

WOLVERINE GUARD

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PHOTO BY: SPC RACHEL BAKER, 1ST BN, 125TH INFANTRY





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TAG TALK

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS

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



This edition of the Wolverine Guard is dedicated to the very essence of our profession, "Readiness." This is the standard we hold ourselves to every day, a commitment that echoes from our training fields to our armories and across the globe. It is a promise that when the call comes, Michigan answers prepared and proficient in our warrior tasks and drills.

The creation of a lethal warrior is a demanding process, forged in the toughest conditions. As you will read in "Unforgiving Cold," our Guardsmen recently embraced the brutal winter of Northern Strike 26-1, proving that our readiness is not bound by season or climate. This is where we build resilience and ensure our warfighters can operate and win in any environment. Lethality also requires mastering complex, modern systems. Our feature, "Rocket Science," highlights a Soldier's transition to the HIMARS crew, a perfect example of our

people's dedication to acquiring the advanced skills that make our force so formidable.

These skilled individuals are the foundation of our elite teams. A prime example is the 246th Transportation Battalion, whose recent validation for the National Guard Response Force mission is detailed in "Michigan's Shield." This certification confirms their status as a highly capable team, ready to protect our communities at a moment's notice. We are also building elite teams for the future, as you'll see in "Preparing for the Fight of the Future." The designation of the National All-Domain Warfighting Center as a national range for unmanned aerial systems training positions Michigan at the forefront of defense innovation, ensuring our teams are prepared for the conflicts of tomorrow.

I am particularly proud that this issue introduces a new feature: opinion pieces from members across our formation. I want to draw your attention to two thought-provoking articles that get to the heart of our theme. First, 1st Lt. Ashley Collins provides a critical look at "Data-Driven Sustainment," reminding us that logistics and innovation are the bedrock that enables our lethality. Second, in his piece, "Are We Doing Things Right? Or Are We Doing Things Well?," 1st Sgt. Kaleb Vickery challenges us to pursue a readiness that transcends checklists and is rooted in a culture of honest assessment and true warfighting capability.

These contributions from a junior officer and a senior NCO are invaluable, and I want to personally thank them for sharing their perspectives. This is exactly the kind of professional dialogue we need to foster. I encourage all of you to lend your voices to this conversation as we continue to grow as a learning organization.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence, your resilience, and your dedication to the uniform. You are the lethal warriors and elite teams that make the Michigan National Guard a premier force for both state and nation.

Always Ready, Always There.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a large, faint watermark of the Michigan National Guard seal.



LEADER SPOTLIGHT

RETIRED BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY TERRILL



Brig. Gen. Jeff Terrill, former Land Component Commander, Michigan National Guard, at a speaking engagement, Oct. 23, 2019, near the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Layton)

STAFF SGT CATHERINE BROOKS MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jeffrey Terrill remembers the moment clearly as he sits down in his sport coat looking banker-ish, how ordinary — and revealing — it was. Inside an operations center during a national conference, Terrill had just come from a civilian bank meeting earlier that morning before stepping back into his role supporting Guard operations. Dressed in business attire instead of a uniform, he blended more easily into the civilian world than the military one, enough to catch the attention of a young captain seated nearby, “Are you not fulltime?”, the captain asked.

After 38 years of service in the Michigan National Guard, the question caught him off guard. Not because

it was disrespectful, but because it exposed a common misunderstanding, even among Soldiers about what a traditional Guardsman’s career can look like at the highest levels.

“He didn’t know a general officer didn’t have to be full time,” Terrill said.

For Terrill, the brief exchange became a snapshot of a message he has tried to reinforce throughout his career, that leadership in the National Guard does not require choosing between military service and a civilian profession. It is a message he hopes resonates with junior officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted Soldiers alike.

“I want every junior officer and even enlisted — because that’s where I came from — I want them to know that you can achieve the rank of general officer as a traditional guardsman,” he said.

That belief was shaped by decades of balancing two demanding careers at once. While rising through the senior ranks of the Guard, Terrill simultaneously built a long-standing career in banking, a dual-track path that required discipline, organization, and constant prioritization.

“When both roles demand time, like anything else, you’ve got to prioritize,” Terrill said.

“A lot of people talk about multitasking, but in reality, what you’ve got to do is focus on the task at hand.”

Early in his career, that balance was far more difficult. Communication relied on landlines, paper correspondence, and physically being in the right place at the right time. Missed calls meant missed information, and flexibility was limited.

“You used to have to call into the armory and hope somebody would answer the phone,”



Terrill said. “You don’t have to do that now. You can text people, you have chat apps... the leveraging of technology then allows you to execute the priorities and the focus needed.”

stewardship of capital.”

Terrill often explains stewardship using a simple analogy that resonates far beyond the banking world.

“I want every junior officer and even enlisted — because that’s where I came from — I want them to know that you can achieve the rank of general officer as a traditional guardsman.”

—Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jeff Terrill Michigan National Guard

Over time, both careers shaped how he led. Each sharpened different skills that ultimately reinforced one another.

“The military sharpened decisiveness, accountability, and clarity under pressure,” he said. “Banking helped form strategic thinking, risk management, and

“We take your grandma’s CD (certificate of deposit) ... and we lend it to somebody else, but we have to make a smart decision because eventually they’re going to want that money back,” he said. “The military, it’s the same. The taxpayers paid for that stuff, and we want to be good stewards of capital.”

That sense of responsibility crystallized during his time commanding the 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment. During a major equipment transition, Terrill watched his entire battalion prepare for a large-scale road march, Soldiers, vehicles, and equipment assembled in one place.

“I got to see the whole battalion that I was commanding lined up, ready to go,” he said.

“You see the soldiers and the equipment, the lethality... that’s when it really sat with me what the responsibility was.”

As his roles grew more complex, so did his leadership style. Command no longer meant giving orders to small teams, but collaborating across large staffs, branches, and organizations.

“You get to a point where you’re working with other people of equal rank... much larger staffs,” Terrill said. “You’ve got to be able to bring a team together, take input, yet still work toward a place where you’ve got to make a decision.”

Retirement from the Guard, he said, hasn’t brought inactivity, but a

noticeable change in rhythm. The weekends once filled with drills, evaluations, and unit visits are now quieter.

Still, there are moments when the absence of constant Guard obligations is unmistakable.

“I got to a point a couple weeks ago where I was like, ‘Oh... nothing for me to do. I’m good. Guess I’m done,’” he said.

Throughout his career, one of the most persistent challenges Terrill encountered was explaining the scope, relevance, and responsibility of the National Guard to those outside of it. Whether speaking with business leaders, community members, or even family and friends, he found that few truly understood how deeply integrated the Guard is within the nation’s defense and response structure.

“Most people really don’t recognize the amount of participation or responsibility that the Guard has to the total force,” he said.

Terrill made a point of addressing that gap whenever possible, often inviting employers, clients, and influential community members to see the Guard’s mission firsthand. Those experiences, he said, consistently led to the same reaction.

“Everyone I’ve brought to a workday, walks away and says, ‘I had no idea,’” he said. The surprise wasn’t just about scale, but capability. Many visitors, Terrill explained, arrived expecting to see a limited, part-



time force, only to leave with a new understanding of the Guard’s operational reach, technical expertise, and level of responsibility. The realization that Guardsmen perform the same missions as their active-duty counterparts — often with less time to train — left a lasting impression.

That reaction, repeated time and again, reinforced why Terrill believes visibility matters. Each visit, each conversation, became an opportunity to turn confusion into understanding and understanding into advocacy.

For Terrill, the message he hopes resonates most is rooted in lived

experience. His career did not begin at the top, nor was it defined by a single path. It grew over decades of service, shaped by family legacy, steady progression, and the reality of balancing military duty with civilian life. From his earliest days in uniform to senior leadership, his journey stands as proof of what is possible within the National Guard for those willing to commit the time, effort, and discipline required.

Then he added:

“I did it. You can do it too.”

Family Programs



SFR ★ SOLDIER AND FAMILY
READINESS

The Soldier & Family Readiness Program assists Service Members and their Families with:

Education Concerns

Employment Assistance

Unit and Family Readiness

Family & Relationships

Non-Medical Administrative Casework, including:

Financial Crisis
(loss of income, job, etc.)

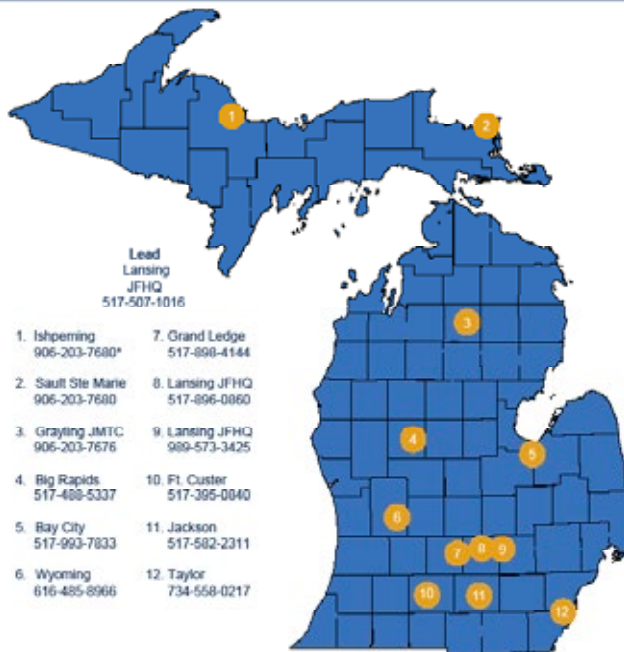
Under-Employed
(career assistance)

Unexpected Life Events
(car accident, medical diagnosis, house fire,
flood, loss of transportation, etc.)

We can also assist in addressing other Guard and Family concerns by advocating through Command and partnering organizations.



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READINESS



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FOR MORE FAMILY PROGRAMS, CLICK [HERE](#).

SERIES: FROM THE FRONT LINES

WO1 PHILLIP KORPI



Warrant Officer Phillip Korpi and his family (Courtesy)

DANIEL GARAS MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD

Change is a constant in life, and according to Warrant Officer Phillip Korpi, embracing it can lead to unexpected opportunities.

Korpi's career in the Michigan National Guard has been defined by change, taking him from the enlisted ranks to the Warrant Officer Corps while shaping both his professional and personal life.

"If you don't like the situation you're in, it will change," Korpi said. "Seek out change, and seek it out frequently."

Inspired by his brother's graduation from the U.S. Army Engineer School, Korpi pursued enlistment but faced early setbacks, including a failed hearing test that delayed his entry. After finally enlisting in 2011 as a 92G (Culinary Specialist), he spent five years in the role before seeking a new path.

That opportunity came through a Stay-Guard event, where he transitioned to 36B (Financial Management Technician).

The move led him to the Joint Forces Headquarters in Lansing and eventually to ADOS orders with the 46th Military Police Command, where he later secured an AGR position as a 42A (Human Resources Specialist).

During his tenure, Korpi demonstrated a demeanor and traits that caught the attention of his superiors, who recommended yet another change: becoming a Warrant Officer.

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Corps consists of highly specialized technical experts who are considered the definitive subject matter experts in more than 40 specialties. Serving as the link between enlisted and officers, they hold a revered status among both and provide input and guidance to commanders.

Warrant officers are known to "pick their own," and are careful with their recommendations. Korpi said being told he had the potential to join their ranks was humbling.

"It makes you feel pretty good, that's for sure," said Korpi. "It's kind of a legacy passing the torch situation."

In his role, Korpi focused on improving inefficiencies, particularly in HR processes. By questioning outdated practices and pushing for standardized procedures, he helped create clearer, more effective systems for Soldiers.

"My current role is affecting that change for the future," Korpi said. "You create an expectation and a product that helps Soldiers succeed."

While change shaped his career, it had an even greater impact on his personal life. After learning he and his wife, Kate, could not have children, the couple turned to adoption.

They met their daughter Nova when she was just a few months old. Though initially placed with a biological family member of one of the birth parents, the Korpis remained committed, pursuing a foster license and preparing for adoption.

A bad parenting situation put her into the foster care system," said Korpi. "Right when we met her we immediately knew she was our daughter."

When parental rights were revoked, they were selected to adopt her.

"That's how our family started," Korpi said.

Just 14 days after finalizing Nova's adoption, the couple received another life-changing call—Nova had a newborn biological brother. They welcomed him into their home and later adopted him as well. Today, Nova is 4 and Blake is 2.

For Korpi, embracing change has been the foundation of both his career and his family. Despite challenges along the way, he remains focused on the bigger picture.

"This career provides a living so I can support a family," Korpi said. "You just have to hang on."



ARMORY MODERNIZATION

DMVA Completes Major Armory Modernization Milestone as Adjutant General visits Grand Ledge

Daniel Garas
Michigan National Guard

Grand Ledge, Mich. — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), met with Michigan National Guard (MING) Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion, during a visit to the Grand Ledge Armory, March 13, 2026.

Rogers' visit was part of a statewide tour during his final year as Michigan's Adjutant General, to highlight ongoing investments in readiness infrastructure and Soldier quality of life across the state, including \$148 million spent on an armory modernization program and expanding state-specific benefits.

"To date, we have completed

the renovation of 30 out of the 33 facilities that needed to be renovated," said Rogers. "The last three will be finished by November."

According to Rogers, this means Michigan will be the only state that has successfully renovated all its National Guard readiness centers.

He also unveiled a new briefing designed to educate service members on state benefits secured during his tenure, including the [Michigan Member Benefits Program](#) which is designed to provide college or trade school tuition reimbursement, childcare assistance and bridge TRICARE premium reimbursement to eligible MING members.

Grand Ledge was the first

Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, the Adjutant General and Director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shows his challenge coins to troops assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion, March 13, 2026, at the unit's armory in Grand Ledge, Mich. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Daniel Garas)

facility completed under the modernization program and holds particular significance as a symbol of Michigan's armory revitalization. The facility houses Michigan's Army Aviation Support Facility 1, which underwent a \$3.962 million renovation in August 2022.

Rogers said armory upgrades were essential for the MING to complete modern mission requirements, but also serve changing service demographics. He pointed out that aging facilities, built decades ago, were not designed to accommodate women, citing a lack of female latrines, showers and lactation rooms.

"I viewed it as a disrespectful and unacceptable work environment," Rogers said. "It failed the women who chose to serve in our



Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, the Adjutant General and Director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presents a challenge coin to Sgt. Simone Bendall, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion, March 13, 2026, at the unit's armory in Grand Ledge, Mich. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Daniel Garas)

formation. You deserved better, and we must do better.”

Rogers said he brought the issue to Gov. Whitmer’s attention by taking her on a tour to highlight the lack of facilities for women Soldiers. With the support of the governor and other state legislators, the DMVA started a plan to upgrade all the state’s facilities at once.

“Michigan’s men and women in uniform step up every day to keep our communities safe, and it’s on us to have their backs,” said Gov. Whitmer. “I’m proud that Michigan will be the first state to renovate all its National Guard readiness centers and ensure that women soldiers have equal facilities and support. Let’s keep working together to make a difference for our Michigan National Guard service members, veterans and their families.”

While many states upgrade their armories incrementally, this phased approach can create gaps in modernization, leaving some facilities outdated as others are

completed. Rogers viewed this as an unacceptable model for Michigan.

Serving as Michigan’s Adjutant General since 2019, Rogers has led the MING through a range of domestic responses, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the Midland floods, civil unrest in 2020 and the ice storm of 2025.

He described these efforts as part of a longstanding legacy of service that Michigan’s Guardsmen both inherit and uphold. That legacy, he said, underscores the importance of ensuring every Soldier and Airmen is aware of the expanded benefits available to them through the new briefing.

“You have earned it,” he said, “It’s great to see Michigan step up to be the first state in the Union to deliver on that promise.”

Erin Annis, member benefits coordinator for the DMVA, presented members of the 3-238th an in-depth review of benefits like the [Michigan National Guard](#)

[State Tuition Assistance Program \(MINGSTAP\)](#), the [Childcare Assistance Program](#) and the [Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program](#).

Following the presentation, Rogers presented his personal challenge coin to select members of the unit for their contributions to the 3-238th’s readiness. Soldiers honored were 1st Sgt. James Dentler, Sgt. 1st Class Joel Allard, Sgt. 1st Class, Cecillia Allison, Staff Sgt. Timothy Sunday, Staff Sgt. Terry Welch, Sgt. Simone Bendall, Sgt. Audra Hawkins and Sgt. Michael Vanassen,

“To date, we have completed the renovation of 30 out of the 33 facilities that needed to be renovated. The last three will be finished by November.”

*—Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers
The Adjutant General,
Michigan National Guard*

As the modernization initiative nears completion, DMVA leaders say the upgraded readiness centers will enhance training capabilities, strengthen unit cohesion and ensure the force remains prepared to respond to both state and federal missions.

For more information, visit [Michigan Member Benefits Program](#).

UNFORGIVING COLD

NORTHERN STRIKE '26 WINTER ITERATION CONCLUDES IN RECORD-SETTING COLD TEMPERATURES



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan National Guard, prepare and fire a M777 155mm howitzer at a tactical field site during Northern Strike 26-1, Jan. 28, 2026, at Camp Grayling, Michigan. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Scott Thompson)

Tech. Sgt. Richard Mekkri
National Guard Bureau

GRAYLING, Mich. — More than 450 U.S. Soldiers and Airmen braved freezing temperatures and extreme winter conditions during the winter iteration of Northern Strike 26, Jan. 26-29. An Army-sponsored, National Guard Bureau exercise, Northern Strike provides service members from across the total force the opportunity to train to meet the objectives of the Department of War's Arctic

strategy. The winter iteration of the exercise focuses on one of the most unforgiving aspects of warfighting: surviving, moving, and fighting in extreme cold. Held across more than 14,000 acres at the National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan, the event pushed service members to operate in sub-zero temperatures while training in a complex, contested environment — conditions leaders say are essential for meeting Department

of War priorities and preparing for potential conflict against rival competitors. “Northern Strike replicates the complexity of the modern environment and it’s an outstanding learning opportunity,” said U.S. Army Col. Todd Fitzpatrick, officer in charge of the Northern Strike plans team, Michigan National Guard. “It’s a very robust scenario that answers the call.” The training includes conventional maneuver operations alongside modern threats such



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 177th Military Police Brigade walk up to a UH-60 Black Hawk, assigned to Charlie Company 3-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, Michigan National Guard, for a flight during Northern Strike 26-1 at Camp Grayling, Michigan, Jan. 28, 2026. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Wynndermere Shaw)

as unmanned aircraft systems, electronic warfare and complex opposing-force attacks. Northern Strike affords units the opportunity to perform these operations across each warfighting domain: land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. “We can train in all five domains of warfare simultaneously,” Fitzpatrick said. The weather itself, Fitzpatrick said, becomes a crucial training tool. “We experienced lows in the negative teens, not including wind chill, and several feet of snow on the ground,” he said. “That challenges movement and mobility. Service members get to test their individual equipment and weapon systems and understand what those extreme conditions have on their equipment.” For Soldiers in the Michigan Army National Guard’s field artillery formations,

the winter iteration offered a rare opportunity to train in conditions that cannot be replicated at home station. U.S. Army Sgt. Stephen Nugent, a howitzer crew section

“We experienced lows in the negative teens, not including wind chill, and several feet of snow on the ground.”

*—Col. Todd Fitzpatrick,
Northern Strike plans OIC*

chief with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan National

Guard, said the cold forced his team to adapt quickly. “What we’re able to do out here that we can’t do at home station is train effectively in cold weather and test our howitzers, vehicles and equipment,” Nugent said. “In case the state or the country needs us, we’re ready.” Even basic artillery maintenance became a challenge in the extreme cold. To combat necessary liquids from freezing, Soldiers implemented a cleaning, lubrication, and protection solvent, also known as CLP, mixture into their training routine. “For our job, we definitely need water for cleaning the breach,” Nugent said. “It’s been tricky maintaining warm water, so we have to mix water and CLP so it doesn’t freeze over.” Despite the hardship, Nugent said morale remained strong. “This battery has, by far,



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Alpha Battery, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard, fire M-777 155 mm howitzers during Northern Strike 26-1, at Camp Grayling, Mich. Jan. 28, 2026. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Daniel Garas)

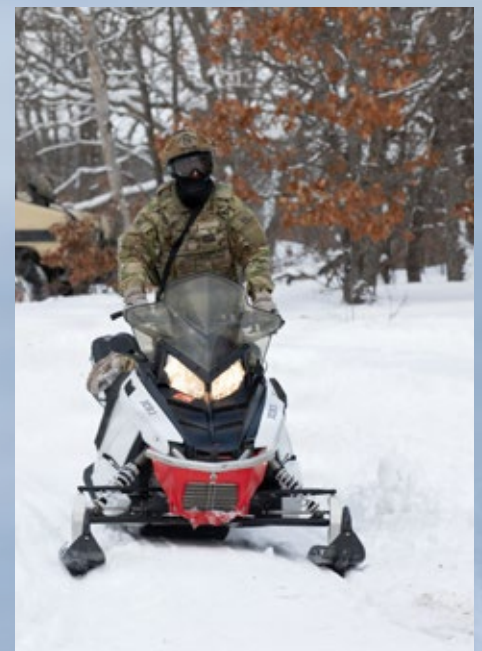
the best morale you'll ever find," he said. "We're suffering out here, but everyone's keeping each other's spirits up, joking around and talking with one another." U.S. Army Capt. James Stock, commander of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery, Michigan National Guard, said the winter conditions provided a critical test of survivability and combat capability. "These are some of the coldest temperatures that Michigan's seen in a very long time," Stock said. "It enables Soldiers and equipment to get out and not only test their capabilities, but exercise warfighting functions like survivability and field artillery tactics." Stock said his unit faced equipment breakdowns and logistical challenges but continued adapting to accomplish the mission. "We've been troubleshooting equipment breaking down — weapon systems, vehicles, utilities," he said. "But we've come up with solutions outside the box to keep

driving the mission forward. We're adapting every day." As units prepared for live-fire missions, the focus remained on learning under pressure. "This is the first time we've set up cold-weather tents in the field," Stock said. "We're working through those processes, getting maintenance squared away and carrying those lessons learned



throughout the exercise." For Fitzpatrick, that ability to operate and improve before real-world conflict is one of the exercise's greatest opportunities. "Northern Strike offers the opportunity to train and struggle here before we have to do it for real," he said. "We allow units to try, fail, reset and do it all over again." Northern Strike is structured to support Department of War objectives, including defending the homeland and preparing forces for large-scale combat in contested environments. Northern Strike's summer iteration will return in August, bringing thousands of service members to Michigan, but leaders said the winter event remains uniquely valuable.

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



U.S. Army Soldier Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnson, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 177th Military Police Brigade, trains on a snowmobile during Northern Strike 26-1, at Camp Grayling, Mich., Jan 26, 2026. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. Dana Vermilye)

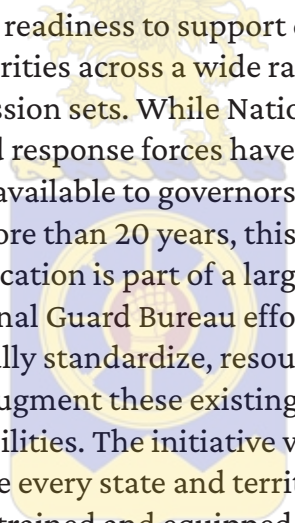


MICHIGAN'S SHIELD

246TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION VALIDATED FOR NATIONAL GUARD RESPONSE FORCE MISSION

Capt. David Kennedy
Michigan National Guard

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. – Soldiers of the 246th Transportation Battalion, 272nd Regional Support Group, Michigan Army National Guard, successfully completed a multi-day validation exercise on March 13, certifying them as a key element of the state's highly versatile National Guard Response Force, or NGRF. Held at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center, the validation confirms the



unit's readiness to support civil authorities across a wide range of mission sets. While National Guard response forces have been available to governors for more than 20 years, this certification is part of a larger National Guard Bureau effort to formally standardize, resource, and augment these existing capabilities. The initiative will ensure every state and territory has a trained and equipped NGRF ready to respond to

domestic emergencies under the command of their governor by April 1, 2026. The importance of such a force was demonstrated last year when Michigan deployed Guard members to assist communities impacted by a severe ice storm, where they were instrumental in clearing roads and supporting logistical needs for stranded residents. "This validation exercise proves our soldiers have the training and equipment to handle any



Soldiers assigned to the 246th Transportation Battalion, 272nd Regional Support Group, Michigan Army National Guard, conduct a National Guard Response Force validation exercise, March 12, 2026 at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center, Mich. The validation exercise confirms the unit's readiness to support civil authorities across a wide range of mission sets. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. David Kennedy)

mission required of them, whether it's a natural disaster like the 2025 ice storm or a civil disturbance," said Maj. Melody Taylor, commander of the 246th Transportation Battalion. "Our role is to be a multi-purpose tool for civil authorities, ready to protect our neighbors and ensure public safety during any crisis." The NGRF is designed for a tiered and rapid deployment to allow for a flexible and proportional response to an emergency. Approximately 25% of the force is ready to deploy within 8 hours, 50% within 12 hours, and the entire element within 24 hours. Each state's NGRF is capable of a wide array of missions, including disaster response and critical infrastructure protection. During the validation, the 246th Transportation Battalion was

tested on a standardized set of skills crucial for this mission. The training included tasks focusing on de-escalation techniques and the use of tools designed

"Our role is to be a multi-purpose tool for civil authorities, ready to protect our neighbors and ensure public safety during and crisis."

— Maj. Melody Taylor, 246th Transportation Battalion

to ensure public safety. "Fine-tuning and properly resourcing the National Guard Response Force provides Michigan a

reliable and incredibly versatile tool that has been serving our state for decades," said Col. Jeana Cho, commander of 272nd Regional Support Group. "Last year's ice storm showed how critical this capability is. This federal resourcing initiative enhances our ability to protect Michigan's communities across the full spectrum of domestic operations." With its successful validation, the 246th Transportation Battalion is now fully certified for its NGRF mission, reinforcing the National Guard's enduring promise to be "Always Ready, Always There" for the community.

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

DATA-DRIVEN SUSTAINMENT

Leveraging Big Data and Predictive Analytics for Army Supply Chain Resilience

1st LT Ashley Collins
Michigan National Guard

"The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Wolverine Guard."

Supply chains today aren't just behind the scenes process; they're becoming battlegrounds in their own right. The Army has always relied on solid logistics "logistics wins wars", quoted by U.S. Army General John J. Pershing. However, recent events like the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shown just how vulnerable even the most advanced systems can be. These crises showed some uncomfortable truths: just-in-time supply models can fail under pressure, depending on a single source for critical parts is risky, and long supply lines are easy targets in contested environments.

As the Army embarks on its biggest modernization (Executive Order 14265) in decades, we can't keep reacting after problems arise. We need to anticipate challenges, adapt quickly, and build resilience right into our sustainment systems. That's where big data and predictive analytics come in. Paired

with smarter contracting and industry partnerships, these tools can help us move from firefighting to foresight.

Lessons from COVID-19 and Ukraine: Fragility in Focus

The COVID-19 pandemic was a real test of our global supply chains, even basic supplies became scarce to secure like medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and raw materials (micro-chips, steel, and other minerals). For the Army, that meant waiting longer for repair parts, competing with civilian markets for microchips, and struggling to find key raw materials like steel and rare earth minerals. The war in Ukraine reinforced these lessons on a military scale. Russia's placed immense strain on Ukrainian and allied sustainment systems, the invasion turned supply lines into prime targets. Ammunition shortages, fuel

distribution challenges, and the difficulty of maintaining heavy equipment in the field have all emphasized the need for diversified sourcing, surge capacity, and real-time visibility into logistics operations.

For the Army, these crises are more than case studies; they are warnings. In a future large-scale combat operation, sustainment will be targeted directly, fragile supply chains will quickly become a critical vulnerability unless resilience is deliberately built into the system.

Harnessing Big Data and Predictive Analytics

The Army already possesses a wealth of sustainment data, but much of it is underutilized.

Platforms like the Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-
continued on page 37



BROTHERS IN ARMS

How Michigan and Latvia Built an Enduring State Partnership

Military personnel from the Latvian National Armed Forces work side-by-side with U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Battery C, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard, while conducting close air support training during Northern Strike 22-1 (“Winter Strike”) at the National All-Domain Warfighting Center, Grayling, Mich., Jan. 27, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. David Kujawa)

1st Lt. Paige Bodine
Michigan National Guard

LANSING, Mich. — The State Partnership Program began as a cautious post-Cold War experiment and has evolved into one of the most enduring and cost-effective security cooperation efforts in U.S. military history. In reflecting on its origins, Michigan National Guard leaders played a pivotal role in shaping and sustaining the partnership that endured decades later.

The National Guard State Partnership Program evolved from the earlier Joint Contact Team initiative. Originally focused on limited military engagement with former Soviet bloc nations, it emerged at a pivotal moment in history. As the Soviet

Union collapsed, newly independent countries faced the dual challenge of rebuilding their defense forces and transitioning to democratic governance. The United States sought a way to support these nations without escalating tensions with Russia, and the National Guard proved uniquely suited to the task. A prime example of this success is the Michigan–Latvia State Partnership, which has become a model for enduring and effective international cooperation.

“The National Guard is a homegrown force,” said retired Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump, the former Adjutant General of Michigan during the start of the partnership in 1993. “It was something

the Soviets would not feel threatened by. The National Guard helping countries in the Baltic region made sense.”

Michigan’s partnership with Latvia was not accidental. It was built on shared values, existing cultural ties, and people willing to bridge both worlds. One of those people was Dace Mason, a Michigan resident of Latvian heritage and Stump’s administrative assistant, who played a critical role in the partnership’s early success.

“Latvia was the right fit for Michigan,” Mason said. “There were many Latvians in Michigan, and there was already a connection with a Michigan

computer company doing business in Latvia. It made it the perfect partnership.”

For Mason, the program was more than professional involvement. It was deeply personal. Latvia regained independence in 1991 after more than 50 years of Soviet occupation. When the partnership began, the country was still navigating what freedom meant in practice.

“My parents were excited, but they were also a little concerned,” Mason said. “Latvia was just newly freed.”

The Michigan National Guard’s first engagements revealed just how nascent Latvia was in rebuilding its military. Russian forces were still present in the country, and Latvia was creating defense institutions from the ground up.

“When it first started, we met with the military hierarchy,” Mason said. “There were still Russians in Latvia. We also met leaders in Latvia’s National Guard.

We were able to show them how we did things.”

Language quickly became one of the biggest challenges. Only a handful

“The trust we have in them and the trust they have in us is real. We have even gone to war together in Afghanistan.”

—Maj. Gen. (Ret.) E. Gordon Stump
former Adjutant General of Michigan

of people could translate military discussions accurately.

“At the beginning, we had three Michigan National Guard soldiers and me, who spoke fluent Latvian,” Mason said. “The language barrier was difficult, but we made it work.”

That work required creativity and patience. Military terminology did not always translate cleanly, and misunderstandings could easily arise.

“It took a day to get it all back again,” Mason said. “There were a few military terms I was not familiar with, which were tricky. One of the Latvians in the Michigan National Guard actually created a dictionary of English and Latvian military terms to help the translation go smoother.”

Despite the challenges, the early visits were powerful moments for everyone involved.

“The first trip was amazing,” Mason said. “I never thought Latvia would be free again. The Latvian community is very tight-knit. Growing up in America,



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard, Lt. Gen. Leonīds Kalniņš, Latvian chief of defense, perform a stamp canceling ceremony May 3, 2023, in Riga, Latvia, at an event honoring the 30th anniversary of Latvia’s defense cooperation with the Michigan National Guard under the State Partnership Program. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ashley Goodwin)



Army and Air Michigan National Guard members, along with other services, represent the United States of America at the Latvian Centennial Parade in Riga, Latvia Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018. Michigan was invited to carry the American colors because of the unique relationship between the armed forces of Latvia and the Michigan National Guard resulting from their 25 year State Partnership. (Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Hall)

we were involved in the community through Latvian church, school, and summer camp.”

Latvians who had fought for their independence were receptive and grateful for the partnership. They were not looking to be told what to do. They wanted to learn by observing how a democratic military functioned.

“It was a true partnership,” Mason said. “We were not lecturing them. They saw how we did things in America, and we worked alongside them.”

Stump echoed that sentiment, emphasizing that the relationship was built on mutual respect rather than instruction. “The State Partnership Program was an eye-opening experience for both

the Latvians and us,” Stump said. “It was educational to see what it was like for them to build a military from the ground up.” It was eye-opening for everyone.”

At the time, Latvia did not employ a noncommissioned officer corps, a foundational element of the U.S. military structure.

“They started from nothing,” Stump said. “Over time, they became organized, similar to the U.S. Military. Eventually, they met NATO standards and joined NATO. That happened because of the relationship we built with them.”

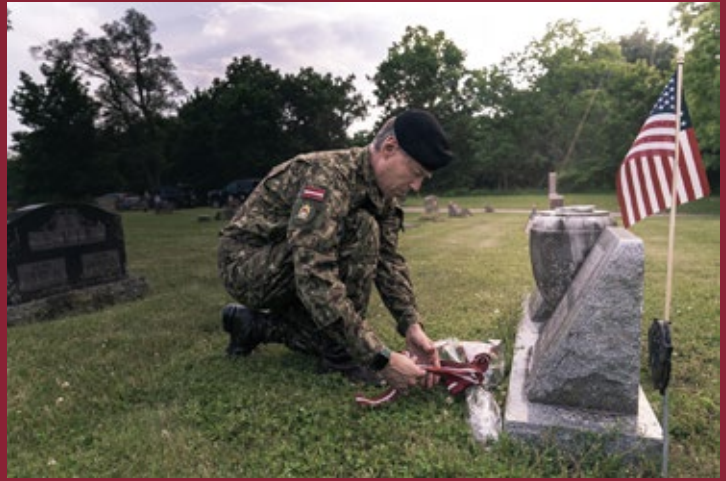
That relationship proved its strength years later when Michigan and Latvia deployed together.

“The trust we have in them and the trust they have in us is real,” Stump said. “We have even gone to war together in Afghanistan.”

The partnership extended beyond military cooperation. Civilian leaders, business owners, and organizations became part of the connection between Michigan and Latvia.

“We took planes of Michigan business leaders over there twice,” Stump said. “Companies like Meijer, Holman, Spartan Motors, and Dean Transportation were involved. They talked with Latvians about business ventures and long-term cooperation.”

Those connections reinforced the idea that security and stability are built not only by militaries, but also by communities.



(Above, left) Michigan National Guard personnel joined Latvian Armed Forces and military members from over 12 allied nations to celebrate Latvia's 106th Independence Day on November 18, 2024. The day included a wreath-laying ceremony at Riga's Freedom Monument to honor those who gave their lives for Latvia's independence. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Capt. Tandi Bailey)

(Above, right) Maj. Gen. Kaspars Pudāns, Latvian Chief of Defense, visits the grave site of Pvt. Aivars Karlis Salenieks, a Latvian-American soldier, June 6, 2025 at Riverside Cemetery Kalamazoo, Michigan. Salenieks was killed in action during the Korean War, October 18, 1952 at the age of 20. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sergeant Ryan Bishop)

For Stump, the partnership created lifelong memories and friendships.

"I never dreamed the partnership would become what it did," he said. "I will never forget meeting the president of Latvia. We even gave him a ride in an F-16."

One story still stands out decades later.

"One night we went hunting wild boar at midnight," Stump said. "On his last trip to the United States, the president was speaking at the United Nations and invited me to hear his speech. After that trip, he flew to Michigan with 12 boxes. One of them was a wild boar head. It's hanging today in the officers' club at Camp Grayling."

What began with limited funding and uncertain support grew into a globally recognized program. Today, the State Partnership Program includes 116 partner nations.

"It was a wonderful program that got involved with emerging nations," Stump said. "It is an easy and inexpensive way to make a big difference."

According to the Department of War, the State Partnership Program operates

on an annual budget of approximately 48 to 55 million dollars, less than one percent of overall U.S. security cooperation funding. Yet, it facilitates a significant portion of engagement activities worldwide. Its success lies in long-term relationships rather than short-term outcomes.

"Honestly, I didn't think it would be successful at first," Stump said. "We didn't have much funding, and there was talk of cutting the program. I went to our senator to explain the benefits. Instead of cutting it, they decided to expand it."

Decades later, the Michigan-Latvia partnership remains a testament to what trust, patience, and shared values can accomplish. It is a reminder that the National Guard's strength lies not only in readiness at home, but in its ability to represent democratic principles abroad.

Stump said, "The Michigan-Latvia State Partnership programs create goodwill and lasting relationships that still matter today."

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



U.S. Army Soldiers and Latvian National Armed Forces Soldiers stand for a photo during a static display event at Daugavpils, Latvia, May 13, 2023. The soldiers are participating in Defender 23. Latvia and the Michigan National Guard have trained together through the State Partnership Program for over 30 years. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Patrick Mayabb)

Are We Doing Things Right Or Are We Doing Things Well?

1st Sgt Kaleb Vickery
1-182 Field Artillery Regiment

"The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Wolverine Guard."

In the National Guard, readiness is often measured in numbers, equipment on hand, personnel strength, and training completion rates. These metrics matter, but they do not tell the full story. True readiness is built long before a unit steps into a training area or deploys. It is developed through realistic training, empowered leadership, effective use of Soldier talent, and a culture that understands the unique demands placed on National Guard Soldiers, their families, and their civilian careers.

One of the most significant challenges to readiness in the National Guard is not a lack of effort or commitment at the unit level. It is the growing number of training and administrative requirements directed by the Department of the Army that simply do not fit within the limited training time available to Guard formations. Leaders are routinely

tasked with executing requirements designed for full-time forces inside a part-time training model. The result is a constant prioritization dilemma, attempting to fit ten pounds of requirements into a five-pound training window.

Compounding this challenge is the nature of National Guard Soldiers themselves. Guard formations are filled with professionals who are accustomed to solving problems, meeting deadlines, and making plans work, regardless of obstacles. These Soldiers do not allow missions to fail quietly. They compensate, work longer hours, compress timelines, and absorb friction to ensure success. While this speaks to their dedication and character, it also creates a hidden problem: higher echelons often never see the strain. Because good people refuse to let plans fail, the pain never surfaces. When everything appears to work on paper, leadership may not realize the system itself is overstretched. It is not in the nature of National Guard Soldiers to let failure occur simply to make a point.



This environment can unintentionally push units toward superficial compliance rather than deep readiness. When time is limited and requirements are numerous, training risks becoming a checklist instead of deliberate preparation for combat. The issue is not a lack of desire to train realistically. It is a lack of space to do so. Readiness suffers when training is optimized to satisfy reporting requirements rather than to build adaptability, confidence, and decision-making under stress.

Real combat is unpredictable, fast, and unforgiving. Training must reflect those conditions. Soldiers must be placed in environments where plans change, resources are constrained, and decisions matter. These conditions build trust, resilience, and instinctive action. When training is overly scripted or constrained by fear of imperfection, units miss opportunities to identify weaknesses before they matter. Failure in training, when controlled and safe, is not a liability. It is a diagnostic tool. The goal is not to avoid failure, but to find it, understand it, and fix it. When

the same point of failure occurs repeatedly, leadership must be willing to replace systems, processes, or approaches rather than accepting inefficiency as normal.

A critical part of improving readiness is empowering leaders at every level. In the National Guard, where training time is limited, leader development cannot be an afterthought. Junior leaders must understand the commander's intent and the larger mission context. When leaders are given the "why" behind a task,

logisticians, and information technology specialists routinely serve in formations without their civilian expertise being fully leveraged. One practical way to address this is through deliberate placement of multifaceted Soldiers into additional duty positions that align with their skill sets. When the right people are placed in the right roles, whether in training management, maintenance oversight, communications, or planning, units gain efficiency and resilience. Soldiers who feel their full capabilities are recognized are more

The path forward is not about reducing standards or lowering expectations. It is about being honest with time, intentional with people, and disciplined in priorities. Leaders must advocate for meaningful training, empower subordinates with intent and trust, and be willing to expose friction rather than masking it through overperformance. Systems should be evaluated honestly. If a process fails once, it should be fixed. If it fails repeatedly, it should be replaced. Readiness improves when leaders address root causes rather than symptoms.

When realistic training, empowered leadership, smart talent utilization, and family engagement are aligned, readiness becomes more than a report or briefing slide, it becomes a culture. Soldiers are prepared not only technically, but mentally and emotionally. Leaders operate with confidence and initiative. Teams trust one another. Families stand behind the mission.

Creating lethal warriors and elite teams in the National Guard is not the result of a single exercise or a perfectly completed checklist. It is the product of intentional leadership, honest assessment, and a willingness to adapt within real constraints. When we focus on doing things well, not simply doing them right, we build formations that are truly ready to answer the nation's call.

About the Author:

Kaleb Vickery is a First Sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 182 Field Artillery Regiment in the Michigan Army National Guard. He has been married for almost 26 years, with three adult children and three grandchildren. He has been in the MIARNG for 16 years, spending the first part of his adult life in commercial construction. His interest include outdoor activities and home projects.

"When time is limited and requirements are numerous, training risks becoming a checklist instead of deliberate preparation for combat."

***—1st Sgt. Kaleb Victory
Command Sgt. Maj. 1-182 Field Artillery Regiment***

they are better equipped to make informed decisions when conditions change. Micromanagement, particularly in training environments, stifles initiative and slows growth. Leaders should be trusted to execute, adjust, and learn, so long as safety is maintained. A training environment that allows leaders to make decisions, accept risk, and correct mistakes builds confidence and competence that cannot be replicated through controlled execution alone.

Another underutilized opportunity within National Guard formations is the vast range of skills Soldiers bring from their civilian careers. Guard units are filled with individuals whose talents extend well beyond their military occupational specialty. Engineers, mechanics, project managers, medical professionals,

invested, more motivated, and more likely to remain in service.

Readiness in the National Guard must also account for realities outside the armory. Guard Soldiers balance military service with civilian careers, family responsibilities, and community obligations. Retention cannot be viewed through the same lens as active duty formations. Pay and benefits alone will never be the sole deciding factor. Predictable leadership, purposeful training, respect for time, and a sense that service is meaningful all matter. Family involvement is not a soft issue; it is a readiness issue. When families are informed, included, and respected, Soldiers are better positioned to focus on training and mission requirements. Units that invest in family engagement build trust and long-term commitment.

SHOTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

SNOW DRIFT

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Donald Herron, with the 177th Military Police Brigade, performs security during a training exercise at Northern Strike 26-1, at Camp Grayling, in Grayling, Michigan, on Jan. 27, 2026. Northern Strike 26-1 is a Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) accredited, Army sponsored, National Guard Bureau program. The exercise is tailorable, scalable, and cost-effective for readiness. Participants face cold-weather conditions while training to meet the objectives of the Department of War's Arctic strategy. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Noah Hardin)



PARTING SHOTS

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Terrill, speaks at his retirement ceremony, March 1, 2026 at the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, Mich. Terrill retired after 38 and a half years of service. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Catherine Brooks)





SNARED UP

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Kevin Harty, 46th Military Police Command, Michigan Army National Guard, carefully sets a snare during Northern Strike 26-1, at Camp Grayling, in Grayling, Michigan. Northern Strike 26-1 is a Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) accredited, Army-sponsored, National Guard Bureau program. The exercise is tailorable, scalable, and cost-effective for readiness. Participants face cold-weather conditions while training to meet the objectives of the Department of War's Arctic strategy. (U.S. Air

National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Patrick Kerr)



CLASS IS IN SESSION

Spc. Justin Gorecki, a 13M High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) transition course student assigned to the Forward Support Company, 182nd Field Artillery Battalion, Michigan Army National Guard, of Detroit, Michigan, prepares equipment on a reload supply vehicle at Camp Guernsey, Wyoming, March 20, 2026. The vehicle is used to transport and load rocket pods during HIMARS operations.

Gorecki previously served as an 88M motor transport operator, and reclassified to a new MOS after completing 13M training at the Wyoming National Guard Regional Training Institute. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Joseph Coslett Jr.)

Take Your Best SHOT

COLD-WEATHER CAPABLE: ILLINOIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS AIRMEN TEST LIMITS DURING NS 26-1

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick Kerr, public affairs superintendent at the 183d Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, poses for a photo during Northern Strike 26-1 Jan. 29, 2026, at Camp Grayling, Michigan. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine Jacobus)

Staff Sgt. Katherine Jacobus 183rd Wing Public Affairs

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. – Public affairs Airmen from the 182nd Airlift Wing and 183d Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, trained in Arctic conditions to prepare for cold-weather operations and assess how effectively they and their equipment function in austere environments during Northern Strike 26-1, Jan. 26-29, 2026, at Camp Grayling, Michigan. The training emphasized realism and repetition, placing Airmen in conditions similar to those they may face during real-world missions in Arctic conditions.

“Training outside your comfort zone is imperative for our Airmen. Pushing them physically in a harsh

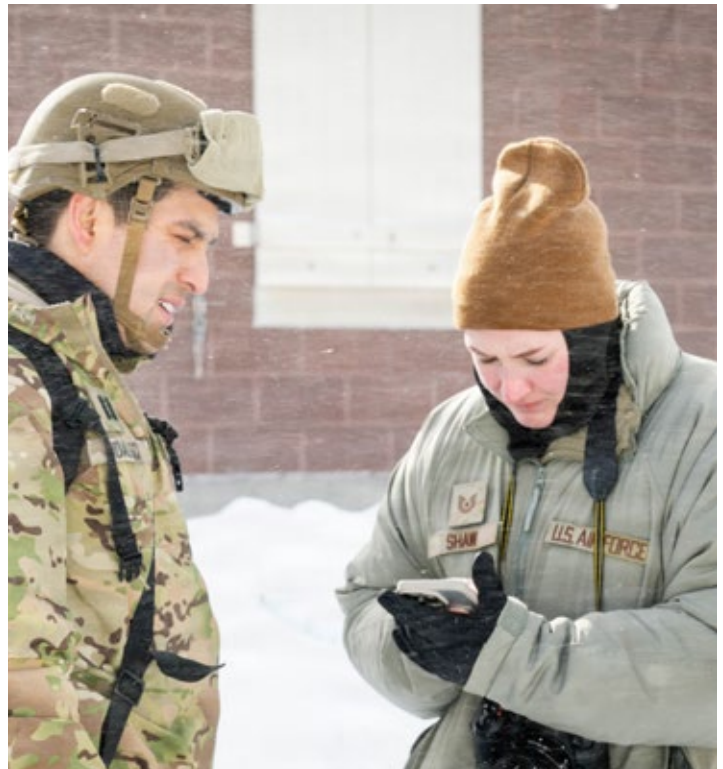
winter climate, staying fluid with weather that changes by the minute and testing not only them, but their equipment is essential,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Stephen Unverzagt, the public affairs officer at the 183d Wing and officer in charge of the Illinois Air National Guard NS 26-1 public affairs team.

Operating in extreme cold introduces consistent, predictable challenges. Batteries lose power more quickly, camera controls become less responsive and snow effects lenses and screens. The public affairs specialists had to remain flexible in planning assignments and managing resources to protect themselves and their equipment while providing real-world public affairs coverage of the exercise for the Michigan Joint

Force Headquarters Public Affairs Office.

Airmen’s trust in the personal protective equipment and cold-weather gear was tested alongside camera equipment. The public affairs specialists utilized layering systems that allowed them to stay warm while still being able to operate cameras and other equipment.

Movement and setup were also part of the training. Snow and ice slow travel and increase fatigue, particularly when hauling equipment. The team had to practice moving deliberately, securing gear to prevent damage and stabilizing cameras and tripods in wind and uneven terrain.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Wynndermere Shaw, a public affairs specialist with the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, takes a photo of a UH-60 (left) and writes caption information (right) during Northern Strike 26-1 Jan. 28, 2026, at Camp Grayling, Michigan. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine Jacobus)

The training reinforced individual responsibility and teamwork. Airmen monitored themselves and teammates for signs of cold stress and fatigue, managed time outdoors to limit exposure and communicated clearly to maintain safety and efficiency. These habits are essential for sustaining operations in cold environments.

“If we don’t find our left and right limits in an exercise setting, we

take a chance of failure when the time comes to go downrange. This exercise provides invaluable real-world training to ensure our Airmen are operating at their highest ability when the time comes to answer our nation’s call,” said Unverzagt.

The Airmen gained practical experience that will inform future missions through providing public affairs and visual information specialties in Arctic conditions.

The environment highlighted equipment limitations, reinforced planning and built familiarity with operating under physical constraints. The result is a more prepared Illinois Air National Guard public affairs force capable of documenting and communicating effectively anytime, anywhere.

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



COMING HOME

1463RD TRANSPORTATION COMPANY WELCOMED HOME AT YELLOW RIBBON EVENT

Capt. David Kennedy
Michigan National Guard

LANSING, Mich. – The 1463rd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard was officially welcomed home during a Yellow Ribbon reintegration event held this weekend in Lansing, Michigan. The event, which follows a 14-month activation in support of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), brings soldiers and their families together to connect with vital resources for a successful transition back to civilian life.

The Yellow Ribbon program is designed to provide information and support to service members and their

families throughout the deployment cycle. Kyle Gwilt, a Yellow Ribbon Coordinator for the Michigan National Guard, emphasized the importance of this post-deployment event.

"The goal for this event would be to inform soldiers and their support group, which is their families or friends that they're the closest to, of the resources that they're entitled to following their deployment," said Gwilt. "This weekend they're receiving insurance, education, community outreach, financial, and some employment resources."

For soldiers like Spc. Christian Gutierrez, the return home has been an adjustment. "The biggest adjustment is the free time, I guess, having more

freedom to do what I want, like get in my vehicle when I want, and be on my own schedule," he said. Upon returning, Spc. Gutierrez has sought to create his own structure, using his tuition benefits to enroll in a local community college.

The company's leadership, Capt. Zachery Geno and 1st Sgt. Terrence Marshall, stressed the importance of a smooth reintegration for their soldiers. "It is making sure everyone gets home with their families, gets the resources they need and has a safe transition back into normal life," said Geno.

The 14-month deployment to the U.S. southern border was dynamic and challenging. The unit operated across two states, navigated changes in legal





U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Fowler, 1st platoon sergeant, 1463rd Transportation Company, 272nd Reginal Support Group, helps his son Jasper get some of the food provided during the Michigan National Guard's Yellow Ribbon reintegration event held in Lansing, Mich., Feb. 21, 2026. The event, follows a 14-month activation in support of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), bringing soldiers and their families together to connect with vital resources for a successful transition back to civilian life. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tegan Kucera)

authorities, and worked with multiple government agencies. Marshall, a veteran of five deployments, noted the unique challenges of this mission.

"This transition is a little bit harder



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ravindra V. Wagh, the Assistant Adjutant General of the Michigan Army National Guard, addresses the soldiers of the 1463rd Transportation Company, 272nd Reginal Support Group, during their Yellow Ribbon reintegration event held in Lansing, Mich., Feb. 21, 2026. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tegan Kucera)

[than previous activations] because when I was overseas, there was really no leave given, so in some ways it was easier to focus on the mission," said Marshall, "This time, because we were still stateside, many soldiers struggled to let their family handle business at home."

Despite the challenges, Geno expressed immense pride in his unit's accomplishments. He highlighted their work with advanced counter-UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) technology, their role in a wildfire evacuation in California, and life-saving actions by soldiers at a vehicle accident.

"We were one of the most productive units on the border for the year," said Geno. "Our soldiers got a lot of training and actual utilization from those systems while working with other governmental agencies."

The command team also emphasized the critical link between family well-being and mission readiness. "When

there's family problems at home, you're not 100% of who you need to be for the mission," said Geno. "Having the resources from the state to support families when there are problems is a force multiplier to allow the soldiers to actually perform and handle their jobs and not be worried about what's happening at home."

As soldiers of the 1463rd Transportation Company begin their next chapter, the Yellow Ribbon event serves as a vital bridge, connecting them with the tools and support needed for a healthy and successful return to their families, careers, and communities.

"When taken advantage of, it can really change people's circumstances, change their lives, and change their futures," said Gwilt of the resources provided.

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

PREPARING FOR THE FIGHT OF THE FUTURE

NADWC DESIGNATED NATIONAL RANGE FOR UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS TRAINING



A member of the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan National Guard, trains with a drone. Courtesy photo.

Michael Kroll
DMVA Public Affairs

Lansing, Mich. – Michigan’s, ‘National All-Domain Warfighting Center,’ was designated by the Department of War as a national range for unmanned aerial systems training.

“Today’s designation of the NADWC as a national test site shows that Michigan can lead the future of aerospace and continues to play a key role in protecting our national defense,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “Over the last few years, we held an autonomous drone competition, released a statewide Advanced Air Mobility Initiative and secured a new fighter mission at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Now, thanks

to this new national test site, we are building on that momentum, becoming an even more attractive place for cutting-edge defense and

“This designation is about staying focused on the warfighter and doing what’s best for the force.”

—Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers
The Adjutant General,
Michigan National Guard

aerospace companies to invest in, create good-paying, high-skill local jobs and grow our economy. You can already see Michigan-made

products on roads around the world, and soon, we’ll be in the sky too.”

This designation cements the NADWC as the nation’s premier proving ground for advanced UAS and Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems, or C-UAS, positioning Michigan at the forefront of America’s defense innovation economy. Selected by the U.S. Army and National Guard Bureau, NADWC offers an unmatched environment for drone development and testing and training, one that is squarely focused on the warfighter and on doing what is best for the force. By combining permissive operating authorities, cutting-edge infrastructure and close ties to Michigan’s world-class technology and manufacturing ecosystem, this



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Chris McNally, of the 745th Ordnance Company, 507th Engineer Battalion, Michigan National Guard, inserts a micro-SD card into a quadcopter drone during Exercise Northern Strike 2023 on Camp Grayling, Michigan, Aug. 12, 2023. Soldiers in this class will become drone instructors that teach other service members how to operate drone systems. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tegan Kucera).

designation amplifies our ability to train at speed and scale.

Anchored by nearly 200,000 acres of maneuver space at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center and more than 17,000 square miles of special-use military airspace at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, NADWC delivers a level of scale and realism few training environments can match. These Joint National Training Capability–certified sites feature diverse terrain, robust electromagnetic spectrum access and a true four-season climate, allowing units to stress systems, tactics and formations in conditions that replicate multiple theaters of operation and prepare forces for the next fight.

As the largest joint training range east of the Mississippi River and home to the flagship Northern Strike Exercise, NADWC is purpose-built to enhance readiness. Its all-weather, all-domain environment enables warfighters and our allied partners to train together at full operational tempo, integrating uncrewed systems into live-fire, combined arms and advanced swarm operations. The result is a more lethal, more prepared force, better equipped to succeed on the future battlefield.

“This designation is about staying focused on the warfighter and doing what’s best for the force,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Department of Military and

Veterans Affairs. “The NADWC gives us the scale, airspace and all-domain environment we need to amplify our ability to train and prepare for the next fight. It allows our Soldiers, Airmen, joint partners and allies, to develop, test and employ uncrewed systems at operational tempo under realistic, all-weather conditions. That kind of training directly translates to readiness and ensures our forces are positioned to succeed on the future battlefield. I want to thank Governor Whitmer and Michigan’s congressional delegation for their steadfast support in making this effort possible, which will ensure the men and women of the U.S. military and our allies will be prepared for any future conflict.”

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



MVAA

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

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MICHIGAN VETERANS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT '26

May 11-13

Sheraton Grand
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Grand Rapids, MI



GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Registration for the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency's (MVAA) fifth [Michigan Veterans Leadership Summit](#) May 11-13, 2026, in Grand Rapids, is now open. This three-day summit creates a space for collaboration, education and meaningful conversation around the programs, policies and partnerships that shape the veteran community in Michigan.

"Now in its fifth year, this summit gives experts and advocates from around Michigan the opportunity to collaborate on how best to support veterans and transitioning service members," said Terry J. Sabo, MVAA director. "This collaboration is vital for creating more efficient processes, stronger advocacy and improved outcomes for veterans and their families."

This premier event will bring together veterans, veteran advocates and stakeholders from around Michigan to discuss the challenges veterans and their families face and new ways to better serve the more than 486,000 that call Michigan home. Attendees

will have the opportunity to learn from experienced leaders, exchange ideas and build relationships with others who share a commitment to serving those who have served our country.

Limited sponsorship opportunities for the summit are available. Organizations wishing to become a sponsor can register [here](#).

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency – The MVAA is the central coordinating agency, providing support, care advocacy and service to veterans and their families. As a state agency, MVAA works to identify and break down barriers veterans face in employment, education, health care and quality of life, to make Michigan a great place for veterans and their families to call home. More information about MVAA is available at [Michigan.gov/MVAA](https://michigan.gov/MVAA) or by reading our [FY25 Annual Report](#).



RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS:

The Michigan National Guard Family Program has put all our essential resources right at your fingertips, creating a simple, mobile-friendly hub for our entire community. Use it to find:

Direct requests for assistance

Links to vetted resources

Kits and guides for your readiness

Scan the QR Code below to get to the page, and don't forget to bookmark it!



Meet Your Dedicated Support Team

Our specialists are here to provide free, confidential expertise to you and your family.

Military & Family Readiness Specialists (MFRSs)

Think of us as personal navigators for all things military life. As your primary point of contact, we are here to listen, assess your needs, and connect you to the right resources at the right time. Whether you have a question about benefits, need help during a deployment, or want to connect with community resources, we are your one-stop shop for information, referrals, and dedicated support. After scanning the QR code, click the 'Ask for Assistance' button to connect with us directly.

Military & Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)

Feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or just need to talk? Our MFLCs provide confidential, non-medical counseling to help you navigate life's challenges. They are experts in supporting individuals, couples, and families with relationship issues, deployment stress, and effective communication.

Personal Financial Counselors (PFCs)

Take control of your financial future. Our PFCs offer private consultations to help you with budgeting, reducing debt, saving for a major purchase, and planning for retirement. They provide the tools and knowledge you need to achieve financial fitness and security.

Child & Youth Program Team

We are committed to providing positive opportunities for military-connected children. Our team organizes engaging events, provides access to youth activities, and offers support to help build resilience, develop leadership skills, and connect to the Guard community.

"The strength of the Guard isn't just the person in the uniform, but also the family that stands behind them. We're here to ensure that family is always mission-ready."



Kentucky Derby Gala



MAY 2, 2026

CAMP GRAYLING OFFICERS CLUB
5PM-11PM



AUCTIONS - DANCING - GAMES - SOUTHERN FARE
COCKTAILS - FIREWORKS - BEST DRESSED CONTEST
RAFFLES - PHOTO OPS - LIVE RACE FEED
NGAM LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION



Grab your derby attire and join us!

\$100
Per Person

SCAN FOR TICKETS



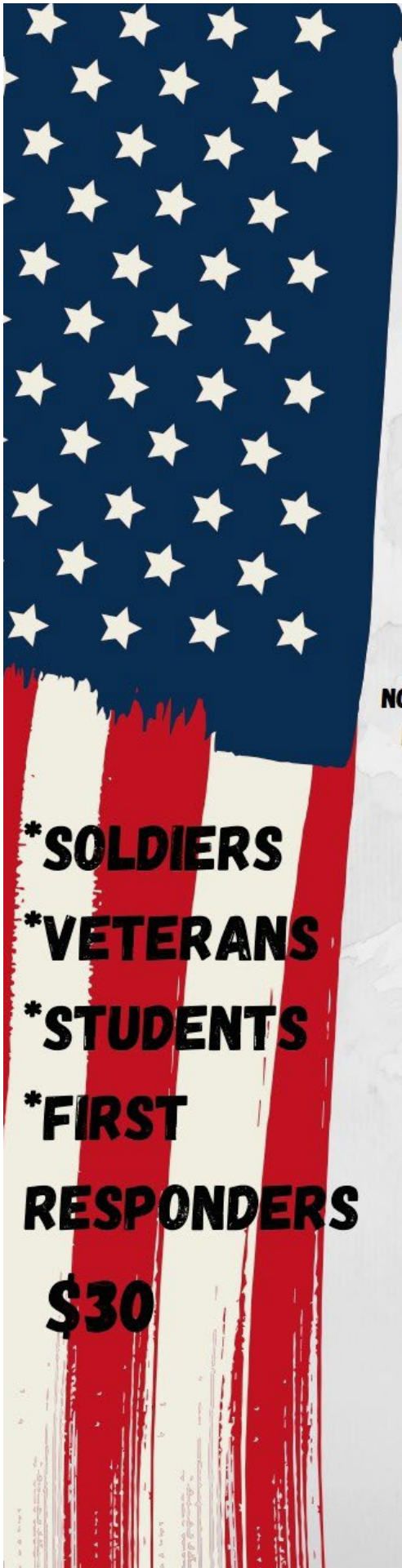
CALL: +989 344 6190



Benefiting

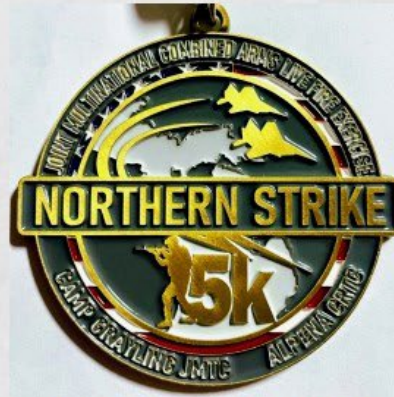
Northern Michigan Veterans and Service Members
America's 250th Birthday Celebration in Grayling





5th Annual NORTHERN STRIKE 5K Run/Walk/Ruck

NGAM charity event raising funds for
Camp Grayling USO & NGAM's Leadership Scholarship.
All donations are 501(c)(19) tax deductible.



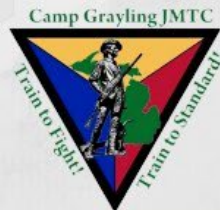
**NOTE: REAL ID OR OTHER FEDERALLY COMPLIANT IDENTIFICATION
REQUIRED FOR ENTRY CHECK MICHIGAN.GOV/SOS FOR DETAILS.**



\$40 Entry Fee if registered by July 1st (\$50 after)
Check-in starts at 7:30am
Camp Grayling Parade Field
Shot Gun Start



***SOLDIERS
*VETERANS
*STUDENTS
*FIRST
RESPONDERS
\$30**



SUNDAY

2 AUG 2026

9:00AM

NGAM



The first 150 registered participants will be guaranteed a
free medal and shirt. Prizes for top finishers and most
patriotic. Professional Timing Company will be used.



**MUST PRE-REGISTER AT
NORTHERNSTRIKE5K.ITSYOURRACE.COM
(FOLLOW OUR EVENT PAGE ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES)
CONTACT: JENNIFER.A.CAVERSON.CIV@ARMY.MIL**



ROCKET SCIENCE

MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER TRAINS AS HIMARS CREW MEMBER DURING WYOMING COURSE



Joseph Coslett
Wyoming National Guard

CAMP GUERNSEY, Wyo. — A Michigan National Guard Soldier is expanding his role in field artillery by completing 13M training at the Wyoming National Guard Regional Training Institute.

The training took place at Camp Guernsey, Wyoming, March 20, 2026.

Spc. Justin Gorecki, a 13M transition course student assigned to the 182nd Forward Support Company, Michigan Army National Guard, of Detroit, Michigan, is attending the course to gain experience operating the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

Gorecki previously served as an 88M motor transport operator, supporting artillery units through logistics and transportation missions.

“We did similar work, just with different equipment,” Gorecki said. “Now I get to be more involved on the firing side.”

During the course, students train on both HIMARS launchers and the reload supply vehicle (RSV), which is used to transport and load rocket pods. “This is the RSV,” Gorecki said.

“We unload and load pods so they can be transported to a reload point.”

He said the difference between an ammunition crew and a firing crew is clear once training begins.

“The ammo crew distributes the pods,” Gorecki said. “The HIMARS goes out, picks them up and executes the mission.”

“I’m hoping to deploy and use what I’ve learned.”

—Spc. Justin Gorecki
182nd Forward Support Company

Training begins in the classroom before transitioning into hands-on instruction, where Soldiers operate equipment and perform tasks they will use in their units.

“We started with classroom instruction, then moved into hands-on training,” Gorecki said. “Now we’re out here applying it.”

Gorecki said his prior experience operating cranes helped him adjust quickly to the new equipment.

“The controls are different, but I’ve used cranes before,” he said. “Once you understand it, it starts to come together.”

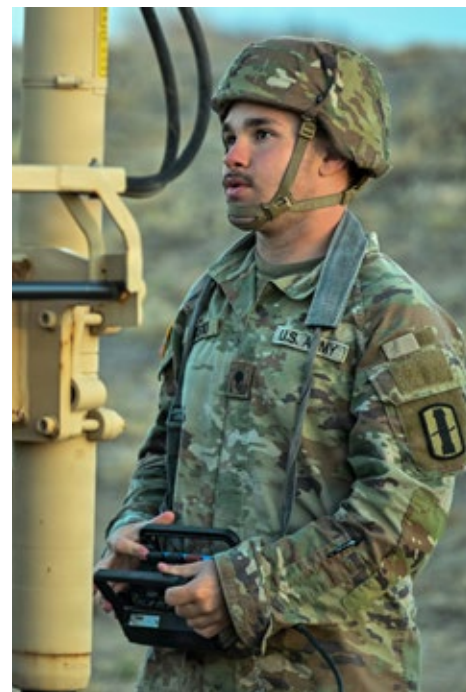
The course builds toward a field training exercise, where students operate in realistic conditions and perform their roles as part of a crew.

“Getting out here and actually using the equipment is the best part,” Gorecki said. “That’s where everything comes together.”

He said the training will help him contribute more directly to his unit and prepare for future opportunities. “I’m hoping to deploy and use what I’ve learned,” Gorecki said. “That’s the goal.”

As Soldiers return to their home states, training like this increases the number of HIMARS-qualified personnel across the National Guard and strengthens unit readiness.

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



Spc. Justin Gorecki, a 13M transition course student assigned to the 182nd Forward Support Company, Michigan National Guard, operates a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a field training exercise at Camp Guernsey, Wyoming, March 20, 2026. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Joseph Coslett Jr.)

(continued from page 17)

Army) collect maintenance, supply, and financial data from across the force. The Army Vantage platform integrates multiple data sources, providing commanders with visibility into readiness, logistics, and personnel trends. At the Department of Defense level, Advana serves as an enterprise analytics platform, aggregating data across the services. Together, these systems create the foundation for a data-driven sustainment enterprise.

The next step is to apply predictive analytics and machine learning (ML) to these datasets to anticipate problems before they occur. Programs such as Condition-Based Maintenance. Plus (CBM+) are leading the way by integrating sensor data from vehicles, aircraft, and weapon systems to forecast failures. Rather than waiting for equipment to break, sustainers can identify parts nearing failure and replace them during scheduled downtime. This reduces costs, increases operational availability, and ensures that critical systems remain mission-ready.

Examples include:

- **Predictive Maintenance:** ML algorithms applied to GCSS-Army data can forecast demand for high-failure items such as transmissions, hydraulics, or electronics. This is separate from already identified items like long lead or bench stock, this allows the Army to pre-position parts at depots or forward locations, reducing downtime.

- **Dynamic Forecasting:**

Predictive analytics can improve demand models for Classes III (fuel), V (ammunition), and IX (repair parts). Instead of relying on static consumption rates, planners/maintainers can adjust based on real-time operational use.

- **Additive Manufacturing**

(AM): Big data can identify recurring supply bottlenecks and enable targeted investment in 3D printing solutions. By printing critical repair parts at the point of need, units can bypass traditional supply chains and maintain combat power. (Example: Rifle component, such as the lower receiver of an AR-15)

Commercial examples already demonstrate the art of the possible. Airlines such as Delta and UPS use predictive maintenance to avoid costly downtime. Automotive manufacturers leverage real-time analytics to forecast demand across global supply chains, the Army must adopt similar practices.

CONTRACTING INNOVATION FOR FUOPS (FUTURE OPERATIONS)

Data-driven sustainment will not succeed without hand in hand involvement with acquisition and contracting. Traditional contracts often emphasize cost efficiency and delivery timelines, but they don't always incentivize readiness or resilience. To modernize sustainment, the Army must re-

think how it partners with industry.

Key innovations include:

- 1. Performance-Based**

Logistics (PBL): PBL contracts tie payment to outcomes such as equipment availability or mission-capable rates, rather than simply delivering parts. This incentivizes industry to invest in predictive analytics.

- 2. Data-Sharing Clauses:**

Modern sustainment requires visibility into diagnostic and performance data. Contracts should mandate that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) share sensor and usage data with the Army, enabling integrated predictive analytics across the force.

- 3. Surge and Flex Contracts:**

Future conflicts will require the ability to scale production rapidly. Contracts must include provisions for surge manufacturing, alternate sourcing, and flexible delivery options to account for contested logistics.

By embedding these provisions into acquisition strategies, the Army can ensure that industry partnerships strengthen resilience rather than reinforce fragility for future engagements and operations.

CHALLENGES AND GUARDRAILS

As we highlight possible capabilities that could go well to improve future Army operations, we must also manage risks and trade-offs.

- **Cybersecurity:** As logistics

systems become more connected and reliant on data, the attack surface expands. Adversaries may target supply chain data to disrupt operations, steal sensitive information, or inject false signals into predictive models. Cybersecurity must be built into every system and contract.

- **Data Quality:** Predictive analytics is only as good as the data it relies on. Incomplete, outdated, or biased datasets can produce flawed predictions. The Army must invest in data governance, standardization, and verification to ensure accuracy.

- **Algorithmic Bias:** ML models may inadvertently encode assumptions that skew predictions. For example, over-reliance on historical usage patterns may fail to account for new equipment or novel operational conditions. Human oversight and continuous model testing are essential.

CONCLUSION

The Army's ability to sustain operations has always been its competitive advantage, however, recent events like COVID-19 and Ukraine demonstrates that traditional supply models are insufficient in today's competitive environments. By harnessing big data, predictive analytics, and additive manufacturing, the Army can anticipate demand, failures, and build a more agile sustainment enterprise.

At the same time, acquisition and contracting practices must evolve to keep up with current capability changes. Performance-based logistics, data-sharing clauses, and surge contracts can align industry incentives with Army readiness. These changes will require cultural shifts, policy updates, and sustained investment,

but the cost of inaction is far higher. By embracing data-driven sustainment now, the Army can ensure that logistics remains a source of strength rather than vulnerability in future conflicts.



About the Author

Ashley (Ash) Collins is a U.S. Michigan Army National Guard (MIARNG) Officer and GS-13 0346 Logistics Manager with over a decade of combined military and federal service experience. He currently serves as the Installation Protection Program (IPP) Team Lead at TACOM, Detroit Arsenal, where he directs multiple Department of Defense platforms supporting mass notification, emergency communications, and situational awareness across Army installations. In his role, Ashley leads cross-functional teams managing critical systems such as ALERT! Mass Warning Notification Systems, Giant Voice/Audio Visual Notification System (AVNS), E-9-1-1, and Common Operating

Picture (COP) platforms. Previously, he worked as a government contractor consultant, providing logistics and operational support for missions like Next Gen Combat Vehicles under organizations such as CALIBRE Systems and Booz Allen Hamilton. In addition to his federal role, Ashley serves in the MIARNG, where he brings expertise in logistics and sustainment operations. He is currently on tour assignment with the Army Corps of Engineers in Long Beach, CA, serving as a construction Project Manager. His military career includes leading training initiatives, operational planning, and resource management efforts to ensure mission readiness. Ashley is also an adjunct professor, leveraging his professional experience to teach and mentor students in business, technology, and systems thinking. His interests include harnessing data analytics, artificial intelligence, and process optimization to enhance decision-making and organizational performance. He is proudly married to his wife of four years, Danyell D. Collins



Lincoln's MICHIGAN RETRIBUTION

Mr. Adam Betz
Michigan National Guard Command Historian

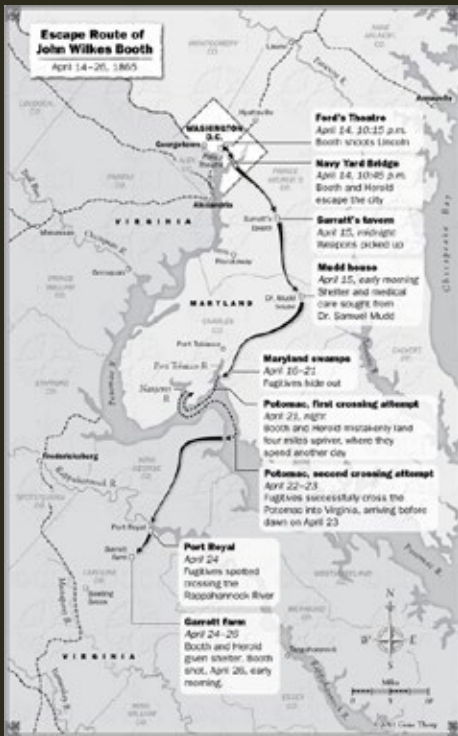
The Pursuer in the Night

The great conflict of the American Civil War was, at its core, defined by our grandfathers who stepped out of obscurity to perform extraordinary duties in moments of national crisis. Emory Pardee, who would become a Private in the 16th New York Cavalry, was such a man. Born in the quiet isolation of Essex County, New York, the currents of war would eventually pull him onto history's center stage, casting him in the final, dramatic act of the nation's darkest tragedy, and forever linking a small Michigan village to it. In the mid-19th century, this was the American crucible: a sudden, violent clash of dreams that

transformed ordinary men into the very bedrock of who America would be.

In early April 1865, the euphoria of Robert E. Lee surrendering his Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox swept through the nation's capital. But that was just one Army and there was more war to be handed out. The President never realized his final victory because, before the war ended, he was shot in the head by John Wilkes Booth by a .44 Darringer. By 15 April 1865, Lincoln was dead and a frantic, desperate manhunt commenced to bring his assassins to justice.

As military authorities cast a wide net across Maryland and Virginia, a specialized detachment was formed. On April 24, twenty-six enlisted men from the 16th New York Cavalry were hand-picked under the command of Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty. Private Emory Pardee was among them. Their mission was to track down the fleeing actor John Wilkes Booth and his accomplice, David Herold. After days of continuous riding and interrogations in the Virginia countryside, the detachment's pursuit culminated in the early, dark hours of April 26 when, based upon the tip of a local, they surrounded a tobacco barn on the farm of Richard H. Garrett near Port Royal. Private Pardee and his fellow cavalymen drew a tight perimeter around the barn. Inside, a



Booth's escape route.

cornered and reportedly armed Booth refused demands to surrender.

As negotiations broke down, Lieutenant Doherty and detective Everton Conger ordered the barn set on fire to flush the fugitives out.

The dry cattle feed inside caught quickly; Booth was injured and desperate. Through the gaps it was reported that Booth held a weapon and was threatening the Soldiers outside. Then, without conversation or plan, a sudden single shot rang out, fired by Sergeant Boston Corbett against orders, striking Booth in the neck (the toiled and incredible life of Sergeant Corbett following the war is another amazing story for another time). As for our man Pardee, he was thrust into the chaotic aftermath as he was ordered to pull the paralyzed, dying Booth from the burning barn. Grabbing one leg while Sergeant Corbett grabbed the other, they pulled Booth from the growing fire and onto the Garrett house porch where he died in the early morning hours as dawn broke.

The capture of Lincoln's assassin effectively closed the combat operations of the war for the men of the 16th New York. For his direct role in the manhunt, Pardee was awarded a portion of the massive Congressional reward of \$50,000 (in 2026 currency this would be equal to over \$1 million). It was recorded that Pardee walked away and was discharged from the Army with \$445.39 from the capture, a substantial financial foundation for a young cavalryman. He was officially discharged from the Army in May 1865. Like countless veterans who mustered out that summer, Pardee sought a new beginning in a reunified nation. He and his wife, Frances, joined the great westward migration of Union veterans. They left New York and ultimately settled in the growing state of Michigan.

They made their home in the village of Nashville, nestled between Lansing and Grand Rapids. For thirty years, the man who had stood watch outside Booth's burning barn lived the quiet, industrious life of a Midwestern civilian. He became a fixture in his local community and his long tenure in the state left a lasting mark on the

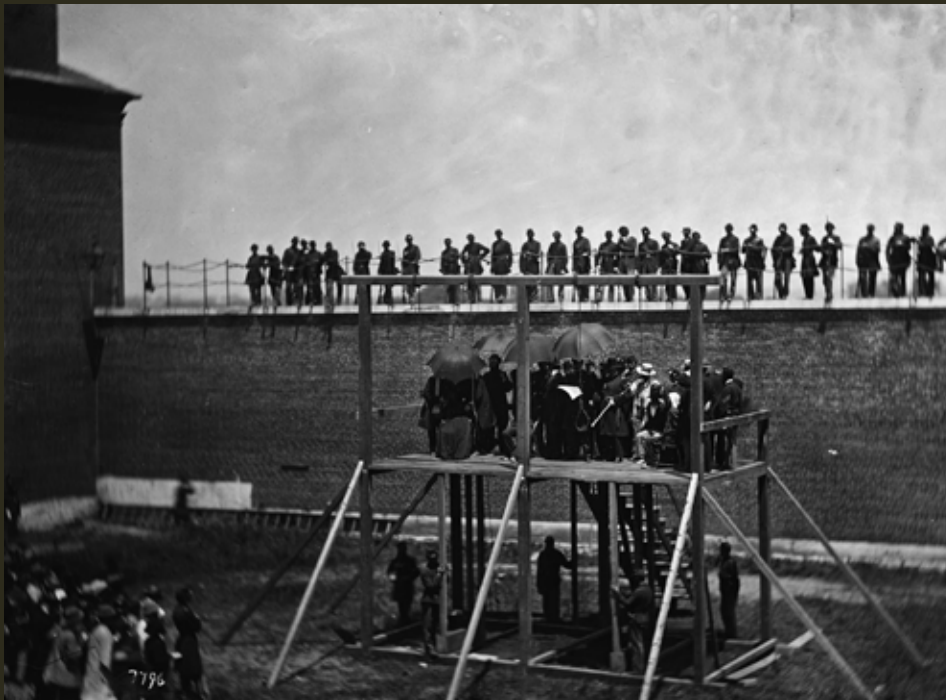
local geography; today, the village of Nashville honors his memory and his profound connection to national history with Emory Parady Central Park, reflecting the phonetic spelling of his surname common in local ledgers. Late in life, the westward pull called to the Pardees once more. They left Michigan and relocated to Portland, Oregon, where the aging veteran took up the simple trade of a shoemaker. He had lived a life that spanned the continent, carrying the memory of that fateful April night with him from New York to Virginia, through the towns of Michigan, and finally to the Pacific coast.

The 'Rath' of the Executioner's Hand

While Emory Pardee's role ended in the smoldering ashes of the Garrett farm, the final, macabre chapter of Lincoln's retribution fell to another adopted son of Michigan: Captain Christian Rath of the 17th Michigan Infantry. If Pardee was the swift sword of justice, Rath was its cold, unyielding gavel. Born in Germany, Christian Rath had immigrated to the United States and settled in Jackson, Michigan,



John Wilkes Booth is cornered by federal troops at the Garrett Farm in Port Royal Virginia.



before the outbreak of hostilities. When the war came, he enlisted in July of 1862 and joined the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, the famed "Stonewall Regiment" that had charged the two Georgia regiments along the slopes of South Mountain in September the same year. By the end of the war, Rath was a combat veteran who had survived the meatgrinder of the Eastern Theater, enduring the harsh combat of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania. By the spring of 1865, Rath was detailed to the staff of Major General John F. Hartranft in Washington, D.C.

Following the assassination on April 14, the federal government swept up Booth's co-conspirators (along with the help of our man Pvt. Pardee). When the military tribunal eventually handed down death sentences to Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, David Herold, and George Atzerodt, General Hartranft appointed Captain Rath as the provost marshal tasked with executing the sentences. Rath, a practical and unsentimental Midwesterner, approached the grim duty with the mechanical precision of

a soldier given a terrible but necessary order. In the heat and mugginess of early July, he personally supervised the construction of the massive wooden gallows in the courtyard of the Old Arsenal Penitentiary (located at what is now modern day Fort McNair, D.C.). He personally tested the wooden drops. With a heavy, methodical focus, Rath fashioned the nooses himself, focused on tying the knots to ensure the necks of the condemned would snap efficiently. Though he reported

years later that he was deeply troubled by the prospect of hanging a woman, he held out hope that President Andrew Johnson would grant Mary Surratt a last-minute reprieve. Mercy for Surratt did not come and Rath followed out his orders. On July 7, 1865, it was Captain Rath from Jackson, Michigan, who clapped his hands to signal the dropping of the trapdoors, sending the conspirators into eternity and history.

Following the executions, Rath returned to Jackson, he resumed a quiet civilian life, working in the railroad industry and eventually operating a farm. Like Pardee in Nashville, Rath lived unobtrusively among his fellow Michiganders. He rarely spoke of the day he served as the republic's executioner, a silent sentry guarding the darkest memories of a shattered nation, until pushed by journalists near the end of his life to share some details. What he decided to leave out and take to his final resting place belongs to the ages.



The detail assigned to carry out the hanging of the Lincoln Conspirators, July 1865. Capt. Christian Rath, of the 17th Michigan Infantry is seated at the right.

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

MG LAVETTA BENNETT
LTC JACKEE HORSTMAN
MAJ JONATHAN LEES
MAJ MEGAN MCBRIDE DAVIS
MAJ TIMOTHY MORENO
MAJ EDWARD OHALLORAN
MAJ RYAN OLIVER
MAJ ADAM WAHL
CPT ADAM COOK
CPT BROCK CRYSTAL
CPT RYAN FANTUZZI
CPT JOHANNAH MCCARTY
CPT JONATHAN PELKEY
CPT DOUGLAS RYAN
CPT JABARRY SMITH
CPT ZACKERY TEGGE
1LT MATAEO ALMARAZ
1LT JERRY MAREK
1LT RICHARD PANDEL
CW3 NICKOLAS MANIACI
SGM JONATHAN ADRIAN
SGM AARON DUDONIS
1SG ELIJAH MARLINK
MSG ANNA GEER
MSG SEAN HERRICK
MSG JAMES INMAN
MSG MELKI MOURAD
SFC CHAD ALTHOUSE
SFC DUSTIN BAUGHMAN
SFC BRANDON BUTTON
SFC KAYLA CHAMPACO
SFC ADAM DONEY
SFC SETH DREDGE
SFC JACK DUNN
SFC COLTON EURICH
SFC WILLIAM FOWLER
SFC CHRISTOPHER LONDON
SFC KELSEY POIRIER
SFC BRIAN ROBERTS
SFC CHRISTOPHER SEAMSTER
SFC CONNER SEVERT
SSG ALIYAH ASHE
SSG SAMEM AZIZ
SSG JACOB BOUCK
SSG CATHERINE BROOKS
SSG KAYLEE CAMPBELL
SSG THOMAS CONKLIN
SSG TYLOR COOPER
SSG KELLY DEBOER
SSG ALEXANDER DELONG
SSG ALEXANDER DURAM
SSG DESHAWN FULTON
SSG LESLY GONZALEZ
SSG JONATHAN HADDAD

SSG WYATT HARNACK
SSG IVAN HERNANDEZ
SSG REBECCA HILLMAN
SSG RICHARD KLOCKZIEM
SSG SCOTT LIMON
SSG ANDREW LOUGH
SSG LAUREN MACON
SSG THOMAS MURDOCK
SSG WILLIAM PLAVAN
SSG ALEJANDRO ROSAS
SSG SAMANTHA SCANLON
SSG JAKOB SIMMONS
SSG JACOB STAGGS
SSG JORDAN TAYLOR
SSG MICHAEL WALKER
SGT MICHAEL AFNAN
SGT ALAN ARRIAGA PEREZ
SGT JACOB BALDWIN
SGT NICHOLAS BLASZAK
SGT ANTHONY BROERSMA
SGT NICO CANDELA
SGT ALEXA DEKOEKOEK
SGT LUKE DRAGAN
SGT YOUSSEF ELTELETY
SGT ANDREW EWALD
SGT DALLAS FOOR
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SGT AUSTIN HARPER
SGT JUSTIN JACKSON
SGT ALEXIS JEFFRIES
SGT ADAM KIEL
SGT SAMUEL LANKAH
SGT ESTHER LEE
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SGT BRANDON MCCOMAS
SGT JAMIE MCDAVID
SGT BOBBIJO MCHUGH
SGT ZEBADIAH MIENTKIEWICZ
SGT LEO MOSKOWITZ
SGT RYAN MURPHY
SGT SETH MURPHY
SGT CALEB NIMEE
SGT SUSANA NUNEZ SANTOS
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SGT NICKOLAS WALUKONIS
SGT STEVEN WARING
SGT KIEARA WHITE
SGT DLAWRENCE WILLIAMS
SGT ISABELLE WILSON
SPC AYANNA ADAMS
SPC KAITLYN AMBROUS
SPC ELDON ARENDS
SPC MIKE ASECIO FURCAL
SPC TREVOR ASHLEY
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SPC AMBIKA BANAVARA
SPC TATIANA BARRETO
SPC JENNIFER BARTOLON
SPC DOMINIC BARTON
SPC NELSON BEGENDA
SPC ZACHARIAH BELL
SPC NICHOLAS BINGAMAN
SPC ALESSIA BOWMAN
SPC ROBERT BOWYER
SPC LUKE BOYD
SPC KADIN BROWER
SPC MIKAYLA BROWN
SPC MASON BURRAGE
SPC BERNARDO CAAL ENRIQUEZ
SPC CHANEL CHRISTIAN
SPC CHANCE CLARK
SPC KYLEE COFFEY
SPC ELIJAH COOK
SPC OWEN CORBIN
SPC JOSEPH CURRY
SPC JACOB DIRKSE
SPC DYLAN DOMBROSKI
SPC MARTIN DOMPIER
SPC BRIANNE DOUD
SPC CHASE EVERHARD
SPC KADEN FAWCETT
SPC AARON FISCELLI
SPC ANDREW FREEMAN
SPC ELENA FRYE
SPC ISAAC GADDIE
SPC AUSTIN GALINDO
SPC CASEY GAMBER
SPC JAYDEN GARCIA
SPC CALEB GARZA
SPC VALOR GOFORTH
SPC JUSTIN GOODMAN

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

SPC LUKE GOODRICH
SPC STEVEN GRAY
SPC SYDNEY GRIFFORE
SPC ALVIN GRIMES
SPC ALYSSA GROSS-BAUTISTA
SPC TREYSHON HARRIS
SPC KHALID HASSAN
SPC CHARLES HEWER
SPC KARLEY HILL
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SPC KASPER HOOK
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SPC DAKOTA INNES
SPC DMETRIUS JACKSON
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SPC LORENZO JAMISON
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SPC EMETT KAURALA
SPC MADELYN KENYON
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SPC HUNTER LACHAPELL
SPC JUSTYCE LARKIN
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SPC HUNTER LEWIS
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SPC JOSE LOPEZ
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SPC Michael Lozon
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SPC KEVIN MAGANA-LOPEZ
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SPC SAMANTHA MATTOON
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SPC GRACE MENGI
SPC JOHN MILLER
SPC STANLEY MONDESIR
SPC ELLENOR MURPHY

SPC JARED MUSCOTT
SPC KALEB MWEWE-SMITH
SPC KATIE MYERS
SPC HENRY NGUYEN
SPC JACOB OCONNOR
SPC MOBOLAJI OJOFEITIMI
SPC IFEAKANDU OKOYE
SPC OSARIEMEN ONIOVOSA
SPC SOLOMON OPARE AMEYAW
SPC TYLER OWENS
SPC TYLER OWENS
SPC BRAYDEN PADILLA
SPC TARAN PAYTON
SPC GABINO PECINA
SPC TERRENCE PINSON
SPC SAMUEL POLSINELLI
SPC ALEXZANDER PRAAY
SPC WYATT PURGIEL
SPC JOSE RAMIREZ
SPC JAMES RANDLE
SPC AIDEN RAY
SPC COHEN RAYMOND
SPC CHYSTAN MAXIMUS ROSAGA
SPC BENJAMIN ROSELLO
SPC ANDREW SALAMONE
SPC BRANDON SANCHEZ
SPC ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ CASTILLO
SPC FOSTER SAUER
SPC THOMAS SCHANTZ
SPC FREDERICK SEGRAVES
SPC ELYSEE SHAKA
SPC SAMUEL SHEPPARD
SPC COLTON SHERWOOD
SPC PAYTON SIMMONS
SPC MAREECA SIMPSON
SPC QUENTIN SKUTT
SPC JORDAN SMIECINSKI
SPC JONATHAN SMITH
SPC NATHAN SONTAG
SPC JOEL SOTO
SPC MATTHEW STUMPPF
SPC JANESSA THOMAS
SPC DAVID THUAN
SPC JAYSON TIPTON
SPC BRENDAN TRIMMER
SPC CURTIS TUNNISON
SPC MUKTA SRI SAI SATHWIKI UTTARADI
SPC CECIL VANPELT
SPC LESLIE VEGA
SPC ZACHARY WARCHOCK
SPC EMILY WHITAKER
SPC NATHAN WILLIAMS
SPC TERRELL WRIGHT
SPC HARLEIGH YOCHM

SPC BRADLEY ZEPP
SPC EDI ZIEU
PFC ELMARRE ADAMS
PFC AJAK AJAK
PFC AMIR ALRUMI
PFC JOSE ALVAREZ PEREZ
PFC BRYANT ANDERSON-JONES
PFC MICHAEL ANTUSHEVICH
PFC JORGE AROCHA
PFC JHARET AVINA
PFC KALEA BARNES
PFC ZAKARIYYAH BASS
PFC NICHOLAS BEAUDRY
PFC CARTER BELL
PFC JERSIE BENNETT
PFC ROHAN BENSON
PFC LOGAN BLALOCK
PFC KIANA BLOODWORTH
PFC NICKOLAS BOAZ
PFC BRAEDEN BRINKMAN
PFC MIKEY BROWN
PFC NIGIN BROWN
PFC JAMES BURCH
PFC ETHAN BURROWS
PFC NOAH BYTWERK
PFC DYLAN CHRZANOWSKI
PFC GWENYTH COLE
PFC PATRICK COTTER
PFC SEAN CULLEN
PFC EZRA DENEAU
PFC JOSEPH DETTORE
PFC ISAIAH DEWOLF
PFC MALACHI DILDY
PFC WILLIAM DOEHRING
PFC DOMINIC DOLATA
PFC MICHAEL DUGGINS
PFC COLLIN DURANT
PFC GAGE DYE
PFC JACK EASTMAN
PFC FRANKLIN ECHEVERRI
PFC HOPE ESCOBEDO
PFC MADDIX FITZPATRICK
PFC MASON FORD
PFC JAMARION FOSTER-JONES
PFC NOREEN ANDREA FRANCISCO
PFC AMY FULLER
PFC DIANA GALLEGOS
PFC JOSEPH GARCIA
PFC IAN GARNO
PFC MICHAEL GOLDSMITH
PFC ALEXIS GRANKE
PFC JUDAH GRAVES
PFC JOHN GREEN
PFC KRISTA GREGORY

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

PFC JAMES GRIEB
PFC TEMPERANCE GUYESKA
PFC GAVIN HACK
PFC NICOLAS HALE
PFC DILLON HARPER
PFC HAYDEN HARPER
PFC SONYA HARTOON
PFC ELIJAH HELDER
PFC CHRISTOPHER HENSLEY
PFC BRANDON HERNANDEZ
PFC ZACHARY HERRICK
PFC ZACHARY HERRING
PFC BREANNA HOFFMAN
PFC JALEN HOWELL
PFC JORDYN HUSKEY
PFC TIANA JACKSON
PFC ISAAC JOHNSON
PFC KIARRA JOHNSON
PFC TRAVIS JOHNSON
PFC RICARDO JUAREZ
PFC BOONTHAVY KEOMAHAVONG
PFC WESTON KING
PFC NATHAN KLANN
PFC BILLY KLEPI
PFC DEVIN KUHENS
PFC JOSIE LACOMBE
PFC TADAN LAPALM
PFC TOMAS LATOSYNSKI
PFC DEVIN LAUTZENHEISER
PFC JORAM LEON
PFC BRODERICK LEWIS
PFC PHILLIP LIEBY
PFC CODY LOCKABY
PFC PHILIP LUCUT
PFC CARTER LUKASAVITZ
PFC VIRGINIA MACKEY
PFC MALIK MATHIEA
PFC GABRIEL MATTZELA
PFC LAWLER MAZARIEGOS-GONZALEZ
PFC ALEXIS MCNAIR
PFC SKYLAR MEANS
PFC ALEXANDER MILLER
PFC ISRAEL MONTES
PFC SHY-ANN MOORE
PFC OLUWAGBOHUNMI MOSAKU-JOHNSON
PFC DAVID MYERS
PFC RICHARD NALETTE
PFC COLE NEELEY
PFC PADMA NEUPANE
PFC MAGNUS OFARRELL
PFC ALEXANDER OROZCO-VELAZQUEZ
PFC AARON PACE
PFC NATHAN PADILLA
PFC CHRISTIAN PALACIO
PFC CAITLYN PARRINELLO

PFC KATHRYN PEGG
PFC ASHLEY PENNINGTON
PFC GABRIEL POLLINGTON
PFC DERRELL PRICE
PFC MERIDIAN PUERTO
PFC JARED QUINN
PFC ALEXIS RAMIREZ AVELINO
PFC BENJAMIN RANJEL
PFC HUNTER RANVILLE
PFC ROBERT REETZ
PFC DILLON RENFROE
PFC JEREMY REYNERO
PFC ELISABETH ROBENS
PFC JAMES RUSSELL
PFC ALAN RUTLEDGE
PFC BENETTE SACKEY
PFC SHILOH SALIB
PFC ROBERT SANDERS
PFC ARI SARGENT
PFC DESAN SCHNEIDER
PFC LOGAN SCHNEIDER
PFC JACOB SCRIVO
PFC HAILEE SEAWRIGHT
PFC JACKSON SEELY
PFC GAVIN SEHY
PFC NATHAN SHAW
PFC TYLER SICOTTE
PFC DEAWON SIMERSON
PFC ANTHONY SIMMS
PFC MARIAH SMITH
PFC RYAN SMITH
PFC ADAM SNYDER
PFC ALEXANDER SORIANO-DIAZ
PFC NAOMI SOUTHWELL
PFC JAMES SPATES
PFC STEPHAN SPEIKES
PFC MACEY STANKO
PFC SANAAIAH STEPHENS
PFC NOLAN STRATTON
PFC CLAIRE SULLIVAN
PFC JULIA SUNDSTROM
PFC ISAIAH TALON
PFC LEVI THOMAN
PFC DAHSIYAH THOMPSON
PFC ALTON THORNTON
PFC JC TILES
PFC ERIC TOMAS-MIRANDA
PFC ALBERTO TORRES ROJO
PFC TRACE TOTEFF
PFC COLE TRIFFLE
PFC ALEXANDRIA TRIPP
PFC JAMISON TSCHUPP
PFC SYLVIANA TYNES
PFC MUKTA SRI SAI RITH UTTARADI
PFC GIOVANNI VALENZUELA

PFC CHRISTOPHER VOVILLIA
PFC DOMINIC WALKER
PFC MARIAH WALKER
PFC JODI WARFIELD
PFC JOSHUA WEBB
PFC AUSTIN WEST
PFC TORIGAN WHEAT
PFC SAVANNAH WHITE
PFC DENISE WILLIAM
PFC LOGAN WILLIAMS
PFC OMAR WITCHER
PFC BRIGHT ZORH
PFC RUTH ZUNGUNDE
PV2 SANTIAGO ACEVEDO DURAN
PV2 QADRIYAH ALI
PV2 DANTE ALLEN
PV2 TESHIA ARMSTRONG
PV2 GLORIA BAILEY
PV2 GAVIN BEILMAN
PV2 BRADEN BOZUNG
PV2 CODY BRILL
PV2 RICHARD BROCK
PV2 RICHARD BROWNING
PV2 LOVELL CAMBRIC
PV2 AIDEN CAMPBELL
PV2 CHASE CASTANO
PV2 THOMAS CAUGHELL
PV2 PATRICK COGSWELL
PV2 ETHAN COMAI
PV2 LAUREN CONLEY
PV2 ETHAN COTTRELL
PV2 LEANNE CRISHER
PV2 CHRISTOPHER DANIELS
PV2 LUCAS DEGRAND
PV2 MICHAEL DODGE
PV2 MITCHELL DOUVIKAS
PV2 LOGAN EDMONDSON
PV2 ALEXANDER ELSE
PV2 KIRSTEN FARRELL
PV2 LEONARDO FLORES RIOS
PV2 HIKIEMA FLOYD
PV2 NALEDGE FRIERSON
PV2 GIANARA GARCIA-LEON
PV2 NATHEN GLOVER
PV2 HUNTER GOTTS
PV2 BRADYN GOULD
PV2 MIKKIE GRIEGO CARTER
PV2 HEATH HAIK
PV2 LOGAN HAMMINGH
PV2 KYA HARRIS
PV2 JAYDEN HENDERSON
PV2 ADAMARIS HERNANDEZ VICHQUI
PV2 AYDEN HIGGINS
PV2 AIDEN HOFFMAN
PV2 NAKYRA HOLLIE

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

PV2 Alexander Holmberg
PV2 CALI HOOGERHYDE
PV2 DWAYNE HORN
PV2 OZZIE HYNAN
PV2 MALOSSIE JACKSON
PV2 HUNTER JAMES
PV2 HAYDEN JOHNSON
PV2 DONALD JONES
PV2 KENYA JUMANNE-MARSHALL
PV2 JINWOO KANG
PV2 SKYLER KENNEDY
PV2 JAYDEN KIMBLE
PV2 NATHAN KING
PV2 NICKYA KING
PV2 LYDIA KLINE
PV2 ZACKERY KOLKA
PV2 CADENCE KRUEGER
PV2 ROBERT LAMB
PV2 HARLEY LANDENBERG
PV2 GARY LANE
PV2 ELIJAH LANGTEAU
PV2 ALYSSA LAWRENCE
PV2 JAKHARI LEWIS
PV2 DREW LILLY
PV2 KAYLA LORENZO-BRENNER
PV2 QUANTRELL LUNA
PV2 ANNA MACIEJEWSKI
PV2 DAYVEN MAGRUM
PV2 BLAKE MARTIN
PV2 GARRETT MARTZ
PV2 SOSHA MASON
PV2 JAMES MCDONALD
PV2 DAVID MCGREGOR
PV2 SAMANTHA MCGREGOR
PV2 ALEXIS MENDEZ-JOSE
PV2 JUSTIN MOORE
PV2 GRACE MOSS
PV2 CODY MUMA
PV2 JESSE MUNN
PV2 CALVIN NIBBELINK
PV2 ETHAN NICHOLAS
PV2 BROCK NIXON
PV2 KISAR NOVAKU
PV2 EDWIN OCHOA
PV2 TAIYANA OLDHAM
PV2 COOPER OLNEY
PV2 DAEVEON PACE
PV2 ETHAN PEABODY
PV2 BRYANA PEDROZA-SALGADO
PV2 ALIVIA PETRI
PV2 DEREK POFF
PV2 RONALDHINO PORTILLO
PV2 AIDAN PURI
PV2 MARIONNAH RADER
PV2 TEJAASWIN RAJA

PV2 ANDY RAMIREZ-PEREZ
PV2 BENJAMIN RAYHORN
PV2 JACOB REEVES
PV2 ZAKKERY REITZ
PV2 RUBEN RIVERA
PV2 JOSEPH RODGERS
PV2 DIANA SANTOS
PV2 SARA SCHADD
PV2 JOHNATHEN SCHULTZ
PV2 DAVIDA SMALL
PV2 JOSHUA SMITH
PV2 SKYLER SMITH
PV2 EZRA SPYCHALSKI
PV2 NEAL STAUFFER
PV2 EVAN STEVENSON
PV2 MARAH STIERLEY
PV2 JADYN SUCKOW
PV2 WESLEY SULLIVAN
PV2 CHASE SWANSON
PV2 KAYLEE TEDJO
PV2 RAINA TEGGART
PV2 XAVIER TERRY
PV2 TYREESE THOMAS
PV2 EVAN TOBIAS
PV2 ELAIYNA TRIPLET
PV2 CASSIUS TUCKER
PV2 BELL YAEL VALDOR
PV2 NOAH VEGA
PV2 ANDI VELTKAMP
PV2 CAMERON WARREN
PV2 PIPER WHITE
PV2 TYQUAN WILKINS
PV2 KOLBY WILSON

MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROMOTIONS

COL BRYAN AMARA
LTC BRIAN HULL
MAJ AARON DEEN
CPT JOSEPH RUSSELL
1LT EMILY FAITH
1LT ERICKA FINK
1LT CATHERINE FINOCCHIARO
1LT DANIEL GUY
1LT CRAIG LOWE
1LT RYAN OKE
1LT DANIEL RICKARD
1LT CRISTINE ZUCHORA
2LT FORREST DIXON
CMSGT CATHERINE FINOCCHIARO
SMSGT LANCE HUGHSON
SMSGT JASON RUSHING
MSGT ASHLEY BOSTON
MSGT JARED BRUSEN
MSGT JAMale GRIFFIN
MSGT CURTIS HAMANN
MSGT WILLIAM HICKS
MSGT ERIC KRUSE
MSGT LAUREN MCGREGOR
MSGT JOSHUA TATTERSON
MSGT LUCAS VOSS
TSGT DUSTIN COPEMAN
TSGT DANIEL GREEN
TSGT ERIC GRESOCK
TSGT TRAVIS HARTMAN
TSGT JULIANN HAMMER
TSGT DILLAN JOHNSON
TSGT JUSTIN MATTHEWS
TSGT BRIANNA MLOSTEK
TSGT JORDAN MOORE
TSGT MICHAEL MULLALY
TSGT TIMOTHY NILLES
TSGT JIMMY PEARCE
TSGT CLAYTON SMITH
TSGT ANDREW THOMPSON
TSGT FABIAN TOTI
TSGT LUIS VENTURA
TSGT SYDNEY VANDIS
TSGT BRADLEY WAGNER
TSGT JAVID WORKMAN
SSGT ASHLEY BAUMAN
SSGT CALEB BILYEA
SSGT ANTHONY BORELLO
SSGT SAMUEL CARTER
SSGT CODY CRAWFORD
SSGT ANDREW CORRADO
SSGT ZACHARI DRAGAN
SSGT WILLIAM FOSTER
SSGT JARED FUJIMOTO
SSGT SEGUN GEORGE
SSGT REBECCA GLASS
SSGT THOMAS GOLONKA
SSGT EFRAIN GONZALEZ
SSGT JOSHUA HATTER
SSGT JACOB KNIGHTSTEP
SSGT QUINTIN LEE
SSGT ARRON MCCLURE
SSGT ALEC MCCONNELL
SSGT ANTHONY MIDA
SSGT CHLOE MORGAN
SSGT EMUOBOSAN OJARUEGA
SSGT SILVANA PALAZZOLO

SSGT DON PETER
SSGT LEONARD SOUTH
SSGT MAKENZIE STEBBINS
SSGT MADALYN VAN ALSTINE
SSGT RIKUESHA WILLIAMS
SSGT NATHAN WINGATE
SRA TYLER BERLIN
SRA HAILEY CHISUM
SRA JOSHUA CORNETT
SRA JORDI GUITERREZ
SRA JOSHUA GREATHOUSE
SRA HAILIE HALL
SRA ALICE HAMILTON
SRA DEVIN KIRCHER
SRA JAMONE LEWIS
SRA JESUS LOZANO
SRA JULIAN MARTES
SRA NATHANIEL NAEBECK
SRA STEPHANIE ROBINSON
SRA CARA ROBISON
SRA SALWAN ROMAYA
SRA AARYON STANLEY
SRA MAYA WILSON
AIC HAILEE ARNOLD
AIC HUNTER BLACK
AIC VIVIAN CARRICK
AIC LANDON CARNEVALE
AIC MATTHEW CORRIGAN
AIC BRAEDEN DAMBROSIO
AIC BENJAMIN DELISO
AIC CURTIS DRESSER
AIC JADYN DROBEK
AIC LATREL GAMEZ
AIC JANAYE HELDORE
AIC NOLAN HUGMEYER
AIC LINKOLN KOWALSKI
AIC SEAN MAMMEN
AIC KAHLIL MCLEOD
AIC CAMDEN MCMULLEN
AIC ETHAN MORCHE
AIC AMARE NOBLES
AIC DELIVEE PERSON
AIC EZRA RIX
AIC MASON ROBINSON
AIC DILLON ROSE
AMN QUINN BOUCARD
AMN JULIAN BOUDREAU
AMN CALVIN COLLINS
AMN NATALIE COUGHLIN
AMN DEON RUSHIN
AMN JAKOB SIEGEL
AMN JACKSON SIRRINE
AMN HANNAH ZALNER
AB EDEN FANTE
AB KHADIM GUEYE
AB HARMONY HAMM
AB JOSLYN MONTGOMERY
AB NAG VEJANDLA

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

BG JEFFREY MICHAEL TERRILL
COL ROBERT ANDREW MACIOLEK
MAJ GARY MICHAEL FLECK
CPT TYLER BRYSON DODGE
CW4 SCOTT ALAN GAUTHIER
CW4 TODD DAVID WHITCHER
CW3 THAIS DANIELLE TAYLOR
CW2 GILBERT BONILLA VASQUEZ
CSM DAVID MICHAEL LEWIS
SGM WESLEY LEWIS FISK
SGM TIMOTHY ALLEN STANKEVICH
1SG SHARON MARIE BALWINSKI
1SG TARA DANIELLE GAMBLE
1SG KYLE ROBERT HERRING
MSG MATHEW JAMES ASHBY
MSG JOHN ROYCE HAYES
MSG RICHARD ARTHUR PRELL
SFC WILLIAM HENRY BURNS V
SFC THOMAS EDWARD COMSTOCK
SFC CHAD BURTON FRANCISCO
SFC RYAN EDWARD GREYTOK
SFC JACOB WILLIAM HORMAN
SFC GARY ALLEN MCALPINE
SFC GUY EDWARD MORIN
SFC JOSEPH FRANKLIN ROOD
SFC ELI LUCAS SHULTZ
SFC RICHARD CLAUDE THOMAS III
SSG DEWAYNE ANTOINE CUMMINGS
SSG CHELSA ALEXANDRA HOISINGTON
SSG BOBBY JOE JOHNSON
SSG JAMES MICHAEL LYTLER
SSG DORIN MELINTE
SSG ZACHARY DANIEL MURPHY
SSG CARL JUNIOR SAMMONS III
SGT RAMON COLEMANEARL BEARSE III
SGT LONNI SUE CARMER
SGT TYGE EDWARD NELSON JR
SGT JOHN FREDERICK NOVAK IV
SGT DESARAY MARIE REAMER
SPC CORY MICHAEL RUSTICUS
SPC BRADLEY TERRILL TRIMM

MICHIGAN AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENTS

LTC NATHAN FINFROCK
LTC CHAD HOPKINS
LTC JAMES SHEPHERD
LTC KEVIN TOLL
MAJ BRIAN BLUMLINE
MAJ ANDREW BRUINSMA
MAJ ANDREW MATEJEK
CAPT JONATHAN HOLTZ
CMSGT RICKY EVANS
CMSGT BRUCE HEDRICK
CMSGT DAWN PORTER
SMSGT AUSTEN CONNIFF
SMSGT WESLEY COOPER
MSGT MATTHEW BLACK
MSGT QUINTON GOODWIN
MSGT BRADLEY MOEHLIG
MSGT ABIGAIL PHILLIPS
MSGT JOHN SACKER
MSGT LISA SPRINGSTEEN
TSGT OTTO KELLY
TSGT BENJAMIN MILLER
TSGT MICHAEL PRETZEL
TSGT ANDREW RUSSELL
TSGT CHRISTOPHER SMITH
TSGT MARSHALL SWANSON
TSGT JOE WILHOIT

You are cordially invited to attend



The 2026

TAG SOCIAL



A special event designed to foster camaraderie and celebrate the unique traditions of the Michigan National Guard.



Registration:

- RSVP is required via Eventbrite:
<https://2026TAGRetreatSocialPassinReview.eventbrite.com>
- Payment will not be accepted at the door. All attendees MUST register and pay through Eventbrite.
- Registration Closes: June 5, 2026

Event Details:

Date: 11 June 2026
Time: 1700
Location: Camp Grayling Officer's Club
Purpose: To Enjoy Camaraderie and the Traditions Unique to the Michigan National Guard
Cost: \$30.00 per person.
A "no meal" / attendance only option is also available.

Who Should Attend:

- All Current and Retired Officers (Army & Air)
- All Warrant Officers (Army & Air)
- Air Force: CMSgts & SMSgts
- Army: CSMs, 1SGs & Detachment Sergeants
- Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Personnel
- Michigan Veterans Homes (MVH) Personnel
- State Operations Personnel

Important Information:

Payment Assistance: If you experience any payment issues during registration, please contact Katy Golden at goldenk1@michigan.gov or 517-428-1170 for assistance.

A Cash Bar Will Be Available:

For your convenience, there will be cash bars located around the facility. Please be aware that there is only one credit card machine available. To ensure smooth and efficient service, we highly recommend bringing cash if you plan to enjoy the bar.

We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of fellowship and celebration!



TAPS

PVT REED BADERSNIDER 1-JAN-26
PVT RONALD VISSER 2-JAN-26
LTC LAWRENCE HAWKINS 3-JAN-26
PVT MAURICE BARRETT 9-JAN-26
SGT FRED SUNDSTROM 9-JAN-26
SGT DARRYL FOSSEN 13-JAN-26
PVT RONALD BLAUWKAMP 14-JAN-26
SPC WILLIAM JAYNES 21-JAN-26
SSG JOSEPH SAVORY 24-JAN-26
PVT JAMES BRADFORD 25-JAN-26
PVT CHARLES CORNELL 26-JAN-26
SPC HEATH TOLLIVER 30-JAN-26
MSG JERRY BURNS 31-JAN-26
PFC RANDY WILLIAMS SR 2-FEB-26
SGT LEO SOCHAKI 09-FEB-26
SPC GLEN KERR 10-FEB-26
PVT LEON SCHMALTZ 10-FEB-26
SSG KEVIN ORTEGEL 14-FEB-26
PFC AARON CLARK 15-FEB-26
SGT DONALD SMITH 15-FEB-26
SGT NICHOLAS SEIFERT 15-FEB-26
PVT JOHN STEC 20-FEB-26
PFC DAVID CONKLIN 22-FEB-26
PVT JAMES BURKHOLDER 26-FEB-26
SGT RUSSELL BROWN SR 27-FEB-26
PVT WILLIAM CRAMER 03-MAR-26
SFC RONALD SPOORS 3-MAR-26
SFC FLOYD JERDON JR 7-MAR-26
SGT GEORGE NORTHRUP 11-MAR-26
SPC DOUGLASS CHMIEL 13-MAR-26
SPC EARL MOKMA 15-MAR-26
PVT FLOYD ROWLAND 16-MAR-26
CW4 DARLE VANDERSCHUUR 18-MAR-26
SGT WESLEY WARES SR 18-MAR-26
SPC DOUGAL BROW 21-MAR-26
1SG LARRY MEREDITH 21-MAR-26
SGT JOHN SCHWANBECK 24-MAR-26
SGT CODY STEPANIAN 27-MAR-26

FUTURE EVENTS

NORTHERN FORGE 26-2

30 May- 05 June 2026

STATE ANNUAL TRAINING

29 May- 12 June 2026

TAG SOCIAL

11 June 2026

Camp Grayling Officer's Club

PASS AND REVIEW

12 June 2026

Camp Grayling

VIGILANT GUARD

27-31 July 2026

NORTHERN STRIKE 26-2

1- 15 August 2026

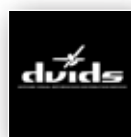
E3B

09 Sept -10 Oct 2026

TELL YOUR STORY



Share your personal or unit news and associated photos (with captions please) to ng.mi.miarng.list.pao@army.mil. 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. You could be featured on our Social Media pages! Either way, follow and like us: Facebook: [MichGuard](#) Instagram: [MiNationalGuard](#) Flickr: [Photos/MI_NG](#) DVIDS: [JFHQ-MNG](#) Youtube: [MichiganNationalGuard](#) LinkedIn: [MiNationalGuard](#)





3rd Annual Boots on the Ground Heroes Memorial at Camp Grayling

Opening Ceremony July 11 at 11am
Camp Grayling front entrance
Boots will be displayed and
Open to the Public July 11-Aug 2

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE REGISTER A TRIBUTE BOOT

Please join us in honoring the fallen. This memorial recognizes service members and veterans from all branches who are no longer with us. Open to all survivors and families. Honoring all military heroes (not limited to combat deaths).

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
Beth Ann Amy 989.372.4313
bethann.m.amy.ctr@army.mil





GREAT LAKES\$ GRAND

MIARNG SOLDIER REFERRAL PROGRAM

SCAN THE QR CODE



SUBMIT THE REFERRAL

UPON ENLISTMENT, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

\$1,000

CAREER PROMOTION POINTS
THE ARMY RECRUITING RIBBON



ALWAYS READY

ALWAYS THERE

