

The WOLVERINE GUARD

ISSUE 2 • 2024



- MOTOR CITY '24
- 107TH EN BN & MDNR COLLABORATION
- 182ND REDEPLOYMENT
- OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR
- MIARNG OCS GETTYSBURG STAFF RIDE
- SELFRIDGE OPEN HOUSE & AIRSHOW
- FACILITY MODERNIZATION

STRENGTHENING BONDS

Photo by MIARNG Master Sgt. Helen Miller, JFHQ

A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	SERIES: TAG TALK
04	SERIES: EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT
06	MOTOR CITY '24
08	107TH EN BN & MDNR COLLABORATION
11	MYCA CADET EXPERIENCE
14	CMSAF VISIT TO 110TH
16	182ND REDEPLOYMENT
18	OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR
21	SERIES: A MOMENT IN HISTORY
23	STATE GRANTS HELPING VETS
27	WHAT'S YOUR WHY
28	MIARNG OFFICER SYMPOSIUM
30	LIBERIAN NCO ACADEMY
32	SELFRIIDGE AIRSHOW
33	TRANSFORMING ARMORIES
35	SERIES: FROM THE FRONT LINES
37	GRAYLING DRONE SHOW
39	PROMOTIONS, RETIREMENTS, AND TAPS
45	UPCOMING EVENTS





★ TAG TALK ★

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS

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

With Spring comes sunlight, growth, and reawakening. This quarter we prioritized ‘strengthening bonds’ across all entities of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. From individual readiness to million-dollar armory renovations, we find ourselves in a season of growth and development as we continue to prepare for the abundance of remarkable events planned in 2024.

In this issue of the Wolverine Guard, we share several stories to highlight the members that are so critical to the MDMVA’s success. In February, we welcomed home members of A Battery, 182nd Field Artillery from their year-long deployment supporting Operation Spartan Shield in CENTCOM. This March we introduced the new State Command Chief of the Michigan Air National Guard, CMSgt Jenny Balabuch. This quarter, we also recognized our outstanding Airmen of the Year, hailing from both the 110th and 127th Wings.

My top priority is taking care of our members and their families – we are fortunate to have elected leaders who fiercely support this effort. We have continued facility modernization throughout the state to create inclusive, safe spaces for our active servicemembers. For our veterans, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency distributed \$2 million in state grants to over 10 different organizations within the state to combat Veteran’s homelessness.

We continue to foster transparency within our communities, sharing the Michigan National Guard mission via open houses and ‘Meet the Guard’ events. As a community-based organization, it is our responsibility to establish and bolster relationships with civic leaders and local entities. A premier example of our collaboration with local agencies is the steady cycle of construction projects by our Michigan Army National Guard Engineers at Michigan State Parks. The projects have proven to be a great conduit for team effort between the MIARNG and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, pivotal to increasing Soldier readiness while simultaneously improving the parks.

With a such an array of activities occurring in the department, it can be challenging to find time to consider where we have been and how far we have progressed. The recent addition of our Command Historian, Adam Betz, affords us an opportunity to ensure we dedicate time to reflection. Contemplating the historical events and lessons learned is key to professional development at each echelon. This year we will see an increase in professional development opportunities within Michigan, from coordinated staff ride events to leadership conferences.

To the servicemembers, families, and supporters - thank you for your dedication to strengthening this department. I am honored to serve each of you as we write the next chapters of Michigan’s history.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Rogers".

Major General
MING Adjutant General
Director DMVA

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: AIR STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. BALABUCH

Meet the first woman to be named as the Air State Command Chief for the Michigan Air National Guard.

By MIANG Capt. Cammy Alberts, JFHQ

LANSING, Mich. - The Michigan Air National Guard's new Air State Command Chief - the organization's senior enlisted leader - outlined how she will approach her new role when she moved into the position earlier this year.

"My goal in the first few months of my assignment is to listen and learn from our Airmen and from my leadership team," said Chief Master Sgt. Jenny Balabuch, who is in her 30th year of military service.

"It's really important to me that I know, not just the intent of my leadership, but also I know the names and faces of our Michigan Airmen and they know mine."





Courtesy Photo

Air State Command Chief Balabuch is the first woman to hold the title in the Michigan Air National Guard. However, she doesn't want that to be her legacy.

Balabuch is the first woman in the Michigan Air National Guard to have held the title of Air State Command Chief. However, she doesn't want that to be her legacy.

"I actually had to fact check that when I was initially told I was the first," said Balabuch. "Being a woman, or being the 'first' is just not something that I even think about. My focus is on my job and how I can better the Michigan ANG."

Balabuch said that her goal is to connect with each Airman and get to know them on a personal level. One of the keys to achieving this is through the implementation of the Ask the Chief initiative.

"I want to make it as streamlined and simple as possible for Airmen at all levels to communicate their needs to their chain of command," said Balabuch. "By using the QR code, Airmen can connect with me directly and the barriers to addressing concerns can be significantly reduced."

Balabuch replaces Chief Master Sgt. Trevor Slater, who held the post for 11 years prior to his retirement in April. ●



ASK THE CHIEF!

A banner image showing the Detroit skyline with the text "MOTOR CITY 2024" in large, blue, stylized letters. The letters have a slight 3D effect with a yellowish-green shadow. The background is a photograph of the Detroit skyline across a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a reflection on the water.

MOTOR CITY 2024

By MIARNG 2nd. Lt. Paige Bodine, 126 TPASE

Motor City Conferences: Empowering National Guard Members to Break Barriers

LANSING, Mich. - Juggling one's National Guard responsibilities alongside a civilian career, family obligations and other commitments can be challenging, as any Guard member will attest. At times, it can seem daunting for Guardsmen to prioritize their well-being and personal development amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

However, the Michigan National Guard is teaming up with other government and civilian agencies to help Guardsmen better cope with those and other issues during [Motor City 2024](#). The event is a group of four conferences that will be held back-to-back at [Huntington Place](#) in Detroit from Aug. 17-27.

Motor City 2024 is an umbrella term for the four conferences.

They include:

- [Enlisted Association of the National Guard \(EANGUS\)](#) (Aug. 17-21).
- MING Joint Enlisted Professional Development Event (Aug. 18-20).
- [National Guard Association of the United States \(NGAUS\)](#), (Aug. 22-27).
- MING Leadership Conference (Aug. 24-25).

Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, the Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, referred to Motor City 2024 as transformative. The conferences will include various professional development workshops, discussions about the National Guard's future and social events. In addition, the conferences are aimed at bolstering military and civilian partnerships, and showcasing the city of Detroit's resurgence as a technology hub.

The event is expected to attract thousands of guests from across the country, including dignitaries and some elected officials. Company-grade officers and enlisted service members can attend for free, while field grade leaders will be charged at reduced rates.

This initiative, supported by the Michigan National Guard, the state legislature, and local sponsors, offers a rare chance for soldiers to invest in their professional development without financial constraints, Rogers said.

"These conferences are all-consuming," he said, referring to the sheer effort and dedication required to orchestrate events of this scale. "It takes an incredible amount of volunteers, fundraising and partners to give these outstanding professional development opportunities to soldiers across the United States."

The conferences, particularly EANGUS and NGAUS, are an immersive experience where guardsmen from across the nation will converge in the vibrant heart of Detroit, a city full of energy and possibility.

"These are not run-of-the-mill conferences — they are transformative experiences that promise to reignite attendees' passion for service, fuel ambitions and create lifetime connections," Rogers said.

Building camaraderie, investing in personal development and embracing ample networking opportunities are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the benefits of attending the upcoming conferences.



Richie Sands, president of the [National Guard Association of Michigan](#) (NGAM), is leading the charge in organizing the national conferences. He highlighted the convergence of the NGAUS and EANGUS conferences as a watershed moment.

"Bringing together these two powerhouses amplifies the event's impact," he said. "It's a rare opportunity for Guardsmen to come together, share insights, and shape the future of our organization."

[Detroit's](#) storied past and promising future makes the city the perfect backdrop for such a historic occasion, Sands said.

"Detroit's resurgence mirrors our commitment to progress," he said. "It's a city on the rise, teeming with innovation and opportunity."

Rogers, upon contemplating the conference's location, expressed similar thoughts regarding the paramount importance of representing the conference in Michigan.

"The rejuvenation, constant improvement and revival of the city and neighborhoods are truly impactful," the general said. "As I travel the country and the world, I see that people do not truly know the heart of Detroit. This is our opportunity to show them an amazing, vibrant and exciting city."

In addition to exploring Detroit, these conferences aim to engage every soldier in authentic dialogues with leadership within the Guard. They include packed schedules of workshops, networking sessions and keynote addresses led by industry and military leaders.

This environment is all about mentoring and coaching. Sometimes, we lose sight of that within our organization," Rogers said. "We aim to empower junior leaders to shape and guide the future of our association."

Additionally, the conferences highlight the importance of partnering with industries and involving civilian leaders. Civilian community leaders will play a key role in the events, showcasing products and services tailored for military members. Michigan-based brands will be prominently featured, aiming to reshape perceptions and showcase the state's contributions.

"We're home to numerous global brands here in Michigan, spanning from cereals to automobiles. It's an opportunity to truly showcase Michigan's identity," Rogers said, underlining the chance for local businesses to engage on the national stage during the upcoming conferences.

Building camaraderie, investing in personal development and embracing ample networking opportunities are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the benefits of attending the upcoming conferences. Soldiers, Airmen, their spouses and veterans alike can all seize the chance to participate in the [NGAUS](#) and [EANGUS](#) conferences. With these momentous national conferences happening right in the Michigan Guards' backyard, it's an incredible opportunity not to be missed.

"In reality, we belong to an extraordinary profession," Rogers said. "It's imperative to educate ourselves within our field continuously, and we need more passionate professionals to engage actively. Participating in these conferences is a significant step towards that goal."

MING PARTNERS WITH MDNR TO IMPROVE STATE PARKS: IRT PROGRAM

By MIARNG Capt. Trevor Kay, 107th EN BN
and MIANG Capt. Cammy Alberts, JFHQ

MARQUETTE, Mich. —The spirit of collaboration echoes through the woodlands and shores of Michigan's upper peninsula as the 107th Engineer Battalion (107th EN BN) of the Michigan Army National Guard joins forces with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to embark on an ambitious journey of state park improvement projects. This initiative is slated to commence in the spring of 2024, with the facilitation of the Department of Defense (DoD). The primary objectives are twofold: to elevate the quality of state park facilities and concurrently enhance the mission readiness of the Guard.

In the serene landscapes of northern Michigan, Engineer Soldiers stand ready to lend their expertise to the construction and repair of infrastructure at Craig Lake State Park, nestled near Craig Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Beyond the immediate benefits of these projects lies an additional layer of purpose – an avenue for skills training known as Innovative Readiness Training (IRT). As these soldiers engage in construction endeavors, they simultaneously fortify their proficiency in the intricate art of construction, ensuring a robust skill set for future challenges.

The 1430th Engineer Company (1430th EN CO), based in Traverse City, gears up for a transformative year in 2024. Collaborating with the Michigan DNR, the engineering Soldiers are slated to undertake more than eight construction projects at Wilderness State Park, located near Carp Lake in Michigan's

Northern Lower Peninsula. Four of these projects carry a specific request to enhance camping accessibility for visitors with disabilities, aligning seamlessly with the vision set forth by Governor Gretchen Whitmer's 2021 park improvement initiative.



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Adjutant General for the Michigan National Guard, recognizing the significant strides in collaboration, expressed, “The collaboration between the MIARNG and the DNR is a significant step towards enhancing our state parks and facilities so that all Michiganders are able to enjoy the beauty of our great state. This joint effort is a cost-saving benefit that utilizes the skills and resources available. These improvements not only benefit the state parks but also provide our Soldiers with valuable training opportunities to sharpen their skills and contribute to the well-being of the public.”

“The National Guard is the only Army service component that allows you to live and serve in your local community; that is why our Soldiers join.”

The soldiers of the 1430th EN CO, equipped with expertise in carpentry, masonry, electrical work, and plumbing, are poised to execute critical repairs to rustic cabins, usher in updates to park infrastructure, and pave the way for the installation of the DNR Gaylord District’s inaugural Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant playground at a state park of this size and scope.

Rogers, commends the collaborative spirit, stating, “Our collaboration with the Michigan DNR exemplifies the National Guard’s commitment to serving our communities. The utilization of our skilled engineering Soldiers from the Michigan-based 107th Engineer Battalion not only contributes to the vital repair of state park infrastructure but also allows our Soldiers to enhance and maintain their skills and proficiency, ensuring our readiness for any mission.”

For over two decades, the Michigan National Guard has fostered a robust and positive collaboration with the DNR, exemplifying a longstanding partnership rooted in mutual benefit. This enduring relationship has provided the National Guard with invaluable opportunities to utilize state lands for essential training. The DNR’s willingness to support and facilitate these training initiatives reflects a shared commitment to ensuring the readiness and preparedness of the Michigan National Guard. This collaborative history underscores the effective synergy between military training needs and the responsible use of state resources, resulting in a positive and constructive relationship that has endured for more than 20 years.

In a continuation of this legacy, the MIARNG engineers have recently engaged in an innovative collaboration with the Michigan DNR through the IRT program. Launched in 2020, this innovative IRT partnership evolved when the DNR approached the MIARNG, seeking the expertise of its engineers to assist in critical projects. These projects span a range of essential tasks, including the repair of state parks, roads, water breaks on lakes, and the restoration of cabins. The IRT program, a joint effort leveraging military services and community resources, underscores the MIARNG’s commitment to enhancing value and cost savings in tandem with supporting American communities. As the MIARNG’s engineers contribute their skills, manpower, and equipment to these projects, the IRT collaboration exemplifies the National Guard’s dedication to producing mission-ready forces while providing key services for the betterment of communities.

As a testament to the impact of this collaboration, the 107th EN BN IRT initiative, as of 2023, has resulted in saving the state of Michigan an estimated \$1.8 million in labor costs. These savings, though quantifiable, are but a glimpse of the immeasurable value generated in terms of readiness, skill enhancement, and community support.

Not confined to a single locale, the commitment extends westward as the 1432nd Engineer Company (1432nd EN CO), stationed in Kingsford and Gladstone, joins the partnership. Their mission is to assist the Western UP District of the DNR with a range of improvement projects. These endeavors include the meticulous restoration of historic cabins at Craig Lake, a park favorite since 1954, and the rehabilitation of parking areas at over nine locations across Marquette and Baraga counties. The scope of their efforts spans six individual boating access sites, strategically situated between Negaunee and Champion, aiming to enhance access roads leading to Craig Lake State Park and Van Riper State Park.

Ron Olson, the chief of Parks and Recreation for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, expounded on the beneficial relationship between the MIARNG and the DNR. “The DNR Parks and Recreation Division is excited to continue our successful partnership with the Michigan National Guard to improve state parks, trails, and boating access sites. This collaboration has helped usher along much-needed enhancements, while providing valuable training for the MIARNG.”

Olson continued, “The partnership with the Michigan National Guard marks a meaningful collaboration that enhances the visitor experience. It also reflects our shared commitment to serving the public.”

The MIARNG Soldiers adeptly leverage the state park improvement initiative to acquire invaluable construction and repair training through IRT projects. This training, a linchpin in the battalion’s deployment readiness, has left an indelible mark on their capabilities. In 2023, the battalion headquarters showcased their engineering and construction prowess while deployed to six countries throughout the U.S. Central Command, demonstrating the far-reaching impact of their training.

Maj. Matthew Brolsma, commander of the 107th EN BN, underscores the significance of the IRT program, stating, “The construction management opportunities presented by the DNR through IRT were truly invaluable to develop our staff prior to deployment. The ability to plan, resource, and execute projects here in Michigan refined our team’s critical skills required for engineer mission accomplishment across Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, as well as for future operations.”

As the IRT portion of the partnership with the DNR enters its fourth year, the MIARNG remains steadfast in delivering tangible assets to the state’s public spaces while concurrently building essential training readiness. Lt. Col. Lucas Lanczy, the brigade commander of the 177th Military Police Brigade and a resident of L’Anse, MI, reflects on the unique role of the National Guard, stating, “The National Guard is the only Army service component that allows you to live and serve in your local community; that is why our Soldiers join. What our engineers have accomplished with their DNR state parks partnership is a clear example of what we can do to support our state. Providing professional quality improvements in and around our hometowns while conducting Army training requirements is exactly what our focus continues to be. This project not only enhances our community but also provides invaluable training opportunities for our soldiers to hone their skills.”



The National Guard IRT program acts as a conduit, channeling military expertise to address critical projects identified by communities, providing invaluable training opportunities for service members while fulfilling essential community needs. ●

[Background on Innovative Readiness Training \(IRT\) Program: Click HERE](#)



Transforming Lives at MYCA: A Cadet's Perspective on Growth, Challenges, and the Quest for Understanding.

Story by MYCA Cadet Chelsea Peterman

Cadet Chelsea Peterman is giving us the lowdown on what it's like to be a cadet at the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA). She's been chatting with her fellow cadets about their dreams, the tough stuff they face, and how they're changing for the better. They're not just kids anymore – they're becoming adults, figuring out life, and learning that every choice they make matters. It's not easy, but they're determined to grow and do better. This article is all about their grit, their journey, and their hope that their folks back home will get it.



Courtesy photo

As a cadet at the MYCA, I've had numerous conversations with my fellow cadets about what we wish we could communicate to our parents and guardians. We all have high hopes and expectations for when we leave and return home. Our biggest wish is for you to be proud of us. Each one of us is making significant and genuine changes while at the MYCA. We are learning to be independent, but we also need your positive guidance. Some of us will be 16, 17, 18, or even 19 when we leave, and we are not just kids anymore. We are maturing into independent young adults, learning to change our thought patterns and behaviors. We understand that our thoughts have a significant impact on our actions and that every action we take has consequences, whether good or bad. We are learning to be mindful of this relationship between our thoughts and actions, so we can take control of our lives and make positive changes that benefit ourselves and those around us. We take responsibility for our choices and actions and use them as learning opportunities to grow and improve as individuals. We need your support and encouragement to continue making positive choices. We hope that you acknowledge our progress and appreciate how far we've come.

One common thought that has come up between cadets is the feeling that their parents and guardians do not understand how tough it is to survive, let alone thrive, in today's world. The phrase "Well back in my day..." is often used by adults around us, but it fails to acknowledge the significant changes that have occurred over time. High school is no longer just about academic achievement. It is now more about social status and popularity, with pressure coming not only from teachers and adults but also from peers. Even at the MYCA, similar dynamics play out, except that the competition is not about who is wearing what or who looks the best because we all have the same clothes and hairstyles, but who is bigger and better than the next? Outside of here and school, we struggle with finding others who may connect with us whether at work, church or clubs. Many cadets have said that they wished that parents and guardians recognized that the world has changed significantly and that we face a different set of challenges today than they did in the past. By acknowledging and understanding these challenges, parents and guardians can better support us and guide us cadets as we navigate the complexities of the modern world.

The path to self-improvement is never an easy one, and the same holds for the cadets who are currently striving to better themselves. Every day presents a new challenge, and every day they must find the discipline within themselves to face it head-on. Through the process, they learn the invaluable skills of adaptability and perseverance, which will serve them well in the real world. At the same time, the cadets are also learning to work together, regardless of their differences, which is a skill that will serve them well in all aspects of their lives. However, this is not always easy, and the cadets must learn to navigate the stressful environment in which they find themselves. For many, the high level of structure and discipline can be a challenge, particularly when it comes to things like making time-hacks and meeting standards. Some cadets struggle with being told what to wear, when to eat, and how to wear their hair, because they are used to doing as they please at home. Despite these challenges, the cadets remain committed to self-improvement, and they hope that their efforts will be noticed when they eventually return home. Some cadets may come from less than ideal home environments for which they hope to improve, and they are determined to succeed in this endeavor. Although the journey is difficult and imperfect, they are determined to persist in their efforts to become their best selves. They understand that their past decisions may make it hard for others to believe in the changes they are making, but they want to assure everyone that these changes are genuine. They know that this environment is too challenging to fake anything, and they wouldn't have made it this far if they hadn't been committed to real progress. Not only are they changing themselves and their lifestyles, but they are also changing their futures for the better.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude. We are thankful for the opportunity to attend the MYCA, which has enabled us to improve and transform our lives. We are also grateful for your unwavering support and the letters that you send us. The letters we receive from you mean more to us than you could ever imagine. We appreciate your patience and understanding when we make mistakes and poor decisions. Lastly, we want to thank you for sticking with us and not giving up on us despite our struggles with self-doubt and adversity. ●

For more information on the
Michigan Youth Challenge
Academy, [click HERE](#)





MVAA: SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Updated on 2/20/2024 — Display until 1/31/2025



The **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)** is the central coordinating agency for Michigan veterans and their families, providing advocacy and connecting veterans to earned benefits. As a state agency, the MVAA is not part of the federal VA, but we work closely with the VA and other entities to serve veterans.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code with your camera app or visit **Michigan.gov/MVAA** to learn more.



No Wrong Door for Michigan Veterans

The Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center and **Michigan.gov/MVAA** support veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families as they transition through each chapter of their lives.

Callers to the Resource Service Center at **1-800-MICH-VET** (1-800-642-4838) can request their DD-214 discharge documents and get connected to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, emergency aid, housing assistance, education and employment resources and other federal and state benefits.

Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)

The MVAA employs its own VSOs and accredits VSOs throughout the state to ensure veterans have free, expert assistance in getting their earned benefits. VSOs help with claims for disability compensation, pensions, education benefits, health care and other services and resources. Find a VSO near you at **Michigan.gov/VeteranBenefitsCounselor**.

Targeted Outreach

Our Buddy to Buddy program pairs veterans with a veteran mentor to provide comradeship and support in all facets of life. Through our Veteran Connector program, organizations and businesses help us identify veterans and get them linked to benefits. Learn more at **Michigan.gov/MVAA**.

Responding to Emergency Needs

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund provides emergency financial aid to eligible veterans for temporary financial emergencies. Contact your local MVTF county committee to apply or submit an emergency assistance form available online at **Michigan.gov/MVAEEmergencyAssistance**.

Education Opportunities

MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Schools (VFS) program supports higher education institutions committed to meeting the needs of student veterans. The VFS dashboard provides detailed information about all certified universities, colleges and trade schools. Learn more at **Michigan.gov/MVAA/Education**.

Employment Opportunities

MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Employer (VFE) program supports Michigan employers in their efforts to recruit, train and retain veterans and their spouses. Learn more about the program at **Michigan.gov/VeteranFriendlyEmployers**.

Health Care and Mental Health Support

MVAA connects veterans to VA health care and mental health resources as part of its mission to prevent veteran suicide. **Veterans in crisis should call 988 and press 1** to speak confidentially with a crisis counselor.

Get personalized voter information on early voting and other topics at **Michigan.gov/VOTE**.

1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)
Michigan.gov/MVAA

LinkedIn.com/company/MIVeteran
Facebook.com/MIVeterans
Twitter.com/MIVeteran

19TH CMSAF HISTORIC FIRST VISIT TO MIANG BASE

Story by MIANG Staff Sgt. Bethany Rizor, 110th WG
Photos by MIANG Tech. Sgt. Valentina Viglianco, 110th WG

In a significant moment for the Michigan Air National Guard, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass, the highest-ranking enlisted member of the Air Force, visited one of the state's Air National Guard bases for the first time.



BATTLE CREEK, Mich. - Her visit aimed to establish a direct connection with Michigan Airmen through an all-call, seeking to understand their concerns and foster collaboration. This initiative aligned with the overarching priorities of Col. Daniel J. Kramer, the 110th Wing commander, and the 110th Wing command team, dedicated to prioritizing the well-being of Airmen and their families.

"Understanding and addressing the concerns of our Airmen is paramount, and this collaborative approach echoes our commitment to their well-being," Kramer stated. "The dedication of the entire 110th Wing towards fostering a supportive environment for Airmen and their families remains unwavering.

Airmen had the chance to ask questions during the all-call about the direction of the Air Force, seeking clarity on upcoming changes. The Chief provided valuable information transparently addressing uncertainties. The session fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose among Airmen.

"In my role as Chief Master Sgt of the Air Force, my central focus is on our people," Bass said. "There is a race for talent across our nation, and we must recruit and retain the best America has to offer. Michigan's success with a manned rate at 104% and a retention rate of 98% is remarkable and not the norm in the broader Air Force. It's a testament to effective strategies that we aim to understand and implement."

CMSAF BASS VISITS 110TH WG

“From my experience, the Guard stands out with multi-capable Airmen engaging in agile combat employment,” said Bass. “Spending time with our Guardsmen has revealed the depth of capabilities they bring to the table, showcasing their dedication and versatility in service.”

In assessing the mission, Chief Bass demonstrated a keen understanding of the base's role in national defense and its impact on the larger Air Force mission. She recognized the dedication and professionalism of the Airmen, acknowledging their vital role in upholding the nation's security.

The visit made a lasting impact on the Airmen of the Michigan Air National Guard, symbolizing recognition for their dedicated service and the Air Force's commitment to their well-being. The collaborative spirit displayed during the visit set the stage for ongoing dialogue and improvements, ensuring a brighter future for the Airmen and the mission they uphold.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to have the opportunity to not only meet but receive a coin from the Chief of the Air Force,” said Staff Sgt. Sydney Vandis. “This coin represents not just a personal achievement, but a testament to the incredible support and opportunities provided within the Air National Guard. I am grateful to be part of a community that values hard work and encourages continuous growth. This recognition fuels my commitment to excel and contribute to the mission with unwavering enthusiasm.”



MI SOLDIERS RETURN FROM OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT



Story by MIANG Capt. Cammy Alberts, JFHQ
Photos by MIARNG Master Sgt. Helen Miller, JFHQ

For almost a year, dedicated Michigan National Guard members set aside their civilian lives and careers to support U.S. national security.



LANSING, Mich. - Feb. 8 marked the homecoming of 84 Citizen-Soldiers belonging to the Michigan National Guard's Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, following their overseas deployment to Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. The unit, operating the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, supported operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve in the Central Command region.

"Today, we welcome Michiganders who served our state and nation admirably in uniform back home," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "These 84 Citizen-Soldiers are the best of us, and I am so grateful that they are coming back home right in time for a pure Michigan spring after successfully carrying out their mission. Let's keep working together to support the men and women of our National Guard and their families by having their backs every step of the way."

As the Alpha Battery Soldiers reunited with their families and friends, the battery commander, Capt. Kasey Robbins, expressed his gratitude and pride in the unit's accomplishments. "The dedication and resilience of Alpha Battery has been truly exceptional. Our Soldiers executed their mission with precision and contributed significantly to the ongoing success of operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve," said Robbins.



HIMARS is a highly mobile artillery rocket system that allows for the deployment of various munitions.

While the homecoming was a celebration, recent news of drone attacks on U.S. service members in Jordan highlighted the ongoing threats faced by military personnel in the region.

Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general for the Michigan National Guard and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, commended Alpha Battery for outstanding contributions to national security overseas.

“Alpha Battery’s accomplishments during their deployment underscore the Michigan National Guard’s commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our nation,” Rogers said. “Their dedication and proficiency in operating the HIMARS system have significantly advanced our strategic objectives in the region.” ●

First Sgt. Kaleb Vickery praised the Soldiers’ readiness and training.

“These Soldiers have demonstrated unwavering resilience and the ability to be ready at a moment’s notice,” Vickery said. “Their commitment to maintaining peak readiness is a testament to their professionalism and dedication to the mission.”

Alpha Battery, 1-182 FA, joined forces with the 3-197 Field Artillery unit, New Hampshire Army National Guard, for the deployment.

“Our Soldiers integrated seamlessly in a joint, total-force environment,” said Robbins. “We worked with active-duty and Guard members from both the Army and Air Force. The men and women from Michigan demonstrated impressive professionalism while working directly with the host nation partners and their Air Force counterparts.”

Robbins said the Alpha Battery, 1-182 FA team worked closely with the host-nation partners during training exercises using the HIMARS systems.





2024 MIANG OUTSTANDING AIRMEN of the YEAR

Our 2024 MIANG OAY state award winners, announced in April, were selected for their exceptional leadership, job performance and personal achievement, the five Airmen will spend the next year, and the rest of their Air Force careers, being distinguished representatives for the department.

AIRMAN CATEGORY

A1C Cole Alli

Unit: 127th Operations Support Squadron, 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB

Career Field: Intelligence Analyst



NCO CATEGORY

TSgt Jacob Bennette

Unit: 110th Wing, Battle Creek ANGB

Career Field: Recruiter



SNCO CATEGORY

MSgt Steve Jones

Unit: 172nd Attack Squadron, 110th Wing, Battle Creek ANGB

Career Field: Sensor Operator



HONOR GUARD CATEGORY

A1C Ethan Leary

Unit: 191st Maintenance Squadron, 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB

Career Field: Aircraft Maintenance



2024 AIR NATIONAL GUARD OUTSTANDING FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

MSgt Diana Nogiec

- 2024: Michigan ANG First Sergeant of the Year
- 2024: Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year



Unit: 110th Mission Support Group, 110th Wing, Battle Creek ANGB

Career Field: First Sergeant

- MSgt Nogiec led a team of six members authorizing a plan that allowed all special duty career fields the option to maintain minimum, career-specific qualifications within their prior Air Force Specialty Code standards. This qualification request supports sustainment and procurement of required standards to reduce the re-qualification time of skill level training back to their prior career field.
- MSgt Nogiec applied the Rapid Assessment of Threat Exposure (RATE) study, led by the ACC, into the Diamond Care initiative for the ANG 2.0 First Sergeant Development Course. She procured 300 fitness wearable devices valued at \$100k to track health statistics during their tenure and showcased a commendable commitment to enhancing resilience and quality of life among ANG First Sergeants.

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Active Duty, National Guard, and Reservists are invited to visit the USO Center at Camp Grayling this summer! Rest and recharge, grab a cold drink or a bite to eat, cool off in the AC, play video games, or enjoy regular evening programs and entertainment. Come check out our new outdoor pavilion and relax by the fire with friends!

The center will open on May 30th for the training season. Check the Camp Grayling Signal App for more information on hours and events.

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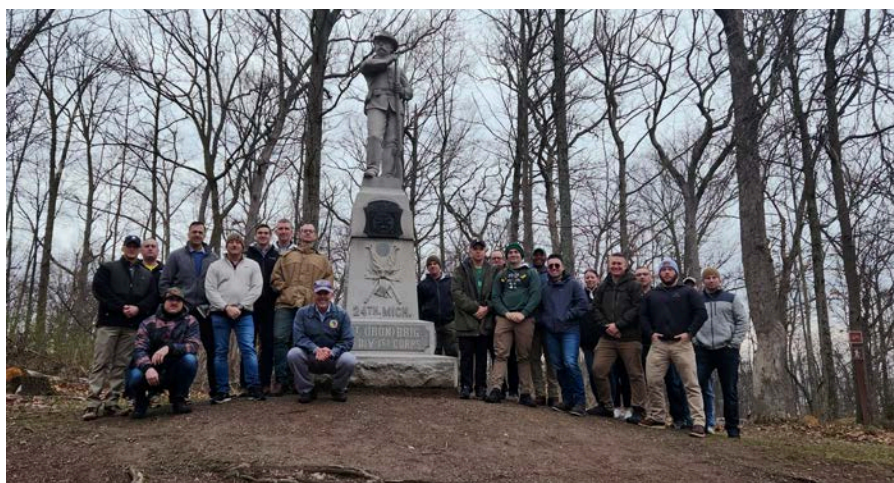


Marching Through Time: Michigan Army National Guard Officer Candidates Reflect on Leadership Lessons at Gettysburg

ADAM BETZ
MING HISTORIAN

LANSING, Mich. - As the first rays of dawn pierced through the thick blanket of mist hovering over the historic fields of Gettysburg on March 28th, the Michigan Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Class 067 embarked on a journey through time. The morning air was crisp, carrying with it whispers of the 3-day battle fought here in which 4,000 Michigan Soldiers took part; over 1,110 of those Michiganders engaged in battle became casualties, a 41% casualty rate. Against rolling Pennsylvania hills and serene countryside, the stage was set for an unforgettable military staff ride for OCS Class 067.

With a sense of reverence, the officers-to-be stepped onto the hallowed grounds where the fate of a nation had once hung in the balance. Each footfall resonated with the weight of history as they traced the footsteps of soldiers long gone. Now casting its golden hues upon the landscape, the sun illuminated battle scars still etched into the earth.



Led by U.S. Marine Corps Col (Ret.) Robert Abbott, the candidates delved into the intricacies of the Battle of Gettysburg, immersing themselves in an eight-hour engagement. The ground that was covered included McPherson (Herbst) Ridge, where the famed 24th Michigan Infantry delayed the Confederate military advance on July 1, 1863, in savage combat. Other locations included Oak Hill, the Mississippi Monument, the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield, Culps Hill, and The Angle.

At each location, the candidates discussed the many tactical and strategic leadership lessons that can only be understood while walking the terrain.

Capt. Jason Peterson, commander of MIARNG OCS, knows the benefits and importance of conducting staff rides. "This event is one of the key culminating events for the Officer Candidates. Planning and executing staff rides offer our OCS candidates a sense of the hardships that leaders just like them endured during the Civil War, and think about how things are different today," said Peterson.

"We've advanced and have the benefit of technology and improved doctrine, but if you appreciate their experiences back then, it makes you a better soldier. In fact, some of the doctrine we use today in the U.S. Army is borne right from this very battlefield."

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

The battlefield terrain, marked with memorials and plaques, offers a tangible representation of the challenges faced by the soldiers. It encourages soldiers to reflect on the importance of adaptability, leadership, and the ability to make critical decisions under intense pressure.

"Even though a lot of things have changed, it always goes back to the actions of the individual soldier and the courage they show," said Sgt. 1st Class Randall Gill, OCS instructor. "These staff rides not only benefit the officer corps, but there are also many NCO leadership examples to learn from this field."

At the Wheatfield location, the candidates stood in awe of the courage displayed by U.S. Army Col. Harrison Jeffers and his men of the 4th Michigan Infantry as they fought hand-to-hand over control of the 4th Michigan Colors, a hand-made gift from the citizens of Adrian, Mich.; the 4th's motto: "DEFEND IT".


On Cemetery Ridge, they felt the weight of responsibility borne by U.S. Army General George Meade as he made crucial decisions about where, when, and how to shift his internal lines, actions that would shape the course of history. Amidst the solemn tranquility of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, they paid homage to the 173 Michigan Soldiers buried here, their spirits forever intertwined with the soil upon which they had fought.



"Some of the most profound examples of American military leadership took place on the fields around Gettysburg," said Brig. Gen. Ravi Wagh, commander of the MIARNG. "This is an excellent opportunity for our junior leaders to learn from these lessons, and the importance of the sacrifices made here cannot be overstated to make better leaders for the Michigan Army National Guard."

Wagh amplified the importance of military staff rides, stating "these [military staff rides] allow us to glance through the lens of 1863, distilling relevance for the future ground combat leaders of the MIARNG, ensuring our readiness and resilience in the face of any challenge."

With each passing moment, the bonds of camaraderie among the candidates grew stronger, forged in the crucible of shared experience. Through the lens of history, they gained invaluable insights into leadership, strategy, and the timeless lessons of warfare. More than that, though, they came to understand the profound responsibility of donning the uniform and carrying on the pledge of an idea... an idea that all men and women are created equal through our shared Constitutional rights. ●



\$2 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS

Story by Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is distributing \$2 million in state grants to 13 nonprofit organizations that support homeless veterans and their families across Michigan.

The grants, of about \$150,000 each, will be used for a variety of initiatives intended to assist homeless veterans. These efforts include creating homes out of shipping containers in Wayne County, renovating a 19-room homeless shelter in Flint and creating a four-unit transitional housing complex in the Upper Peninsula.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the state Legislature allocated \$2 million to veteran homelessness prevention for fiscal year 2024. The governor has proposed another \$1.5 million for veteran homelessness prevention in her FY25 budget.

"Michiganders who served our state and nation in uniform deserve our respect and our support," Whitmer said. "With these grants, we are facing veterans' homelessness head-on across Michigan. From renovating a shelter in Flint to creating a transitional housing complex in the U.P., we are taking action to ensure those who put their lives on the line to keep us safe have the support they need to thrive. This is a bipartisan priority so let's keep funding it in our next balanced budget."



A recent report from the MVAA on the state of veteran homelessness says there is an "urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address the challenges faced by our veteran population." According to the Homeless Management Information System, there were 1,657 homeless veterans in Michigan in 2023, although that figure represents only those veterans who received services. The actual number of homeless veterans is likely much higher.

"Many factors can lead a veteran to become homeless, including mental health issues stemming from PTSD, addiction and a difficult transition to civilian life," said MVAA Director Brian L. Love. "To prevent veteran homelessness, it's critically important to connect veterans to the resources they need to thrive, whether that's health care, emergency assistance, education benefits or help finding and keeping a good job," Love said.



Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Here is more information on the FY24 grant recipients and how they will use the grant funding:

- 2Marines will fund phase 2 of its shipping container home initiative in Wayne County. Shipping homes are a cost-efficient and innovative approach of repurposing shipping containers into homes. Grant funding will also go toward five rental homes Washtenaw County that are tailored to the needs of veterans for transitional housing, job readiness and family support.
- Center for Higher Educational Achievement in Flint will fund the Homes for Heroes housing program, which offers stable housing and wraparound services such as mental health resources, employment assistance and legal counseling. Grant funding will be used for home renovations.
- Chelsea Hospital will use the grant for its RAVEL program, or Resources for Assisting Veterans–Emergency and Long-term, which aims to expand social services to veterans and their families.
- The Community Action Agency, which serves Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, will provide immediate relief, support services and emergency shelter in the form of hotel rooms for homeless veterans.
- Habitat for Humanity of Lapeer–Tuscola will renovate a home for one veteran family.
- Homes for Heroic Forgotten Veterans will buy an apartment building in Warren and make renovations to address the housing and supportive service needs for female veterans and their families.
- Lenawee Emergency and Affordable Housing Corp. will renovate its eight-room Reconnecting Home, a peer-run program for veterans in need of temporary housing.
- My Brother's Keeper of Genessee County will open the Rolling Hills Veterans Facility in Atlas Township, which will provide transitional housing for up to 10 homeless veterans.
- Peckham Vocational Industries Inc. will fund various support services to prevent veteran homelessness, including emergency shelter, food cards, security deposits, mortgage and rent payments.
- Project Brotherhood Resolve will use the grant for a down payment on a transitional home in Lapeer, as well as closing costs, updates to the home and four months of mortgage payments on the home. Remaining funds will provide veterans with mortgage or rent assistance.
- Renewed Communities will buy and renovate a residence in Battle Creek to house veterans and their families, and then work with them to remove barriers to create optimal well-being and self-sufficiency.
- Soldier Salvation will establish a four-unit veteran transitional complex for Houghton and Keweenaw counties in the U.P. The grant will fund six phases of the project, including deed recording, ownership transfer, electrical upgrades, building upgrades, appliances, etc.
- Zero Day will launch a veteran family empowerment housing initiative to provide immediate relief, sustainable housing and support services. Grant funding will buy a home in Battle Creek and materials such as siding, roofing, carpet and appliances. Veterans will be hired to renovate, upgrade and maintain the property. ●

AS A VETERAN, YOUR EXPERIENCE IS OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET.



PASS IT ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

The Michigan Army National Guard is seeking Veterans interested in re-joining the formation. Your experience is valued as we mentor and develop the next generation of Soldiers.

REJOIN OUR RANKS

Our team is consistently working to implement and improve comprehensive federal and state benefits for Soldiers and their families. Look over some of these benefits and contemplate whether returning to service is right for you.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

- **50K Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)**
- **Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Kicker (\$350 a month for 36 months)**
- **Federal Tuition Assistance**
- **Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) ***
- **Educational Benefits transferable to your dependents and children**
- **Tuition Grant Program**

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- **Drill Pay ***
- **10K Re-enlistment/Extension Bonus (REB)**
- **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) up to 5% matching**
- **Federal Retirement at 60 ***
- **State Retirement at 55 (after 20 years of MING service)**
- **VA Home Loans (No down payment required)**

MEDICAL BENEFITS

- **Low cost Medical and Dental Insurance (Tricare)**
- **“Wraparound” coverage for Medicare (Tricare For Life)**
- **Low cost Life Insurance (SGLI) up to 500K coverage**
- **State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) up to 260K coverage**
- **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) up to 55% of your retirement pay**

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- **Officer Candidate School (OCS)**
- **Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)**
- **Employment Opportunities (AGR, ADOS, Title 10, Title 32, Mil Tech)**
- **Change of MOS/Unit**

MINGSTAP - Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program

Up to \$14,400 per academic year and \$86,400 lifetime limit for an Undergraduate/ Bachelors degree and up to \$6,000 per academic year and \$25,200 lifetime limit for an Graduate/ Masters degree) State Law expanded eligibility so your Spouse or Child may use this benefit while you are currently serving in the MIARNG.

DRILL PAY - Monthly/Annual Income

Example: An SGT/E5 with 8 years TIS makes \$114.13/ Unit Training Assembly (UTA), 4 UTAs= \$456.52/ Month. 48 UTAs + 15 days of Annual Training (AT) = Approximately \$7,190.19/ year.

This additional income could increase with Promotions, Time In Service, and additional active orders and unit training periods.

Federal Retirement Income

Example: An Mday E7 with 20 years of service in the MIARNG, earning a minimum of 78 points per year, and a one-year deployment (roughly 2000 points) would get about \$760 /month or \$9120/year at age 60, or earlier if eligible.

Or: An Mday E6 with 20 years of service in the MIARNG, earning a minimum of 78 points per year, and a one-year deployment (roughly 2000 points) would get about \$640 /month or \$7680/year at age 60, or earlier if eligible.

**SCAN FOR
MORE
INFORMATION:**



WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

Story & Photo by
MIANG Senior Master Sgt. Dan Heaton, 127th WG

Master Sgt. Chandra Corrado wants to know your “why.”

SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich. – Now the retention manager for the 127th Wing, Corrado has spent most of her 20-plus year career with the Michigan Air National Guard serving in various capacities in the recruiting or retention offices. As the retention manager, her primary responsibility is discussing career options with 127th Wing airmen who are on the fence about continuing their military career.

“I want to know, ‘what’s your why?’” Corrado said. “Why do you want to leave the military, what are your future goals?” When people enlist, they have a ‘why.’ As you grow and move into a different phase in your life, your why changes. And a lot of times, there’s a path in the Air National Guard that can answer that why, but you may not be aware of it.”

For example, Corrado said, Airmen often do not know about educational benefits that may be available to them – or to their children.

think most people know that there are educational benefits from being in the military, but a lot of people don’t know exactly what those benefits are or how to plug in to them,” she said.

Corrado was recently joined in the retention office by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Sladdovich. The two NCOs have very different career paths. While Corrado has been in recruiting and retention almost her entire career, Sladdovich has had a more varied background. She started with an initial enlistment on active duty in the Navy.



After a break in service of more than 10 years, she enlisted in the Michigan Air National Guard, primarily seeking assistance to go back to college. She then worked on a joint assignment at state headquarters, completed a short tour working in an administrative position in England and then joined the retention office at Selfridge in 2023.

“I tell people to ask about the opportunities, to be open to it,” she said. “The Air National Guard has many different opportunities and I don’t think that people are always aware of the options that exist. Talk to your leadership, is there a different schedule that works for you or maybe it is to cross-train into a new opportunity. We have so many good people out here on the base and we need those people to continue their service.”

To help wing Airmen better understand their educational benefits, Corrado will offer a brief on Sunday of the March training drill, time to be determined.

“There are state benefits and several types of federal benefits that individuals may be eligible for. We want to help Airmen maximize their benefits,” she said.

The wing’s retention office is a component of the 127th Force Support Squadron. The office is located on the main floor of Building 304 and may be reached by calling (586) 239-4031. ●

MIARNG IGNITES LEADERSHIP GROWTH AT ANNUAL

Officer Symposium

Story by MIANG Capt. Cammy Alberts, JFHQ and
MIARNG Staff Sgt. Dustin Stewart, 126 TPASE
Photos by Staff Sgt. Dustin Stewart, 126 TPASE

The Michigan Army National Guard recently hosted its annual Officer Symposium at the Grand Ledge Armory, emphasizing leadership development. This event, crucial for ongoing officer recruiting efforts, aimed to equip current and potential Michigan Army National Guard members with essential tools and resources for becoming a commissioned officer or warrant officer.



LANSING, Mich. - This year's symposium, seeking to fill over 100 commissioned officer and warrant officer positions, reflects a year-round effort to attract and nurture talent, underscoring the organization's commitment to cultivating a leadership pipeline that remains robust and responsive.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Allen Robinson, the Michigan National Guard State Command Chief Warrant Officer and a driving force behind these initiatives, emphasized the vital role of the symposium. "Every year we try to advertise and recruit to our needs. We try to put something on every year to bring in people that meet the qualifications to have success in these programs," said Robinson.

The well-attended event gathered a diverse group of candidates from various military ranks, sharing a common interest in advancing their military careers. Senior officers provided insights into commissioning, covering aspects such as education and medical history.

Spc. Paula Shields, a soldier assigned to the 126 Theater Public Affairs Support Element out of Augusta, Mich., contemplating the next steps in her military journey, reflected on her decision to explore leadership opportunities. "I am approaching the end of my first contract, and I had to weigh out what I wanted the rest of my life to look like after, and I decided that I would like to stay in. I figured if I'm going to stay in, I want to make the most of my military career now, so I'd like to pursue leadership and see what I can gain from that experience," expressed Shields. Her sentiment echoed the aspirations of many others in the room, individuals who recognize the potential for personal and professional growth through leadership roles.

The Officer Symposium, a longstanding tradition in the Michigan Army National Guard, has contributed significantly to the success stories of numerous soldiers who have taken on commissions as officers and warrant officers. The event serves as a platform for soldiers to explore diverse military careers and speak to leaders currently serving in those roles.

Educating For Success

"This event is important because for the Soldiers in attendance, it is crucial to educate them on what opportunities are available to them so they can make the most of their time in the Michigan Army National Guard," said Maj. Malorie Stephens, officer strength manager with the Michigan Army National Guard at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Lansing, Mich. "The Officer Symposium educates soldiers on how to become an officer, what to expect as an officer, and benefits from becoming an officer. Whether they are looking for career advancement, developing leadership skills, civilian marketability, or new challenges, this event provides insight into how they can achieve those goals as commissioned officers or warrant officers. I believe educating new officers at the beginning of their career positively impacts retention later."

Stephens highlighted the importance of events like the Officer Symposium to assist the Army National Guard in boosting personnel strength numbers as well as retention of current soldiers interested in continuing their service in the Army as officers. "This event is our largest officer recruiting event of the year. [The Michigan Army National Guard] averages over 160 officer and warrant officer vacancies at any given time, which limits our units' ability to fully execute their missions and impacts the welfare of their subordinates."



Investing in Leadership Today for Tomorrow's Strength

Beyond the immediate goal of filling officer positions, the symposium reflects the broader vision of the Michigan Army National Guard —leadership development, career advancement, and creating a resilient and adaptable force. The organization's commitment to officer recruiting is not merely transactional but deeply rooted in the understanding that investing in leadership today ensures the strength and capability of the Michigan Army National Guard for years to come.

"We are also looking ahead - we are recruiting the future leaders of the Michigan Army National Guard," said Stephens. "We want to provide all interested candidates the tools to be successful with the end goal of producing a competitive officer corps that develops well-rounded, high-quality senior leaders of a strong and proud organization committed to serving the communities we live in and ready to defend our nation overseas."

As the Michigan Army National Guard continues to uphold its tradition of excellence, events like the Officer Symposium strengthens its force and enriches the lives and careers of those who choose to answer the call to leadership in service to their community and nation.



MING Partners with Armed Forces of Liberia as NCO Academy Takes Shape in West Africa

Story by MIANG Capt. Andrew Layton, JFHQ
Courtesy Photo

MONROVIA, Liberia – From Feb. 19 to March 4, 2024, instructors from the Michigan National Guard’s 177th Regional Training Institute (RTI), assigned at Fort Custer, Michigan, assessed an instructor “dry-run” event led by the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) as the West African nation edges closer to standing up its own Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy.

The instructors convened at Camp Ware, Liberia, home of the AFL’s Armed Forces Training Command (AFTC), to refine their curriculum development, administration and presentation skills. Follow-on meetings also took place at Barclay Training Center (BTC) in central Monrovia, where AFL Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Davidson Forleh, received the U.S. instructors and thanked them for their exchange of knowledge with AFL counterparts.

“You could take the instructors from the AFL right now and run a professional military education course anywhere in the world,” said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Brian Brace, State Partnership Program (SPP) desk officer for the Michigan National Guard. “The Liberian instructors are passionate, knowledgeable and invested; they believe in what they are doing.”

Michigan and Liberia have partnered for 15 years under the National Guard Bureau’s SPP for a mutually beneficial cooperation across multiple lines of effort. The AFL was completely rebuilt after a devastating civil war ended in 2003. For this “new” AFL, developing a self-sufficient NCO Academy has been a long-term goal.

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Derren Mazza, an instructor with the 177th RTI, began working with the AFL instructors in late 2022.

“From my first visit here 18 months ago, the AFL instructors have come lightyears from where they started,” Mazza said. “Even with significant challenges for resourcing and facilities, they look for solutions to effectively orchestrate a course; this is a testament to the readiness of this group to conduct a Basic Leader Course immediately.”

The AFL’s motto is “A Force for Good.” By all accounts, the Liberian military lived up to this creed during ten years of support (2013-2023) for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The AFL gained a reputation for adherence to human rights and the law of war; ideals the U.S. Government has worked hard to embed into Liberia’s military institutions. The Michigan National Guard played a role in Liberia’s Security Sector Reform through the U.S. AFRICOM-sponsored Operation Onward Liberty (OOL).

“Michigan and Liberia have come a long way together; even after 15 years, this partnership continues to show its value,” said AFL Command Sgt. Maj. Cooper Manqueh. “We thank our partners for helping us develop tools for building strong NCOs, because the NCO corps is the backbone of a strong army.”

In their meetings with AFL leadership, the 177th RTI instructors also presented several courses of action to launch the AFL’s first Basic Leader Course at Camp Ware. As the AFL’s NCO Academy gains momentum, the facility has the long-term potential to become a regional hub for enlisted professional military education in West Africa.

According to AFL 1st Sgt. Austin Doe, an AFTC instructor, the vision for the AFL’s NCO Academy is clear: “We’re refining today’s NCOs to be the leaders of tomorrow,” he said.

 [Online Story: Click HERE](#)

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SELFRIDGE ANGB ANNOUNCES 2024 AIR SHOW PLANS

Story by Penelope Carroll, 127th WG
Courtesy Photo

The Michigan National Guard's 127th Wing will host the 2024 Selfridge Open House and Air Show on base June 8 and 9. This free event is open to the public and will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich. – The event's theme is, "Innovation Focused: STEAM Driven," and will include a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics expo dedicated to enriching the audience's experience through hands-on exhibits. Notable participants include NASA's Glenn Research Center and the Air Force Research Laboratory. In addition, the art community is asked to compete in the event's commemorative military challenge coin design contest.

"We believe that STEAM education is essential for preparing our youth for the challenges of the 21st century," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Kraig Lohse, an A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft pilot assigned to the 107th Fighter Squadron, and the 2024 Selfridge Open and Air Show director. "We want to use these events as an opportunity to showcase the positive impact that STEAM can have on young people."

"We are reaching out to organizations, public and private, to solicit participation, with hopes that the event will be mutually beneficial. We are open to any and all ideas that would help us achieve our goal of inspiring young people to pursue careers in STEAM fields," said Lohse.

Aerial demonstrations include the Thunderbirds, U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, Bill Stein Airshows, Franklin's Flying Circus, A-10 Thunderbolt II, KC-135 Stratotanker, the Misty Blues parachute team, U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin, Swamp Fox and his P-51 and F-86 aircraft. In addition, there will be ground displays showcasing dozens of military vehicles, including the 127th Wing's own aircraft, U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook and numerous military ground vehicles. Activities will be available for children of all ages, with a Kids Zone and multiple bouncy houses, arts and crafts. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

The gates to the base will open to the public at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9. More information to include links to the Art Contest, chalet purchase opportunities, preferred seating options, prohibited items and more can be found at www.TeamSelfridge.com.

For updates and to learn more about the Selfridge 2024 Open House and Air Show, like and follow the 127th Wing on Facebook. ●



MIARNG ENHANCES ARMORIES THROUGH GOV. WHITMER'S TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE

Story By MIANG Capt. Cammy Alberts, JFHQ
Photo by MIANG Staff Sgt. Bethany Rizer, 110th WG



The MIARNG has completed work on nine armories across the state, upgrading the facilities to better accommodate the needs of the increasing number of female soldiers who are serving in the Guard.

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Army National Guard has completed work on nine armories across the state, upgrading the facilities to better accommodate the needs of the increasing number of female soldiers who are serving in the Guard. The work is being funded by nearly \$110 million in state and federal dollars, spearheaded by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, which will eventually pay for upgrades at a total of 33 armories.

"These upgrades represent a crucial step in ensuring our Armories are equipped to support the diverse needs of our servicewomen," said Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, director of the Michigan Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Adjutant General for the Michigan National Guard "Gov. Whitmer's investment will have a lasting impact on the readiness and well-being of our forces."

The work is being done as part of the Armory Transformation Initiative, which Whitmer has made one of her administration's priorities. The initiative combines more than \$50 million from the state and more than \$55 million from federal sources to bolster Michigan's military infrastructure. As governor, Whitmer serves as commander in chief of the combined Michigan Army and Air National Guard.

The nine completed modernized armories are in Grand Ledge, Grayling, Traverse City, Ypsilanti, Albion, Kalamazoo, Ishpeming, Gladstone, and Saginaw. Rogers noted that local contractors were utilized at each of the armory projects, ensuring quality work and bolstering local economies by investment dollars within the state.

Upgrades to the armories included renovated bathrooms, showers, and lactation rooms for women Soldiers. The enhancements were essential to provide a more conducive and inclusive environment for all service members, Rogers said.


In 2024, the initiative will target an additional seven armories for upgrades, including facilities in Big Rapids, Sault Ste Marie, Jackson, Bay City, Port Huron, Grayling, and Detroit. The total investment in these projects is budgeted at \$36 million. An additional 17 armories are scheduled for renovation over the next several years, with construction award of a total of \$25.5 million in contracts expected by 2025.

The work at the armories comes on the heels of recent expansion and upgrade work at Michigan Air National Guard facilities in Alpena County and Macomb County.

“Governor Whitmer's investment underscores Michigan's commitment to maintaining a robust and modern military infrastructure,” said State Representative Julie Rogers, member of the House Military, Veterans and Homeland Security Committee. “These efforts ensure vital facilities that meet the needs of both our service men and women are brought up to date and made available for those willing to serve. Lactation rooms, upgraded showers and locker rooms, and an increase in capacity for facilities for our service women were overdue, and I am delighted to see these improvements being made.”

The Michigan National Guard operates 40 state- and federally-owned armories throughout the state of Michigan, where Guard units conduct local training during monthly training assemblies. The state also operates three Air National Guard locations, two major Army training centers near Grayling and Battle Creek, and a state headquarters facility in Lansing.



 [Online Story: Click HERE](#)



Veterans' Employment Services

Veterans' Employment Services provides program-specific services with eligibility requirements as defined by federal law. We provide a host of intensive services to include resource information focusing on the needs of eligible veterans and spouses who are unable to obtain employment through the core services provided by Michigan Works! Service Centers along with individualized, one-on-one career services that are designed to reduce or eliminate barriers into the workforce. Read more about the services provided or watch this short video. For additional information on training and employment services available to veterans, please visit a Michigan Works! Service Center near you.

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.

FROM THE FRONT LINES:

SFC Joe Garvie: Empowering Dreams, Changing Lives

Story by MIANG Capt. Cammy Alberts, JFHQ
Courtesy photos

"It's about more than just enlistment; it's about empowering individuals to realize their full capabilities, to change their lives for the better." - Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garvie



Courtesy photo. Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garvie (upper left) at the Detroit airport with an enlistee and their family, prior to their departure for basic training. Date unknown.

LANSING, Mich. – In Michigan's Bay City/Saginaw area, there's a figure whose dedication to service and community has left an indelible mark on countless lives. Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garvie, stands out as dedicated recruiter for the Michigan Army National Guard, committed to transforming lives through service.

Since 2008, Garvie, has connected with individuals seeking military careers, guiding them towards realizing their potential. What started as a role in recruitment quickly evolved into a commitment to encouraging the goals and aspirations of others, guiding them towards a future they may not have believed possible.

"I've always believed in taking care of people," says Garvie, reflecting on his mission. "It's about more than just enlistment; it's about empowering individuals to realize their full capabilities, to change their lives for the better."

Garvie's service spans far beyond the conventional duties of a recruiter. From serving as a Platoon Sergeant to assuming the role of Cadre for the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), he has remained steadfast in his dedication to the holistic well-being of his recruits. No challenge is too great, no goal too overwhelming, as Garvie is there with each individual recruit, from the moment they enlist until their careers in the MIARNG are complete. Garvie supports his enlistees through it all and stays their strongest supporter, attending their promotion ceremonies as they progress through their fulfilling careers.

What sets Garvie apart is his unwavering commitment to community engagement. Establishing close ties with high school counselors across the region, including Saginaw Career Complex, Arthur Hill HS, Bridgeport HS, Saginaw High, and Freeland, he ensures that the pathways to opportunity are accessible to all.

Garvie's exceptional contributions have not gone unnoticed. Honored as the RRB "Recruiter of the Month" in January, February, and March of 2024, his efforts have garnered recognition at the highest levels, earning him a well-deserved trip to the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

The Measure of Success

For Garvie, the true measure of success lies in the stories of transformation he witnesses firsthand. Take Dylan, one of Garvie's recruits, for instance, a young man with a strong desire to serve but facing significant obstacles on his journey. Weighing 360 pounds when he first made contact with recruiters, Dylan's dream seemed distant, if not impossible. Undeterred, Garvie enacted a plan of support and empowerment, guiding Dylan towards healthier choices, employment opportunities, and tailored workout plans. Through perseverance and Garvie's guidance, Dylan shed an astounding 120 pounds over two years, ultimately realizing his dream of joining the Michigan Army National Guard.

Over the past 11 years as a recruiter, Garvie's has been the conduit to change many lives, assisting men and women overcome obstacles to better their lives through the MIARNG. One such example of lives changed is a high school senior named Michel. Michel grew up in an environment consumed with adversity. He was born to an inmate in the Wayne County Prison where he lived for the first few days of his life. His mother was a drug addict and was continually in and out of the prison system. Michel grew up without a stable home, and longed for stability. Michel's trusted support system at his school put him in touch with Garvie. His guidance counselors have faith that Garvie will steer Michel's future in the right direction due, in no small part, to the relationships and trust built between Garvie and the Saginaw community.

"Michel decided the ARNG was the best option for a future that's different from what he was raised," said Garvie. "His goal is to use the Michigan National Guard benefits to pay for his college and change his life."

In every success story, in every life changed, Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garvie finds fulfillment. His passion for service, his dedication to empowering others, and his unwavering commitment to community betterment make him a true embodiment of the National Guard's core values.

Garvie's impact remains strong, guiding the way for future generations in the MIARNG.



Courtesy photo. Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garvie (left) at the initial swearing in of Michel into the Michigan Army National Guard. Date unknown.

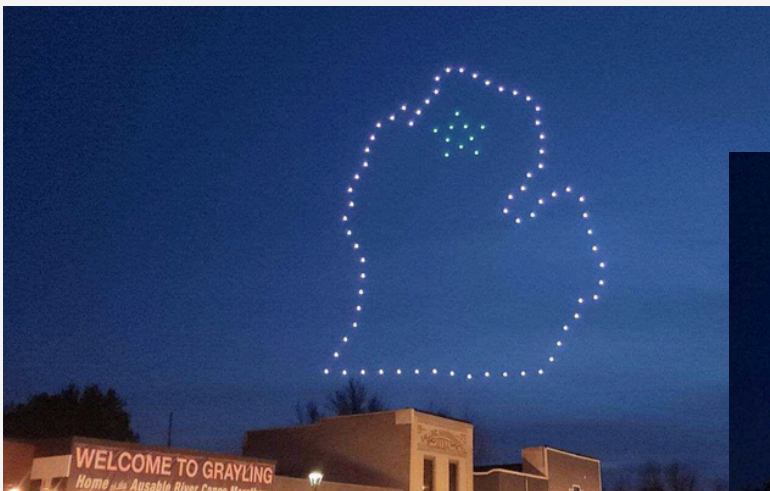


Courtesy photo. Sgt. 1st Class Joe Garvie (left) at the initial swearing in of Dylan into the Michigan Army National Guard. Date unknown.

Grayling's First Ever DRONE LIGHT SHOW

On February 7th, residents and online viewers 'looked to the sky' for the first ever drone light show over the city of Grayling

Story and photos by Jenni Caverson, CGJMTTC



GRAYLING, Mich. - Firefly Drone Shows was slated to be on post for a demonstration to share their capabilities with Col. Scott Meyers, commander of Camp Grayling. Meyers made contact with local Grayling officials and law enforcement to inquire about moving the demonstration to the downtown area for the community to enjoy. Upon approval by local officials, the Camp Grayling community relations department began to rapidly advertise the event through use of flyers and social media. The on-line advertisement campaign resulted in an overwhelming success.

"The flyer alone reached almost 40,000 people and had almost 580 shares on Facebook," said Jenni Caverson, the director of community relations for Camp Grayling. "These numbers were just from the first two days the flyer was on line!"

Caverson expressed the growing excitement for the event in the local community as well as the on-line community which watched the light show live on Facebook.

The anticipation and social media engagement continued to grow as the event neared.

The light show drew crowds of over 4,000 spectators from all over the state of Michigan to watch awe-inspiring demonstration in person.

The spectacle was also virtually viewed by thousands from all over the world on Facebook Live, garnering hundreds of likes, shares, and comments.

"The light show was a huge success," said Myers. "Even with short notice and quick turnaround planning, the show brought a ton of business to the Grayling area."

Soldiers and Airmen ask...

"WHY ISN'T MY UNIT IN THE WOLVERINE GUARD?"

Tell us about your upcoming training, deployments, state or national awards, family or community events, new facilities, new equipment, unit reorganizations, unit history, military reunions, or personnel information.

Send us your comments, articles, and information for publication to:



ng.mi.miarnng.list.pao@army.mil



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MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

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CPT ADAM DONNE
CPT FERNANDO ROSADORUIZ
CPT CHARLES WANG
CW5 MARK SNAUKO
CW3 MATTHEW DELLINGER
SGM BILLY ADRIAN
1SG KYLE JOHNSON
1SG CRYSTAL MIDDAUGH
1SG TODD OROURKE
1SG JOSHUA PERK
MSG CLINTON MARSHALL
MSG CORY MYERS
MSG CURTIS VANDERMOERE
SFC JOSEPH BAKER
SFC ROBERT BURK
SFC JAMES DEWITT
SFC JENNIFER GARRETT
SFC RODNEY HARRIS
SFC BRYSON MADDICK
SFC NICHOLAS NUNN
SFC BRYAN PARK
SFC JOSEPH PRANGER
SFC JEREMY RICKMAN
SFC NATHAN SELLEY
SFC CHRISTOPHER SPEIRS
SFC LANCE TOWERY
SSG HASAN ALABUDI
SSG TERRANCE BEAMON
SSG JAVIER CARDENASFIGUEREDO
SSG CASSADY CLEMENS
SSG GABRIEL COUTURIER
SSG MICAH DUBAS
SSG GREGORY EVANS
SSG COLE GIFFIN
SSG STEPHEN HUBBARD
SSG KEVIN KILLIPS
SSG JACQUOB LITTLEJOHN
SSG JOSEPH MAY
SSG RICHARD NOOM
SSG NICHOLAS PARRAGHI
SSG ANTONIO PEAVY
SSG MONROY POP
SSG SHAWN REEVE
SSG WILLIAM SANDERSON
SSG JEFFREY SCHROEN
SSG DUSTIN WEGENER
SSG THOMAS WEISE
SSG JASON ZIMMER
SGT CHRISTIAN ANDERSON
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SGT JONATHAN COLEGROVE
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SGT NICHOLAS DAVIE
SGT JARED DEPREKEL
SGT NICO DOMINY
SGT WADE DOTY
SGT ANDREW ELLISON
SGT CONNOR EVEN
SGT TIMOTHY FARNSWORTH
SGT PAUL GAGNIER
SGT STEPHEN GARLAND
SGT ADAM GOOD
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SGT DAKOTA GUZOWSKI
SGT RYAN HANER
SGT AUTUMN HANNINK
SGT CASYMN HARRISON
SGT DUSTIN HENNAUT
SGT JOSEPH HUTCHINSON
SGT BRANDON IDE
SGT HAILEY JACKSON
SGT ALEXANDER KELLOGG
SGT STEVEN KING
SGT JASON KIPEN
SGT NATALIYA KRASIY
SGT MEGAN LEMAIRE
SGT JASON LIVERPOOL
SGT ZACHARY LUCIAN
SGT ANDREW LYSAK
SGT CAMERON MADDISON
SGT CAITLIN MAGOLAN
SGT SALVADOR MONROY
SGT BRANDON MORROW
SGT LATISA MUCENE
SGT DIEGO MURILLO
SGT LIZET ORTEGA
SGT DEREK PENDELL
SGT KALEN PETTIS
SGT MITCHELL ROBERTS
SGT ELLIE SAUR
SGT DANIELA SCHULZ
SGT BRANDON SELL
SGT JOSHUA SHINGLES
SGT JONATHON SISSOM
SGT NOLAN SMITH

SGT AIDEN STELLEMA
SGT MICHAEL WALKER
SGT BRITTNEY WELCH
SGT DACODA WHALEN
SGT DARRYL WILLIAMS
SGT JAYLEN WILLIAMS
SGT ANDRES YERENAS
SGT BRANDON ZUPKO
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SPC MAHDI ALMOUSSAWI
SPC ABDURAHMAN ALSSIAD
SPC SHAUN BILLER
SPC ALONTEZ BLACK
SPC RICHARD BLANKENBERG
SPC NICHOLAS BLASZAK
SPC JOSHUA BOULDEN
SPC ELIJAH BROWN
SPC BRAIDEN BRYANT
SPC ALEX BULEYNEUMAR
SPC MARYJANE COBE
SPC JASON CROWE
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SPC JACKSON DOSTER
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SPC TATAYANNA EARL
SPC YOUSSEF ELTELETY
SPC COE EMENS
SPC MONTANNA ENGELHARDT
SPC RUDY ESTRADA
SPC ELIJAH FENSKE
SPC ANDREW FORE
SPC LEONARD FUNCHES
SPC LOGAN GALL
SPC JAMES GARDINI
SPC PEDRO GAYTAN
SPC ANTHANY GIBBS
SPC JERALD GIESKE
SPC HALAWAY GILMORE
SPC KHALID HASSAN
SPC KEVAUGHN HENDERSON
SPC AIDEN HENRY
SPC TAMYRA HOLLIS
SPC JANIYA JORDAN
SPC PARKER KENNEDY
SPC KYLE KENYON
SPC KATHERINE KUROWSKI
SPC CALEB LAMB
SPC MATIAS LONGORIA
SPC THOMAS MAYO
SPC NAVAII MAYS
SPC LIAM MCDONALD

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

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SPC TERRANCE MILES
SPC JOSIAH MUXLOW
SPC TANNER NEUMAN
SPC MAKENA NEWMAN
SPC JAVON OSTERHOUT
SPC KYLE PAVELCHIK
SPC RYAN PETIT
SPC LUIS PIMENTELPEREZ
SPC TYLER REDINGER
SPC MARIA RIVERA
SPC TYLER SAMPLES
SPC KAITLYN SAVAGE
SPC NIKOLAE SCHUITEMA
SPC AALIYAH SELLS
SPC JUSTIN SEVERINSKI
SPC VALENCIA SHANNON
SPC JOSEPH SILICH
SPC OLIVIA SLOCUM
SPC BROCK SOUVA
SPC DAVID SUAREZ
SPC KYLE SUSALLA
SPC CORNELIS VALLARSA
SPC ERIC VAUGHAN
SPC TAYLOR VELEZ
SPC CALVIN WALKER
SPC JEREMIAH WARD
SPC DONTAY WATTERS
SPC DANIEL WESTERVELT
SPC MICHAEL WHITE
SPC CASEE WILLIAMS
PFC BROOKE ABDULQUDDUS
PFC MUHAMMAD ABDULQUDDUS
PFC KURT ALMEIDA
PFC ANDY ANDREWS
PFC YAHIR ANICUA
PFC BENJAMIN AUSTIN
PFC MELANIE BANDACRUZ
PFC EMMANUEL BEAN
PFC WILLIAM BERGIN
PFC GABRIEL BORING
PFC JUSTIN BROWN
PFC TANNER BUWALDA
PFC ARCADIO CARR
PFC JAYVON CHATMAN
PFC COLIN COOK
PFC ZIMOREYAH CORDELL
PFC GARY CRAMER
PFC DECKLAN DAVIS
PFC BLAKE DESMIT
PFC JOHN EDWARDS
PFC ISAIAH FIELDS
PFC SHAWN FINLEY

PFC BRENNAN FOSTER
PFC CHRISTAN GALL
PFC GUSTAVO GAMINO
PFC ANASTASIA GRIFFITH
PFC HUNTER GRUGEL
PFC TYLER HARWOOD
PFC MEREDITH HEETHUIS
PFC ISAAC HENRY
PFC CASEY HILLIS
PFC LANDON JACKSON
PFC CECELIA JACUZZO
PFC NATHANIEL JEAN
PFC AARON JONES
PFC JESSE JONES
PFC ROBERT JUNCO
PFC LAUREN KEANE
PFC CHAVONNE KING
PFC KYLE KNORPP
PFC RYAN KRUCKEBERG
PFC MALIYK LANE
PFC SPENCER LEBOEUF
PFC JACOB LINDSTROM
PFC SEAN LOBDELL
PFC KYLE MACDONALD
PFC ERIC MARTINEZ
PFC MALIK MATHIEA
PFC DANIEL MATIAS-LORENZO
PFC BRANDON MCCOMAS
PFC JAMIE MCDAVID
PFC BROCK MILLER
PFC JOHN MITCHELL
PFC TIARA MORRIS
PFC KENT MOUA
PFC HALVOR MOYER
PFC LIAM NALETTE
PFC SAUL NAVARRO
PFC RYLAND NELSON
PFC AIDEN OWSLEY
PFC QUINTON PANGBORN
PFC DEJA PARKER
PFC ADDISON PARSELL
PFC KAYLA POTVIN
PFC THOMAS QUASARANO
PFC MYA RAMOS
PFC ANTONIO REYES
PFC ERIN RIGNEY
PFC PEYTON ROCKHILL
PFC FABIAN RODRIGUEZ
PFC LANDON ROUSE-BARABAS
PFC DANIEL SCHULTZ
PFC JAYDEN SCHWARTZ
PFC ELISEO SILGUERO
PFC LANAYA SIMPKINS

PFC MATTHEW SMITH
PFC SAMANTHA STERK
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PFC GARRET WARD
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PFC DYLAN WELLS
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PFC MACKENZIE WRIGHT
PFC ETHAN WYREMBELSKI
PFC JACKSON ZAMORA
PFC JUAN ZENDEJAS
PV2 LAYLA AL-AHMAR
PV2 ADAM ALARAGY
PV2 MOHAMMED ALMADANI
PV2 JUSTIN ANTOSZ
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PV2 NICHOLAS CAIN
PV2 JACOB CLEWIS
PV2 JUSTIN COFFELL
PV2 JOSHUA COLEMAN
PV2 LUKE CONKLIN
PV2 AYDEN COVEY
PV2 CONNOR DALTON
PV2 TAMARUS DARBY
PV2 SEAN DAVIS
PV2 CHARLES DEWEESE
PV2 GARRETT DISHMAN
PV2 TMYA DUDLEY
PV2 ALEXANDER EICKHOFF
PV2 MICHAYLA EISNER
PV2 RAE ELLIS
PV2 JACOB EMANS
PV2 BRIANI ESQUIVEL GORDILLO
PV2 TYLER FISCHER
PV2 CHRISTIAN GARCIA
PV2 JAYDEN GARCIA
PV2 BRAXTON GARDNER
PV2 SHAHEER GREENE MASSENBURG
PV2 DEMARIA HARRIS
PV2 JORDAN HARRIS
PV2 SKYLER HENRY
PV2 JADE IZURIETA
PV2 KATHERINE JAUREGUI
PV2 ROBERT JOHNS
PV2 KIYLA KELLEY
PV2 JACOB KIRBY
PV2 MITCHELL KRAYDICH

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

PV2 ISABELLA LAIL
PV2 GABRIELLA LAMACCHIA
PV2 DANA LANGIN
PV2 ETHAN LOCKWOOD
PV2 PETER MADDOX
PV2 ISAI MARTINEZ GUTIERREZ
PV2 MOUHAMADOU MBACKE
PV2 ISMAEL MENDEZ
PV2 TAYLOR NORMAN
PV2 CABREN NORRIS
PV2 TRISTAN OSULLIVAN
PV2 JEFFERY OWINGS
PV2 SIMON LIAM PADAYAO
PV2 NOBLE PALLETT
PV2 STEVEN PETERSON
PV2 ALIX PIPPINS
PV2 AIDEN RAY

PV2 VICTORIA REED
PV2 JOSEPH REYNOLDS
PV2 ZAHARA RODRIGUEZ
PV2 JOSHUA SCHETTLER
PV2 JAYDON SCOTT
PV2 EMMANUEL SHAKHMAYEV
PV2 KYNADE SPARKS
PV2 AUSTIN STEAD
PV2 ISABELLA STRATTON
PV2 MADALYN SUMNER
PV2 DANIEL TAKACS
PV2 JESSIE VASQUEZ
PV2 LOGAN WILLIAMS
PV2 VINCENT WILLIAMS
PV2 LILY WOLF
PV2 AMYA WORTHAM

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

Do You Know How to Get Your Veteran Service Records?



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

**Veteran military service records can be obtained at the
National Archives.**

Start your request by following this link:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

- Request Military Service Records
- Request Medical and Health Records
- Replace Lost Medals and Award

For additional assistance, contact the **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)** at **1-800-MICH-VET** and speak with a Veteran Service Officer or go to <https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa>



MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

LTC FRANK LAURENCE
MAJ CORISSA BARTON
MAJ JACQUELYN FLEMMER
MAJ BRIAN WEBB
CW5 JAMES HERUBIN
CW5 TODD MACLAREN
1SG SCOTT BOGUE
1SG THOMAS PLACHER
MSG KENNETH CRAWFORD
MSG FREDERICK FUTTER
MSG JEFFERY GRAY
MSG ARON REED
SFC JENNIFER GARRETT
SFC DARYL KUJAT
SFC DEANNA LIPPERT
SFC HOPE MOORE

SSG RICHARD FREEMAN
SSG ADAM HERR
SSG ADAM JEFFREY
SSG TYLER KNAUSS
SSG MATTHEW MCLIMANS
SSG JOSHUA NELSON
SGT AINSLEY HAAKSMA
SGT HAILEY KENWARD
SGT SENAD MURGIC
SGT DAVID RIVERA
SPC BRENDAN ADAMS
SPC CHARLES BARRONS
SPC ALEXANDER CHALABIAN
SPC SOREN HAUTER
PFC JAYSHON JONES
PV2 RORY THOMPSON

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

LT COL JASON FORD
MAJ RACHEL FINLAYSON
1ST LT GABRIEL BEECHAM
1ST LT GENEVIEVE PARSELL
2ND LT RICHARD MOORE
CMSGT KENNETH GESE
SMSGT STEVEN BALDERRAMA
SMSGT CHRISTOPHER GRANSBURY
SMSGT JAMES KOTH JR
SMSGT RYAN POMERVILLE
SMSGT CHRISTOPHER REED
MSGT ETHAN BRADLEY
MSGT COREY BRAZIL
MSGT MARK DIVNEY
MSGT MICHAEL GINZEL
MSGT JORDAN KAMINSKI
MSGT GRANT KUMFER
MSGT KYLE MARTINEZ
MSGT ALEX MILLER
MSGT ELIZABETH MUHAW
MSGT CLIFFORD PRINCE
MSGT ADAM RING
MSGT ROBERT ROBY JR.
MSGT JENNIFER SLADOVICH
MSGT ZANE STENZ
MSGT RAYMOND STIER
TSGT ISABELLA CREAGH
TSGT JEFFRY DECLERCO
TSGT COLLIN FATER
TSGT MICHAEL FITCH

TSGT MICHAEL HECK
TSGT RYAN HENDERSHOT
TSGT JACOB KLEIN
TSGT JASON MANASSERI
TSGT JOSEPH NICKELL
TSGT ZACHERY NOORDYKE
TSGT ANTHONY RENEAUD
TSGT RAUL SANCHEZ III
TSGT ADEYINKA SANUSI
TSGT BRYAN SCHERGER
TSGT PETER SEGOVIA
TSGT KYLE STOWELL
TSGT JOSIE TUROWICZ
TSGT CHRISTOPHER VANAKEN
TSGT TRISTAN VIGLIANCO
SSGT MELISSA ALIOTTA
SSGT VINCENT ANGEL
SSGT CAITLYN BAUM
SSGT JOSHUA BELUSAR
SSGT CAEL BRENNAN
SSGT BRADEN BUTKOVICH
SSGT BLAKE DEW
SSGT NICHOLAS ISHAM
SSGT CHRISTOPHER LAGINESS
SSGT NGOUNE LEE
SSGT HANNAH LOOSE
SSGT JORDAN NURMIKKO
SSGT VLADIMIR SARCEVICH
SSGT JOSHUA TUREK
SSGT SYDNEY VANDIS

SRA MADELYNN AMARA
SRA MOUSSA BA
SRA DESTIN BELGER
SRA PAIGE FITE
SRA MITCHELL GRAMS
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SRA MATTHEW HORNE
SRA ANTHONY JAIME
SRA REAGAN JONES
SRA KATHRYN KUCHARSKI
SRA JULIA MARQUARDT
SRA DONNA MILLS
SRA JOSEPH MURPHY
SRA HEATHER STALNAKER
SRA MADALYN VAN ALSTINE
SRA JOSHUA WATKO
SRA AUSTIN WIGGLESWORTH
SRA KEMANI WORD
A1C ROBELEN FONSECA
A1C HAYDN HURST
A1C DEVIN KIRCHER
A1C CHEICK KONE
A1C CASSANDRA HORNE
A1C KADIJAH RICE
A1C ALEXIS TRIPP
AMN JOSEPH COYNE
AB JACK DAVIES
AB JARED GENTHNER
AB KAELEN PHELPS

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



MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

COL CLAYTON SANDERS
LT COL STEVE CORL
LT COL JAMES HUNT
MAJ GREGORY BLAUM
MAJ ROBERT LONIEWSKY
MAJ VALERIE WARD
CAPT JACOB MAHER
SMSGT JOHN BROUGHTON
SMSGT ADAM ENGLISH
SMSGT MICHAEL KITCHELL
SMSGT MORGAN MAUL
SMSGT ROBERT PARKS

MSGT LEONARD CRULL
MSGT JEFFREY KALETA
MSGT SHAUN HOVER
MSGT RUSSELL GIBSON
MSGT JASON WALKER
MSGT JAY WEIR
TSGT RUDOLPH BOTTONE
TSGT CASEY NOWICKI
TSGT NICHOLAS WRIGHT
SSGT JOHN MCDONALD
SSGT GLEN SURRATT

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RETIRED AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES



MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD TAPS

CW4 WILLIAM WHITLOW - Oct. 19, 2023

CW4 WILLIAM SAXTON - Jan. 2, 2024

CW2 ROBERT MCCONNEL - Feb. 15, 2023

MSG KENNETH BALDWIN - Oct. 19, 2023

SSG DAVID SMITH - Dec. 21, 2023

SSG TRAVIS FLEMING - Mar. 8, 2024

SPC ETHAN SLOUGH - NOV. 5, 2023

SPC LENON MCAFEE - Feb. 28, 2024

SPC ALLEN PETTY - Mar. 3, 2024

SPC RICK RICHARDS - Apr. 5, 2024

"And sometimes remembering will lead to a story, which makes it forever. That's what stories are for. Stories are for joining the past to the future. Stories are for those late hours in the night when you can't remember how you got from where you were to where you are. Stories are for eternity, when memory is erased, when there is nothing to remember except the story."

- TIM O'BRIAN, The Things They Carried

Please submit Michigan National Guard Veterans to be recognized on the TAPS list to:
MIARNG-funeralhonors@army.mil

MING UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2024

- **Meet the Guard (Camp Grayling): May 3, 2024**
- **Fort Custer 5K: May 4, 2024**
- **Fort Custer Meet the Guard: May 8, 2024**
- **National Guard Association of Michigan State Conference (Fort Pontchartrain): May 17-19, 2024**
- **The Grove Monument Rededication (Michigan State University): May 23, 2024**

JUNE 2024

- **State Consolidated AT (Camp Grayling): June 1-15, 2024**
 - Backbone Classic Golf Outing (Grayling): June 12, 2024
 - Retiree Association & Officer Club Foundation lunch (Camp Grayling): June 12, 2024
 - Prayer Breakfast (Camp Grayling): June 13, 2024
 - USO Talent Show (Camp Grayling): June 13, 2024
 - TAG Social (Camp Grayling): June 13, 2024
 - Pass in Review (Camp Grayling): June 14, 2024
- **Selfridge Airshow and Open House (Selfridge ANGB): June 8-9, 2024**
- **50th Michigan Youth Challenge Academy Graduation (Marshall): June 15, 2024**
- **Exercise Northern Exposure: June 24-28, 2024**

JULY 2024

- **Silent Swarm (Alpena CRTC): July 15-26, 2024**

Find more events at:

<https://minationalguard.dodlive.mil/About-Us/Event-Calender/>

AUGUST 2024

- **Exercise Northern Strike 24-2 (NADWC): August 3-17, 2024**
 - NS24-2 5K (Camp Grayling): August 4, 2024
- **Motor City 2024 (Detroit): August 17-26, 2024**
 - Joint Enlisted Leadership Conference (Detroit): August 18-20, 2024
 - Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US (EANGUS) Conference (Detroit): August 17-21, 2024
 - MING Leadership Conference (Detroit): August 24-25, 2024
 - National Guard Association of the US (NGAUS) Conference (Detroit): August 22-27, 2024

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