# WOLVERINE GUARD

**VOLUME 25. ISSUE 1** 

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AND MORE

COVER PHOTO BY: SPC MICHAEL SCHMIDT CAMP GRAYLING JMTC





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# TAG TALK

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS

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



In the first Wolverine Guard of 2025 we highlight the communities which support the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Serving our fellow citizens is a key tenant for the DMVA and we strive to give our all. Many of our units have formed cherished relationships with the communities they live and serve in, such as the 1775th Military Police Company, who were recently recognized for their support to the annual Pontiac Holiday Extravaganza. We also have incredible members like Colonel Lucas Lanczy who continue his family's legacy of military service, enlisting his son Lucas into the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment — the third generation of Lanczys to serve in the Michigan National Guard. Throughout this issue you will find examples of how passionate our members are about this organization and their efforts to give back with appreciation to the communities we serve.

In addition to training units and building combat readiness, our installations also prioritize support to countless Michigan communities. Throughout the year, each of our major training venues hosts community-based events such as veterans hunts and other conservation efforts, 5K races, public forums, and air shows and demonstrations. We also have increased the number of 'Meet the Guard' events hosted by Air and Army units throughout Michigan, opening our doors to potential recruits and to those who have an interest in learning more about our members and their missions.

Leaning into 2025, we remain appreciative of every bit of community support as we modernize and transform our department to tackle new challenges at home and across the globe. As our missions continue to evolve in complexity and scale, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and transparent. I encourage each of you to share the stories of our members and the units they belong to. Each story is unique and plays a role in continuing to make this department successful.

Although this issue primarily focuses on our involvement in our communities over the past several months, community engagement is a daily priority. From interacting with our neighbors, friends, and family every single day, to mobilizing in response to emergencies across the country, or deploying around the globe to aid our Nation's efforts, we work tirelessly to improve those around us. I am so proud to serve with each of you, and I am truly honored to call Michigan our home.





# LEADER SPOTLIGHT

COLONEL LUCAS LANCZY: CAMP GRAYLING COMMANDER



Col. Lucas Lanczy (right) and his son.

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. — A native of L'Anse, Michigan, Colonel Lucas J. Lanczy began his service in September 1999 as an engineer assigned to Alpha Company, 107th Engineer Battalion in Baraga, Michigan. Twenty-five years later he serves the Michigan Army National Guard as the commander for the country's largest Army National Guard training installation: Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center.

"All roads to readiness and lethality run through Camp Grayling," said Col. Lanczy. "Our vast training space provides unmatched capabilities to support a commander's training objectives regardless of echelon, component, or branch." As the Camp Grayling commander, Col. Lanczy has prioritized customer service and continuous improvement to capabilities to keep pace with the Army's modernization efforts and future battlefield environments. "If you feel that you can't get after your training objectives at CGJMTC, you need to look again."

Col. Lanczy also recognizes that the success of the installation, despite its all-domain capability, would not be possible without the impressive support of the local community. For Col. Lanczy, military readiness and giving back to the communities that support the Michigan Army National Guard go hand-in-hand.

While commanding each of MIARNG's Engineer Battalions, and the 177th Military Police Brigade, Col. Lanczy focused heavily on employing Engineer Companies in service to communities throughout Michigan under the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program. Most notably, his units partnered with the Michigan Department of National Resources to improve and restore State parks. These projects allow soldiers to conduct real-world construction operations to benefit local communities or government owned sites in need of repair.

Col. Lanczy's partnership with the DNR and commitment to being a steward of Michigan's natural resources comes as no surprise to those who know him. Col. Lanczy currently holds the Michigan Department of Natural Resources lake trout record with a 61 pound, 8 ounce fish he caught on Lake Superior in 1997. In addition to being an avid outdoorsman, Col. Lanczy is a devoted family-man. His wife Jamie, daughters Tessa and Mea, and son Lucas also call Michigan home.

Col. Lanczy is the second of three generations to have served with the Michigan Army National Guard. His father, Maj. Bela Lanczy, served in the U.S. Army as a Medical Officer at Fort Polk from 1974 to 1977 before joining the MIARNG as the 107th Engineer Battalion Surgeon, where he continued serving until 1995. Col. Lanczy's uncle, Tibor, also left an impression on the MIARNG, where he served as the Director of Construction and Facilities Management Office before retiring as a Colonel in 2023. Col. Lanczy's son, Private First Class Lucas H. Lanczy, also joined the MIARNG in December 2023 as an infantryman with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment.





Penny, a therapy dog with the Michigan Army National Guard, provides emotional support to soldiers during training exercises and events at Fort Custer, November 2024. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine).

## STORY BY 2ND LT. PAIGE BODINE, MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUGUSTA, Mich. — Soldiers may have spotted a furry new face around the state — a four-legged addition that's already making an impact. Penny, a small black Labrador, is no ordinary dog. Trained as a service animal through the Puppies Behind Bars program, Penny now works alongside Chaplain Adam LaVigne, from the 177th Military Police Brigade Unit Ministry Team, bringing comfort and companionship to soldiers. Offering emotional support in moments of stress, anxiety, or solitude, Penny is a "pawsitive" presence, helping servicemembers find peace in challenging times.

"Penny's job is to brighten peoples' day, and she does it phenomenally," said LaVigne. "She has a unique way of lifting spirits and changing the atmosphere wherever she goes."

Military chaplains play a crucial role in supporting soldiers' spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being, often acting as a bridge during challenging times. For Chaplain LaVigne, this mission took on a new dimension after seeing the profound impact therapy dogs had on fostering connection and resilience among soldiers. Chaplain LaVigne first encountered the idea of therapy dogs through a friend who had introduced

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one into a military setting in 2014. The impact this had on her soldiers left a lasting impression on him, and he began to wonder how a dog could serve to connect with soldiers. "I thought that having a dog would be a unique tool to connect with soldiers," LaVigne said. "The culture today has changed, and we need to try new ways to help address mental health issues and build resilience."

Recognizing this, Chaplain LaVigne asked former brigade commander Colonel Lucas Lanczy if he would be open to the idea of a therapy dog for the Guard.

"He said, 'Absolutely," LaVigne recalled. From there, he began securing the necessary approvals.

Penny came to Chaplain LaVigne through Green Haven Correctional Facility in New York, where inmates participate in Puppies Behind Bars, a program allowing them to raise and train service dogs for military and first responders.

"The training lasted a couple of weeks, and I spent hours working with Penny in a maximum-security prison," said Chaplain LaVigne. "The puppy raisers taught us how to work with the dogs. Penny's raiser is serving 20 years to life. The prison had no air conditioning and many other challenges, but it was rewarding to complete the training and return home." LaVigne recalled one of the puppy raisers sharing, 'This

process has made me feel like a human again.' The program not only prepared Penny for her future role with the Guard but also gave the inmates valuable skills and a renewed sense of purpose.

As a therapy dog, Penny has quickly become a beloved presence among soldiers. She accompanies Chaplain LaVigne to meetings, training exercises, and events, adding a calming influence wherever she goes.

"One of Penny's strengths is her ability to recognize when a soldier needs extra support,"

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Chaplain LaVigne explained.

"Sometimes, when someone's had a rough day, she'll curl up on their lap, offering them comfort in a way words can't." Therapy dogs like Penny are especially beneficial for today's generation of soldiers, who often face unique mental health challenges and stresses.

> "We're seeing more soldiers open up and seek help for stress and anxiety," LaVigne shared. "This generation is more attuned

> > to the importance of mental health, and therapy dogs offer a way to support them that feels approachable and safe." He added, "There's something powerful about an animal's non-judgmental presence. A dog like Penny can make it easier for soldiers to let down their guard and just feel, even if it's just for a few minutes."

Additionally, Penny's presence has helped Chaplain LaVigne connect with soldiers from all backgrounds, regardless of their faith.

"Soldiers who might not usually stop by my office now come in just to see Penny," he said. "She opens the door for important conversations, allowing soldiers to talk about life and check in without feeling pressured."

Penny's role, while still new, has a lasting impact in supporting soldier wellness. Though Chaplain LaVigne currently covers Penny's expenses himself, he is hopeful that as her role becomes more established, the Guard will be able to officially support her.

"She's an experiment," LaVigne said, "a way to find new methods of addressing mental health and building resilience for our soldiers. She's truly changing lives."

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Shaun Axtell, a civilian hunter at the Fort Custer Freedom Hunt, has his hunting blind set up for him by volunteers at the Fort Custer Training Center, Augusta, Mich., on Oct. 19, 2024. (U.S Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Drake Chandler)

#### Story and photos by Capt. Cody Cass and Staff Sgt. Drake Chandler, 126 Theater Public Affairs Support Element

AUGUSTA, Mich. — The Fort Custer Freedom Hunt is a four-day event that supports disabled veterans and civilians by bringing them together for food, deer hunting, and building positive relationships with people like themselves. October 19, 2024, Shaun Axtell of Bellevue, Michigan, harvested a large doe during the 17th Annual Freedom Hunt at Fort Custer, Michigan. But for Axtell, the hunt was about much more than the deer. It was a chance to connect with others in a supportive, welcoming environment that celebrates community and shared experiences. Axtell was one of over 30 disabled hunters who participated in the event, held from October 17–20, 2024, during Michigan's Independence Hunt weekend.

The Freedom Hunt is an annual event designed specifically for veterans and civilians with disabilities, offering them an opportunity to experience hunting in a safe, supportive setting. Participants must meet certain criteria, such as being a veteran with a 100% disability rating or having special permits for hunting from a standing vehicle. The goal is not only to allow these individuals to harvest a deer but also to help them build connections with others who share similar challenges. For many of the hunters, the sense of community makes the event so meaningful.

"I don't care if I get a deer," Axtell said. "I come down here, go out hunting, and talk to all the people. I met a lot of interesting people."

His words reflect a common sentiment among participants. While the thrill of hunting is important, the shared experiences and friendships formed during the event are what truly make it special.

David Boudro, another disabled hunter, echoed this sentiment. "I shot a spike buck last year and just shot a 6-point this morning," he said but emphasized that the best part of the hunt was the people he met. "I look forward to seeing everyone, hearing their stories, and sharing mine."

The event is made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers who provide support throughout the weekend. These volunteers assist with transportation, tracking, and field dressing, ensuring the hunters can focus on the experience rather than the logistics. They also help create a warm, welcoming atmosphere for everyone involved.

"This is the only time many of these hunters can get out and hunt," said a long-time volunteer. "Seeing the look on Shaun's face when he shot that big doe, that is why we do it." The volunteers and participants form a tight-knit community where veterans, civilians, and volunteers all share stories, advice, and laughter. It's a place where people come together to support each other, not just in the pursuit of deer but in a greater mission of connection and understanding.

In addition to its role in fostering community, the Freedom Hunt also helps manage the local deer population. Harvesting deer during the event is an important part of Fort Custer's environmental management plan, helping to keep deer population densities in check and preventing the spread of diseases like chronic wasting disease and epizootic hemorrhagic disease.

At the end of the weekend, participants gather to share meals, reflect on their experiences, and look forward to next year's hunt. It's a reminder that the Freedom Hunt is more than just an event—it's a celebration of resilience, friendship, and the spirit of community. For those involved, it's an opportunity to reconnect with nature, share memories, and build lasting bonds far beyond the hunt.

For more information about the Fort Custer Freedom Hunt and how to get involved, visit their website or follow them on Facebook. The Freedom Hunt is an example of how coming together can transform challenges into meaningful, shared experiences.

#### Requirements

In order to participate in the event, the hunter's disability must satisfy one of the following:

- 1. Veteran with a 100% disability rating or deemed individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 2. Possess a permit from the Michigan DNR to hunt from a standing vehicle
- 3. Considered to be blind by MCL 393.351
- 4. Considered deaf as defined by section 2 of 72 PA 1978, MCL 408.202
- 5. Possess a permit from Michigan DNR to hunt using a laser-sighting device







More information about the Fort Custer Freedom Hunt and other hunting opportunities can be found online at www.fortcusterhunt.org. Pictures and updates of past hunts can be found online at www.facebook.com/fortcusterhunt.



Fort Custer Hunt also offers Michigan DNR approved Hunter's Education.

# Tanily Programs



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#### **Kristy Torsky**

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# SERIES: FROM THE FRONT LINES STAFF SGT BRANDON BUTTON



Story by Command Sgt. Maj. David Lewis
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

In a world where dedication, passion and family values are highly esteemed, Staff Sgt. Brandon Button stands out as a shining example of what it means to embody these qualities. A member of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion since 2011, Button has demonstrated unwavering commitment to serving country and community. A 2004 graduate of Jenison High School, his journey in the Michigan Army National Guard began in 2006 when he enlisted as a wheeled vehicle mechanic in the 1434th Engineer Company.

His love for country is rivaled only by his love for family. He is devoted husband to his wife, Shandis, and a proud father to three beautiful girls: Emerson (15), Eden (10), and Eastlyn (7). The Button family's commitment to service was recently elevated when Shandis enlisted in the MIARNG on January 31, 2025 as a medic in the 1171st Medical Company. This marks a significant moment in their family's journey as they continue to prioritize service, sacrifice and dedication to their country.

What fuels Button's passion for his work? His love for recruiting and mentoring others. With an impressive 176 enlistments under his belt, Button takes great pride in guiding individuals along their journey to serve. He takes joy from taking care of people, teaching others and mentoring new recruiters,

making him an invaluable asset to the RRB. His selfless approach has earned him a reputation as a dedicated and compassionate leader.

Beyond his work in recruiting, Button is a man of many talents. In his free time, he serves as an official with the Michigan High School Athletic Association for football and baseball. His love for sports dates back to childhood, when he played in the Little League World Series at the age of 12. This experience not only shaped his athletic skills but also taught him valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline and perseverance. These skills have served him well throughout his career and continue to inspire him to make a positive impact on others.

As we recognize Button's dedication to country, family and community, we are reminded of the importance of service, sacrifice and commitment. His story serves as a powerful inspiration to us all, and we are grateful to share it with our readers. Thank you, Staff Sgt. Button, for your tireless efforts and for being a shining example of what it means to serve with pride and passion.

Staff Sgt. Button's wife, Shandis has a remarkable story of her own that showcases her determination and perseverance. Her interest in the National Guard began in high school, and when Button started recruiting she got involved helping with events, visits and promotional materials. As she learned more about the Guard, her interest grew. Realizing that she could balance being a wife, mother and soldier, she began a nine year journey to enlist. Despite the setbacks along the way, her work finally paid off on January 31, 2025. Her story is a testament to the power of persistence and the opportunities that the National Guard provides citizen-soldiers. Congratulations Shandis and welcome to the family.

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Technical Sergeant Knits Hats for Those in Need Before Retirement

Story by Capt. Tandi Bailey, 110th Wing Public Affairs

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — In an act of community service before her retirement, Tech. Sgt. Amber Eichstaedt of the Michigan Air National Guard has made a lasting impact by knitting 77 hats for women and children in need. Leading up to her final drill weekend, Eichstaedt dedicated her time to creating hats with the help of yarn donations from fellow service members and local community members.

The winter hats were donated to the Haven of Rest Ministries, a local organization that provides shelter and support for vulnerable individuals. Each hat symbolizes hope and warmth for those facing challenging circumstances in the coming holiday months.

"I wanted to show the community they are supported," Eichstaedt explained, reflecting on the motivation behind her charitable effort.

Her generosity and commitment to helping others have been central to her service, making this project a fitting conclusion to her military career.

The Haven of Rest Ministries will distribute the hats to

women and children in need, ensuring Eichstaedt's efforts continue to have a positive impact long after her retirement.

As Eichstaedt prepares to transition into civilian life, she leaves behind a legacy of compassion and service. Her initiative has not only provided warmth during the cold months but also strengthened the sense



Tech. Sgt. Amber Eichstaedt

of community and care among those she served.

The Michigan Air National Guard and the local community celebrate Eichstaedt's dedication to service, both in and out of uniform. Her selfless actions remind us of the importance of supporting one another, especially in times of need.



By 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Danielle Rudd, 20, never imagined that joining the Air National Guard would lead her to graduate with honors from Air Force Basic Training. But that was just the start. Today she juggles her military service with playing defense for the University of Michigan's

Division I women's hockey team, showcasing how determination and discipline drive success both on the ice and in the air.

Rudd enlisted in the Air National Guard in May 2023 as an Airman Basic, combining her desire to serve with the opportunity to have her education funded by the military.

"I wanted to give back and challenge myself in a way I never had before," she said.

Initially her heart was set on the Army National Guard, but once she realized that there was an Air Force base right next to U of M she chose the Air National Guard.

"The Air Guard aligned more with my goals, and being close to the base meant I could continue my education while serving," she explained.
Rudd postponed her first year at the University of Michigan to complete basic training and technical school—a choice she didn't take lightly. While it was challenging to watch her peers begin their freshman year, Danielle remained confident in her path.

"There were days I questioned if I could handle it," she admitted. "But I always reminded myself why I was there. My future, my family, and my desire to grow."

Her perseverance paid off when she graduated as the top honor graduate, an award given for leadership, fitness and academic excellence. In fact this top honor was given to her over hundreds of other basic trainees. The experience changed her in unexpected ways.

"A week into basic training, my instructor made me an element leader. I was terrified, but it forced me to step up. By the end, I felt more confident than I ever had in my ability to lead and adapt," she said.

Her leadership skills were recognized when she had the honor of leading the Airman's Creed at the coin ceremony. "Reciting the creed in front of my flight was surreal. It was such a proud moment to know we had accomplished that together," she said.

Back home, Rudd is now a proud member of the 127th Force Support

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Danielle Rudd, a top honor graduate of Air Force Basic Training, stands proud after receiving recognition for her leadership, fitness, and academic excellence. (Photo courtesy of Danielle Rudd.)

Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. There, she works in services, supporting tasks like food preparation and fitness programs.

"Even tasks like preparing meals for the base feel significant because I know I'm directly supporting the mission," she said.

Alongside her military career, Rudd has always had a passion for hockey. She started playing in middle school.

"My siblings got into hockey, and I decided to give it a try. From the first time I stepped on the ice, I was hooked," Rudd recalled.

Now a defenseman for Michigan's Division I women's hockey team, Rudd embraces the challenges of competing at a collegiate level. Her military training has strengthened her resilience and focus qualities that directly enhance her performance on the ice.

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"The military has taught me resilience. Mistakes happen all the time, but you can't dwell on them. You've got to move on and keep going," she explained when talking about how the military has impacted her on the rink. Rudd isn't pursuing just any major at the University of Michigan. She's tackling one of the most demanding fields: nursing. Balancing the intense clinical hours with the challenges of hockey and her military service is no small feat, but she manages it with determination and focus.

"It requires careful planning, but I thrive when I'm busy. It makes me more efficient and motivates me to give my best in everything I do," Rudd

Danielle credits her time in the Air National Guard for teaching her valuable skills like time management, discipline, and leadership—skills she applies not only in the military but also on the ice and in her studies.

"The Guard has shown me how to stay focused and perform under pressure. Those lessons are invaluable in hockey and in life," she said.

As Rudd looks to the future, she's determined to keep growing as a leader in both her military and athletic

"Every challenge I've faced has shaped me into the person I am today," she reflected. "I wouldn't trade this experience for anything, and I'm excited to see where it takes me next."



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BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — In an Air Operations Center (AOC), it is commonplace to have a Navy and Amphibious Liaison Element (NALE) embedded with the Air Force. Recently, the Navy Reserve (NR) U.S. 6th Fleet NALE Headquarters Unit and the 110th Wing's, 217th Combat Operations Squadron replicated this environment by standing up a NALE at our naval commander's Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

"The NALE's mission is to represent the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander to the Joint Force Air Component Commander," said U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Kevin Chalmers, reserve component senior enlisted leader Naval Forces Europe-Africa & U.S. 6th Fleet. "Coming together here in Battle Creek allows our two teams to train to the mission, so they are ready day one when going forward to our area of responsibility."

The 217th COS' higher echelon,

the 217th Air Operations Group, and the NALE share United States European Command and United States Col. Dana Parmenter, 217th COS African Command as their areas of responsibility.

"As a liaison element, our understanding of guidance and staff needs as well as our corporate knowledge of how our Air Force counterparts work define our success,"

> - U.S. Navy Capt. Chris Turl, NR U.S. 6th Fleet NALE HQ commanding officer.

"The units are doctrinally aligned to support U.S. Air Force Europe-Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA), specifically the 603rd AOC," said U.S. Air Force commander. "We train together to ensure when called upon we are able to integrate seamlessly into the 603rd AOC to execute the mission."

According to Parmenter, the original idea to partner began in 2017 and it finally came to fruition in December 2024.

"With the establishment of our new NALE unit based at Navy Reserve Center Battle Creek, we have established a drill schedule that allows for combined training," said Chalmers. "Moving forward, the unit will drill quarterly alongside our Air Force compatriots."

The NALE brings a variety of capabilities to the 217th COS and USAFE-AFAFRICA, which directly benefit air operations.



Airmen from the 217th Combat Operations Squadron participate in a mini exercise with the Navy Reserve's U.S. 6th Fleet Navy and Amphibious Liaison Element Headquarters Unit Headquarters Unit at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Feb. 1, 2025.

"As a liaison element, our understanding of our naval commander's guidance and staff needs as well as our corporate knowledge of how our Air Force counterparts work define our success," said U.S. Navy Capt. Chris Turl, NR U.S. 6th Fleet NALE HQ commanding officer. "We support it specifically by providing trained representatives to perform battle watch, master air attack planning and developing air tasking orders."

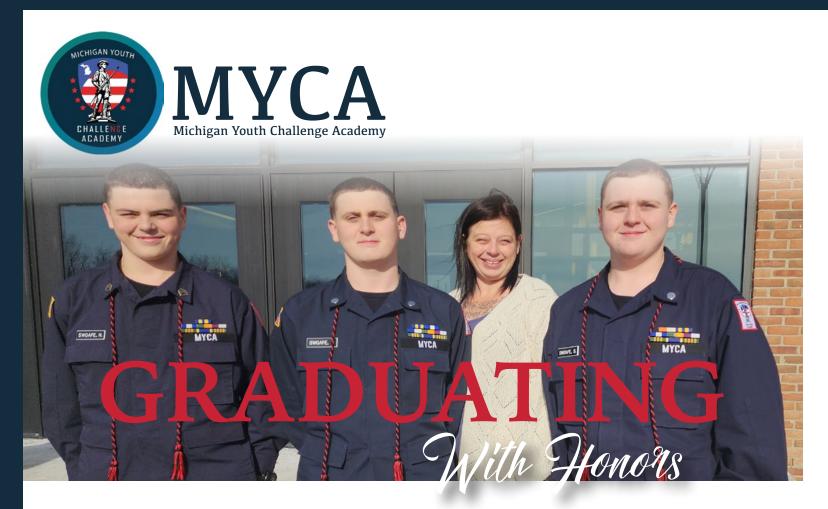
Turl believes this partnership is helping his unit meet the Chief of Naval Reserves goal of warfighter readiness.

"Our team benefits immensely because our team is expected to be ready on day one," said Turl. "The opportunity to regularly execute our mobilization billet skills within our AOR puts us well on the path for meeting those goals laid out by our Commander."

The 217th AOG is also deriving substantial benefit from the partnership.

"Their team are true professionals who bring years of experience and knowledge," said Parmenter. "This provides our Airmen opportunity to train side-by-side with the same Sailors that we will be serving with when mobilized. This is a unique opportunity due to the proximity of the unit to our base. The connection with the 217th COS is essential as both our teams have the same focus to provide support in crisis."





#### Michigan Youth Challenge Academy Graduates 3 Brothers from Sturgis

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Helen Miller Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan Youth Challenge Academy held a graduation ceremony on Dec 14, 2024. Graduation is always a great day for the academy, but this one had something very special about it. Class 51 graduated a group of three brothers from Sturgis,. All three boys graduated from the academy with top honors.

"As their mother, of course I am super proud! It's hard to believe all three of my boys were gone at the same time going through this program. It is not an easy program, and the things they have accomplished make me so happy for them." Said Amber Bluntschly,

the boy's mom. "I am very excited to have them back home, and excited to see where they choose to go next in their journey".

Skylar Swoape, age 18, Jared Swoape, age 17, and Hayden Swoape, age 16, are part of a 118 student class that consisted of cadets from across the state, hailing from 44 different counties: Alger, Allegan, Antrim, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clinton, Crawford, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Midland, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Saginaw, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford.

"Honestly the program is mostly mental. The hardest part is P.T. [physical training]. If you get your head in the right place is easy to succeed, and my cadre was awesome helping me get there," said Jared Swoape.

The voluntary academy is a costfree alternative education program which offers at-risk youth the opportunity to change their future. As part of the curriculum, cadets participate in drill and ceremony formations, meet physical fitness standards, perform community









Amber Bluntschly watches as her sons, Skylar, Jared and Hayden Swoape, graduate with top honors from the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy Dec. 14th, 2024. The voluntary academy is a cost-free alternative education program which offers at-risk youth the opportunity to change their future.

service and receive classroom instruction.

Haden Swoape stated, "Prechallenge was hard but once you decide to put the work in, it gets better. I also got my high school diploma and have a job waiting back home."

All three Swoape boys plan on joining the Michigan Army National Guard.

Of the 118 anticipated graduates in this cycle, 98 earned their high school diploma while the remaining cadets will continue their academic pursuits toward earning their high school diploma upon their return home. Over the past 22 weeks, cadets have performed more than 5,700 hours of community service to help individuals and organizations in the Battle Creek area. The Academy has now graduated over 5,000 students.

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy educates, trains, and mentors at-risk youth in a quasimilitary environment at no cost to participants, giving young people the skills to become productive and responsible citizens. Applying the military model to alternative education, the Academy promotes competency development through academic opportunities, life skills, and vocational preparation.

For more information, contact Jayme Ham at 269-968-1397 or Joan Miller at 269-968-1368.

For more information, please go to: <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/myca/admissions-process">https://www.michigan.gov/myca/admissions-process</a>





# MVAA VISITS VETERANS WITH PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Story by MVAA Public Affairs

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. — The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Director Brian L. Love and Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) Director Lindell Holm visited the 'Veterans with Parkinson's Support Group' at the Michigan Parkinson Foundation to present information on the MVTF and recognize five Vietnam veterans in attendance.

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation is an independent non-profit charitable corporation that supports individuals impacted by Parkinson's disease and other related movement disorders. They offer medication assistance, educational programs, exercise classes and respite care to caregivers. The Michigan Parkinson Foundation sponsors 76 support groups and services to all 83 counties in the state.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease that directly impacts the central nervous system, causing involuntary movements such as muscle stiffness, tremors, impaired motor skills and postural instability. According to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, Parkinson's disease affects approximately 1.5 million people in the United States and about 35,000 individuals in Michigan.

Nate Jolliff, Michigan Parkinson Foundation Board Member and U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and Marc Trail, U.S. Navy veteran, co-launched the 'Veterans with Parkinson's Support Group' in Jan. 2024 to provide a safe space for veterans to seek support.

Jolliff joined the Michigan Parkinson Foundation after being diagnosed with the disease due to drinking the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune during his military service from 1984 – 1988. As an advocate for those facing the disease and as a fellow veteran, Trail forged a strong friendship with Jolliff and together they continue their service by providing camaraderie, understanding and hope to veterans.

"Many veterans living with Parkinson's, like myself, look to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation to help them get better or at least make the journey manageable," said Jolliff. "Within the first year [of the 'Veterans with Parkinson's Support Group'] we've gone from two to 55 participants and we continue to grow."

"I couldn't help but have a smiling appreciation for MVAA and the great work being done to recognize our veteran community."

Jolliff invited Holm to the Jan.16 meeting of the support group to talk about MVAA and how the MVTF can be helpful to veterans experiencing an emergent need.

"It was very meaningful to be able to share with them about the MVTF and the emergency grant program since veterans experiencing health challenges, like Parkinson's disease, may be able to really benefit from the grant," said Holm. "Though we don't cover much in medical expenses, we can help in other ways such as necessary home modifications or other financial shortfalls that are unforeseen."

After Holm's presentation, Director Love made a surprise appearance to personally recognize and pin five Vietnamera veterans and give them the proper 'welcome home' they deserved.

"It was very emotional and I'm not sure if there was a dry eye in that conference room," Jolliff recalled. "I couldn't help but have a smiling appreciation for MVAA and the great work being done to recognize our veteran community."

The 'Veterans with Parkinson's Support Group' meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Marine Corps League in American Legion Post 351 in Utica, MI. For more information about the support group or additional services through the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, please contact Nate Jolliff at <a href="mailto:natejolliff@comcast.net">natejolliff@comcast.net</a> or Marc Trail at <a href="mailto:mtrail@carepatrol.com">ntrail@carepatrol.com</a>.

# VIETNAM VETERAN RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE BY MVAA DIRECTOR



Story by MVAA Public Affairs

ROSEVILLE, Mich. — When 80-year-old Lawrence Brooks, a Vietnam veteran, contacted the Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center (MVRSC) in November, the technician who took his call said his sadness was audible.

"He served in Vietnam and was injured there but never properly recognized for his service," says Laurie Nevin, MVRSC technician.

Nevin states Brooks, a Marine Corps veteran, had been fighting for proper recognition for 40 years. Brooks says the VA denied he ever served In Vietnam, despite being injured in an ambush while on guard duty.

The MVRSC was able to track down a correction to his discharge paperwork that clearly acknowledged his service and decorations for his time in Vietnam.

"Being a spouse of a retired Marine, his story tugged at my heart," says Amie Barrett, MVRSC technician. "I'm glad to have been part of recognizing Mr. Brooks' service." In addition to assisting Brooks with guidance on his VA disability benefits, Nevin guided Brooks through the benefits available to him in Michigan. The MVRSC took it a step further to express their gratitude to Mr. Brooks and passed his information along to MVAA Director Brian L. Love, a Marine Corps veteran himself.

Director Love personally went to Brooks home in Roseville to pin him with a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin and give him the proper 'welcome home' he never received.

"I am so proud of the MVAA team for working with Mr. Brooks during a challenging time," said Director Love. "And having the team join me to witness the pining of this brave veteran was an honor. As I go around the state and pin Vietnam-era veterans, I can see in their eyes, their younger selves looking back at me. It is truly humbling."

"To have Director Love go to his home was brilliant," said Nevin. "I'm truly grateful that he took the time to go to his home. Hopefully when Mr. Brooks celebrated the holidays this year he celebrated with peace, knowing, maybe for the first time, that he is home and his nation is grateful for his service."



Since his appointment last October by Gov. Whitmer, MVAA Director Brian L. Love has traveled across Michigan pinning hundreds of Vietnam-era veterans, thanking each one for their service and officially welcoming them home.

The Commemorative Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Director Love presents to Vietnam-era veterans, is to symbolize a lasting memento of the Nations thanks. Any living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

In 2012, the Department of Defense established the United States Vietnam War Commemoration initiative. The goals of this initiative was to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, highlight the service of the Armed Forces during, pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front, highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the War, and recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by our allies.

# SHOTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## MORTARS BRING STEEL RAIN AT WINTER STRIKE

Mortarmen with the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan National Guard, prepare a 120mm mortar during a mortar live fire exercise as part of Exercise Northern Strike (NS) 2025-1. NS 25-1, this years' winter exercise was hosted by the Michigan National Guard and took place across Northern Michigan's National All-Domain Warfighting Center (NADWC), Jan. 27-30, 2025. NS 25-1 is part of the semi-annual exercise series, which includes NS 25-2, scheduled for this August.



## STAY FROSTY

U.S. Marines assigned to Second Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force prepare to load their snowmobiles into an MV-22B Osprey as part of cold weather mobility training during Northern Strike 25-1 at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center, Michigan, Jan. 29, 2025. The Marines were split into two teams: one foot-mobile team focused on destroying an enemy weapons cache through concealed movement and calling

in fire support, while the second team used high-mobility snowmobiles to capture high-value targets and gather intel, emphasizing speed and maneuverability.



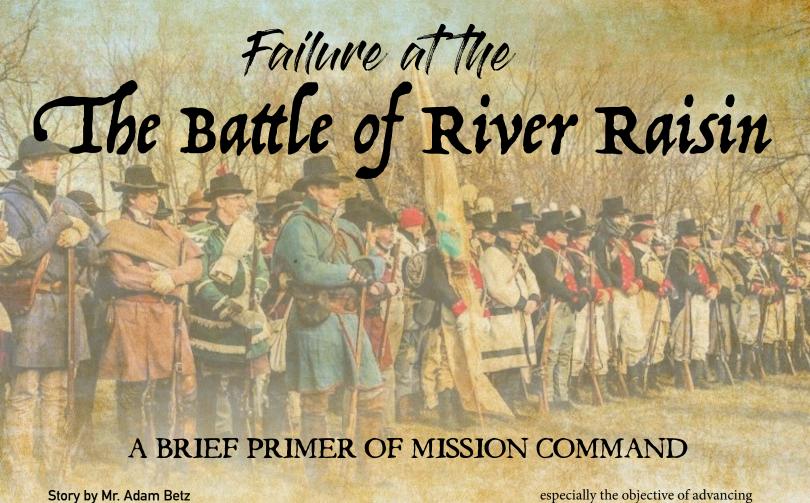
## **FIRST FORMATION**

The Michigan National Guard hosted "First Formation" for new members at the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) in Lansing, Feb. 21, 2025. First formation ensures new soldiers and active-duty service members joining the Michigan National Guard receive a comprehensive welcome and are fully prepared to integrate into their units. First Formation culminates with a patching ceremony where members receive their left shoulder sleeve insignia from a member of their new unit.



## CREW CHIEFS KEEP 'EM FLYING

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jason Martinez, a crew chief with the 127th Maintenance Group, Michigan National Guard sprays ice-melting fluid onto an A-10 Thunderbolt II wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Feb.2, 2025. Aircraft ice removal keeps the wings free of ice or snow, ensuring the aircraft can take off as needed.



Michigan National Guard Command Historian

#### Introduction

"Mission command enables disciplined initiative within the commander's intent to empower agile and adaptive leaders in the conduct of unified land operations. However, failure to understand or apply the philosophy of mission command may result in misaligned efforts and operational failure."

"Tis done. The dreadful fight is o'er. Thick clouds of smoke are seen no more, The snowy plain is red with gore Where fell the friends of liberty." - "Battle of the River Raisin," John M. Bulkley, 1879

The Battle of River Raisin fought in January 1813 during the War of 1812, marked a devastating defeat for American forces attempting to recapture Detroit from the British and their Native American allies. This battle provides a significant

study in mission command failures, as the United States Army suffered from inadequate leadership, a lack of clear intent, poor risk assessment, and insufficient communication. We often learn more from failures than victories. The outcome of the battle led to the infamous "River Raisin Massacre" and had a lasting impact on public sentiment during the war. Analyzing this battle highlights the importance of effective mission command principles for today's military leaders.

#### Lack of Clear Commander's Intent.

The principle of "Commander's Intent" focuses on establishing a clear purpose, key tasks, and desired outcomes. During the River Raisin campaign, General James Winchester's command suffered from a vague and poorly staffed operational plan. His intent was not clearly understood by subordinate officers and staff,

to Frenchtown (present-day Monroe, Michigan). Winchester's failure to articulate his intent and failure to follow through with conditions checks along the planning process left his forces ill-prepared for the dynamic nature of combat, disconnected from the overarching goals of the campaign to regain Detroit.

Winchester's forces lacked a cohesive understanding of what the overall mission was to achieve. His inability to convey a clear intent to his subordinate commanders and staff led to a fractured approach, with units reacting independently rather than operating in unison. This contributed significantly to confusion and disorganization when the British counterattacked.

#### Ineffective Communication and Coordination

Effective communication is critical in mission command, enabling leaders to synchronize actions across all elements. At River Raisin, Winchester's failure to maintain

proper communication with his fellow general, William Henry Harrison, and his subordinates resulted in missed opportunities to reinforce and respond to British fire and maneuver. Winchester's forces advanced to Frenchtown without notifying Harrison, leading to a lack of coordination. Think Lee at Gettysburg: an overextension of existing capabilities in the current time and space. There was no shared understanding of what "general engagement" meant.

#### Poor Risk Management and Lack of Security

General Winchester failed to properly evaluate the risks his exposed position at Frenchtown posed. Despite warnings, Winchester underestimated the enemy's capabilities, leaving his forces vulnerable. His camp was not adequately fortified, contributing to a disastrous surprise attack by British and Native forces on January 22, 1813.

#### Failure in Exercising Disciplined Initiative

Disciplined initiative requires empowering officers to act decisively. However, Winchester did not provide adequate guidance, leading to hesitation among subordinate officers during critical moments.

#### **Absence of Mutual Trust**

A lack of trust between Winchester and his officers weakened the unit's cohesion. His reluctance to share operational control left subordinates unsure of their roles, resulting in missed opportunities to mount an effective resistance. Furthermore, the enhanced mistrust between the U.S. Regulars and the Kentuckians resulted in a major blow to the Joint Mission Command. The literal right wing of the American defense refused to communicate to the left.

#### Lack of Integrated Command Structure

One key factor contributing to the breakdown in mission command at the Battle of River Raisin was the lack of an integrated command structure between the U.S. Regular Army units and the Kentucky Militia. General Winchester led a mixed force, including regular troops and a contingent of Kentucky militia. However, the relationship between these two groups was fraught with coordination issues and trust deficits. The U.S. regulars were accustomed to disciplined maneuvering and strict command protocols, while the militia operated more flexibly. Winchester failed to unify both groups under a clear command structure, leading to communication gaps and conflicting orders. Without this cohesion, the two forces struggled to respond effectively to British attacks.

#### **Distrust and Differing Expectations**

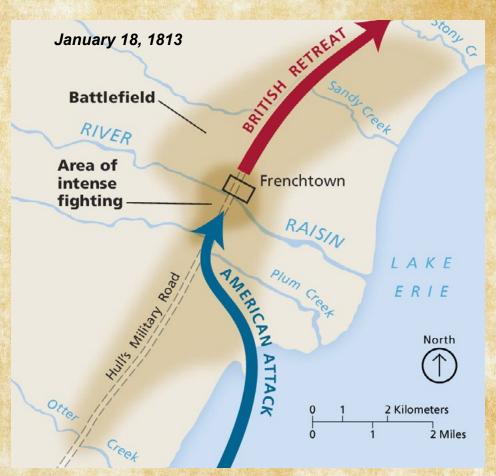
Distrust between the regular troops and the militia undermined mission success. The regulars often viewed the militia as unreliable, while the militia saw the regulars as rigid and dismissive. This divide hindered trust—a key component of mission command—and impeded effective coordination.

General Winchester, himself a Kentuckian, favored the militia but alienated the regulars, further straining relations. His failure to leverage the militia's strengths, such as knowledge of local terrain and a shared culture with local inhabitants, diminished the efficiencies of the force.

#### Communication Gaps During the Battle

During the counterattack on January 22, 1813, communication between the regulars and militia faltered. Positioned more vulnerably, the militia lacked timely support from the regulars. Communication attempts





between the two groups were delayed or misunderstood, creating exploitable gaps in the American lines. The militia, feeling unsupported, began to falter, and the regulars, unaware of the militia's position, struggled to adapt to shifting battlefield conditions.

#### Impact on Morale and Cohesion

The lack of trust and poor communication also had profound effects on morale. Many militia members, feeling abandoned, retreated or surrendered rather than fight on. The collapse in morale, exacerbated by conflicting surrender orders after Winchester's capture, led to a disorderly defeat.

## Lack of Firm Lines of Communication and Supply

The poor choice of lines of communication compounded logistical issues, with the treacherous "Black Swamp" creating significant supply challenges. "The Black Swamp

was a foggy, gummy mass of mud and water bigger than the State of Rhode Island". Additionally, Lake Erie remained under British control, cutting off naval supply routes and forcing dangerous overland routes.

General Hull's error in placing vital operational plans aboard the Cuyahoga Packet schooner, which was captured by the British, exemplifies how compromised communication and supply lines further weakened the American position.

#### Conclusion

The breakdown in communication and trust between the U.S. regular soldiers and the Kentucky Militia significantly contributed to the American defeat at the Battle of River Raisin. The absence of a cohesive command structure, cultural divides, and ineffective communication resulted in fragmented defense efforts. Most importantly, the Commander's Intent was utterly in the air.

Forty years since 1813, a young 14-year old kid named George Armstrong Custer sifts through the battlefield today known as the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. As he ponders what happened here, the bones of American Soldiers still visible, artifacts still easily found... he wonders what kind of enemy to America could do this. Perhaps this encounter at a young age had an impact on Lieutenant Colonel G.A. Custer sixty-three years later at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Had he been of age and in position to appreciate and study this field, would his story have been different?

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28 WOLVERINE GUARD 25-1



Soldiers from the Michigan National Guard display a cannon's operation and firing procedures from the War of 1812. (Photo by Mr. Dan Kennedy).



recognizing that their struggles were extremely dangerous, exhausting, and brave. Everyone who participated in the event safely conducted firing operations with the cannon, a much different experience than our traditional weapon systems and procedures."

In addition to their roles in the reenactment, the soldiers collaborated with Park Rangers to produce an educational video demonstrating a cannon's operation and firing procedures from the War of 1812 era. This video will give visitors a deeper understanding of the artillery tactics, techniques, and procedures implemented during the battle and the complexities of firing historic field artillery pieces.

Sgt. 1st Class Joel Heady of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, said, "I didn't know there was a national park in Monroe, nor did I know much about that battle. Attending the anniversary event was very informative... I learned a lot from the Ranger and the displays at the center. We had the opportunity to operate as part of a cannon crew based on the actual artillery field manual used at that time."

The Battle of River Raisin fought in January 1813, was a significant combat action in which American forces clashed with British and Native American combatants. The battle resulted in substantial American casualties and became an essential event for Americans of the era, leading to the battle cry, "Remember the Raisin!" The annual commemoration honors those who fought and educates the public about this critical chapter in American history.

The Michigan National Guard's involvement in the 2025 commemoration highlights our organization's commitment to supporting our communities. By participating in reenactments and educational initiatives, the Michigan National Guard fosters a connection between the past and present alongside the citizens of Michigan, creating a shared commitment to military service. These partnerships bring historical events to life for the public and offer new areas of engagement for the Michigan National Guard recruitment mission.

# 1775<sup>™</sup> MILITARY POLICE COMPANY RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Story by Capt. Benjamin Larson Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

PONTIAC, Mich. — On January 12, 2025 the 1775th Military Police Company was recognized for their annual support of the Holiday Extravaganza Parade in Pontiac.

Congresswoman Haley Stevens, State Representative Brenda Carter, and Oakland County Commissioner Angela Powell were joined by Colonel Andrew Kuhns, Michigan Army National Guard Chief of Staff, Lietenant Colonel Kenneth Middaugh, Deputy Commander of the 177th Military Police Brigade, and Lieutenant Colonel Jared Van Dop, Commander of the 210th Military Police Battalion in honoring the unit's support and dedication to their local community.

This honor continues to drive forward a long history of the 1775th Military Police Company's community service efforts. Along with their sister companies within the 210th Military Police Battalion, the 46th Military Police Company in Corunna and the 1776th Military Police Company in Taylor, these soldiers have dedicated hundreds of hours of their personal time to supporting community and charitable events throughout the state.

By participating in events like local holiday parades, county fairs, and the Special Olympics, these Michiganders continue to prove their dedication to their neighbors and fellow citizens.

The 210th Military Police Battalion is a unique organization within the Michigan Army National Guard as it has been assigned as the state's Quick Reaction Force responsible for being the primary Defense Support to Civil Authorities element within the state. Training for this responsibility often puts the 210th and it's subordinate companies in close proximity with local leaders and citizens.

Building lasting relationships with the elected leaders and community through engagements like the Holiday Extravaganza Parade have often proven beneficial for the DSCA training and real-world events.

Congratulations to the 1775th Military Police Company on recieving this distinct honor for your hard work and dedication. Keep it up!

The 1775th Military Police Company is currently led by Captain Brandon Brindley and 1st Sgt. Crystal Middaugh. They are based out of Pontiac.





IN 1808, GOVERNOR WILLIAM HULL WOULD COMMISSION PETER DENISON, A FORMER SLAVE, TO LEAD A MILITIA IN THE MICHIGAN TERRITORY.

Story by Adam Betz Michigan National Guard Command Historian

"The Michigan Territory is a land of strategic importance, where control of its waterways and forts could determine the fate of the Northwest." - Brigadier General William Henry Harrison, Commander of the U.S. Army of the Northwest.

If you lived in the Michigan
Territory from the period of 1800
to 1812, you would experience
communities experiencing social,
political, and cultural complexities.
Although the territory would not
become a state until 1837, since
the 17th century, the area had been
identified as having both strategic
and economic importance. When
French explorer René-Robert

Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, traveled the area of the Great Lakes in his ship, "Le Griffon," he would establish what is believed to be the first European-style fort in the region in the area that is today St. Joseph, Michigan. He would call it Fort Miami, after the local tribe with which he began trading.

The Michigan Territory in the early 19th century was a land caught between competing visions of the future. Despite the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 formally prohibiting slavery, legal ambiguities and conflicting treaty interpretations allowed the practice to persist. This was particularly true among prominent

families and fur traders who relied on enslaved labor. During this time, tensions with indigenous communities and the looming threat of British influence were prominent, especially as the War of 1812 approached. Amid these challenges, Americans faced the uncertain realities of navigating a region where legal frameworks and societal practices often conflicted. It was not uncommon to find enslaved Canadians finding refuge just across the Detroit River in the newly founded United States.

This account focuses on the actions of a man named Peter Denison, who emerged from the City of Detroit as a symbol



Map of the Michigan Territory as it appeared in the early 19th century.

of strength, determination, and leadership during the dawn of the 19th century. Formerly enslaved, Denison would fight for his children's freedom through the legal system when such cases were only beginning to be considered, representing the courage and determination of early Michiganders. By 1808, Governor William Hull would award a commission to and appoint Denison to a militia in the Michigan Territory. Unique for the time, the militia would not only serve a critical role in defending Detroit and its citizens but also serve as a statement and proof of freed-peoples' contributions to the region's security and development. Their service challenged the status quo and highlighted the loyalty and capability of freed-people to protect "the strait of Lake Erie." Their mission was to protect citizens and property from violence and vandalism perpetrated by some native tribes in the area.

Establishing the militia under Denison's Command marked a pivotal moment in Michigan and American history. It signified the determination of freed-people to protect their communities. In Denison v. Tucker (1807), Peter Denison became one of the first people to sue for freedom (for his family) from slavery in the United States and conceivably the first in the Michigan Territory. Although he would lose the case with Judge Augustus Brevoort Woodward presiding, his efforts propelled him to leadership roles in early Detroit, namely being chosen to lead a militia regiment. The legacy of Denison, his family, and the men he led leaves a legacy that underscores the interconnected struggles for freedom, justice, and recognition during a transformative era in the nation's history.

# Slavery and Freedom in Michigan Territory

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was a landmark legislative act passed by the Confederation Congress to establish governance and procedures for admitting new states within the Northwest Territory, which included the present-day states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota. This ordinance outlined a process for creating territorial governments, achieving statehood, and provided a framework for the orderly expansion of the United States. Particularly, it prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, enshrined individual rights such as freedom of religion and the right to a trial by jury, and emphasized public education, making it one of the earliest expressions of these democratic ideals in American law. Despite being considered one of the early republic's great achievements, it was rife with contradictions. The ordinance assumed U.S. sovereignty over indigenous lands, setting the stage for continued conflict with local tribes whose territories were infringed upon by settlers. The ordinance likely influenced native leaders such as Tecumseh to align with the British Crown against the Americans during the War of 1812.



While the Michigan Territory formally prohibited slavery, loopholes and competing legal interpretations allowed the practice to persist in certain pockets of the region, especially among fur traders and wealthy families.



The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair was a naval engagement between the British HMS Leopard and the American USS Chesapeake which transpired in June 1807, significantly escalated tensions between the United States and Britain.

This ordinance's legacy was both formative and contested for the new territory. Daniel Webster briefly explained the power of the ordinance when he stated, "It is impossible to overrate the influence of the ordinance of 1787 in securing to the early settlers of the Northwest all the blessing of free government." The Michigan Territory, established by an act of Congress in 1805, would be immediately impacted, and in many ways benefitted, by this ordinance.

While it formally prohibited slavery, loopholes and competing legal interpretations allowed the practice to persist in certain pockets of the region, especially among fur traders and wealthy families (see Denison v. Tucker, as previously mentioned). Although the Northwest ordinance laid the foundation for Michigan's statehood in 1837, it also highlighted the challenges of applying its ideals to a frontier marked by social,

cultural, and political conflicts. Thus, the evolution of freedom for all Americans, both within and beyond existing state lines, remained in constant flux. The existence of slavery in early Detroit, despite the Northwest ordinance of 1787 prohibiting it in the Northwest Territory, was driven by confusing and tangled legal frameworks, weak enforcement, and cultural traditions. French and British settlers often argued that pre-existing laws allowed the continuation of slavery, and local courts frequently upheld these claims. Economic reliance on enslaved labor for agriculture and fur trading further embedded the practice throughout the Detroit region. Additionally, the enslavement of indigenous people by local tribes and Americans alike added complexity to abolition efforts. By 1837, when Michigan entered the Union, the state adopted a constitution that explicitly outlawed slavery within its borders.

# The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair and Local Tensions

The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair was a naval engagement between the British HMS Leopard and the American USS Chesapeake which transpired in June 1807, significantly escalated tensions between the United States and Britain. In the United States, this event stoked anti-British sentiment among Americans and contributed to the deteriorating relationship that would lead to the War of 1812. The unprovoked attack against the U.S. Navy, combined with ongoing British impressment of American sailors and trade restrictions, outraged Americans and highlighted the vulnerability of U.S. sovereignty. In essence, the incident was a profound humiliation for the emerging United States, exposing its vulnerability on the world stage. The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair also heightened concerns about the security of frontier regions like Michigan. As tensions with Britain increased, fears of



The militia under Denison's leadership, composed of thirty-six freed-people (eight of whom were believed to have escaped from their British owner, Matthew Elliott, who also was a British military officer).

British military retaliation or support for native resistance in the Northwest Territory expanded. The incident underscored the region's vulnerability, particularly given Detroit's reliance on trade with British Canada and its proximity to British military forces. General Hull's primary challenge was logistical: his only dependable resupply route to Detroit required passage through the straits and past British-held Fort Malden, which controlled all ship traffic in the area. Although the Detroit River spanned approximately four miles in width at the time, larger boats and ships navigating the channel between Bois Blanc Island and the Canadian shoreline were directly exposed to Fort Malden's guns. Moreover, Hull received alarming reports that a Shawnee warrior named Tecumseh was traveling

among the southern tribes, rallying support for his vision of a powerful Indian Confederation poised to challenge the American government. For Detroit, the implications of this contest were quickly growing and alarming, for it was quickly evident that Britain was cementing relationships on a war footing with the native tribes throughout Northern Michigan, particularly the Shawnee, Chickamauga, Ojibwe/Chippewa, Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Mascouten, Fox, and Iroquois.

For the United States Government, the Chesapeake-Leopard Affair prompted a reevaluation of defense capabilities across the nation. The attack emphasized the U.S. Navy's current inadequacies, leading to renewed efforts to bolster coastal defenses and expand naval power.

For these reasons, Governor Hull, recognizing the situation's urgency, began fortifying Detroit and formed the first militia composed of freed-people to assist in its defense. Detroit already maintained approximately 2,500 Soldiers, a mix of U.S. Regulars, Michigan militia, and a few friendly native echelons, but more men were needed to defend against the growing threat outside Detroit.

# Formation of the Militia and Emerging Challenges

Sometime in the late summer or early fall of 1807, Peter Denison was provided a "written license" by Governor William Hull to establish, train, and lead the militia in the Michigan Territory. Hull would quickly offer commissions to two other men assigned to assist

Denison; Lieutenant Burgess and Ensign Bosset. This decision was as unexpected as it was significant. For Hull, who carried the burden of Command and was responsible for protecting the area of operations around Detroit, the looming tensions with British Canada and hostile native tribes outside Detroit necessitated unconventional measures. The territory was the American frontier at the time and the untamed environment surrounding Detroit offered as much opportunity for young men as it did risk and peril.

To these ends, Hull needed to increase his force structure to confront the demands before him. For Peter Denison, this appointment was more than a military command; it was an opportunity to assert the dignity and capability of freed-people in a frontier society. The militia under Denison's leadership, composed of thirty-six freed-people (eight of whom were believed to have escaped from their British owner, Matthew Elliott, who also was a British military officer), became a testament to the courage and resolve of a people determined to protect a community. To understand this moment in time, one must imagine Detroit in 1810: it was a raw and rugged area. This was America before the railroad arrived when communities were perched on the edge of a vast wilderness. Hull, grappling with the frontier's endless uncertainties, turned to an unorthodox solution by establishing a militia of freedpeople. To him, these men were a logical and willing force to defend the settlement. The Governor's decision was a tremendous political

risk as it did not sit well with all Detroit inhabitants.

Powerful men like Augustus Woodward, Chief Justice of the territorial Supreme Court, argued against Hull's decision to create the militia. In a letter from Woodward to Hull dated Aug., 2, 1810, Woodward explained to Hull his concerns:

"The first of these [grievances] is your embodying the runaway slaves belonging to the inhabitants of the adjacent province of his Britannic Majesty into a militia

"these men have an attachment to our government and a determination to aid in the defense of the country."

# —Governor William Hull

company, appointing a black officer to command them, and supplying them with arms belonging to the UNITED STATES. The supplying those slaves with the public arms has been thought to have been done without the sanction of the proper authority...the legitimacy, or the policy, of embodying negroes as militia...are matters of greater certainty."

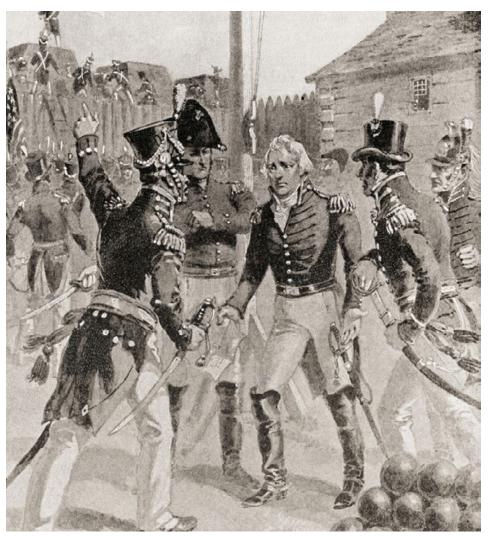
But Hull believed the demand for

security in this frontier outpost far outweighed the anxiety of arming former enslaved men. Woodward would demand a report from Hull to show "just cause" as maintaining a militia could be injurious to the "proprietors of slaves." Americans in the Northwest Territory were already simmering with resentment, convinced that British agents were stirring up native raids against American settlements in the vicinity of Fort Michilimackinac and Detroit. The Leopard-Chesapeake Affair only served to fan the flames of

tension, prompting Detroit and Amherstburg (now the headquarters of British military force operating in the Michigan Territory) to muster their militias and shore up their defenses (Amherstburg being the center of gravity for British military pursuits in the Detroit area). This increased threat from the British Crown just across the Detroit River was the single issue that tipped the scales in Hull's favor to foster the growth of his military capabilities.

In his report, Hull explains that this newly formed militia "frequently appeared under arms and has made considerable progress in military discipline...

progress in military discipline...
these men have an attachment
to our government and a
determination to aid in the defense
of the country." The Governor
also believed in the legality of
employing these men as Soldiers
because they were living in the
Michigan Territory as freed-people.
Born a New Englander and raised
in Derby, Connecticut, Hull was
likely aware of freed-people who
fought as Minute Men against the
British to secure victories at the



Capture of Fort Detroit, August 16, 1812.

Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Breed's Hill. Therefore, it seems only logical to employ Denison and his team of thirty-six men to defend Detroit.

Chief Justice Woodward established an investigating committee to dive into whether these men were considered fugitives from Canada. However, the committee came back and found that a majority of these men had been residing in the territory as freed-people and were subject to the Michigan Territory Militia Act, which qualified free males, regardless of race, eligible for service in the militia. Legal authority now backed the creation and sustainment of the militia. The investigation would also be the

last known official reference to the militia led by Captain Denison, Lieutenant Burgess, and Ensign Bosset

# The Capture of Detroit and Captain Denison's Legacy

The surrender of Detroit on 16
August 1812 was less a battle than
a mere collapse, the weight of fear
via a well-executed operational plan
by the British commander who
desired to secure Detroit for the
British Crown. General William
Hull, a Revolutionary War veteran
with a lifetime of experience, found
himself leading an ill-prepared
army into the Canadian wilderness
at the onset of the War of 1812.
He had pushed his men north into

British Canada but then retracted back to Detroit's wooden palisades with the haunting menace of British regulars, native warriors, and his own misgivings shadowing him. The enemy came swiftly by way of British Major General Isaac Brock and his 41st Regiment of Foot, an experienced Commander who had witnessed plenty of combat experience in previous European campaigns, moved with precision, rallying the forces of Great Britain and their Shawnee ally, Tecumseh, leading about 200 native warriors. Where Hull saw danger, Brock saw opportunity, and the contrast between the two c ommanders became the fault line upon which the fate of Detroit would rest.

Brock and Tecumseh wove an operational plan of psychological warfare as much as excellent infantry maneuver. They spread rumors of overwhelming numbers, allowed brief glimpses of warpainted warriors in the woods, and fired their cannons just enough to suggest an imminent and devastating attack. The thoughts of the horror of frontier warfare loomed in Hull's mind; memories of scalping knives and charred villages and bodies were the shared experience in Michigan for Americans in those days. Before any serious combat had begun, he made the critical decision: surrender. There was no desperate last stand, no measured resistance, just the hoisting of a white flag over the bastion of Detroit, turning over an entire American army consisting of 250 U.S. regulars and 1,600 militia from Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan (Denison and his men being part of this composition).

(Continued on page 41)



# **Building the Profession**

Story by Maj. Megan Breen Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

What is the Profession? What is a Professional? How do I become a Professional? With recent changes in the priorities of military leadership, these have become common topics of conversation. Early this year, as a student of the Command and General Staff College's Battalion Pre-Command Course (PCC), I was provided a fresh perspective on how to relevantly answer these questions. Becoming a professional begins at the root of the definition. Simply, the Profession of Arms

is fulfilled by those who feel a calling to put their life on the line to advance what they perceive to be the betterment of their society. Members of the Profession of Arms must fully comprehend the burden they bear, educate themselves and others, and continuously add value to their respective organizations. While you won't find all the answers here, there are some helpful tools to assist with finding your place within the Profession.



A version of mission analysis occurs prior to the start of every operation, regardless of size, scope, or duration. Defining each service member's role in the Profession is an individual responsibility. What makes the U.S. military unique is its categorization as a 'calling', a role in which an innate sense of purpose or fulfillment is felt. Each service member must internally find the answer, what called you to where you are today? Do you still feel the same sense of purpose? Members of the Armed Forces are entrusted by the public with defending the Constitution, a task which may or may not require them to take the life of another or



Command and General staff College, Fort Leavenworth Kansas (Courtesy photo).

sacrifice their own. The cornerstone of this requirement is trust. Professionals establish and maintain this trust with the public by demonstrating their competency and proficiency.

To gain expertise and ultimately build trust with the public, professionals should direct focus to continuous education. Recently, new programs and platforms have been established as part of the reinvigoration in professional development. To alleviate the overwhelming emotion that correlates with deciphering an abundance of information, readers can find information and links relevant to Professional Development to at the bottom of this article. While the list is not all encompassing, it does offer a compilation of information provided to the PCC students as well as personal recommendations from Army senior leaders during speaking engagements.

Essential to any professional development is a healthy mind, body, and spirit. The Holistic Health and Fitness, or H2F, program aims to revamp the military's current culture surrounding health and fitness to include areas which specifically focus on nutrition and sleep health. Reserve and National Guard units have the unique challenge of finding innovative ways to incorporate H2F protocols into their formations and creating cultures that stick, even outside of the drill weekend. Reserve component leaders have the fortune of finding creative ways to implement programs which create mentally and physically fit leaders, assisting them with opportunities to become successful in their military and civilian occupations.

Doctrine remains the standard for service members, most questions can be answered with a review of the appropriate regulation or policy. Unfortunately, doctrine can also be daunting, confusing, and not always updated in a timely manner. The Army has made changes to assist professionals including the availability of ADP and DA PAM as well as

audiobook versions of the manuals which guide the force. Additionally, during PCC students received notice that several manuals are currently being updated to be published soon including FM 1 and AR 350-1.

A key takeaway from PCC, 'lessons observed are not the same as lessons shared'. While doctrine can usually get you to the SP, the lessons learned along the way are what shapes and improves individuals and formations. To increase sharing and awareness, the Center for Army Lessons Learned has modernized their approach. Early last year, CALL introduced the Quick-Fire Observation Portal, a tool for service members to readily upload and access lessons learned during operations and training. For more in-depth analysis, recommendations, and observations, professional writing programs Line of Departure, The Harding Project, and The Muddy Boots Project were introduced with the intent of creating better writers and establishing forums for professional debates and dialogues. Through these initiatives, service members can find journals, papers, videos, podcasts, and articles on a multitude of topics from branch specific stories to personal leadership vignettes.

I encourage members of the Profession to reflect on a statement heard daily throughout PCC, 'what got you here won't get you there' when deciding where to focus on continuing education. Broadening horizons by reading, writing and discussing controversial or challenging topics and then sharing with others is the foundation of strengthening the Profession of Arms. It is imperative to the Profession that leaders take time and reflect, write, and publish. Your calling will become your legacy, how do you want to be remembered?

# **Build the Profession**

















**OPERATION SUPPLEMENT SAFETY** 



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The Gateway to Freedom International Memorial to the Underground Railroad, sculpted by Edward Dwight in downtown Detroit Michigan. Until Emancipation, Detroit served as a gateway to freedom for thousands of people escaping enslavement.

Dension's Militia continued

Among the captured Soldiers was Hull's militia. Their service, often overlooked in popular narratives, was a testament to the early contributions of freed-people in America's early wars, yet their fate under British captivity remains largely unexamined. Peter Denison would survive the surrender of Detroit and the War of 1812 to become a leader in the community of Detroit's freed-people.

And so, Peter Denison and the men of his short-lived militia faded into history, their names seldom spoken, their deeds nearly forgotten. But they had stood for the American government when it mattered most, shouldering arms in defense of a country that had not yet fully embraced them. Their legacy did not quite end here. Elizabeth "Lisette" Denison, Peter's daughter who he had fought so hard to free through the early

Detroit court system, lived on in the Detroit area as a free woman, carving out a comfortable life of philanthropy and dignity. Upon her death in 1866, Lisette donated a large portion of her remaining estate to establishing the Saint James Episcopal Church, located in what is today, Grosse Isle Township, MI. The church continues to be an active congregation to this day, forever linking Captain Denison, his soldiers, and the Denison family to the fabric of Michigan's military history. The red doors of the church are still emblazoned with the words, "The Lisette Denison Doors".

Perhaps it is fitting that their story, like so many others in America's long march, is not one of grand victories or triumphant parades, but of quiet resolve and unheralded sacrifice. They served, they endured, and they laid the foundation for those who would come after. And if history has any

lesson worth learning, it is that true service to our nation is rarely about recognition, but about sacrificing today for the greater absolution of subsequent American generations. Peter Denison and his men lived to that standard.



ziizavetn Lisette Denison.

## MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

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MG SCOTT HIIPAKKA

**BG SCOTT MEYERS** 

LTC MYRON BISHOP LTC MATTHEW BROLSMA LTC SIMON CARON LTC BRICE KERSCHEN LTC NICKOLAS ZAPPONE

MAJ ALEXANDER COBB MAJ LINDSEY CORD MAJ BRIAN GURTA MAJ GILLEN PAPENFUSE MAJ JACOB SCHISLER MAJ KELLEN WOODARD

**CPT JERMAINE BARNES CPT ZACHARY BETTHAUSER CPT COURTNEY BOWE CPT BRANDON BRINDLEY** CPT SAMUEL CAPPUCCILLI **CPT RACHEL COMBS CPT WAYNE EDMONDSON CPT THOMAS ESPER CPT ZACHERY GENO CPT JONATHAN HAGY CPT ETHAN HOLIHAN CPT JAMES HUNTER CPT LAWRENCE JASINSKI CPT JESSICA KONTUR CPT DAWAN LEWIS CPT AUSTIN MOLNAR CPT CHRISTOPHER PAWSAT** CPT DALLAS STARNAUD CPT JEFFREY STORMS **CPT JOEL VANDERMOLEN CPT HEATH WELCH** 

1LT RYAN ANDERSON
1LT ROLLIN CARTER
1LT ADAM CONRAD
1LT TRISTAN DUELGE
1LT CLAYTON JONES
1LT GRIFFIN JONES
1LT CAMMI KEELER
1LT MICHAEL MOORE
1LT MARK MURPHY
1LT NATHANIEL PESTANO
1LT GABRIEL RENNE
1LT MICHELLE TROUT
1LT PETER VANDENBERG
1LT JACOB YINGLING

CW4 ANTHONY RENDON CW4 NICHOLAS RODGERS

CW3 BRUCE DALE CW3 JEFFREY SONDAY

CW2 JOEL AGLE CW2 GERRIT HAAKSMA CW2 ADAM LINCOLN

**SGM THOMAS HAVILAND** 

1SG TODD BUSH 1SG RUSSELL PAPKE

MSG MATTHEW BOYD
MSG CHRISTOPHER HUMPHREY
MSG RICHARD PRELL

MSG DARRIN SPOON **SFC DION ANDREWS** SFC TROY ANGELL SFC RYAN BARLOW SFC BODANIEL BRADLEY SFC JESSICA BREES SFC JORDAN BULTEMA SFC TRACY CHAPMAN SFC BRIAN CLARK SFC GENIVAL DASILVA SFC BRANDALE GIBBS SFC AARON HASSE SFC RINE HESSEL SFC VIDAL JOHNSON SFC EMILY LYON SFC EDWARD MCGUIRE SFC JESSIE MCMILLAN SFC JEFFERY MORRIS **SFC MATTHEW ROBINSON** SFC MATTHEW ROGALSKI SFC TARAN RYKSE SFC JOSEPH SCHETTLER SFC LARAE THOMAS SFC JACOB TOW SFC TERENCE WARNER SFC BLAKE WILLIAMS SSG CYNDEL ANDERSON **SSG MICHAEL ANDERSON SSG CHARLES BATES** SSG KYLE BENEDICT SSG ADAM BLICHARSKI **SSG BRENNEN BONTER** SSG AMBER BRAINERD SSG JEREMY BRANDENBURGER SSG LOGAN BUHL SSG VADICE BURGETT SSG IRVIN CANLAS **SSG MATTHEW CAPPO** SSG ELSA CARPENTER SSG KIRK CAVELL SSG GRIFFIN CHOLGER **SSG DONOVAN COLLINS** SSG NATHANIEL COLLINS SSG MICHAEL COOLEY SSG TAYLOR COTTON SSG MATTHEW DAMON

SSG KEVIN DIMMER

SSG WILLIAM DOYLE

SSG SAMIRAH FOSTER

SSG DEMARCO GREENE

SSG ROBERT GARVIE

**SSG JOHN HARRIMAN** 

SSG DARIUS HARVEY

SSG GARY HELMAN

**SSG LEE JONES** 

SSG ABIGAIL EARLY

**SSG RENEE FOOS** 

SSG JAMES GUTH

SSG AZARIAS DOROTEO

SSG JEREMIE KEITH SSG KYLE KLINE SSG SEAN KUNDE SSG WILLIAM LECH **SSG JEREMY LINCOLN** SSG GINA LISI SSG ALEX LITTLE SSG ROGER MADDUX SSG NATHAN MCCANN SSG CONNOR MCCOWN SSG RAECHEL MCKIERNAN SSG MICHAEL MEY SSG COLLIN MILLER SSG BRANDON MONTELEONE SSG EMMANUEL OGU SSG THEODORE PECK SSG NATHAN PHILLIPSROMANIUK SSG RYAN RAMIREZ SSG ANDREW RICHARDS SSG RICHARD SEELY SSG JENNIFERSHULTZ SSG JOSEPH SKRYPKUN SSG JOSHUA SMITH SSG TYLER SNYDER SSG MATTHEW TEMPLIN SSG SCOTT THELEN SSG JOHN TIEFENBACH SSG WEBB TOWNE **SSG ERNESTO VASQUEZ** SSG RAYMOND WEAVER SSG KYLE WELTY SSG SEAN WIESSNER **SSG BRANDEN WILLIAMS** SSG CLINT WILSON SSG PAIGE WOLFE SSG JILL WOLSCHLAGER

SSG GLADYS ZUNIGA SGT ALYSSA AGUEROS SGT EDEN AKINS **SGT REINER ALEXANDER** SGT CHELTONESTELLE ALIWATKINS SGT COLTON ANDREWS SGT GREGORY ARCHAMBEAU SGT HARRY ATKINSON SGT EMILIO BAILEY SGT BROOKLYNN BALSIS SGT TRISTIN BANASZAK SGT ANTOINE BATTLE SGT RYAN BERNARDO **SGT JOSEPH BERRY SGT ZACHARIE BISINWA** SGT SETH BJORGE SGT MARIO BLACK **SGT MONIQUE BLAKELY SGT JONATHAN BOERGER SGT DYAMI BOMIA SGT ISAAC BOULTER SGT CALEB BRADEN SGT TYREE BROWN** SGT CHRISTOPHER BRUCE **SGT JAMES BRUMM** SGT KELLAN BRYANT SGT BRITTNEY BURNS

SSG IVAN WOLSHLAGER

SSG NATHANAEL WYMA

**SGT MICHAEL BURRUS SGT JOSHUA CARTER** SGT MICHEAL CARY SGT HEATHER CHACON SGT ADRIK CHAVEZAREVALO SGT VINCENT CIRICOLA **SGT JOSHUA CONINE** SGT BRANDON CONSTABLE SGT DERICK CORREA SGT ABIGAIL COTTOM **SGT CIERRA COX** SGT KAELANN COX SGT STEPHAN CRIFASI **SGT JACOB CRUTCHER SGT JAYDEN CURNETT** SGT BENJAMIN CUSHMAN SGT KAYLA DAVIES SGT CHRISTOPHER DAWSON **SGT TRAVIS DENNY SGT WILLIAM DETTORE SGT CORY DILLON SGT EMILY DUNN** SGT DALTON EDMONDS SGT MYLEK EDWARDS SGT MYLES EDWARDS SGT SANIQUE EDWARDS SGT SARAH FARRARDELUCIA SGT GRACE FINKEL **SGT CHARLIE FINSTROM SGT THOMAS FISHER** SGT RONALD FOSTER SGT CLAYTON FRANK **SGT TYLER FRANK SGT CALEB FRANZ SGT ETHAN FULTON** SGT NICHOLAS GAMSHO SGT DOMINICK GONZALEZ **SGT NICHOLAS GREENE SGT JARRETT GRUBBS** SGT AVA GUNST SGT MATTHEW HAATAJA **SGT JAMES HAMILTON** SGT MILTON HARRIS SGT SAMANTHA HARRIS SGT JACOB HARVEY SGT LAREN HEARD **SGT CLAY HENDERSHOTT** SGT BLAIR HENDRICKSON SGT JAMES HICKEY SGT REID HIGHLEN **SGT AUSTIN HOCHSTEDLER SGT DILLON HOHL SGT NICKOLAS HORMANN** SGT EVAN HOUCK SGT QUENTIN HRIVNAK SGT SPENCER HUGHES

**SGT BRENDAN HULBERT** 

SGT BRANDON JAMIESON

SGT HERIBERTO JAUREGUI

**SGT LOGAN HUNTER** 

SGT ZACKARY JENKS

SGT JOSHUA JOHNSON

SGT DARIUS JERUE

SGT JOSEPH JOLY

**SGT TAHSIN KALAM** 

SGT DANIEL IERY

**SGT ADAM KEELER** SGT MAXWELL KERSTEIN SGT SHAWN KESSEL **SGT LINSEY KITTS** SGT CALEB KNEIDING SGT NORMAN KOLENA SGT TREVVOR KOTRBA SGT TYLER KRAUSE **SGT CONNOR LANDON** SGT MATTHEW LANE **SGT HUNTER LAPINE** SGT DYLAN LATOROCO SGT CORINNE LAVATY SGT COLE LEE SGT MARIA LENTINE SGT MACKENZIE LEPLEY **SGT AMARI LEWIS** SGT ANDREW LIVERNOIS **SGT ANTONIO LYTE SGT DOMINIC MANCIN** SGT RIDGE MANNIKKO SGT MARYCLAIRE MANSFIELD SGT ZACHARY MARTIN **SGT KEVON MCCALLUM** SGT DESIREE MCCONNELL SGT CONNOR MCKEAN SGT NATHANIEL MCKINSTRY SGT AIDEN MCPHERSON **SGT MARANDA MEDINA SGT TERRIE MEDINA SGT JOSHUA MEEUWSEN** SGT DARLA MENSCH **SGT JAYDON MILLER** SGT COLLIN MIRACLE SGT MACOY MITCHELL SGT ZAYON MOBLEYWRIGHT **SGT ALLYSSA MOREHOUSE SGT ESTEBAN MORENO SGT JENNA MUELLER** SGT CAELEB MULLER SGT ELIZABETH MUMMA **SGT JEFFREY NESPITAL** SGT JESSE NEY SGT ANTONIO NIEBRZYDOWSKI **SGT WESTON NORMINGTON** SGT AYODEJI ONI **SGT ZACHARY PALMER SGT SAHIRAH PASTOR** SGT DARIUSPERISEE SGT MARCIN PERKINS **SGT ZACHARY PHIFER** SGT ANNA PHILLIPS SGT MATTHEW PIESKE **SGT MICHAEL POIRIER** SGT NICHOLAS PYLE SGT CAIDEN REED SGT MACKENZIE REID **SGT HALEY REYNOLDS** SGT COLIN RIVAIT SGT NICOLE RODGERS SGT PHILIPII RODRIGUEZ

SGT MATTHEWROSS

SGT ROYAL RUSSELL

**SGT MARCELLUS ROUSE** 

**SGT NATHAN RUEDINGER** 

SGT TRAVIS RUTKOWSKI

**SGT LOGAN SCHROEDER** SGT ALEC SCHRYER SGT DARRECO SCOTT **SGT CALEB SCROGGINS SGT GEORGE SEAHORN SGT BRENDEN SHARP SGT MAVERICKSINCIC** SGT AMEERA SIRHAN SGT ISAAC SLATE SGT MIGUEL SMITH **SGT DEREK SPANN** SGT JAYLEN STORY SGT CHANDLER STOUTENBURG **SGT ABRAHAM SWITZER SGT JAYCOB TARINMADRID SGT CIN THANG** SGT TOU THAO SGT RYAN THOMPSON SGT ALEXANDER TOTTEN **SGT MICHAEL TUNNELL** SGT ADEN TYLER SGT JOSEPH VALENTINE SGT CHRISTOPHER VANBUSKIRK **SGT MIRANDA VANHAUN** SGT YONAMEA VINGCOSTRATMAN **SGT CODY WAITE** SGT KOREY WASHINGTON SGT TREY WILCOX SGT EULAND WILLIAMS SGT COOPER WILSON SGT JOSHUA YANG **SGT JARRETT ZIMMER SPC MICHAEL ABBAS SPC BRENDAN ADAMS** 

SPC JOSEPH ALDEN SPC ALI ALHARIS **SPC REUBEN ARENDS SPC DAMION BAKER** SPC PARKER BARNETT SPC RANDALL BAZDOR SPC MASON BERRIDGE SPC THOMAS BOESLER **SPC CHANDLER BORG** SPC ALLEN BOWLING SPC TRYSTA BOYLE SPC TRENTON BRAMAN SPC BLANE BROMLEY SPC JUSTIN BROWN SPC EMMALEY BURCH **SPC JAYMES BUTCHER** SPC CHASE CAMMENGA **SPC NICO CANDELA** SPC SAMUEL CARTER SPC ZANDER CHARLES SPC LOGAN COLE SPC DONOVAN COSSAIRT **SPC JOHN DAVEY** SPC ALEXA DEKOEKKOEK SPC CADE DELGADO **SPC JACOB DENEAU SPC KELLY DIEKMAN SPC SYDNEY EMMENDORFER** SPC CHRISTOPHER GEMBARSKI SPC LANDON GIRONDA SPC ESMERALDA GUERRERO

## MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

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SPC CHRISTOPHER HAMMOCK **SPC TROY HOLTON SPC MICHEAL HOUSE** SPC BRIONA HUSSEY SPC ANDREW IMM **SPC BRYAN JEUWOU** SPC JAYVON JOHNSON SPC SHAVAKIE JOHNSON SPC JAWAD JOUNI SPC DAKOTA KEENOY **SPC ADAM KIEL** SPC COOPER KOTRBA SPC PATRICK LAMACCHIO SPC DAVID LASH SPC JUSTIN LEAVELL **SPC CARTER LEWIS** SPC CURTIS LING SPC JUSTIN MACK SPC KEITH MACK **SPC LEDESHA MADURO SPC JUSTIN MARING** SPC BREANNA MCNEECE SPC CONNOR MILLERING SPC DOMINICK MILLIKEN SPC MARKUS MILLS SPC KELSIE MISZE SPC LEO MOSKOWITZ SPC CAMDEN NELSON SPC KEVIN NGUYEN SPC COURTNEY NISWANDER SPC DAKOTA NOSTRANT SPC JAVON ODOM **SPC DEVIN PALMER** SPC CADEN PAWLAK **SPC SCOTT PECK** SPC JEFFERY PHENIX SPC JASON PICONCASTRO SPC NATALEE SANDERS **SPC MATTHEW SAPE** SPC MYA SCOTT SPC MARIQUE STAFFORD SPC DEVIN STEGGERDA SPC ISABELLE STORM SPC ANTHONY TAYLOR SPC JAI THORNTON SPC DERREK TUTTLE SPC NICKOLAS WALUKONIS **SPC EUGENE WHITE** SPC KIEARA WHITE SPC SETH WHITTEN SPC MARKEESE WILLIAMS SPC ISABELLE WILSON **SPC ASHTON WYANT** SPC JOSHUA ZAMORA

PFC HANNI ABDALLAH
PFC DAIONNA ABDUL MUJIB
PFC NEBIYU ABEBE
PFC SEBASTIAN ADAMS
PFC NICHELLE ALVARADO
PFC KYLE AMOS
PFC JAMES ANDREE
PFC MASON BERRY
PFC ALIVIA BILICKI
PFC THOMAS BLOCK
PFC LEON BONNER

**PFC JUSTIN BOTTEN** PFC SOPHIA BRAKORA PFC ROSEMARIE CABRERA PFC ISSAGA CAMARA PFC MICHAEL CHAMBERS PFC ANTHONY CHANEY PFC AYDEN COVEY PFC ZACHARY DANIELS PFC AIDAN DUNCAN PFC AIDAN EARL PFC JACOB EITNIEAR **PFC AARON ELLIS** PFC COLTON FELTY PFC GABRIEL FILETTI PFC ARTARIO FORD PFC RYAN FRIAR PFC ZANE GALE PFC ANTHONY GAMET PFC JAIRO GARCIA PFC LANDEN GARCIA PFC DANIEL GARZA PFC GABRIEL GEHA PFC RICARDO GERMAN PFC SEAN GOODGER PFC JUSTIN GORECKI PFC AUSTEN GULDSWOG PFC JOSHUA GUZMAN PFC ROBERT HARSHMAN PFC JEREMIAH HEADSPETH PFC CONNOR HENRY PFC COREY HIGBEE PFC JALEN HILL PFC KARLEY HILL PFC CONNOR HOKE PFC MICHAEL HUBENET PFC NOAH HUNTZINGER PFC TYRESE HUTCHINSON PFC NDUDI ILECHIE PFC TASHAWN JACKSON PFC VICTORIA JAMES PFC ELENA JERONIMO PFC LELA JOHNSON PFC SAMARA JONES WHITE PFC SEAN KASPRZYK PFC TERRY KELSEY PFC LOGAN KENT PFC KAL KOWALLIC PFC AYDEN LALONDE PFC LUCAS LANCZY PFC BRYCE LARKEY PFC JOHN LEAVELL PFC SIERRA LEE PFC TERON LEVERETT PFC DEVINA LOPEZZAMORA PFC BRANDON MAGNUSSEN PFC MOHAMMED MAJEED PFC EVAN MARTIN PFC ANGEL MATOS LONGORIA PFC DAQUAN MAXWELL PFC CAILEN MCLEA PFC BRADEN MEADOWS

PFC JUDE MICKEVICH

PFC LOGAN MILES

PFC CORBEN MOHR

PFC JAMES MOORE

PFC EDWARD MILAMBO

PFC AIDAN NAZARIAN PFC CHRISTOPHER NELSONPACHECO PFC TUCKER NETHAWAY PFC NAPOLEON ODOM PFC RYAN OSTERLAND PFC PATTON OSWALD PFC JACOB PASTOOR PFC SERENITY PETERS PFC PRESTON PETERSON PFC EVERETT PHIPPS PFC DAWSON PINNICKWILLIAMS PFC ISAAC PREECE PFC ZACKORY RENFER PFC MATEO REYES PFC MARRION ROBINSON PFC CESAR RODRIGUEZGARCIA PFC CHYSTAN MAXIMUSROSAGA PFC TREASURE ROSS PFC VIVIANA SANTOS PFC BRAYDEN SCHAFER PFC LEILA SEARS PFC EMMANUEL SHAKHMAYEV PFC EARL SHORT PFC ANDREW SILVA PFC COHEN SMITH PFC OLIVIA SMITH **PFC MICHAEL SMITS** PFC NATHANIEL SPADE PFC JULIEN SPILLMAN PFC DALE STOTLER PFC GAVEN STRONG **PFC JAMES SWEET** PFC EVAN TAYLOR PFC GARRETT THEMM PFC GABRIEL TORIZ PFC SAVANNAH TURRITTIN PFC QUENTIN VANNATTER PFC COLTON VANOMMEN PFC EMILY VARGASVEGA PFC JUDE VARGO PFC BRIANA SUE WELLY **PFC TRENT WEST** PFC SAMUEL WILLIAMS PFC DALLAS WILTON PFC LILY WOLF PFC DAMARCUS WYATT PFC BRADLEY ZEPP **PV2 LEX AIKENS PV2 MOHAMMED ALKHATIB PV2 CAMERON ALLEN PV2 ALEXANDER ASBRIDGE** 

PFC BRADLEY ZEPP

PV2 LEX AIKENS
PV2 MOHAMMED ALKHATIB
PV2 CAMERON ALLEN
PV2 ALEXANDER ASBRIDGE
PV2 ELIJAH BALSITIS
PV2 AMBIKA BANAVARA
PV2 CARSON BAUGHER
PV2 NICHOLAS BINGAMAN
PV2 XAVIER BLANTON
PV2 XAVIER BRAXTON
PV2 TREVOR BROWN
PV2 TREVOR BUNTING
PV2 ISAIAH BYERS
PV2 JAMES CAIN
PV2 RENEE CANTY
PV2 GAVYN CARDEN
PV2 ALEX CARGILL
PV2 MARIANGEL CHACON

**PV2 MICHAEL CHAPMAN PV2 DERIC CHUPURDY PV2 AUSTIN CLEMENT PV2 KYLEE COFFEY PV2 RICHARD CONTRERAS PV2 ASHTON CONWAY PV2 ANNIKA CORBIN PV2 OWEN CORBIN PV2 CURTIS CRIVEA PV2 ASHLEY CUEVAS** PV2 JOSEPH CUNG **PV2 RYAN DELAVAN** PV2 MBUYU DIEUDONNE **PV2 KENDELIA DYKE** PV2 HUNTER EMMENDORFER PV2 ANDREW ENGLE PV2 FRANCISCO ESPARZAESCOBEDO **PV2 DAVID FARISON PV2 JACKSON FARRAR PV2 ADAM FITZGERALD PV2 LEE FOLLETT PV2 GAGE FREIBERG PV2 JAMISEN GAGER PV2 CALEB GILDE PV2 MISAEL GONZALEZ PV2 RASHARD GREEN PV2 KIERA HARSH** 

**PV2 MALACHI HERZOG PV2 REBEKAH HILL PV2 QIERA HOLT BEY PV2 JORDAN HYATT PV2 NICHOLAS INGRAM** PV2 KENYON JACKSON PV2 LANDON JACKSON **PV2 ALHASANA JALLOW PV2 MICHAEL JAMES PV2 PAIGE JENNEMAN PV2 DAVID JUDGE PV2 JILLIAN KOCH PV2 KEITH KRAUS PV2 RYAN KRUCKEBERG PV2 JAMES KRUSZYNSKI PV2 CAMBRIE LAWRENCE** PV2 SAIDI LEFEBVRE **PV2 CONNOR LESARGE PV2 VAN LIAN PV2 ANIYA LIDDELL PV2 ANDRES LOPEZ ROMERO** PV2 JONATHAN LOPEZ-ESTRADA PV2 DOMINIK LUBANSKI PV2 ANDREA LUNA ROJAS **PV2 KENDRIC MACLEAN PV2 KYLER MANCOS** PV2 JONATHAN MAURICIOMARTINEZ PV2 RYAN MCCOY PV2 JOHN MENDEZ BABILONIA **PV2 KIMBERLY MENDOZA PV2 JOSHUA MERCIER PV2 ABBY MILLER PV2 JEFFERY MONTGOMERY** PV2 BENJAMIN NOORTHOEK **PV2 ALLIE NORDEN PV2 CAMERON NUNEZ** PV2 GUILLERMO ORTEGASANTANA **PV2 TYLER PAUL** 

**PV2 NADIA PEREZ** 

**PV2 LAINE POTTER PV2 ALASIA PRICE PV2 DOMINICK PRIES** PV2 LUCIANO PROVENZOLA **PV2 DAVID PURIFOY PV2 GABRIEL RAMEREIZ PV2 LEANDRO REDA LOPEZ PV2 EMMA RODRIGUEZ PV2 JUSTIN ROGNER PV2 EDMOND ROOT PV2 ROBERT SANDERS PV2 RILEY SCHAUB** PV2 LOGAN SCHMIDT PV2 GRAYCIE SCHROEDER PV2 KELCIE SHALTONIS **PV2 CHRISTOPHER SHAWREED PV2 TOBY SHELDON PV2 JARED SLAGER PV2 JONATHAN SMITH PV2 TARA SNIDER PV2 TYLER STATLER PV2 OLGA SUAREZ PV2 JOSEPH THIBODEAU PV2 ROWEIN TOLER PV2 KADIENCE TROMBLEY PV2 AUSTIN TROMP PV2 EMANI TYLER** PV2 MADDOX VARELA **PV2 DEREK VARTANIAN PV2 DARIUS WADE PV2 DESTINY WALLAG** 

PV2 MATTHEW WENDT

PV2 JORDYN WILLIAMS PV2 NATASHA WINGARD

**PV2 SAMUEL WOODBURY** 

**PV2 MAKAILA ZIEGLER** 

**PV2 EMMANUEL YERENAS** 

**PV2 ISABEL WINGO** 

## MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

### NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

**BRIG GEN DANIEL KRAMER** 

MAJ KATRINA SMITH

CMSGT CHRISTOPHER TEAR CMSGT JOHNNY WHITE

SMSGT REBECCA MCGONNELL

MSGT JOEL CANVASSER MSGT CHRISTOPHER DRESSING MSGT JAMES MYATT MSGT ROBBERT SCOTT MSGT JAMES TENNIMON

TSGT RIVER GEORGE TSGT BRENT HOULE TSGT NICHOLAS JACKQUEMAIN TSGT DESTINI MITCHELL TSGT TRENTON WEBSTER TSGT DEVONTE WILLIAMS

SSGT JACE ARNOLD SSGT TREVOR BARRON SSGT JAMES BRETZ SSGT DERRICK DANIEL SSGT JACEY DOUGLAS SSGT JASMINE ELLIOT **SSGT JAYSON HARALSON SSGT BIANCA HRYNCIW** SSGT JOY HURLING SSGT JOHN MARCHESE SSGT NATHANIEL MCKINSTRY SSGT KIERRA MURRAY SSGT RICKY PATTON **SSGT JAMES PRATT** SSGT RYAN STILLIN SSGT DILLON TERHAAR SSGT MAKIYA WILLINGHAM

SRA COLE ALLI SRA DEVON FULLER SRA STUART HUNTER SRA MAXIMILIAN KOSMALSKI SRA SEAN LANGLOIS SRA JOSEPH MILLER SRA LUKASZ POCIECHA SRA CONNER RAYMOND

A1C CHAYIM CHINO A1C HAILEY CHISUM A1C ALICE HAMILTON A1C SAMUEL PARKYN

**AMN JACK CARSON** 

#### MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

LTC JASON CORNER LTC RYAN DAVIS LTC TODD FALOR MAJ DANIEL DAUGHERTY MAJ PAUL LEPLEY MAJ JESSE REED **2LT ISAIAH LEWIS** CW3 NATHANIEL MCKEAN **CW2 ROBERT KEMPPAINEN SGM ROBERT SCAIA JR 1SG BRIAN BRACE 1SG BRIAN HARDER 1SG LON RICHARDSON** MSG TIFFANIE CLAWSON MSG CRAIG DORIN **MSG DOUGLAS ELLIS MSG JOSEPH FRY** MSG RODNEY ROACH MSG SARAH SIMS MSG MICHAEL WEBB SFC BRANDY BAILEYHOBBS SFC ROY BURR JR SFC GARTH CROSS SFC AMMAR IBRAHIM SFC GREGORY KENNEDY SFC RYAN KUZMINSKI SFC DANIEL PORTER SSG ANTHONY LAMB SSG GARY MCALPINE SSG SAMMONS CARL III SSG ROBERY VAUGHN JR SSG JONATHAN WHEELER SGT JOSHUA BERG **SGT JOSEPH DENCH SGT WADE DOTY** SGT JOSEPH POL SGT DONALD POLLOCK SGT MARCUS WRONSKI SPC ROBERT COX JR **SPC MICHAEL CRAIG SPC JEFFERY DEBOZY SPC MATTHEW EDWARDS** SPC CHASE FLORE SPC JERRY JOHNSON II SPC THIAN KALLIO SPC ELI LOFTON SPC JAMEL MCGEEWILLIAMS SPC JESSE SIKKEMA SPC DAKOTA TATRO **SPC OWEN VERSLUIS** PFC BRITTANY BROECKER PFC MICHAEL SHEPARDFILE

PV2 DEJON RODRIGUEZ PVT ASHLEY DREW

#### MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

MAJ GEN ROLF MAMMEN LT COL CHANI DEVERS LT COL JAMES HUNT MAJ JASON HOLM MAJ DANIEL TOTSCH SMSGT DARRELL KINGSBURY SMSGT MATTHEW MCCROSKERY **SMSGT GREGORY REISS SMSGT KENNETH WILSON** MSGT KEITH BADALAMENTI **MSGT WYTINA CATHEY** MSGT STEVEN HACKETT MSGT JASON KLEMANSKI MSGT FREDDIE PIMENTEL JR MSGT DONALD RUSSELL MSGT NICHOLAS WEST SSGT JODY BLEVINS



# UPCOMING EVENTS **APRIL 2025** Best Warrior Competition (Fort Custer), April 21-25 MAY 2025 Camp Grayling Kentucky Derby Gala (Camp Grayling), May 3 3rd Annual Fort Custer "Defender" 5K (Fort Custer), May 3 Uncrewed Triple Challenge (Alpena / Camp Grayling), May 19-22 MVAA Veteran's Leadership Summit, (Marquette) May 19-21 **JUNE 2025** Legends and Leaders Golf Outing (Patriot Golf Club, Grayling), June 12 TAG Social (Camp Grayling Officer's Club) June 12 Annual Pass and Review (Camp Grayling) June 13 52nd MYCA Graduation, (Location TBD) June 14 State Consolidated Annual Training (Camp Grayling): May 31 - June 14

**JULY 2025** 

Boots on the Ground Heroes Memorial (Camp Grayling), July 12-27

AUGUST 2025

Northern Strike 25-2 (Camp Grayling), August 2-16

OCTOBER 2025

MVAA Women Veterans Conference (Grand Rapids), October 16-19

NOVEMBER 2025

5th Annual Michigan Military and Veteran's Gala (Detroit), November 8



# TELL YOUR STORY



Share your personal or unit news and associated photos (with captions please) to <a href="mailto:ng.mi.miarng.list.pao@army.mil">ng.mi.miarng.list.pao@army.mil</a>. Keep operational security in mind and ask permission when taking photos of other people and equipment. We distribute material all over the world so yours might just be the next global feature story! Never fear, to bend our ear, with event descriptions, unit accomplishments, training photos, armory changes, any news that impacts the Soldiers, Airmen, families and friends of the MING. Please do your part to steer us in the right direction and tell the Michigan National Guard story.

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# **ALWAYS READY**



# **ALWAYS THERE**

