

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS**

BIENNIAL REPORT

FY 2013-2014



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Rick Snyder, Governor

Gregory Vadnais, Adjutant General

Michigan National Guard Senior Leaders



Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais
Adjutant General, Michigan National Guard
Director, Michigan Department of Veterans
Affairs



Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Lincoln
State Command Sergeant Major



**Command Chief Warrant Officer 5
Gabriel Ambrozaitis**
State Command Chief Warrant Officer



Brig. Gen. Phillip Owens
Assistant Adjutant General
Joint Operations



Brig. Gen. Michael Stone
Assistant Adjutant General
Installations



Brig. Gen. Michael White
Land Forces
Component Commander



Brig. Gen. Leonard Isabelle Jr.
Commander
Michigan Air National Guard



Command Chief Master Sgt. David Eddy
Command Chief Master Sergeant
Michigan Air National Guard

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Sgt. 1st Class Andy Kableman, 1437th Engineer Company, Sault Saint Marie, Mich., Michigan Army National Guard, demonstrates the M4 rifle to members of the Latvian Engineer Battalion, in Orge, Latvia, Sept. 28, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Helen Miller, Michigan National Guard/Released) For more information on the State Partnership Program, see page 5.



No Reason to be Blue

Michigan's Highlights

State Tuition Assistance Program

Gov. Rick Snyder holds up House bill 5451 after signing the bill at the Michigan National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing, Mich., July 1, 2014. Behind Snyder are Company B, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Soldier Private 1st Class Ian Cunningham, numerous veterans' service organization members, the bill's sponsor Rep. Bruce Renden (on the governor's left side) and Michigan Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais. The bill provides tuition assistance for Michigan Guard members in good standing.

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the Michigan Army National Guard, held a public meeting at Sherman Lake YMCA, in Augusta, Mich. As part of the Environmental Impact Statement, four locations, including Fort Custer, are being considered. The 2013 National Defense Authorizations Act requires the MDA to prepare an EIS to evaluate possible additional locations throughout the United States best suited for a potential future deployment of an interceptor site capable of protecting the homeland against threats from foreign nations. The Department of Defense has not made a decision to deploy or construct the CIS at this time.

Environmental

The Environmental Division progressed towards achieving 100 percent clean-closure status and worked diligently to clean up MIARNGs last remaining Michigan Department of Environmental Quality listed contaminated sites. The Camp Grayling Army Airfield bulk refueling site is in the final stages of soil vapor and groundwater remediation activities and is projected to achieve clean closure status in the next two years.



Cyber Security

Governor Rick Snyder and Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais with Air and Army National Guard leadership members, Battle Creek business owners and community leaders, cut a ceremonial ribbon, Tues., Mar. 25, 2014 on the new cyber range hub located at the 110th Air Wing in Battle Creek, Mich. The hub joins others in the Michigan Cyber Range hosted by Merit Network, Inc., and is the first unclassified cyber training facility located on a military installation in the country.

State Partnership Program

Secretary of the Army, the Honorable John McHugh, is briefed on the capabilities of the Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Ochoa at Lielvarde Air Base, Latvia on May 20, 2014. Ochoa is a NCO in the Michigan Army National Guard, Company B, Unmanned Aerial Surveillance platoon, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 37th Brigade Combat Team.





110th Airlift Wing

Battle Creek Air National Guard Base

Wing Commander • Col. Ronald Wilson

110th Airlift Wing Highlights

FY13

- SOS Ride & Safety Conference- Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, Air National Guard members and other motorcyclists rode from Fort Custer Cemetery to the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, May 1, 2013 for a motorcycle safety news conference kicking off May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. The month-long campaign promoted the importance of motorcycle safety training, having a motorcycle endorsement, wearing high visibility gear, and sharing the road.

- C-21 Final Flight- June 15, 2013.

- The 110th Operations Group officially stood up as an MQ-9 Reaper organization Oct. 1, 2013

FY14

- DART- New equipment arrives for the Disaster Assistance Response Team, Nov. 2, 2013. The DART team will work in collaboration with the Michigan National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters to answer the call of duty as ordered by the governor to respond to any natural or man-made crisis in the state of Michigan. The objective is to provide a joint, scalable, capable, agile, rapid response force in support of Domestic Operations for local, state, and federal authorities.

- Cyber Range Ribbon Cutting- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder attended ribbon cutting ceremony for a cyber-range hub March 25, 2014 at Battle Creek Air National

Guard Base. The cyber range allows the 110th Airlift Wing to train and partner with entities including the state of Michigan, Merit Network Inc., federal and local governments, colleges and universities and the private sector.

- Congressman Fred Upton toured facilities and was briefed on missions and ballistic missile defense at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Aug. 28, 2014.

- Universities Sign MOU's- Central Michigan University formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the 110th Airlift Wing, Sept. 19, 2014. The agreement signifies the opening of classes on base, increasing access to education for Battle Creek Air National Guard Members and civilians. (Also signed is Sienna Heights University and Kellogg Community College)

Full-time payrolls	\$33,400,000
Full-time employees	300
Traditional Guard Payrolls	\$16,500,000
Traditional Guard members	679
Annual Appropriated Expenditures	\$20,800,000
Indirect Jobs Created	414
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT	\$79 MILLION

The 110th Operations Group provides exemplary Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance to various federal and state entities, anywhere in the world with the MQ-9 “Reaper” Remotely Piloted Aircraft. Additionally, for the federal mission we provide an attack/strike capability when called for.

The Air Operations Group provides combat ready personnel to support the command and control of U.S. Air Forces in Europe/ U.S. Air Forces Africa forces, as well as aiding any emergency response within the state of Michigan. In the past year the Air Operations Group has participated in Africon Lion Planning Conference, Virtual Flag 14-2, Northern Strike 14, Objective Focus 14, and United Assistance.

The 110th Communications Flight is part of a pilot mission stood up in 2009 in coordination with Air National Guard. The initiative empowered five Communications Flights and one Combat Communications Squadron to provide cyber defense across all FEMA regions. March 2014 marked a major milestone for the continued development of cyber professionals within the 110th Attack Wing and the Michigan National Guard as it introduced the new Michigan Cyber Range connection at the 110th Attack Wing. The connection joins the Michigan National Guard with others connected to the Cyber Range hosted by Merit Network Inc. It is the first unclassified cyber-training facility located on a military installation in the country.

The 110th Airlift Wing has established a solid mission through the AOG and were on their way to establishing a second mission, but that new mission spelled out much uncertainty.

In 2009, the base was scheduled to have a new tactical intra-theater airlift mission with the C-27, a military transport aircraft. However, the aircraft was still being built and the Air Force gave the 110th the C-21 Learjet, a smaller military transport aircraft, to be used on a temporary basis until the C-27s were available.

In February 2012, the Air Force released the president’s budget, PB13. This report stated that the Air Force would divest the C-27 aircraft completely. The removal of the C-27 not only affected the future mission of the 110th Airlift Wing, but the status of several Battle Creek Airmen’s jobs were hanging in the balance.

When PB13 came out, it stated that the 110th Airlift Wing was slated to receive the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned

aerial vehicle.

This would eventually replace the C-21. Unfortunately, many of Battle Creek’s airmen had already been trained for the C-21 and C-27 aircrafts, and bringing the future technology would require a major overhaul to Battle Creek’s operations and maintenance.

The 217th Air Operations Group recently hosted the Distributed Mission Operations Center’s Virtual Flag 14-2 (VF 14-2), a 10-day exercise involving more than 70 units and including representatives from all four services. Battle Creek, had more than 80 participants, with the majority of visitors from active duty Army, Air Force and Air Force Reserve units. The majority of units involved in the exercise operated from their home stations across 10 time zones and assets were linked together virtually, allowing for distributed operations in a joint scenario. By utilizing this virtual training method, VF 14-2 was executed for approximately one tenth of the cost of a joint, live-fly training exercise of this scale.

The objective of VF 14-2 was to exercise Integrated Air and Missile Defense in a contested airspace over land and sea. To demonstrate this capability, Army air defense systems, a U.S. Naval carrier group, Marine aviation units, and Air Force assets were melded into a single command structure. The scenario was heavily weighted towards defense and containment, and the interoperability of U.S. forces was tested. Multiple alerts and warnings were issued during the scenario, which required all services to work together to counter a variety of enemy attacks on U.S. and coalition forces. Air Force and Naval assets demonstrated their ability to coordinate and execute a war-at-sea campaign. Forces participating spanned the U.S. military arsenal. Everything from Army Patriot batteries to Navy carrier groups to all Air Force aircraft were tasked to play their respective parts, and the de-confliction, direction and control was located in the 217th AOG.

Objectives met in this exercise will be shared with joint warfare planners at key combatant commands. Many of the lessons learned will also provide a baseline for future force structure decisions.

For the 217th’s role in VF 14-2, the exercise was a chance to demonstrate the ability to execute command and control of air assets in any area of responsibility.



127th Airlift Wing

Selfridge Air National Guard Base

Wing Commander • Colonel Phillip Sheridan

127th Wing Highlights

- Wing Completes Unit Effectiveness Inspection with grade of “Effective”
- Michigan NG marks 20 years of friendship with Latvia in the State Partnership program
- 127th Security Forces Squadron completes OEF deployment to Southwest Asia
- Conducted operations at Detroit Metro and Detroit City airports during runway renovations
- ‘Red Devil’ Airmen participated in Snowbird, Angel Thunder, Green Flag-East exercises
- 127th Air Refueling Group concluded three years of ‘rolling mobilizations’ to CENTCOM
- 127th Civil Engineer Squadron conducted Innovative Readiness Training in Raymond, Maine
- \$5.3 million renovation of taxiways and runway
- 25 Airmen deployed to support Saber Strike exercise in the Baltic region
- Selfridge Airmen assisted with the shipment of 40,000 pounds of food aid to Haiti
- 127th Wing Public Affairs team named top in ANG
- More than 200,000 attend Selfridge Open House & Air Show; 14 new Airmen took oath of enlistment at Open House
- \$53,000 saved in ongoing energy conservation efforts, in addition to \$126,000 in FY2013
- 23 Selfridge Airmen earned Community College of the Air Force degrees in 2014

In summer 2014, the 127th Wing supported the Michigan-based Operation Northern Strike with dozens of aircraft sorties and hundreds of Airmen. Centered at two of the nation’s largest National Guard training facilities – Michigan’s Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center – Operation Northern Strike is an annual National Guard Bureau-sponsored Combined Live Fire Exercise. The exercise blends Maneuver, Closer Air Support (CAS), Joint Fire Support, and Air Mobility in both Major Combat Operations and limited Operation Enduring Freedom scenarios. Active duty forces and Army and Air National Guard forces from more than a dozen states, as well as several coalition partners, participated in the exercise.

Major Military Construction Projects	
Taxiway renovations	\$5.74 million
Runway shoulders replacement	\$695,000
Replace exterior of Air	
Traffic Control tower	\$500,000
Renovate Building 126	\$243,000

Energy Projects

Utility rebates received due to energy savings investments	\$53,000
Add high-efficiency exterior lighting base-wide	\$308,000
Funds invested in energy efficiency projects	\$211,000

A new \$36 million jet fuel storage and delivery system is in the final planning stages at Selfridge. The system, which will have a capacity of approximately 630,000 gallons, will feature an eight-station hydrant pad. Construction of the system is scheduled to begin in FY2015 with completion expected in FY2017. The project will significantly enhance KC- 135 operations at the base.

Economic Impact

Total annual economic impact of Selfridge Air National Guard Base: \$825 million

Selfridge Air National Guard Base was originally named Selfridge Field in 1917. In 1947, it became known as Selfridge Air Force Base. In 1971, the Michigan Air National Guard took over operation of the base and the current name was put into use. Today, the base is home to operations of all branches of the U.S. military, as well as several Department of Homeland Security agencies.



Airmen of the 127th Air Refueling Group return to their home station of Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., June 9, 2014, after a deployment to southwest Asia and the Central Command Area of Responsibility. The deployment for the 127th ARG was the last of a three-year-long series of "rolling mobilizations" during which small groups of Selfridge Airmen -- and often one or two KC-135s -- were forward deployed on an ongoing basis. With the conclusion of the rolling mobilizations, the 127th ARG will return to a more traditional Air Expeditionary Force schedule for possible future deployments, meaning more members of the unit will likely deploy if called upon, but will likely deploy less often. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by TSgt. Dan Heaton)





Alpena CRTC

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center

Base Commander • Col. Bryan Teff

Facilities

The Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center Civil Engineering directorate was heavily engaged in many construction projects during the year. The Civil Engineering team utilized more than \$1.1 million in local sustainment, restoration and modernization funds over a multitude of areas throughout the installation. Included in those projects were the design and construction of a new urban search and rescue training aid and foundation, pavement repair for the engine run-up pad and taxiway, crack sealing and seal coating taxiway H for assault landing training, renovating the distinguished visitor rooms in building 118, renovating offices in building 1 to include a new mail room, replacing the fire suppression system in building 490, the design and renovation of the fitness center restrooms, upgrading the power to building 890 to support Joint Threat Emitters maintenance, and insulating the AGE and munitions administrative buildings. In addition to the construction above, we funded the designs for the range restroom/shower pavilion facility, renovating the main range building ops desk and control tower, and AT/FP improvements for the Collins Center. Finally, we funded studies to program the repair of the fireman training facility and a new 30,000 square foot aircraft maintenance hangar.

In addition to local SRM design and construction, the NGB/A7 funded \$11 million for the design of larger

SRM projects. The main aircraft parking ramp repair was funded for \$10 million. This massive project is scheduled to be complete by November 2015. Other NGB funded construction projects were to construct a flight line fence near the main gate to prevent vehicles from entering the airfield, a base-wide energy lighting upgrade project, and a base-wide fire infrastructure study to support the new hangar. Finally, the \$1.5 million renovation and addition to the visiting unit Security Forces facility was complete in September 2014.

One MILCON project began in early 2013 to replace three dilapidated facilities with a \$1.6 million, state-of-the-art, 4,000 sq. ft. class room. The classroom was completed in January 2014. It was certified 'Gold' for Leadership Energy and Environmental Design standards



to include the capability of re-generating up to one-third of its electricity requirement through solar roof panels.

Missions

The Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center supported 10,411 personnel from 216 different units resulting in the execution of more than 5,531 training days. The base hosted 463 aircraft from all over the U.S. Additionally, CRTC personnel issued more than 1,849 vehicles, served 29,913 meals and provided lodging for 33,958 bed nights. Radar Approach Control handled 4,820 aircraft, the tower assisted 6,083 military and civilian aircraft and the total Alpena CRTC airspace hosted more than 6,450 sorties.

The Grayling Air Gunnery Range supported 1,285 total force sorties requiring 488 hours of total range use time. The range safely executed more than 83,012 strafe and 3,692 bomb events. The Alpena CRTC again hosted Northern Strike in 2014, an exercise emphasizing air-to-ground operations that prepares ANG, ARNG, and active duty fighter, bomber, mobility, and rotary aircrew, ANG and Coalition Tactical Air Control Party, Air Support Operations Center, Air and Space Operations Center, combat weather, medical, and intelligence personnel to conduct direct combat operations. The focus of the exercise is to provide requirements-based training, emphasizing day and night close air support, combat search and rescue, air refueling, air drop, and medical evacuation missions utilizing Operation Enduring Freedom, major combat operations, and counterinsurgency scenarios. More than 20 military units, including Air and Army National Guard, U.S. Active Duty Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and NATO partners were involved in the exercise. As a direct result of the training, units executed more than 438 sorties, and completed 850 Joint Tactical Air Controller scenarios.

The CRTC operations directorate expanded the combat training systems capability in 2013. These expansions were an integral asset to the success of 2014. The



A Michigan Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter takes off near a Michigan Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt II during Operation Northern Strike at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Aug. 16, 2014. Twenty-four units from 12 States and two coalition partners participated in the three-week event. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton)

Mission Tactics Center, located in building 490, is made up of the Weapons and Tactics Flight, CUBIC, and OPS Scheduling. MTC operates the Joint Threat Emitters, Joint Range Extender, P5 CTS (Live Monitor) and a full communications suite, featuring TELEX radio/telephone control. LINK16 data link capability was also utilized this year and integrated with the existing SADL secure data link capability. The center accommodates “White Cell” mission directors, system operators, range training officers, and range control officers. One white cell mission director can control all the training assets from this one location and ensure ANG aircrews are given all the training requirements requested in a realistic and timely manner, thus maximizing training received per flight hour and overall asset utilization.

Economic Impact

The Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center provides an extensive amount of revenue generation and job creation to the Alpena and Grayling areas. Members of the CRTC are incredibly efficient as they are actively involved in 10 of the 13 Air National Guard mission-sets. Not only is the base a vital part of the economic climate, the services the base provides to the Air National Guard are immeasurable.



63rd Troop Command



Belmont Armory

Commander • Col. Jeffrey Terrill

The Spartan Brigade command and controls Michigan's combat power. Home of two maneuver battalions, two fires battalions, a Military Intelligence Company, and a Signal Company, the 63rd Troop Command Headquarters Company is the smallest of its kind. The 63rd provided exercise control for Operation Northern Strike which is a significant three-week combined, joint, multinational, live-fire exercise. Though small in size the headquarters supports extremely important missions and responsibilities to include the Ready Reaction Force for the state of Michigan.

The 126th Cavalry Squadron

On Sept. 1, 2014 the 1-126th CAV deployed 197 Soldiers to Saint Ignace, Mich., in support of the 57th annual Labor Day Bridge Walk. Soldiers of the Michigan National Guard's 63rd Troop Command, to include the 126th Cavalry Regiment, the 237th Brigade Support Battalion, and the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 37th Brigade Combat Team, assisted state and local authorities with security, crowd and traffic control during the event in which approximately 30,000 people walked five miles from St. Ignace across the Mackinac Bridge to Mackinaw City. According to the Lansing State Journal, some traveled from as far as California, Colorado, and Alaska to participate, as well as from a number of other countries.

During Training Year 2014, Detachment 1, Company B, 37th BSTB participated in Operation Latvian Partnership Surge, Exercise Saber Strike 2014, supported the 1-119th during XCTC at Camp Grayling and finished the year with Northern Strike. During Latvian Partnership Surge, the DET 1 successfully flew the first known Unmanned Aircraft in the Baltics. In addition, they practiced rapid redeployment

to remote locations around the country to include an abandoned MIG airstrip. While participating in Exercise Saber Strike, DET 1 supported ground units by coordinating with embedded multi-national Joint Tactical Air Controllers. This exchange benefited both units by providing a realistic training scenario that DET 1 could expect to see while conducting combat operations. DET 1 supported the 1-119th FA with near-real time imagery during XCTC and developed a training relationship that is planned to continue in TY15 to utilize the capabilities of the Shadow 200 system to communicate with AFATDS to call for fire and adjust fire. DET 1 worked with Air Force JTACS during Exercise Northern Strike 2014 and provided still imagery along with near-real time imagery for use during the exercise.

125th Infantry Regiment

During Training Years 2013 and 2104, the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry conducted individual and team/squad collective training. The battalion's 2013 training plan focused on individual skills to prepare our Soldiers for the Expert Infantryman Badge. The battalion qualified 126 Soldiers to compete for the coveted EIB, of which, only two members of the battalion completed the 71 tasks to earn the EIB. The entirety of the battalion competed in lanes similar to the EIB, dubbed "VIKING FORGE" and competed for top honors as the best squad in the battalion.

The battalion also participated in Operation Northern Strike with our Forward Observers and integrated them in with Tactical Air Controllers from the Air Force. Training year 2013 culminated with 304,000 small arms, 4,760 explosives and 1,000 mortar rounds expended. The battalion's 2014 training plan focused on team and squad level consolidated task.

Building on the previous year training, the battalion began consolidated training at the lowest level and concluded with a Squad Live Fire Exercise. The exercise was tough, realistic, light-fighter, close with and destroy the enemy, training. The battalion's weapon's company culminated their training in gunnery and the battalion mortars conducted a consolidated mortar live fire exercise in conjunction with Operation Northern Strike. The battalion staff completed a staff exercise to develop their critical analysis of a higher headquarters operation order. First Army conducted their first EIB competition at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The battalion sent 30 Soldiers to compete, with four earning the right to wear the EIB. Additionally, the battalion was identified as the Michigan Army National Guard Rapid Reaction Force. The battalion completed an internal Rapid Reaction Force exercise to validate procedures and Soldier training in April 2014. Training year 2014 culminated with 362,000 small arms, 6,000 explosives and 1,649 mortar rounds expended.

182nd Field Artillery Regiment

2014 was a spectacular year for the Sudden Death Battalion. We successfully completed certification through a safe and accurate live-fire exercise while participating in an arduous XCTC rotation. While having the entire 197th Field Artillery Brigade in Grayling, the 1-182nd coordinated with the BDE's organic radar battery and conducted counter-fire operations with the HIMARS weapons system. Later in the year, we were selected to plan, operate and lead the Fire Support Coordination Cell for Operation Northern Strike. During this operation, it was our responsibility to synchronize all ground to ground indirect fires, as well as coordinate all air to ground fires. Northern Strike gave us a "two and three levels up" view of a combined, joint, multinational, live-fire exercise. Currently, the battalion is training in preparation for a deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield which is an enduring training mission in partnership with the United Arab Emirates. We will be the 2nd National Guard HIMARS battalion to deploy for this duty and are paving the way for the future of "available year" missions outside of combat tours. The Sudden Death Battalion remains a highly strategic, worldwide asset, able to maintain a ready posture with our air mobile assets and deep-strike capabilities.

119th Field Artillery Regiment

The 1-119th entered training year two of its 5-year readiness cycle. Highlights from 2013 include validation of battalion in support to civil authorities. The battalion also conducted individual and crew training in order to become Air Assault qualified – 100 percent of Soldiers sent to training graduated what has been called the toughest 11 days in the Army. Additionally, the battalion improved individual readiness by 62 percent and collective readiness by qualifying crews to a trained level according to Commander's Unit Status Report regulations. The pinnacle achievement of the year was live-fire training with howitzers at distances never attempted at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center. The year

ended with the battalion retaining more than 80 percent of qualified and ready Soldiers and increased overall strength. In 2014 the 1-119th entered training year three of its 5-year readiness cycle. Several milestones were reached. The battalion conducted multiple Air Assault Raids and validated Air Assault capabilities during live-fire training exercises. Additionally, the battalion safely executed winter live-fire and Air Assault training at Camp Grayling during one of the worst cold snaps of the year. The ambient temperature was -30 degrees F. This winter training exercise pushed the limits of our skills and equipment. Some of the equipment failed initially. However, our skills to improvise, adapt and overcome successfully met each challenge to prove that we could close with and destroy an enemy in the most extreme conditions imaginable. The resiliency, adaptability, and sheer will to succeed is a testament that the Soldiers of this generation are just as capable and committed as our predecessors.

The culminating event of 2014 was the validation of our platoons during annual training. Annual Training 2014 was dedicated to validation of individual warrior tasks and drills during a 10-day field exercise with outside evaluators. However, the battalion had plans to validate our platoons on field artillery and air assault tasks rather than individual tasks. So, we did both. The result was dramatically increased proficiency at both the individual and collective levels of training.

The command and staff of the 1-119th is highly committed to good stewardship of all resources. Thus, training year 2014 ended with the battalion exceeding every measured metric from individual medical readiness and training to decreased dollar amounts of lost and excess equipment. The battalion also led the state in retention of qualified and ready Soldiers due to high standards and discipline, combined with consistently tough and realistic training exercises. Our Soldiers are ready to carry out any mission the state or nation requires. In early FY16 the battalion will deploy 99 Soldiers to the Middle East in support of OEF.

CO C, BSTB, 86th IBCT

Charlie Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion 86th IBCT, had an up-tempo training year in FY14 and reinforced its reputation as an outstanding communications asset. The culmination of training focus was a JRTC Rotation 14-08 at Fort Polk, La. Leading up to JRTC, Charlie Co. conducted numerous Signal Exercises including a cold weather SIGEX in February at FCTC and a full-digital communications SIGEX at Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vt., in March. There were also numerous equipment upgrades and fieldings leading up to the JRTC event which encompassed the full month of June. Charlie Co. provided RETRANS, SATCOM, COMSEC, and digital comms support and infrastructure throughout the 86th Brigade during the rotation. Charlie Co. performed exceedingly well and set several JRTC records including: establishing digital comms within 30 minutes of arriving at the objective and the first ever secure link across the WIN-T system using STE phone for COMSEC Key Transfers in the field.



272nd Regional Support Group

Jackson Armory

Commander • Col. Rhoda Daniel

Mission and Vision: Provide command and control structure for non-major combat operations, and assist Active Component / Reserve Component units in meeting training, readiness, and deployment requirements.

Accomplishments: During Training Year 2014 the 272nd Regional Support Group and its subordinate battalions deployed one unit, redeployed two units, supported numerous community events, one casualty assistance mission, and two casualty notification missions. In addition, our subordinate units were called to participate in the State Partnership Mission in Liberia and a Security and Surveillance Mission on the Southwest Border.

The 272nd RSG participated in Operation Golden Coyote along with two of its subordinates, the 1463rd Transportation Company and the 464th Quartermaster Company. Operation Golden Coyote was a multi-service, international, logistics exercise conducted in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. This exercise required movement of 60 vehicles and 230 Soldiers by ground and air across six states, coordination with multiple state agencies, and integration with other services. The HHD conducted Reception Staging and Onward Integration operations for more than 3,700 U.S. and NATO troops, coordinated logistical support for five operating bases spread across 200 miles and two states, and transportation management for more than 30 units departing from Rapids City to their home station in various states and nations. During this exer-

cise, 272nd RSG units logged more than 197,000 miles, provided 1,300 showers, processed 3,308 bags of laundry, and delivered an estimated 539 tons of fire wood in 203 haul missions to Indian reservations in the humanitarian mission.

1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Detroit, Michigan

The 1225th CSSB's mission is to provide Mission Command of attached units tactical commodities and distribution management of all classes of supply, maintenance, transportation, and service support. The HHC 1225th was assigned to the C2CRE mission and participated in the Vibrant Response exercise in Camp Atterbury, Ind. The 464th Quartermaster Company conducted annual training for the Golden Coyote exercise in

Soldiers from the 272nd Regional Support Group participated in Operation Golden Coyote, a multi-service, international, logistics exercise in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. For Staff Sgt. James Lancaster (above), it was an opportunity to reenlist in front of the Mount Rushmore National Monument.

South Dakota providing shower and laundry support to three operating bases. The 1071st CRC conducted individual Soldier skills training during their ARFORGEN reset year at Camp Grayling, Mich. The 1072nd SMC conducted annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., and validated as the SMC for the C2CRE national response element. The 1073rd SMC conducted annual training at Camp Dodge, Iowa and was also awarded the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) and the Best of the Best in Army Maintenance community. It was the first time a Michigan unit has been given the maintenance excellence award and the first time the National Guard has been given the Best of the Best award.

246th Transportation Battalion, Jackson, Michigan

The 246th Transportation Battalion commands, controls, and supervises units conducting motor transport operations. The 246th Transportation Battalion completed 29 transportation missions in support of military and civilian organizations. The battalion deployed and redeployed 152 Soldiers of the 1460th Medium Truck Company to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 1460th served under Task Force Maverick, 142nd CSSB and TF Gunslinger, 553rd CSSB at Kandahar Airfield and conducted more than 180 missions comprised of convoys, transit yard operations, and KAF sustainment. The 1460th transported more than 350 twenty-foot equivalent units more than 90,000 miles and turned in more than 450 pieces of theater equipment to complete their deployment. The 246th Transportation Battalion manned and trained a 21-Soldier Movement Control Team from the HHD and a 163-Soldier Medium Truck Company from the 1462nd Transportation Company in support of the C2CRE-B mission. The MCT trained and successfully validated at Operation Vibrant Response. The 1462nd trained and validated at CGJMTC for the mission. One hundred nineteen Soldiers from the 1463rd participated in Operation Golden Coyote in South Dakota, transporting 200 timber haul missions more than 2,200 miles during the exercise. The 1461st supported battalion operations by supplying cross leveled Soldiers to support the 1460th deployment and C2CRE-B missions. During Annual Training the unit conducted a Heavy Equipment Transport training school, qualifying 30 Soldiers to drive the M1070A1, the unit's primary system.

146th Multifunctional Medical Battalion Ypsilanti, Michigan

The 146th MMB provides a scalable, flexible and modular Medical Battle Command, administrative assis-

tance, logistical support, and technical supervision capability for assigned and attached medical organizations task-organized for support of deployed forces. In 2014 the 146th MMB completed an intensive train-up year as a critical piece of the Command and Control Consequence Response Enterprise – Bravo (C2CRE-B), Technical Support Force. The 146th MMB TSF elements are responsible for multiple functions during a Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, or Radiological incident. These functions include medical monitoring of TSF units, mass casualty decontamination, and emergency medical treatment of CBRN victims. Both the 1171st ASMC and a component of the 146th MMB HHD attended Vibrant Response 14 and received recognition for their dedication to the mission, and unyielding support to other units. The 1171st ASMC also staffed numerous Medical Readiness Events and vaccination clinics around the state of Michigan, which supported critical initiatives to improve overall Soldier fitness. More than 1,000 vaccinations were administered during shot clinics conducted to meet annual influenza vaccination requirements as well as special vaccination requirements for C2CRE-B during 2014.

3-238th General Support Aviation Battalion Grand Ledge, Michigan

The 3-238th GSAB provides tactical and non-tactical aviation mission support for full-spectrum, joint-military operations involving Air Movement, Mission Command, Sustainment and Aero Medical Operations, both nationally and abroad. The 3-238th GSAB brought home Detachment 1, Company C, 3-238th from deployment in Afghanistan in January 2014. HHC, 3-238th was deployed in December 2013 and returned from Kuwait in August 2014. The battalion is preparing to deploy Detachment 2, Company B, 351st in early 2015, Detachment 1, Company B, 3-238th later in 2015 and Company B, 1-147th in 2016. The 1-112th Aviation supported 'rotational' mobilization to the South West Border mission beginning in December 2013 and ending in March 2014. The battalion also supported a wide range of operations during the training year 2014 to include aviation support for the Exportable Combat Training Capabilities (UH60, CH47, LUH72), Operation Northern Strike 2014 (UH60, CH47, LUH72), and the state of Michigan Counter Drug program (LUH72) with the Michigan State Police and other agencies.



177th Military Police Brigade

Taylor Armory

Commander • Col. Steven Potter

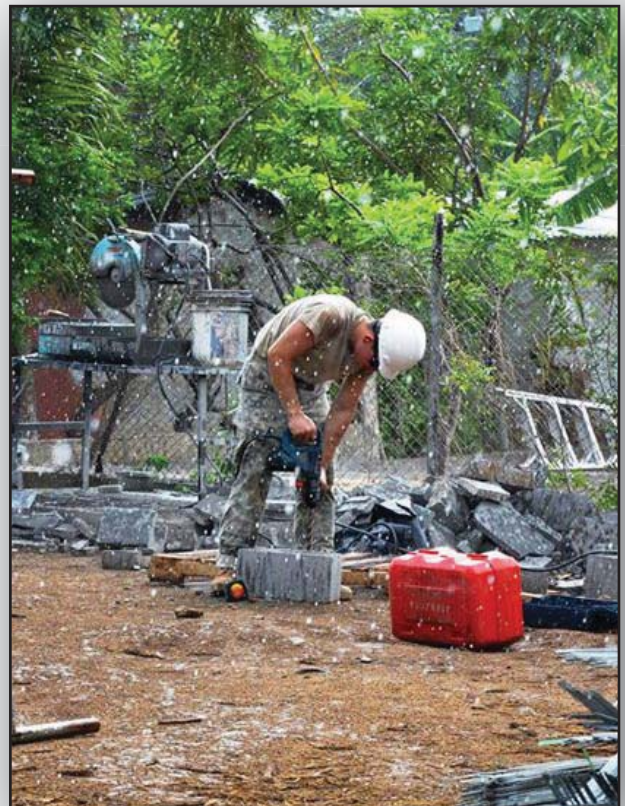
During the past year, the 177th Military Police Brigade has dynamically expanded its role in Michigan and across the globe. Members from the brigade returned from Guantanamo, Cuba, supported training and assistance missions in Liberia and Latvia, worked in conjunction with the Michigan State Police and other agencies in support of DSCA operations, and renovated several unit locations to provide Soldiers the most outstanding facilities to hone their skills and abilities.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 107th Engineer Battalion

The HHC, 107th EN BN assumed mission command responsibilities for all Technical Support Forces assigned to C2CRE-B. This assignment established Task Force Red Bull which consists of units from the 177th MP BDE, 272nd Regional Support Group, and a CBRN unit from the Alabama Army National Guard. FY14 culminated in a successful validation of our TSF during Vibrant Response 2014 which occurred in August at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Our mission is to deploy within 96 hours of notification to conduct CBRN response operations in support of civil authorities in order to save lives, minimize human suffering, maintain public confidence and mitigate the effects of a CBRN incident.

1430th Engineer Company (Vertical)

The 1430th EN CO traveled to Zacopa, Guatemala in May 2014 in support of Operation Beyond the Horizon. The operation is a SOUTHCOM initiative that enables U.S. forces to improve our capabilities through realistic training and foster relationships and interoperability between the U.S. and Guatemalan military while providing material assistance for the people of Guatemala. The 1430th participated in BTH by conducted collective training that focused on the construction of multiple schools and a health clinic.



Spc. Joshua Eriksen, with the Marquette-based 1430th Engineer Company, Michigan Army National Guard, drills block during a rain storm for a new clinic during Beyond the Horizon 2014. Beyond the Horizon is an annual exercise that embraces the partnership between the United States and Guatemala to provide focused humanitarian assistance through various medical, dental and civic action programs. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Helen Miller/Released)

1437th MRBC

The 1437th MRBC was sought out by the Houghton County Emergency Coordinator as a contingency option in the event of a catastrophic failure occurs to the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. This is the only bridge that connects the main land to isolated communities north of the canal to include portions of Houghton County and the entire Keweenaw County. Leaders from the 1437th MRBC conducted multiple recon and community meetings in preparation for a full-scale rafting exercise. On Sept. 6, 2014 the unit conducted a successful exercise that showcased the unit's capabilities giving the city of Houghton the confidence that the MIARNG is a viable solution in the event the 50+ year old structure lift bridge fails.

210th Military Police Battalion

This past year the 210th Military Police Battalion remained steadfast in their legacy of developing and training highly skilled warriors who always stand ready to accept the most demanding and complex missions world-wide.

In September 2014, Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers from the 210th Military Police Battalion trained with their Latvian Army counterparts in investigating traffic accidents at the National Defense Academy as preparation for the upcoming Operation Silver Arrow exercise hosted by the Latvians. Latvian instructors oversaw the training, although the information-passing was mutually shared between the Armed Forces participating. The Latvian military police staged vehicles as if in a side-impact collision, then soldiers took turns acting as drivers or training

as investigators. "A platoon of American military police came here and we're training to deal with a traffic accident," says Sgt. Eugene Guyevskis, an instructor with the Latvian military. "It's not like a full investigation, but what we are doing is to make an initial incident report and to draw a sketch plan." It only took a few minutes to notice some differences between the two countries' handling of car crashes. "Today the Latvians have shown us how their accident investigation paperwork works and it's truly a much simplified format compared to our four-page military police accident investigation report," said Sgt. Maj. Edward Williams, leader of the Michigan contingent's military police team. "It could actually be simplified quite a bit by looking at how they run their format. Sgt. Maj. Williams also added that the primary outcome from training was a closer, lasting, relationship with the Latvian military police. The training culminated in a three-day Silver Arrow exercise in Adazi.

The 210th MP Battalion also directly contributed to the efforts in Africa in containing the Ebola virus. Sgt. 1st Class Tomasz Schroeder deployed to Liberia in support of Operation Onward Liberty for 12 months where he acted as a military liaison as a member of team that guided and assisted Liberian officials in managing the Ebola epidemic. Soldiers in the 210th MP Battalion are the tip of the spear for the Michigan Army National Guard by providing the Quick Reaction Force to support a comprehensive all hazards response to a catastrophic incident both at the state and federal level, if necessary. Soldiers from the 210th participated in a state-wide joint interagency training exercise

that prepared local, state, and federal agencies to expertly manage complex catastrophe whether natural or man-made. Furthermore, a group of Soldiers from the 210th MP Battalion traveled to Camp Atterbury, Ind., to participate in federal exercise called Vibrant Response that focused on homeland defense and security operations

When the 210th MP warriors are not executing tough training, they are giving back to the local community by meeting with local youth programs like American Heritage Girls Club, elementary schools, and local church groups to talk about patriotism, selfless service, and being a good citizen that can positively impact the community with special projects.

46th Military Police Company

The 46th MP CO conducted Winds of Change, a training exercise designed specifically for the company element to train alongside Latvian soldiers. Through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, Michigan National Guard and Latvia forces have an ongoing 22-year partnership to strengthen security defense measures. All U.S. efforts in support of our NATO allies and partners in Europe fall under the umbrella of Operation Atlantic Resolve. They conducted a culminating exercise at Liepaja International Airport. Liepaja's mayor, Uldis Sesks, and Latvian colonels got the chance to see the culminating exercise that highlighted three days of joint training. "This airport is one of the three notable airports in Latvia having the ability to sustain large aircraft movements in and out of the coun-



Staff Sgt. Raymond Walters, 1437th Engineer company, Sault Saint Marie, Mich., Michigan Army National Guard, demonstrates to AN/PRC-152 Multiband Handheld Radio to members of the Latvian Engineer Battalion (ZS 54 ITBN), in Orge, Latvia, Sept. 28, 2014. The Michigan Army National Guard is training the Latvian Engineers on their equipment, while, in turn the Latvians train the Michigan soldiers on theirs. The Michigan and Latvian Engineers are training together in support of Operation Silver Arrow, in conjunction with United States Army Europe and Operation Northern Resolve. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Helen Miller/Released)

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try,” said Capt. Brice Kerschen, 46th MP Company commander. “It is effective to utilize this airfield for this exercise because this is a critical site and the Soldiers are learning how to protect sites such as this from adverse force.” Latvian and Michigan leaders oversaw the integration of Guardsmen and Latvian soldiers training on military tasks essential to optimizing security efforts. A camaraderie moment was displayed when some Guardsmen and Latvians swapped their uniform patches with one another after the exercises.

1775th Military Police Company

The 1775th MP CO had many successes throughout 2014. During the calendar year, the company was selected as one of two pilot companies for the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Campaign which brought our families closer to our Soldier’s and helped communication within their households. Seven Soldiers from the unit served in support of C2CRE-B. The C2CRE-B team participated in Vibrant Response 14 in Camp Atterbury, Ind. The unit cleared more than \$40,000 from the Soldier Discharge Report, most of which was from rear detachment Soldiers during the 2011 deployment. The 1775th was very involved in the community, events included; throwing the opening pitch out for the Waterford Little League 2014 season, maintaining the grounds and covering graffiti at the local track the unit utilizes for APFTs and provided representatives to answer questions from Our Lady of the Lakes Robotics Club. The company also invited the armory recruiters to team up and host the American Heritage Girls at the Pontiac armory. Our annual community events consisted of support to the Holiday Extravaganza Parade in Pontiac and Shop with a Hero in Auburn Hills. The 1775th also hosted their inaugural Blackhorse 5K. The community and the 1775th have a great relationship and only look forward to enhancing the already stable relationship moving forward.

507th Engineer Battalion

The 507th EN BN provided mission command to six companies and four detachments focusing on mobility, counter-mobility, survivability and general engineering in order to provide maneuver commanders and the MIARNG support for overseas contingency operations and defense support to civil authorities.

1436th Engineer Company (Horizontal)

The 1436th EN CO and 1439th/1440th/1442nd Engineer Detachments (Fire Fighters) trained, validated and assumed the engineer portion of the MIARNG 46th MP Command’s C2CRE-B mission. The 1436th EN CO training focused on heavy equipment operations that support life-saving site accessibility, emergency route clearance and road repair that simulated emergency responder access to disaster areas located at CGJMTC and CRTC training areas. Eighteen Soldiers from the 1439th/1440th/1442nd Engineer Detachments completed a rigorous 90-day Urban Search and Rescue course at the Army North training facility in Ocala, Fla., and put their skills to the test during the week-long Vibrant Response 14 exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

1433rd Engineer Company (Sapper)

The 1433rd EN CO honed their combat engineer skills by conducting training on explosives/demolitions, fixed obstacle

breaching, and engineer reconnaissance. Sapper training culminated in the annual Sapper Stakes competition; a 48-hour, non-stop, challenge that tests combat engineer squads in multiple events ranging from marksmanship to river crossing operations.

1434th Engineer Company (Vertical)

The 1434th EN CO consolidated its Fort Custer Detachment with its main body and company headquarters location at the CGJMTC. The 1434th completed multiple troop construction projects at the CGJMTC including two structures that added 5,760 square feet of storage capacity to the training center.

745th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal-EOD) The 745th EOD nearly doubled in size, from a 24-man detachment to a 44-man company. With the addition of many new EOD technicians the unit successfully trained several EOD Team leaders while simultaneously providing support for the CGJMTC 197th Fires Brigade’s XCTC and Operation Northern Strike.

1208th Engineer Detachment (Survey & Design)

The 1208th EN DET completed its move from JFHQ in Lansing to the 507th Engineer Battalion in Kalamazoo, and continued to fill its roster and equipment while supporting Fort Custer with road surveying in preparation for future road and drainage improvement.

631st Troop Command

The 631st Troop Command provides mission command for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 631st Troop Command, 1208th Interpreter/Translator Platoon, 126th Brigade Signal Company, 156th Brigade Signal Company, and the 460th Chemical Company. During Annual Training 2014, the 631st Troop Command staff worked with a team from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Mission Command Training Program on staff training and the Military Decision Making Process. The 1208th Interpreter/Translator Platoon focused on Soldier skill improvement to include the Armed Forces Qualification Test scores to enhance their performance in the MIARNG. The 126th Brigade Signal Company and the 156th Brigade Signal Company provided signal support to higher level commands. The 126th Brigade Signal Company deployed to Fort Bliss to participate in the Mission Command Systems Integration events with the 111th Maneuver Enhance Brigade out of New Mexico. The 156th Brigade Signal Company supported Operation Northern Strike by operating a Retransmission Site and establishing a Global Information Grid. Both units utilized their Satellite Terminal Trailers and the Joint Network Node. The 460th Chemical Company successfully completed an external evaluation by Army North for the Command and Control Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element-National Guard mission. This exercise included Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive reconnaissance and mass casualty decontamination and validated their efforts to provide expertise in case of a national disaster. The 631st Troop Command is a very diverse battalion that ranges from a strong staff, diverse cultures and language skills, signal support, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive capabilities.



46th Military Police Command

Reserve Forces Support Center, Lansing

Commander • Maj. Gen. Burton Francisco

46th Military Police Command

Mission and Vision: The peacetime mission of the command is to deploy within 96 hours of notification, and conduct CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) response operations in support of civil authorities within the JFLCC (USARNORTH) assigned Joint Operations Area in order to save and sustain lives, minimize human suffering, maintain public confidence, and mitigate the effects of a CBRN incident. The wartime mission of the command is to provide theater level command and control of military police operations and assigned missions. On order, establish command of detention operations in theater.

Accomplishments: The 46th MP Command assumed command and control of the DoD's reserve CBRN response element. This is the only unit of this type in the Army National Guard and serves to provide direction and guidance to the potentially 5,000 members of DoD activated to respond to an incident. The Command was validated by Northern Command, the combatant command overseeing all U.S.-based CBRN response elements, during Vibrant Response. Vibrant Response brought together thousands of Active, Reserve and National Guard service members as well as other first responders like police, firefighters, FEMA and Department of Homeland Security in response to simulated nuclear attacks in the U.S. The 46th MPC earned praise for their performance during the event the confidence of the NORTHCOM commander that the unit is ready if called.

126 Press Camp Headquarters-Fort Custer

In addition to successful participation in Vibrant Response, the Press Camp Headquarters, as the Michigan Guard's primary public affairs asset, supported missions across the globe, telling the Michigan Guard story and increasing the awareness of the proficiency of the PCH Soldiers. 2014 saw PCH members in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany performing public affairs missions. The Press Camp covered numerous events within the state of Michigan resulting in hundreds of products (press releases, photos, videos, and features) being provided to civilian media and informing the public of the capabilities of the Michigan National Guard.

The 46th Military Police Command took command and control of the mission of CBRN response September 1, 2013 and will relinquish command after the two-year tour, on June 1, 2015. The MP CMD was validated annually to maintain their response capabilities.



Joint Force Headquarters



Lansing

Detachment Commander • Maj. Robert Lapoint

Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel - G1

The G1 has made significant advancements in military personnel processes and procedures to assist in the readiness posture of military personnel and their ability to respond to domestic and overseas contingencies when required. During fiscal years 2013 and 2014 this directorate has supported the mobilization of more than 586 Soldiers to six different federal overseas and domestic contingency response missions. This directorate processed the accession of more than 2,446 new Soldiers into the Michigan Army National Guard as well as supporting more than 25,000 retirees and former members of its ranks. We implemented a new officer career management policy to support the development and enhancement of the core leadership capability within the Michigan Army National Guard. This policy in conjunction with the convening of several federal recognition and enlisted promotion boards resulted in the promotion of 275 officers and 1,882 enlisted Soldiers.

The G1 also processed and completed 366 awards and medals for presentation to Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers as well as Department of Military and Veterans Affairs employees and distinguished honorees. In support of current

and former members of the Michigan Army National Guard, G1 personnel responded to requests and provided more than 2,281 copies of military records and documents from the State of Michigan Records Management Center. Accentuating the importance of education, the G1 administered and facilitated Federal Tuition Assistance requirements for 970 Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers actively participating in 4,168 college courses during this report period.

The G1 Casualty Operations and Funeral Honors Section continued its exemplary service to families of Soldiers injured or killed while in service by providing casualty notification and assistance to 42 families. Additionally, the Funeral Honors Teams provided support and honors to the families of Soldiers and Veterans of the Armed Forces by conducting a total of 6,212 military funeral missions for Soldiers and Veterans which have passed.

DCSPERS - G1: Family Programs

The Michigan Army National Guard G1 continues to manage one the few remaining Joint, Interagency, and Interdepartmental elements within the Michigan National Guard structure. During 2014 the Family Programs Office completed a yearlong accreditation process



Campers and counselors enjoy a cool dip in the river during water activities at the Michigan National Guard Youth Leadership Camp at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Alpena, Mich., July 22, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Ron Raflik, Michigan Army National Guard/Released)

conducted by The Council on Accreditation and observed by representative from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the National Guard Bureau. The Family Programs Office provides support to enhance the quality of life for the Michigan National Guard members, their families and the communities throughout the state of Michigan. Family Programs provided 11 workshops for service members returning from mobilization and their family members in 2013 and 2014. More than 1,523 family and service members participated in the workshops. Family Programs staff also conducted three pre-deployments workshops. More than 650 service members and their families attended these events. During FY13 and FY14, 1,100 Soldiers within the Michigan National Guard received the Buddy to Buddy peer intervention program. The Family Programs Office also sponsored the popular annual Youth Leadership Camp at Alpena CRTC in July. One hundred forty-one children, ages 9-12, and 99 volunteer coaches attended the week-long camp.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence - G2

The Intelligence and Security directorate enjoyed a productive year in its support to the force in the areas of intelligence, intelligence training, physical security, personnel security, communications security, anti-terrorism, and emergency management. The office continues to provide intelligence updates to senior staff on the ever changing dynamics in Eastern Europe and Western Africa. Both of the Michigan National Guards state partners, Latvia and Liberia, found themselves at the forefront of headline grabbing events. The G2 office provided intelligence support to Michigan National Guard units training in Latvia as the U.S. increased troop presence in Eastern Europe. Liberia remains at the forefront of the devastating Ebola outbreak. In addition to these efforts, the Michigan National Guard continues its support of the federated intelligence program to AFRICOM which began in 2012. The directorate continues its mission in providing various aspects of personnel and physical security to the force in the face of an ever changing array of threats from ISIL, cyber threats, and concerns of home grown extremists. The directorate added an emergency manager this fall to assist in refining and exercising plans to increase the Michigan National Guard's resilience.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations - G3

The Michigan National Guard actively supported state and local governmental agencies while training for its primary mission and maintaining its readiness. Activities ranged from participating in training exercises and responding to disasters, to deploying troops to supporting civil activities and federal missions. The Michigan National Guard supported communities in a wide variety of activities including the National Cherry Festival, the 5/3 Bank River Run, water support for the City of Rockford, several flooding responses, Nuclear Power Plant Hostile Action Responses, and local HAZMAT response exercises while continuing to mobilize troops for missions overseas.

In August of 2014, the 1437th Engineer Company con-



Soldiers of the Michigan National Guard's 63rd Troop Command, to include the 126th Cavalry Regiment, the 237th Brigade Support Battalion, and the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 37th Brigade Combat Team, provided assistance during the 57th Annual Mackinac Bridge Walk, Sept. 1, 2014. More than 200 Soldiers functioned as road guards and provided security during the Labor Day event in which approximately 30,000 people walked five miles from St. Ignace across the Mackinac Bridge to Mackinaw City. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Bratic, Michigan National Guard/Released)

ducted a rafting exercise to prove the feasibility of emergency response elements providing a means of water crossing in the event of a failure of the lift bridge, which is the only means of crossing the waterway between Houghton and Hancock in the Upper Peninsula.

The Michigan National Guard traditionally supports the Mackinac Bridge Authority by providing escorts, security and safety personnel to ensure a safe and positive experience for all participants. In 2013, the 177th Military Police Brigade supported the Bridge Walk, followed by the 63rd Brigade in 2014. Both missions involved the employment of 225 Soldiers and supporting equipment each time. Our units assigned

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to support the national Chemical Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Response Enterprise were tested extensively as they successfully validated their response capability in two Vibrant Response Exercises. In 2013, two Michigan Units comprised of 216 personnel participated in the exercise held at Muscatatuck, Ind. In 2014, the role expanded to 12 units comprised of 488 personnel.

The Michigan National Guard was very active in supporting the governments of Latvia and Liberia in the State Partnership Program. During 2013 and 2014, Michigan personnel and units conducted 31 familiarization visits and training team events to Latvia exchanging knowledge and lessons learned on topics from engineering, artillery, and military police proficiency to leadership development. SPP relationships in Latvia were leveraged to plan and conduct two overseas exercises. The exercise "Winds of Change" saw the 46th Military Police Company deploy to Latvia for 30 days to train side by side with the Latvian Zemessardze (National Guard) in support to civilian authority missions. "Silver Arrow" saw Military Police, Logistics, CBRNE, and Engineer teams deploy to Latvia to embed with Latvian like-type units as they validated their ability to respond to national threats. During this same time frame, the Michigan National Guard conducted 29 missions in support of the government of Liberia, developing relationships and sharing procedures ranging from leader development to mission specific operations and sustainment training.

The Mobilization and Readiness Division supported the deployment of 828 Soldiers in support of the National Command Authority's overseas operations. Some deployment locations included: Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Latvia, Liberia, and several within the continental United States.

The Force Integration and Readiness Office modernized the force and ensured compatibility with the active army by fielding new equipment to 76 units within the Michigan National Guard. In addition, the branch implemented force structure changes affecting 32 units statewide, ensuring the relevance of the Michigan Army National Guard into the future.

The Resource Management Branch fully executed a \$7.6 million training budget and secured an additional \$2.3 million to support school attendance for 511 Soldiers, resulting in a 94.08 percent qualification rate for actively serving Soldiers. In addition, Michigan ranked fifth in the nation for Class V expenditure with an execution rate of 88.7 percent.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics - G4

The men and women of the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics conduct logistical operations in support of the Michigan Army National Guard and are among the nation's best at acquiring, maintaining, and safeguarding federal equipment. Their timely delivery and effective logistics oversight of commodities and services enabled Michigan to provide ready units to state emergencies, national-level exercises and deployments, and operations to support allied countries. During the past fiscal year, the DCSLOG executed more than \$24 million in federal funds to support mobilizations, training exercises, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, and nation-

building support in Latvia and Liberia. DCSLOG personnel aggressively pursue all available procurement options to fill unit equipment requirements. As a result of these efforts, the MIARNG is prepared to successfully respond to all potential state emergencies, with more than 90 percent of required critical equipment on hand. Property accountability and management continues to be a priority as well. On-hand excess property rates are less than .2 percent and the property loss rate is less than four percent--rates that were among the lowest in the nation. The DCSLOG's Surface Maintenance Branch remains among the best in the Army National Guard, maintaining more than 4,300 pieces of mission essential rolling stock and ground support equipment valued at more than \$585 million. Strong leadership, a dedicated workforce, and excellent facilities have contributed to an overall 94 percent rating for equipment readiness. Surface Maintenance personnel also serve as mentors, advisors, and evaluators to unit maintenance operations and helped identify the excellent unit maintenance program being conducted at the 1073rd Support Maintenance Company, a unit that went on to win the FY14 Department of Army Award for Maintenance Excellence.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management - G6

In 2013, after gaining new leadership, the G6 completely revamped the focus of their organization. The major concentration became improving customer service for not only the full-time technicians, but the M-Day Soldiers as well. Telecommunications continued to support new construction projects at 14 armories where they installed new wire, voice and data equipment to support customers. The Telecom section also installed Wireless Network at MIARNG Armories to support SSD Net. The Information Assurance office performed weekly network scans. They quickly identified and removed unauthorized devices and ensured security of the network. They increased the number of certified Information Assurance Technical staff operating on the network by more than 50 percent. A total of 19 team members completed the Security+ exam and became Comptia Sec+ certified. The tactical, joint and secure communications team supported the state of Michigan with communications support for four exercises, and participated as a member of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System Interoperability Board. The Michigan Distributed Learning Program and the Information Systems Support Branch provided 184 laptops in support of Structured Self Development requirements that brought the total to 244 mobile systems. Michigan DLP additionally fielded VTC systems to Saginaw NOSC, Bay City, and Jackson armories to support the largest troop concentration areas of the state. The Michigan DL program is currently ranked 4th nationally of 54 states and territories for classroom and resource use and support.

Over the course of the past two years, the G6 also looked in-depth at MIARNG IT expenditures. The ISSB conducted an inventory which identified thousands of dollars of obsolete equipment that was later turned in, eliminating the equipment from the MIARNG property books. This information



Horns from the 126th Army Band play during an Honor Flight event in Grand Rapids on June 24, 2014. (Army National Guard photo by Angela Simpson/Released)

also led to the process of beginning a one-third lifecycle of computer systems that were three to five years old bringing the MIARNG up to date with today's technology. The ISSB transitioned helpdesk systems resulting in an approximated \$50,000 cost savings.

The 126th Army Band was under the 177th Military Police Brigade, 631st Troop Command until January of 2014 when it became a Direct Reporting Unit under Joint Force Headquarters - Chief of Staff.

The 126th Army Band was located in Wyoming, Mich., until its move to Belmont, Mich., in February of 2014.

Mission: Provide music support throughout the spectrum of military operations and instill in our Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens, and promote our national interests at home and abroad.

Vision: Honor past service members by supporting Veterans' organizations. Recognize present service members by assisting with various ceremonies. Encourage future service members by working with recruiting teams.

The 126th Army Band conducted 75 missions in FY13, and 81 missions in FY14. It provided music support for Michigan National Guard events, Youth Challenge Academy and Officer Training School functions, parades and ceremonies for National Holidays, and memorials and funerals for fallen heroes.

Annual Training is a 15-day block focused on community relations. In FY13, the band had 13 performances in the eastern portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. FY14 was in the northwest portion of the Lower Peninsula, where the band had another 13 performances.

Aviation

Michigan Army National Guard Aviation has proved yet another successful year of support throughout the state and for the nation. Aviators, crew members, and maintainers con-

tinued to meet the high operational requirements given to our units with the utmost of professionalism and skill. Throughout this last fiscal year, Charlie Company 3-238th MEDEVAC returned home from Afghanistan and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Delta Company, and Echo Company 3-238th GSAB returned home from Kuwait. Both units supported Operation Enduring Freedom and brought great credit upon the state of Michigan. Several other units received Notification of Sourcing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom: The new CH-47F Chinooks of Bravo Company 3-238th GSAB, the 351st Aviation Intermediate Maintenance detachment, and the UH-60M Blackhawks of Bravo and Delta Co 1-147th Assault Battalion.

Aviation also experienced the end of an era. The OH-58 Kiowas retired to Fort Rucker, Ala., as the MIARNG accepted four LUH-72 Lakotas into the fleet. These versatile aircraft will serve Michigan in state emergencies, VIP transport, and counterdrug operations within the state and on the nation's borders. MIARNG has come full circle in attaining the best technology available for Army rotary wing aircraft to include the recently fielded CH-47 Fox model Chinook and the previously fielded

UH-60 Mike model Blackhawk.

As operations continue at home and overseas, the training required to maintain proficient aircrews and maintainers continues to be a prime focus. Aviation assets supported Operation Northern Strike proving to be the mobilizing and enabling force throughout the exercise. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle platforms within the state also continue to provide the common operational picture for ground commanders at training exercises such as ONS and around the world. The C-12 King aircraft of Det 15 OSA also provide diligent support to Michigan with capabilities that allow them to span the skies of the U.S. in minimal time. The training conducted on a daily basis is what sets the MIARNG apart from all other organizations as we continue to deploy and support our nation.

Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Organization: The Michigan Recruiting and Retention Battalion is headquartered in Lansing along with its Officer Strength Management section. Company B is headquartered in Ypsilanti, primarily managing the recruiters on the east side of the state. Company A is headquartered at Fort Custer managing the recruiters across the rest of the Lower Peninsula and the entire Upper Peninsula. In addition, each company is responsible for four Recruit Sustainment Programs in eight locations across the state conducting initial training for more than 900 Warriors monthly. RSP ensures that all new personnel are physically, mentally, and administratively prepared to attend basic combat training.

RRBs primary mission is to recruit new Citizen Soldiers into the Michigan National Guard and finished 2014 ranked second in the nation. Additionally, the RSP finished the year ranked 26th at the end of the year out of 54 RSPs across the nation.



Installations

Camp Grayling • Col. Erich Randall Fort Custer • Lt. Col. Mark Gorzynski

Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center is the largest Army National Guard Installation in the United States and became the higher headquarters for Fort Custer Training Center effective Oct. 1, 2013.

Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center had significant improvements to its facilities during the reporting period. In the summer of 2013, Camp Grayling opened up a new, completely NetZero wash rack. This facility recycles 100 percent of the water it uses and was instrumental in making Camp Grayling NetZero for water usage. In the winter of 2013, the Transportable Black Hawk Operations Simulator was installed at the Grayling Army Airfield. This simulator trains pilots on both models of the UH-60 Black Hawk. In the spring of 2014 the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility and the Automated Shoot House both passed the Government Acceptance Test and were turned over to the Installation. The Combined Arms Collective Training Facility is a twenty-building, forty-acre facility designed to train battalion and below elements on operations in Urban Environments. The Automated Shoot House is a live fire facility designed to train Soldiers on entering and clearing a building. Also, during the summer of 2014, ground was broken on phase II of the Operational Readiness Training Center. This facility will bring 800 state of the art billets to Camp Grayling and a new battalion-sized operation center. Finally, in September of 2014, Camp Grayling received funding for a new air traffic control tower at the Grayling Army Airfield. Total construction dollars obligated on Camp Grayling for fiscal year 2013 was \$5.64 million dollars. In fiscal year 2014, \$20.05 million dollars was obligated for construction on Camp Grayling.

Mission. Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center and Fort Custer Training Center provides year-round, customer-focused, training support and high-quality facilities to enable military commanders and civilian leaders to meet their unit readiness requirements.

Vision. Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center is a full-spectrum, four-season, world-class, training complex capable of supporting all military and civilian customers 365 days per year. Fort Custer Training Center supports individual, educational and leader training for both Department of Defense and Non-Department of Defense customers.

Significant Events

Camp Grayling Centennial Celebration. On July 20, 2013, Camp Grayling celebrated its centennial anniversary by opening up the post to the civilian population and hosting an event which included environmental, military technology and historical exhibits, musical performances, food vendors and fireworks. More than 20,000 people attended the event, far exceeding expectations, and it helped strengthen ties between Camp Grayling and the local communities.

Exportable Combat Training Capability 14-03. In July of 2014, Camp Grayling hosted the 197th Fires Brigade for Exportable Combat Training Capability rotation 14-03. This event featured 2,465 Soldiers from units in Michigan, Rhode Island, West Virginia, New Hampshire, New York and Alabama. It was the first Exportable Combat Training Capability to integrate both National Guard units and Active Component units. The Soldiers trained on squad and platoon collective training tasks over a period of 21 days.

Operation Northern Strike. Operation Northern Strike is the

premier Air National Guard Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise in the country. It's held annually in August on the Air-to-Ground Range at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center. In 2013, 29 units from 16 different states and two international partners participated in the 14-day exercise. In 2014, the complexity, depth and training value of exercise was expanded.

Missile Defense System. During the reporting period, Fort Custer Training Center was selected as one of four finalists for a new missile defense interceptor site. The site would protect America from a limited, intercontinental, ballistic missile attack. This project would bring millions of dollars and numerous full-time and construction jobs to southwest Michigan.

Installation Command is currently working with the Missile Defense Agency on Environmental impact study, which is an important gateway for being selected.

International Customers. During the reporting period, Camp Grayling and Fort Custer hosted a variety of international partners for exercise, unit and individual training. International customers included members of the armed forces of: Latvia, Sweden, Denmark, Liberia and Canada.

United Service Organizations. In August of 2014, the United Service Organizations hosted a morale, recreation and welfare event on Camp Grayling for service members and their families. This was the first United Service Organizations event on Camp Grayling and featured recreational games and a musical performance.

177th RTI at Fort Custer

Mission. The 177th Regional Training Institute plans, prepares, and executes Officer Candidate School, Military Occupational Specialty Training, Reclassification, Additional Skill Identifier, and Non-Commissioned Officer Education training for the Total Army.

Vision. Our vision is to provide education excellence by offering a sophisticated and challenging curriculum that generates graduates with above average competency. Students, staff and faculty will leave the RTI/RTSM better educated,

trained, and prepared to conduct their roles and missions in support of their units engaged in the full spectrum of global operations.

1st Military Police Training Battalion is responsible for supporting all Military Police Reclassification training. The MP Battalion is organized into a Battalion with three functionally aligned training companies.

2nd Modular Training Battalion (MOD BN) is responsible for supporting all Transportation, Quartermaster, Infantry, Officer Candidate, Ordnance, and Functional training other than that assigned to the MP Training Battalion.

During FY13, the 177th RTI conducted core courses; Quartermaster, Infantry, Diesel Mechanic, Truck Driver, Military

Police, and Officer Candidate School graduating 1,676 students. We also continued the mission of instructing the Master Resiliency Trainer course. We are one of two National Guard schoolhouses that instruct and certify students to teach MRT with their respective units across the country. Upon graduating from the MRT program the students receive the additional skill identifier of 8R. The RTI also conducted the state's first two Raven Operator Courses in Grayling, graduating 12 operators for Michigan.

After a busy FY13, the RTI also prepared for the accreditation from U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) in FY14. The accreditation process began in April 2014. The 177th RTI achieved the rating of "Institution of Excellence" with a final overall score of 99.5 percent (.24 percent better than in 2011). Five of the seven elements scoring a perfect 100 percent: (OCS, Military Police, Infantry, Quartermaster, and Staff Functions). Sgt. 1st Class Steven Sparks, an Infantry Instructor, competed in the Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. Sparks and his partner Capt. Ryan Hubbs finished 17th overall. All four National Guard teams finished; 19th, 17th, 11th, and 2nd, out of 58 teams. The RTI also supported the State's Liberian Partnership Program by providing personnel for multiple Traveling Contact Teams in Liberia.



Michigan National Guard Warrant Officers James Estep and Joe Hinjosa of B Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation, conduct a simulated flight mission evaluated by Computer Science Corporation Technician Sean Gale using the Rockwell Collins' Transportable Black Hawk Operation Simulator at Camp Grayling Army Airfield, Mich., on Dec. 9, 2013. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen Jr/ Released)



Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Director • Mr. Jeff Barnes

In 2011, Michigan ranked 53rd out of 53 in per capita receipt of federal Veterans benefits (GDX), and this fact made evident what many in the state had known for some time: Michigan was not doing what needed to be done to appropriately support its veteran citizens. In March 2013, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency was created by Executive Order 2013-2 to address this critical need. Prior to its creation, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs housed the Veterans Affairs Directorate, comprised of five individuals, and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. The MVAA is accredited through the USDVA and hired five accredited service officers to assist in the processing of claims to the VA for Michigan Veterans.

The MVAA maintains a four pillar focus on veteran issues in the key areas of education, employment, health care and quality of life. These focus areas are the key to our strategic plan and are evident in all we do, from our web site and Veterans Expos, to partnerships throughout the state at the local, county, state and federal level.

MVAA Mission and Vision

Mission: To serve as the central coordinating point, connecting those who have served in the United States Armed Forces and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state of Michigan.

Vision: For Michigan to be the most veteran-friendly state, by: providing the advice and assistance Veterans need as they transition through the chapters of their lives; creating a “no wrong door” customer service culture; and advocating for and on behalf of Veterans and their families.

Significant Events

Since its creation, the MVAA has been dedicated to its mission and made progress toward its vision as evidenced by the following accomplishments:

MVAA Strategic Plan – The MVAA Strategic Plan was created early on and included participation from our partners in state government as well as county and veteran service organizations. Subsequent to its development, the plan was rolled out to MVAA staff, our partners and members of the legislature.

MVAA Brand – the agency created a brand logo featuring the ‘rising star’ of veteran talent with a crown of 10 stars signifying the agency’s commitment to serving Veterans in all 10 Michigan economic prosperity regions.

MiVHAP – The Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program was established to assist Veterans and military

Organization

Director’s Office

Targeted Initiatives Deputy

Strategy Division

Strategic Communications and Customer Engagement

Targeted Outreach and Performance Management

Service Administration Deputy

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program

DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans (Marquette, Michigan)

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (Grand Rapids, Michigan)

service members that were victims of predatory lending practices by the mortgage community. Since its establishment on May 1, 2013, a total of \$3.5 million has been provided to 579 military and veteran families.

MichiganVeterans.com – The MVAA one-stop-shop web portal was launched in November 2013 and is focused on four issues that form the strategic focus of the agency - education, employment, health care and quality of life as well as providing information about the two Michigan Veteran Homes. The MVAA website provides critical program and benefit information, easy access to frequently requested forms, direct access to local veteran service officers, and an ability to contact MVAA staff directly through the portal and by calling the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center. As of November 2014, the web portal was averaging more than 400 visits per day.

Veteran's Designation on driver license – Through enabling legislation, Michigan Veterans are now able to obtain the Veterans designation on their driver license or Michigan identification card. The designation affords Veterans the opportunity to avail themselves of discounts at local retailers without having to provide additional proof documentation. Since becoming effective in March 2014, a total of 24,856 Veterans have opted for the Veterans designation.

County Grants – In FY13 (and again in FY15), MVAA was provided with an appropriation to grant to counties that added a Veterans Services Office; expanded their Veterans Services Office; or added technology to facilitate veteran services. As a result, in FY13 via grants totaling \$200,000, three county offices were established; three offices expanded their service capabilities; and six counties added technology.

Veteran Resource Service Center (VRSC) – the VRSC provides Veterans and their family members with answers to questions ranging from the location of their nearest Veteran Service Officer, or how to obtain temporary shelter or food within their community, to complex inquiries on VA benefits. The VRSC includes a first in the nation partnership with

Michigan 211 which allows for 24x7x365 access. The VRSC handles approximately 300 calls per week.

One of three states to have strategically partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to market Michigan to transitioning Veterans further up the “talent pipeline” before they decide where they are going to go after leaving the service. The partnership allows Michigan to share the education, employment and quality of life opportunities with active component forces at posts and installations across the world through the Chamber’s Hiring Our Heroes job fair initiative.

Expos – MVAA hosted three Veteran Expos this past year in Marquette, Grand Rapids and Detroit. The Expos, focused on our four pillars of education, employment, health care and quality of life, saw more than 4,000 participants. Attendees were able to sign up for VA benefits; receive on-site health screens from the Veterans Administration; obtain driver license veteran designations by staff of the Secretary of State; receive copies of their DD214s; participate in a job fair; and meet with and receive information from various veteran organizations, county and community partners.

Veteran Service Organization Coalition – The MVAA established a contract with the Veteran Service Organization Coalition to provide outreach and benefits counseling to Michigan Veterans. The contract provides for

coverage in all counties of the state, and measurement of the activities performed. Since implementation of the contract in FY13, we have increased the amount of fully developed claims from 3.7 percent in December 2012 to 48.5 percent in December 2014, and increased our overall dollars to state Veterans, ranking Michigan 48th in GDX.

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund awards emergency grants to war time Veterans. Total grants of \$4,847,557 were made to 4,000 Veterans in FY13 and FY14.

The Michigan Veterans Homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette attained full certification from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans was awarded the



BIENNIAL REPORT

FY 2013-2014

2014 Award of Excellence from the Great Lakes Caring Home Health, Palliative Care and Hospice Association. The award recognized the Home's "No Veteran Dies Alone" program as the best initiative to ensure a dignified end of life experience for the Veteran and their families throughout the Midwest region. The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans was selected as number one out of more than 1,200 long term care providers in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

Installation of the new canopy at the entrance to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans was completed and dedicated, as was the new gift shop at the home.

In 2013, the DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans completed a project that was a complete demolition and renovation of the bath/shower room on the 2-West unit. It is now used as a domiciliary unit, but the renovation made the shower room completely handicap so that this unit could be used as a nursing unit in the future. The long term plans for the home include the possibility of converting this area to nursing so that we can restructure moving toward smaller units with person centered care. In addition the heating and ventilation for all our shower rooms was upgraded to reduce humidity and pre-heat air coming into the room to make them more comfortable for our Veterans.

In 2013, after being active in the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH - currently 150 homes in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico) for 13 years including five years

on the Executive Committee as North Central Region Director, 2nd VP and 1st VP, Brad Slagle (DJJHV Administrator) was elected to a one-year term as the President. Duties as leader of the organization included putting together two national conferences (summer and winter), conducting monthly national conference calls with the Executive Committee, participating in quarterly conference calls with VA staff assigned to the State Veterans Home program, representing the Association on Capitol Hill educating lawmakers regarding the needs of State Veterans Homes and representing the Association at the National Veterans Day celebration in Washington D.C. A big accomplishment during his year as president was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between NASVH and the Veterans Health Administration. As past President, Brad is now part of the VA Liaison Committee charged with working with the VA on issues to improve the partnership with VA and NASVH to improve care for Veterans in state Veterans homes.

Michigan's public universities now offer in-state tuition to all Veterans of the US Armed Forces, regardless of their residency status.

Legislation improving credentials for Veterans to become certified more quickly for Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter, Boiler Operation, Mechanical Contractor, and Building Contractor (to name a few) was signed into law.

Community Pilots known as MiVCAT (Michigan Veteran

Community Action Teams) were established in Prosperity Regions 4 and 10. The VCATs are a coordinated regional service delivery model between state, local and non-profit organizations providing services to our Veterans. The VCATs will expand to four additional Prosperity Regions (5, 6, 7 and 9) during FY15.



MVAA Retrospective



Serving Michigan's Veterans

2014 Strategic Objectives

- 1.1 Ensure all employees understand the mission, vision, and values of the MVAA and know how their responsibilities support Michigan veterans
- 1.2 Ensure all employees have the resources and training necessary to accomplish their job
- 2.4 Create a strategic communications plan for MVAA
- 3.2 Standardize the claims submission process and management system
- 3.4 Create a centralized information portal for veterans, dependents, team members, and stakeholders
- 4.2 Facilitate opportunities for education and collaboration of veterans' services by public and private organizations
- 5.1 Develop and maintain a legislative agenda
- 5.3 Sponsor and promote an annual legislative conference to develop priorities and educate legislators



Veteran Programs & Initiatives

Veteran designation on Michigan drivers license and state IDs

13,333 signups for veterans designation since SOS began offering the option in May 2014



Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program

\$2,817,700 distributed to 467 grant recipients since May 2013



In State Tuition

Since November 2013, all 15 of Michigan's public universities offer in-state tuition to veterans, regardless of residency



Veteran Treatment Courts



Since 2008, Michigan's veterans have been served by 21 veteran treatment courts, with plans for the addition of another VTC in Summer 2014



From 2011 - 2013, nearly \$5,353,896 distributed

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

to 9,608 veterans and family in need of emergency assistance



Economic Impact

2013 Totals by District

District 1	\$17,634,319.93
District 2	\$5,469,701.89
District 3	\$11,788,492.43
District 4	\$10,311,662.92
District 5	\$4,802,916.79
District 6	\$10,078,135.59
District 7	\$12,073,023.22
District 8	\$25,912,502.39
District 9	\$1,861,120.45
District 10	\$4,719,614.76
District 11	\$970,618.50
District 12	\$963,790.90
District 13	\$6,594,164.20
District 14	\$535,738.00
District 15	\$5,028,178.90
Total	\$118,743,980.43





By The Numbers

The numbers listed on these pages display the amount of federal funds paid to traditional and full-time Soldiers in the Michigan National Guard by district.

2014 Totals by District

District 1 \$17,098,366.54

District 2 \$6,148,608.88

District 3 \$11,918,820.35

District 4 \$8,372,285.62

District 5 \$6,621,802.59

District 6 \$11,650,467.59

District 7 \$12,142,099.03

District 8 \$24,585,868.09

District 9 \$2,013,659.63

District 10 \$4,690,845.39

District 11 \$970,618.50

District 12 \$963,790.90

District 13 \$7,654,461.62

District 14 \$535,738.00

District 15 \$4,773,644.52

Total \$120,141,177.25

Members of the 51st Civil Support Team, Michigan National Guard, Battle Creek Fire Department, and Denso Corporation, sit in a briefing before starting a joint-training exercise simulating release of a toxic industrial chemical in an industrial setting, at Fort Custer Training Center, Augusta, Mich. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Helen Miller/Released)

Michigan's Fallen Heroes

**Mark H. Schoonhoven, United States Army,
32nd Transportation Company,
43rd Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Division,
Fort Carson, hometown Plainwell, January 20, 2013**

**Michael A. Cathcart, United States Army,
3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Fort Bragg, hometown Bay City, November 14, 2014**