

WOLVERINE GUARD



A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard

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MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
JFHQ-PAO, BLDG. #30, ROOM #230
3411 N MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD
LANSING, MI 48906

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

MAJ. MEGAN BREEN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

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TAG TALK

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS

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



The second half of 2024 was packed with our continued efforts to steward The Profession of Arms. We hosted several major events over the past few months, from large scale joint exercises to professional development conferences, which provided a multitude of opportunities for personal and professional growth for participants and supporters. Across Michigan and throughout the department we continue working toward reinforcing the existing foundation by offering exceptional experiences bringing people together from across the globe

From August 3rd through the 17th, the National All Domain Warfighting Center hosted over 6,000 participants from 95 multi-service U.S. military units and five international partners at exercise Northern Strike 24-2. Spanning across the lower peninsula, rotational training units from the Team to Division level trained collectively in a demanding multi-domain operating environment as part of a larger

joint and combined task force.

Unique to this year's summer iteration of the exercise was the integration of a Base Defense Operation Center and additional Cyber Electromagnetic Activities capabilities. For many of the participating units, this was the first exposure to a contested electromagnetic spectrum environment. Additionally, this year's exercise also incorporated training scenarios involving homeland security and defense against unmanned aerial systems. Members of the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency took the opportunity to integrate into maritime scenarios to test newly developed combat search, rescue and recovery systems during the exercise. For the first time in Northern Strike history, several local journalists were embedded within training units to capture a new perspective, providing the public a first-person view of what makes our service members great.

The Motor City 2024 leadership conferences commenced on the heels of Northern Strike, overlapping with the EANGUS and NGAUS general conventions. These conferences made for a premier leadership and networking experience. During the day, participants were invited to network amongst each other and listen to guest speakers such as Gen. Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army and Lt. Gen. Jonathan Stubbs, Director of the Army National Guard. Detroit served as the background for extraordinary social events at unique venues throughout the city including the Henry Ford Museum, Grosse Pointe War Memorial and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

In September, we celebrated the addition of Sierra Leone as a new State Partner for Michigan. The culmination of conversations that have been ongoing since 2021, the official signing ceremony occurred in Freetown, Sierra Leone on September 12th. Despite an ocean of separation, Michigan and Sierra Leone share a common history, industry and resources. I am confident that the newest partnership will mirror the enduring partnerships currently in existence with Liberia and Latvia.

I encourage each of you to reflect on the past year and the incredible accomplishments achieved by our members and their families. Thank you for your continued efforts and dedication to improving our organization, I am profoundly grateful for all of your contributions.



LEADER SPOTLIGHT

BRIG. GEN. DANIEL KRAMER: COMMANDER OF THE MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD



LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Air National Guard’s new commander Brig. Gen. Daniel Kramer sees his native state as a place ripe with opportunity for the Air National Guard.

“I think Michigan is a land of opportunity because of who we are,” said Brig. Gen. Kramer, “When you look at the expertise Michiganders hold from a manufacturing capability, from a technological capability, from a cyber capability, there are multiple industries where our airmen can work for a good wage while serving in their local communities.”

This outlook is reflective of the life that the Mitten State has afforded him. Brig. Gen. Kramer was born in Goodrich, an exurb of Flint, where his father worked in the auto industry while his mother stayed home to raise him and his four siblings. After high school, he saw higher education as the vehicle by which to achieve greater success, and attended Michigan Technological University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. It was while in college that his service began.

“My service started half out of necessity and half to honor my father,” said Kramer, “I really needed the money for college, and I was inspired by my father’s service in the Army, so I joined the Air Force ROTC program. Between football and ROTC, I had my college cost covered.”

It was in college that Brig. Gen. Kramer married his wife Susan, who has supported him throughout his career, from his active duty tour, transitioning to the Air National Guard, and through every level of command. Together they have six children and thirteen

grandchildren.

“Susan is the reason I’ve been able to serve for going on 30 years now. Without her support and encouragement, I would have retired or separated long ago. It wasn’t easy raising 6 children and being asked to get up and move the family every couple of years, but she never wavered in her support. I am grateful to have such a wonderful spouse and partner in service to our state and nation.”

In a career spanning 30 years, Brig. Gen. Kramer worked as an Engineer, a Navigator, and Intelligence Officer before assuming several command positions. Reflecting on the ebbs and flows of passion in his career, Brig. Gen. Kramer said it was a colonel’s belief in him as a captain that reinvigorated his desire to serve as he considered exiting service after a decade.

“So I was ready to get out and this colonel said ‘hey, we’d really like to see you continue to serve and potentially in a leadership role someday, would you consider doing something else?’” Reflecting further, he stated, “And when I say I got re-blued, I really did, I got to know more about how the Air Force organizes, trains and fights and the why behind it and it gave me a new passion to serve at the next level.”

Ultimately, this career led to Brig. Gen. Kramer assuming a command role in 2016.

“From 2016 until now, I have been in command, and every one of those jobs have been great because I’ve been able to make sure that I’m developing the next generation of leaders – imparting all the operational experience I had and explain the ‘why’ behind what we’re doing.”

As the top Air Guardsman in Michigan, Brig. Gen. Kramer is using this passion for service to encourage others to join and continue their careers in the Guard. “Our nation needs an Air Guard that can answer the call, especially today when the threats across the globe are so numerous. So, my number one priority is going to be to develop our people, and that includes hiring them and developing them so they can get after these wicked problems that we have in the radius.”

Brig. Gen. Kramer assumed command of the Michigan Air National Guard on October 1, 2024.



TF 46 HOSTS KEY LEADER WORKSHOP



PEACEKEEPERS STAY READY FOR "AMERICAS WORST DAY"

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Helen Miller
46th MP Command Public Affairs

As the 46th Military Police Command, headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, continues to train and prepare for its role as the national Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) response team, its leaders know that a key element in making their mission successful is making sure that the units they command are trained and prepared as well.

The Michigan National Guard's 46th Military Police Command (Task Force 46) provides command and control to DoD service members who partner and train with civilian authorities to effectively respond to a significant incident or complex catastrophic event requiring a national effort.

The National Guard soldiers and units involved in this workshop generally spend their drill time training for what 46th MPC leadership calls, "our nation's worst day", a CBRN attack on U.S. soil. The task force consists of members from National Guard units across 12 states, the U.S. Army Reserve, and active duty. The soldiers need to be prepared to report immediately to their armories, prep their vehicles, obtain situational awareness, and travel to the disaster area. There, they work with first responders to support recovery operations. "This means that we are the part of a larger emergency response system that directly interacts with the public during a crisis, facilitating evacuations and supporting first responders on the ground by assisting with immediate needs," said Brig. Gen. Scott Hiipakka, commanding General of Task Force 46. "When a community experiences this type of crisis, we must be prepared. That includes being trained, resourced, and ready now to support our federal, state, and local partners," said Hiipakka.

This readiness includes the integration of military organizations from across the country including both Army Reserve and Army National Guard units. In an effort to build readiness, the 46th Military Police Command (MPC), also known as Task Force 46, hosted a C2CRE (Command and Control Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element) key leader workshop at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Sept 9-12, 2024.

"The biggest benefit of this workshop is to ensure mission success and task force readiness with the added benefit of building and strengthening partnerships," said COL Russel Harden, Chief of Staff, 46th MPC.

"The relationships established here will pay huge dividends going forward," said Harden.

The workshop's intent was to build and strengthen individual and unit relationships across all of Task Force 46's formations, to provide command intent and guidance



for mission preparations and execution, and to establish a common understanding of standards, policies, procedures and requirements for the mission. The workshop also helped assess overall unit and deployment readiness and identify opportunities to improve readiness with the CBRN Response Enterprise (CRE).

"The 46th MP CMD has a variety of experienced leaders and has accomplished multiple high-level missions supporting the C2CRE-B mission. We have a focused and motivated set of downtrace units and the 2024 KLRW provides our staff the opportunity to focus our lessons learned from previous completed missions and to leverage the outgoing formations experience as we stand up a new set of units that will conduct DSCA and CBRN operations", said CSM James Taylor, Senior Enlisted Advisor for Task Force 46.

"At the KLRW, we pushed the 46th staff to ensure the oncoming formations have the resources they need and all of the future training requirements needed to accomplish their assigned tasks and provide them the support required to work with their state headquarters with their prescribed organizations, while focusing on personal and equipment readiness", said Taylor.

To read this story online [click here.](#)



CYBER BALTIC 2024

Michigan Soldiers and Airmen victorious in Estonian Cyber Competition

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Reuben Johnson 172nd Cyber Protection Team

TARTU, Estonia - Six service members from the Michigan Army National Guard & Air National Guard, led by Army Captain Josue Royer, attended the Cyber Baltic 2024 international training exercise near Tartu, Estonia this past week.

This training exercise took place over the course of 3 days, consisting of the Michigan National Guard's State Partner Latvia, as well as Estonia, Poland, Denmark, and Luxembourg. During this event, soldiers & airmen, divided amongst six teams, were trained and competed to perform tasks ranging from a live fire engagement to network penetration.

Soldiers and airmen from the various countries competed to accumulate points for their team and were recognized for their performance at the end of the exercise. Staff Sgt. Brian Stevens from the 172nd Cyber Protection Team was a member of the Michigan Army National Guard in attendance and was one of the soldiers in the winning team, attributing this to their victory: "We faced many challenges where we didn't have pre-existing knowledge of the specific topic, but we used isolated core concepts we were familiar with to piece together effective solutions. After each competition, we would discuss and share our thoughts to further improve."

Michigan National Guard soldiers and airmen had an excellent opportunity to further develop their own technical capabilities, learning how partner nations train for and conduct cyber operations, and to develop personal relationships with members of allied forces.

"This mission was of integral importance to further show our unyielding determination to stand with our European partners, letting the world know that the Michigan National Guard and the United States military is ready to respond and defend against threats from anywhere in the world," according to Staff Sergeant John Simmons, another Soldier with the 172nd Cyber Protection Team.

The Estonian-hosted exercise was a great success that enabled Michigan National Guard soldiers and airmen to learn more about how cyber warfare is relevant in conflicts in Ukraine today and how cyber warfare will become even more at the forefront in conflicts around the world.

According to Captain Royer, "the Michigan National Guard looks forward to participating in future missions with allied partners and continuing to strengthen its international relationships and further develop its own capabilities, ensuring we always remain ready to defend the State of Michigan, the United States, and our allies worldwide."



STATE ANNUAL TRAINING

STATE ANNUAL TRAINING IS A 15-DAY PERIOD WHERE SOLDIERS EXECUTE COMPLEX TRAINING TO INCREASE PROFICIENCY IN MISSION ESSENTIAL TASKS.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

This year's training wasn't just for Michigan soldiers. In a powerful display of international cooperation, Latvian Zemessardze (Latvian National Guard) soldiers joined the Michigan National Guard for joint training exercises. From horizontal construction operations to demolition and command post operations, the Latvian and Michigan soldiers worked side by side, strengthening the bonds forged through the State Partnership Program. Additionally, Angola, another state partner, collaborated extensively with the Michigan National Guard across diverse training exercises.



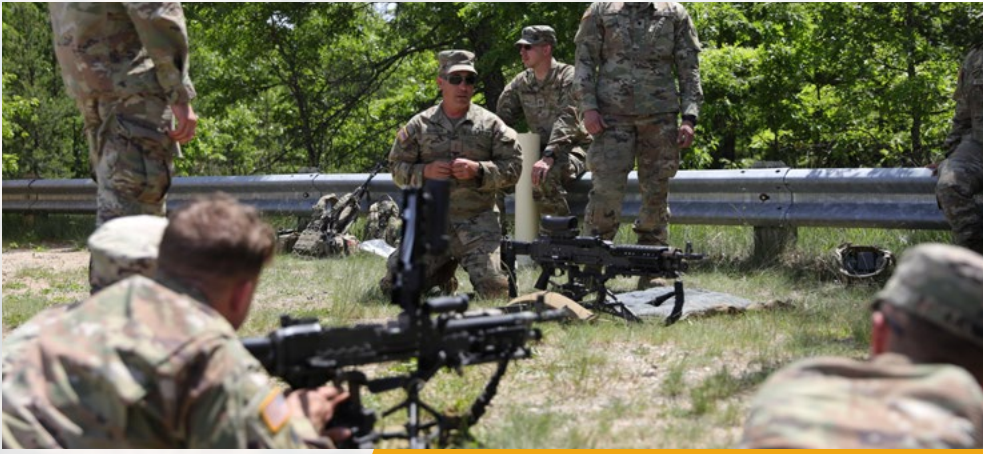
Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. John Adkins

HONORING LEGACY AND ENHANCING READINESS

Annual training is more than just physical drills and technical tasks. It's about preserving history and building camaraderie. The soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment gathered for a formation run to honor Private First Class John A. Conroy and Private George A. Laine, both members of the 125th Infantry Regiment in the early 20th century. Their graves, rediscovered during a 1950s training exercise, are a poignant reminder of the regiment's storied past. The formation run, a mix of physical exertion and solemn remembrance, reinforced the unit's commitment to preserving its legacy and maintaining readiness.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Daniel Garas



PRECISION AND POWER ON THE RANGE

Back on the training grounds, the thunderous echo of machine gun fire filled the air. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment took to the range with the M240L machine gun. The precision and discipline displayed on the range are crucial for maintaining combat readiness and effectiveness.



Photo courtesy of 126th Theatre Public Affairs Support Element

A CANVAS OF FIREPOWER

The 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment added a dramatic flair to the training with a HIMARS live fire exercise. The sky lit up as precision rockets streaked across the horizon, demonstrating the lethal capabilities of the HIMARS. The exercise showcased not only the power of modern artillery but also the expertise of the soldiers operating these advanced systems.



Photo courtesy of 126th Theatre Public Affairs Support Element

STATE ANNUAL TRAINING

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BUILDING SKILLS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Soldiers of the 507th Engineer Battalion focused on a different kind of mission—repairing and modernizing infrastructure. As they hammered nails and replaced roofs, these engineers honed their Military Occupational Specialty skills while improving the very facilities they trained in. The sight of soldiers working together, tools in hand, underscored the dual purpose of annual training: skill development and mission readiness.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Patrick Mayabb

OPENING THE USO COVERED PATIO



After nearly a year of construction, the USO reopened on June 12, 2024, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and community celebration. Volunteers from Camp Grayling and the local community painted, while Ohio National Guard members laid concrete. The pavilion now hosts events to boost troop morale and community gatherings, with upgraded interiors including new furniture and renovated facilities.

Photo courtesy of USO

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Spc. Austyn Zelinski



Spc. Zelinski, is an Army Multiple Launch Rocket System Repairer with the 182nd Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment based out of Detroit Olympia Armory. Spc. Zelinski recently returned from deployment with Alpha Battery 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, where he provided his technical expertise and experience while working with the Multiple Launch Rocket System Crewmembers to ensure equipment readiness of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

Spc. Zelinski enlisted in the MIARNG in 2018 looking for a jump start in life that provided direction, and a challenge, which is why he chose to become a 94P. When asked what he enjoyed about his Military Occupational Specialty, Spc. Zelinski stated, "It's not every day you get to come in and work on a launcher, diagnose what the issue is, and do everything you can to make sure it's fully mission capable, while also being surrounded by the knowledge, skills, and comrade the soldiers in the unit provide".

When Spc. Zelinski isn't at drill he serves as a Department of Corrections Officer at the Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer, MI which also happens to be his hometown.

Spc. Zelinski recently extended his service obligation with the 182nd Forward Support Company for 3 years with a 10K bonus. His goals moving forward are to become an NCO and continue to share his knowledge and teach others the duties of being a Multiple Launch Rocket System Repairer.



MOTOR CITY '24

Michigan Leaders Share Lessons at Joint Leadership Conference



Story by MIARNG Staff Sgt. Drake Chandler,
126 Theater Public Affairs Support Element

DETROIT – The U.S. military is a volunteer force and builds its next generation of leaders from the inside. Professional development is an essential directive for ensuring future leaders learn, absorb, and apply the lessons they endure through their careers. Motor City '24, a series of professional development conferences scheduled back-to-back in Detroit, Michigan, is bringing military leaders together from across the country to ensure this standard is met.

The Michigan National Guard Joint Leadership Conference started this past week as part of Motor City '24. Motor City '24 is a series of events which include the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States General Convention, the Michigan National Guard Joint Enlisted Leadership Conference, the National Guard Association of the United States General Convention, and the MING Joint Leadership Conference.

The JLC gives soldiers and airmen the opportunity to gain knowledge from senior military leaders at guest speaker panels, command insight presentations, and leadership development sessions. Guest speakers at this year's JLC included U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers,

Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, retired Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, former Commanding General for Installation Management, and a collection of MING leaders who presented their first-hand experience in emerging war strategy.

“I think the Joint Leadership Conference has probably been a very useful leadership conference because it's in conjunction with NGAUS and set up to talk about the future fight,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Justin Bierens, Executive Officer, 63rd Troop Command, Michigan National Guard. “[We're] starting at the highest level and walking that back through experiences [from leaders] in the state.”

Bierens stated that the opportunity to speak at JLC was a way for him and his fellow Guardsmen to tell their stories and lessons learned to a crowd of senior military leaders. He also expanded on how the lessons learned for company and field grade leadership, specifically, were given the chance to be passed on to those in the crowd it applied to.

“The change in the focus of the leadership conference is why this one is important and it sets the precedent.”



said Bierens, adding on his point of importance for company and field grade leaders to attend JLCs.

“We need to talk about the future fight, we need to learn from lessons from people who’ve had different experiences across the National Guard and we need to get this information out to more company leadership.”

-Lt. Col. Justin Bierens, Executive Officer, 63rd Troop Command, Michigan National Guard

get this information out to more company leadership.”

The Michigan National Guard hosts the Joint Leadership Conference annually to give current and future leaders access to in-person professional development opportunities to ensure the future fight has leaders ready and capable.

“It was a really powerful experience,” said Bierens, “Not only just to take a look back on what we did learn, but also to push those lessons forward and help the future leadership of the National Guard.”

“We need to talk about the future fight, we need to learn from lessons from people who’ve had different experiences across the National Guard and we need to

To learn more about Motor City ‘24 [click here.](#)

AUGMENTED REALITY TECHNOLOGY FIELD TESTED AT EXERCISE NORTHERN STRIKE

Story by Master Sgt. Timothy Chacon
194th Wing Public Affairs

The future has arrived and is on display in Oscoda, Michigan during Exercise Northern Strike 24-2. The Air Force Research Laboratory tested virtual and augmented reality technology on aircraft refueling operations here on Aug. 8, 2024.

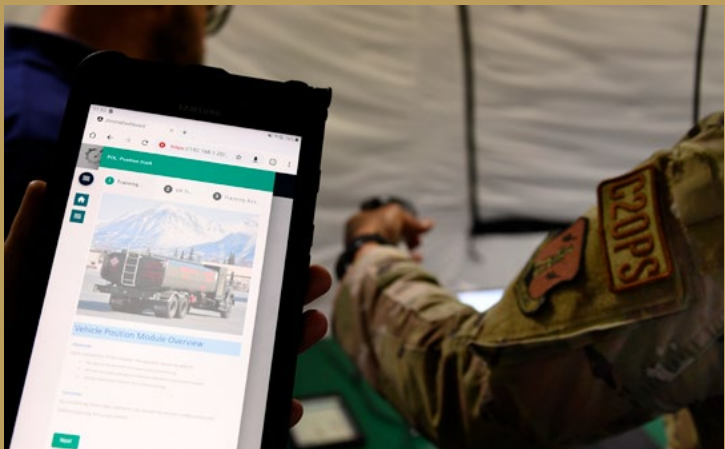
U.S. Air National Guardsmen with the 123rd Contingency Response Group and 123rd Contingency Response Squadron from Ken-

tucky, and the 156th Contingency Response Squadron from Puerto Rico, utilized the AFRL's technology to take untrained personnel and in less than an hour train them to refuel a KC-135 Stratotanker.

The Just In Time Multi Mission Airmen/Warfighters programmers take the requirements needed for a task, assess the skill level of the airmen performing the task and

determine the optimal level of training to start the process based on their existing experience.

"Assuming they don't have experience doing refueling, which is our first use case, they start with [re-viewing] a tablet to see what their training requirements are. [They] go through the modules with PDFs, videos and virtual reality where they will see what it is they will be



doing on site,” said Dr. Samantha Perry, a technical contractor for AFRL. “After they complete this training, which takes approximately 30 minutes, they would then be able to augment their knowledge with one of two systems. One using a mixed reality headset — where they would have an overlay of the environment they would be engaging in — or a different augmented reality which is a head set that would have a check list to look at over time. The full training time to get familiar with these tools and as well as the baseline knowledge to be needed to augment would take about 45 minutes if they hadn’t experienced this maintainer example before.”

The technology does not eliminate the need for training, but it streamlines training process for specific tasks and adds virtual real-time assistance to walk airmen through the task as they perform them.

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Adrian Mercado Argont, an air transportation journeyman with the 156th CRS, Puerto Rico Air National Guard, went through this training in Oscoda and utilized the augmented reality headset while refueling a KC-135 Stratotanker.

“My job is air transportation so they are teaching me how to work with fuels without having any experience on refueling,” said Mercado Argont. “It’s very helpful, if you’re not from a specific [career field] and you need to do another job. It was pretty easy [to learn]. Everything was very straightforward. It’s very helpful because it goes step-by-step on what you have to do. It’s

going to be really helpful for the future.”

The Just In Time Multi Mission Airmen/Warfighters program currently has Hot Pit Refueling training as an initial prototype, but there are several areas they are looking to expand the technology into.

“We have been focused on Multi Capable airmen tasks such as aircraft recovery, rearming, refueling and launching,” said Stephen McGee, JITMMA/W program lead. “The longer term vision is that this capability can support tasks in many different scenarios such as civil engineering, security forces, communications [and more].”

Taking the program out of the laboratory and into the field is elevating the technology to the next level. Putting the items in the hands of the users is a vital part of the development process. One sure way to find how well something functions or how easily it breaks is to put it through the crucible of flight line operations.

“We are gaining vital feedback from the warfighters at this exercise,” said McGee. “We plan to incorporate feedback and additional capabilities for next year’s Northern Strike exercise.”

As the U.S. military looks towards what possible engagements in the Indo-Pacific region could look like, the isolation units will face due to the region’s geography is becoming glaringly clear. Concepts like MCA and Agile Combat Employment will be vital to mission success. Innovative technologies like JIT-

MMA/W will be a force multiplier for units that are separated from subject-matter experts in critical mission sets. These technologies will make units more agile, self-reliant, capable and lethal.

“This is [technology] that you are not going to be using at home station,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jacob Harper, senior enlisted leader for the 123rd CRS. “This is something a warfighter would [be] employing overseas when you are fighting a war. This is something we would use in battle if we were not given a [trained] crew chief or petroleum, oil, and lubricants troop. This would be something you would hand to a soldier or Marine in a place we didn’t have access to the [appropriately trained] service member and [rely] on that training to accomplish the task.”

Northern Strike 24-2, one of the Department of Defense’s largest reserve component readiness exercises, is scheduled to take place at Michigan’s National All Domain Warfighting Center NADWC from August 3-17, 2024.

Over 6,300 participants from 32 states and territories and several international participants will converge at the NADWC. Northern Strike is the premier reserve component training event designed to build readiness with joint and partner forces in all domains of warfare.

“Every airmen that has been out here at this location has been great,” said Harper. “The people of Oscoda have been fantastic and supportive with everything we’re doing here. It’s been a great exercise so far and I’m looking forward to finishing up strong.”



SECURING THE HOMELAND

NORTHERN STRIKE 24-2 REPLICATES AERIAL THREATS

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Tristan Viglianco Michigan Air National Guard

Cruise missiles and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are an emerging challenge our nation's Air Force will face in the future. Northern Strike (NS) 24-2 is replicating this threat with several unique platforms designed to train various skills such as: detection, identification, destruction, and command and control (C2) in a live-fly environment.

Over the course of exercise, Aug. 3-17, Air National Guard (ANG) F-16 Fighting Falcons, from the 113th Wing, District of Columbia ANG, Joint Base Andrews, Md, and the 180th Fighter Wing (FW),

Ohio ANG, Toledo Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Ohio will train against these threats. Pilots will fly sorties out of either their home station, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) or Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport in Northern Michigan.

“One of the Air National Guard top priorities is defending the homeland. Additionally, our airmen expect to face similar challenges in overseas deployments,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Nicholas Smith, Michigan National Guard (MING), deputy J7. “Northern Strike presents unique training

opportunities to warfighters, allowing them to train for scenarios they'll unlikely encounter in their normal day to day readiness training.”

According to Smith, the exercise is spending approximately \$1 million to replicate various aerial threats, with ANG F-16s from the 122nd FW, Indiana ANG, Fort Wayne ANGB, Ind., and small microjets.

“In the past, NS has used various electronic warfare capabilities to simulate various surface threats to aircraft,” said Smith. “For the first time, NS is using a combination

of ANG aircraft that replicate cruise missile flight characteristics alongside microjets with small radar cross sections to simulate a wide variety of emerging threats, such as adversaries small UAS platforms.”

“This type of training is exactly what ANG tacticians asked for to improve unit readiness,” Smith continued. “It showcases our efforts as exercise planners to build an on-demand exercise and training events based on participant desired learning objectives.”

The F-16 pilots are tasked with securing the more than 17,000 square miles, the Michigan Airspace Complex, which is a part of the National All-Domain Warfighting Center.

“We don’t get a lot of cruise missile training, so having an entire exercise dedicated to just that is great,” said Air Force Maj Jacob, F-16 pilot with 163rd Fighter

Squadron, 122nd FW. “Having the ability to integrate with smaller platforms that are tougher for the radar to see is unique”

In addition to the fighter training, various C2 assets and North American Aerospace Defense Command’s Eastern Air Defense Sector will also be exercised by the replication events.

“By exercising our C2 and tactical level procedures for dealing with these threats, we are able to learn valuable lessons in a controlled environment,” said Smith. “This will allow us to further develop our tactics, techniques and procedures for implementation across the Air and joint force.”

This unique training is occurring during one of the National Guard’s largest exercises. This iteration will see approximately 6,300 personnel consisting of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Special Operations Forces, Coast Guard personnel

from 31 states, one commonwealth, 11 service components and five countries.

“Northern Strike 24 is a critical training exercise for our joint, interagency, and multinational partners,” said Air Force Col. Ross Evenhouse, MIANG, Air Component Director. “Integrating cruise missile and UAS defense training into the overall scenario replicates real-world threats we and our partners will face in future conflicts. This training allows us to better protect our assets and personnel and ensure our joint warfighters are ready for future challenges.”



To read this story online [click here.](#)

UNMANNED TRIPLE CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS SURVEY COURSE DURING NORTHERN STRIKE 24-2

Story by Airman 1st Class Amber Anderson
181st Intelligence Wing



The land and air site tour for prospective participants and partners involved in the Unmanned Triple Challenge was held at Camp Grayling, Michigan, Aug. 9, 2024 in conjunction with Exercise Northern Strike 24-2.

The UTC was announced by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on April 25, 2024. It is the first time the state of Michigan has conducted a state-sponsored, military technology innovation competition.

According to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Michigan is top ten in the nation for aerospace manufacturing attractiveness. The competition, which is designed to capitalize on that attractiveness, was created to help drive innovation in autonomous drone technology.

The challenge tasks competitors with using uncrewed, autonomous drones to traverse air, land and water while

transporting a ten-pound package. “There’s nothing that crosses the three domains that we know of,” said Lt. Col. Quinn Rogers, the deputy commander of Camp Grayling. “The concept is like an Iron man competition. We have a drone that can do water. We have a drone that can do air. We have drones that can do ground. Can you either put it together so all three of them can work together, or can you make one that can do all three?”

Indeed, a drone working in all three domains would impact civilian, commercial and defense industries. It would be beneficial for the transportation of goods and services in the civilian sector, the ability to deliver critical components and medicine to

isolated communities, as well as the overall execution of tactical battle strategy.

“Right now, drones and autonomy are the direction we’re seeing on the battlefield,” said Rogers. “You can make technology do the routine work that doesn’t put lives in danger. A machine can be replaced. You can save lives on the battlefield.”

The Michigan National Guard, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation are partnering on the competition melding together the military and community.

“I’m looking forward to seeing it,” said Wendy Lyngren, the chief operating officer from Anzen Unmanned, a potential participant in the competition. “Having it literally in our backyard and being able to see the end-to-end transitions will be a lot of fun and good for the economy as well.”

The competition, which is scheduled for May 2025, begins at Rogers City Quarry, goes through the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, and ends at Camp Grayling.

Northern Strike 24-2, one of the Department of Defense’s largest reserve component readiness exercises, is scheduled to take place from August 3-17, 2024. Over 6,300 participants from 32 states and territories and several international participants will converge at the NADWC. Northern Strike is the premier reserve component training event designed to build readiness with joint and partner forces in all domains of warfare.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UNMANNED TRIPLE CHALLENGE: [CLICK HERE.](#)





THE NEXT GENERATION OF

COMBAT CARE

NORTHERN STRIKE 24-2 FACILITATES ADVANCEMENTS IN FRONT LINE LOGISTICS AND COMBAT CARE

Story by Maj. Megan Breen and David Kennedy
Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

In a small grassy clearing nestled into the seemingly infinite pine forest of northern Michigan, the Commander of the 437th Medical Company Ground Ambulance watches on as his combat medics load into their ambulances and rush off to provide care after receiving a 9-Line MEDEVAC request. As the last ambulance pulls out, the mist which has soaked the field all morning turns to a heavy rain. The medics who remain on the site move into the command post tent to avoid the weather and wait for the field litter ambulances, or FLAs, to return.

As the urgency of the last 9-Line request falls away, those huddled in the tent settle back into the steadiness of command post operations. The Company is a rotational training unit in the realistic and challenging training of Northern Strike 24-2, an exercise designed, in part, to test their abilities and incorporate innovative advancements in the field of medical logistics.

Just as the steadiness of operations begins to turn to mundanity, an FLA races into the field. A slight chaos ensues as the Commander moves

outside and tries to make an initial assessment of the situation. Before the vehicle has come to full rest, the back doors swing open.

An Army Special Operations soldier, one of the Special Operations Combat Medics (SOCM) for the 2/19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Forward Support Company, jumps out of the passenger seat and moves to the rear of the vehicle to see another SOCM medic yelling, "Three casualties on board, where do you want them?" The SOCMs must readily shift plans, under the impression they have just arrived



“AUTONOMOUS AERIAL RESUPPLY WILL BE THE FUTURE OF LARGE-SCALE RESUPPLY WITHIN THE LAST TACTICAL MILE.”

at a Role II site, unaware that the Role II had relocated earlier in the day, and they were instead interacting with only a handful of remaining soldiers from the MCGA.

The casualties, two human and one “SIM MAN” advanced patient simulator, with varying injuries identifiable by their intricate moulage, are placed on top of the sand table just outside of the CP, a camouflage netting providing enough cover to keep the casualties out of the rain, which has now subsided back to a mist. After gaining an understanding of the

situation, the MCGA medics jump into action to alongside the Special Operations medical team to treat the casualties.

As the casualties are triaged, an audible buzz grows. A Tactical Resupply Vehicle 150 (TRV-150) autonomous Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) flies inbound to the helicopter landing zone just outside of the command post. The TRV-150, capable of carrying up to 150 pounds of payload, is carrying a lifesaving quantity of blood inside of the Delta Ice 2L Smart Blood Cooler, a smaller

version of the Autonomous Portable Refrigeration Unit (APRU 6L), an FDA-approved device capable of providing cooling of blood products,

“The TRV-150 lands, drops the blood, and returns to the sky as quickly as it arrived”

vaccines, and temperature-controlled medications. The APRU has been at the forward operating base (FOB) for the past several days with the Special



Forces Forward Support Company, who has been running tests and evaluating the unit's performance under austere field conditions. The TRV-150 lands, drops the blood, and returns to the sky as quickly as it arrived, the buzz of its rotors fading back into the white noise of a Michigan misty morning.

“The Autonomous Portable Refrigeration Unit (APRU 6L) was originally developed for military applications to carry blood far forward, capable of keeping blood cold for days on battery power alone,” said

Tanya Lerch of Delta Development Team. “Today, lessons learned from the military are defining pre-hospital blood programs in civilian, EMS healthcare settings. The use of drones to deliver blood to restricted or remote areas will significantly impact life-saving measures and improve patient outcomes.”

Two members of the Special Operations team move to the HLZ to retrieve the Delta Ice 2L Smart Blood Cooler, full of medical blood bags, and move back to the casualties. Upon their return to the makeshift

treatment area the SOCM begins a live blood transfusion on one of the casualty role players of a unit of whole blood drawn from that role player earlier in the week as practice for field transfusion procedures, as the other team members continue to assess and provide aid to the other two notional casualties. With the transfusion complete, and additional care provided, the casualties all begin to stabilize. In between duties typical of those living on small FOBs in the field, these Special Operations medics have been training and running drills for days on caring for all manner of



critically injured casualties they may encounter.

Along the wooded edges of the field, members of the Special Operations team not assisting with the medical care work to reinforce a secure perimeter. Having just moved to the makeshift Role II after receiving contact, and already preparing for their next mission, over the radio one of the Special Operations team members calls for an ammunition resupply. Within approximately 20 minutes, a familiar buzzing grows, and the TRV-150 reappears in the landing zone where it drops a crate of ammunition approximately two feet from the ground and again departs.

“Northern Strike was an excellent opportunity to provide quality training for the soldiers of the SFG in the realm of autonomous aerial resupply,” said Chandler Lewis, Project Portfolio Manager for Contested Logistics. “The combined unit and support teams successfully flew over 250 flights, including test flights and resupply requests, and moved over one thousand pounds of supplies to soldiers during the exercise.” Once the ammunition was secured,

an evaluator calls “ENDEX” and the urgency of the scenario falls to a sigh of collective relief from the

“The use of drones to deliver blood to restricted or remote areas will significantly impact life-saving measures and improve patient outcomes.”

— Tanya Lerch of Delta Development Team

participants. Around the terrain model-turned-patient staging bandages, remnants of clothing dyed with fake blood, empty IV bags and other medical supplies thrown about reflect the chaotic nature of the response - but this mess is also a representation of the dynamic

opportunities that the Northern Strike exercise series facilitates. Innovative solutions such as the APRU and TRV-150 are not unique to this year’s Northern Strike.

The partnership with the TRV-150 team began months before Northern Strike during the Driving Innovation in Realistic Training (DIRT) Days event at the Civil-Military Innovation Institute (CMI2) at Fort Andrew in West Virginia. “Autonomous aerial resupply will be the future of large-scale resupply within the last tactical mile,” said Lewis. “The TRV-150 platform expedites the resupply process while keeping soldiers out of harm’s way. Demonstrating this concept at a large scale, multinational training event like Northern Strike provides us with excellent information to prove the concept.”

When the patients arrived, training began, regardless of unit, status, or component, every individual on location worked diligently, implementing the new technology, and learning the critical lessons that could save lives in the future.

To read this story online [click here.](#)



MYCA

Michigan Youth Challenge Academy

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy has helped thousands of “at-promise” young adults get back on track and see their full potential since 1999.

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy offers at-risk males and females ages 15 1/2 through 18 an opportunity to graduate high school and realize positive life changes through an intensive five and a half month residential and 12-month post-residential program. In addition to academics, many other areas are developed, including leadership and followership, job skills, physical fitness, life coping skills, service to community and more, in a military-like and structured environment without distractions. The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy is a program of the National Guard and is FREE to parents. There is no obligation for youth to enter the military upon completion.



For more information: <https://www.michigan.gov/myca>

In Detroit & Freetown

Michigan and Sierra Leone Establish SPP Partnership



Story by David Kennedy
Michigan National Guard

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — “You never get a second chance to make a first impression,” the adage goes. However, since the announcement in May 2024 that Sierra Leone would partner with the Michigan National Guard (MING), there have been many first impressions between leaders across these organizations, leading to the signing of a State Partnership Program (SPP) Letter of Intent on September 12.

On August 23, at a conference center along the Detroit River, the MING hosted a meeting welcoming military representatives from Latvia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. While the MING, the Latvian National Armed Forces (LNAF), and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have previously met in the U.S. and Liberia as part of the SPP, this gathering was the first to include the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).

“It was exciting to have our three SPP partners together in Detroit,” said Brig. Gen. Scott House, deputy commander of the 46th Military Police Command. “Each partnership is unique, with different national priorities and perspectives. Our partners each add a different perspective and value to the Michigan National Guard, resulting in enduring relationships and increased capabilities for the Michigan National Guard and our partners.”

A central theme of the Detroit meeting was the importance of adaptive

strategies to address emerging security challenges, with each partner acknowledging the need for agile responses in a rapidly changing global landscape. Given Latvia’s proximity to Russia and challenges in the Sahel region, the lessons Michigan and its partners can draw from each other are extensive.

“Any time we get all of our SPP partners in the room, the discussion is fruitful,” said Brian Brace, the SPP director for MING’s African partnerships. “As we look forward to





Sierra Leone's signing ceremony in a few weeks, we wanted to ensure they had the opportunity to interface with our other partners."

Over three weeks later, on September 10, across the Atlantic a steel ramp dropped into the tidal waters off the West African coast. A man in shallow water pulled wooden planks onto the ramp, connecting the ferry to shore for the embassy vehicles to disembark. The final members of the Michigan National Guard delegation had arrived in Freetown, completing their thirty-hour journey and experiencing the sights and sounds of coastal Sierra Leone.

Despite an ocean of separation, Michigan and Sierra Leone share a common history, industry, and resources. Freetown, as the name suggests, was a beacon of hope for formerly enslaved peoples. Similarly, Michigan served as a refuge for enslaved people escaping the American South, with Detroit often being the last stop on the Underground Railroad before reaching freedom in Canada. Both regions are rich in natural resources, minerals, and timber, with cultures steeped in maritime tradition. They are connected by miners, lumbermen, and fishermen who, though they have never met, face similar dangers in pursuit of their livelihoods.

Ultimately, Michigan and Sierra Leone are bound by shared values and a commitment to peace and security.

"The RSLAF shares a common commitment, not only to the preservation of international peace and security, but also to the development, professionalization and education of its people," said Bryan D. Hunt, U.S. ambassador to Sierra Leone. "It is always my hope that professional



exchanges at all levels of our society, including among members of our armed forces, can help to reinforce these values and ensure the sustained vibrancy and resiliency of our respective democracies."

After two days together in Freetown, initial impressions gave way to budding relationships. While discussions around Sierra Leone as an SPP partner were years in the making, staff coordination and social events on September 11, followed by the signing ceremony on September 12, marked the first time many MING and RSLAF leaders met in person.

"Sierra Leone's aspiration for this SPP has spanned over five years, since our first application in 2019," said Lt. Gen. Peter Kakowou Lavahun, chief of defense staff of the RSLAF. "We are excited about forging a closer relationship with the Michigan National Guard."

Conversations between the RSLAF and MING since 2021 have resulted in a program ready for execution with minimal delay. The partners

have outlined a five-year priority plan, focusing first on leadership, staff officer and NCO development, humanitarian training, and maritime support.

"The State Partnership Program is a commitment between two equal parties to support one another and share in each other's successes and challenges," said Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard. "From our first meeting in Detroit to today, I'm inspired by the professionalism that the RSLAF has demonstrated."

This commitment and mutual recognition of professionalism underwrite the SPP's success, with Sierra Leone marking one of 21 partnerships on the African continent and one of 106 globally. As first impressions evolve into lasting relationships, this mutual respect will be the cornerstone of the partnership's success, mirroring the MING's enduring partnerships with Latvia and Liberia amid increasing security challenges in both Eastern Europe and West Africa.

ALL GUARD MARATHON TEAM

VISITS ALASKA, SHOWCASES LIFE AS A GUARD ATHLETE



Pennsylvania Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Tyler Lundquist, left, and Michigan ARNG Maj. Paul Fitzpatrick, members of the All Guard Marathon Team, cross the finish line at the “military mile” event of Anchorage Runfest, Aug. 17, 2024. The team competed in Runfest to bring awareness to the All Guard Marathon Team program and assist in state recruiting efforts while showcasing the many opportunities the National Guard has to offer (Alaska National Guard photo by Seth LaCount)

Story by Staff Sgt. Seth LaCount 134th Public Affairs Detachment
Alaska National Guard

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Twenty members of the National Guard All Guard Marathon Team visited the 49th state, Aug. 15-19, 2024, to compete in the Anchorage Runfest and promote the team’s program as part of an effort to boost recruiting across the state.

The AGMT is dedicated to promoting physical fitness, self-discipline, and esprit de corps among Air and Army National Guard members, while supporting recruiting and retention efforts in the communities where they compete.

The team members began their visit by sharing their passion and love for running with young athletes from the Eagle River High School Wolves cross country team, whose school is located just north of Anchorage.

“I think it’s important to get out at events like this to influence younger kids who aren’t really sure where they’re

going with their life yet and to really express to them how much the Guard can help,” said Sgt. First Class Marguerite Zaepfel, a runner with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. “If you want to travel more, have a rewarding part-time job and set yourself up early, these are things I wish I would have known about when I was younger.”

The runners attended the school’s Thursday practice, offering personal stories and pre-race advice to help the students prepare for their first meet of the year, which took place the following day.

“It was an amazing experience practicing with the team and hearing their stories,” said Eagle River High School junior Isabelle Limauro. “It was really cool seeing the people that they are outside of just being soldiers and seeing that they’re people like us with similar interests and hobbies.”

The next evening, Aug. 16, the team attended the cross-country meet and showed their support by cheering on athletes from four district schools. After the meet, they ran in a community fun run on the same trail, providing them an opportunity to connect with the local Eagle River community and share their experiences with a broader audience.

“Our team exists as a very dynamic recruiting tool and to be a positive influence on others,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Eaton, the National Guard competitive events coordinator. “We want to step up our game in showing the vast array of opportunities the Guard can offer people who are passionate about running and where it can take them.”

The AGMT travels nationwide to various marathons to share the story of how Guard careers and opportunities can make an impactful difference in the lives of athletes and those who have an affinity to serve. The team also aims to inspire those currently serving to continue to take care of themselves physically.

For the duration of their visit, the team sported bright, neon yellow track jackets with the National Guard logo. The eye-catching fashion created an opportunity to show off the Guard’s branding and create conversations about running with bystanders.

The team spent Aug. 17 and 18 competing in pre-race

contests and running in the 5K, half marathon, full marathon and ultra marathon races. They notably placed in the top five spots in the Military Mile event, competing against their peers from other services. Pennsylvania Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Tyler Lundquist finished 3rd overall in the full marathon.

“Finishing strong really motivates me to keep going at it,” said Lundquist, who began his running career at the age of 29. “It’s been an amazing journey on the team and being around like-minded individuals who make me better is great.”

The Nebraska Army National Guard’s Sgt. Austin Roach completed the 49K Ultra Marathon of more than 30 miles. His longest race prior to that was 13.2-mile in the half marathon.

“At mile 14, my legs seized up a little bit and I felt like I couldn’t move,” said Roach. “But after resting for a few minutes, I got back up and kept going. Quitting wasn’t an option.”

Several members of the team concluded their visit Aug. 19 by traveling back to Eagle River where the team met with the coaching staff and athletes. They presented challenge coins to the team’s best performers from the meet, team captains, and “Wolf of the Week” recipients.

“We had an amazing experience in Alaska with the community engagement piece and being able to interact with the local community,” Eaton said. “We’d like to build on that concept more going forward.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE NATIONAL GUARD
MARATHON TEAM EMAIL
allguardmarathonteam@gmail.com

2024 MING PHOTO CONTEST



1st

Staff Sgt. Ashley Corey
3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion)



2nd
Spc. Michael Schmidt
JMTC Camp Grayling Fire Department



3rd
Capt. Tim Mapley
3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion)

2024 MING PHOTO CONTEST



4th

Melaney Miller

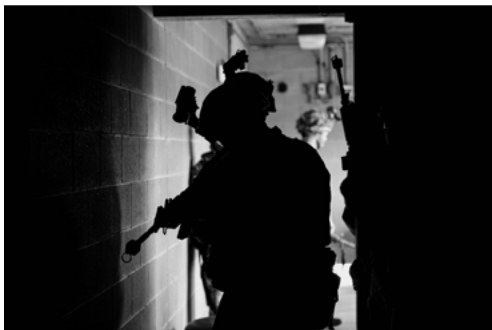
126th Michigan Army National Guard Band



5th

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Baker

1461st Transportation Company, 246th Transportation Battalion



6th

Robert Griffith

Civilian Media Embed



7th

Sgt. 1st Class Alan Mills

1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment



8th

Capt. Tim Mapley

3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion)



9th

Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Cherry

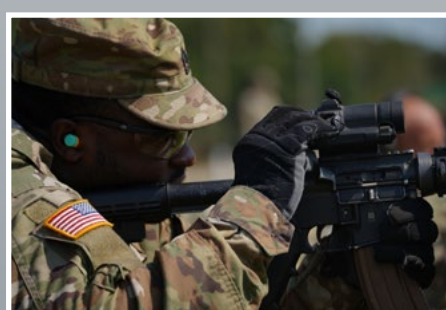
Michigan Army National Guard Medical Detachment



10th

Capt. Torsten Spalkhaver

Tactical Air Wing 51
German Bundeswehr



11th

Sgt. Veronica Cornejo

Michigan Army National Guard Recruiting Retention Battalion



12th

Sgt. Matthew Smith

3rd Battalion 126th Infantry Regiment



MVAA

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

TODD BUTLER - Deputy Director



In July, Todd Butler accepted the deputy director position with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). Butler oversees a range of critical responsibilities within MVAA to support

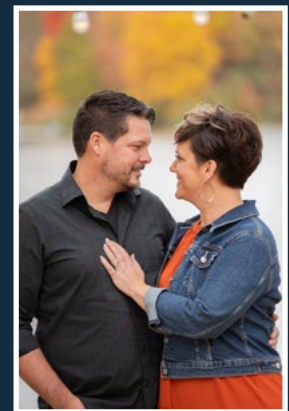
service members, veterans and their families by directing the Strategic Outreach and Internal Operations and Memorial Affairs divisions of MVAA. He also manages the agency's budget and data operations, the agency's organizational structure and staff and outside partnership relations.

Butler served four years on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps as a mortar man, and nearly 10 years in the Michigan Army National Guard, including three years in the Active Guard & Reserve program where he served as a Company Commander of a Forward Support Company and later as the Company Commander in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Management from Spring

Arbor University. He and his wife, Janice, of 26 years have raised two children who both joined the military after high school. Their daughter serves in the Michigan Army National Guard Active Guard & Reserve program as a flight medic with the 3/238th Aviation Battalion in Grand Ledge, Michigan. They have two grandchildren and spend most of their free time enjoying boating on Rainbow Lake or playing with their grandsons.

Butler began working with the MVAA two months after leaving the military in 2022 and says, "This is the most rewarding experience I could have ever hoped for leaving the military. My days are filled with supporting the incredible staff within the MVAA and ensuring every veteran and dependent in the state has the benefits and resources they need to thrive. There is no greater privilege for a service member than leaving the military and spending the rest of their working years dedicated to caring for those who served before us."





Find and meet with a Veteran Service Officer



There are many veteran service officers located around Michigan who can help veterans and their families connect to benefits and resources. Find one near you by visiting **Michigan.gov/VSO**.

MVAA Veteran Service Officers

(By Appointment Only)

Wayne County:

Steven Strzelecki

248-241-3472
StrzeleckiS@Michigan.gov

UM-Dearborn
Fairlane Center North
19000 Hubbard Dr. (Room 124)
Dearborn, MI 48126

Ingham County:

Rick Ochoa

517-614-1561
OchoaR1@Michigan.gov

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906

Kent County:

Austin Ramey

517-898-4720
RameyA1@Michigan.gov

Trinity Health Grand Rapids
200 Jefferson Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Alpena County:

Amber Guerrero

517-897-6954
GuerreroA3@Michigan.gov

(Location to be announced)

Marquette County:

Eric Martin

906-458-7113
MartinE19@Michigan.gov

234 W. Baraga Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855



Updated on 10/22/24

”LES TERROR

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By Adam Betz, Michigan National Guard Command Historian

“Seldom is seen such political and professional friendship as has existed since early statehood between the States of Michigan and Wisconsin. There seems no specific beginning, but it stems, in all probability, from the fact that for so many years before the development of the west that these States WERE the American west...One Brigade, composed of the 19th Indiana, and the 2nd, 6th, and 7th, Wisconsin, and the 24th Michigan had, in the Autumn of 1862, accumulated a reputation as a crack outfit and so the U.S. Army gave them the name “Iron Brigade”, the only outfit in the U.S. Army officially authorized to wear a black campaign hat instead of the regulation forage cap, as a

badge of distinction.” - “With the Barred Red Arrow”, The American Legion.

The 32nd Infantry Division, better known as the “Red Arrow Division,” carved out a remarkable legacy during World War I. It stood out as one of the most decorated American units of the war. Made up primarily of National Guard soldiers from Michigan and Wisconsin, the division earned its famous nickname for its ability to “pierce every line” it assaulted in combat. The soul of this success were the members of the Michigan National Guard (MING), whose discipline, adaptability, and leadership played a major role in the division’s achievements.

This article takes a closer look at how the military professionalism of the Michigan National Guard influenced the division’s success, with a focus on key decisions, leadership lessons, and how they learned from their mistakes under the intense pressures of World War I savagery.

FORMATION AND INITIAL CHALLENGES

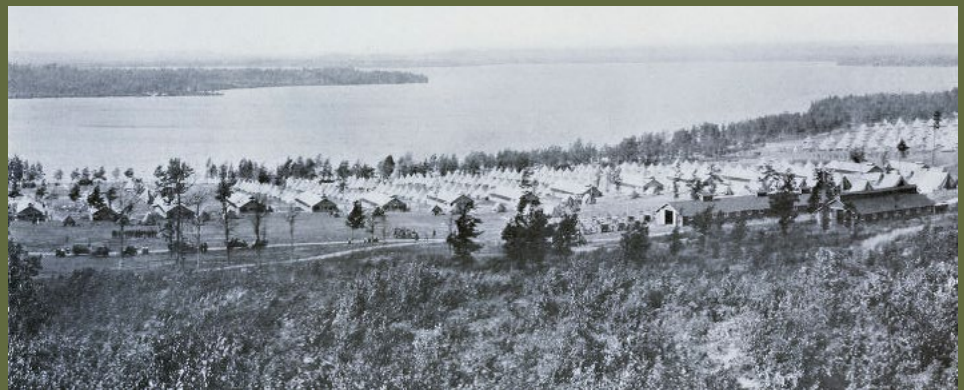
The 32nd Infantry Division came together in July 1917, shortly after the U.S. entered WWI. As previously noted, it was a smashing together of National Guard units from Michigan and Wisconsin. The 1-125 IN, 3-126 IN, 120th FAR, and

PILES”

THE 32ND INFANTRY DIVISION IN WWI



107th EN came from Michigan. But going from a state militia to part of a national fighting force wasn't an easy transition, especially as they were suddenly thrown into the unfamiliar and brutal realities of modern combined arms warfare. Challenges of cohesion, reconciling differentiating ideas on doctrine, and rebuilding an effective mission command environment lay ahead. As with their active duty counterparts, most of the officers and soldiers of the "Red Arrow" had little experience with European-style warfare. As American forces and our Allies today are challenged with new emerging domains of warfare, the American soldier in 1917 was



Mobilization of the 32nd Michigan Infantry (later 126th Infantry) at Camp Grayling, Mich., August and September 1917. Part of the 31st Michigan Infantry at extreme right.

faced with new concepts in the air, chemical, naval, communications, and psychological domains. But despite these early hurdles, Michiganders adapted rapidly to deliver hardship to America's

enemies, just as they do today. Their professionalism helped them overcome early disorganization and logistical problems, turning them into effective fighting forces within just a few months.



107th Engineers Cutting wire

THE AISNE-MARNE OFFENSIVE: PROFESSIONALISM IN ACTION

The initial test for the 32nd Division came during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in July 1918. The offensive occurred in France's Champagne region between July and August 1918 and was part of the larger Second Battle of the Marne. Immediate challenges emerged—poor communication, heavy casualties, and chaotic attacks from the German Army in unfamiliar terrain, all while going up against entrenched enemy machine gun positions. The infamous Battle of Belleau Wood, which produced 9,777 American casualties, was just one of the flash points in the Aisne-Marne Offensive, in which MING soldiers took part. Michigan soldiers quickly adapted to their new environment of joint combined arms by integrating

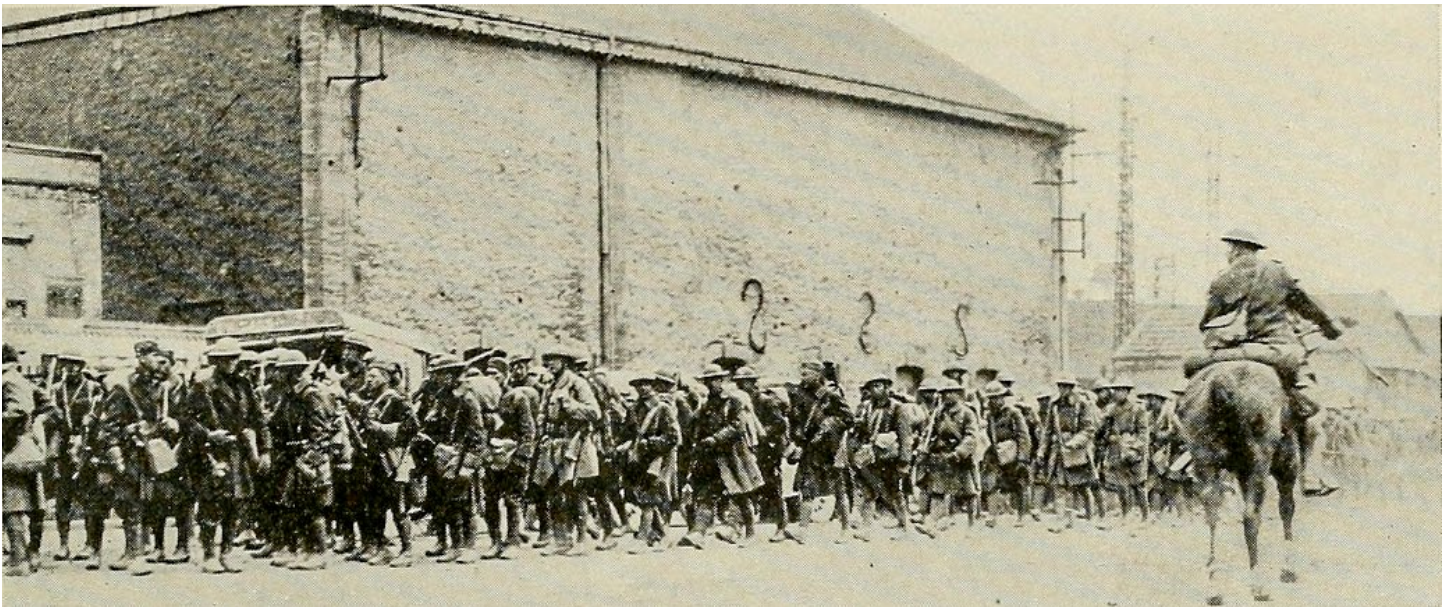
with U.S. Marines and assisting with indirect fire, often through broken and poorly deconflicted joint communications systems. The professionalism shown to work through these challenges under immense fatigue and fire is a testament to the grit and ingenuity of the MING non-commissioned and commissioned officers engaged at Belleau Wood.

Colonel Joseph Westnedge, commanding the 126th Infantry Regiment, made a crucial decision after seeing the failure of frontal assaults on German machine-gun nests. Instead of continuing these ineffective attacks, he accepted risk by pushing smaller, more coordinated unit movements backed by improved artillery support. This decision to adapt to the situation and provide an improvised combat arms technique saved lives and helped break through the German lines.

Michigan's soldiers demonstrated key aspects of military professionalism, learning from failure, staying disciplined under fire, and executing complicated strategies under extreme pressure. Their success in the Aisne-Marne Offensive gave the Allies a significant boost, helping push the Germans back and setting the stage for the war's eventual conclusion.

THE BATTLE OF THE MEUSE-ARGONNE: LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive, which began in September 1918, was one of the longest and toughest campaigns the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) faced during the war. The 32nd Division encountered some of their most difficult challenges here. In the early morning of Oct. 5, the 126th Infantry Regiment was on the front



126th Infantry arriving in the public square at Longwy, France, November 18, 1918.

line, and the 125 Infantry Regiment was on support. Brand new tools of warfare were introduced to these commands; flame troops and tanks suddenly arrived to provide additional combat-enabling support to the Michigan men. Another challenge presented itself; how does a commander integrate and employ these new combat multipliers of which he has never used or trained with? Regardless, the commanders of the 125 Infantry Regiment and 126 Infantry Regiment worked quickly to devise a plan that was successful. By Oct. 19, the 32d Division had accomplished its mission and had advanced the American line in the area of Romagne, France. Throughout the brutal conditions of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, Michigan's soldiers maintained their discipline, dexterity, and dynamic leadership capabilities. Keeping combat plans flexible and integrating new combat multipliers within their operations proved effective. The 125th and 126th Regiments endured constant artillery bombardments and the threat of chemical attacks

throughout the Meuse-Argonne offensive up until 11 November 1918, the day World War I ended. Despite the official end of the war at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, several soldiers from the 32nd Division were killed just before and after the armistice. General William Haan, Commander of the 32nd Division and newly named "Les Terribles" by their French Allies for their savageness in combat, would write a letter to his wife about the final hours of World War I combat of which Michiganders were witness to: "This morning we resumed the attack at 6:30 which we had stopped last night after dark. At 7 we received orders to stop the battle. That was some job too. We got it stopped entirely at 10:45, just 15 minutes before the armistice went into effect. One of my chaplains was killed at 10:40. Hard luck!"

THE LEGACY OF MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM

By the end of World War I, the 32nd Infantry Division had earned a reputation as one of the most

effective units in the American Expeditionary Forces. Like their predecessors of the famed "Iron Brigade" in the American Civil War, the men of the 32nd lived up to their legacy in the Great War. The contributions of the Michigan National Guard were a key part of that success, with the division participating in many of the major campaigns that shaped the war's outcome. Soldiers from the division earned over 800 individual decorations for valor, including the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre. Their story is a lasting example of the power of discipline, mission command, and adaptability in warfare. The ability to learn from mistakes, adjust tactics in real-time, and maintain a focus on the commander's intent in the most challenging circumstances continues to serve as a model for military professionalism today.



MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

COL LUCAS LANCZY

LTC STEVEN GALLO
LTC ERIC HALL
LTC ROBERT HINMAN
LTC ALEX KASHENIDER
LTC BRADLEY MARTINO
LTC JASON MITCHELL

MAJ ZACHARY BENKE
MAJ NICHOLAS FIEBKE
MAJ TREVOR KAY
MAJ BRYAN MCCOY
MAJ GEORGE OLSZEWSKI
MAJ JASON PETERSON
MAJ ANDREW TURNER

CPT GRACE GARNO
CPT ALEX LAPORTE
CPT RILEY MCMICHAEL

1LT JASON KOPP
1LT DAVID STITT

CW5 TIMOTHY MILLER

CW4 AARON CARTWRIGHT
CW4 JOSEPH HINOJOSA
CW4 DOUGLAS ISHAM

CW3 MARK GATES
CW3 JOSHUA HOISINGTON
CW3 MICHAEL MURRAY
CW3 CHRISTOPHER ROOF

CW2 DALTON HAMILTON
CW2 ALEXANDER KALLENBACH
CW2 TIMOTHY PLANT
CW2 ADAM SMART

1SG MICKEY BOST
1SG TERRY CARRICK
1SG SCOTT HERRIGAN
1SG PRESCOTT INGRAHAM
1SG KYLE JOHNSON
1SG LEILYNN MOORE
1SG ERICK NELSON
1SG JOSHUA PERK
1SG JOHN SHEEHAN

MSG TODD BISCHOFF
MSG CLINTON MARSHALL
MSG JOHN MATT
MSG MICHAEL MOORE
MSG CORY MYERS
MSG CHRISTINE PALMER
MSG ERICK SHAW
MSG CURTIS VANDERMOERE

SFC ERIK ANDERSEN
SFC JOSHUA BARNES
SFC VICTOR BERNDT
SFC LARRY BRADY
SFC JUSTIN BULIFANT
SFC DAVID BURR
SFC TRAVIS DAME
SFC JAMES DEWITT
SFC JOSHUA DUCKETT
SFC DEREK GALLEGOS
SFC ELTON GREENHOE
SFC MAUNG HAN
SFC RYAN KLINE
SFC SAMUEL KNEIBEL
SFC JONATHAN LECUREUX
SFC COLTEN LORENZ
SFC DAVID OAKES
SFC BRADLEY PLASKA
SFC DAVID RIEVES
SFC CECIL ROGERS
SFC SARAH ROJAS
SFC CHRISTOPHER RUETHER
SFC NATHAN SELLEY
SFC PAUKHAN SONGPUT
SFC CHRISTOPHER SPEIRS
SFC MARCUS STEEN
SFC DARRELL SUTTON
SFC JOHN THOMPSON
SFC RYAN TRANTHAM
SFC PHILIP WESTMAN

SSG HASAN ALABUDI
SSG ETHAN ANCIL
SSG UNIQUE BALDWINREYNOLDS
SSG BENJAMIN BASSAR
SSG GABRIEL BATES
SSG ETHAN BEDNAR
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SGT WILLIAM BALL
SGT WYATT BARRETT
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SGT MICHAEL BARTON
SGT JOSEPH BEAIR
SGT KRISTIE BEARD
SGT RAMON BEARSE
SGT ANTIONNE BEASLEY
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SGT JARED BESTEMAN
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SGT MIKAYLA BLANDING
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SGT ALEXANDER KELLOGG
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SGT TRISTAN KIPP
SGT MARC KIRN
SGT JUSTIN KLING
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SPC NICHOLAS DAUTREMONT
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MSG AARON WACKER

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A1C KEVIN NOE
A1C JOSIE VANDERMEULEN
A1C MATHICE YIPPALMER

AMN PAULESHA CLARKE
AMN JOSE GENOVEZ
AMN GISELLE QUINTANA
AMN CARA ROBISON
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AMN JOSEPH SANTIAGO
AMN DYLAN TIPKEN

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AB REUBEN CHRISTIAN
AB JADA GIBSON
AB WILLIAM GRUZWALSKI
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AIR MOBILITY COMMAND

NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

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CAPT MITCHELL SHRAUGER

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For more information regarding military retirement: <https://militarypay.defense.gov/Pay/Retirement/>

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MSG BRIAN HYLLENGREN 7/25/2024



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More than double the number of recruiters made mission in 2024 than 2023!



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