

# WOLVERINE GUARD

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

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AND MORE



PHOTO BY: CAPT TIM MAPLEY 3RD BATTALION, 238TH AVIATION REGIMENT

A PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
3411 N MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD  
BUILDING 30, ROOM 230  
LANSING, MI 48906-2934**

**517-481-7735**

**NG.MI.MIARNG.LIST.PAO@ARMY.MIL**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

**DEPUTY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

**DEPUTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

**DIGITAL MEDIA**

**VISUAL INFORMATION**

**COMMAND HISTORIAN**

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# TAG TALK

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS

## *SUCCESS THROUGH TEAMWORK*



Teammates,

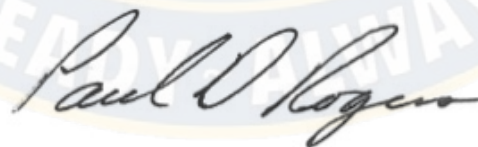
In every mission, every challenge, and every success, one truth remains constant: we are stronger together. This quarter's Wolverine Guard centers on a theme that defines who we are in the National Guard—"Success Through Teamwork." It's a timely reminder that our greatest achievements are never the result of individual effort alone, but of shared purpose, mutual support, and collective strength.

In this issue, you'll read about Guardsmen who embody that spirit of teamwork on and off the field. From the high-speed collaboration showcased in the Mitchell Trophy Air Race, to the unity and grit demanded by the Michigan National Guard Biathlon Team, our Soldiers and Airmen demonstrate what it means to operate as one force.

You'll also find stories about the civilian employees who keep our department going strong, such as Ms. Rachelle Breeden. Ms. Breeden, the DMVA Chief Financial Officer tells us about leading the team and ensuring we are good stewards of our resources. You'll find a story about resilience, highlighting how leaning on others and building strong support networks is key to overcoming adversity.

As we look forward to the events of the next several months, including the Uncrewed Triple Challenge, State Annual Training, and Northern Strike, remember that we achieve more together. Whether it's in competition, in duty, or in life, our success depends on how we lift each other up. As you turn the pages of this quarter's Wolverine Guard, I hope you'll be inspired to reflect on the teams you're part of—your unit, your family, your community—and continue to invest in those bonds. Because when we work together, we don't just succeed, we excel.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to one another.





# LEADER SPOTLIGHT

## RACHELLE BREEDEN: LEADING WITH PURPOSE AT THE DMVA



*Rachelle Breeden, Chief Financial Officer for the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

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

LANSING, Mich. — As the chief financial officer for the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Rachelle Breeden leads a team that manages the department's financial health, internal controls, procurement, audits, information technology, and logistics. Her work supports every branch of the department, including the Michigan Army and Air National Guard, state veterans homes, and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

Her team may be small, just 19 people, but their impact is statewide.

"We are the powerhouse behind the scenes," said Breeden. "Our team ensures the department functions efficiently and ethically. We support every program so they can carry out their mission to serve Michigan communities."

The DMVA's state-appropriated budget exceeds \$275 million, not including federal funding. Breeden's office is responsible for planning, monitoring, and managing how every dollar is used, from daily purchases to large-scale operations and emergency response efforts.

"Whether it's helping a veteran access the care they need or mobilizing the National Guard to support communities during a crisis, we see firsthand how our work makes a real difference. That's what makes it all worth it," she said.

Breeden stepped into the CFO role last July after more than a decade of public service. A proud Lansing native and third-generation public servant, she grew up surrounded by examples of service. Her mother worked for the state of Michigan, her stepfather served in the Michigan National Guard, and her grandparents also spent their careers in public service.

"As a student, public service was already ingrained in me," said Breeden. "I always knew I wanted to serve, but I also wanted to explore different fields and disciplines."

That curiosity led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a focus on business, science, and logistics. Later, she earned a Master of Public Administration with a specialization in integrative policy. The combination of business acumen and policy expertise gave her the tools to serve both at the state and local levels.

"My leadership style is built around integrity," she said. "We are stewards of public resources, and how we manage those resources reflects directly on the people we serve."

Breeden believes that technical and logistical skills are only part of the equation. What matters most is using those abilities to make a difference in the community.

"Find your passion and let that guide you," she said. "Every role is an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect. The only failure is the failure to learn."

Outside of work, Breeden spends her time with her family, who are based in Lansing. Staying close to home and connected to her community is a constant reminder of the impact her department has across the state.

"We don't just manage numbers," she said. "We help ensure the department can function and serve its mission. That's what drives me every day."



# MITCHELL TROPHY AIR RACE

## *Revived at Selfridge*

Story by Master Sgt. Chelsea FitzPatrick  
127th Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, hosted the 1st Fighter Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mar. 6, 2025, reviving an aerial competition made popular when World War I flying aces were front-page news. In a collaboration 89 years in the making, the 1st Fighter Wing, whose lineage dates back to the 1st Pursuit Group, brought part of the Mitchell Trophy Air Race back to Selfridge, a heritage home of both the unit and the race.

“The opportunity to showcase Selfridge’s capabilities during the Mitchell Trophy Air Race is a testament to the enduring fighter mission that’s been here for more than a century,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew Brancato, commander of the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base. “As the largest Air National Guard installation in the United States, Selfridge is equipped to handle the most advanced aircraft and weapons systems in the military fleet.”

The 127th Wing actively flies both the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack and KC-135 Stratotanker refueling missions. In addition, the Michigan Army National Guard, U.S. Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, and Coast Guard share the 1.3 million square feet of ramp space, flying the CH-47 Chinook, MH-65E Dolphin and multiple other rotary and fixed wing aircraft from the base, 20 miles north of Detroit.

With all the infrastructure and support capabilities to refuel and house 24 fighter aircraft, the 127th Wing was easily positioned to host the six F-22 Raptor aircraft racing in from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia on Mar. 6.

“While supporting fighter aircraft is a crucial element of our lethal combat mission, the rich history and heritage of Selfridge makes us an exceptional location for the race,” Brancato said.

Between 1922 and 1936, the Mitchell Trophy Air Race was held 12 times, five of those at Selfridge, including the first and last iterations. Open only to pilots of the 1st Pursuit Group, the first race was held as part of the larger Pulitzer Trophy air races on Oct. 14, 1922. Six open cockpit biplanes completed five laps on a 20-mile course marked with pylons. The winner, Lt. Donald Stace, covered 100 miles at a rate of 148 miles per hour.

In contrast, the 2025 competitors flew fifth generation fighter aircraft from JBLE to Selfridge, completed a series of tasks on the ground and arrived back at home station in less than five hours. While air races were a beloved pastime of a bygone era boasting crowds in the tens of thousands, winning required the aerial skills of lethally-trained, combat-tested pilots. The competitions tested mettle and many died during these events.

“The Mitchell Trophy air race was more than just a contest of skill; it was an embodiment of the 1st Pursuit Group’s commitment to excellence and innovation,” said Joshua Lashley, the 1st Fighter Wing historian. “The competition was fierce, and winning the race was one of the greatest honors a pilot could achieve.”

Unlike the original series, the 2025 race tested the combat skills of today’s warfighter, using the Air Force concept of “agile combat employment.” ACE is a skillset whereby pilots, air crews and maintainers operate flying missions in combat zones, without the manning or infrastructure of established air bases.

“This is about replacing the logistical challenges we will face in a peer conflict, where our ability to move, adapt and fight in the face of numerous maintenance, support, weather and intelligence challenges, may very well determine mission





An F-22 Raptor aircraft, assigned to the 94th Fighter Squadron, departs Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Mar. 6, 2025. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Drew Schumann)

success,” Col. Brandon Tellez, 1st Fighter Wing commander, said.

Three teams of two pilots, each representing a squadron of the 1st Fighter Wing, received the “mission,” the morning of the event. They were tasked with getting their jets inspected, armed, fueled and launched to fly to Selfridge. Once at Selfridge, one pilot stayed with the aircraft to refuel and inspect in preparation for takeoff, while the other pilot had a side mission to complete.

Without any logistical support or contacts on the ground, the Airmen left the flight line in search of the Selfridge Military Air Museum to sign the historic guest register. In temperatures well below freezing and with winds gusting up to 30 mph, the first pilot took off on foot to reach the museum, approximately two miles away. In 30 minutes, Capt. Marbro, 27th Fighter Squadron, was the first to put his signature down.

With pages adorned with signatures of former presidents, high-ranking military officials and aviation heroes dating back

to 1987, the pilots were instructed to sign their names and to add, “Mitchell Trophy Air Race 2025.”

Lt. Col. Devil, commander, 94th Fighter Squadron, the second to reach the museum, shook the hands of approximately 20 bystanders in the museum after completing his task and before returning to his jet.

Although the Mitchell Trophy Air Race looked much different in 2025 than in its heyday, the opportunity to exercise military readiness and demonstrate warrior ethos was as strong as ever.

“The race is more than just a competition,” Tellez said. “It’s a way to honor our heritage as air power pioneers, the legacy and sacrifices of those who came before us and the enduring role of air power in national defense that remains ahead.

Devil and his teammate, Capt. Rizz, both of the 94th Fighter Squadron were named winners of the Mitchell Trophy. Now, after 89 years, all the Selfridge bystanders who shook Devil’s hand can say they met a Mitchell Trophy Cup winner.



# Family Programs



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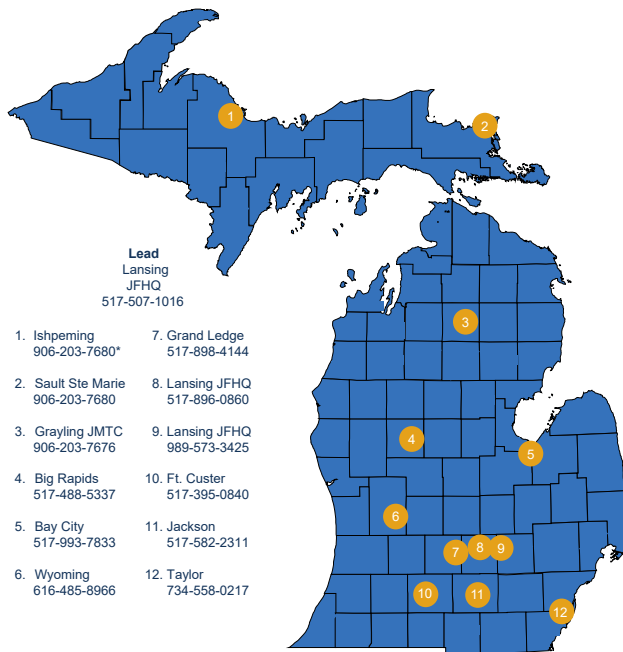
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**Kristy Torsky**

Military & Family Life Counselor  
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ktorsky9@magellanfederal.com  
Camp Grayling Bldg. 117



**Lia Hollis**

Military & Family Life Counselor  
(269) 361-7816  
hollisl@magellanfederal.com  
Joint Forces Headquarters, Lansing

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PERSONAL FINANCIAL COUNSELORS

**Dave Roberts**

Lansing  
571-424-4981  
pfc3.mi.ng@zeiders.com

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Grayling  
571-422-5034  
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# SERIES: FROM THE FRONT LINES

## 2ND LT DONOVAN LENARD



Story by Sgt. Catherine Brooks  
Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

LANSING, Mich. – For 2nd Lt. Donovan Lenard, choosing to join the Michigan Army National Guard wasn't just about a career—it was about transformation.

"I wanted to challenge and strengthen myself physically and mentally while also serving something greater than myself," said Lenard, a signal officer with an Area of Concentration (AOC) of 25A. "The Michigan Army National Guard offered a unique balance: the opportunity to serve my country and community, while still maintaining the flexibility to pursue other paths in life, whether that meant continuing my

education, building a civilian career, or exploring different lifestyles."

That balance—between duty and personal growth—was a key factor in Lenard's decision to commission. He saw the Guard as a place where discipline and development could go hand in hand, providing a solid foundation for both his military and civilian aspirations.

Though he initially aimed to branch 17A, Cyber Operations Officer, Lenard saw his 25A signal officer role as a strategic move.

"I chose my current AOC because it offered a strong technical foundation, which was important to me," Lenard said. "While I wasn't able to branch 17A right out of the gate, I saw 25A as an equivalent option and valuable stepping stone. It has allowed me to build the skills and experience I need."

Beyond his personal and professional growth, Lenard has found a deeper sense of purpose in encouraging others to take the leap into service.

"The most valuable part of this journey has been the opportunity to inspire others—especially those who are hesitant or afraid," he said. "I know how intimidating it can feel at first, but by sharing my experience and showing what's possible, I hope to be a reminder that stepping out of your comfort zone can lead to incredible growth and fulfillment."

Lenard believes that service isn't just about commitment—it's about transformation. He enjoys being a living example of what's possible when someone embraces that challenge.

For those considering the Guard, his advice is grounded in realism and passion.

"Make sure that whatever job you choose, it's something you'll genuinely be happy doing," he said. "The commitment is real, and while the experience can be incredibly rewarding, it's important to pick a role that aligns with your interests and goals. When you enjoy what you do, everything else follows naturally."

As Lenard continues to serve and grow, both in uniform and beyond, his story serves as a reminder that the National Guard isn't just a job—it's a journey of purpose, possibility, and personal evolution.

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# REDEFINING RESILIENCE

## Behavioral Health in the Military



Story by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine  
Michigan National Guard Public  
Affairs

LANSING, Mich—For years, service members have battled the stigma that seeking mental health support is a sign of weakness. Yet, in a profession where mental resilience is vital to mission success, reaching out for help is a powerful testament to a soldier's strength.

That's the message Josh Wierenga, a newly hired behavioral health coordinator for the Michigan National Guard and a U.S. Army veteran himself, is working to spread. For Wierenga, breaking the stigma surrounding mental health isn't just a job; it's a mission grounded in personal experience and the stories of others he's encountered.

"I'll never forget a conversation I had with a Vietnam veteran," Wierenga recalled. "He fought at Hamburger Hill, and when he finally sought help, he was told his experiences were 'nonsense.'"

That conversation deeply affected Wierenga, inspiring him to become the person who helps veterans and current service members feel heard and find strength in their stories.

Helping soldiers feel heard is

where Wierenga's role comes in.

In the Army, behavioral health supports soldiers' mental, emotional, and social well-being. It provides resources like counseling, resilience training, and stress management techniques. When soldiers need additional help, behavioral health specialists are there to connect them with therapists, ensuring they get the care necessary to stay mentally strong.

"Our role is about prevention and readiness. You don't need a diagnosis to talk to us. We're here for soldiers who feel overwhelmed, unsure, or simply need someone to listen," Wierenga explained. "We're like medics for the mind."

He likened it to treating a sprained ankle. "If you hurt your ankle, you take ibuprofen and ice it. Behavioral health is the same; our job is to help you recover before the injury worsens."

For Wierenga, breaking down barriers means meeting soldiers where they are, sometimes literally. Whether through casual conversations in the unit or leadership-requested check-ins, Wierenga makes himself available. Sometimes, those conversations happen over the phone, sometimes in person, and often with a wagging tail.

Gabe, a therapy dog adopted by





*Gabe, a therapy dog adopted by Josh Wierenga, a Behavioral Health Coordinator for the Michigan National Guard, plays a crucial role in helping service members open up and manage their mental health. (Courtesy Photo)*



*Josh Wierenga, a Behavioral Health Coordinator for the Michigan National Guard and U.S. Army veteran, is dedicated to supporting service members' mental well-being. (Courtesy Photo)*

Wierenga from a veteran who passed away, has become an invaluable companion during these visits. Trained as a service dog, Gabe helps soldiers open up in ways they might not otherwise.

"He's amazing," Wierenga said. "Gabe can sense when someone's upset. He'll nudge their leg or drop a ball at their feet to get them moving. I've seen soldiers open up while playing fetch with him. It's incredible how movement and connection can unlock emotions."

Beyond professional support, Wierenga emphasized practical strategies for maintaining mental well-being. He encourages soldiers to use his "Four R's" approach when feeling overwhelmed: Recognize, Retreat, Relax, and Return. This simple yet powerful technique empowers soldiers to manage stress independently, complementing the behavioral health support they receive.

"Recognizing when you're overwhelmed is the hardest part," he said. "Once you notice it, step back, even for just a few minutes. Relax, walk, visualize your favorite place, or practice slow breathing. Then, return to the task when you're calmer."

Wierenga stressed that leadership is crucial in creating environments that foster healthy stress management.

"We're great at pushing hard in the military," he noted. "But sometimes, leaders forget to give their teams space to recover. In garrison, why have four hours of nonstop meetings? When you can, give your team a chance to reset."

For Wierenga, the ultimate goal is to help soldiers understand that seeking mental health support isn't a sign of failure; it's a strategy for success.

"Your brain is like a muscle," he explained. "If you don't take care of it, unhealthy coping mechanisms

become your default. It is all about strengthening mental pathways. Even talking to someone or taking time to breathe is a way to build healthy habits and resilience."

A cornerstone of Wierenga's philosophy is that soldiers facing grief, family struggles, or the daily pressures of military life do not have to do it alone.

"Most times, people just need someone to listen," he said. "I've had soldiers tell me, 'Thank you; I just needed to get that off my chest.' That's powerful. It's all about giving them space to be heard."

Wierenga has witnessed a dramatic shift in the military's approach to mental health.

"When I talk to leaders now, they're actively checking in on their soldiers," he said. "Company commanders are calling me to say, 'I referred this soldier, and I just want



*Sgt. 1st Class Kayla Baumen interacts with Gabe, a therapy dog, during a behavioral mental health briefing, Feb. 28, 2025. (Courtesy Photo)*

to make sure they're okay.' That's a huge cultural shift."

Confidentiality remains a cornerstone of this process, ensuring soldiers can speak freely without fear of judgment. However, if necessary, a profile may be created as part of a formal assessment for ongoing care. While still protected under strict confidentiality, limited information may be shared with a commander to facilitate appropriate support without disclosing specifics.

"I always let the soldier know who will see their information and what it means for their privacy," Wierenga explained. "If they need a profile, we can't share specifics with the commander, we just give

general information on how they can provide support."

This transparency helps soldiers understand the boundaries of confidentiality, empowering them to reach out when needed.

Wierenga also emphasizes that soldiers will always be connected with trusted military providers who understand the unique challenges of service members.

"We're here to connect them (soldiers) with the right resources," he stated. "Our role is about prevention, readiness, and ensuring soldiers get the support they need before things get worse."

For Wierenga, the growing wave of leaders open to mental health discussions, along with specialists like him who are ready to listen and break the stigma, is creating a stronger, healthier force.

"No matter the struggle, no matter how serious something feels—it's always worth talking to someone. Always."

Service members can learn more about behavioral health in the National Guard here: <https://minationalguard.dodlive.mil/Resources/Behavioral-Health/> or reach out to Josh at [joshua.e.wierenga.civ@army.mil](mailto:joshua.e.wierenga.civ@army.mil).



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# SHOOTING FOR GOLD

## *The Michigan National Guard Biathlon Team, competes at the 49th Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championship*

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine  
Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

LANSING, Mich.—The Michigan National Guard Biathlon Team recently competed at the 49th Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championship, held at Mt. Itasca, Minnesota, in February 2024. This annual event brings together top competitors from across the country in an intense test of endurance, marksmanship and skiing ability. Among those competitors was Capt. Austin DeOrio, who took an unconventional path to the sport.

Three years ago, DeOrio spotted an announcement in a fragmentary order and decided to give the National Guard Biathlon Team a shot. Though he had experience with downhill skiing and was a strong marksman, he had never tried cross-

country skiing. A biathlon is a winter sport that combines cross-country skiing with rifle marksmanship. Athletes must ski through a demanding course while stopping at intervals to shoot targets, requiring both endurance and precision under pressure.

“I looked like Bambi the first time I tried skiing,” DeOrio said with a laugh.

Now in his second year of competition, after missing last season due to deployment, DeOrio has found his footing. Competing alongside fellow Michigan National Guard soldiers, he has embraced the challenge of balancing rigorous biathlon training with the demands of regular drills and annual training.

The Chief National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championship, now in its 49th year, featured nearly 100 Guardsmen from 18 states competing in four races, ranging from 4.5 to 15 kilometers.

The biathlon is a unique sport, requiring athletes to ski a loop, shoot five targets from a prone position, ski another loop and then shoot five more targets from a standing position. Missed shots mean extra laps, making precision just as important as speed.

Training for the sport is challenging, especially in Michigan, which lacks a dedicated biathlon range.

“We have to drive to Wisconsin to access a range,” DeOrio said. “We try to get out and ski on our own





Members from the Michigan National Guard Biathlon Team poses for a group photo before competing at the Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) Biathlon Competition, held this year at the Mt. Itasca Winter Sports Center in Coleraine, Minn., Feb. 28-March 5, 2025. (Courtesy Photo)

as much as possible, but a lot of it comes down to individual effort and preparation.”

Despite the obstacles, the Michigan National Guard Biathlon Team continues to make an impact. Competitors often meet for the first time on race day, making their teamwork and adaptability all the more impressive.

“For me, it’s about skiing straight without falling, keeping my heart rate low, pushing up the hills and shooting straight,” DeOrio said.

The competition was fierce, with states like Vermont, Minnesota and Wisconsin consistently dominating the leaderboards. Michigan’s athletes, however, held their own.

Staff Sgt. David Dohnal, Staff Sgt.

Michael Merfert and Capt. Bradford Watkins competed in the men’s open class, securing a sixth-place finish in the relay and coming close to a podium spot with a fourth-place finish in the patrol race. Watkins, a first-year competitor with a background in cross-country skiing, led the team with strong performances, placing 18th in both the 10km sprint and 12.5km pursuit races. Dohnal and Merfert, both in their third year of competition, also posted personal bests.

In the novice category, Sgt. Shelby Flory and Capt. DeOrio returned for their second year. Flory placed eighth in both the female novice sprint and pursuit races, later teaming up with competitors from Colorado and Rhode Island to secure a second-place finish in the novice relay. DeOrio placed 10th in the

men’s novice sprint and pursuit races and found success in team events, earning first place in the composite relay and second in the novice patrol race alongside competitors from Idaho.

Looking ahead, the team hopes to continue growing, welcoming new members who are teachable, physically fit and have a competitive mindset.

“The best part of being on the team is seeing your teammates succeed, reach their goals and achieve results at a competitive level,” DeOrio said.

For those interested in joining the Michigan National Guard Biathlon Team, Capt. Austin DeOrio can be contacted for more information at [austin.a.deorio.mil@army.mil](mailto:austin.a.deorio.mil@army.mil).

#### Men’s Open Class:

Relay: 6th place

Patrol Race: 4th place

10km Sprint: CPT Watkins (18th), SSG Dohnal (20th)

12.5km Pursuit: CPT Watkins (18th), SSG Merfert (24th)

#### Novice Class:

Female Novice Sprint & Pursuit: SGT Flory (8th place)

Men’s Novice Sprint & Pursuit: CPT DeOrio (10th place)

Novice Relay: 2nd place (SGT Flory with CO and RI teams)

Composite Relay: 1st place (CPT DeOrio with ID team)

Novice Patrol Race: 2nd place (CPT DeOrio with ID team)

# SHOTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## READY TO LOAD

Airmen from the 127th Wing, Michigan National Guard, discuss the load plan on a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, Jan. 30, 2025. These Airmen, assigned to different units in the 127th Wing, work together to securely manage cargo and passengers for safe transport. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Nathan Wingate)



## CIVIL SUPPORT TEAMS

U.S. Army soldiers from the North Carolina National Guard's 42nd Civil Support Team (CST), the Georgia National Guard's 4th CST, and the Michigan National Guard's 51st CST react to various scenario based active shooter events during Patriot 25 at the Guardian Centers in Perry, Ga, March 27, 2025. Approximately 700 participants from the National Guard as well as federal, state, and local agencies are taking part in Patriot 25, a National Guard-sponsored exercise designed to enhance domestic response readiness and interagency coordination. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Amanda Russell)





# A-10 PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS

Capt. Zachary Smith, a pilot with the 107th Fighter Squadron, runs through his pre-flight checklist onboard an A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, March 22, 2025. The flight was a training mission during the March drill weekend of the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Dan Heaton)



## SLING LOAD OPERATIONS

UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), Michigan Army National Guard, perform sling-load operations during a multi-ship flight qualification at Fort Custer Training Center, Augusta, Mich., March 21, 2025. The unit performed the exercise in preparation for an upcoming deployment. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Daniel Garas)







*U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matt Kakaris, a public affairs specialist with American Forces Network, leads a block of instruction for public affairs professionals with the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), in Monrovia, Liberia, Jan. 21, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Joe Legros)*

# LEARNING THE TRADE

## *A Week in Liberia Strengthening Public Affairs Partnerships*

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Schumann  
Michigan Air National Guard Public Affairs

MONROVIA, Liberia — Arriving in Liberia for my first visit to the African continent, I was unsure of what to expect. However, I knew my purpose—to share my expertise as a public affairs specialist and state partner in the Michigan Air National Guard with the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

Organized by U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF), and as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP), I had the privilege of participating in a military-to-military workshop from Jan. 19-24, 2025. This mission brought together a diverse team from across the military public affairs domain.

Joining me were Staff Sgt. Matthew Kakaris, a broadcaster from Armed Forces Network Europe in Sembach, Germany, and Maj. Joe Legros, a public affairs officer from SETAF-AF in Vicenza, Italy. Together, we provided public affairs training to a select group of AFL soldiers at a military training center in Mambah Kaba, Liberia.

Our lead partner, Maj. El Dorado Jebboe, AFL public affairs officer, guided a motivated and dedicated group of soldiers through the training. We covered topics such as media relations, photography, interviewing, and command messaging strategies—skills essential to telling their story and connecting with the Liberian public. Although we were there to teach, the mission quickly became a collaboration. The AFL soldiers brought valuable perspectives and shared challenges, demonstrating a passion for building trust and transparency through public affairs.

One standout moment occurred during an interview exercise to practice strategic communication. As the soldiers applied their newly learned skills, their confidence grew with each response. By the end of the training, their progress was evident, showcasing their eagerness to learn and strengthen their communications capabilities.

“This training builds enthusiasm with our members to take on further missions,” said Maj. Jebboe. “With upcoming events such as Liberian Armed Forces Day, and field training exercises, the skills learned here during this public affairs training will help sell the image of Armed Forces Liberia.”

His words highlighted the broader goal of our mission: not just teaching technical skills, but fostering a foundation for lasting communication between the AFL, the Liberian public, and the world audience. The mission aligned seamlessly with the objectives of the State Partnership Program, which pairs U.S. National Guard units with foreign military organizations



to foster long-term relationships, enhance interoperability, and support regional stability.

As part of the Michigan National Guard's partnership with Liberia—active since 2009—this mission underscored the enduring strength of the bonds we've built over the years. Over the course of this partnership, Michigan and Liberia have collaborated on numerous initiatives, including disaster response training, medical readiness exercises, and leadership development programs. These engagements have not only enhanced

*“This training builds enthusiasm with our members to take on further missions,”*

*—Maj. El Dorado Jebboe, AFL  
Public Affairs  
Officer*

the AFL's capabilities but have also created lasting friendships and mutual understanding. For example, previous missions focused on engineering and infrastructure development have helped Liberia improve its logistical networks and emergency preparedness, further strengthening the country's resilience.

Managed by the National Guard Bureau, the State Partnership Program supports more than 80 partnerships worldwide. It leverages the expertise of National Guard members to build enduring connections and promote mutual understanding between the United States and partner nations. However, the program is more than military training. It is about fostering relationships built on trust, cooperation, and mutual respect.

For me, this mission underscored the importance of our role as public affairs professionals. It's not just about capturing photos or writing stories—it's about empowering others to share their narratives and foster meaningful connections.

In Liberia, I witnessed the power of these connections first-hand. I am proud to have contributed to strengthening the AFL's capacity to communicate and engage with the public. Returning to Michigan, I carry with me a deep appreciation for the AFL's dedication and a renewed sense of purpose in my work. This mission was a powerful reminder of the value of partnerships and the impact of shared knowledge.



*Maj. El-Dorado Jebboe, chief of public affairs for the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), interviews with American Forces Network in Monrovia, Liberia, Jan. 23, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Joe Legros)*



*Maj. El-Dorado Jebboe, chief of public affairs for the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), interviews with U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matt Kakaris, a public affairs specialist with American Forces Network, and U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Drew Schumann, a visual information manager with the 127th Air Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, in Monrovia, Liberia, Jan. 22, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Joe Legros)*



*Maj. El-Dorado Jebboe, chief of public affairs for the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), interviews with American Forces Network in Monrovia, Liberia, Jan. 23, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Joe Legros)*



# Find and meet with a Veteran Service Officer



There are many veteran service officers located around Michigan who can help veterans and their families connect to benefits and resources. Find one near you by visiting **Michigan.gov/VS0**.

## MVAA Veteran Service Officers

(By Appointment Only)

### Kent County:

#### **Austin Ramey**

517-898-4720  
RameyA1@Michigan.gov

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

### Alpena County:

#### **Amber Peplinski**

517-897-6954  
PeplinskiA1@Michigan.gov

727 S. Second Ave.  
Alpena, MI 49707

### Marquette County:

#### **Eric Martin**

906-458-7113  
MartinE19@Michigan.gov

234 W. Baraga Ave.  
Marquette, MI 49855

### Wayne County:

#### **Steven Strzelecki**

248-241-3472  
StrzeleckiS@Michigan.gov

Schoolcraft College — McDowell Student Center  
Mark L. Whitfield Veterans & Military Services Center  
18600 Haggerty Rd. (Room 240)  
Livonia, MI 48152



Updated on 3/5/25



# Run, Walk, Roll at Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Township

*Community* makes all the difference. And we're grateful for ours. On June 7th, 2025, our veterans, their families, staff and the volunteers of MVH at Chesterfield Township will join together with the broader community for their Walk, Run, & Roll event, benefitting the veterans of the home. This annual event for people of all abilities brings together community for a morning of camaraderie, exercise, and celebrating service. It starts with 1/2-Mile Remembrance Walk/Roll, followed by a 5k walk/run/roll. The event is even joined by our friends from the Agape Project who provide 'chairs' for some of the runners to push some of MVH's veterans for the entirety of the 5k. The morning concludes with a hot dog lunch.

Please consider walking, running, rolling, volunteering, sponsoring, or donating to the event. All proceeds are deposited in the home's Charitable Support Fund - separate from operational funds - benefitting members of the home. To learn more, visit: 4th Annual 5K Walk, Run and Roll.

## Location:

Michigan Veteran Homes  
at Chesterfield Township  
47901 Sugarbush Road  
Chesterfield Township, MI, 48047

## Event Date:

June 07, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM

## Contact Information

Samantha Razminas Activities Director

<https://bit.ly/4jqd1Px>



JUNE 7, 2025, 9AM  
WALK. RUN. ROLL. VOLUNTEER.  
SPONSOR. DONATE. JOIN US.  
MVH AT CHESTERFIELD TWP.  
47901 SUGARBUSH RD.  
CHESTERFIELD TWP.





Training initiatives at the 110th Wing now emphasize whole-Airman readiness. Alongside job-specific drills, members participate in exercises that challenge critical thinking, reinforce teamwork under stress, and highlight the importance of self-care and family support. These programs are designed to maintain a high state of readiness while also reducing long-term stress and improving overall performance.

*"What once focused solely on technical proficiency has transformed into a holistic approach that incorporates mental resilience, cultural awareness, and overall preparedness."*

*—Master Sgt.  
Stephanie Victor*

# ALWAYS READY

## *Readiness Training at the 110th Wing Evolves to Meet the Demands*

Story by Capt. Tandi Bailey  
110th Wing Public Affairs

BATTLE CREEK AIR NATIONAL  
GUARD BASE, Mich. —

The 110th Wing continues to transform its readiness training programs to ensure Airmen are fully prepared to face the multifaceted challenges of modern deployments.

As the operational environment evolves, so does the training required to support it. Today's readiness is no longer defined solely by technical skillsets—it now demands a comprehensive approach that encompasses mental, physical, and emotional preparedness.

"Over the years, readiness training has evolved significantly to meet

the dynamic demands of modern deployments," said Master Sgt. Stephanie Victor, a medical technician in the 110th Medical Group. "What once focused solely on technical proficiency has transformed into a holistic approach that incorporates mental resilience, cultural awareness, and overall preparedness. This training has also helped me better prepare financially and become more aware of the support resources available to assist my family during my absence. The continuous refinement of these trainings ensures we remain adaptable, mission-ready, and equipped to support both medical and operational objectives downrange."

Command leadership at the 110th Wing supports an adaptive training model that integrates lessons learned from recent deployments, ongoing geopolitical developments, and updated Department of Defense readiness standards. This ensures that every Airman, regardless of their career field, has the tools necessary to meet mission requirements and sustain operational excellence.

As global threats continue to shift and diversify, the 110th Wing remains committed to refining its readiness strategies—keeping its Airmen sharp, supported, and ready to execute the mission anytime, anywhere.





# 207<sup>TH</sup> EVACUATION HOSPITAL REUNION



Former members of the 207th Evacuation Hospital came together at the Detroit Light Guard Armory, March 29, 2025, to honor their service and sacrifice during Operation Desert Shield/Storm over 30 years ago. Their dedication to providing lifesaving medical care in a time of war remains an inspiration.



Once a team, always a team.







# 177TH RTI NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH

Since 1915 the Norwegian Foot March has been used to test the endurance of Norwegian soldiers. The Michigan Army National Guard Officer Candidate School hosted a Norwegian Foot March at the Fort Custer Training Center on March 25, 2025. Traditionally, units hosting a Norwegian Foot March conduct it in unison with a food drive. The FCTC Norwegian Foot March partnered with the South Michigan Food Bank this year.

## The History:

First held in 1915, the foot march was used as a test of marching endurance for soldiers in the Norwegian Military. The march's goal was to move larger units of troops over a great distance swiftly and efficiently, enabling them to be combat-ready even after the march by carrying their rucksacks and weaponry.

## The Test:

The march is 18.6 miles, requires 25 lbs of weight, and must be completed in 4.5 hours. Carrying a rifle is no longer necessary.

## The Badge:

Completing the Norwegian Foot March earns participants the coveted Norwegian Foot March badge, which U.S. service members can earn due to its challenging nature and is authorized for wear on the Army uniform per AR 600-8-22, Appendix D-1 (page 186). Multiple completions earn higher-level badges.











# THE INVISIBLE FIGHT

*Soldiers with the 172nd Cyber Protection Team Complete First Cyber Certification Test in*

**By Sgt. Catherine Brooks**  
Michigan National Guard Public Affairs

FORT CUSTER, Mich. — Cyber soldiers of the 172nd Cyber Protection Team on March 11 completed a specialized cyber certification test as part of the Job Qualification Readiness (JQR) training, a critical step in ensuring their readiness to defend against evolving cyber threats. As part of the National Guard Bureau's (NGB) effort to standardize and certify cyber operations across the force, this first-time certification training ensures soldiers are prepared to support missions at both state and federal levels.

The JQR serves as a comprehensive evaluation to ensure cyber operators are mission ready. This training process builds on the skills taught during Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and validates a soldier's technical abilities through hands-on assessments. Oversaw by NGB test facilitators, the training standardizes cyber operations across Michigan's 11 National Guard Cyber Protection Teams (CPTs) nationwide.

"We're here just to facilitate the JQR," said Mr. Terance McQuade, an NGB facilitator for the JQR. "We're overseers to make sure they have access to the platform, access to the content, and to ensure they go through it. At the end, we'll sign off on it saying they've completed the training."

McQuade also noted the logistical challenges of supporting Cyber Protection Teams across the nation. "Not every state has a CPT," he said. "There are 11 CPTs, and we try to get them in one location to make our jobs easier."

He praised the Michigan cyber team's performance during the training. "Super great job—they've been plugging along and have been patient with the system," McQuade said.

Looking ahead, McQuade emphasized the importance of staying adaptable in the cyber domain. "Like everything

else in the military, you have to keep up with the threats to be able to modify and change," he said. "JQR gives the training proficiency to be ready for our missions."

Having a trained and certified cyber team is critical in today's interconnected world, where nearly every aspect of life depends on digital infrastructure. From communication systems and power grids to financial networks and public services, modern society is driven by cyber technology. Cyber teams like the 172nd CPT ensure these systems remain secure and operational, defending against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats that could have catastrophic consequences if left unchecked.

"This training ensures that soldiers not only learn how to do their job, but also qualify to do it," said Lt. Col. Kathleen Prince-Sayward, the Commander of the program. "Specifically, some roles require certifications that validate a soldier's ability to perform critical tasks."





*U.S. Army soldiers from Detachment 1, 172nd Cyber Protection Team, completed a first-ever specialized cyber certification test as part of Job Qualification Requirement (JQR) training. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine)*

Having these certifications has a direct impact on soldiers. “It’s for the soldiers because they’ll know more, which is good,” Prince-Sayward added. “They’ll make a little bit more money, and the Army knows that this person is qualified to be on this network doing what they’re supposed to be doing.”

Lt. Col. Prince-Sayward also highlighted the broader importance of cyber defense in the National Guard’s mission.

“We’re defensive cyber,” she explained. “We defend all the time, but we can also be called in for intimate matters. We got called in for the Flint water crisis a few years back—there was a cyber component. Anything that the Guard could be called for to defend the state, well, this is another part of the state that isn’t visible.”

She emphasized the critical role cyber operations play in supporting physical response capabilities. “If they [outside threats] kill our ability to communicate, our water sources, or electrical sources, it impairs our ability to respond physically,” she said.

While defensive cyber focuses on protecting networks, systems, and data from external threats, offensive cyber involves proactive measures to disrupt or disable adversaries’ systems. Offensive operations might include gathering intelligence, disrupting communication

channels, or neutralizing threats before they can act. The Michigan National Guard’s defensive cyber focus ensures critical infrastructure is safeguarded, while offensive cyber teams at the federal level often work together with them to address emerging threats on a larger scale. Together, these elements form a comprehensive strategy to defend and secure the nation in an increasingly digital battlefield.

For the soldiers participating in the JQR, the process serves as both a challenge and an opportunity to refine their skills. Warrant Officer Anthony Compton shared his insights on the experience.

“Most of us here have done the MOSQ (Military Occupational Specialty Qualification) school, so you understand you’re about to do seven to eight months of training to get a baseline understanding of your job,” Compton said. “This is a refresher and validation test to make sure you know your skills. As any unit would do a validation exercise—this is our version of that.”

Reflecting on his two years in the cyber field, Compton described his decision to pursue this career path. “I wanted something challenging,” he said. “Cyber is a whole realm of things—it’s different avenues you can take.”

When asked about the most rewarding and challenging aspects of the training,

Compton said, “The best part is refreshing all your skills and sharpening up on the things you don’t know so well. The worst part is updating documentation, but it’s still something beneficial to a unit.”

Mr. Terance McQuade, an NGB facilitator for the training, explained the role of his team in supporting the JQR process.

As the Michigan National Guard’s 172<sup>nd</sup> CPT completes this vital qualification, the impact of these certifications and the foundation they lay for future operations cannot be overstated.

“Cyber is a part of the invisible fight, but it’s one of the most impactful,” Prince-Sayward said. “This training ensures we’re ready to defend against threats we may not always see, but always need to prepare for.”

As cyber threats continue to evolve, the Michigan National Guard’s participation in JQR training emphasizes their commitment to protecting critical infrastructure and supporting the state in times of need. By certifying their soldiers through this process, the Guard is setting the foundation for future exercises and mission success.



# BAPTISM AT THE GAP

MICHIGAN'S SCHOLAR-WARRIORS AT THE BATTLE OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN



"AND WHILE THEY SLEPT THE NIGHT BEFORE, A COOL FALL MIST BLANKETED THE MEN OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, TOUCHING THEM FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE DEAD MEN MADE THEM FAMOUS. AND WHATEVER IT MAY BE THAT NERVES MEN TO DIE FOR A FLAG OR A PHRASE OR MAN OR AN INEXPRESSIBLE DREAM WAS DROWSING WITH THEM, READY TO WAKE THEM WITH THE DAWN. SOUTH MOUNTAIN WOULD BE A HARD, SLASHING LITTLE FIGHT THAT OPENED THE DOOR TO ANTIETAM... IT WAS THE FIRST MOMENT IN A LONG TIME THAT THE MEN IN THE RANKS COULD BELIEVE THEY WERE GOING FORWARD AGAIN NOT RETREATING, NOT GARRISONING, NOT FALLING BACK—BUT FIGHTING AND WINNING—

—BRUCE CATTON, MR. LINCOLN'S ARMY (1951)

Story by Mr. Adam Betz  
Michigan National Guard Command Historian

The U.S. Army in 1862 had experienced heavy setbacks early in the war, led mainly by mission command failures. The Army of the Potomac was still young, but already it bore the heavy burden of war – shoulders not yet leathered by time, yet stooped beneath the weight of battles fought too soon and lessons learned too dearly. President Abraham Lincoln called for more men, and from the quiet towns and farm fields of Michigan, they came. Not as conquerors, not as professional soldiers, but as ordinary men, Minute

Men, who understood with grim clarity that this government must be kept whole. The politicians had failed and so it would be the soldiers' job to make it right. In response to Lincoln's request, the 17th Michigan was mustered into federal service in August of 1862 at Detroit with 700 enlisted men and officers.

They came from Washtenaw, Jackson, Lenawee, Kalamazoo, and Monroe counties. Their commander, Colonel William H. Withington, was a Mexican War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions at First Bull Run while fighting with the original 1st Michigan Infantry, of which the

Michigan Army National Guard's 1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion shares its stout warrior lineage. A successful businessman with experience in organizational operations before the war, there was not much unusual about Withington. There was nothing ornamental in his bearing, no flash in his gate or appearance. What stares out from his wartime image is a man who belonged to the iron generation, tempered in the furnace of this republic's greatest trial, and who bore the American government's purpose with determined beliefs, for he was one of the earliest volunteers of the war and





*Members of the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry officers and staff.*

in the earliest ranks to earn the Medal of Honor.

One of this regiment's companies — Company E — stood out as it was drawn almost entirely from the Michigan State Normal School, now known as Eastern Michigan University (a few from the University of Michigan were sprinkled in), the men making the unit an "echelon of educators." This Company was led by Captain James R. Burns, the Normal School's assistant principal. They were Latin scholars, teachers, and students — the sort of young men who quoted Cicero in the classroom. A few were farmers and laborers who maintained callous hands and hunted Michigan's white tail with accuracy only a Westerner could maintain. When the call went out in July 1862 to fill President Lincoln's urgent request for 300,000 more troops, these were the men who filled the ranks that year. And from the quiet towns of Adrian, Coldwater, Colon, Detroit, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Manchester, Monroe, and Muskegon, they raised a regiment alongside old Colonel Withington.

But in the fall of 1862, General Robert Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia

begged for a murderous brawl at Antietam Creek. And so, the 17th Michigan departed their Detroit for Washington D.C. on August 27 and would experience their baptism of

***"The 17th is doing bully! Go in, boys! They can't stand the bayonet!"***

***—Anonymous member of the 17th Michigan Infantry***

fire in just 19 days, followed by the bloodiest single 12-hour eclipse in American history. What follows is just one account of the most remarkable baptisms of fire in American military history, an ordeal at a tight rocky saddle in western Maryland called

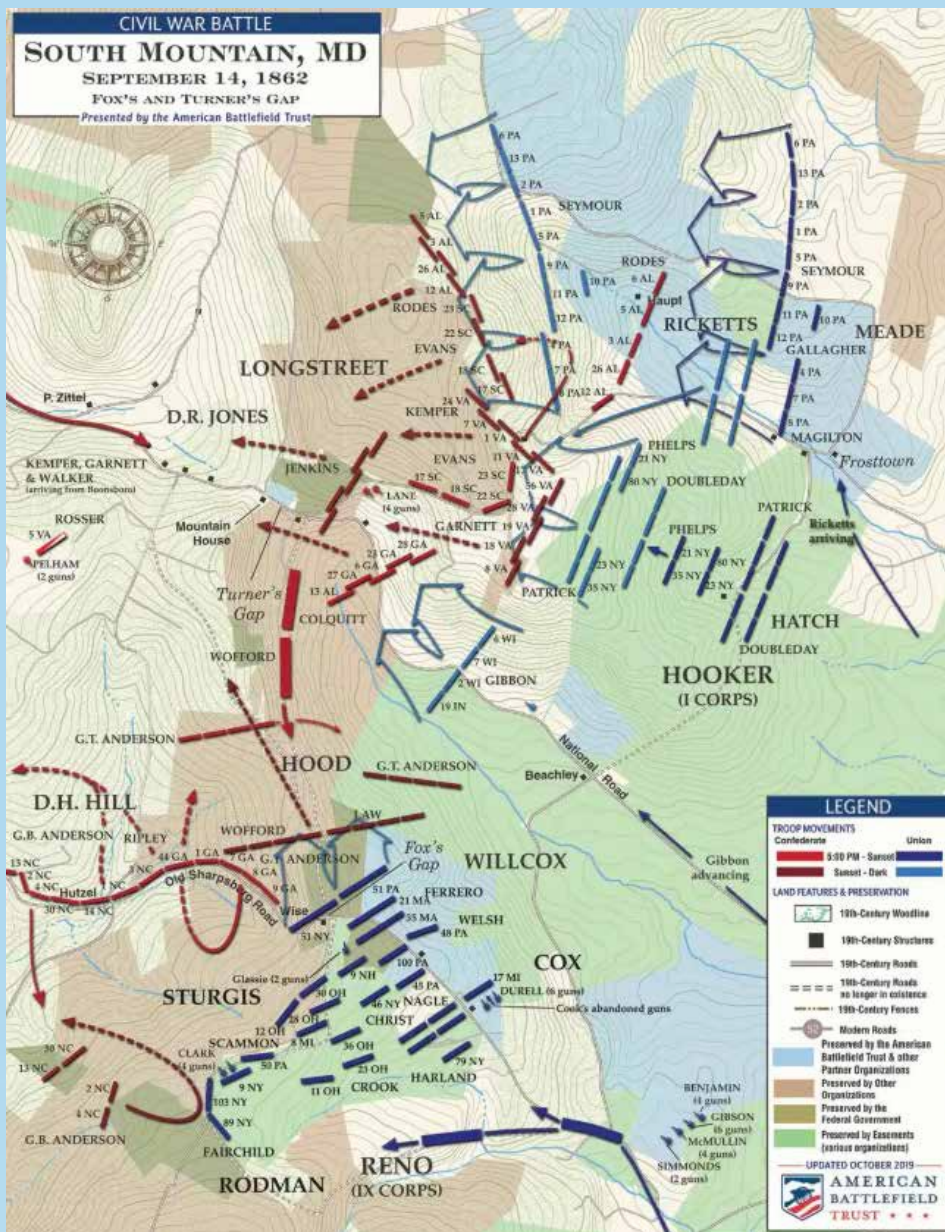
Fox's Gap. At this piece of key terrain, the 17th Michigan Infantry would earn the title of the "Stonewall Regiment."

### **The Road to the Mountains**

By early September, the 17th Michigan had been assigned to General Orlando Willcox's 1st Division, IX Corps, under General Ambrose Burnside. They joined the Army of the Potomac in its desperate pursuit of General Robert Lee's invading Confederate army, which had crossed into Maryland in the hopes of invading Pennsylvania and turning the Democratic vote in the upcoming mid-term elections against the war.

Lee's army moved quickly, probably too quickly. It is believed among popular historians of the 1862 Maryland Campaign that the Army of Northern Virginia lost at least one-third and perhaps up to one-half due to straggling and desertion. Lee's men were starting to show the cost of his early victories at First and Second Manassas and the chaos of the Seven Days Battles would haunt many old men to their dying days. U.S. intelligence, partially gained from





*The Battle of South Mountain Battlefield in 1862 (American Battlefield Trust)*

Lee's famous "Lost Order" (Special Order 191), revealed that Lee had split his forces — an audacious gamble. To exploit it, Army of the Potomac Commander, General George B. McClellan advanced toward South Mountain, a jagged ridgeline kin to the Blue Ridge Mountains, running through Pennsylvania and Maryland, peaking out at 1,758 feet near Fox's Gap.

During the night of September 13, a sleepless private from the 17th Michigan wrote, "We had an inkling that a mass meeting was to be held on that eminence [South Mountain] to discuss the pros and cons of secession and that we, the Seventeenth, had received a pressing invitation to be

present."

The next day, 14 September, the IX Corps was ordered to seize Fox's Gap, one of three mountain passes key to opening the road to Sharpsburg. It was a Sunday — calm, cool, and filled with the buzz of cicadas. But what awaited on that mountain would be anything but peaceful.

### Fox's Gap: First Blood

The Confederates held the high ground. Gen. D.H. Hill had stationed a brigade at Fox's Gap under Brigadier General Samuel Garland. They were dug in along stone fences, old wagon roads, and wooded ridges — all perfect terrain for defense. Among them were

North Carolinians, South Carolinians, and Georgians hardened by the past 15-months of near non-stop combat operations. They knew their business by South Mountain. Their position overlooked a narrow, broken farm road cutting up the mountain toward the Wise and Daniel farms known in that area as Sharpsburg Road. At noon, the 17th Michigan was ordered to advance. Combat had commenced about 4 hours ago when a Division from Ohio slammed into a few regiments of entrenched North Carolinians. This made for an intense amount of smoke combined with the unforgiving terrain — rocky, choked with brush, and rising sharply. One soldier in the 17th stated, "I could see the cannon balls coming and bounding down the road. One came within arm's length of me, dashing through the head of the company just behind us." For 30 minutes, the 17th endured indirect fire from Confederate artillery while seeking shelter in a nearby ravine until they were ordered to assault the lines of the 50th and 51st Georgia Infantry. Immediately, they began receiving small arms fire from the Confederate lines but ultimately closed with the enemy enough to conduct a successful bayonet charge, dislodging the two regiments of Georgia secesh from their entrenched positions. As the Georgians and South Carolinians began to retreat,

Withington's Wolverines poured fire into their backs at approximately 20 yards. One officer in the 50th GA stated, "The slaughter was horrible! When ordered to retreat, I could scarcely extricate myself from the dead and wounded around me. A man could have walked from the head of our line to the foot on their bodies." The color bearer of the 50th GA was Private George Fahm. Before the regiment stepped foot on this campaign, the regimental commander had selected a color guard of "eight of the most soldierly members of the regiment" to defend Fahm and the unit colors. The men of the 17th Michigan had killed seven of those eight, and the last Georgian was wounded grievously. Private Fahm escaped with





*Col. William H. Withington, the commanding officer of the 17th Michigan.*

the colors and saved them for the fight that would emerge in a few days along the banks of Antietam Creek. He counted 32 bullet holes in the flag, its staff, and his uniform combined from this single engagement. This signaled the beginning of the collapse in the Confederate line as the Michigan men executed combat with the knife, rifle stock, and fist.

The momentum slowed, and Drayton's Confederate Brigade began to retreat and retrograde down the mountain. As U.S. reinforcements began to arrive, they were "met with ambulances full of wounded, and men on stretchers being borne off the field." There were already Role II facilities established in the nearby barns and homes, of which one officer reported seeing "a pile of arms, hands, legs, feet, etc., which had been amputated." It was a sobering sight for infantrymen going into the fight, and perhaps the placement was due to slightly poor judgment by some First Sergeant or Medical officer who was too busy and exhausted to care. Also among the wounded was Private Wilber F. Smith, a student from the Normal School. He was shot through the chest and died before the Company reached the forward line of troops. Robert C. Irwin, another young scholar, was killed only moments later. William A. Woodard, a classmate to both, died in the final charge to dislodge the Georgians. Some were

found later with their textbooks still in their haversacks — now useless relics of the classrooms back in Michigan they had left behind.

One of the wounded from the 17th Michigan was coming down the mountain passing reinforcements, as a soldier from a Massachusetts outfit reported running into "a manly little fellow, a little chap not more than fourteen or fifteen years old," who had probably gone into combat despite orders to the contrary since he was likely a drummer or stretcher bearer. A bullet had shattered his leg, and he was being carried down the mountain from the fighting on a litter. As the Massachusetts men passed, one asked the young man how things were going up ahead, the young man propping himself up and yelling, "The 17th is doing bully! Go in, boys! They can't stand the bayonet!"

At South Mountain, the 17th Michigan suffered 27 killed, 114 wounded, and three missing, all in their first engagement. By the end of the day, Fox's Gap belonged to the Union, largely due to the actions of the 17th Michigan and the scholar warriors of Company E. At a reunion of graybeards years later, Captain James R. Burns, Commander of Company E, who survived the war to resume his teaching career stated that "Company E had gone from blackboard to battlefield in a single summer" — and had done so with honor.

### **Legacy of the Stonewall Regiment**

The 17th Michigan went on to fight in some of the hardest battles of the war. At Antietam, just three days after South Mountain, they held the left of the IX Corps assault at Burnside's Bridge. At Fredericksburg, they charged into the teeth of Marye's Heights. In 1863, they were sent west to join U.S. Grant's campaign against Vicksburg and later took part in the Knoxville Campaign in Tennessee. Only a fraction of the original regiment remained by the war's end. Yet the name "Stonewall Regiment" lived on—not just in military records but in the stories told at parlor firesides



*The historical marker dedicated to the 17th Michigan Infantry "Stonewall Regiment" at South Mountain, Maryland.*

and schoolhouses, where students would ask about the boys from Ypsilanti who seemed to have traveled their notion of the universe in those days, and they walked it all. South Mountain was always at the heart of their memories. It was the place where their combat experience commenced and the beginning battle of one of the most critical military operations in American history.

# MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

COL MICHAEL CARL  
COL ROBERT VANESSEN

MAJ MICHAEL BRAUN  
MAJ DARREK LADERMANN  
MAJ JARROD OSBORNE  
MAJ KASEY ROBBINS  
MAJ LUKE RYKSE  
MAJ EVAN SCHULZE  
MAJ MARTINA WELLS

CPT KAMAL ALSAWAFY  
CPT COURTNEY BONNEAU  
CPT NATHAN CUSHMAN  
CPT DANIEL DEBANO  
CPT BRANDON LITTLE  
CPT ELLIE POHLOD  
CPT BRIANNA RUSSELL  
CPT JAMES STROCK  
CPT NATHAN VANDENBOSCH

1LT MICHEAL BARNES  
1LT ANJA BLISS  
1LT FAITH BOULTER  
1LT JACOB CLAYTON  
1LT NOAH DENISTON  
1LT GEOFFREY ERWIN  
1LT LOGAN GATTARI  
1LT LAZERICK HILL  
1LT BENJAMIN JACHALKE  
1LT REMY JAMES  
1LT CHERYL JOHNSON  
1LT ANDREW JUDGE  
1LT KYLE KLAASSEN  
1LT ROBERT KULL  
1LT DEVIN LYNCH  
1LT LEXIE MARTIN  
1LT EVAN MEEKHOFF  
1LT JERED MILNER  
1LT RICHARD MISAK  
1LT TUCKER MORRIS  
1LT JOHN NITKA  
1LT MAHDI OSEILI  
1LT SHELBY OSTREWICH  
1LT LAURA PARKER  
1LT MARKEICE PATRICK  
1LT ANTHONY RYTLEWSKI  
1LT ADITYA SATHI  
1LT NOAH SCHOENHERR  
1LT TRENTON SINGER  
1LT COLE TRUITT  
1LT FOSTER WEISS  
1LT JAMES WIMBERLY  
1LT NICHOLAS ZYBLE

CW5 JOHN LALIBERTE

CW4 AARON KUEHNE  
CW4 JEFFREY MALLISON  
CW4 IAN MIHLFELD  
CW4 MICHAEL SWANSON

CW3 JOHN RECCA  
CW3 BRYAN VERGIN

CW2 JOHN COLE  
CW2 JONATHAN MILLER  
CW2 DAVID SHIRLEY  
CW2 JOSEPH WILLOUGHBY

CSM DARIN ALEXANDER  
CSM JASON RITTER  
CSM JOHNATHAN WEESE

SGM JOSHUA GUILD

1SG MARTIN ANDERSON  
1SG JOSHUA FRITZ  
1SG DANIEL HOUCK  
1SG BILLIE KETELAAR  
1SG MICHAEL KING  
1SG CHRISTOPHER LUCZAK  
1SG JASON THOMAS

MSG ERIC COPPERNOLL  
MSG PAUL CORRIE  
MSG ZACHARY HEIN  
MSG MEHRDAD KAMALI  
MSG DENNIS LAPAN JR

SFC MITCHEL EVANS  
SFC KYLE GREENWAY  
SFC SAMUEL KELLY  
SFC DAVID MAHON  
SFC JOSHUA MCKEE  
SFC JESSICA MILES  
SFC DAVID NADON  
SFC DANIEL PALMER  
SFC ERIK PIKE  
SFC LYNELLE ROBERTS  
SFC ANTHONY SOTO  
SFC JOSEPH SWANSON  
SFC RICARDO VILLARREAL JR

SSG AHMED ALSAADY  
SSG ROMAINE BARNES  
SSG MAISON BEAUREGARD  
SSG CASEY BRADSHAW  
SSG CHRISTOPHER BRUTZMAN  
SSG PAUL CASTANEDA III  
SSG REBEKAH CHESNEY  
SSG CHRISTOPHER CHYBA  
SSG CHARLES COLWELL  
SSG CHRISTOPHER DOLMAGE  
SSG SCOTT EGELER  
SSG DAVID FARDITURKMANI  
SSG CAMERON FULCO  
SSG MICHAEL GORE  
SSG KAITLIN HARRINGTON  
SSG BENJAMIN HESS  
SSG MATTHEW HINTZ  
SSG TY HUNTER  
SSG EDWARD LUGO JR  
SSG JOHNATHAN MARANIAN  
SSG KENNEDY MCDANIEL  
SSG HERBERT MERRELL  
SSG JAHMALL MONTANA  
SSG IVAN PASHCHUK  
SSG ANDREW POLASEK  
SSG CONNOR REEVES

SSG KAREN RONCES  
SSG RYAN SMELKER  
SSG BENJAMIN SWANTEK  
SSG CRAIG TARVAINEN  
SSG KHALIL WATKINS  
SSG BAILEY WESTON  
SSG KATELYN ZICKAFOOSE

SGT SANTORIE ALEXANDERSMITH  
SGT BENJAMIN ALLEN  
SGT ROCIO BARRADASLOPEZ  
SGT SYDNEY BEAUCHAINE  
SGT JACOB BROWER  
SGT TRAVIS BRUNGERHUNTZINGER  
SGT BRAIDEN BRYANT  
SGT COREY BUFFA  
SGT BRENDON BUNKER  
SGT JAREN COLE  
SGT GENO COOK  
SGT JASON CROWE II  
SGT CALI DANKOVICH  
SGT MARCUS DEBROWSKY  
SGT TYLER DELENE  
SGT SARAH DEZINSKI  
SGT FATUMATA DIOP  
SGT QUINN DONNELLY  
SGT SEAN DONOHUE  
SGT HRISHIKESH DWARAKA  
SGT AUDREY FEENSTRA  
SGT SHELBY FLORY  
SGT BRIANNA FOATE  
SGT CHRISTIAN FRY  
SGT LEONARD FUNCHES  
SGT JACKELYNE GARCIA  
SGT BRODY GREAR  
SGT WESLEY GROOM  
SGT NATHANIEL GROTH  
SGT ANDREW HALL  
SGT PAUL HARMER III  
SGT NATHAN HAVERDINK  
SGT CHRISTIAN HEMENWAY  
SGT CRAIG HOLLAND  
SGT NOLAN HOWARD  
SGT KYLE HURLEY  
SGT LAKELYN JACOBS  
SGT JOSHUA JAVINSKY  
SGT LOGAN KEMPF  
SGT JOHN KOLTVEDT JR  
SGT KATHERINE KUROWSKI  
SGT SEAN LESTER  
SGT JOHN MANIER  
SGT WYATT MASSIE  
SGT MAKAYLA MCCARTHY  
SGT LEVI MCCULLOCH  
SGT IAN MCDONALD  
SGT KAITLYN MCGUIRE  
SGT TREVOR MIJAL  
SGT MATHEW MITCHELL  
SGT RYAN MOHR  
SGT SADIKOU OUROSAMA  
SGT BRENDON PAGE  
SGT KYLE PAVELCHIK  
SGT ARTURO PEREZ  
SGT KAMERON PETERSON  
SGT COLE PEYERK



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SGT ELIOT PHILLIPS  
SGT CEDRION PIERCE  
SGT JACOB POTTS  
SGT ARROL PUMA  
SGT MOHAMMAD RAHMAN  
SGT SEBASTIAN RAMSEY  
SGT ALLIYAH REYNOLDS  
SGT COLTIN RICHARDS  
SGT MICHAEL RINKE  
SGT TAYLOR ROBINSON  
SGT BAYLEE ROHN  
SGT JULIUS ROSS  
SGT NATHANIEL RUSSELL  
SGT GRANT SAINCOME  
SGT JONATHAN SALISBURY  
SGT BRIAN SEMPLE  
SGT CONNOR SHENNAN  
SGT SAMSON SLOCUM  
SGT KATHERINE SMIDDY  
SGT JOSHAWA SPINNER  
SGT KYLE SUSALLA  
SGT AMARIEL SWIFT  
SGT AUSTIN TAYLOR  
SGT TYLER THOMASDAVIS  
SGT DANIEL TREVINOBERMUDEZ  
SGT DESHAWN WASHINGTON  
SGT DONTAY WATTERS  
SGT JOSUE YERENASMERCAO

CPL CODY BOWSER  
CPL CALEB NIMEE  
CPL ABEL PEREZ  
CPL CHRISTIAN TOWERS

SPC DERRICK AGURS JR  
SPC KURT ALMEIDA  
SPC ANDY ANDREWS  
SPC YAHIR ANICUA  
SPC BENJAMIN AUSTIN  
SPC NICHOLAS BAFFI  
SPC MELANIE BANDACRUZ  
SPC EMMANUEL BEAN  
SPC ELIJAH BELLE  
SPC WILLIAM BERGIN  
SPC GABRIEL BORING  
SPC JALEN BRADLEY  
SPC LINUS BRANIGAN  
SPC CORRINE BREKKE  
SPC TANNER BUWALDA  
SPC TAYLOR COLLIER  
SPC ARIANA COSME  
SPC GARY CRAMER II  
SPC KADEN CROWELL  
SPC MOHAMED DAWOUD  
SPC CHARLES DEWEESE  
SPC EMILY ENOS  
SPC GORDILLO ESQUIVEL  
SPC OSCAR FIGUEROA  
SPC STANLEY FITZGERALD  
SPC JEFFREY FRANKLIN II  
SPC CHRISTAN GALL  
SPC GUSTAVO GAMINO  
SPC JORGEN GILLESPIE  
SPC GAVIN GOOD  
SPC ANASTASIA GRIFFITH

SPC TYLER HARWOOD  
SPC MEREDITH HEETHUIS  
SPC ISAAC HENRY  
SPC CASEY HILLIS  
SPC ALSAINOU JALLOW  
SPC AARON JONES  
SPC JESSE JONES  
SPC RAAASHIDA KANTIGI  
SPC LAUREN KEANE  
SPC MALIYK LANE  
SPC JACOB LINDSTROM  
SPC CODY LONG  
SPC LEVI LUCAS  
SPC GIOVANNI MANCINI  
SPC ISABEL MARFIA  
SPC DANIEL MATIAS-LORENZO  
SPC BRANDON MCCOMAS  
SPC JAMIE MCDAVID  
SPC JOHN MITCHELL III  
SPC TRENTON MOORE  
SPC TIARA MORRIS  
SPC KENT MOUA  
SPC HALVOR MOYER  
SPC LIAM NALETTE  
SPC ISSA NASSER  
SPC SAUL NAVARRO  
SPC RYLAND NELSON  
SPC YOUSIF OSMAN  
SPC NOBLE PALLETT  
SPC QUINTON PANGBORN  
SPC ADDISON PARSELL  
SPC CARLO PAZ  
SPC CORY PERKINS  
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SPC PEYTON ROCKHILL  
SPC FABIAN RODRIGUEZ  
SPC HENRY ROETERS V  
SPC LANDON ROUSE-BARABAS  
SPC DANIEL ROWAN  
SPC DANIEL SCHULTZ  
SPC ALI SEIF  
SPC MATTHEW SMITH  
SPC NATHANIEL SPADE  
SPC SAMANTHA STERK  
SPC NOAH STODDARD  
SPC MICHAEL STRAUSS  
SPC TONIE SULLIVAN  
SPC CHRISTIAN SUTTER III  
SPC ARIANNA TESLER  
SPC RUDOLPH THIEL V  
SPC KADEN TORRES  
SPC GARRET WARD  
SPC DONTARIUS WEBSTER JR  
SPC DYLAN WELLS  
SPC BLAKE WHITE  
SPC AMYA WORTHAM  
SPC ETHAN WYREMBELSKI  
SPC JACKSON ZAMORA  
SPC JUAN ZENDEJAS

PFC SETH ADAMS  
PFC ELDON ARENDS  
PFC FURCAL ASENSIO  
PFC TREVOR ASHLEY  
PFC ADAM BAKER  
PFC TATIANA BARRETO  
PFC NELSON BEGENDA  
PFC ALESSIA BOWMAN  
PFC LUKE BOYD  
PFC MUSIQ BRANTLEY  
PFC KADIN BROWER  
PFC MIKAYLA BROWN  
PFC ENRIQUEZ CAAL  
PFC MICHAEL CHAPMAN  
PFC CHANEL CHRISTIAN  
PFC CHANCE CLARK  
PFC MARC COLASUONNO  
PFC ELIJAH COOK  
PFC CARLOS CORTEZ  
PFC MICHEL CRAFTON  
PFC DRAPHER CRIBBS  
PFC JORGE CRUZ-MARTINEZ  
PFC JAIONTE DENHAM  
PFC JACOB DIRKSE  
PFC BRIANNE DOUD  
PFC DYLAN ELISECH  
PFC TRINITY FALL  
PFC RYAN FARRELLY  
PFC KADEN FAWCETT  
PFC DEKARYEA FREEMAN  
PFC NICHOLAS FREEMAN  
PFC ELENA FRYE  
PFC ALYSSA FULTON  
PFC ISAAC GADDIE  
PFC AUSTIN GALINDO  
PFC TED GIPSON  
PFC VALOR GOFORTH  
PFC LUKE GOODRICH  
PFC STEVEN GRAY JR  
PFC SYDNEY GRIFFORE  
PFC ALVIN GRIMES  
PFC ALYSSA GROSS-BAUTISTA  
PFC KAYLA HAGGERTY  
PFC TREYSHON HARRIS  
PFC KAYLEE HATT  
PFC CHARLES HEWER  
PFC DERRICK HILL  
PFC DEVIN HOLLINGSWORTH  
PFC MORGAN HOLMES  
PFC KASPER HOOK  
PFC TYREL HUDGENS  
PFC AVERY HUGHES  
PFC DMETRIUS JACKSON  
PFC QUANADRA JOHNSON  
PFC CINIYA JONES  
PFC DOMINIQUE JONES  
PFC ZACHARY KARPINSKI  
PFC EMETT KAURALA  
PFC GUNAR KENNEDY-HEINIG  
PFC TYRIQUE KEYS  
PFC ISAAH KRIEGER  
PFC JUSTYCE LARKIN  
PFC CAMBRIE LAWRENCE  
PFC KAIDYN LEE  
PFC HUNTER LEWIS

# MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

PFC DOMINIK LUBANSKI  
PFC AYDEN LYON  
PFC CARTER LYON  
PFC KEVIN MAGANA-LOPEZ  
PFC TAYA MAGGARD  
PFC JIMI MARCHANT  
PFC ALEXIS MATA  
PFC JEVON MCKEOWN  
PFC ANDREW MCMAHON  
PFC MERCEDES MELLE  
PFC GRACE MENGİ  
PFC DEMETRIUS MILES  
PFC STANLEY MONDESIR  
PFC JAZMIN MOYA  
PFC GRACE MUCKENHIRN  
PFC JADEN MULLALY  
PFC JARED MUSCOTT  
PFC KALEB MWEWE-SMITH  
PFC BRENT NEWTON  
PFC ALLIE NORDEN  
PFC JACOB OCONNOR  
PFC YINKA OGIUGO  
PFC TYLER OWENS  
PFC TYLER OWENS  
PFC VIVIAN OWSLEY  
PFC BRAYDEN PADILLA  
PFC TARAN PAYTON  
PFC TERRENCE PINSON  
PFC SAMUEL POLSINELLI  
PFC BRYAN PONCE-TORRES  
PFC AUTUMN PONTSEELE  
PFC ALEXZANDER PRAAY  
PFC WYATT PURGIEL  
PFC JOSE RAMIREZ JR  
PFC AIDEN RAY  
PFC COHEN RAYMOND  
PFC HENRY RICHARDSON  
PFC BENJAMIN ROSELLO  
PFC ANDREW SALAMONE  
PFC BENJAMIN SALGAT  
PFC BRANDON SANCHEZ  
PFC CASTILLO SANCHEZ  
PFC JACOB SARASIN  
PFC FOSTER SAUER  
PFC DAKOTA SAWYER  
PFC THOMAS SCHANTZ  
PFC ALISSIANA SCOTT  
PFC ZAMYRAH SCROGGINS  
PFC FREDERICK SEGRAVES JR  
PFC KELCIE SHALTONIS  
PFC SAMUEL SHEPPARD  
PFC QUENTIN SKUTT  
PFC JORDAN SMIECINSKI  
PFC JOEL SOTO  
PFC XAVIER SUMNER  
PFC JANESEA THOMAS  
PFC BRENDAN TRIMMER  
PFC CURTIS TUNNISON  
PFC MUKTA UTTARADI  
PFC NORAH VANDERSTEEN  
PFC CECIL VANPELT  
PFC LESLIE VEGA  
PFC LUKE VELEZ  
PFC ALEYIAH WALTERS  
PFC EDI ZIEU

PV2 ALITAHIR ALWATAN  
PV2 ANTHONY ATKINSON II  
PV2 JAY BALDWIN  
PV2 DAVIAN BARBA  
PV2 LILLY BELKNAP  
PV2 SYNCERITY BELLEVUE  
PV2 AMARIS BENSCHOTER  
PV2 DYLAN BETTENDORF  
PV2 GAVIN BOWMAN  
PV2 JORDAN BRADLEY  
PV2 DESMOND BRANTLEY JR  
PV2 JOSEPH BUCHANAN  
PV2 CAMRYN BUCKLEY  
PV2 JAMES BURCH  
PV2 CLINT CAGLE  
PV2 KATHERINE CAMPBELL  
PV2 SIRANI CARDIEL-NIEVES  
PV2 ADRIAN CASTILLO  
PV2 TRISTAN CHASE  
PV2 CALEB CONERY  
PV2 GARRETT CONNELL  
PV2 OSCAR CONNOLLY  
PV2 BRIDGETTE DARLINGTON  
PV2 DOMINIC DEGROUCHY  
PV2 DARRIEN DRAKE  
PV2 MIREYA DZWONEK  
PV2 JACK EASTMAN  
PV2 NOAH ENGELSMA  
PV2 HOPE ESCOBEDO  
PV2 SHANE FARLIN II  
PV2 SAMUEL FODREY  
PV2 DAYTHAN FRY  
PV2 AARON GENUS  
PV2 JAIYANNA GILLETTE  
PV2 ESSOHANAM GNAKADE  
PV2 KYLE GOULD  
PV2 ROWAN HADDAD  
PV2 JACOB HALIFAX  
PV2 BRANDON HALL  
PV2 LUCAS HALL  
PV2 BREANNA HARTMANN  
PV2 ANJELINA HAVILAND  
PV2 DEVIN HERNANDEZ  
PV2 JOSIAH HESTER  
PV2 ISAAC HUIZINGA  
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PV2 TIARA INGRAM  
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PV2 RAMSES IZAGUIRRE  
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PV2 LASHAYLA JOHNSON  
PV2 MOLLY JOHNSTON  
PV2 ANDREW KANOUSE  
PV2 MADELYN KENYON  
PV2 JADAN KING  
PV2 ANDREW KLEIN  
PV2 MADELIN LEYDER  
PV2 NATHANIEL LILLY  
PV2 JAQUELYNE LOREDO-MARTINEZ  
PV2 LILLY LOREN  
PV2 ALEX LOWDER  
PV2 TRISTAN LUEBKE  
PV2 JACOB MACKAY  
PV2 SANAYLA MALDONADO  
PV2 JASMIN MARTINEZ

PV2 LAWLER MAZARIEGOS-GONZALEZ  
PV2 NANCY MEDINA  
PV2 GABRIEL MEYER  
PV2 LUKE MILLIKEN  
PV2 ZACHARY MOHR  
PV2 ERICK MONTER-CABANAS  
PV2 FRANK MUGISHA  
PV2 JASMEET NATH  
PV2 SETH NEELY  
PV2 ROBERT NUNN  
PV2 MOBOLAJI OJOFEITIMI  
PV2 CARSON OLDS  
PV2 CHRISTIAN PALACIO  
PV2 NOLAN PAPKE  
PV2 CAITLYN PARRINELLO  
PV2 GABINO PECINA  
PV2 MAXIMILIAN PETERSHEIM  
PV2 ALETA PIWOWAR  
PV2 LACEY PLASHEK  
PV2 BREANA PROBST  
PV2 CHRISTOPHER QUINN  
PV2 MICHAEL RAMBO  
PV2 RODRIGO RAMOS  
PV2 GRACIE RASMUSSEN  
PV2 JONATHAN RAY  
PV2 ISIAH REEBER  
PV2 CAYDEN RETZER  
PV2 KELBYN REYES  
PV2 KALOB SCHULTZ  
PV2 JAHMARI SCOTT  
PV2 KYLE SECKLER  
PV2 KATERYNA SHCHERBATA  
PV2 MUSA SHERIFF  
PV2 HUNTER SHERK  
PV2 PAYTON SIMMONS  
PV2 ALEXANDER SORIANO-DIAZ  
PV2 BENJAMIN STRAUS  
PV2 CHRISTIAN TAVAREZ  
PV2 ARIANA TAYLOR  
PV2 SAMANTHA TERAVEST  
PV2 ALTON THORNTON  
PV2 CIERRA THROOP  
PV2 ASHER THURMAN  
PV2 DAMIAN TOLFORD  
PV2 NIEJENHUIS VAN  
PV2 MATTIE VAUGHN  
PV2 HENRIK WALTERSDORF  
PV2 ZACHARY WARCHOCK  
PV2 ISIAH WASHINGTON  
PV2 WAYNE WINTON III  
PV2 CLORISA WORLEY  
PV2 FORD YATES  
PV2 JOHN ZACCHI  
PV2 LIAM ZASTROW



# MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

LTC RYAN WEAVER

MAJ WILLIAM WINSTON

CPT LORI BEGGS

CPT ANA VELEZ

1LT GRAYSON BETTS

1LT MICHAEL ANTHONY SIAN

1LT PAUL RUSSELL STOCKWELL

SMSGT PARKER DALLA

SMSGT BRETT MILLER

SMSGT VAN SETERS, RICK

MSGT LAURA BEACH

MSGT AUSTIN EDWARDS

MSGT ZACHARIAH FAASSE

MSGT JESSE JACQUAY

MSGT NOAH LAZURKA

MSGT ROBERT ORVIS

MSGT DENNIS RUMRILL

MSGT MACKENZIE WILCOX

TSGT ZACHARY BOTHE

TSGT COLIN ECHELBARGER

TSGT CHRISTOPHER MISZEWSKI

TSGT BETHANY RIZOR

TSGT KATERINA WILLSON

SSGT SAMANTHA BECKER

SSGT BLAKE BERNARD

SSGT ADAM LEWIS

SSGT ETHAN MAURER

SSGT LEVI PENNING

SSGT LUIS QUILANTAN

SSGT SCOTT SHAUM

SRA ALANA BLACK

SRA MICHAEL CHAMBERLAIN

SRA JAMEL FORTUNE

SRA JACK KULAS,

A1C NICOLE BETTERLY

A1C BRADY CARRIVEAU

A1C JUSTIN DUNN

A1C ANTONIO GUZMAN

A1C AIDEN MARCELLUS

A1C MATTISON MATLOCK

A1C NU NGUYEN

A1C BRANDEN PATTEN

A1C EDWARD STANLEY

A1C AUSTIN WARREN

AMN LINKOLN KOWALSKI

AMN JORGE ROBLES

# NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

## MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

COL KATHRYN PRATER  
COL JOHN KEELEAN

LTC CHASITY FALLS

MAJ KEITH DAVIDSON  
MAJ BENJAMIN SCANLON  
MAJ STEVEN MORRIS

CPT KEVIN FERRELL

CW4 PAUL VOISIN

SGM MERANDA MILLS

MSG PAULIE PORCHE  
MSG VICTOR BAKER  
MSG CHARLES WAGNER  
MSG PATRICK EHRIG  
MSG BRANDAN HODGES

SFC PAUL NICKELSON  
SFC DAWN BIRD  
SFC ALFRED MCKEOWN  
SFC JOSEPH FREDERICK

SSG RANDOLPH DIONISIO  
SSG NEIL LOLLAR  
SSG JORDAN WILLIAMS  
SSG NICKOLAS EASTERLING  
SSG DAVID GUY  
SSG JAMES EDGAR  
SSG PRESTON BEAUDRY  
SSG SHANE JOHNSON  
SSG LANCE RIPLETT II  
SSG MICHAEL JANIK

SGT JOSEPH SUCHOWOLEC  
SGT ADAM MASON

## MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

LTC BRIAN BILEK,  
LTC LORI BOWERS  
LTC JOHN BRADY,  
LTC DAVID JR. BREWER  
LTC ZACHARY DEWEY

SMSGT CHRISTOPHER BROWN

TSGT DENNIS GABBERT,  
TSGT CHRISTOPHER KLEIN  
TSGT DANIEL WEST



# TAPS

COL CLIFFORD VEIT 17-FEB-25

MAJ DENNIS MCCARRON 25-FEB-25

MAJ ELTON SPADE 14-FEB-25

CPT JOHN WREN 11-DEC-24

CSM ANTHONY PALAZZOLO 26-FEB-25

MSG JAMES DEGRAND 16-MAR-25

1SG KYLE JOHNSON 15-MAR-25

SFC RONALD BATCHELDER 1-MAR-25

SFC MARK CASWEL 2-FEB-25

SFC JAMES LINDSLEY 18-FEB-25

SFC ROBERT ROACH 26-MAR-25

SFC NORMAN STRIEGLE 19-FEB-25

SSG CASEY BEUKEMA 18-MAR-25

SSG THOMAS FISHER 8-FEB-25

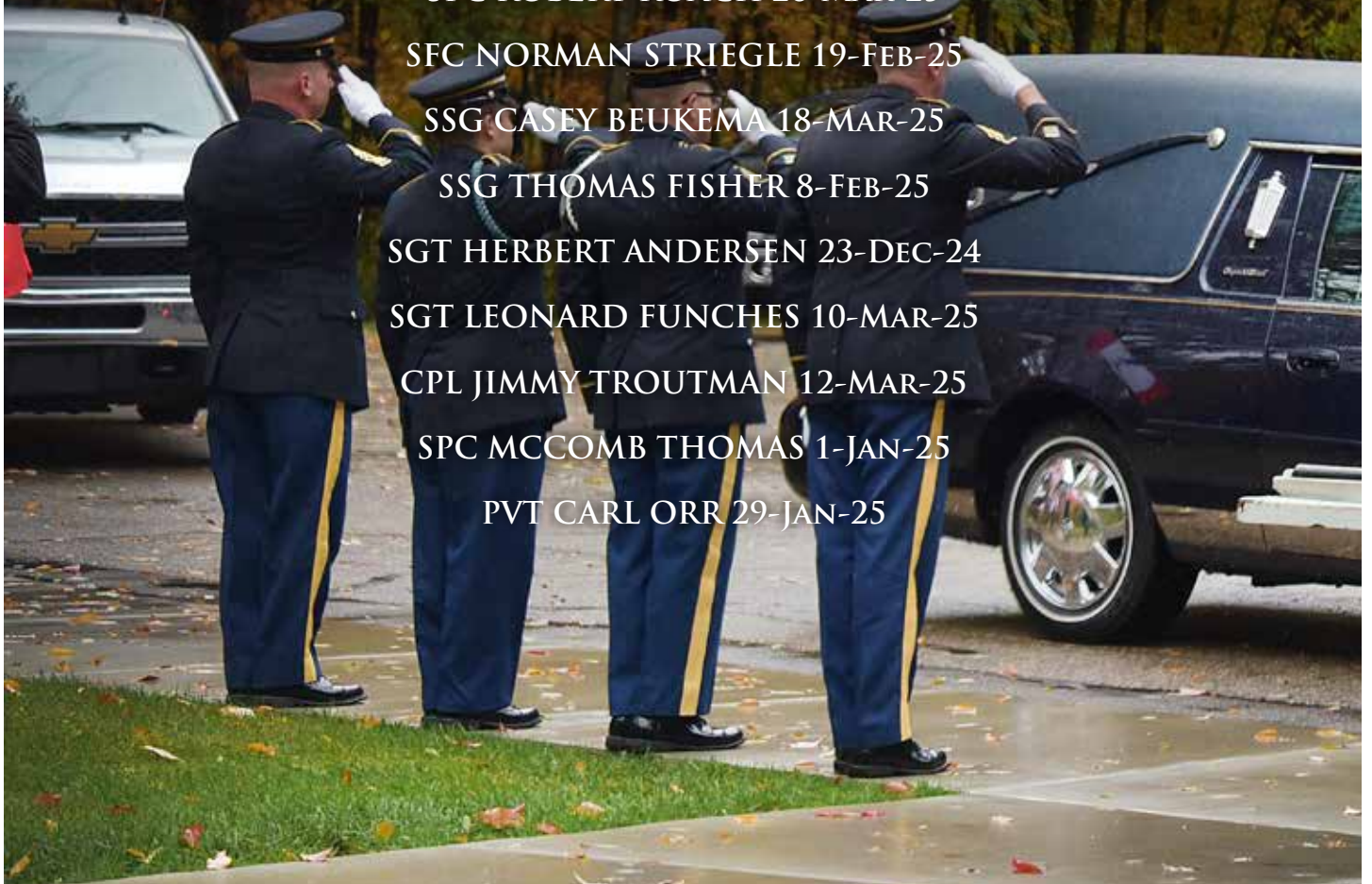
SGT HERBERT ANDERSEN 23-DEC-24

SGT LEONARD FUNCHES 10-MAR-25

CPL JIMMY TROUTMAN 12-MAR-25

SPC MCCOMB THOMAS 1-JAN-25

PVT CARL ORR 29-JAN-25



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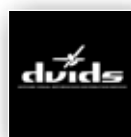
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**ALWAYS READY**

**ALWAYS THERE**

