 40 Communications Flights are scheduled to transition to squadron status during Fiscal Year 2024.

According to Trapasso, the transition is more than just a name change.

“It symbolizes the strategic evolution that reflects the dynamic nature of our military and the critical role that communications play in our modern, technology-driven world,” Trapasso said.

CAMP GRAYLING ANSWERS THE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERISM

Jennifer Caverson, Camp Grayling

Camp Grayling JMTC has been very busy the past few months with anything from their annual Disabled Veteran's Deer Hunt to collecting donations for Toys for Tots and the Adopt-a-Family Program.

Camp Grayling volunteers worked together to collect dozens of gifts for Toys for Tots and over 100 necessity items for the Adopt-A-Family program. They hosted a staff chili cook-off where they raised money for local charities. Staff worked together to collect dozens of gifts for Toys for Tots and over 100 necessity items for the Adopt-A-Family program.

For the third year in a row, they welcomed a group of disabled veterans for a chance to go hunting, spend time together and share memories about their time in the service over Veteran's Day weekend.

In October, MING officials and state leaders attended a ribbon cutting at the Grayling Army Airfield (GAAF) with a ceremony that highlighted the effort to modernize the facility to better serve Michigan's servicewomen. The updates included shower and toilet facilities as well as a lactation room.

Also in October, they volunteered on 'Red Vest Day' with the USO and Lowes Hometown Grant to make improvements to the Grayling USO, including construction of a new pavilion.

Most recently, Camp Grayling staff volunteered with the 33rd annual Crawford AuSable Free Thanksgiving Dinner where they helped serve over 1,000 members of the community and decorated a 12-foot tall tree for Grayling's Festival of Trees.

Col. Scott Meyers would like to thank Camp Grayling staff for an excellent job not only with their daily duties, but also for stepping up to volunteer around the community when needed.

"Volunteering allows us to connect with the community and give back to those who support us," said, Jenni Caverson, community relations specialist at Camp Grayling. "It gives us a break from our day-to-day duties and brings us joy to see the difference we can make."



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



2023 GALA AWARD WINNERS

Our 2023 award winners come from all over the state. Some are veterans; some aren't. Some like to camp, others are bowlers or kayakers, and some like to paint. But the one thing that seems to tie them all together is gratitude—gratitude for the honor being bestowed upon them, but more so for being able to serve our veterans and their families day in and day out.

"Though I didn't serve myself, my gratitude and respect for those that have are the highest," says Erin Maroni, this year's Veteran Friendly Volunteer of the Year.

2023 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Francis "Sonny" Putvin

Residence: Munising

Military Service: Army: 1 year, 7 months, 6 days

Employment: Retired

Hobbies: Outdoor activities including hunting, snowshoeing, and being in nature; spending time with family and friends; spoiling the women in my life with a special Christmas tradition of buying them all corsages.



Thoughts on Serving: "I wanted to serve my country. I always respected the WWII vets I knew. I served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, facing the hardships of war while celebrating my love for this country. After an honorable discharge and a Purple Heart, I found solace and purpose in the American Legion, serving in various roles and supporting local veterans' organizations. I have been active in growing the Fourth of July festivities in Munising, organizing and lighting the spectacular fireworks display for over four decades. I also volunteer to clean veteran tombstones to preserve the memory of fallen comrades. I hope to inspire younger veterans to contribute to the well-being of their communities."

Family: Married with 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandsons.

Thoughts on Receiving Award: "I express my deep gratitude to all those who have supported me throughout my journey. I accept this award not only on their behalf but on behalf of all the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our great nation. May we never forget their sacrifices and may we always strive to support and uplift one another."



2023 VA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Carlos F. Castillo

Residence: Grand Rapids

Military Service: Marine Corps 2004-2010, including a stint in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2006-2007

Employment: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Hobbies: Traveling, hunting, camping, watching sports, coaching sports, mountain biking, hiking

Thoughts on Serving: Having served in the U.S. Armed Forces, there is a sense of pride and accomplishment

Family: Two sons: Matias, 17, and Jaxon, 11

Thoughts on Receiving Award: "First and foremost I want to say thank you so much as this means a lot to me. I want to express my deep gratitude and great humility. I am so honored to receive this award and being recognized for my efforts working in the veteran community as it has gone beyond job duties and has become a lifestyle. I want to thank MVAA and the State of Michigan for providing this opportunity to receive this recognition. As a veteran I struggled post-combat, worked my way through obstacles and never gave up. Now here I am, sharing the stage to receive this award with such amazing individuals who are also intentional about assisting veterans and their family members. I can take a deep breath, exhale, and say, 'I made it!'"

VETERAN SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Denise Marie Formolo

Residence: Iron Mountain

Military Service: N/A

Employment: Director, Dickinson County Veteran Service Office; County Veteran Service Officer; Vice President, Michigan Association of County Veteran Counselors

Family: Two sons: Duane, Army command Sgt. Maj. (retired), and Mario, who works in family business

Hobbies: Camping, hiking, kayaking, painting, reading, cooking, spending time with family



Thoughts on Receiving Award: "It is an honor to be recognized as the Veteran Service Provider of the Year. I am humbled to be standing here today representing all the veteran service providers who are just as deserving. Without the support and dedication of my fellow county Veteran Service Officers I would not be standing here today. I would like to thank the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for choosing me among so many other worthy and talented nominees, the Michigan Association of County Veteran Counselors for the ongoing yearly training and support, my co-worker and friend Lacey for her continued support. Most importantly, I would like to thank our veterans. It is because of their service and sacrifice that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today. They have given so much, and it is our duty to give back to them. As a county Veteran Service Officer, I am committed, as are the hundreds of other Veteran Service Officers, to ensuring that our veterans receive the care, support and benefits that they deserve. This award is a testament to that commitment and I, along with my counterparts, will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our veterans. Thank you again for this amazing honor, I look forward to continuing our mission to serve the Veterans in our communities."



VETERAN FRIENDLY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Erin Maroni

Military Service: N/A

Employment: Heart to Heart Hospice, Volunteer & Veteran Program Coordinator

Family: Husband: Joe, and children: Charlotte, 9, and Ryker, 6

Hobbies: Sewing, camping, working out

Thoughts on Receiving Award: "I'm so grateful and honored to receive this award. I cannot express how much I appreciate serving senior veterans in my community and the work I have done with the mid-Michigan Honor Flight. Though I didn't serve myself, my gratitude and respect for those that have are the highest. Thank you for your service to this country."

DMVA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Dawn Shinaver

Residence: Lansing area

Military Service: Army

Employment: Employed with the State of Michigan since 1997, working with veterans since 2002.



Thoughts on Serving: "Serving in the Armed Forces held a unique significance for me, as it wasn't a family tradition or an expectation. Instead, it was a personal choice that gave me a profound sense of purpose and responsibility. It instilled in me the discipline, responsibility and strong work ethic I admired in my father and two of my five brothers who also served. It allowed me to honor their commitment while forging my own path of service, upholding the values that define our nation's military."

Family: Five brothers (including two Army veterans); husband, Dan (Marine Corps veteran); and three fluffy bundles of love (cats)

Hobbies: Playing cards and board games, traveling, bowling, playing with my nieces and nephews, and just making people laugh

Thoughts on Receiving Award: "I feel honored that I was unexpectedly chosen to receive this award and would like to thank everyone who made this possible for me including my family, work team to include our partners, and all present and future veterans. I plan on using this award as my motivation going forward to continue bringing the highest quality service to our veterans that I can. Thank you again, everyone."

MVAA AND TRUST FUND EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Hillsdale County Department of Veterans Affairs Team



Background: In mid-2022, the Hillsdale County Department of Veterans Affairs and partners launched a Veterans Track Probation program for veterans who fall through the cracks of the criminal justice program. The program, operating out of the State of Michigan 2B District Court in Hillsdale, had 22 graduates in its first year.

Thoughts on Receiving Award: Donald Michael, who oversees Veterans Track Probation, said the program has been a success due to the contributions of many partners, including the MVAA, the District Court, the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Hillsdale County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and many others. "I credit the team for the current success of this program," he said. "Bottom line: It is a "WE Initiative" not a "me" initiative. I'm grateful to be a part of such a dynamic program."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT (CORE) AWARD

Kara Fields

Residence: Troy

Military Service: N/A

Employment: Director, Veteran & Military Services at Macomb Community College.

Family: Husband of 22 years, Craig Fields, and a fur family of Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs (Taffy and a new addition coming to our house this winter, Duff)

Hobbies: Exploring the Great Lakes, swimming, Petoskey stone 'hunting', weight pulling and working with our Swissies, cooking, and taste testing my hubby's craft cocktail concoctions.



Thoughts on Receiving Award: "I am truly honored to represent the CORE team as this award winner. This team is forward thinking and super great, driven by passion of the mission one veteran at a time. These people make significant and positive changes every day, in every community within Michigan. We fiercely collaborate to better systems, identify and remove barriers and, ultimately, serve as conduits to connect our vets to benefits and resources. I am proud to be a part of this fantastic team."

By empowering local Airmen to find new solutions to ongoing or emerging challenges, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Michigan, continues to serve as one of the premier training sites not only for the Air Force, but military personnel from across the U.S. Armed Forces.

“Our airmen and civilian employees have a very innovative mindset here at the CRTC. They know that their good ideas have a real chance of becoming important additions to the training menu that we offer our guests of the base, the region, and of the airspace. These ideas are often vetted and rapidly developed to make our customer’s experiences more valuable,” said Michigan Air National Guard Col. James Rossi, the base commander.

Among recent innovations at the base is the re-purposing of a portion of the Military Operations in Urban Training (MOUT) site as a cyber warfare training lane, the addition of several portable threat emitters specifically designed to target 5th generation fighter aircraft – even using something as simple as a 25-foot boat to generate new training scenarios on nearby Lake Huron.

“Some of these ideas are first sketched out on a napkin over lunch,” said Lt. Col. Brian Wyrzkowski, operations director at the CRTC. “But as these ideas come forward, if they are something that is going to help our customer to better train, to increase their readiness, we’re all for it.”

Tactical Cyber Range at the CRTC MOUT site

The MOUT site, has been used for decades to help military personnel train to fight in an urban setting. It features more than a dozen buildings, situated around a village square. Discussion among Alpena Airmen about the changing nature of urban warfare led to re-purposing something old into a modern, high-tech training center.

Now, the MOUT site is filled with various sensors that an opposing force can use to determine what direction an attacking force is coming from or where they are located.



Photo by SSG Daniel Garas

ALPENA CRTC EMPOWERS ARMEN TO DEVELOP NEW TRAINING SOLUTIONS

SMSgt Dan Heaton, 127th WG/PA

“These sensors are the reality of modern warfare,” said Master Sgt. Rick Boyer, an Air Force Joint Terminal Attack Controller who is assigned to Alpena and helps run the cyber range. “Any urban area that we go into, there are going to be motion sensors, facial recognition technology, and a whole assortment of other sensors that our adversaries are going to use to try to maintain the advantage over us. This range allows our units to be exposed to what that means and then work on tactics, techniques, and procedures that allow them to defeat that threat. When the adversary knows where you are and where you are going, they have the tactical advantage.”

When units simulate an attack or other mission in the MOUT, they have to figure out a plan to defeat the sensors and regain the tactical advantage.

As the Alpena team began developing the cyber range to support ground forces in 2022, a visiting unit caught wind of the program and added yet another element.

“The Oklahoma Air Guard was here last year with their MC-12 Liberty aircraft on a different mission, but they heard what we doing with cyber and they immediately said ‘Hey, how can we support that?’” Wyrzkowski said.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Elise Wahlstrom

Now, Boyer said, visiting air units operate in conjunction with visiting ground units at the cyber training range, allowing those operating in the land, air, and cyber domains to all work together to develop successful mission plans.

"We have such intelligent, motivated Airmen - honestly it is fun to watch what they are doing and how they are serving our customers," Rossi said. "We want the units that come and train here to get the most realistic, most challenging training that is possible because how they train is how they will fight if that call comes."

Low Cost Threat Emitters

The CRTC recently purchased a number of small, portable threat emitters that simulate surface-to-air missile systems that may be deployed by a potential adversary. The new emitters join a series of other, older systems that exist around the state that the Air Force has used for several years for surface-to-air training scenarios. The new emitters are specifically equipped to provide new challenges for the U.S. military's 5th generation fighters, such as the F-35 Lightning II flown by the Air Force. During Exercise Northern Strike in early to mid-August 2023, F-35s flown by the Vermont Air National Guard became the first unit to train against the new Alpena emitters.

While the older emitters are technically portable, moving them requires significant effort. The new emitters are small enough that they can be easily transported on the back of a pick-up truck - or towed by a boat.

"If we are going to be ready to fight in the Pacific region, we have to be able to recognize and defeat threats in a maritime environment," Wyrzkowski said. "We have significant air space over Lake Huron where we can tow an emitter and it will be in a different place every time and there will be no landmarks near where it is. That poses a very real threat to our aircraft and as our pilots are exposed to that threat here in a training environment, they will be able to exercise the skills they need to defeat that threat."

The new emitters are an example of how, as the world changes and evolves, so to does the CRTC.

The CRTC recently worked with the Coast Guard to provide training to about a dozen Airmen assigned to the CRTC who operate the boat in a variety of mission sets on Lake Huron. It might be as simple as towing one of those new threat emitters out into the lake, or as complex as serving as a waterborne "adversary" that is trying to attack another boat on the lake while a U.S. military helicopter tries to intervene.

"We structure what we do with the boat based on what the customer is trying to accomplish," said Tech. Sgt. Gerad Pyszka, one of the CRTC-based Airmen who serves as a captain of the boat. The boat allows the CRTC to add yet another training domain for visiting units.

"Again, it is about adding that extra dimension to our training scenarios, to really put that 'all' into the National All-Domain Warfighting Center so that our visiting units walk out of here with training that is relevant, challenging, and prepares them for whatever may lie ahead," Wyrzkowski said.



Photo by Capt. Cammy Alberts

A MOMENT IN HISTORY:

VICTOR BRIDGE

LTC Christopher Graham, 107th EN BN

While on deployment, the 107th Engineer Battalion discovered some WWII history that they share with one of their subordinate organizations in the Middle East, the 994 Engineer Vertical Construction Company (EVCC) with the Army Reserves in Colorado. The connection was uncovered when finding a picture of the Victor Bridge, built by the battalion during World War II, which was erected across the Rhine River into Germany.

It was the longest tactical treadway bridge built at 1370 feet long. It holds a place of honor in the middle of the 107th battalion crest and the bridge proved to be an astonishing feat that ensured the defeat of the German Army.

When taking a closer look at the picture, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Jeannotte noted that one of the companies on the sign commemorating the construction was the 994 Treadway Bridge Company (TBC). Researching their Heraldry, he found that in fact, the 994 EVCC traces its roots to the 994 TBC. Below is an excerpt from LTC (Retired) Frederick Stonehouse's book "Combat Engineer! The History of the 107th Engineer Battalion, 1881-1981" detailing the accomplishments of the battalion and the 994 TBC during the construction of the bridge. During WW II, the 107th was redesignated the 254th Engineer Battalion.

Bridging the Rhine

The battalion next came to the forefront of history in March of 1945, when the advancing Allied armies reached the wide barrier of the Rhine River. On the near side were the Allies, on the far side were the Germans and the river stood in between as an impossible obstacle. Although the bridge at Remagen had been captured, its' half-destroyed condition and imminent collapse prevented its use as a supply line. The only choice was to build new bridges and one of the missions fell on the 254th.



Photo Courtesy of the WWII National Archives

The Battalion performed admirably, bridging the Rhine at Niedersbrseig (Honningen) in under 14 hours and in the process constructed the world's longest tactical floating bridge. At 1,370 feet, it stood as a marvel of combat engineering. The bridge saw extremely heavy use. Actual bridge construction took a mere 12 hours. There was a two-hour delay waiting for material! Within five days of its completion, 6,378 vehicles in various convoys including many Sherman and medium tanks had crossed, in addition to typical traffic.

In advance, the 254th had practiced in England until they were able to construct floating bridge equipment at a rate of 220 feet in 42 minutes. The actual bridge construction started early in the morning on March 22 with Company B installing the critically important upstream cable. Two days before, Company A had started building the approach roads, doing much of the work at night with searchlights borrowed from a tank Battalion.

The work of actually constructing the bridge proceeded rapidly with the material being supplied by the 990th, 994th and 998th Engineer Treadway Bridge Companies and Detachment 1 of the 508 Engineer Light Pontoon Company.



Courtesy Photo

The possibility of heavy interference by the enemy was expected and to prevent any such attempt, the airspace above the bridge site was well guarded by patrolling Allied fighters, and an entire Battalion of infantry soldiers were used to secure the area. However, all the enemy was able to muster was an occasional round of artillery or mortar fire on the far shore.

When the bridge was three-quarters complete, a near disaster occurred that almost caused the loss of the entire bridge. It seems that the upstream cable sagged due to the heavy current and several of the upstream kedge anchors were accidentally installed over the sagged cable. As a result, when the cable was drawn taut, the anchors pulled loose, and the bridge threatened to break away. Fortunately, several Navy LCVP's were available and were able to nose the snaking bridge back into position until repairs were made.

When completed, the center pontoons had a mere ten inches of freeboard, and round-the-clock maintenance was required to keep the unwieldy structure operational. Crossing armor was a special problem as they continually attempted to accelerate, resulting in damage to anchorages and treadway. The Battalion only stayed with their marvelous bridge for a short period, crossing the now named Victor Bridge a day after completion in pursuit of the ever-changing front.

The 107th Engineer Battalion and the 994th Engineer Vertical Construction Company proudly carry themselves and execute the mission, together once again on foreign soil. The task may be different, but we accomplish it just the same, with tenacity, vigor, discipline, and confidence. The legacy of the 107th EN BN is in good hands. I have the full confidence that in the future, those that inherit this organization will also be able to look back at our accomplishments during this deployment and proudly proclaim "Good as Done!"



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INNOVATION IN THE FIELD

2nd Lt. Paige Bodine, 126 TPASE

For the first time, medical Soldiers and Airmen were able to test a groundbreaking technology by integrating drones in a training environment on Monday, August 7th, 2023, during Exercise Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Medical units were able to experience a cutting-edge drone system that can detect human casualties aurally. This innovative technology allows service members to assess casualty vital signs and survey the scene for potential hazards prior to sending in support personnel. This advanced technology is a game-changer in disaster response scenarios and warzones.

The drones utilize Vision and Intelligence Systems for Medical Teaming Applications (VISTA), which has been in the works for four years, with two dedicated years of intense development for unmanned aerial systems for casualty protection.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine

"At Exercise Northern Strike, we had the perfect place to test the technology. Working with medical personnel is what we want to take to the next level," said Jay Rouse, the director of business development for Aerete, who played a crucial role in integrating the remote triage capability into the VISTA system's medical ability.

Exercise Northern Strike was the ideal training location for the technology to be tested, with a strong emphasis on training to advance the technology.

Among the units utilizing the unique training opportunity at Northern Strike was the 294th Medical Company Area Support (MCAS), Iowa Army National Guard, which includes the Medical Treatment Squad. The 294th MCAS trains to perform lifesaving measures for those wounded in combat.

Utilizing medical drones in the field comes from Aerete's pioneering use of photoplethysmography to monitor heart and respiration rates through the skin, enabling early detection of casualties from a distance. The system has been successfully tested with body armor, demonstrating its capability to scan from 10 to 50 meters, significantly enhancing the efficiency of casualty detection.

Sgt. Brady Overstreet, medical specialist with the 294th MCAS, who is among the medics utilizing the medical drones expressed his optimism.

"I have high hopes for the potential usage of this. This is the first time our squad is using this technology. I think this training is great; there are so many moving parts to being a medic," Overstreet said. "This will be better for our patients, units, and Army."

The Iowa Medical Company's collaboration with the Army Medical Research and Development Command's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) has been instrumental in advancing Project VISTA. This joint effort aims to enhance human detection signals from casualties, with future expansion plans to include wound classification and broader medic capabilities.

The Northern Strike exercise provided the ideal platform for demonstrating the medical capability, showcasing the potential for broader use in disaster response scenarios. Ethan Quest, the deputy chief of the Medical Robotics and Automatic Systems Division at TATRC, highlighted the importance of Northern Strike as a platform for demonstrating their solution.

"We are here to support Project VISTA for casualty detection and standoff assessment of casualty through a U.S. solution," Quest said. "This was a very good opportunity for us to demonstrate our capabilities of showing our solution.

Quest reiterated TATRC's goals with testing the drone system at Northern Strike.

"The specific goal is to get feedback from the Medics. We are looking to improve the system for their capabilities," he stated. "We were happy to be here at Northern Strike and work with the medics to see the capability to keep our soldiers and medics safe."

The collaboration between the National Guard and TATRC leads to advancements in medical training and real-world application. The innovative medical drone represents a significant step forward in improving medical life-saving practices.

As the eyes and ears of first responders in mass casualty and emergency events, the medical drone is a valuable asset for ensuring prompt and efficient medical assistance. As the medical field looks to the future, exploring the potential for broader adoption of innovative medical technologies like VISTA will undoubtedly shape a brighter future for medical care in challenging environments.

The drone, Project VISTA, tested at Northern Strike showcased the power of collaboration and innovation in advancing medical capabilities. The medical field continues to evolve and improve through the dedication and passion of individuals like Jay Rouse, Sgt. Brady Overstreet, and Ethan Quest, promising a future where advanced tools enhance patient care and save lives in the most challenging situations.

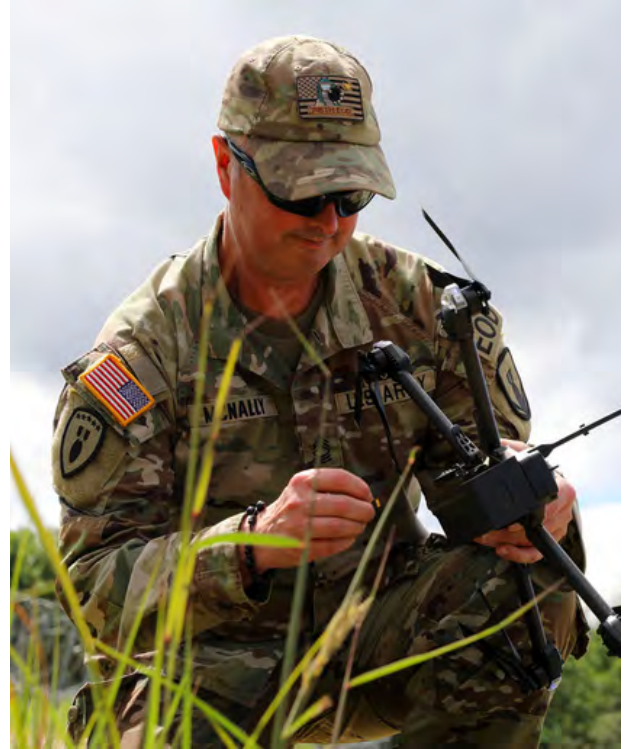


Photo by Staff Sgt. Tegan Kucera

"With the medical drones, we can find casualties and wounded quicker and further away," said Jay Rouse, business director at Aerete, emphasizing the system's capability to revolutionize medical response.

"We can identify the triage before we even get to the site and monitor the patients as they get evacuated to the next level of care."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tegan Kucera

TRAINING TO SURVIVE

Tech Sgt. Andrew Schumann, 127th WG/PA

Aircrew from the 127th Wing sharpened their survival skills in October and prepared for any possibility that they, one day, may be forced to leave their aircraft in a hostile environment.

Pilots from the 107th Fighter Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, participated in survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) refresher training during the 127th Wing's October drill weekend. The training was broken into several modules, which focused on honing survival skills after leaving an aircraft in hostile enemy, and environmental conditions.

"SERE training is tailored toward high-risk of isolation personnel, training them to survive through conflict and contingency operations, allowing them to return home with honor," said Tech. Sgt. Alex Ribbens, a survival, evasion, resistance and escape air advisor assigned to the 818th Mobility Support Advisory Squadron, Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, New Jersey, who was at Selfridge to provide the training.

Developed by the United States Army Air Force after World War II, SERE training focuses on the survivability of individuals who may become stranded in the wilderness or at sea, forced to evade the enemy or survive while in their captivity, and return home with honor. The Air Force has since trained its aircrew members, pararescuemen, and other Battlefield Airmen in SERE skills to prepare its Airmen for the unthinkable.

Carried out over the course of two days, the refresher training spanned multiple SERE areas of focus, including conduct after capture, combat survival techniques, and water survival. The training satisfied both the 36-month requirement for pilots to train in combat survival and water survival, as well as the annual requirement of emergency parachute training.

"The training we accomplished this weekend was geared toward refreshing the skills these pilots learned during their initial Code of Conduct training," Ribbens continued, "as well as making sure the pilots are trained on the current tactics, techniques, procedures, and equipment."

During the first day of training, Selfridge pilots received closed-door instruction on conduct after capture before heading into the field for station training on aircrew flight equipment, tactics for surviving hostile environments, and evading the enemy.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Andrew Schumann

Members of the 127th Operational Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment office facilitated training stations that allowed pilots to demonstrate tactics, such as proper landing posture following an ejection, and releasing from parachutes.

"The importance of hands-on training is so that the pilots are able to operate all of their life-saving equipment should they ever have to eject from the aircraft," said Tech. Sgt. Jasmine Schaffer, lead aircrew flight equipment continuation trainer, 127th Operational Support Squadron.

"This equipment is meant to save them, and if they are unfamiliar with it, it could have the opposite effect," Schaffer said. "A lack of familiarity with the equipment provided to them could cause injury to the member. It can also cause a delay in rescue of the member."

The second day of training brought the Michigan pilots to a local high school swimming pool to practice survival techniques while in the water. Training stations were set up there to simulate water-borne parachute dragging, escape from under the parachute canopy, and deploying emergency equipment, such as life rafts. The goal was to simulate a situation where a pilot lands in a body of water following an ejection from their aircraft.

"We do this refresher training so that aircrews are capable and confident in their equipment and skills, should they have to eject or crash land," Ribbens said. "The isolated person is typically the weakest link in the recovery chain, and by doing this training we make them stronger, and improve their survivability, as give them awareness of recovery procedures from the rescuer's perspective."

Training such as this enables the Airmen of the 127th Wing to be ready to mobilize around the globe at a moment's notice and maintain its tradition of being a premier expeditionary force.

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Colton Andrews-1463rd Transportation Co.

Spc. Colton Andrews is the 2024 Michigan Soldier of the Year, currently assigned as an 88M-Motor Transport Operator with the 1463rd Transportation Company, out of Augusta, Mich. Then Pfc. Andrews, competed in the FY24 State Best Warrior Competition (BWC) held at Fort Custer in September of 2023, and successfully won the competition. Through his achievements, he was promoted to Spc./E4. Spc. Andrews joined the 1463rd just 10 months prior to the FY24 competition and volunteered to compete to challenge himself both physically and mentally, he currently has 2 years time in service. Spc. Andrews will represent Michigan at the Region 4 BWC held at Camp Dodge, IA in May of 2024. Spc. Andrews is currently a member of Michigan funeral honors team and has conducted over 150 services in the previous six months. Spc. Andrews is currently enrolled at Sonoran Desert Institute and working towards his Associates degree in Firearm Technology, he hopes to apply for an Active Guard position with MIARNG as he gains more experience. Spc. Andrews joined the military because he wanted to continue his family's legacy of service with the United States Army and Michigan Army National Guard, as well as gaining knowledge and experience to enhance his civilian and military goals.



FROM THE FRONT LINE

Timothy Downs-HHD 246th

Sgt. Timothy Downes is the 2023 Michigan Soldier of the Year, currently assigned as a 56M-Chaplains Assistant with HHD 246th out of Jackson, Mich. Sgt. Downes competed and won the FY23 State Best Warrior Competition (BWC) held at Fort Custer in September of 2022. Through his achievements, he was promoted to SGT/E5. Sgt. Downes went on to compete as an NCO with only 4 months time in grade at the Region 4 BWC held at Camp Garfield, OH in May of 2023. He is five years time in service as of January 2024. He currently has a Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA) in Computer Information Systems and is currently pursuing a Masters in Cybersecurity from WMU. He is also actively pursuing employment in security engineering so that he can transition into a red team role to test the cyber security and physical security of companies. He is set to attend Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) early in 2024. Upon SFAS competition, he hopes to become an 18E (Communications) with B-2-19th Group out of Columbus, OH, with the intent of ultimately advancing his civilian career. He's wanted to become a Green Beret since he was young and is happy to have the opportunity to achieve that goal. He pushes himself to see the limits of what he's capable of achieving, both physically and mentally, as well as opening up opportunities in the SOF community. Sgt. Downes joined the Army because he knew he was capable of more and wanted the challenge as well as gaining experience.



FY24 SAFETY AWARD



"This came from a lot of hard work from a lot of people," said Holly. "It's good to know we are doing the right things and bettering the program."

On December 13, 2024, Mr. Thomas Holly, the state safety manager of Michigan was awarded the Director Army National Guard 2023 Individual Excellence Safety Award for his sustained excellence toward the maintenance of the Michigan Army National Guard Safety, Occupational, and Environmental Health Programs.

Mr. Holly supported the ARNG Safety Program through many initiatives including leader engagement and soldier involvement, leveraging the Army Traffic Safety Program to reduce off-duty mishaps, implementing the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System (ASOHMS), implementing the Army Safety Management Information System (ASMIS), conducting 100% of required Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspections (SASOHI) required for FY23, as well as the development of Unit Safety Award Trackers for units of the Michigan Army National Guard.



In addition to the individual award received by Holly, the State of Michigan Safety office also received the Director Army National Guard 2023 State Safety Award of Excellence for exhibiting Safety, Occupational, and Environmental Health program excellence, contributing to a positive impact on State readiness and the overall safety culture within the Army National Guard. These awards acknowledge individuals and activities who have significantly contributed to the State's primary mission of providing well-trained and professional Soldiers in a safe and healthy environment.

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If you are a veteran looking for information concerning education, healthcare, benefits or quality of life programs, please visit the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for more information or call the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center at 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).

For Veterans, information is available to help achieve your employment and educational goal, as well as other valuable resources on mitalent.org.

For Employers, find out about the great qualities and benefits that veterans can bring to your organization, as well as programs that are available for hiring veterans.

MICHIGAN MORTARMEN PROVIDE INDIRECT FIRE DURING NORTHERN STRIKE 24-1

Master Sgt. David Eichaker, DARNG/PA

Indirect fire infantrymen, commonly referred to as mortarmen, provide offensive, defensive, and retrograde ground combat tactical operational support.

During Northern Strike 24-1, winter iteration, Guard Soldiers with Michigan's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, used the cold-weather training exercise to gain a better understanding when operating in an Arctic-like environment that enhances our military Arctic region capabilities to deter threats.

"Working in the cold temperatures isn't an enjoyable time," said Sgt. Shane Vanderhoek, a mortarman gunner. "Everything is just cold, and a lot of our equipment takes longer to start to work."

Improving cold weather operations and familiarity in an Arctic-like region can add to the cold weather experience, as Vanderhoek noted.

"When you place the base plates in (the ground), we like to dig a little hole so the base plate can settle down easier and it takes longer when the ground's frozen to do that," he said. "A challenge we thought we might face if the base plate wouldn't actually sink and if the ground was frozen solid, it (mortar) would just bounce up."

The mortarmen have met other challenges when adapting to the frozen ground.

"The other issue we're facing are the (tripod) legs because they're sitting on ice or frozen ground," said Vanderhoek. "A couple of times when firing, the legs would slide so we're having people hold the legs each time we're firing. If we don't, then we're running the risk of the legs sliding out when we're firing, which will cause a round to go somewhere completely different."

Mortars are suppressive indirect fire weapons with multiple uses such as neutralizing targets, providing concealment with large areas of smoke, and providing illumination or Coordinated high-explosive and close and immediate indirect fire support for maneuvering units.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

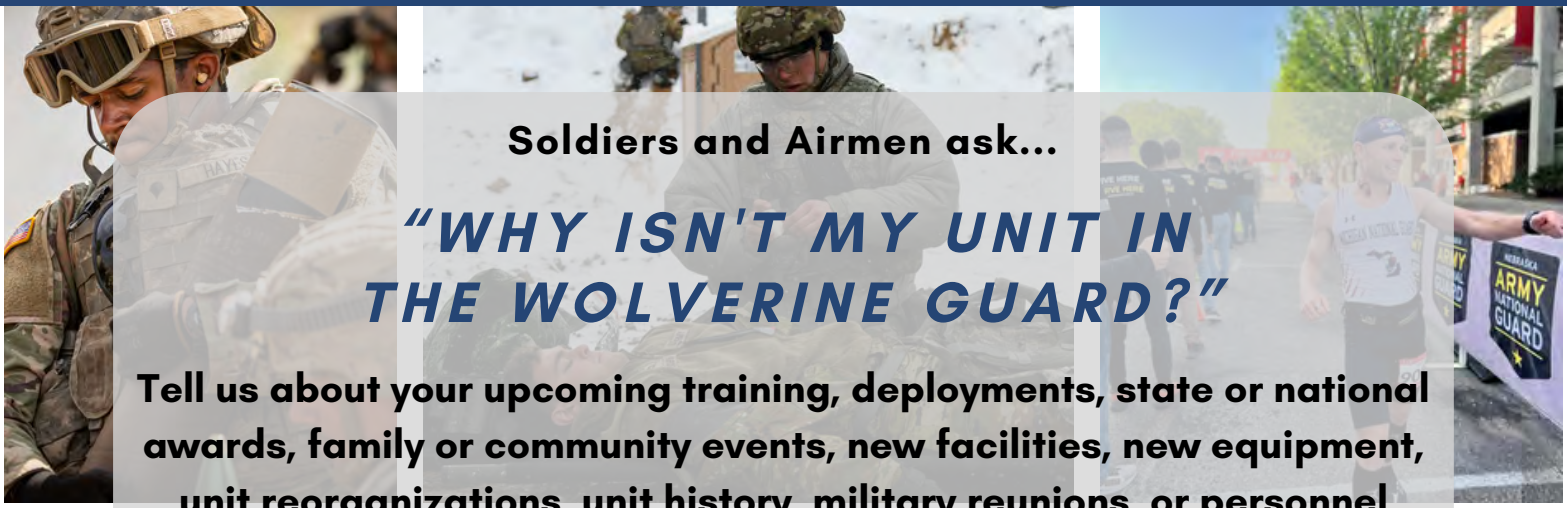
During NS24-1, the troops train during the coldest part of the year. Snow, high winds, and below-freezing temperatures are commonplace at the National All-Domain Warfighting Center as visiting units train in near-arctic conditions to be better able to meet the objectives of the Department of Defense's Arctic strategy.

"We are [supporting] the [Special Operations Forces] element that's out here," said Staff Sgt. Alex Reams, a section sergeant and mortarman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment. "We're coordinating fires with air and artillery (and) echelons of fire and to coordinate with SOF, providing fire for them on whatever objectives they're hitting."

Mortars can launch illumination rounds that can be used to disclose enemy formations, signal, or mark targets, assisting troops on the ground.

"I have the ability to light up an objective," said Reams. "If Special Forces are on an objective ... maneuvering somewhere ... and think they see something 300 meters in front of them, they'll call in for illumination rounds and we'll light up the area so they can see what's there."

"Night illumination is probably key ... it's such a benefit considering most of the stuff the United States military likes to do is at night—so it's a big deal," he added.



Soldiers and Airmen ask...

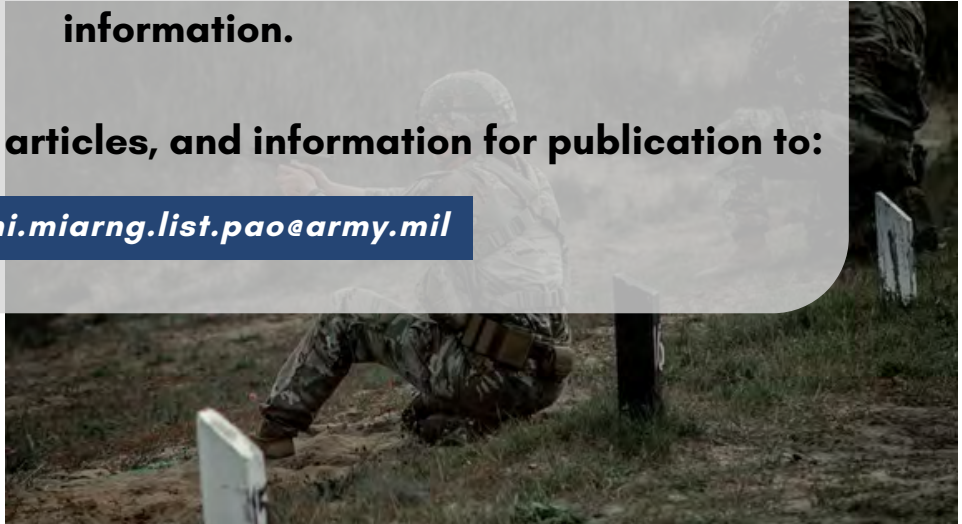
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J9: RESILIENCE DIRECTORATE

MISSION: To build a cohesive approach for prevention, intervention, and response practices in order to create resilient, healing, and healthy communities for our Michigan National Guard members, civilians, and their families.

VISION: To strengthen the readiness and resilience of our Michigan National Guard communities through stewardship, service, and presence to our formations.



THE JOINT RESILIENCE DIRECTORATE IS COMPRISED OF 4 PROGRAMS:

Integrated Primary Prevention's (IPP) mission seeks to bring coherence, direction, and understanding to how the MING will implement an integrated prevention approach that increases the readiness of all people – Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families. Establishing holistic wellness through a prevention system is a necessary component to building an agile, ready, and lethal MING capable of meeting the demands of a rapidly changing environment.



Family Programs is comprised of several programs that connect and provide resources to our Service Members and their families. The Military and Family Readiness Program provides assistance and support for service members and their families in all areas of life. The Child and Youth Program promotes quality of life and resilience for National Guard-dependent children and youth. Personal Financial Counselors, provide financial literacy education which includes common military training for members across the military lifecycle. The Military and Family Life Counseling Program supports Service Members, their families, and survivors with confidential non- medical counseling.

Ready & Resilient (R2) Program is the Army's strategy for strengthening individual and unit personal readiness and fostering a culture of trust. R2 provides training and resources to the Army Family to enhance resilience and optimize performance. R2 reinforces the Army Values, beliefs, attitudes, and educates members of the Army team about the importance of building connections with each other, taking care of one another, and being there to support fellow Soldiers. The program includes the risk reduction and suicide prevention team.



The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. Through Yellow Ribbon events, service members and loved ones connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments.

The J9 is the one stop for all MING members, and their families, to access prevention, response, and readiness services.

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SGT BRENDAN HEINONEN
SGT BRADEN STAUFFENBERG
SGT ETHAN RICK
SGT LEOPOLD HOANG
SGT TAYLOR SIMMONS
SGT RICHARD GRAGG
SGT DAWSON COOK
SGT ALEXANDER DALLAS
SGT TYLER QUADER
SGT ESON BUTLER
SGT SALIM GATETE
SGT GAVIN FROST
SGT CHRISTIAN LIBBY
SGT DYLAN LEASK
SGT SHAUN KAS
SGT AARON BOYLE
SGT KRISTOPHER WELLS
SGT MATTHEW STAPERT
SGT JOSEPH SHORT
SGT ELIE SANESTIN
SGT TAMKEEN LAWTON
SGT GRANT BERINGER
SGT LUIS GARCIA
SGT WALLACE CLARK
SGT CATHERINE BROOKS
SGT BRANDON MOORE
SGT JONATHAN MARKS
SGT ERIC GOLDENBOGEN
SGT ETHAN OWENS
SGT MATTHEW KRAEYVELD
SGT DANIEL LEE
SGT ZACHARY BAGBEY
SGT JOSEPH BEYRLER
SGT TRAVIS SWEITZER
SGT ZACHARY EARLES
SGT LEVI NOTHRUFT
SGT DAMON ADAMS
SGT BLAKE WILLIAMS
SGT ELIOT VANPELT
SGT SULLIVAN RUNION
SGT ALEJANDRO SAUCEDA
SGT JEFFERY WHELPLEY

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

SGT YATIAH CALDWELL
SGT TREVOR SCARPELLI
SGT RHANEY CONINE
SGT STEVEN SNOW
SGT MELORY HUBBARD
SGT CONNOR BENHAM
SGT MICHAEL FLEMING
SGT KYLE LOONEY
SGT JAMES RICHARDS
SGT ERIC REWERS
SGT BRANDON ROMERO
SGT MICHAEL ELLIS
SGT LESTER YOUNGLOVE
SGT LOGAN KNIP
SGT LUCAS PETERSON
SGT MICHELLE JACOBS
SGT LUCA MASSMANN
SGT JANARVIS JOHNSON
SGT WHITNIE CLARK
SGT BENJAMIN GEORGE
SGT MATTHEW JORDAN
SGT TREVOR CAMERON
SGT BRIANNA HARDY
SGT CALEB GOLDUN
SGT EMMA HALL
SGT AUDRA HAWKINS
SGT SPENCER GRIFFITH
SGT ZACHARY ACERO
SGT OSCAR CORTEZ
SGT JAYLEIGH BILETH
SGT KATELYN WAIDELICH
SGT DEVON CALHOUN
SGT CHANZ JACOBS
SGT BRANDON HATFIELD
SGT MYANDRIAH WRIGHT
SGT EGYPT FULLER
SGT MICHAEL GROSS
SGT JAMES DOWNEY
SGT DYLAN ARNOLD
SGT MARTEZZ HAYES
SGT MACARIO CASTILLO
SGT YATIAH CALDWELL
SGT TREVOR SCARPELLI
SGT RHANEY CONINE
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SGT MARTEZZ HAYES
SGT MACARIO CASTILLO
SGT ALEXANDER ARMITAGE
SGT TOBYN KIRBACH
SGT ALEX IRISH
SGT NICHOLAS KUMKE
SGT JOHN PROVENZOLA
SGT ANDREW HERRICK
SGT BENJAMIN GALETTO
SGT DAKOTA ROYDES
SGT NICHOLAS HOOVER
SGT KHYM WILSON
SGT JAMES RUSSELL
SGT ISAAC REEVES
SGT YOHANNES MOGOS
SGT RYAN DEWEERD
SGT KENNETH SMITH
SGT BRIAN KNAPP
SGT ALEC MONTIE
SGT JOSE COLON
SGT MARANDA BAKER
SGT KYLE LAFAVE
SGT CONNOR WOODMAN
SGT ANTHONY FRASCONA
SGT ALEXIS MATTHEWS
SGT JORDAN NEWMAN

SGT JAMES NOVAK
SGT JAMES LADD
SGT AUSTIN BAY
SPC NYCHELLE FOURMENT
SPC JAMES WADE
SPC LOGAN WILCOX
SPC CHASE SUBER
SPC SETH SHERMANALMY
SPC LOWELL PERKINS
SPC DESTINA BELTSCHATZER
SPC MARC RUFF
SPC MORIAH BROOKS
SPC PAPAKWESI STERLIN
SPC BRIANA CARTER
SPC TURNER CARLIE
SPC DESTINY MINION
SPC STEVEN WARWICK
SPC DEVIN DEMERS
SPC CHRISTOPHER SIMONS
SPC EDUARDO SOSARIOS
SPC CONNER GEKLE
SPC NASH SAAGMAN
SPC BLAKE DRUDY
SPC AUSTIN DEESHOLLIS
SPC ZACHARY SHEGGRUD
SPC KOLTER MECKLENBURG
SPC AUSTIN WALTER
SPC DARIUS JERUE
SPC HENRY DYKEMA
SPC JAGER HOEKSEMA
SPC NOOR KHALIL
SPC WYATT PELTIER
SPC ARLEEN SANROMAN
SPC AVA ROBACH
SPC MAZIN ADAM
SPC TAYLOR STALTER
SPC MICHAELA JACKMAN
SPC SHERIF MOHAMED
SPC GABRIEL WYSOCKI
SPC ZHIVANNA MAGDALENO
SPC LUCAS HOPKINS
SPC ELLIE JOHNSON
SPC THANE AKINS
SPC TIA GIBSON
SPC JONATHAN PEREZ
SPC BASEM ALTAYEB
SPC KEATEN RUSHER
SPC CODY DREYER
SPC CANYON BUTTERFIELD
SPC AYDIN GUTSHALL
SPC ELIJAH MOORE
SPC SHEA CASSITY
SPC JOSEPH HURLEY

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

SPC PRESTIN PETTIPAS
SPC LENA RANCE
SPC LEAH KAUFFMAN
SPC NIA SANKEY
SPC HUNTER STRAUCH
SPC SARA TIRGUI
SPC TORI REVARO
SPC MARYJANE MONROE
SPC DAYSHIA SWEET
SPC MICHAEL CZARNECKI
SPC CHLOE ZYLSTRA
SPC CHARLEZ HATT
SPC NOLAN HOWARD
SPC ALEXANDER REICHEL
SPC JACOB BASLER
SPC MOHAMMAD RAHMAN
SPC JEREMIAH PARR
SPC KAYDN MARSHALL
SPC COHEN FOWLER
SPC LILE HADDAD
SPC PAYTON BECKHOLT
SPC ASHTON GOOD
SPC SUSANA NUNEZ SANTOS
SPC ZACKARY JACKSON
SPC CHANDLER HUNT
SPC STANLEY UCHENDU
SPC ARMANI MAYNIE
SPC SEDRICK TURNER
SPC CONNOR KENDRICK
SPC DAMON AYMER
SPC HUNTER MARKS
SPC ISREANNA BRYANT
SPC DEVINA LOPEZZAMORA
SPC CONNOR SHENNAN
SPC SUMAYYIAH ALKASID
SPC LOGAN KEMPF
SPC CAMBRIA SQUIRES
SPC DOMINICK NETTELL
SPC RYAN KEEN
SPC ZACHARY QUALLS
SPC ZACHARIAH TREVINO
SPC KYLE ALMEIDA
SPC DARIAN MYERS
SPC SHANIA SNOW
SPC FREDERICK SMALLEY
SPC NICHOLAS WINSLOW
SPC ADRIONA BRANDENBURGER
SPC CHARLES CORTES
SPC ALEXANDER QUACKENBUSH
SPC HAILEY KRANTZ
SPC NEVAEH HART
SPC PATRICK MUTOMBLO
SPC NATHANIEL NORRIS

SPC MILEEA SEELYE
SPC ANDREW DAVIS
SPC ABRAHAM SWITZER
SPC CEDRION PIERCE
PFC KAVIN WARREN
PFC AUTUMN PURGIEL
PFC COLIN CARPENTER
PFC NOAH DURHAM
PFC BRENNAN ARCHBOLD
PFC XAVIER ANDERSON
PFC LIANA LLANES
PFC MARIQUE STAFFORD
PFC JUSTIN SUMMERS
PFC NICHOLAS DAUTREMONT
PFC BRYAN JEUWOU
PFC GINA TRIPP
PFC ZACHARY WEINHEIMER
PFC VIVIENNE FRANCOIS
PFC MASON DEEM
PFC COLE FLEURY
PFC BRENDAN ADAMS
PFC CHRISTIAN SUTTER
PFC KRISTA SHUPE
PFC DOMINICK MILLIKEN
PFC NATHANIEL HODGES
PFC SAMUEL ALJAHMI
PFC DAMARCO REESE
PFC DAYSHA LYONS
PFC GREGORIO MORENO
PFC AZHA GARDNER
PFC DERRICK COPPEDGE
PFC REMEL WEBB
PFC JAHQWAN SHAW
PFC JOSHUA ZAMORA
PFC MELINDA CALMOPAIZ
PFC JOHN PAUL YOSHIDA
PFC DEAN WILLIAMSON
PFC RAYANDRE JACKSON
PFC YOUSIF OSMAN
PFC MADELYN STEINBECK
PFC KIEARA WHITE
PFC NICO CANDELA
PFC DAVID LASH
PFC ANDREW IMM
PFC ESMERALDA GUERRERO
PFC COURTNEY NISWANDER
PFC BRETT CASPER
PFC ILESH PANTHI
PFC JAYMES BUTCHER
PFC JOSEPH ALDEN
PFC IAN BOYD
PFC ANDY RAMIREZ PEREZ
PFC AMMAR SAID

PFC JASON PICONCASTRO
PFC LEO MOSKOWITZ
PFC CHASE CAMMENGA
PFC ADAM KIEL
PFC NOAH WOODMAN
PFC ASHTON WYANT
PFC DEVIN PALMER
PFC ALI ALHARIS
PFC NINA THOMAS
PFC TAURUS TRAVIS
PFC MYA SCOTT
PFC KO LOCKHART
PFC MAKIAH GLADSTONE
PFC BRITTANY BROECKER
PFC ALEX SUSTAITA
PFC EMMALEY BURCH
PFC NICKOLAS WALUKONIS
PFC LINUS BRANIGAN
PFC DEVIN STEGGERDA
PFC JAWAD JOUNI
PFC JAVON ODOM
PFC JONATHON GAONA
PFC SHELBY STIERLEY
PFC SCOTT PECK
PFC ERICK ESTRADA
PFC BRIONA HUSSEY
PFC FLORENT NGATCHO
PFC MASON BERRIDGE
PFC COOPER KOTRBA
PFC MATTHEW MALDONADO
PFC CADEN PAWLAK
PFC DANIEL LEYDET
PFC MAX GLANVILLE
PFC ALLEN BOWLING
PFC REUBEN ARENDS
PFC KEVIN NGUYEN
PFC PATRICK LAMACCHIO
PFC IVAN RYBKIN
PFC MINA HARRIS
PFC TAYVON LIDDELL
PFC MARKEESE WILLIAMS
PFC ZANDER CHARLES
PFC MICHAEL ABBAS
PFC GRAYSON PROUGH
PFC COURTNEY PERKINS
PFC AHMED SALEH
PFC DYLAN MULNIX
PFC MICHEAL HOUSE
PFC DAMION BAKER
PFC EVAN PETERSON
PFC JOHN DAVEY
PFC ISABELLE WILSON
PFC AISHA DIXON

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

PFC BROOKE ARENS
PFC BROCK SOUVA
PFC JOSEPH FOX
PFC MARKUS MILLS
PFC KORBIN GRIDER
PFC SILAS MENNARE
PFC CADE DELGADO
PFC TROY HOLTON
PFC LOGAN COLE
PFC DONOVAN COSSAIRT
PFC BLAKE WHITE
PFC CURTIS LING
PFC BLANE BROMLEY
PFC JORGE RIOS MC NUTT
PFC LONDON GIRONDA
PFC CARTER LEWIS
PFC JOHNATHAN HARRIS
PFC BRADY DEXTER
PV2 ENADIACHE ERHUNMWUNMASE
PV2 JOSHUA HANNER
PV2 SARAH VAN DUSSEN
PV2 CHOLEY WILLIAMS
PV2 SEBASTIAN ADAMS
PV2 DALLAS WILTON
PV2 NDUDI ILECHIE
PV2 BRAYLON HUFF
PV2 ISABEL JOHNSON
PV2 JULIA ABRAHAM
PV2 ANTHONY TAYLOR
PV2 CARMELO TAYLOR
PV2 JEREMIAH SPLUNGE
PV2 JOSE HERNANDEZ
PV2 MARAH RICE
PV2 KYLE KNORPP
PV2 NICHOLAS RADER
PV2 NICHOLAS SPENCER
PV2 ABBAS ALI AKBAR
PV2 ETHAN JOLLEY
PV2 DEANNA WILSON
PV2 JAMES MOORE
PV2 ALAN PASCUAL
PV2 EARL SHORT
PV2 BENJAMIN BILLINGSLEY
PV2 ALEXANDER PHELPS
PV2 MICAH TRUCKENMILLER
PV2 MATTHEW ONZE
PV2 SAWYER DUNN
PV2 DYLAN PENNINGTON
PV2 KAP ZO
PV2 JERAMIAH PEREZ
PV2 KEEGAN KINNE
PV2 JAYDEN SCHWARTZ
PV2 ALEXANDER VRHEL

PV2 ZACHARY BARNES
PV2 HASAN EL HAJRAS
PV2 DAVID BATAQ
PV2 NATALIE KOLARIK
PV2 RIO WESTLUND
PV2 MARQUIS JACKSON
PV2 KHALIF LOVE
PV2 BRIAN MYGRANTS
PV2 KELLY DIEKMAN
PV2 CHASE CURTIS
PV2 SETH MURPHY
PV2 HUNTER BOSMA
PV2 CONNOR HENRY
PV2 THOMAS COTTER
PV2 JACOB RECTOR
PV2 NATHANIEL MAGIERA
PV2 JOHN EDWARDS
PV2 LILLIANNE SHATTUCK
PV2 NATHANIEL JEAN
PV2 RYAN OSTERLAND
PV2 JASON THOMPSON
PV2 ANTHONY CICHOWSKI
PV2 TYLER NORTON
PV2 JACOB EITNIEAR
PV2 REIHANNEN REED
PV2 SARA BENSEN
PV2 ISABELLA SMITH
PV2 ANTHONY BOWMAN
PV2 MIKE XIONG
PV2 KYLE COCKREL
PV2 TRENTON MOORE
PV2 DERECK MATOS LONGORIA
PV2 EDUARDO MAZARIEGOS AMBROSIO
PV2 JAMES SIEK
PV2 JONATHAN SCHANTZ
PV2 STEVEN THERRIEN
PV2 CONNOR NITKA
PV2 MEAGHAN ROSE
PV2 BRYNN SHAW
PV2 DION PHELPS
PV2 ARIANA COSME
PV2 SHAKYRA JONES
PV2 STANLEY FITZGERALD
PV2 HOLLY HUBENET
PV2 HAYDDEN GROENEVELD
PV2 NOLAN ROBINSON
PV2 LANAYA SIMPKINS
PV2 JOHN MCCRACKIN
PV2 DYLAN LUTZ
PV2 CADEN SMITH
PV2 ZACHARIE BISINWA
PV2 DANIEL GARZA
PV2 ANTHONY KRYCH

PV2 JACKSON STARNES
PV2 DANIEL PERRY
PV2 EDISON TRAN
PV2 JOSEPH LIAN
PV2 RYAN FRIAR
PV2 CHRISTOPHER ONONIWU
PV2 GAVEN STRONG
PV2 KENNETH BICKFORD
PV2 ELISEO SILGUERO
PV2 JEREMY BORNHEIMER
PV2 COLTON SHERWOOD
PV2 CAMERON VUN CANNON
PV2 GARRETT NEMITZ
PV2 LONDON POWELL
PV2 CORRINE BREKKE
PV2 JACQUES TONYE
PV2 BRIAN NORTHRUP
PV2 MELIESHA PETTIS
PV2 MOHAMED ELOMDA
PV2 DANA VAZQUEZ ROSAS

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL PROMOTED
SOLDIERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES**

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

MG PABLO ESTRADA
LTC RYAN SENN
COL ROBERT FRAZER
COL JEFFREY LAING
COL RAYMOND STEMITZ
MAJ BRIAN CIVILLE
MAJ MICHEAL SHOOK
CPT CHARLES PREIDIS
1LT SYDNEY CHANEY
1LT JORGEN CHAPIN
CW3 KEVIN ROSS
CSM JAY BENNETT
SGM KEVIN CHRISTIANSEN
SGM BARRY OCALLAGHAN
1SG EDWARD PALMER
1SG JUSTIN JOHNSON
MSG JOEL BURKHART
MSG KIMBERLY HUDSON
MSG WILLIAM JANNAUSCH
MSG MELVIN LAFERNIER
MSG ROXANNE REYNOLDS
MSG JAMES SUTTON
MSG MICHAEL VANDERSLOOT

SFC KURT BLACKBURN
SFC JASON BRAUTIGAM
SFC JASPER FREEMAN
SFC PETER KRUMM
SFC RANDY ROACH
SFC JOSEPH ROSE
SFC RAYMOND WALTERS
SFC BRENDA OJIBWAY
SFC STEPHEN MEYERS
SSG TODD DUNCKLEY
SSG JACOB EAST
SSG DONALD GILSON
SSG ROBERT HANNAH
SSG GREGORY HOOGLAND
SSG GREGORY JOSLIN
SSG CECIL PLACE
SSG CHRISTOPHER TOMS
SSG TOUSSAINT WALTON
SSG EMANUEL JONES
SSG JAY VISSER
SSG JOSEPH BLACK
SSG KOHEN WATSON
SSG NICHOLAS OPOSNOW

SSG THOMAS ROGERS
SGT ROBERT BARNHARDT
SGT KAYLEE BOUATHONG
SGT JOSHUA CADOTTE
SGT AMANDA KENNEDY
SGT DONALD MILLER
SGT GENE OLDS
SGT TRE WILLIAMS
SGT STEVEN WRIGHT
SGT ADAM GESELMAN
SGT BRUCE LIMBURG
SGT SCOTT DIFFIN
SPC KAYLEB CHASE
SPC JERRY CUMMINGS
SPC ARIELLE HUGHES
SPC ARIEL LUND
SPC ASHLEY MCCLINTOCK
SPC DAESHAUN OWENS
SPC LAVALLE PULLOM
SPC MARIANNE RIEGER
SPC DENNIS SWIFT
PFC JAKE RAMIREZ

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RETIRED SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Ready to Apply for Your Retirement?

The following items **MUST** be included in a Retired Pay Application:

(Please note: This is only applicable to Michigan National Guard retirees! If you served elsewhere, please contact 1-800-MICH-VET)

1. Retired Pay Application - DD Form 2656 and DD Form 108 - Must use the current form or it will be rejected by HRC & DFAS.
2. Separation Orders transferring service member to the Retired Reserve.
3. Notice of Eligibility (NOE) - 20-year letter or 15-year letter if issued.
4. Retirement Point Statement - NGB Form 23B.
5. Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan election - DD Form 1883, 2656-5, or 2656-6. This must be submitted within 90 days of receipt of NOE. If not, a default selection will be made for you based on dependent information on record at the time.
6. Banking information for Direct Deposit - you will need the name of the institution, their mailing address, routing number, and account number.
7. Beneficiary information - you will need to provide the name, address, and date of birth for anyone you wish to include as a beneficiary for Final Pay or as part of a Survivor Benefit Plan.

For More Information please visit: <https://minationalguard.dodlive.mil/Resources/Retirement-Services-Army/>

MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

COL BERNICE HOPP
LTC DOMINIC RUSSO
LTC IGNACIO PEREZ
LTC MATTHEW NAGY
LTC CHRISTOPHER PORCO
LTC LEONARD FERRELL
LTC ANDREW AXE
LTC MICHAEL THIEFELS
LTC DANIEL VANES
MAJ ALEKSANDRS BOMIS
MAJ MICHAEL MOOSE
MAJ BRIAN NANKO
1LT SAMUEL DURBIN
1LT MICHAEL WESTRA
1LT KRYSTAL SCOTTRHODES
1LT RYAN MOORE
1LT SAMUEL DURBIN
1LT MICHAEL WESTRA
CMS SHAUN MILLER
CMS DAVID FICKIES
SMS RYAN DUNLAP
SMS ROBERT ROBY
SMS SHAUN WEST
SMS NICHOLAS BUCHHOLZ
SMS MATTHEW QUINTANO
SMS CATHERINE FINOCCHIARO
SMS CHRISTOPHER REED
SMS AMBER DETEMPLE
SMS BRETT TRISKO
SMS RYAN POMERVILLE
SMS CHRISTOPHER REED
MSG NICHOLAS WEST
MSG JESSICA CHATFIELD
MSG RYAN SEDLOW
MSG ST CHELCHER
MSG DUSTIN PRYTULA
MSG NICHOLAS PUTINSKY
MSG MATTHEW COFFMAN
MSG ROBERT AKERS
MSG TONY DIXON
MSG KEISHA HUGGINS
MSG ALSHA HUGGINS
MSG STEVEN HACKETT
MSG AUSTIN BROWN
MSG MARK DIVNEY
MSG JESSICA CHERRY
MSG MICHAEL CHARETTE
TSG NATHAN SEARS
TSG BENJAMIN COOPER
TSG ZACHARY OCONNOR
TSG LUKE BUNGE
TSG DANIEL HENDRICKS
TSG BRET RAINKE
TSG KEVIN WADE
TSG JARED BRUSEN

TSG JONATHAN GIPSON
TSG DYLAN BARRIGER
TSG RYAN CULP
TSG JOSE DURAN
TSG DALTON SWEET
TSG JEFFRY DECLERCQ
TSG JASON MANASSERI
TSG ROBERT WODOWSKI
TSG LAUREN MCGREGOR
TSG DOMINIC RUSSO
TSG BRANDON CAMPBELL
TSG JOSIE TUROWICZ
TSG ERICA SPAULDING
TSG SEAN KOZARA
TSG CLAYTON COLE
TSG ALEX EBY
TSG ADEYINKA SANUSI
TSG KYLE STOWELL
TSG OTHO SCARBROUGH
TSG JOHN RHODES
TSG DEAN STREB
TSG TRISTAN VIGLIANCO
TSG CLINTON COYKENDALL
SSG ZACHARY WATTS
SSG KEITH STANTON
SSG SCOTT ST ARNAUD
SSG CAITLYN BAUM
SSG CHELSEA BOWMAN
SSG ASHLEY BLAND
SSG MASON LEES
SSG NATHAN HAMMOND
SSG JACOB SHORT
SSG SYDNEY DHUE
SSG LEO NGOUNE
SSG ELIZABETH HOLTZ
SSG CLAYTON SMITH
SSG REBECCA LOUBERT
SSG CHARLES KUPOVITS
SSG MICHAEL MULLALY
SSG CRISTINE ZUCHORA
SSG JAMES MAINE
SSG TRISTAN BENDER
SSG JAMES MESSERSMITH
SSG JADIN MOLDENHAUER
SSG NATHAN TAYLOR
SSG ERICA JOZWIAK
SSG SYDNEY VANDIS
SRA JOSEPH NERO
SRA DANIEL BENNETT
SRA JACK SCHRAM
SRA KAYLON HAMLETT
SRA JOSHUA MICHALSKI
SRA JOY HURLING
SRA ALSTINE VAN
SRA BERNARD KANJOMA

SRA JAYDEN GILES
SRA CALEB WILLIAMS
SRA CHRISTIAN BARTLEY
SRA HEATHER STALNAKER
SRA ADAM MCCORMIC
SRA MICHAEL RITTER
SRA MORETA FERNANDEZ
SRA DOMINICK BORCK
SRA QUINN WASHINGTON
SRA SHANTYNAE ATWATERBOYD
SRA LUCAS GAMBINO
SRA CONNER PETERSON
SRA DEREK BEAM
SRA SPENCER ANSORGE
SRA CONNER MONZO
SRA TYLER MONARCH
SRA CHRISTIAN QUICK
SRA ABLE LOWE
SRA AARON RODGERS
A1C SPENCER SCARBER
A1C FRANK BIANCHI
A1C ANTONIO POTTER
A1C JOSHUA GARROW
A1C JASON LABBY
A1C NOLAN WOOD
A1C MILES LAMAIRE
A1C CARSON AFFER
A1C MAYA VARGHESE
A1C DONALD LANG
A1C NATHANIEL ELGERT
A1C DEVIN KIRCHER
AMN COLSON ROOT
AMN JOSEPH COYNE
AMN BROOKE EARL
AMN LAILAH FOSTER
AMN AIDAN TROUT
AB GIOVANNI PARDOKEEGAN
AB TIMUR MATTESON
AB CHARLES HOWARD
AB KAHLIL MCLEOD

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL PROMOTED
AIRMEN AND THEIR
FAMILIES**



MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

COL PATRICK COTTER
COL TERRY BRENNAN
COL SUE DIAZ
CPT WILLIAM WALING
CMS JEFFREY MATTHENEY
CMS JEFF MATHENEY
SMS BRIAN FRISCH
SMS AMANDA NOBLE
SMS MICHAEL PACKER
SMS BRIAN FRISCH
MSG WILLIAM BALDRY

MSG TYLER SHAW
MSG MICHAEL JASMAN
MSG KEVIN BOWLING
MSG TODD YORK
MSG KEVIN BELL
MSG MORGAN MAUL
MSG BRIAN CARNEY
MSG SUZGO GONDWE
MSG STEVEN HENDRICKS
MSG GINA JAY
MSG MATHEW URBANKE

MSG MICHAEL JASMAN
TSG BRIAN LAYHEW
TSG TIMOTHY HANN
TSG JAY SHERMAN
TSG MARY PESCE
TSG HENRY BONFIGLIO
TSG RUDOLPH BUTTONE
TSG CHRISTOPHER COLBURN
TSG MARIO JIMENEZ
TSG DOUGLAS RALLO
SSG ANDREA ROSE

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RETIRED AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES



MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD TAPS

CPT MATTHEW THORNTON - Nov. 6, 2023

SGT ALVIN REICHARD - Sept. 2, 2023

SPC CHRISTIN CONNOLLY - Jan. 14, 2024

SPC ETHAN SLOUGH - Nov. 5, 2023

SPC JAMES GUNNARI - Dec. 27, 2023

PVT JACE BAKER - Oct. 15, 2023

***"I BELIEVE OUR FLAG IS MORE THAN JUST CLOTH AND INK. IT IS A UNIVERSALLY
RECOGNIZED SYMBOL THAT STANDS FOR LIBERTY, AND FREEDOM. IT IS THE HISTORY OF OUR
NATION, AND IT'S MARKED BY THE BLOOD OF THOSE WHO DIED DEFENDING IT."***

- JOHN THUNE

MING UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2024

- **Meet the Guard (272nd RSG): 12 Mar 24**

APRIL 2024

No events scheduled.

MAY 2024

- **Meet the Guard (Camp Grayling): 3 May 24**

JUNE 2024

- **State Consolidated AT (Camp Grayling): 1-15 Jun 24**
 - Backbone Golf Classic Golf Outing (Grayling): 12 Jun 24
 - Retiree Association & Officer Club Foundation lunch (Camp Grayling): 12 Jun 24
 - Prayer Breakfast (Camp Grayling): 13 Jun 24
 - USO Talent Show (Camp Grayling): 13 Jun 24
 - TAG Social (Camp Grayling): 13 Jun 24
 - Pass in Review (Camp Grayling): 14 Jun 24
- **Selfridge Airshow (127th Wing): 8-9 Jun 24**
- **50th Michigan Youth Challenge Academy Graduation (Marshall): 15 Jun 24**
- **Exercise Northern Exposure: 24-28 Jun 24**

JULY 2024

No events scheduled.

AUGUST 2024

- **Exercise Northern Strike 24-2 (NADWC): 3-16 Aug 24**
 - NS24-2 5K (Camp Grayling): 4 Aug 24
- **Motor City 2024 (Detroit): 17-26 Aug 24**
 - Joint Enlisted Leadership Conference (Detroit): 17-18 Aug 24
 - Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US (EANGUS) Conference (Detroit): 17-21 Aug 24
 - MING Leadership Conference (Detroit): 24-25 Aug 24
 - National Guard Association of the US (NGAUS) Conference (Detroit): 22-26 Aug 24

Find more events at:
<https://minationalguard.dodlive.mil/About-Us/Event-Calender/>

MORE NEWS STORIES

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- [Michigan Army National Guard Enhances Armories through Gov. Whitmer's Transformative Initiative](#)
- [Michigan Guard Brings HIMARS Capability to Swift Response 23](#)
- [Michigan Army National Guard Conducts Training at XCTC](#)
- [Purpose and Passion: 2 Women are the first to complete 40 years of service in Michigan](#)
- [Michigan Soldier Earns Prestigious Gen. John J. Pershing Award](#)
- [Selfridge Air National Guard Airmen Demonstrate Commitment to Community through Adopt-A-Highway Program](#)
- [Outstanding Airmen and employees honored by 127th Wing](#)
- [Mission highlights from 2023](#)

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